

# IGNIS



*Newsletter of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute*

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## CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2016!

Smiles of satisfaction indicate the pride the class of 2016 feel as they display their certificates of completion of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute program in spiritual direction after two years of concentrated study. Sunday, August 28 marked the celebration of their achievement at a ceremony in the Dolan Center at John Carroll University. This issue of *Ignis* documents their last Opening Retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House, the script of the certification ceremony, and summaries of their practicum experiences.



Newly certified members of the twelfth class of the ISI pose with their certificates after the ceremony.  
Back row: Rick Krivanka, Dan Guion, John Scarano, Michael Sweet, Steve Bodey, Dave Jesenovec;  
Front row: Joyce Gordon, Carol Anne Smith, Donna Clark, Mary Mondello, Liz Campbell,  
Kathy Wray and Brenna Davis.

## Letter from the Director

*This I call to mind,  
and therefore  
I have hope:  
the steadfast love  
of the Lord  
never ceases;  
his mercies  
never come to an end;  
they are new  
every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.*

**“The Lord is my portion,”**  
says my soul,  
**“therefore I will hope.”**

*The Lord is good  
to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.*

*It is good that  
one should wait  
quietly  
for the salvation  
of the Lord  
(Lamentations 3:21-26).*

### In this issue:

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Patience has been, for the last few months, a virtue I ardently pray for. Having broken my ankle on **September 11 with a directive from the doctor for my right foot to be “non-weight-bearing” for three months, all I can do is wait patiently for the bones in my foot to heal. They can’t be rushed into healing. They need time—more time than my impatience to regain independence often allows.**

Perhaps because of my current attempts at patient waiting, I was alert to how many interns, in assessing their practicum experience, spoke of learning patience through their practice of spiritual direction. Many spoke of improved listening skills, of waiting for prompts from their directees **instead of interrupting to steer them onto the “right way” to pray or do things. They learned not to get ahead of where their directees were, and to temper their eagerness for the directees’ growth in awareness of God’s love and presence in their lives. They learned that God works in each one’s life in God’s own way, which cannot be rushed by another, no matter how well-intentioned their desire for their growth may be.** Most importantly, many spoke of how their own practice of quiet contemplative prayer was an asset in learning patience.

The natural world can be a fitting metaphor for the seasons of the spiritual life. Eileen Novotny (ISI ‘07) in her address to the graduates this year, used the gardening analogy for the practice of spiritual direction. The spiritual director, like a gardener, can help the directee prepare the soil for growth to occur, but that growth in a mysterious process happens through God’s grace from within the person. The spiritual director can only wait patiently like the farmer in the hope-filled parable of the seed growing by itself:

*The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head (Mk 4:26-28).*

As the natural world loses its vibrancy in its winter sleep, we enter into the liturgical season of Advent, a time of quiet, patient waiting for a new coming of Christ into our lives. As our friend Paul reminds us, we may not know exactly what that new life may be, but we do believe it will come:

*We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (Romans 8: 22-25).*

**Despite the passivity implied by the word “patience,” in both spiritual direction and in life, we are encouraged to engage in an alertness, an active listening, for the Word of God. As Jesus instructs us in the gospel reading for the first Sunday of Advent, “Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come” (Mt 24:42). But he will surely come! May you have an Advent season of patient, hopeful waiting.**

Peace and all good things,  
Joan



On November 22, Janet Kurtz (ISI ‘17) recorded this view with her camera during her morning meditation.



On the weekend of August 28 to 30, the class of 2016 assembled for the last time at the Jesuit Retreat House for the ISI Opening Retreat. On Friday evening they gathered to share with each other their plans for the future. Saturday they were treated with two workshops on ongoing spiritual direction and peer group supervision. On Saturday evening they met once again with the incoming interns to share with them the experiences of their practicum year.



Surrounded by architectural plans for the future of JRH, Mary Mondello, Dan Guion, and Liz Campbell welcome first-year student Maryann Ruben.

First-year students Paula Fitzgerald and Anne Browning converse with Rick Krivanka, John Scarano and Brenna Davis.



The class of 2016 meets with Joan Carney and Rich Jerdonek for a workshop on what lies ahead of them as they move forward in their ministry of spiritual direction.

Saturday ended with a gala wine and cheese social. Many ISI alumni and friends joined current students for an evening of cheer and convivial companionship.



## Sunday Morning Liturgy

The ISI assembled in the chapel on Sunday morning to celebrate our closing liturgy. Matt Roche, SJ was our celebrant, and Kathy Wray, Donna and Matt Clark provided musical accompaniment. In lieu of a homily, each member of the class of 2016 presented brief reflections on their two years in the ISI. At the end of the liturgy, **those assembled raised their hands over those to be certified, asking God's blessing on their future ministry.**





## The Certification Ceremony

On Sunday afternoon, August 28, the class of 2016, together with their family and friends, gathered in Donahue Auditorium at John Carroll University for the ISI's twelfth annual certification ceremony. Rev. Sharon Seyforth-Garner (ISI '14) led the opening prayer, and Eileen Novotny (ISI '07) addressed the assembly with a reflection entitled "Life Began in a Garden." Joan Nuth, ISI director, distributed the certificates; her script is reproduced on the following pages. Rich Jerdonek ('06) gave the final blessing. Afterwards all enjoyed a reception in the Atrium of the Dolan Center.



What follows are the remarks made by Dr. Nuth as she presented certificates to the class of 2016. Her remarks are based on what the interns wrote in appreciation of each other. Each begins as a kind of riddle, and then something is said to identify each person. Dr. Nuth also provided a scripture quotation appropriate for each one, together with a **photograph which corresponds to the scripture passage. The pictures were taken during Dr. Nuth's recent retreat at Ignatius House, Guelph, Ontario last summer. Enjoy!**



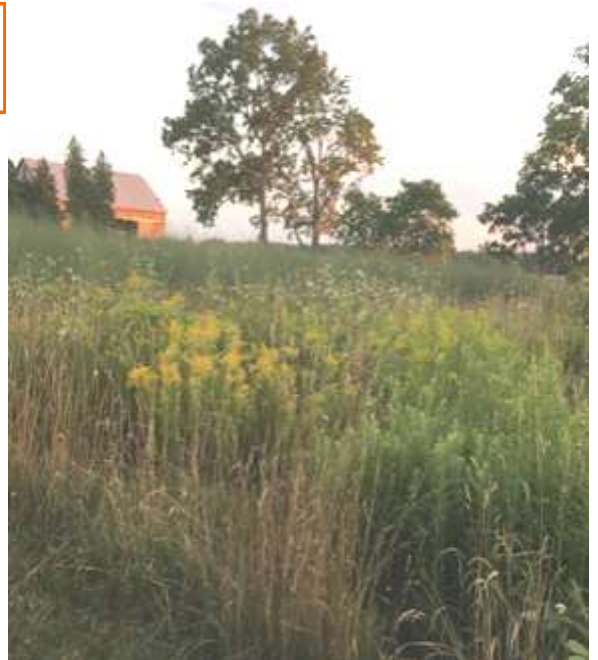
*Words describing this intern: strong, wise, compassionate.*

You are described as being patient, one who waits upon the Lord, with a desire to serve, to give, that flows out of a deep well of relationship with God. You are an attentive listener, with a gift for hospitality that makes people feel cared for and supported. You are a contemplative in action, ready to roll up your sleeves and do whatever needs doing in the moment. You celebrate our humanity in all its aspects, whether successes or failures, knowing we can learn from all experiences. Your care for your directees was apparent any time you spoke about them, especially your work with young adults. Classmates appreciate how you have brought your vast experiences in church and education to our class, helping shape our own journey. You added a level of life experience that brought depth and breadth to our cohort, often inspiring class

members to seek you out for conversation and advice. We also learned you are a pretty good actress – you role-played the incarcerated woman masterfully. Carol Anne Smith, your scripture passage is from Isaiah: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day: ‘Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name. . . . Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth’” (Isaiah 12:3-5).

*Words describing this intern: utterly open, searching, generous*

You were warm and welcoming to all of us, with your contagious smile and sociable personality. You were always sensitive to our experience, and deeply earnest in your desire to learn in order to support and serve those seeking to deepen their friendship with God. You are a man of sincere, honest and unwavering faith, dependable and steady, exhibiting optimism and hope in all circumstances. You are genuine, wholesome and refreshing as a spring rain. Your enthusiasm for learning and appreciation for all of us brought love and energy to the class. Classmates note how you always expressed a personal interest in how each one was doing. Your caring and support were always expressed openly. Just as you cultivate grass through your landscaping company, you are the sower of the word: a gardener tending your garden with faith and trust in a wonderful harvest. Michael Sweet, your scripture passage is from the gospel of Mark: “**The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come**” (Mark 4:26-29).







*Words describing this intern: sensitive, open, authentic, empathetic, classy.*

You have a gentle spirit, and your classmates appreciated the time **to share with you in class. In fact, the words “gentle” and “quiet”** were those used most frequently to describe you. You were always a calming presence in class. You exuded self-confidence, **but in a humble way. One described you as fulfilling the adage “still waters run deep,” offering penetrating, wise insights with a big heart that impacts many quietly.** Another word used to describe you is integrity – you know who you are and your presence to each of us lets us know it is okay to be who we are. Your honesty, resilience and patience in your search for where God wants you to be are impressive. You evidently love to travel, and have shared with some your impressions of the beauty of France and the pleasures of wine tasting. You are a faithful person, a caregiver, a listener; classmates appreciate the compassion with which you serve as social worker to those who are suffering and in need. Steve Bodey, your scripture comes from Isaiah 42: **“A**

**bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice” (Isaiah 42:3).**

*Words describe ing this intern: sincere, caring, desiring to serve, practical thinker*

You are upbeat and supportive, interactive with others, always with a positive viewpoint to offer. You are steadfast with a consistency of character that appears when you speak. You are other-centered in your presence, language and style. You are also tenderhearted, loving to help others. In class, you were always very open to sharing your experiences, including your questions and searching. While **not a “boat rocker,” you certainly will not sit back and refuse to give voice to whatever topic is up for discussion.** We could always depend on you to voice your opinion. As a caregiver and retired nurse, your warmth and love of people is apparent in how you spoke of your ministry to those in hospice. You were brave, bold and enterprising in your seeking out ISI as a way to shorten your trek to education from Pennsylvania, finding Cleveland a bit closer than Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Liz Campbell, your scripture is from the prophet Jeremiah: **“You shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. . . . Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth and . . . said, ‘Now I have put my words in your mouth.’” (Jeremiah 1:7—9).**





*Words describing this intern:  
smart, creative, philosophical, humorous*

You have a bright personality which can bring laughter to any situation, but you are also thoughtful, reflective, candidly honest, and serious. You reminded one classmate of a duck that looks calm on the surface of the water while its feet are frantically treading water beneath the surface. You are a go-getter, a very high achiever with the discipline to serve God wherever you are planted. You are also a natural counselor; people gravitate to you and spontaneously begin sharing deeply from their hearts. You have a lively intelligence and love to learn new things. You do tire of doing things the same way, daring to be different. You have the strength to expose your true self even when in doubt. You are a great conversationalist, talented musician, and effective

administrator. Several classmates shared how impressed they are with your perseverance and willingness to work hard in service to the Church through your parish ministry. You said of yourself: “Mystic in training. I have an odd way of looking at the world. I can’t seem to settle for what seems the normal or accepted way.” But that may well be what makes you so interesting! Donna Clark, your scripture passage is from 2 Corinthians: **“If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:17-18).**

*Words describing this intern: open,  
searching, humble, effervescent, zealous.*

You have great positive energy and an optimistic view of the world, always seeing the glass half full, and you added spontaneity and delight to our classes. Your ideas and reflections were always fresh and your spirit was vivacious, uplifting and fun. You were a breath of fresh air to us. Your classmates find you to be both an articulate storyteller and a good listener, effervescent in joy, lover of life with ambition to change the world one person at a time, deep thinker, passionate for the Gospel, a woman with a mission for love. When you speak, the room is filled with joy. You refresh us with your gift of zeal and insight. The youngest of all of us, you are also the most generous of individuals, almost to a fault! Classmates admire your passion for social justice and your



**commitment to St. Martin de Porres High School. Several people called you “precious”; interesting, because that is the word you used often to describe your own directees. I guess it takes one to know one! Brenna Davis, Your scripture passage is from Isaiah 43: **“Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, . . . Do not fear, for I am with you.”****



*Words describing this intern:  
open, seeking, sincere, hospitable*

You are welcoming and supportive to all. Always trying to **look at things from another's perspective, you get to the heart of compassion.** You are accepting of others, making them feel it is okay to be who they are. Your classmates appreciated your sincerity and your ability to personalize the class material. You were never shy about asking hard questions because of your desire to learn and understand. You openly shared your struggles, joys and love of God, which helped all of us. Your classmates appreciate how you were able to translate your experience as a hospice nurse into important insights for spiritual direction. Your smile and positive attitude toward life were always welcome. You are **aptly named "Joyce" for you have a joyful personality and help others feel joyful in your presence.** Joyce Gordon, your scripture passage is from Jeremiah: **"Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, . . . I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow" (Jeremiah 31:13).**



*Words describing this intern:  
faith-filled, down to earth, humble, sincere*



Your classmates perceive you as a happy person, pleasant to be around. You respect and enjoy others. You always seem to be **upbeat even when you don't feel well. You have an easy smile and a quiet sense of humor.** You are humble about what you know and **don't know. You always voiced committed, simple, faith-filled** questions, which grounded us in many ways. One classmate called you a man of tender strength, a gentle man with confidence in God. You obviously love your Catholic faith and seek to grow in it and share it with others, especially as teacher to your students at **St. Joseph's Academy and as husband and father to your family. We** walked with you through a momentous year: in pain and grief as you lost your mother and then in profound joy, as you and your wife welcomed the birth of a child! Dan Guion, for your scripture passage, I give you the prayer of your namesake Daniel:

**"Blessed be the name of God from age to age, for wisdom and power are his. . . . He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with him. To you, O God of my ancestors, I give thanks and praise" (Daniel 2:20-23).**



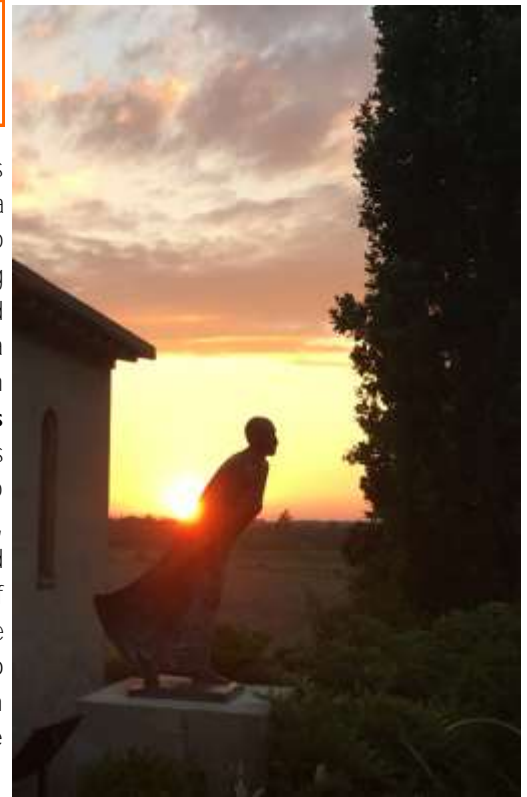
*Words describing this intern: transparent, humble, utterly sincere, gently caring*

You are a quiet and reflective person, always sincere and able to bring profound insights to class discussion. Several classmates spoke of your calming presence in our class. You have the ability to let people know that they are loved even before you open your mouth and even after we have already opened our mouths. You were, without a doubt, one of the quietest among us; one said that you “say little but speak volumes.” When you did choose to speak, we all listened attentively, for your voice came from deep, honest reflection. Your classmates find you to be a personable, deeply faithful and friendly man. Your pure spirit radiates as you listen and absorb and then speak. You care deeply about people and ideas, and you obviously desire to be of the best

service to others. But we are all wondering how you have learned to tame your “ministerial voice.” Dave Jesenovec, your scripture passage is from Isaiah: **“I dwell in the high and holy places, and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit; to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite” (Isaiah 57:15).**

*Words describing this intern: generative, seeking, earnest, energetic, hospitable*

You are a person of persistent excitement, energetically creating the circumstances for all to have equal opportunity to explore God’s love. You are kind-hearted with a ready laugh, someone with a likeable social personality that attracts others to yourself. You are also described as a sponge for learning, always integrating emotional intelligence with spirituality. Your classmates perceive you as a gifted speaker and storyteller, always having something fascinating to add to a conversation, like a new insight, an interesting fact from some current research you’ve read about, or an anecdote from your past experience. You have an obvious passion for spiritual direction and all of the graces that it provides. Classmates admire your assuming your new role at the Jesuit Retreat House, seeking so earnestly to learn and share Ignatian spirituality. After a full career in other areas, you are giving yourself wholeheartedly to sharing this spirituality effectively and creatively with others. We appreciate and are grateful for your strong advocacy of JRH and all the historical prominence it harbors. Rick Krivanka, your scripture passage is from the letter to the Hebrews: **“Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight . . . and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:1-2).**





*Words describing this intern: wise, humble, brilliant, generous*

You are described as a quiet and deeply balanced person, who listens well and gives excellent feedback in a way that is supportive and encouraging towards others. You can explain very complicated theory in understandable language while never talking down to anyone. You know what to say, when to say it and how to say it from a contemplative stance. You are able to weave together a deep spirituality, a sharp intelligence, and a humble spirit. You are always ready to serve, to bless, to encourage and build up the other rather than yourself. You exemplify the gifting of a servant-leader, being willing to lead or to follow, whatever is needed in the present moment. Your classmates, without exception, expressed how fortunate they felt to have you as a classmate:

scholar of psychology, mentor, counselor, consoler, expert witness of the Christian life, one who indeed lives the Spiritual Exercises as your way of being in the world. Wisdom personified. One of your classmates was impressed with how you, with years of experience as a spiritual director, steeped in the Ignatian tradition and with a Ph.D in psychology, nonetheless sat quietly with us “newbies,” taking notes and speaking gratitude. Another thinks that the icing on the cake is that you are Italian! I’m sure that all members of the class are happy to echo what one said: “I pray that I am as filled with vigor, passion, and curiosity when I am 88!” Thank you, [Mary Mondello](#), for being with us! Your scripture passage is from the Book of Wisdom:

**“Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. . . . To fix one’s thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care” (Wisdom 6:12-15).**



*Words describing this intern: committed, authentic, humorous, holy*

You are experienced as a positive person with great energy and depth, welcoming to everyone, and with a wonderful sense of humor. You often provided well-timed comedic relief and joy to our class discussions, but also had the ability to share seriously deep personal and poignant insights. You “walk the talk,” giving yourself tirelessly to support others in knowing and loving our God. But you also make faith fun, showing how the path to God is filled with fun and laughter, and even the painful things are endurable because God is with us in them. Gifted in human relations, kind, generous of spirit, excellent story teller, highly respected, man of honor, you are a rock, firm in belief, principled yet not judgmental. Classmates appreciated how you generously shared your vast knowledge of scripture with us, along with your many years’ experience ministering to young people in campus settings. One classmate said you embody the “joy of the gospel” lived throughout your life. And like the apostles, you even love to fish! [John Scarano](#), your scripture passage is from Luke 5:

**“Peter and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken. . . . Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.’ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him” (Luke 5:9-11).**

Words describing this intern:  
energetic, smart, engaged and engaging

You are described as the essence of openness and enthusiasm, readily sharing your experience and bringing vibrancy to our class and discussions. You are described as a helper, always looking to serve, to show friendship, to nurture, to share, to teach. You are described as one of the most industrious among us, always scheming about how best to use what we were learning. You were always able to come up with real-life examples and stories pertaining to our class discussions. You are described as brilliant, exuding your excitement with life. You are willing to share that brilliance in ways that intrigue the listener. You are earthy, natural, animated, artistic, alive and thriving. You loved to add trivia and verve to our conversations so that they sparkled with life. One classmate appreciated you as a kind of caring mother for our class – providing tasty food on numerous occasions, including the delicious Easter bread. Remarkable teacher, minister, musician, and mother, your presence has blessed us. Also, having the longest drive, and the worst knees, of anyone else in our cohort should grant you some kind of heroine status! Kathy Wray, your scripture passage is from



the letter to the Philippians: **“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:4-7).**

## Spotlight on the Newly Certified Spiritual Directors



STEVE BODEY

For his practicum, Steve accompanied two people through the Nineteenth Annotation 32-week retreat and also led an eight-week group retreat for thirty people. He said he gradually grew in self-confidence as a spiritual director, especially in his ability to recognize the needs of his directees and adjust material for prayer accordingly. At the end of his practicum year, he can truly say that being a spiritual director feels “completely natural” to him. He found the supervision process to be “mentoring, nurturing, and supportive.”

LIZ CAMPBELL

Liz’s practicum consisted in providing an eight-week Ignatian retreat for two individuals, ministry to hospice patients, and individual spiritual direction sessions for participants attending silent retreats in a monastery. Trusting in “the Holy Spirit’s intervention,” she grew in her ability to identify movements of consolation and desolation in her directees, as well as the application of the rules for discernment. She feels she accomplished her stated goals of “commitment, effort to understand, and spontaneity” in order to supply “a surplus of warmth or love for people.”





**DONNA CLARK**

During her practicum, Donna provided a parish retreat based on the Principle and Foundation for thirty pastoral leaders, an eight-week Ignatian group retreat for three people, two eight-week individually directed retreats, and ongoing spiritual direction sessions for six people. Donna found her personal prayer time a great asset for her spiritual direction: **“Sometimes . . . something would come into my mind about a directee – a phrase, a thought about a situation or a scripture passage. . . . After the first few times it no longer surprised me, but I was always amazed and grateful.”** She feels she learned what **“contemplative presence”** means: **“It is a quieting of the mind with no worries or need to pre-think a response. This . . . was expressed mostly through intuition. . . . Something would come into my mind without any struggle or mulling over of an idea. To me this was a sign that God was truly present . . . and I began to trust it.”**

**BRENNA DAVIS**

For her practicum Brenna accompanied five people through the eight-week Ignatian retreat, and saw two others for monthly ongoing direction meetings. Brenna learned that the more she was faithful to her own prayer, the better she was able to be contemplatively present to her directees. She wanted to **“acquire better active listening skills . . . and to foster empathy and curiosity for my directees.”** She says, **“this was one of the areas of greatest growth and joy from my practicum. . . . Since I saw the preciousness of each of my directees, I was completely invested in their journey and interested in their personal experience of God.”** She says she learned to see that **“God loves us by entering into our suffering through the compassion of other people. . . . I will attempt to put on these ‘eyes’ as often as possible as I continue my journey through this life.”**

**JOYCE GORDON**

Joyce accompanied one woman through the Nineteenth Annotation Ignatian Retreat, led a John Carroll student through the eight-week retreat, and saw an elderly woman for ongoing direction. Joyce learned that **“the director is only here to guide the person toward God and that God is open and waiting for the person.”** She learned to **“sit and be patient in the process”** instead of teaching or preaching. She learned the value of not moving faster or further than her directees were able to go: you cannot **“force the person to go deep.”** Overall, by putting herself out of the way, she found it **“amazing”** to be an observer of how God works in the prayer and life of her directees.

**DAN GUION**

Dan’s practicum was spent directing two women colleagues through the Nineteenth Annotation Ignatian Retreat. Dan’s hope was that his directees would experience the companionship with Jesus that he had felt himself during his own retreat. When one of his directees came to know Jesus as **“a humble, kind and loyal friend,”** Dan says, **“This truly made me smile and was a realization of the goal I had set.”** Dan also wanted to gain confidence in the practical side of ministering the retreat **“so that I could be more open to the movements within myself and aware of those movements with my directees.”** Whenever his directees seemed to **“wander off”** to places he thought didn’t belong to the retreat, he said, **“I learned to stay with them . . . rather than pushing them back to the proscribed retreat right away.”** Dan feels he grew in his listening skills and particularly in asking evocative questions.



DAVE JESENOVEC

Dave accompanied a woman through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat and another through the Eighteenth Annotation Retreat. He also met briefly with two others for ongoing spiritual direction. Dave wanted to grow into a contemplative approach to spiritual direction, and he feels he has had some success here. He found himself becoming “more relaxed, less anxious” as he became more aware of the Holy Spirit at work. Praying before the session had a “dramatic effect on [his] ability to be contemplative during the session” . . . through “a feeling, a word, a sense, or a memory that came to mind.” He thus came “to know when to speak and when not to, what part of the conversation to pursue and which to let go, or even to direct away from.” Dave describes the “big picture” of spiritual direction thus: “We have a passionate God who is madly in love with us and is constantly reaching out and communicating with us, and we are all wired to receive that love and to live in union with God.”

RICK KRIVANKA

Rick accompanied a John Carroll professor through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, directed the eight-week retreat of a John Carroll student, and saw three others for ongoing spiritual direction. Rick is “pleased” with how he learned to be “a companion on a journey” instead of “an answer man.” He learned to discern what prayer materials best served different people, “being attentive to what was emerging in the moment with God’s grace” instead of a “predetermined imposition” of material. He learned both to “linger” with directees’ experiences of consolation, but also to “address areas of darkness and difficulty” without getting in the way of something that needed attention. Rick is pleased with how he arrived at a “deeper understanding of [his] capacity as a spiritual director.” While he has engaged in counseling in other contexts throughout his professional life, he has come to embrace and love the ministry of spiritual direction with its particular depth and meaning.



MARY MONDELLO

**Because of her many years’ experience with spiritual direction and retreat ministry, Mary did not participate in the practicum, although she attended all the classes. Instead she acted as supervisor for one of her classmates. Of the classroom experience, she says, “I enjoyed the classroom experience and the papers we were given as assignments. Beginning the class with scripture and prayer continued the underlying emphasis on how important our relationship with God is when we prepare ourselves to be directors. . . . The assignments were demanding given the practicum experience but the materials were excellent.” Mary was a wonderful addition to this class as she generously shared her lovely personality and expertise with us.**

JOHN SCARANO

During his practicum, John met with a parishioner for an eight-week retreat, directed two JCU students through the eight-day silent retreat, and led one person through the **Nineteenth Annotation Retreat**. He also led a “Walking with Ignatius” eight-week Lenten retreat at his parish which drew 40-45 people which he calls “a wonderful experience for me.” John believes that through the practicum he has learned to be a much better listener, interjecting only when the Spirit moved him, rather than whenever he felt he had something to offer. He grew in his comfort with the movements and flow of the Exercises, especially with the Rules for the Discernment of Spirits. Of his final goal for the practicum, “to become a better human being through all of this,” he says: “What a lofty goal! What was I thinking?” And yet, from everything else he said in evaluating his practicum, it seems this goal was surely realized as well!





## Spotlight on the Newly Certified Spiritual Directors



### CAROL ANNE SMITH, HM

Carol Anne led two people through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, offered the eight-week retreat to three individuals, directed three eight-day retreats to JCU students, participated in a Busy Student Retreat for five students, and offered ongoing direction to six people. Carol Anne's motivation and goal for her practicum were to serve "as a support to those earnestly seeking a deeper friendship and relationship with God." Based on the feedback she received from her directees, she is humbled and grateful to say she believes this goal was realized. Carol Anne says, "I learned so, so much, beyond what I imagined. . . . I was able to dedicate time to prayer and reading in a way I have never been able to before. I think I acquired greater listening skills, deeper confidence in the reality of the Holy Spirit as the director, and greater trust in my own intuition." Throughout, Carol Anne felt "deeply humbled by her directees' goodness, transparency, love of God, searching and faithfulness."

### MICHAEL SWEET

For his practicum, Michael accompanied one man through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, accompanied two people through the eight-week individually directed retreat, conducted a nine-week "Spirituality Program for Adults" group retreat at his parish, and participated as spiritual director for the Joyfully Gifted Retreat Program in his parish. Mike says that the foundational goals for his ministry of spiritual direction were "patience, understanding, sympathy, and being a good listener." He is particularly pleased that over the course of the year, he learned to be a better listener by speaking less. The fact that his directees trusted him with their lives "touched my heart very much." He says, "I loved the entire experience and look forward to future direction and other related ministerial opportunity."



### KATHY WRAY

For her practicum Kathy accompanied one woman through the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat, saw another for ongoing direction, and a third young man for more sporadic ongoing direction. Since her directees were very busy people, she adopted mantras for them: "Easy does it!" and "Slow and steady as she goes." She learned to adjust her eagerness for their growth to the pace each needed to make progress. Kathy hoped to deepen her listening skills in order to recognize movements and countermovements underlying the words spoken. She found her roles of teacher, campus minister, and pastoral musician to be much more action-oriented, and "a very different mode of operating" from spiritual direction. She knows that if she is to pursue the ministry of spiritual direction further, some of her other duties may need to be curtailed. She found her supervision experience "a blessing," often providing "fodder for her personal prayer."

All formality aside,  
the class of 2016 gives  
expression to their  
enthusiasm and joy  
in a group hug!



## NEW COURSE ON ISAIAH REVISITED

The course cancelled for the fall semester is rescheduled for this spring. Called *The Poetic Theology of the Prophet Isaiah*, it will be taught twice: Mondays from 6:30 to 9 pm or Tuesdays from 12:30 to 3 pm, beginning January 30. A brief preview:

**“In the book of Isaiah we find the sweep of Biblical theology displayed as in no other single book of the Bible. . . . The nature of God, the nature of reality, the problem of sin, the effects of sin, the need for redemption, the meaning of life, the hope of eternal life, all are to be found in this book as in no other. Beyond that, these ideas, which could be dry as dust, are expressed with incomparable literary power and beauty” (John N. Oswalt, *The Holy One of Israel*).** Except for the psalms, the book of Isaiah is referenced more often in the New Testament than any other book in the Hebrew Bible. It is relevant for both liturgical and personal prayer, which will be a focus of this course. You will be encouraged to pray with it as well as study its historical background and theology.



Statue of Isaiah,  
Colonna dell'Immacolata, Rome

CONTACT KELLIE FOR REGISTRATION

## ISI ANNUAL REUNION AND REFLECTION DAY



Saturday, March 11, 10 am to 4 pm  
[PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE]

Kindred Spirits? A Jesuit and a Trappist:  
Ignatius Loyola and Thomas Merton  
Jardine Room, JCU  
Lunch included

More detailed information about registration  
will be available closer to the time.



## ISI ANNUAL QUIET RETREAT AT JRH



Friday, May 5, 7 pm thru Saturday Evening, May 6  
Anthony Moore, Ph.D

Soul Work with Ignatius Loyola and Carl Jung  
What do St. Ignatius and Carl Jung have to say to each other and to us?

Every year the ISI provides an annual retreat opportunity for ISI grads and current students to gather together for personal prayer and communal reflection. **This year we will join the Lay Leadership Program's Ignatian Currents offering featuring Anthony Moore, Ph.D.** His presentation will bring these two psychologists of the interior life into dialogue with each other, and **show how they can have an impact on our own “soul work.”**

While we will share much of the weekend with others, the ISI is invited to stay beyond the 4 pm ending Saturday for some special time together for personal prayer, dinner, and communal reflection on our ministry of spiritual direction.

More specific details for registration will be available closer to the time.



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