COOPERATING WITH GOD’S GRACE

Retreats, Lectures, and Programming for Fall 2022

The Murphy Center offers the following opportunities to deepen one’s prayer life and find God amidst the chaos of life.

• **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.

• **Spirituality & Aging** – Rev. John Murray, S.J., ’76 will continue his series on Aging with Grace, Part VIII. The zoom presentations will be offered Sept. 14 - Nov. 9 every other week on Wednesday’s from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. To register, please contact mcis@fairfield.edu.

• **Virtual Retreat Series** – This Zoom retreat series will begin Tuesday, Sept. 13, 1-2 p.m., and is open to anyone who has an interest in deepening their understanding of Ignatian spirituality. To register, please contact Marcy Haley at mhaley1@fairfield.edu.

• **Advent Retreat for Women** – Mark your calendar! The Women’s Advent Retreat is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022. Registration information will be sent out in November. Email Nicky Migacz at nmigacz@fairfield.edu for more information.

• **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. Please visit our website to find out more and register at fairfield.edu/mcis.

• **Walking Examen** – Representing the five movements Ignatius taught as a prayer method for finding God in all things, the 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 visit our website at fairfield.edu/MCIS.
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

This past year has seen a return to almost-normal in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Murphy Center is fully operative and it is great to see people dropping by in person! Coming out of Covid is a time for new beginnings. God calls out to each and every one of us, inviting us into an ever-deepening intimacy in our relationship with God. Our spirits are renewed as we accept this invitation and journey into the depths of the Living God. God offers us grace and hope for the future as we begin this new chapter of our lives together. In the tradition of St. Ignatius, we are pilgrims on the way. At the Murphy Center, we are committed to walk with people on their spiritual path through spiritual direction and spiritual programming. We desire to be present to their joys and struggles through spiritual conversation and discernment. So, let us begin this new academic year by opening our hearts and minds to the Mystery of God in our midst so that we can find God in all things.

Peace,

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

MEET THE JESUITS

THREE QUESTIONS FOR... Rev. John Savard, S.J.,’78, MCIS
Assistant Director and Dean’s Liaison for Community Partnerships in the School of Education and Human Development

What have I done for Christ?
Most recently, I was at Loyola University Maryland serving as rector of the Jesuit community and teaching in the Education Leadership department of the School of Education. For the past 20 years, I have found the greatest satisfaction in accompanying education students on teaching-immersion experiences to Central America and the Caribbean. While teaching at schools that may have lacked many essential material resources, our eyes were opened to the spiritual richness of the people we met and the spirit of solidarity that held communities together.

What am I doing for Christ?
Much of my current accompaniment is with students in the classroom with recent courses being focused on the history and spirituality of the Jesuits. We examine where the Society of Jesus has been for the past 500 years, and where it might be headed in the future. The journey of Jesuit education is not over and the Spirit is still involved in the work of Jesuit universities in helping students learn the skills of discernment that will lead them to know how to best bring their gifts and talents to the world.

What ought I do for Christ?
With the Murphy Center, I hope to create space for faculty, staff, and students to reflect together upon where God is present on the campus and in the community. Many people desire to share the spiritual side of themselves. We can often be so wrapped up in our teaching, our studies, our families and friendships, that we lose track of the God who simply wants to accompany us on the journey. It is often together with others, that we recognize the Spirit among us.