MCIS CELEBRATES THE IGNATIAN YEAR
Retreats, Lectures, and Programming for Fall 2021

On May 20, 2021, the Society of Jesus and the Ignatian family began the worldwide celebration of an Ignatian Year to commemorate St. Ignatius of Loyola’s conversion after being wounded in battle. The Murphy Center will reflect on Ignatius’ newfound ability to “see all things new in Christ” with a series of programs focusing on those moments that cause us to examine our lives and choose pathways that lead to wholeness, the promotion of human dignity, and harmonious existence with all of creation.

- **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.

- **Rev. Charlies Allen, S.J.,** on Sept. 19, 2021 was honored by the Murphy Center with the James M. Bowler Award for his lifetime of service exemplifying the spirit of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

- **Spirituality & Aging** – Rev. John Murray, S.J., ’76 Assistant Director of the Murphy Center will continue his series on Aging with Grace.

- **Rev. James Martin, S.J.,** will be on campus, Thursday, Nov. 11 in the Dolan School of Business Event Hall to discuss his new book on prayer.

- **Virtual Retreat Series** – New dates and topics will remind us of the daily opportunity to experience a new conversion and to live a transforming experience.

- **Advent Retreat for Women** – An opportunity to gather, pause, and reflect on the unfolding graces that permeate our daily lives.

- **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.

For more information visit our website at [fairfield.edu/MCIS](http://fairfield.edu/MCIS).

---

**ST. IGNATIUS**
was struck by a cannonball that shattered his leg.

**IGNATIAN RETREAT**
Is time spent dedicated to prayer and reflection, focused on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

**DOLAN HOUSE**
Is the home of MCIS and belonged to a community of nuns before becoming part of Fairfield University.

Support MCIS at: [fairfield.edu/mcis-donate](http://fairfield.edu/mcis-donate)
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

Covid-19 came upon us with many challenges during this past year. At the Murphy Center, there have been many blessings alongside the challenges. The most glaring blessing was the James M. Bowler Award Luncheon honoring Fr. Charlie Allen. The day included a Mass and luncheon attended by more than 500 people. With his family and friends in abundance, we witnessed Fr. Allen’s humility and humor. St. Ignatius talks about the importance of meeting people where they are in their relationship with God and bringing them out the door of Christ. This was the essence of Fr. Allen’s ministry here at Fairfield. It, too, is the heart of our ministry of spiritual direction with students, faculty, staff, and people from the larger Bridgeport community. Our hope is to keep Fr. Allen’s magnanimous spirit alive in our work. Pray with me that our ministry will reflect the generosity and care that Fr. Allen embodied during his ministry at Fairfield University and Fairfield Prep.

Peace,

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

MEET THE JESUITS

THREE QUESTIONS FOR... Rev. Keith Maczkiewicz, S.J., ’04, Director of Campus Ministry and University Chaplain

What have I done for Christ?
Prior to coming to Fairfield, I have ministered in several different places: with women in prison in Massachusetts; in a pastor-less parish in Oakland, California; with men experiencing homelessness in the shelters of Chicago. In the world of higher education, I have worked at the University of Scranton, Georgetown University, and the College of the Holy Cross. And in each of these places, I have arrived always with the goal of meeting Christ in the people I encountered there, never thinking that I was bringing the Lord to them.

What am I doing for Christ?
I have just arrived (back) to campus, and so I have been busy about many things: meeting new people, greeting old mentors and friends, and trying to learn the ropes of how things are done around here. As the new director of Campus Ministry and University chaplain, I consider the campus as my parish and that I have care for all the souls who live, study, and work here. Getting to know all the people here — not a small task — is work I am keen to do, and what I feel I have been called here to do by God at this point in my Jesuit life.

What ought I do for Christ?
My basic pastoral model is to figure out a way to get to “yes.” I worry that people have a pretty impoverished understanding of the Church and of God — that the Church exists to say “no” or that God’s primary character is to keep score, sliding beads on some divine abacus. But my experience with God and Christ’s Church tells me that ‘there’s a wideness in God’s mercy’ and that the structures and teachings people often resent are there to help us flourish as God has shown us. Helping people to expand their impoverished definitions and adopt a healthy image of God is among the most important work I can do ‘for Christ,’ who aims to bring all people to himself.