

A MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE OF LANSING



Institute for Spiritual Direction

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THOUGHTS FROM FR. DAVID



Much fruit has been produced these last few months stemming from the dedication of the alumni and students of ISD. We just completed our winter semester, where this student cohort blossomed in their understanding and wisdom of the Pilgrims Way of the Cross. One student evaluation wrote:

“These regular sessions in which we gather together, share our experiences and encourage each other have nourished my own spiritual life. This semester also gave me the tools to

help directees with their Rule of Life to establish, generate and sustain with others a lifetime abiding discipleship in Christ.” Student, Cohort #6

This past March the ISD sponsored a 3-day Parish Mission, “*Mass Matters: We Are Called To Glory*” at St. Therese Parish in Lansing. Nine spiritual directors gave their assistance in guiding and facilitating the small group table discussions and instructing the group participants in the practice of Lectio Divina. Many parishioners commented that their lives were enriched and changed in their desire to continue to meet weekly with their small group, to fully participate in the Mass, and to go out in mission to be a change agent for a Christ-centered Community.

One participant wrote in a letter we received: *“I really enjoyed our mission, Mass Matters. I learned so much about the Mass, and I will forever intentionally desire to join Christ and his Mystical Body in this profound miracle!”*

Indeed, I am grateful to Our Lord that he has guided the ISD alumni and students to live our mission to the fullest: *“To form and equip Christian leaders that they might accompany others in their transforming relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church.”* May the remainder of this Lenten Season strengthen your calling to be “*Ambassadors for Christ*” and give you *“the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, to guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus...”*

(Philippians 4:4-7)

WHAT’S IN YOUR CROCKPOT?



Tasty ingredients for your spiritual stew

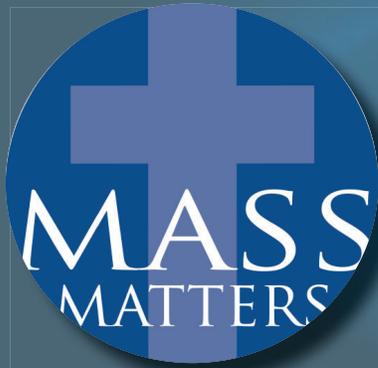
Lately, the importance of faith has been coming up a lot, both in my own thoughts and in spiritual direction meetings with others. All you have to do is turn on the news for a few minutes to be overwhelmed by the invasion of Ukraine and the human tragedies that are displayed for all to see. My first thought is to put my faith in the Lord for whatever they need. My second thought is that I don’t think my faith is strong enough to even pray for healing in this ravaged country. This has me thinking about faith. Faith is important to Jesus. Many of his healings were activated by an expression of faith—a positive choice to trust him, no matter what. It has nothing to do with our skills. It has everything to do with who God is. The first line of the Creed gets right to the heart of the matter: “I believe in God,” That faith carries a choice to fix my eyes on Jesus and to learn to gaze on Him. My faith is in His power, not in my weakness. And faith is a gift, given by the Holy Spirit. All we have to do is ask. So, these days my secret ingredient in my Spiritual Crockpot is to exercise faith, received as a gift and empowered by my choice to accept this gift. The world does not seem any easier or more manageable but my anxiety is overcome by the powerful gift of faith that I reach out to receive.

Louise Paré, Class of 2018

“...BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW”

Do you have a friend who would make a good spiritual director? Now is the time to talk to them and suggest they begin classes this Fall. Classes begin September 14, 2022. For more information, please check: <http://www.isdministries.org/inquirers-apply-here.html>

Parish Mission



St. Therese's parish in Lansing had the privilege of having their parish Lenten retreat presented by Fr. David and other members of the ISD team. The focus was on the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith and the fountain of parish life. God was clearly at work because at the beginning of the retreat one woman arrived with a very skeptical and disinterested attitude. By the end of the retreat she was full of excitement and desire to learn more and grow in her ability to encounter Christ through the Blessed Sacrament. How good it is to see God's grace touching and restoring lives!

One of ISD's goals is to develop resources to assist the pastoral team at parishes. This retreat was just one example of the possibilities that can be developed for the future. The ISD executive team will keep you posted as more programs are developed. Your input is always welcome.



WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION



A Gospel Resource for Your Spiritual Growth

Would you like to grow in your knowledge and understanding of God's Word, spoken to you every Sunday? Every week the Gospel for the following Sunday is posted on the ISD website, along with a spiritual meditation on that Word, written by Fr. Rosenberg. The Sunday Gospel is especially chosen by the Church as God's message to the whole Church. Why not take some extra time to let the Holy Spirit speak to you personally? Go to <http://isdministries.org/>

Welcome to the Neighborhood, Institute for Spiritual Direction

There's an old saying "When God closes a door He opens a window." This took on extra meaning when changes at the ISD meant that we would no longer have access to meeting and classroom space at St. Francis retreat house. Everything was ready to go for the start of Fall classes but there was nowhere available to meet. In times like this we see what a very faithful God we have. In a matter of a few weeks we were able to find a house available right in the same neighborhood. The living room was soon converted into a classroom large enough to meet our foreseeable needs. Meeting space was established, office space was set up, a full kitchen was made available and even a guest room was provided for emergency needs. Thanks to Fr. David for his skill in bringing resources together. What a blessing! We are grateful to all of those who have supported the ISD with your financial donations. We couldn't do it without your help. We always thank the Lord for his generous care in all our needs.



Welcome to our new home at 202 North Market St., Dewitt, MI 48820!

SAINTLY INSPIRATION ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

Do You Want to Become a Great Saint? Saint Ignatius Loyola on the Role of Suffering



If God gives you an abundant harvest of trials, it is a sign of great holiness which He desires you to attain. Do you want to become a great saint? Ask God to send

you many sufferings. The flame of Divine Love never rises higher than when fed with the wood of the Cross, which the infinite charity of the Savior used to finish His sacrifice. All the pleasures of the world are nothing compared with the sweetness found in the gall and vinegar offered to Jesus Christ. That is, hard and painful things endured for Jesus Christ and with Jesus Christ.

-Saint Ignatius of Loyola

UPCOMING EVENTS

*we hope to see you at
these events*

- **3-Day Parish Mission May 10-12 6:30 pm:**
Mass Matters: We Are Called to Glory, at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Michigan Center, MI. Visit <https://fatimaparish.net/> for parish details.
- **3-Day Contemplative Ignatian 'retreat June 24-June 26.**
For all the details: <http://www.isdministries.org/ignatian-retreats>.
- **Alumni/New Cohort Day: August 18, 2022**
A day for alumni to gather for peer seminar and social gathering to welcome our new cohort 7. Day includes social gathering with Mass and dinner



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 <https://isdministries.org>, or email Fr. David Rosenberg at drosenberg@isdministries.org.