SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS AND ONGOING FORMATION

Retreats and Programming for Spring 2023

The Murphy Center offers opportunities to deepen one’s prayer life and find God amidst the chaos of life. The graces encourage participants to discern how and where God might be inviting greater openness to growth, leading to an increase in faith, hope, and love.

- **Ten-Week Ignatian Encounter** – A one-on-one prayer journey, facilitated by a trained spiritual director, for anyone interested in deepening their relationship with God.

- **“Aging With Grace”** – Open to retirees of all faiths, this course uses prayer, assigned readings, and personal reflection to explore the spiritual dynamics of growing older.

- **Virtual Lenten Retreat Series** – The Ignatian Prayer Adventure is an adapted, online retreat version of the Spiritual Exercises. Join during Lent or in other times of spiritual renewal.

- **Lenten Retreat for Women** – Mark your calendars for the Women’s Lenten Retreat on the evening of Tuesday, March 7. Registration will open in February.

- **AMDG Retreat** – An ongoing invitation for people of all faith backgrounds to continue your prayer journey and discover where and how God is inviting you.

- **Monthly Spiritual Direction** – An ongoing invitation for people of all faith backgrounds to continue your prayer journey and discover where and how God is inviting you. All seekers welcome – no religious background necessary.

- **Walking Examen** – The one-mile Examen walk leads participants on a pilgrimage around campus. Maps and instructions can be found in Dolan House, the Library, and in Campus Ministry.

For more information please email us at mcis@fairfield.edu.
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

The ministry of the Murphy Center is to bring to life the Kingdom of God. As our mission statement states: “We are committed to supporting the faith-life of students, faculty, and staff of Fairfield University as well as individuals from the larger community outside the University.” Our primary modality is through discernment; we look for guidance from the Holy Spirit on how to best serve these constituencies.

How can we open the door as widely as possible to Jesus Christ? We look to meet people where they are in their faith life and help them to take the next half-step. Mostly, this happens within the bounds of the spiritual direction relationship, but it is not limited to that. We foster relationships from which emerge needs of the faith lives of the people whom we serve that move beyond the traditional spiritual direction and retreat giving boundaries. For us, the relationship is key and it is the foundation of our ministry. Thank you for your ongoing and prayerful support.

Peace,

Denis G. Donoghue, S.J., Director of the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality

MEET THE JESUITS

THREE QUESTIONS FOR... Fr. Nicholas M. Colalella, n.S.J.

What have I done for Christ?
After graduating Xavier High School in New York City in 2008, I entered the seminary for the Diocese of Brooklyn and was ordained in 2015. For the next 5 years, I pursued graduate studies in sacred scripture and biblical languages at universities in Rome, Jerusalem, and Washington, D.C. In 2020, I returned to the diocese to serve as the parochial vicar at St. Luke’s Church in Whitestone, Queens. I also worked for the Italian Apostolate, ministering to Italian-speaking Catholics in the diocese, taught Latin at Cathedral Preparatory High School (Elmhurst, N.Y.), and was adjunct professor of Scripture at St. Joseph’s Seminary (Yonkers, N.Y.).

What am I doing for Christ?
As a high school student, reading the autobiography of St. Ignatius of Loyola prompted me to consider the possibility of religious life in the Society of Jesus. In 2020, I felt God calling me to discern this possibility more seriously, and entered the Jesuit novitiate in August 2021. As a Jesuit novice, I have seen God at work in my life. I’ve made the 30-day Spiritual Exercises, volunteered at hospices and food pantries, and more recently, taught civics to refugees aspiring to become American citizens.

What ought I do for Christ?
This semester at Fairfield I will be working in Campus Ministry and training as a spiritual director at the Murphy Center. Living in a Jesuit community and working in a Jesuit apostolate for a period of time is part of the novitiate formation. I am grateful for the opportunity to pursue this experience at Fairfield University, not only for my own discernment, but for “the spiritual consolation of Christ’s faithful.” I hope that my presence on campus and the service that I do will help people foster a deeper relationship with God, and lead them to find Him in all things.

Fairfield University