Each year the Fourth Sunday of Easter is set aside by the church as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This day of prayer is specifically for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. It in no way intends to play down the important role of the vocation to the married or single lay state. So let us begin our reflection with a few facts about vocations right here in the United States.

According to one report, in 1903 there was one priest for every 870 people in the United States. In 2000 it was one for every 1257. Today it is one priest for every 1500 people, and getting worse. The experts say that the declining number of priests is irreversible, not just because of the shortage of vocations, but because there is such a large percentage of priests reaching retirement age.

In the United States the number of religious sisters has shrunk by two thirds since 1965, from about 180,000 to 59,600. And while sisters still outnumber priests across the globe, women’s desire to become nuns is plummeting. Less than 4 percent of American Catholic women have ever “seriously” considered becoming a nun, according to 2008 data by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, compared with 9 percent in 2003. And those numbers have been in decline since Vatican II.

As for religious brothers, there are only about 5000 presently in the United States.

Although lay men and women are playing a predominantly important role in the life of the Church, they cannot, under the present rules, preside at Mass, hear confessions, or anoint the sick. Perhaps the rules will change in the future, but until they do, we obviously need priests in the church. As for religious sisters and brothers, although their professional roles as teachers, nurses, and social workers can be filled by others, their full time dedication to these works, with no other concerns, is still an important witness for the world. In addition, we still need the prayers of the contemplatives who offer so much spiritual energy to the Body of Christ. I know this from personal experience with a hermit sister in Ghana and the Poor Clare Sisters in the monastery in Zambia. Perhaps you have seen the impact of a film like Into Great Silence on the public, believer and non-believer alike, as they witnessed the extraordinary life of the Carthusian monks in France. It would be a tragic loss if these vocations were lost to the world.

I would like to close this bulletin essay with a few personal observations. When I entered the Society of Jesus of the New York Province in 1950, I was in a class of 60 young men who desired to be Jesuits. In recent years, only 2 or 3 have entered, and sometimes none at all. When I began my teaching experience in Canisius High School in 1957, we were 14 scholastics and equally as many Jesuit priests on the faculty. Now we find only one or two Jesuits on the teaching staff of our high schools.

I feel very blessed by God to have received my vocation. The freedom this call gave me to move about Africa, to fulfill many different missions in the Church, and to have the time to pray each day for some prolonged periods is something I treasure very much.

The recent scandals in the Church in this country have made a vocation to the priesthood or religious life less attractive. When Jesus called the disciples to leave all things and follow him, it must not have seemed all that attractive. But it was the same Jesus who said: “And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life” (Matthew 19:29-30). He also offered a challenge to some who were so called: “Some are incapable of marriage because they were born so; some, because they were made so by others; some, because they have renounced marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Whoever can accept this ought to accept it” (Matthew 19:12).

Let us not only pray that the Lord may send many more men and women into harvest fields, but also encourage our sons and daughters who show any inclination to this life. May the Lord of the Harvest hear our prayers!

Rev. Ugo Nacciarone, S.J.
Associate Pastor
**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**SUNDAY, MAY 15th**
Spring Liturgical Concert.  
3:00 PM. Church.  
Details on page 5.

Young Adult Sunday Social. 8:30 PM.  
Wallace Hall. Hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults (follows the 7:30 PM Mass). All are welcome.

**TUESDAY, MAY 17th**
Spiritual Community Reading Group. 7:15 PM. Conference Room.  
Details on page 3.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 18th**
Sacrament of Confirmation.  
Church.  
3:30 PM - Grammar School Students 
5:30 PM - IREP Students

Ignatian Social Justice Meeting.  
7:00 PM. Meeting Room.  
Details on page 3.

**THURSDAY, MAY 19th**
Ignatian Volunteer Corps Information Session.  
12:45 – 2:00 PM. Parish Lounge.  
Details on page 3.

God’s Club. 3:00 – 5:00 PM.  
Parish House.  
A place for children 3–5 years of age and their parents or caregivers to enrich their faith through art, stories, and songs.

Scripture Reflections Group.  
7:00 PM. Conference Room.  
All are welcome.
**SPRITUAL COMMUNITY READING GROUP**

**Monthly Meeting:**
Tuesday, May 17th at 7:15 PM in the Conference Room

In preparation for this meeting, please read


For additional information, contact Chris Carney at ccarney123@gmail.com or 914-316-3068 or Meg Gottemoeller at megcorp@aol.com

New members are always welcome!

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**IGNATIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**Immigration**

**Monthly Meeting:**
Wednesday, May 18th at 7:00 PM in the Meeting Room

Rev. Robert Vitaglione will be speaking on the topic of immigration. Fr. Vitaglione is the Pastor of Sacred Heart Church (Mary of Nazareth Parish) in Brooklyn, New York. He is also an accredited representative authorized to practice immigration law.

Please join us!

**Bread for the World:** You can help create long-term solutions to the global hunger crisis! Join the Bread for the World 2011 Offering of Letters sponsored by Ignatian Social Justice.

After Mass on Saturday and Sunday, May 21st and 22nd, stop by one of the tables in the Narthex, where you will be able to sign letters addressed to our representatives in Washington promoting economic growth in low-income countries and supporting the efforts of poor people to lift themselves out of hunger and poverty.

Parishioners who prefer to prepare their own letters (which we will also accept next weekend) can visit www.bread.org/ol/2011/sample-letter.html

If you are able to staff a table in the Narthex for 15 minutes after Mass next weekend, please email ignatiansocialjustice@gmail.com

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**Information Session**

Thursday, May 19th. 12:45 – 2:00 PM. Parish Lounge.

IVC provides men and women, age 50 and over, the opportunity to serve the needs of those who are economically poor, to work for a more just society, and to grow spiritually by reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition.

For more information, or to confirm your attendance, please contact IVC Regional Director Liz McMahon at 201-618-6924 or emcmahon@ivcusa.org

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**First Communion Sunday: May 22nd**

11:00 AM

Wallace Hall Family Mass

All of the boys and girls who made their First Holy Communion this spring are encouraged to wear their Communion suits and dresses to this Mass.

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**First Communion**

Sunday: May 22nd

11:00 AM

Wallace Hall Family Mass

All of the boys and girls who made their First Holy Communion this spring are encouraged to wear their Communion suits and dresses to this Mass.

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**Alpha Sigma Nu Alumni Club of New York City invites St. Ignatius parishioners to a talk by**

Rev. James J. Hederman, S.J., M.D.

**Vocation Promoter**

**for the New England, New York, and Maryland Jesuit Provinces**

**Discovering Our God Given Vocation in Life and Finding Our Most Authentic Self**

**Thursday, May 26th**

7:00 PM in the Meeting Room

In our culture today there is a tension between identifying and living out our God-given vocation vs. selling our talents to the highest bidder in order to reach material success. Even if we achieve what society considers success many of us can feel a deep psychological and spiritual void. Please join us for an evening with Fr. Hederman as he discusses spiritual exercises and insights into discerning authentic vocation and career choices throughout our lives.

A reception will follow the lecture.

RSVP to nyc@alphasigmanu.org
Announced Masses and Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday, May 16th
(St. Andrew Bobola)
8:30 MEM Donna Ryan Bayard
12:10 MEM Michael Conlon
5:30 MEM Kathleen Ann Bartone

Tuesday, May 17th
(Fourth Tuesday of Easter)
Acts 11:19-26 Psalm 87 John 10:22-30
8:30 MEM Kathleen Ann Bartone
12:10 MEM Peter Griffin
5:30 MEM Kathleen Ann Bartone

Wednesday, May 18th
(St. John I)
8:30 MEM Bessie & William Callaghan
12:10 MEM Barbara Root
5:30 MEM Cono Pasqua

Thursday, May 19th
(Fourth Thursday of Easter)
8:30 MEM Mae Rooney
12:10 MEM Victoria Stadolnik
5:30 MEM Kathleen Ann Bartone

Friday, May 20th
(St. Bernardine of Siena)
Acts 13:26-33 Psalm 2 John 14:1-6
8:30 MEM Alice & Winthrop Rutherfurd
12:10 MEM John Dos Passos
5:30 MEM Nathan Davidson

Saturday, May 21st
(St. Christopher Magallanes and comps.)
Acts 13:44-52 Psalm 98 John 14:7-14
8:30 LVG Corinne McKeegan

Sunday, May 22nd
(Fifth Sunday of Easter)
Acts 6:1-7 Psalm 33
1 Peter 2:4-9 John 14:1-12

Prayer Booklets for the Easter Season are available at the Parish House for one dollar. Authored by the late Bishop Kenneth Untener of Saginaw, Michigan, the booklet offers brief prayers and reflections for each of the fifty days of the Easter Season.

Pastoral Visits Available for Homebound and Ill Parishioners
Parishioners have been trained for the ministry of pastoral visiting to the homebound and chronically ill in our Parish.

If you are interested in having a visit arranged for yourself or for another person, please contact Sr. Kathryn King at: 212-288-3588 or kingk@stignatiusloyola.org

Have You Registered?
If St. Ignatius Loyola is where you regularly worship, we invite you to fill out a Parishioner Registration Card located in the pew racks, at the Parish House, and online at: www.stignatiusloyola.org

Having your name in our records is the only way we can certify that you are a practicing Catholic.

If you move or if your email address changes, please be sure to notify us so that we can update our records.

Interested in Becoming Catholic?
We have the privilege at St. Ignatius of welcoming many visitors and new parishioners. We especially welcome those who may be thinking of becoming Catholic.

If you feel attracted to the Catholic faith, we want you to know about a program at the Parish which will begin in September. A group will meet here during the year to inquire into the Catholic faith, to come to know Jesus through the Gospels, and to pray and to prepare for the Easter Sacraments. This process is also open to those Catholic adults who have not received the Sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation.

For more information about this process, which is called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), contact Maureen Fullam at 212-288-3588 or email church@stignatiusloyola.org

You’ve notified your friends, you’ve notified your credit cards, you’ve notified your magazines.
Please don’t forget to notify your church.

This information helps us to keep our database current, and cuts down on the cost of additional postage. Thanks!

Prayer Booklets for the Easter Season

Have You Registered?

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Announced Masses and Scripture Readings for the Week

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Have You Registered?

Interested in Becoming Catholic?
Meeting Christ in Prayer:
Reunion Meeting
Tuesday, June 14th
7:00 – 9:00 PM
Wallace Hall
This Reunion Meeting is open to all of those who participated in either the Fall 2010 or the Spring 2011 session of Meeting Christ in Prayer.
To register, please contact Sr. Kathryn King at kingk@stignatiusloyola.org

Training Session for New Eucharistic Ministers
Those who are interested in serving as EMs at St. Ignatius Loyola are invited to attend a training session:
Sunday, May 22nd
from 1:30 – 3:30 PM
For additional information, or to RSVP, contact Fr. Anthony SooHoo, S.J., by Thursday, May 19th:
212-288-3588 (Parish House)
or soohooa@stignatiusloyola.org

Proclaim the Word!
Lectors proclaim the Word of God during Mass and embody the Good News in their lives.
If you feel called to serve in this ministry at St. Ignatius Loyola, please contact Fr. Bergen at the Parish House: 212-288-3588.

Take Note!
Children’s Choir Auditions
Auditions for the St. Ignatius Loyola children’s choir program will be held in the Parish House on the following dates and times:
Monday, May 16th from 3:15 – 4:30 PM for children rising into the 1st grade and current choir siblings.
Tuesday, May 17th from 3:15 – 4:30 PM for children rising into the 2nd – 8th grades.
No appointment or preparation is necessary. Parents or caregivers should attend with their children to complete registration forms.
Call 212-288-3588 x 633
or email music@stignatiusloyola.org with any questions.

Spring Liturgical Concert
Sunday, May 15th at 3:00 PM
featuring the Parish Community Choir, with members of the Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, Canticum Sacrum, High School Choir, and Children’s Choirs.
with Kent Tritle, Renée Anne Loutrel, Robert Reuter, Mary Huff, Michael Sheetz, Pokie Huang, and Nancianne Parrella
No tickets are required. A free-will offering will be taken.

Sacred Music in a Sacred Space
Wednesday, May 25th
at 8:00 PM
Ludwig van Beethoven Christus am Ölberge
George Frideric Handel Foundling Hospital Anthem and Organ Concerto No. 3 in G Minor, Op. 4
Performed by the Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Kent Tritle, Conductor
7:00 PM Pre-Concert Organ Recital
Works of Mozart and Beethoven
David Enlow, Organist
Organist and Choir Master, Church of the Resurrection, NY
Organ Faculty, The Juilliard School
Concert tickets are $50 for preferred seating and $40 or $30 (student/senior) for general seating.
Visit www.smssconcerts.org or call 212-288-2520 to order.

Meeting Christ in Prayer:
Reunion Meeting
Tuesday, June 14th
7:00 – 9:00 PM
Wallace Hall
This Reunion Meeting is open to all of those who participated in either the Fall 2010 or the Spring 2011 session of Meeting Christ in Prayer.
To register, please contact Sr. Kathryn King at kingk@stignatiusloyola.org
Second Annual Healing Mass and Devotion to St. Dymphna, patroness of those suffering from emotional and psychological difficulties, autism, and Alzheimer's disease. Monday, May 16th at 7:00 PM Cathedral of St. Patrick For those afflicted, and for families, friends, and members of the medical community. This healing Mass will include the communal rite of the anointing of the sick.

Coping with Chronic Pain: The Role of Spirituality and Religion Wednesday, May 18th 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Richard L. Menschel Education Center, Hospital for Special Surgery, 2nd Floor 535 East 70th Street Speaker: Harold G. Koenig, MD, Director, Center for Spirituality, Theology, and Health Duke University.
To register, visit www.hss.edu/pped

The Siena Forum for Faith and Culture presents Fr. Dempsey R. Acosta for an Encounter with the Bible: A Training Experience of Lectio Divina Saturday, May 21st, 10:00 AM – 4:45 PM The Church of St. Catherine of Siena, 411 East 68 Street Cost: $30. Includes lunch, a Lectio Divina Bible, and training materials. Pre-registration is required by Tuesday, May 17th: 212-988-8300 or sienaforum@gmail.com

YOU’RE INVITED! 12th Annual Benefit Reception and Silent Auction for the Xavier Society for the Blind Tuesday Evening, May 17th. 5:30 – 8:30 PM New York Athletic Club 180 Central Park South at 7th Avenue There will be drinks and hors d’oeuvres, the music of jazz guitarist Bill Wurtzel, and a silent auction. Door Prizes – Raffle Prizes – and more! Tickets: $125 per person ($75 of which is tax-deductible) Tickets will be available at the door. For additional information, visit www.xaviersocietyfortheblind.org

Weekday Masses Monday-Friday 8:30AM, 12:10PM and 5:30PM Saturday: 8:30 AM Masses for Next Weekend:
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM Fr. Bergen Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. SooHoo 9:30 AM Fr. SooHoo Solemn: 11:00 AM Fr. Witt Wallace Hall: 11:00 AM Fr. Bergen 7:30 PM Fr. Witt

Music Information: (212) 288-2520 Email: music@stignatiusloyola.org