

A MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE OF LANSING



# Institute for Spiritual Direction

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## THOUGHTS FROM FR. DAVID



*"I am with you always, until the end of the age. AMEN!" Matt 28:20*

I imagine you are asking the same question I am, even as the "voice in my head" comes up with different answers, depending on the day, and even the hour. "How will our Church look, as we emerge from this Coronavirus Pandemic, which, as of this writing, won't be until May 1st, at the earliest? In Lectio this morning I read the Palm Sunday Mass Readings, beginning with the Procession of Palms, then the Passion of Our Lord. I then spiritually prepared for Holy Week, the Triduum, and Easter Season. We, as Church, will enter the same sequence: Passion and Death during the pandemic, but then a new Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost. We must suffer, but cling to the Cross of Jesus Christ. Throughout April, we will continue to be entombed, until we rise again. The stone will be rolled away as we, the Mystical Body of Christ, walk feebly at first from the tomb, then as we gain strength, proclaim the Good News. Our beloved Church will ascend and grow in numbers. We should be prepared for this to take months, maybe years. But, as Jesus Christ himself assures us in Matthew 28:20 "I am with you always, until the end of the age. AMEN!" I pray for you daily, and offer you the Church's blessing. I pray for peace and strength, in Community, with prayer, fortitude, good council, and wonder and awe.

Fr. David

## WHAT'S IN YOUR CROCKPOT?



### *Tasty ingredients for your spiritual stew*

During our training in the ISD we were encouraged to develop a "Spiritual Crockpot". I worked on this in some confusion. However it is now a big part of Spiritual Direction sessions and has been a blessing as I go through my journey with cancer. Prayer that has grown from that exercise is powerful as I deal with chemo, surgeries, PT and fatigue. In addition, it has connected me more closely with the prayers of the "cloud of witnesses". I thank you for your prayers and Fr. David for pushing me to create that Crockpot. God Be with Us!

Lynda Shea, class of 2018

*Let us all continue to pray for our sister, Lynda and she continues her journey of fighting cancer.*

## IN OUR DIOCESE

At ISD and St. Francis Retreat Center we experience constant support from the Diocese of Lansing in our service. This month, through Faith Magazine in union with the Diocesan Services Appeal, the work of ISD was especially highlighted through the story of one of our ISD graduates, Louise Pare.

Read her personal experience as a spiritual director at this link: <http://faithdigital.org/faithmag/FMDSA20/#?page=20> We are so blessed to have the ongoing encouragement of our diocese and to serve the diocese through our ministry of spiritual direction. God has truly blessed us all.



## Get Outside and Enjoy the Beautiful Springtime

Come enjoy the beauty of creation at the 95 acre grounds of St. Francis Retreat Center. While we are all busy being “socially distant” we are still encouraged to get outside and get some exercise. Governor Whitmer allows specifically for travel to engage in outdoor activity, including walking, hiking, running and cycling”. Our grounds provide all this and more in a beautifully landscaped place. You are welcome to enjoy the peace of our grounds at this time of self-isolating to avoid exposure to the virus. Please maintain the minimum six-foot distance from others while you enjoy getting outside.

## WHAT'S NEW AT THE INSTITUTE

*Spiritual Direction offered at Weekend Retreats*

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

That's how one retreatant described his experience with spiritual direction on a recent weekend retreat. Spiritual Direction has become an integral part of the retreat experience at St. Francis Retreat Center. It is a spiritual boost for the retreatants and an opportunity for ISD students to learn and grow in their ministry. Here's what some other retreatants have mentioned.

- Very passionate and thought provoking.
- One of the most amazing, spiritual experiences I've had.
- My director was very helpful. I come away enthused and ready to go.
- Wow! Thank you for providing spiritual direction. I almost didn't participate. That would have been a mistake.

Sounds like a win-win situation for our retreatants and our ISD directors in training.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- FaithFest: June 27, 2020
- Ignatian Weekend: July 10-12, 2020
- Ignatian Retreat: July 12-18, 2020
- Alumni Retreat: July 24-25, 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](http://www.isdmichigan.org), or email Fr. David Rosenberg at [drosenberg@isdmichigan.org](mailto:drosenberg@isdmichigan.org).

## SAINTLY INSPIRATION

SAINT PADRE PIO



*“Never fall back on yourself alone, but place all your trust in God and don't be too eager to be set free from your present state. Let the Holy Spirit act within you. Give yourself up to all His transports and have no fear. He is so wise and gentle and discreet that He never brings about anything but good. How good this Holy Spirit, this Comforter, is to all, but how supremely good He is to those who seek Him.”*

St. Padre Pio

## ONE LAST THING

*THE WOUNDED HEALER*

We continue to look at the work of distinguished theologian Henri Nouwen. His clear and practical writing about the needs of spiritually minded individuals speaks directly to the mind and the heart.

*The Wounded Healer* is a book that is hope-filled and profoundly simple that speaks directly to those who want to be of service in their church or community, but have found the traditional ways often threatening and ineffective. Nouwen uses creative case studies of ministry with stories from diverse cultures and religious traditions in preparing a new model for ministry. He creates a balanced and creative theology of service that begins with the realization of fundamental woundedness in humans in preparing a new model for ministry. He emphasizes that our common experience can be a source of strength and healing when counseling others.

Victoria Unger, class of 2019