



More photos from the Institute's pre-semester gathering on August 22.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Learn How to Create and Lead a Small Faith Sharing Group in Your Parish

Most of us who are on the spiritual journey as disciples of Jesus Christ recognize the importance of sharing our triumphs and struggles with other likeminded individuals; people we can trust and depend on for strength and comradery. Jesus had His 12 and likewise we need our own group of spiritual friends.

Recognizing this need, many parishes have long promoted the benefit of creating small faith sharing groups within the parish. Unfortunately in most cases the success in the majority of parishes has been dismal at best. Why?

One of the most important aspects of creating and maintaining a small faith sharing group is effective, well-trained leadership. The small group must have an intentional leader. Many of our parishioners would like to belong to a small faith sharing group but they don't know of any and definitely feel ill prepared to personally create and lead a group in their parish. To help address this need the ISD, the teaching department of the St. Francis Retreat Center, is offering a 12 week, one semester course to train leaders for this important ministry. They will not only train in theory as small faith sharing group leaders, they will also have the lived experience of belonging to a small group to better understand its structure and flow. You may want to give one of your potential leaders a tap on the shoulder.

Classes begin on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 from 6:00 to 8:30PM. For more information please contact Fr. David Rosenberg at drosenberg@stfrancis.ws, or Sr. Katherine Collard at kcollard@stfrancis.ws. You may register online at www.isdmichigan.org or in person.



A MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE OF LANSING



Institute for Spiritual Direction

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THOUGHTS FROM FR. DAVID



As we enter our fourth year of studies here at the Institute for Spiritual Direction I want to express my gratitude for all the marvels the Lord has done and continues to do for us. Much fruit is being harvested through His grace. Our programs have expanded, and our classes have increased in numbers. This fall, we welcome 19 students into our new cohort. In this issue, enjoy a special section welcoming them. Thank God for

His abundant blessings through the Holy Spirit's action.

In addition to our academic offerings, we now host a summer 8-Day Ignatian Retreat as well as two 3-Day Ignatian Retreats: in the summer and late fall. (See our Calendar of Events for details.) Soon we will introduce a nine week parish-based program, which includes video presentations and facilitator materials for a parish course titled *You Can't Win the War if You Can't See Your Enemy: Spiritual Growth Based on St. Ignatius of Loyola's Rules for Discernment of Spirits*. Indeed, we are blessed with the fruit being born here at the Institute for Spiritual Direction!

I invite you to take a quiet moment, relax and enjoy our newsletter. We hope you find it inspiring.

WHAT'S IN YOUR CROCKPOT?



Tasty ingredients for your spiritual stew

My most important learning as a Spiritual Director is delivered directly by the Holy Spirit who teaches me to trust in divine providence. At each session we call upon the Holy Spirit to be with us and to guide us. We need to believe He is in charge. That becomes crystal clear when I stop looking for "brilliant" advice and listen to what the Holy Spirit is leading me to say. I am at my best as a Spiritual Director when I remember that this ministry belongs to God and to open my hands and heart and let it flow freely.

Sr. Katherine Collard, class of 2017

IN OUR PARISHES

Networking has been the open door for me as spiritual director. Our parish has small groups and I have spoken to several about the benefits of SD. We have an event coming up, a volunteer fair, so new and old parishioners can see what is going on in our parish and to have the opportunity to be involved. Glenn Belland, Victoria Unger and myself will be on hand to answer any questions about SD and also the program available in DeWitt.

"When I stand before God, I want to say I have competed well, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2Timothy 4:7

Barbara Cummings is part of the class of 2018. She is a member of St. Philips parish in Battle Creek, Michigan



WHAT'S NEW AT THE INSTITUTE

At this time of year our hearts turn to gratitude to God for all His blessings. We thank God for:

- The class of 2020. See our special welcome section. They are already a blessing to us
- The ministry of spiritual direction is spreading and hearts are set on fire for Christ!
- The parish retreat theme this year is River of Life: Flowing From Our Baptism, Priest, Prophet and Servant King. Check the website for multiple dates and sign up now. www.stfrancis.ws
- Keep an eye on the website for new and exciting options to be offered soon.
- For all these things we thank our gracious God for the privilege of serving Him at ISD.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fall Ignatian 3 Day Retreat: Nov. 15-17, 2019
- ISD Graduation: Wednesday, December 11, 2019
- Winter Semester begins: January 7, 2020
- Summer Ignatian 3 Day Retreat: July 10-12, 2020
- Ignatian 8 Day Retreat: July 12-18, 2020



For more information on the Institute for Spiritual Direction, on how to become a spiritual director, or how to find a spiritual director, please visit www.isdmichigan.org, or email Fr. David Rosenberg at drosenberg@isdmichigan.org.

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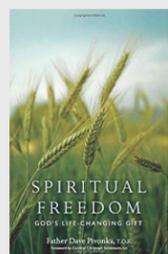


"I understood that every flower created by Him is beautiful, that the brilliance of the rose and the whiteness of the lily do not lessen the perfume of the violet or the sweet simplicity of the daisy. I understood that if all the lowly flowers wished to be roses, nature would no longer be enameled with lovely hues. And so it is in the of souls, Our Lord's living garden."

-St. Theresese of Lisieux
Feast October 1st

Contributed by Patricio Medina,
class of 2019

ONE LAST THING SPIRITUAL FREEDOM



We all long for spiritual freedom - to put aside the struggles of a lifetime that keep us bound in spiritual chains. Fr. David Pivonka, T.O.R. (AKA The Wild Goose: <https://thewildgooseisloose.com/>) speaks eloquently of the path to spiritual awakening through the work of the Holy Spirit. This book invites you to the peace, wholeness and love of God you have always yearned for. He makes you truly believe that the grace and power you have always desired will be yours by the gracious gift of the Holy Spirit. I strongly recommend Spiritual Freedom; God's Life-Changing Gift.

Louise Paré, class of 2018

WELCOME TO THE ISD FAMILY!

We initiated a great new tradition at the Institute for Spiritual Direction on August 22 when we celebrated the arrival of the new class which will begin on September 10. Our 4th cohort is the largest ever, with 18 new members beginning the road to becoming spiritual directors. The event was hosted by the 3rd cohort, who are preparing for graduation in December, 2019.

The gala evening began with Mass in the Bethany House Chapel on the grounds of the St. Francis Retreat Center. We especially invoked the Holy Spirit to be present to us in all our studies and all our spiritual direction meetings. One of the first things we learn is that the Holy Spirit is the true director and our job is to be open to his presence and guidance. What a blessing to make our first action for this new group of students to be the celebration of Mass! Thank you to Fr. David Rosenberg, the director of the program, for presiding at the Mass.

Then it was on to a festive meal where everyone got a chance to meet each other and enjoy the meal. Special thanks to our grill chefs, Deacon Romolo and Lorraine Leone who served up a real treat of delicious rib eye steaks and grilled chicken. Yum!

A highlight of the evening came when a new student asked the graduation class what they would like to share about their experience so far. The overwhelming response was one of joy - joy to see God at work so powerfully, joy to have a hand in bringing people closer to a deep prayer life and a relationship with Jesus, joy to be a conduit through whom the Holy Spirit flows and joy in all the things they have learned thus far.

In the spirit of that joy, we introduce our 4th cohort. We are excited to have them as part of the family and look forward to seeing what God has in store next. Here are the members of the 4th cohort.



Olga De La Torre
Cristo Rey, Lansing



Nancy Carter
St. Andrew, Saline



Paul Fransway
St. Patrick, Brighton



Mel Erickson
St. Mary, Pinckney



Richard Freedberg
Queens, Jackson



Arnold Hennig
Cristo Rey, Lansing



Dcn. Jim Kasprzak
St. Thomas, East Lansing



Karen Kasprzak
St. Thomas, East Lansing



Jessica Kiesling
St. Mary, Williamston



Lynn Korabik
OLG, N. Muskegon



Rick Lewandowski
St. Thomas, East Lansing



Mercedes Luis
St. Thomas, East Lansing



Dcn. Bob Nieman
St. Jude, DeWitt



Joan Plumley
St. Mary, Chelsea



Monica Poff
St. Joseph, St. Johns



Michael Siminski
St. Martha, Lansing



Catherine Scholler
St. Andrew, Saline



Mary Kay Shields
St. Gerard, Lansing