Here I am, Lord!

When someone in a biblical story says “Here I am,” you know that dramatic changes are about to happen. In Exodus, Moses hears the divine call and responds, “Here I am.” But as he learns his part in God’s plan for delivering the people of Israel from Egypt, Moses comes up with all sorts of reasons for non-participation. As a young boy, Samuel receives his call. He answers, “Here I am,” but he’s confused about the source of the call and needs some mentoring before he can step into his assigned leadership role. Isaiah receives his call in a vision and promptly declares himself lost in sinfulness. Only after he receives a cleansing of sin can he respond to the Lord, “Here am I! Send me.” And then he becomes a prophet during extremely precarious, anxious times for the people of Israel.

In the Acts of the Apostles, the disciple Ananias answers God’s call with the words “Here I am, Lord.” God then describes the assignment: Pay a visit to Paul and restore the sight Paul lost on the road to Damascus. Ananias objects to this healing mission on the grounds of Paul’s dreadful past behavior. Finally, after God explains his plan regarding Paul, Ananias agrees to do his part.

Can’t do it; need more information; I’m not worthy; you really want me to work with that person? I can identify all too readily with these responses, which is probably why I find the story of Zacchaeus so refreshing. He was perched in a sycamore tree observing Jesus from a distance until, like so many sinners in the Gospels, he receives a call from Jesus. Zacchaeus, Luke tells us, quickly comes down from the tree and welcomes Jesus into his home. Zacchaeus did not check his messages or his calendar, do a cost-benefit analysis or risk assessment, or set up a series of consultations. He just joyfully joins Jesus.

None of these biblical characters knows what’s in store when they answer their call. They step forward, their lives change, and they bring about changes in their communities. Some theologians think that’s the way lay ministry works: you feel a beckoning, you say to someone “Here I am,” and as you pursue the work of your ministry, you begin to see changes in yourself and in the community you serve. In my experience as a lay minister, these theologians are on the right track.

“For several decades and in growing numbers, lay men and women have been undertaking a wide variety of roles in Church ministries,” the U.S. Catholic bishops wrote in Co-workers in the Vineyard of the Lord, a document published in 2005 (and available at www.usccb.org). Because all baptized Christians are called to participate in bringing God’s kingdom to our world, according to the bishops, we all have a role in the mission of the church. More and more Catholics are embracing the role of building the church community through lay ministry. Our ministries differ because our gifts and graces differ, but as succinctly summarized by Edward Hahnenberg, a theologian who has served as consultant to the bishops’ Subcommittee on Lay Ministry, “Everyone, by virtue of their baptism, is qualified for ministry.”

At St. Ignatius, from deep downstairs in Hoefner Lounge to the top of the choir loft, the “Here I am” response of lay ministers seems to resonate continually. We see and hear the liturgical ministries and music ministries during Mass, and even a quick glance at this bulletin will give you an idea of the ministries that support our spiritual development and prayer life and faith formation, the Parish outreach ministries, and the ministries of care to bereaved, ill, and homebound people.

While church leaders, observers from various fields, and lay ministers themselves may debate the foundations and frameworks of lay ministry, they agree that a fundamental change has occurred since the Second Vatican Council. “Laypersons were like fans who attend home games and cheer for the team,” writes Karen Smith, the editorial director of the national Catholic weekly America. But gradually in the wake of Vatican II, “the laity has been invited to move out of the spectator section and become players.”

Next weekend, after each of our celebrations of the Eucharist at St. Ignatius, everyone is invited to McKinnon Hall for a celebration of our Parish ministries. You can learn about the ministries, talk with lay ministers if you wish, and maybe reflect on your way home about what “Here I am” means for you at this time in your life and in the life of our Parish.

Emilie Trautmann
St. Ignatius Loyola Parishioner

To learn more about next weekend’s Celebration of Parish Ministries, please see page 5.
Dear Parishioners,

It is always a pleasure to receive good news, and this week there are several items to share.

The first is that our Grammar School has been designated a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School. A total of 305 schools throughout the United States were selected for this honor by the Department of Education. Saint Ignatius Loyola School is one of 49 private/parochial schools nationally and one of two schools in the New York Archdiocese to receive this designation. Congratulations to Principal Mary Larkin and to all those who worked so hard throughout the long and arduous application process. More information about the award can be found below.

The second piece of good news is that the final numbers for the Spring Appeal are in. A total of $193,582 was raised. This represents an increase of more than 3% from last year. I am deeply grateful to all those who contributed.

Lastly, I encourage you to make plans to join us as we celebrate our Parish Ministries after all Masses next weekend. It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about them and to see what’s planned for the coming year.

- Fr. George Witt, S.J.

Congratulations to Our Grammar School!

The U.S. Secretary of Education, Mr. Arne Duncan, has designated Saint Ignatius Loyola School as a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School. To be considered for this award, a school must have scored among the top 10% nationally in state-administered and other standardized tests. The school must demonstrate a consistently high level of achievement attained through a rigorous curriculum. The award is also based on a full review of all levels and areas of school life.

Congratulations to the students, faculty, administration, and parents of Saint Ignatius Loyola School for this well-deserved award.

Please contact Mary Reed, Director of Development at 212-288-3588 x632 or reedm@stignatiusloyola.org
Sunday Socials Fall Schedule
The Sunday Socials are held in Wallace Hall at 8:30 PM, following the 7:30 PM Mass. They are hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults. All are welcome.

To receive updates on IYA events and other opportunities, you can follow us on Facebook at “Ignatian Young Adults (NYC)”

Sunday Social Dates:
- Oct. 16
- Nov. 13
- Dec. 11
- Oct. 30
- Nov. 27

Ignatian Spirituality 101
Sunday, September 25th at 6:00 PM in the Parish Lounge
All young adults are invited to attend this first in a series which will explore the Ignatian way of prayer and approach to the world.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Fr. Anthony SooHoo, SJ, at the Parish House (212-288-3588) or soohooa@stignatiusloyola.org

Now on sale in the Parish House and in the Narthex after select Masses ...

Eats & Sweets:
Recipes from the IYA Sunday Socials
Over 25 appetizer and dessert recipes.
Full color photographs.
$20.00

Seekers: A Weekend Retreat for Young Adults
St. Ignatius Retreat House
October 14th - 16th, 2011
What are you seeking? A retreat weekend for those in their 20’s and 30’s entitled Seekers will take place October 14th-16th at the beautiful St. Ignatius Retreat House in Manhasset, Long Island.

Peer-led talks such as Knowing Ourselves, Naming What’s Important, and Prayer and Discernment will be shared. There will also be small group discussions, time for quiet reflection, and an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confession and celebrate Mass.

Meals and lodging for the weekend start at $150 for a shared room and up to $300 for a private suite.

For additional information and/or to register, visit http://charisministries.org/Seekers_IgnatiusHouse_Manhasset_registration

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All young adults are invited to attend this first in a series which will explore the Ignatian way of prayer and approach to the world.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Fr. Anthony SooHoo, SJ, at the Parish House (212-288-3588) or soohooa@stignatiusloyola.org

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MUSIC

Mander Organ Recital Series:

RENÉE ANNE LOUPRETTE
Associate Director of Music and the Arts, Trinity Wall Street
Organ Faculty, John J. Cali School of Music, Montclair State University, NJ

Wednesday, September 28th
at 7:30 PM

An Americana program featuring the world premiere commission by renowned organist-composer David Briggs, Mannahatta.

Tickets are $20, or $15 for students and seniors, and are available in the Parish House, online at www.smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520.

Let’s Hear More! About David Briggs

Monday, September 26th at 7:30 PM. Organ Loft.
Organist Renée Anne Louprette and composer David Briggs explore his world premiere commission Mannahatta, a musical depiction of Manhattan’s transition from unsettled forest to cosmopolitan capital. Free.

Calling All Singers!

The volunteer choirs – Parish Community Choir, Canticum Sacrum and Wallace Hall Music Group – are looking for new members. Details and schedule information can be found in the Volunteer Choirs brochure in the Narthex, Wallace Hall literature rack, Parish House reception area, and online at www.stignatiusloyola.org

Be a part of the wonderful music you hear each Sunday!

For more information, or to schedule an audition, contact the Music Office at 212-288-3588 ext. 612 or email music@stignatiusloyola.org

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Beginning later in the Fall, 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

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, September 26th
(St. Cosmas & St. Damian)
8:30   MEM  Dr. Emil Wittek
12:10  MEM  John B., John A., & Elizabeth A. Rooney
5:30   MEM  Ignazio Peluso

Tuesday, September 27th
(St. Vincent de Paul)
8:30   MEM  John J. Barry
12:10  MEM  Paul Charron
5:30  MEM  William Conroy

Wednesday, September 28th
(St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz & comps.)
8:30  MEM  Dorothy Neves Kentler
12:10 MEM  Paul Charron
5:30  MEM  Kathleen Ann Bartone

Thursday, September 29th
(St. Gabriel, St. Michael, & St. Raphael)
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14    Psalm 138    John 1:47-51
8:30 MEM  Michael Waters
12:10 MEM  Julia Kivlin
5:30 MEM  William Powers

Friday, September 30th
(St. Jerome)
8:30 ANN  Robert Gallagher
12:10 MEM  William Shields
5:30 MEM  William Powers

Saturday, October 1st
(St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus)
8:30 ANN  Margaret Molnar

Sunday, October 2nd
(27th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Isaiah 5:1-7    Psalm 80
Philippians 4:6-9    Matthew 21:33-43

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer Shawl Ministry is an outreach program to the sick by St. Ignatius Loyola Parish. The care and love of knitting and crocheting are combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches those in need of blessing and comfort. Prayer is knitted/crocheted into every shawl. Completed shawls will be donated to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Interested participants simply sign up, knit or crochet away, and bring the completed shawl to the Parish House.

To sign on as a participant, contact Sr. Kathryn King at the Parish House (212-288-3588).
Receive What You Are: An evening of prayer, reflection, and conversation on the Eucharist as God’s way of embracing us.

Preparation for the Challenge and Opportunity of the Revised Roman Missal

Presenter: Rev. George M. Witt, S.J., Pastor
Facilitator: Sr. Kathryn King, F.S.P., Pastoral Associate

Wednesday, October 5th at 7:00 PM
Wallace Hall

A ritual is more than what words alone communicate. Change is coming in some of the language used in the Mass in the English-speaking world. This introductory evening will be followed by a series of presentations about the upcoming changes in the liturgical texts of the Mass.

To register, call the Parish House at 212-288-3588 or email church@stignatiusloyola.org
Gaudi’s Inspiration: The Word of God, Liturgy, and Art. A lecture about the Basilica of La Sagrada Familia. Speaker: Lluís Cardinal Martínez Sistach, Archbishop of Barcelona. Thursday, September 29th, 7:00 PM. Church of the Holy Family, 315 East 47th Street. The lecture is sponsored by the American Bible Society and is free of charge.

Open House: Regis High School, an all-scholarship Jesuit secondary school for Catholic boys, announces its Open House for 8th graders and their parents: Wednesday, October 5th, 5:30 to 8:30 PM. For additional information, please contact Eric Di Michele, Director of Admissions, at 212-288-1100 or edimiche@regis-nyc.org

Faithful Citizenship II: Keeping the Faith in a Season of Spin. Tuesday, October 18th, 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Presented by the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture, Pope Auditorium, 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Presented by the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture, Pope Auditorium, Fordham University, 113 West 60th Street. Free and open to the public. RSVP: crevent@fordham.edu or 212-636-7347. For more information, visit www.fordham.edu/ReligCulture

PARISH STAFF

Pastor
Rev. George M. Witt, S.J.

Pastoral Associates
Joanne Cunneen
Kathryn King, F.S.P.

Associate Pastors
Rev. William J. Bergen, S.J.
Rev. James L. Dugan, S.J.
Rev. Ugo R. Nacciarone, S.J.

Assisting Priests (Sunday)
Rev. Philip G. Judge, S.J.
Rev. James Martin, S.J.
Rev. Anthony P. SooHoo, S.J.

Music Ministries
Scott Warren, Interim Director
Nancianne Parrella
Robert Reuter
Mary Huff
Michael Sheetz
Philip Anderson
Erin Acheson, Administrator
Staff information: on the website at music/music staff

Director of Development
Mary Reed

Assistant to the Pastor
Diane M. Boyle

Administrative Assistant
Patricia Schneider

Director of Facilities
Czeslaw “Chester” Ciupinski

Events Coordinator
Katy Krauland

Treasurer
Fernando Castro

Weekday Masses Monday-Friday
8:30 AM, 12:10 PM and 5:30 PM
Saturday: 8:30 AM

Masses for Next Weekend:
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM Fr. Bergen
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Judge
9:30 AM Fr. Bergen
Wallace Hall 11:00 AM Fr. Dugan
Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Witt
7:30 PM Fr. Witt

Religious Education for Children
Joanne Cunneen, M.A., M.S.
Director
(212) 861-4764

St. Ignatius Loyola Grammar School
Ms. Mary Larkin, M.S. Ed.
Principal
48 East 84th Street
New York, NY 10028
(212) 861-3820 Fax: (212) 879-8248

St. Ignatius Loyola Day Nursery
Ms. Theodora Crist, M.S.
Executive Director
240 East 84th Street
New York, NY 10028
(212) 734-6427 Fax: (212) 734-6972

Children’s Liturgy of the Word:
Sundays at the 9:30 AM Mass and the 11:00 AM Mass in Wallace Hall.

Eucharistic Adoration: First Saturdays at 9:00 AM in the Lady Chapel.
(Will resume on October 1st)

Centering Prayer:
Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Confessions:
5:00 PM Saturday or by appointment. Communal Penance Services are celebrated during Advent and Lent.

Baptisms: Please call Joanne Cunneen at the Parish House to arrange for a Baptism and the preparation given prior to Baptism.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults:
Contact Maureen Fullam, M.A., Director, at the Parish House.

Marriages: The Bride or Groom should call Joanne Cunneen at the Parish House to begin preparation for Marriage, normally one year in advance.

Visits to the Sick: Please contact the Parish House between 9:00 AM-9:00 PM.

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

TACHS – Test for Admission into Catholic High Schools

ATTENTION PARENTS

OF 8TH GRADERS!

To qualify for entrance into almost all of our Catholic High Schools in the Archdiocese of New York, 8th grade students must take the TACHS – Test for Admission into Catholic High Schools.

The examination will be held on Friday, November 4th, 2011. Catholic school students will receive applications in their own schools. Public school students may obtain applications from Catholic high schools participating in the program, Catholic elementary schools, or Parish religious education programs.

Students may also register 7 days a week by visiting www.tachsinfo.com or by calling 1-866-618-2247.

Paper applications must be received by the TACHS office no later than Wednesday, October 5th.

The deadline for internet/telephone registration is Monday, October 17th.

For additional details about the examination, visit www.tachsinfo.com or call the TACHS Admission Office at 1-866-618-2247.