

MANRESA MATTERS

A person wearing white robes is kneeling on a sandy surface, pouring water from a large, ornate clay jar into a shallow, dark, oval-shaped dish. The water is captured mid-pour, creating a dynamic splash in the dish. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise setting.

Spring/Summer 2023

Servant Leadership



Our Mission is to help men and women grow spiritually through prayer, reflection, guidance and teaching according to the Ignatian tradition.

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FROM THE *Editor*



WHILE WORKING ON THIS ISSUE ON SERVANT LEADERSHIP, I CAME ACROSS A GUIDE FOR MEDITATING ON SIEGER KÖDER'S PAINTING OF JESUS WASHING PETER'S FEET (John 13:1-17), the same painting featured in Fr. Peter's article on pages 8-9. When I began the meditation, I focused my attention on the heads of the two men. I felt the weight of Peter's head and hand on Jesus' back, pressing so heavily that Jesus is unable to raise Himself up. Is this like the weight of sin Jesus would assume hours later as He offered Himself to the Roman authorities?

As I dwelled on Jesus' reflection in the water, I wondered if He was thinking not only of what was in store for Himself but of the suffering Peter would endure because of his love for Jesus. Was He pushing back tears, hesitant to leave the 12 men He'd come to love and into whom He had poured Himself?

Though Peter's left hand is resisting Jesus' service, his right hand lies with acceptance on His back. I imagined he has settled in as best he can to this upsetting act of humility and servanthood by the Lord. He has succumbed to the peace and rest offered by the Man he has come to love. This is a sacred moment of silent prayer; no words are spoken now, only the transforming power of love and grace fusing the bond of friendship they've shared.



Truth be told, I've always cringed at foot-washing ceremonies. They seem too intimate for others to be watching. Putting myself in the scene, I would, like Peter, resist Jesus' desire to serve me. More than the thought of revealing the unattractive feet I inherited from my mother, I would find the exposure to my soul most uncomfortable, the sense of unworthiness almost unbearable.

My imagination gave way to reality as I became aware of my preference to serve rather than be served, in giving rather than receiving. That's not necessarily a bad thing—Jesus said there is blessing to be found in giving to one another (Acts 20:35). But I recognize that my service to others requires those I serve to give away a measure of agency, exposing them to an equal measure of vulnerability. I was reminded of the need to be aware of my motivation as I serve or give to others. Am I serving to bless others or am I more interested in the good feelings that come from my acts of service? And on the flip side, can I allow myself to be disarmed of ego and pride by surrendering to the help of others who want to serve me? These are questions I must continue to consider as I live my life.

For a number of reasons, pulling together this issue of *Manresa Matters* on the theme of servant leadership was a real challenge. As always I've had to rely on the grace and help of the Manresa staff and Publications Team to get it ready for you. And I've had to rest my hand and head on the back of Jesus in prayer to see it through to completion. My hope is that as you read this issue you will examine your own heart as one called by God to serve, consider how you lead in the roles you play in your world and open yourself to new opportunities to respond to the needs of others.†

On the journey with you,

JoAnn Amicangelo

JoAnn Amicangelo
Publications Coordinator

Dining Room Renovation



Thanks to a very generous donor, Manresa has recently refurbished the House's dining room. With the help of interior designer, Janelle Boyce, the renovation included attractive new flooring, tables and comfortable chairs, as well as a fresh coat of paint on the walls.

The kitchenette was replaced with new cabinetry, granite countertop, ceramic backsplash, LED lighting and new appliances. In addition, 12 of the original 85-year-old windows in the oldest section of the room were replaced.

The fresh and clean look of the room invites all our guests to enjoy the delicious fare we provide on a daily basis. Come join us for a retreat or other Manresa offering and relax in the "old world" ambiance that is Manresa.

New water fountain refills bottles

In an effort to improve our care of the earth, we installed a water fountain near the main entrance that refills your own water bottle. This important addition to the House lessens the use of natural resources, decreases pollution and eliminates wasteful spending on water bottles. We encourage our retreatants and guests to bring their own bottle to refill as necessary while at Manresa.

FROM THE *Executive Director*



"...whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mk. 10:43-45

"Do not lord it over those assigned to you, but be examples to the flock." 1 Peter 5:4

THE PRECEDING SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES ON THE EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY ARE OFTEN QUOTED when considering Christ's and the early church's view of leadership. They highlight beautiful values including a sense of service, humility, self-giving and deep respect for those one serves. They are opposed to putting oneself as leader on any kind of pedestal or any tendency to impose one's will in an arrogant way.

I am convinced that these passages are the heart of Biblical teaching on the service of leadership, and equally convinced this is the most effective kind of leadership.

My service as a leader in religious life over the years has deepened these truths, with the help and example of many other religious who have mentored me, especially through the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) of which my congregation in the United States is a member.

Two values the LCWR has particularly highlighted over the years in making significant decisions are communal discernment and contemplative dialogue, both of which emphasize approaching important choices in a participative and mutually respectful way, with each member and the group striving to listen to God's guidance.

I hope this issue of *Manresa Matters* may offer good food for thought in how we exercise the service of leadership in our families, parishes and places of work.†

Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM
Executive Director

"I AM CONVINCED THAT THESE PASSAGES ARE THE HEART OF BIBLICAL TEACHING ON THE SERVICE OF LEADERSHIP, AND ... THE MOST EFFECTIVE KIND OF LEADERSHIP."

Showing the Way to God

With Pope Francis and Superior General Father Arturo Sosa, the Jesuits world-wide identified four Universal Apostolic Preferences that will influence our ministry and work through 2029. Here and in the next three issues of *Manresa Matters*, Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ offers his thoughts on the importance of each Preference.

Preference A: SHOWING THE WAY TO GOD THROUGH THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES AND THEIR PRACTICE OF DISCERNMENT

By Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ



ALL FOUR OF THE UNIVERSAL APOSTOLIC PREFERENCES ARE INTER-RELATED, but the first, "Showing the Way to God," is of central

importance and is dependent on deep friendship with Jesus.

In his letter to the Jesuit Society, General Father Sosa offers this rationale for "Showing the Way to God."

As believers, we urgently desire to overcome various forms of secularism as well as nostalgia for cultural expressions that now belong to the past. We are resolved to work together with the Church, understanding secular society as a sign of the times: it provides an opportunity to renew our presence at the heart of human history. ... We are therefore committing ourselves to living more fully in the spirit of the Spiritual Exercises, ... committing ourselves to offering the Spiritual Exercises in as many forms as possible. We are also resolved to promote discernment as a regular practice for those who have chosen to follow Christ. ... to make regular use of spiritual conversation and communal discernment at all levels of the life and mission of the Society.¹



Showing the way to God: We take the pulse of the Holy Spirit through different forms of *The Spiritual Exercises* whether for a weekend or for many weeks. We sense within us a holy movement when we pause and take our own pulse—our examination of consciousness—in discerning the spirits at work in our hearts and in our world.

We take this treasure, that is God Awareness, and find ways to share it with others: those on the edges of society, people beset with fear and worry. We cross the boundaries of religion and culture to share the hope we have found in our personal prayer, worship and service with people of

every background and history, always with Jesus Christ at the center of all we do.

At Manresa, our retreats, programs and Days of Reflection all have the Lord Jesus at the center. He is the underpinning of our efforts and our hopes for every kind of healing and reconciliation. Showing the way to God through the Exercises and discernment is our way of evangelizing, of telling the Good News! †

Fr. Scullin came to Manresa in 2021, after serving as superior of the Colombiere Jesuit Community in Clarkston for three years. He has served in a number of Hispanic and African American parishes.

¹scu.edu/ic/media-publications/universal-apostolic-preferences/

ABOUT THE THEME

Following in His Footsteps What it means to be a servant leader



By JoAnn Amicangelo



JUST DAYS AFTER BEING ELECTED TO THE PAPACY IN MARCH 2013, POPE FRANCIS CHOSE THE SMALL CHAPEL AT A DETENTION FACILITY IN ROME to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday rather than the grandeur of the basilica of St. John Lateran.

And for the ceremonial foot washing traditionally reserved for carefully selected priests, Francis chose to wash the feet of a dozen young detainees—including two Muslims and two women.

In his message that day, Pope Francis said, "Among us the one who is highest up must be at the service of others. This is a symbol. It is a sign. Washing your feet means I am at your service. ... We have to help each other, one to the other, the other to one."

Those reporting on the scene said the pope's choices for that Mass were the most significant break from Church tradition he would take in the first days of his papacy, garnering criticism from both clergy and church faithful

alike. The scene also paints a moving picture of servant leadership, the theme being explored in this issue of *Manresa Matters*.

WHAT IS SERVANT LEADERSHIP?

The phrase "servant leader" was coined in the 1970s by Robert K. Greenleaf in his seminal essay, "The Servant as Leader." He hit on the idea a decade earlier after reading Hermann Hesse's novel *Journey to the East*, in which a group of men make a pilgrimage. They are accompanied by a man named Leo, a servant who performs menial tasks but also buoys the men's morale, so much so that when Leo disappears one day, the group falls apart and abandons their spiritual journey. The narrator—one of the men on the quest—eventually discovers that Leo was leader of the organization that sponsored the journey and, despite his servant status, had been the leader of the group all along.

Greenleaf's conclusion was that a great leader is "first experienced as a servant to others, and that this simple fact is central to his or her greatness. True leadership emerges from those whose primary motivation is a deep desire to

help others,” writes Larry C. Spears in his article “The Understanding and Practice of Servant-Leadership.”

Spears, who led the Robert K. Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership until 2007, says that “servant leadership emphasizes increased service to others, a holistic approach to work, promoting a sense of community and the sharing of power in decision making,” and that at its core, “servant leadership is a long-term, transformational approach to life and work—in essence a way of being—that has the potential for creating positive change throughout our society.”

THE QUINTESSENTIAL SERVANT LEADER

Surely Jesus demonstrated the highest form of servant leadership. He willingly left His place in heaven to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10) and laid down His life in order to fulfill His mission to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God (Luke 4:43).

“A key point to make is that Jesus’ life of service originated from his relationship with God. As Jesus says, I have come to do the will of the one who sent me,” said Andrew Gordon-Brown, headmaster at Kingswood Senior School, in his Good Friday talk, “Jesus the Humble Leader.”

Citing the parable of the vine and branches in John 15, Gordon-Brown says, “Jesus here is very much defining all that he does as the will of his father. Essentially Jesus seems to be saying that I am fit to lead you as servant because I have given myself to the leadership of my father.”

Jesus also focused His training of the apostles on being in the service of others. When the disciples may have preferred to send a hungry crowd of followers home to find food, Jesus, moved with compassion for His followers, miraculously feeds them all with two fish and five loaves of bread (Matt. 14:14-21).

When the dinner conversation turns to arguing about who is the greatest among them, Jesus upturns the disciples’ idea of leadership saying, “[W]hoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matt. 20:26-28). And later,



after washing their feet, He says, “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.”

CHARACTERISTICS OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Though the characteristics of the servant leader vary depending on who is naming them, leadership experts agree that compassion, authenticity, humility, trustworthiness, empathy, responsiveness and discernment are key traits of the servant leader. Servant leaders are defined as responsible stewards of their position and power, wanting to empower others by inspiring and enabling them to reach their full potential while working to achieve organizational goals and fulfill an organization’s mission. They excel in communicating the “big picture” to team members, and they have the courage to act in moving that mission forward.

In addition to Pope Francis, modern day servant leaders include Mahatma

Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr, to name a few.

However, one doesn’t have to be famous or work in business or lead large societal movements to be a servant leader. As Gordon-Brown points out, to be a follower of Jesus is to be a leader and “a good leader is a good follower.”

SERVANT LEADERSHIP VERSUS IGNATIAN LEADERSHIP

While servant leadership is said to best reflect the characteristics of Ignatian spirituality and leadership, there are some differences between the two.

Whereas anyone can develop the qualities of a servant leader if motivated, Ignatian leadership emerges from a deep sense of a calling to follow Christ first, and in so doing, live to serve others.

In his article “Ignatian Leadership: Faith, Vocation, and Service,” Seán P. Sanford, Director of Leadership and Young Adult Programs at the Office of Ignatian Spirituality, says leadership

infused by Ignatian spirituality orients us to our deepest vocation.

In the first principle and foundation of the Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius explains: 'I ought to desire and elect only that which is more conducive to the end for which I am created.' We are created to serve God—that is our first vocation. How we choose to lead reflects how we understand our vocation. Do I lead for my own ends or for the greater glory of God? Whose interests am I serving? The concept of vocation is an important check against the tendency to think of leadership as a vehicle for personal advancement. Recalling that our leadership is an expression of a deeper vocation encourages humility, charity, and integrity—which also happen to be qualities of strong leaders.

Sarah Broscombe, who coordinated a team to develop an Ignatian Leadership Program in the UK, agrees. In her article, "What is Ignatian Leadership?" she writes:

Leadership is so much more than being the boss. This is especially true for the Ignatian form of it, where leadership is not simply a subset of positional power, and the hierarchy is structured as a two-way, not a one-way street (each provincial steps back "down" after six years in office). It taps straight into vocation—every Jesuit leads, well or badly. And the domain of Ignatian leadership does not stretch only as far as directors of Jesuit workplaces ... everyone shaped by an Ignatian education is formed to lead, whether they are in charge or not. If you are Ignatian, you are called to be aware of how you are leading in your life, and the impact of that on others.

Ignatian leadership is also other-focused, demanding that our work "form people for and with others," said Sanford. "Being a leader 'with and for' others means considering the needs of those we are serving. It is a model of leadership that enriches the lives of individuals, builds better communities, and creates a more just world. It requires a practice of discernment that

allows us to act thoughtfully amid trying circumstances or competing goals. And it asks that we foster an awareness of our emotional state that frees us from impulse and permits genuine affirmative communication with others."

While the characteristics of Ignatian leaders mirror those of the servant leader, Broscombe cites five traits as being essential for one who practices Ignatian leadership:

- Humility (a proportionate view of self that frees one from the pressure of trying to earn worth),
- Freedom (from inordinate attachments, welcoming whatever comes),
- Consolation (an expectation of joy, a sense of hope because of the Resurrection),
- Sense of Direction (fulfilling one's purpose for the greater glory of God) and
- Discernment (the crowning Ignatian quality, unifying them all).

Summing up what it means to be an Ignatian leader, Sanford reminds us of St. Ignatius' belief that actions are preferred to words: "Ignatian leadership is an invitation to act in a way that reflects our most deeply held beliefs, affirms our vocation, and serves others, particularly those in need."

MODELING THE SERVANTHOOD OF JESUS

Clearly the pope accepted that invitation, his decades of ministry marked by a counter-cultural leadership style emerging from his relationship with Jesus and his formation as a Jesuit. His decision to choose a prison over a basilica and inmates over priests was about serving those in need, and he made a powerful impact on those who were there that day.

Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi said "Many of the participants broke down in tears at the ceremony," and that "one young man had to be replaced at the last moment because he was too overcome with emotion."

In his book *Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads*, Chris

"Being a leader 'with and for' others means considering the needs of those we are serving. It is a model of leadership that enriches the lives of individuals, builds better communities, and creates a more just world."

SEÁN P. SANFORD

Lowney says "I have never met the pope, but I suspect he doesn't even have a 'leadership philosophy'—instead, he focuses on one priority only: he is a follower of Jesus, and his Jesuit formation helps him follow Jesus more closely, end of story."✚

JoAnn Amicangelo is happy to serve as Manresa's Publication Coordinator. When she's not designing publications, she enjoys time with family and friends, taking walks with her dog, Carly, and tending to her garden.

Jesus models what it means to be a servant leader

By Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ



**SIEGER KÖDER,
A GERMAN
CATHOLIC PRIEST
AND ARTIST,**
used his paintings
to illuminate
Scripture. He
wanted us to
experience the

Gospel more deeply and Christ more intimately and be drawn into greater service of others. His painting, *The Washing of Feet*, shows Jesus at His Last Supper giving us, besides His Body and Blood, an important lesson in servant leadership.

In the days of sandaled feet and dusty roads fouled with animal droppings, foot washing was a necessity. It was a lowly task done by a servant. When the disciples gathered in the Upper Room, the basin and towel were already there, but no servant, and no volunteers from the disciples who even then were arguing about who was the greatest (Lk 22:24). So Jesus, their Lord and Master, got up from His place at the head of the table, laid aside the robe that indicated His status and began to show them what greatness really means. This is the One Who, though God, did not cling to divinity, but emptied Himself to become one of us and for our sake humbled Himself even more to death on a cross (Phil 2:5-8).

Without His robe, Jesus was left clad in a tunic, the garment slaves wore to serve at table. Scripture says He wrapped the towel around His waist. But Köder painted stripes and fringes on the white cloth and draped it over Jesus' head and shoulders, thereby evoking a Jewish prayer shawl and proclaiming the sacredness of His act.

When Jesus kneels down at Peter's feet, we see His feet—large, strong feet, calloused from walking countless miles to preach the Gospel. His feet also needed washing, but



The Washing of Feet by Sieger Köder (1925-2015)

Jesus tends to others first. Peter is horrified at the utter impropriety of his Master, the Messiah, lowering Himself to such an act of servitude. But Jesus insisted on it, as He had when Peter rejected His prediction of suffering and death.

Jesus' face is hidden. We see only its reflection in the water above Peter's dirty feet. His eyes there seem sad, perhaps because we're so slow to understand. In Köder's *Last Supper*, the companion piece to this one, Jesus' face is reflected in the wine

of the chalice. He's saying that Jesus is present in the humble service of others as well as in the Eucharist.

Peter bends down, drawing closer to Jesus, perhaps in spirit as well as in body. His left hand still pushes Jesus away, but his right hand says something different. His eyes start to show not so much rejection as the beginning of an understanding. And that was important, because Jesus had chosen Peter, as leader of His church, to be the servant of the servants of God.

And in case the disciples failed to understand His action, Jesus made it abundantly clear: "If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet," He said, "you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (Jn 13:14-15). He had said earlier, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all" (Mk 9:35). Leadership is about service, not about status or power or privilege.

The triangular composition of this painting unites the Eucharistic bread and wine at its apex with the washing of feet at its base. John's Gospel omitted the institution of the first to explain its meaning in the second. "The service of others," John Paul II taught, "is the criterion by which the authenticity of our Eucharist is judged." (Mane Nobiscum Domine, 28)†

Fr. Peter Fennessy is serving his second term as superior of the Jesuit Community at Manresa. He is Coordinator of Individually Directed Retreats, and among other duties, manages our book store. Since studying Theology and Art and Buddhist Aesthetics during a sabbatical year at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA, he uses fine arts to illustrate his preached retreats.

POETRY

Paradoxes of being a servant leader

A servant leader must be:

Strong enough to be weak

Successful enough to fail

Busy enough to make time

Wise enough to say "I don't know"

Serious enough to laugh

Rich enough to be poor

Right enough to say "I'm wrong"

Compassionate enough to discipline

Mature enough to be childlike

Important enough to be last

Planned enough to be spontaneous

Controlled enough to be flexible

Free enough to endure captivity

Knowledgeable enough to ask questions

Loving enough to be angry

Great enough to be anonymous

Responsible enough to play

Assured enough to be rejected

Victorious enough to lose

Industrious enough to relax

Leading enough to serve

Brewer, as cited by Tim Hansel in his book *Holy Sweat*.

MY STORY

To Live Is to Lead – To Lead Is to Serve



By DiAnne Patterson Shultz



WHEN I BEGAN THE FIRST OF MY SEVERAL CAREERS

more than 60 years ago, I had no idea what “servant leadership” meant. The term didn’t exist then. What I did know was what

felt comfortable for me when dealing with people.

Family and religious formation helped create values in me that ignited a sense of who I was and allowed me to know when I was slipping outside my comfort zone. **Whether working as support staff, supervisor or manager, my focus was always the same: to serve the people around me and the organization in ways that allowed us all to benefit.**

In the past when hearing the word “leader,” I would think of an

executive or someone with a great deal of authority. **I’ve come to realize that leadership is something we all are charged with, no matter what our place in life might be.** Each of our waking moments can be a teachable one for someone. Every one of those moments can be an opportunity to demonstrate how to communicate with one another; how to speak to, listen to and care for each other. Every moment of our life is an opportunity to serve, love and embellish the life of another.

Looking back many years, I am reminded what servant leadership can look and feel like when I recall applying for a new position in a department where I was working. While I did not at the time hold the educational credentials required for the position, I had been doing the work and doing it well for some time. When my then department head

resigned, he suggested I apply for an open position and recommended me to the incoming head, who hired me into the new position with some stipulations (which I gladly and readily fulfilled). The change was life-giving for me and allowed me to grow, thrive and contribute to the organization in unexpected ways.

Fast forward many years: while contemplating retirement, I was approached by a former coworker with an offer to receive some additional training and become a volunteer at a non-profit she was heading. Accepting that offer led to retirement and subsequent employment at the agency. That, too, became a formative and life-altering experience that helped me help others.

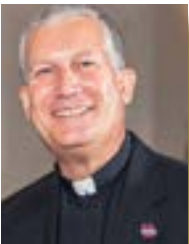
The results of those early experiences have been hidden gold for me – the value increases with each daily encounter, whether I am in a place of authority or not. Those three “leaders” with authority helped me rise to my capabilities while enhancing the quality of their organizations. They could have responded very differently, but their magnanimous spirits inspired me to inspire, encouraged me to encourage and supported me so I could support those who needed it while doing important community work.†

DiAnne Patterson Schultz is a twice-retired, widowed mother and grandmother who serves on the board at Manresa. An alumna of Detroit Mercy, Eastern Michigan University and Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, she also completed the Internship in Ignatian Spirituality at Manresa, and as a trained Spiritual Director has led people through the Spiritual Exercises. She continues to nurture her life through worship at Gesu Catholic Church, volunteer work and indulging her favorite pastimes of listening to music, communing with nature and traveling.



Taking cues from the team

By Br. James Boynton, SJ



WHEN MAKING THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST. IGNATIUS, WE ARE ASKED TO USE OUR IMAGINATION AND TO DEVELOP A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

When I first made the retreat as a Jesuit novice, the director asked, "Who is Jesus for you?" My answer at the time was unsure at best.

As the weeks passed, it became increasingly evident that Jesus was my brother, and that was how I wanted to relate to others. Instead of taking the road to priesthood as a Jesuit scholastic, I took vows as a brother.

The important aspect of being a Jesuit brother for me is how I relate to people. My goal is to always maintain parity with others, and to accompany people, as a fellow participant, in whatever endeavor we undertake.

Currently I am the president of [University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy](#). This means I am often the public face of the school and the person others look to for vision, decisions and guidance. Yet this did not happen overnight. During three different chapters of my life since 1996, I have worn many hats at U of D Jesuit. The experience gained by teaching history and theology to every grade level except the eighth helped me to have a deeper understanding of what the classroom was all about. It allowed me to forge lasting relationships with students, parents and fellow faculty members. Every day I draw upon my classroom experience and the knowledge of others when trying to forge a path forward for our school.

For a few years I was the department chair of the Social Studies Department at U of D Jesuit, and my goal was to

form a team that included veteran and new teachers all working together. The synergy of the seasoned experience of the "old hands" with the enthusiasm of those new to the classroom resulted in a more harmonious balance and a clearer vision. Of course, it also made for disagreements about how and why the subject should be taught. **My thought is that everyone should be heard and have an input, but everyone doesn't make the final decisions. As a leader, I had to make an informed decision after hearing all sides.** Leaders will almost certainly be unpopular with some. A wise mentor once told me, "If everyone loves you, you are a fraud. They crucified Jesus."

During a short stint as principal, and now as the school's president, I can sometimes feel overwhelmed by leadership. Trying to lead from within and among has its challenges, but it is the way I choose to go forward. My chosen way to relate to others is as a brother, and I feel that I know the community I am leading.

One of the most important things a leader can do is to let people know they are appreciated. I spend a good deal of time thanking people and letting them know we are all in this together.

Finally, I am a big believer in the communion of saints. For most of us in leadership positions, we are not the first person to hold the job. Those who have gone before us, both alive and deceased, have a wealth of knowledge we can draw upon. But for the greatest leadership guidance, I look to my brother, Jesus.†

Brother Jim Boynton, SJ was born and raised in St. Ignace, Michigan. He joined the Society of Jesus in 1987 and has taught at Jesuit schools in the U.S., India and Haiti. In the summer of 2022, Brother became the 30th president of U of D Jesuit and the first Jesuit Brother in the school's history to hold that position.

Ignatian Spirituality Project:

Building Community through Spiritual Companionship

By Allison Loecke



IT WAS SEPTEMBER 2021 AND 13 SETS OF EYES GAZED BACK AT ME

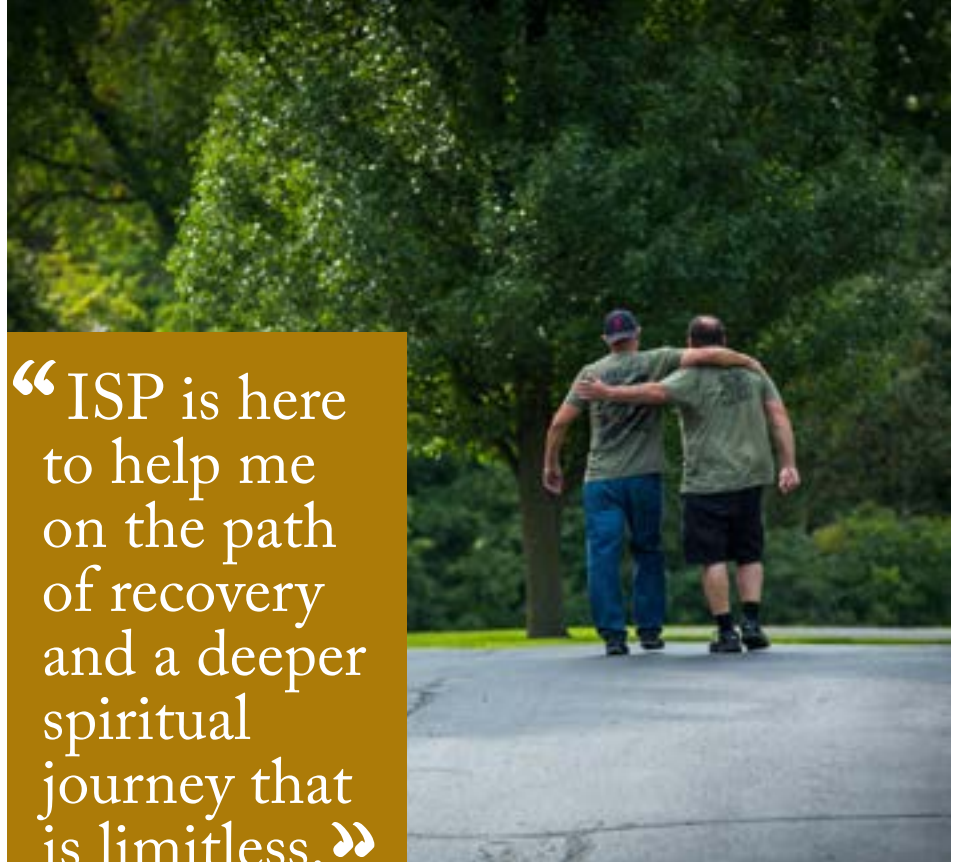
over an array of multicolored masks as I introduced myself. “Hi, I’m Allison, and I’m

the new regional director for the Midwest.” Despite the fact that I’ve been on nearly every kind of retreat imaginable in my life and career in ministry, this group felt different, and indeed it was.

It was this first cohort of individuals participating in the closing retreat for the Ambassadors of Hope program, a two-year leadership and formation opportunity, that served as an introduction to my new job with Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP). **ISP invites people recovering from homelessness and addiction to experience God’s unconditional love, hope and healing through overnight retreats, regular spiritual accompaniment and reflection opportunities.** As staff and team members we walk with the participants and offer our own stories of pain and healing as we listen to theirs. Through this sharing, connection and community are built. Leaders and participants alike are reminded of their inherent dignity and worth, and all feel beloved by God and those around the circle.

EMERGING LEADERS

After attending a retreat, participants are invited to become a Witness, someone who shares their own journey of recovery with others who are attending the retreat for the first time. Witnesses are invited to become team members who facilitate and coordinate other retreats and spiritual reflection programs, and some have gone on to participate in the Ambassador of Hope leadership program.



“ISP is here to help me on the path of recovery and a deeper spiritual journey that is limitless.”

Ambassador Dawn

This model of servant leadership is integral to ISP. While not everyone on the team has a shared experience of homelessness or addiction, those that do offer a powerful example of hope and healing, especially to those who are early in their recovery journey. ISP program alumni give back by becoming active leaders in our ISP community, and they in turn change others’ lives.

One of our alumni and current Ambassadors of Hope, Dawn leads weekly ISP reflection programs at the same shelter she lived at in early recovery. She shared her story recently and said: **“Leading ISP reflections every week fills my heart up. The joy is indescribable. The fact that I can go in to lead reflections with the current clients is nothing short of a miracle. ISP is here to help me on the path of recovery and a deeper spiritual journey that is limitless.”** This cycle of transformation is at the heart of our work.

The Ignatian Spirituality Project is active in more than 20 cities with an active team in Detroit and retreats at Manresa. We are always looking for more volunteers, community partners and ways to connect in the community. For more information or to get involved, please visit our website—ispretreats.org—or [email aloecke@ispretreats.org](mailto:aloecke@ispretreats.org).†

Allison Loecke lives in Chicago and is the Midwest Regional Director for Ignatian Spirituality Project. A dedicated super aunt, she loves planning parties, creating art, exploring her neighborhood and fostering cats. She is a proud member of All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Chicago.



Check your ego at the door

By Madeline Bialecki



IF MY FORMER BOSS WAS WRITING THIS PIECE ON SERVANT LEADERSHIP, she

would tell you the story of how she was sitting at her desk one day

and, out of the blue, I called to ask if we could merge our two nonprofit organizations.

The merger meant her organization would gain a fully-formed program on Detroit's east side and would increase their membership by half. It also meant I would give up my job as executive director and become an employee.

I know she would tell you this story because she recounts it for me almost every time I see her. She is amazed that I could set aside my ego for the good of the organization I led.

Whenever she tells me this story, I think of the people who taught me about being a servant leader, about staying focused on mission and putting the good of the organization above my own.

I have been fortunate to work alongside many people—and the list is long—who were committed to a mission and who understood that they were just one piece in the workings of an organization.

From 2000 to 2006, I was the director of Cabrini Mission Corps, the long-term lay mission program of the Cabrini Sisters. We were based in Philadelphia, as were about a dozen other lay mission programs. Quarterly, the directors of these organizations met to pray and discuss how we could support one another. Our mission? To build the Kingdom of God.

We worked together with a clear vision of our individual pieces of that building process. Some of the organizations were larger (like Jesuit Volunteer Corp) and some had only one mission site. What amazed me time and again was how little ego there was in that group and how we all focused on working together. That group of leaders taught me to put mission above ego and to stay focused on the vision of building the Kingdom of God.

It's instructive to compare that to a group I had belonged to ten years earlier—a group of high-level

managers working in nonprofit organizations that supported people who had developmental disabilities. This group had so many large egos that we had to have a ground rule for our meetings: Check your ego at the door. And when one of the members would start to wander down a path of self-aggrandizement, someone else would invoke the rule.

I often wondered how I got invited to that group since I was not in a position of power, and I concluded that I was there as one who could be star-struck by the well-known personalities in the room.

That group of leaders taught me how I did not want to be. They reminded me of the importance of subordinating myself to the mission when I am in a leadership role.

When I think of a servant leader, I think of commitment, passion, fidelity and humility, and always remembering that God is in charge.†

Madeline Bialecki lived most of her adult life in southeast Pennsylvania. She attended Villanova University and worked in nonprofit management for 35 years. She moved to Michigan ten years ago and completed the Internship in Ignatian Spirituality at Manresa.

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Manresa serves a new gen

Brother Rice High School

By Joseph Bruck



WE ALL ARE PUT ON THIS EARTH FOR MANY DIFFERENT REASONS, but one universally constant vocation is to

serve others. By serving others we, in turn, serve the Lord. Serving the Lord ultimately leads us to heaven, so not only must it be our top priority to steer our lives in that direction, but also it is our duty to bring others with us.

I didn't always understand and appreciate this concept as much as I do now. In fact, for a majority of my life, I thought service to others was merely just volunteer work to fill my required hours.

The earliest I can remember doing service for others was back when I was a Cub Scout. Every year our Scout Pack went to numerous neighborhoods distributing empty grocery bags with instructions to put any extra food items inside. At the young age I was, my father had to drag me along the first few times, but I soon grew a liking to the activity.

After a few years as a Cub Scout, and even once I became a Boy Scout, I began to invite friends to come along with me to the yearly food drives and Eagle Scout projects within the troop. My intention was just to bring a companion to these events which I found enjoyable. What I didn't realize was that these "fun activities" were a great service to those in need. I subconsciously built the confidence to lead others to serve the less fortunate.

This skill that I developed to lead others to serve has remained with me into my time at Brother Rice High School. I have taken part in many service activities with the National Honors Society, the Human Rights Club and the Band of Brothers. However, the prime display of my actions enabling people to serve was when I led a Kairos retreat at Manresa in the fall of last year.

Kairos is a Christian retreat that many Catholic schools, including Brother Rice, offer to students in order to deepen their faith, identity, relationships and connection to

God in their lives. Primarily seniors attend Kairos, but I went my junior year so that I could lead in my senior year. I ended up being selected as rector, the head of the student leadership team.

During this four-day retreat, we leaders were given the opportunity to teach our fellow classmates how to live a virtuous life. I shared how my initial Kairos experience influenced my life so that I could appreciate all that the Lord does for me and so I could use my skills to give back. I then challenged the candidates to be leaders in serving others.

Even now after the retreat has ended, I still try to remind those who went to read Scripture and make right choices. As for me, I plan to continue to be a servant leader as my life progresses. †

Joseph Bruck is 18 years old and a senior at Brother Rice High School. He is a leader on the Quiz Bowl team and the Warrior for Life president at Brother Rice. He takes part in many activities such as varsity soccer, track and Boy Scouts, and he loves the outdoors.

eration of servant leaders

U of D Jesuit High School & Academy

By John Lagard



IN FEBRUARY OF 2023, I ATTENDED A SILENT RETREAT AT MANRESA WITH MY CLASSMATES.

Throughout the three days, I was able to reflect on

different aspects of myself. Within my daily spiritual direction meetings, I discussed who God made me to be. I often have been complimented on my kind and joyous spirit. My director helped me see that my personality is appreciated because it is God living through me. God calls us all to be leaders, and when I am doing what God is calling me to do, I am living out the leadership role that God intends.

My director explained that people see the kind heart I have and look up to me in certain situations. However, in my mind, I don't really think of it that way; I am just being myself. Through our discussions, I was able to better understand myself, my calling and how I am a leader.

Additionally, attending my first Kairos at Manresa last summer affirmed God's calling to be a person of great kindness. During my small group, we gave each other affirmations. Many of my classmates noted my having a kind, joyful personality.

My time at Manresa enabled me to come to these realizations, recognizing my God-given talents and how God calls me to leadership.

I was also able to realize the importance of continuing to foster my relationship with God and keeping Him close to me. I know if I do so, God will continue to teach me more things about myself.

I'd like to thank Manresa for providing me with the gift of this space to reflect on my talents and where God is calling me in my life.✝

WITHOUT MY
TIME SPENT
AT MANRESA,
I WOULD NOT
HAVE BEEN ABLE
TO RECOGNIZE
MY GOD-GIVEN
TALENTS AND
HOW GOD
CALLS ME TO
LEADERSHIP.

John LaGarde is a senior at University of Detroit Jesuit High School & Academy. His passions include interior design, aviation and the performing arts. He enjoys forming connections with others and public speaking as well as leading retreats and singing on the worship team at his church. He plans to further his education at the Mike Ilitch School of Business and Communication Arts at Wayne State University, with a focus on marketing and interior design.

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August 1–December 31, 2022

Gerard Andree, 9 retreats

David Brockman, 33 retreats

Sam Caruso, 42 retreats

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Daniel Wasikowski, 6 retreats

2023 CONFERENCE RETREAT SCHEDULE

For Men

Apr. 14-16

WEEKEND RETREAT

[PATRON: Blessed Francis Page, SJ]
Grand Rapids/Metamora; St. Ignatius of Loyola; Wyandotte.

DIRECTOR: Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ

Apr. 21-23

WEEKEND RETREAT

[PATRON: St. Peter Canisius, SJ] St. Frances Cabrini; St. Hugo.

DIRECTOR: Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ

Apr. 28-30

WEEKEND RETREAT

[PATRON: Our Lady of the Way] Detroit Police & Fire Fighters; Gaylord; Men of Manresa; Mt. Pleasant; St. Mary Magdalen. DIRECTOR: Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

Aug. 4-6

WEEKEND RETREAT (Men in Recovery)

[PATRON: Fr. Jack Schuett, SJ]

DIRECTOR: Mr. Brian Shaffer

Aug. 25-27

WEEKEND RETREAT

[PATRON: St. Stephen Pongrácz, SJ] St. Bede; Leonard Stumm; The 12 Steppers. DIRECTOR: Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ

Sept. 8-10

WEEKEND RETREAT

[PATRON: Blessed Sebastian Kimura, SJ] McDonald/McHardy; Serra Club of Oakland County; Shrine/Reichenbach; St. Mary of the Hills.

DIRECTOR: Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ

Sept. 29-Oct. 1

WEEKEND RETREAT

[PATRON: St. Francis Borgia, SJ] Feuerstein; Maher; St. Elizabeth, Tecumseh. DIRECTOR: Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ

Oct. 5-8 (Th-Su)

4-DAY RETREAT

[PATRON: St. John Ogilvie, SJ] Weisenburger/Serra. DIRECTOR: Fr. Robert Flack, SJ

Oct. 20-22

WEEKEND RETREAT

[PATRON: St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, SJ] Berry; Catholic Lawyers & Physicians; Ford Tractor; St. Vincent de Paul.

DIRECTOR: Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ

Oct. 27-29

WEEKEND RETREAT

[PATRON: St. Stanislaus Kostka, SJ] Bodde/Schweihofer/St. Clare; Our Lady Star of the Sea; St. Hubert, Mt. Clemens; St. Valerie. DIRECTOR: Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ

Nov. 3-5

WEEKEND RETREAT

[PATRON: Blessed Rupert Mayer, SJ] Holy Name, Birmingham; Immaculate Conception, Ira Township; St. Boniface, Oak Harbor OH; SS. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church.

DIRECTOR: Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ

Dec. 1-3

WEEKEND RETREAT

[PATRON: St. Francis Xavier, SJ] Bayer/Toledo. DIRECTOR: Fr. Robert Flack, SJ

For Women

May 12-14

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND RETREAT

[PATRON: Mary, Mother of the Society of Jesus] DIRECTOR: Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ

May 26-28

WEEKEND RETREAT

(Women in Recovery)

[PATRON: Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ]

DIRECTOR: Sr. Luann Brown, BVM

June 23-25

WEEKEND RETREAT

[PATRON: Sr. Mary Ward, IBVM] DIRECTOR: Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

Sept. 12-14 (Tu-Th)

MIDWEEK RETREAT

[PATRON: Blessed Francisco Gárate, SJ]

DIRECTOR: Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

Oct. 12-15 (Th-Sun)

4-DAY RETREAT

[PATRON: Blessed Dominic Collins, SJ]

DIRECTOR: Fr. Fran Daly, SJ and

Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM

Nov. 10-12

WEEKEND RETREAT

[PATRON: Blessed Miguel Pro]

DIRECTOR: Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ

Nov. 17-19

WEEKEND RETREAT

(Women in Recovery)

[PATRON: Fr. Edward Dowling, SJ]

DIRECTOR: Mr. Terry Sullivan

For Men & Women

Apr. 6-8 (Th-Sa)

HOLY WEEK RETREAT

[PATRON: Fr. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ] DIRECTOR: Fr. Robert Flack, SJ

May 5-7

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION WEEKEND

[PATRON: Fr. Roberto de Nobili, SJ]

DIRECTORS: Fr. Leo Cachat, SJ, Ms. Mary Gresens & Ms. DiAnne Schultz

Jun. 2-4

WEEKEND RETREAT FOR URBAN

PARISHES [PATRON: St. Peter Claver, SJ]

DIRECTORS: Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ and Team

June 9-11

SILENT RETREAT for SPANISH SPEAKERS

Presented in Spanish DIRECTORS: Team

July 28-30

WEEKEND RETREAT for TRADITIONALLY MARRIED COUPLES

[PATRON: St. Ignatius of Loyola] DIRECTORS: Ms. Etta MacDonagh-Dumler & Mr. Jon Dumler NOTE: \$100 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit per couple required.

Sept. 1-3

CHRISTIAN YOGA RETREAT

DIRECTORS: Fr. Leo Cachat, SJ, Ms. Mary Gresens and Ms. DiAnne Schultz

Sept. 22-24

WEEKEND RETREAT

DIRECTOR: Mr. Mark Blanke, SJ

For Religious Sisters

Sept. 24-29 (Su-F)

RETREAT for RELIGIOUS SISTERS

[PATRON: St. Margaret Mary Alacoque]

DIRECTORS: Fr. Fran Daly, SJ and

Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM

**To register for a retreat,
click on the date/name
of the retreat or call
248.644.4933 Ext. 0.**



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QUOTES

On Leadership

"The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between, the leader is a servant." - Max DePree

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." - John Quincy Adams

"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." - Edith Wharton

"A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves." - Lao Tzu

"Each person must live their life as a model for others." - Rosa Parks

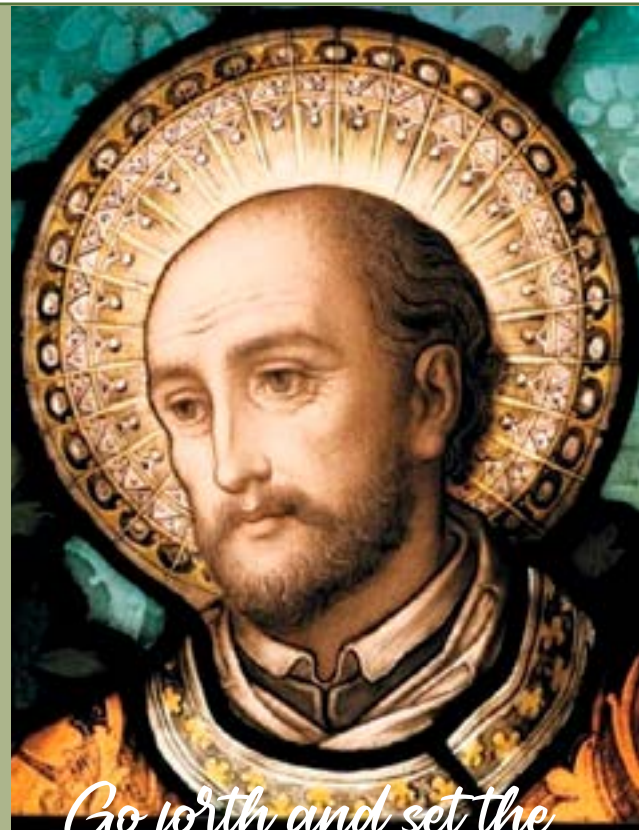
"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." - Anne Frank

"I believe in a quiet, strong, and grounded leadership. I think some of the best leaders are those whose work is widely known and respected but who, themselves, are relatively unknown." - Rachael Chong

"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality." - Warren Bennis

"Where there is no vision the people perish." - Proverbs 29:18

"A leader is a dealer in hope." - Napoleon Bonaparte



*Go forth and set the
world on fire.*

- St. Ignatius Loyola