CONSO LATION, COMMUNITY, CONNECTION

Murphy Center Programs for Spring 2021

Committed to the Spiritual Well-Being of All Those Who Are Seeking God’s Grace During These Challenging Times

The Murphy Center continues to move past barriers of social distancing, political unrest, and racial injustice, to respond to the need for spiritual discovery, connection, and community in the Ignatian tradition of finding God in all things. All are welcome to participate.

• Ten-Week Ignatian Encounter – A one-on-one prayer journey available to anyone who is interested in deepening their relationship with God, facilitated by a trained spiritual director. No prior experience with Ignatian spirituality necessary!

• MCIS Virtual Retreat Series – Back by popular demand! MCIS will host a virtual retreat series every other Tuesday, beginning February 2nd through June 2021 for a total of ten feature presentations.

• Spirituality & Aging – Join Rev. John Murray, S.J., ’76, assistant director of the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality, for a discussion on how we can use our faith and the Spiritual Exercises to cope in difficult times.

• The Inigas Series – In celebration of Fairfield’s 50th Anniversary of co-education, MCIS will host two evening events - a Lenten Retreat and a conversation with a Fairfield alumna reflecting on faith, work, family and Ignatian Spirituality.

• Five Day Directed Retreat – Two five-day directed retreats will be offered on Zoom during Lent and after Easter. Participants will meet daily with a spiritual director.

• 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!

• Spiritual Director Formation – Training and support offered to spiritual directors and those who feel called to this ministry.

For more information and for registration, please visit our website at fairfield.edu/MCIS.

HOW TO FIND US

fairfield.edu/MCIS
203-254-4000, ext. 3468

“In seeking God we often find ourselves.”

MCIS HOURS

The Murphy Center is open Mon. through Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Support MCIS at: fairfield.edu/mcis-donate

1
ST. IGNATIUS
At age 33, St. Ignatius joined a class of young children so he could learn Latin.

2
IGNATIAN CONSOLATION
is the experience of deep connectedness to God; it fills our being with a sense of peace and joy.

3
DOLAN HOUSE
is located on Dolan Campus, and was home to the original chapel in Dolan Hall before Egan Chapel was built.
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From the Director’s Desk

This past year, 2020, was difficult for all of us. Here at the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality, it brought forth many challenges and blessings. The challenges included transforming our portfolio of programs to a virtual platform. The blessings came as there was widespread participation in our virtual programs including national and international participants. Our spiritual directors faced all challenges head-on by shifting their individual meetings to Zoom almost immediately. Our spiritual direction formation program, Developing a Listening Heart, and our Practicum in Directing the Spiritual Exercises went off without a hitch. God has been very good to us amidst the struggles of these days. We look forward continuing our offerings virtually through the next semester and we hope that you will join us! May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy in this New Year.

Peace,

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

MCIS Award Dinner in honor of Rev. Charlie Allen, S.J., Planned for June 2021

Fairfield University is dedicated to the health and safety of Fr. Allen, our community, and our benefactors, as we continue to monitor state and local guidelines regarding the pandemic. It is our hope and our prayer to honor Fr. Allen with an event the first week in June, after students depart from campus. This timeline will allow for broader re-opening parameters, and offers the best possibility for a hybrid event. Please be assured of our appreciation for your patience and support for the Murphy Center and Fr. Allen. We will continue to update the community as information becomes available. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office.

Are you open to listening to God’s invitation?
The work of the Center is a most privileged place for me to walk with people of diverse backgrounds and faith traditions, with this simple question: Is God inviting you into a personal and intimate relationship? Our on-going mission focus is a deep commitment to the teachings and wisdom of St. Ignatius of Loyola. I see daily in the walking, listening, and supporting of people’s heartfelt desires, an experience of grace and wonder.

Why does God allow so much suffering in our world?
In each life I encounter here at the Center, the deep experience of suffering often arises in people’s stories. God’s desire for each of us is fullness of life in all its complexities. The suffering God chooses again and again to be united with us in our pain and joy. We seek to create a safe space of hope and healing for people to explore and grow in God’s healing touch. The God who suffers is the God who loves us, even in our darkest moments.

Does God seem remote or distant in this challenging year of the pandemic?
Each and every human continues to face the uncertainties of our pandemic reality. Where is God? Today this ancient plea rings loudly in the voices and hearts of many spiritual seekers that I accompany. The hearts of all are frustrated, isolated, and seeking hope in this extraordinary time of illness. Fostering people’s hopes to witness to the message of love and trust is my daily prayer.

The Murphy Center welcomes all who seek to experience the truth: “We are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings have a human experience.” ~ Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.