What is Ignatian Spirituality?

By Ministry Team Member, Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ

There are lots of answers to the question: What is Ignatian Spirituality? I’ll summarize ten key points from a great online source: IgnatianSpirituality.com.

1. It begins with a wounded soldier daydreaming on his sickbed. Ignatian Spirituality is the pathway to holiness as taught by St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556). He was a Spanish soldier, wounded in battle, who began to learn in his convalescence how to pay attention to his interior experience. This continued throughout his lifetime. His Spiritual Exercises, his autobiography, the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus, and his voluminous correspondence are the primary documents that we have for understanding his experience of God.

2. “The world is charged with the grandeur of God.” Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins captures well the spirit of Ignatius. God is constantly at work within the world. Nothing is profane, but all reality has the potential for revealing God’s grace for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

3. It’s about call and response. God calls us, and our task is to respond. It’s like the sheep recognizing the voice of the shepherd and following where he leads. Ignatius teaches us how to discern the voice of the One Shepherd from the voice of the wolf, however disguised that thief is.

4. “The heart has its reasons of which the mind knows nothing.” Ignatius is at once extremely organized and systematic but at the same time imaginative and affective. It’s a spirituality that integrates head and heart, reason and emotion, analysis and imagination.

5. Free at last. Everything in this life is a means to one end – deeper union with God. That’s the foundation. We live a “Purpose Driven Life.” The Spiritual Exercises help us grow in the interior freedom to know what to hold on to and what to let go.

6. “Sum up at night what thou hast done by day.” The go-to essential daily prayer for Ignatius is The Examen. It’s taking 15 minutes once or twice a day to reflect on our choices: What’s brought me closer to the Lord? What’s pulled me away? Practiced faithfully, it leads to great spiritual growth.

7. A practical spirituality. Pope Francis’ recent apostolic discourse on the family is rooted in a very Ignatian approach to spirituality. One size doesn’t fit all. We need to respect that God is at work differently through a person’s individual, unique experience.

8. Don’t do it alone. Ignatius gathered companions around him, and they worked together toward common goals. Even our deep interior experience does well to be submitted to a spiritual director or religious superior for confirmation. The goal is not simply individual sanctification but collaboration in the great Mission of Christ.

9. “Contemplatives in action.” In our active engagement in the world, we strive to discover the presence of Christ in the face of a child or at the end of a telescope contemplating the expanse of the universe. Our contemplation doesn’t separate us from the world but helps us engage in it. And our engagement draws us back to contemplation and reflection on our experience. This is the Ignatian paradigm.

10. “Men and women for others.” This is who we are called to become - as Father Arrupe, a former Superior General of the Jesuits, put it. Ignatius taught us to pray to keep growing in generosity, asking: “What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What will I do for Christ?”
Finding God in All Things
By Development Director, Kathy Caudill

Ignatian Spirituality calls us to “find God in all things.” This past April provided me with profound examples of finding God in my life.

In early April, I participated in my first Ignatian silent retreat, where I communicated with God in new ways, enjoyed the beautiful flowering trees, watched birds soar to the heavens, and felt the incredible power of God’s love and grace. Thank you, God!

I also celebrated another birthday and learned that my oldest son successfully passed a professional licensing exam. Thank you, Jesus!

Two weeks later, my father’s long battle with Parkinson’s disease came to an end. It was my honor and privilege to help care for him in his final days and to celebrate his life at his funeral Mass. I felt lifted up by the powerful prayers of many – the Jesuits and staff here at Bellarmine, the women in my Bible study group, my fellow Benedictine Oblates, and many friends and colleagues. Thank you, Holy Spirit!

It is still difficult to believe that all these things happened in less than one month’s time. But was God present in each of these life experiences? Absolutely! In the words of St. Ignatius, I am “stirred to profound gratitude.”

Help Us Care for God’s Creation!

Join our Merry Gardeners on September 26 for another Gardening Day! Help beautify the gardens and join us for Mass and lunch. Please RSVP online at www.jesuitretreat.org or call 847-381-1261.

Another Way to Support Bellarmine

Did you know you can donate to Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House with a monthly online gift? This secured transaction, with a monthly minimum gift of $10 or more, can be drawn on your credit card on the 1st or the 15th of the month. You decide how many months you wish to give and at what level of giving.

Your gift helps make it possible for Bellarmine to continue to provide a variety of retreats and contemporary programs grounded in Ignatian Spirituality. Visit www.jesuitretreat.org/make-a-gift or contact our office at 847-381-1261. We are happy to help you set up a recurring gift. Thank you for all that you do for Bellarmine.

Continuing Your Retreat at Home
By Associate Director, Erin Maiorca

St. Ignatius calls us to become “contemplatives in action.” Clearly, many of us seek ways to do so, as our retreatants’ survey responses often include this comment: “Help me bring my retreat experience back into my daily life.”

One of the ways we are working to meet this need is by offering a prayer app. We hope this app will help you integrate your retreat into your daily life so you can continuously draw from the well of retreat peace. This app will feature:

1. A daily image to invite you into prayer
2. The daily Scripture reading along with an Ignatian reflection and prayer
3. The Examen
4. Pope Francis’ prayers/videos
5. A portal to send us prayer requests
6. Virtual prayer cards

This can help us to continue a regular practice of prayer, gratitude, and recognizing what is drawing us closer to God. We can then recognize the call and respond - engaging in that which God is calling us to be and do.

We expect the app will be available to download starting this fall. There will be more details to follow the next time you are at Bellarmine. Speaking of your next trip to Bellarmine, I hope you have received your Program Guide, selected your next retreat(s), and invited friends!
On the Board of Directors

Thank you to the dedicated men and women who serve on the Board of Directors for Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House:

- John Kurkowski, Chair
- Marjorie Beane, Vice Chair
- Rev. Jeremiah Boland
- Eugene Croisant
- Charles Foos
- Patricia Furgat
- David Goelzer
- Lauren Hackman-Brooks
- Geoffrey Hammond
- Paul Horcher
- Rev. Gregory Hyde, SJ
- R. Anthony Hyler
- William Loftus III
- Rev. Paul B. Macke, SJ
- Rev. Christopher Manahan, SJ
- David Meagher
- J. Pablo Padilla
- Timothy Reuland
- Federico Salazar
- Grant Shumway
- Rev. Robert Wild, SJ

We thank outgoing members, Kana Henning and Rev. Robert Heinz, for their years of service on the Board.

St. Ignatius Says...

“They should practice the seeking of God’s presence in all things, in their conversations, their walks, in all that they see, taste, hear, understand, in all their actions, since His Divine Majesty is truly in all things by His presence, power, and essence.”

Thank You, Retreat Captains!

We would like to thank the following retiring Captains for their years of service to Bellarmine:

- Phyllis Burns - Catholic Cemeteries
- Jack Cullen - Red Mooney
- Frank DePaul - KC-Maria Council (Park Ridge)
- Deacon Peery Duderstadt - Our Lady of the Brook
- Nancy Herr - St. Anne (Barrington)
- Dennis Johnson - Holy Name Cathedral
- Jennifer Kramer - Lighthouse Women’s Group
- Bob Miller - Mazzuchelli’s Men

Join us in welcoming the following individuals who will be new Captains for the 2016-2017 retreat season:

- John Batzel - KC-Maria Council (Park Ridge)
- Jerry Black - St. Peter’s (Geneva)
- Timothy Casey - St. Mary (Lake Forest)

In Memoriam

through July 7, 2016

We remember our deceased retreatants, their spouses, and loved ones.

- Charles N. Ackley - 6/27/2015
- Leo M. Ardaugh - 8/7/2015
- Helen Bencur - 2/26/2016
- Joseph V. Bussone - 6/14/2016
- Eugene P. Canning - 4/10/2016
- Jack A. Carrigan - 2/20/2016
- Edith Corrado - 1/19/2016
- Lawrence W. Danyluk - 2/21/2016
- George De Roeck - 3/16/2015
- Ronald E. Feltz - 4/19/2015
- Donald R. Finger - 12/16/2015
- Millie Gorman - 7/16/2015
- Robert A. Gorman - 6/11/2015
- Susan J. Hanson - 3/8/2016
- Ruth Hughes - 2/8/2016
- Raymond L. Kleppe - 12/13/2015
- Adam Kokot - 4/15/2016
- Paul F. Linn - 9/24/2015
- Lucille Madsen - 6/5/2016
- Mary Helen McCarthy - 3/9/2016
- Janet P. McGurn - 4/7/2016
- Paul Pabst - 4/18/2016
- John Pasko - 3/21/2015
- Gilbert Redelman - 2/25/2016
- Carl A. Strasser - 4/16/2015
- Francis E. White - 6/25/2015
- Norbert P. Wojdyla - 7/6/2015

Please let us know of other retreatants and loved ones who have passed away so that we may join you in prayer for the repose of their souls.

New Retreat Captains (continued):

- Sandy Ekern - St. Mary of Vernon (Vernon Hills)
- Matt Fleming - Red Mooney
- Deb Guy - Sacred Heart (Winnetka)
- Rich Keefe - Four Shepherds
- Joseph Klop - St. Alphonsus
- Don Knapp - Queen of All Saints (Chicago)
- Joseph Langenderfer - Toledo St. John’s Alumni
- Margie Lee - St. Mary of Vernon (Vernon Hills)
- Letty Madrigal
- Steve Marietti
- Mike O’Leary - KG-Barrington
- Stephen Parker - St. Joseph’s CRHP (Libertyville)
- Miriam Preussner - St. Mary of Vernon (Vernon Hills)
- Lolita Ranchero
- Karen Stuefen
- Elizabeth Weinberg - Holy Cross (Batavia)
**An Excerpt from Pope Francis’ Care for Our Common Home**

“We are speaking of an attitude of the heart, one which approaches life with serene attentiveness, which is capable of being fully present to someone without thinking of what comes next, which accepts each moment as a gift from God to be lived to the full.”

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**The Examen**

Take a moment to reflect on your day with The Examen:

- I quiet my mind and my heart for prayer. I believe in God’s presence with me...
- I offer gratitude to God for the blessings of the day and begin by savoring my gifts.
- I review the events of the day, noticing the feelings that surface: my hopes, fears, regrets, joys, and sorrows.
- I pray from the feelings that surface: talking to God as a friend, listening with my heart for God’s response of love.
- I look forward in hope, asking for the grace to better serve God.
- Conclude by praying, “Our Father...”

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**2016-2017 RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMS**

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<td>Oct 11</td>
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<td>Oct 14-16</td>
<td>Men's Bill W Weekend Retreat</td>
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<td>Oct 28-30</td>
<td>Men's Weekend Retreat</td>
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<td>Nov 4-6</td>
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<td>Men &amp; Women's Advent Day of Reflection</td>
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<td>Jan 5-8, 2017</td>
<td>Four Shepherds Men's Weekend Retreat</td>
<td>Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ</td>
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<td>Fr. David Meconi, SJ</td>
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<td>Mar 31-Apr 2</td>
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<td>Apr 7-9</td>
<td>Palm Sunday Men's Weekend Retreat</td>
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<td>Apr 13-15</td>
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<td>Apr 22</td>
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<td>Apr 23</td>
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<td>Individually Directed Retreat</td>
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<td>July 13-21</td>
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**Bellarmine BROADCAST Summer 2016**