The Gift of Presence is Not So Simple

“What you have received as gift, give as gift.”
Matthew 10:8

The month of November stirs deep feelings in many of us. Autumn surrounds us with gray and clammy days, with bare-branched trees stretching their limbs and exposing the knots and bends of their years. The abundant harvests and colors of the earlier days of the season have faded into the tans and browns of the earth. And herein lays the paradox: raw simplicity beckons us to gratitude for the abundance of simple gifts.

This November we are reflecting on the life of our parish community. A recent survey of parishioners seeks to quantify the vitality of our parish life. Something is missing! The number of activities in a parish are certainly a necessary part of the story but they are not sufficient. What is more difficult to quantify is the ‘simple gift’ of presence. Most of us can recall persons who came along and offered support in such a way that we felt a strong connection or bond. This person may have been calming, easy to speak to and, more importantly, conveyed a sense of understanding our struggles. If one asked such a person what did he/she ‘do’?, the response would most likely be, “nothing.” Not an officially commissioned ministry. No particular role. A simple gift of presence to a fellow parishioner.

Being present appears to be an easy thing to do. Yet as we reflect on our own experience, we may realize that it can be uncomfortable and possibly awkward. Presence asks us to stay compassionately in the present moment with another person and affirm the value of their life and experience. In addition to paying attention to what the person says, it involves an awareness of the factors and circumstances affecting the person. A parish community that identifies itself as a ‘community of disciples’ is able to live a ‘simple gift of presence’ to one another. Presence to one another at the level of the heart shapes the atmosphere of a community. It is a gift available to most. Someone possessing ‘presence’ cares genuinely. Positive regard for the other is the heart of true caring. This is the compassion of God given to us even in our worst moments. Knowing what to say may be helpful, but being there in silence can be even more important. How many of us fear that we will not ‘say’ the right thing? Research tells us that approximately eighty percent of communication is non-verbal. A caring presence conveys much more than words.

Mystic Simone Weil once wrote, “Those who are unhappy have no need for anything in this world but people capable of giving them attention.” Paying attention conveys a caring presence as well as empathy. Empathy is the ability to put ourselves in the shoes of another person. In a way, we borrow the feelings of the other in order to understand them but do not make them ours. We can resonate with the other but do not carry their feelings. Sympathy, on the other hand, takes the feelings of another person into ourselves and makes them our own. A danger of too much sympathy is emotional exhaustion.

A deeper dimension of presence is active listening. Here we are able to be fully attentive and genuinely caring about what the other is saying to us. Listening actively is a challenge because most of us become preoccupied about what to say or how to respond. There are a number of skills involved in active listening, but central is a desire for God’s wisdom and a willingness to hear the true message of the other. Finally, openness to someone who has thoughts, ideas, and experiences different from our own is a risk. It asks us to be vulnerable to others and at the same time mindful of our own well being and limitations.

So why consider ‘presence’ during this late Autumn season? I think it is safe to say that an important quality of our parish community is this gift of presence; not merely on the part of designated ministers, but on the part of each one of us. We possess a simple, yet extraordinary gift hidden in the ordinariness of our daily lives. We have often given this gift of quality presence to another and we have often received it in return. The ground of our parish life is watered in endlessly inventive ways by the Presence of the Spirit of Christ in each one of us, creating in us and through us a community of caring presence to one another that is the living Body of Christ here and now. What gratitude is ours as we approach our national feast of gratitude, Thanksgiving!

- Sister Kathryn King, FSP
Pastoral Associate

November 10, 2013
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

SVDP Thanksgiving Food Drive continues through Tuesday, November 19th. Details on page 5.

**MAKING ALL THINGS NEW TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10th
Following the 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM Masses. McKinnon Hall. Details on page 5.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10th**
Praying With Yoga. 6:00 PM. Parish Lounge. For young adults in their 20s & 30s. Details on page 3.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13th**
Ignatian Young Adults Knitting Group. 7:30 PM. Conference Room. Details on page 3.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14th**
Ignatian Volunteer Corps Information Session. 12:00 PM. Parish Lounge. Details at right.

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!

Click the link on our homepage, stignatiusloyola.org, to read the Antonio Spadaro, S.J., interview with Pope Francis.

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

Shelter Volunteers Needed!
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is in need of volunteers at the Women's Shelter, which is located in Wallace Hall every other weekend, from November through April.

Volunteers are particularly needed to stay overnight on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday nights.

To volunteer, please leave a message for Teresa Abruzzo at the Parish House or e-mail svdp.shelter980@gmail.com

**Dorothy Day and Her Message for Our Time**
Monday, November 18th, 7:00 PM Wallace Hall

An evening with Patrick Jordan, former Managing Editor of Commonweal and The Catholic Worker & Martha Hennessy, activist and granddaughter of Dorothy Day

This November, our parish will honor this extraordinary woman with a lecture by the man who knew her and wrote about her, plus remembrances from the granddaughter who is following in her footsteps.

**Ignatian Volunteer Corps**

Information Session
Thursday, November 14th
12:00 PM – 12:45 PM Parish Lounge

IVC is an organization of men and women who are retired from full-time work and want to use their talents to help others. Volunteers commit two days per week to working directly with those who are economically poor and marginalized or with organizations that address issues that affect the poor.

For more information or to confirm your attendance, please contact IVC Regional Director Liz McMahon

**Available at the Parish House:**

Imbued with the Spirit of the Liturgy:
Ten Insights From Vatican II's Constitution on Sacred Liturgy
Cost: $1.00
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 young adults (ages 21-39) are welcome. To receive updates on IYA events and other opportunities, you can follow us on Facebook at “Ignatian Young Adults (NYC).”

IYA Knitting Group
All IYAs are welcome to join us as we craft for charity. If you have questions or would like to be placed on the mailing list, contact Amy at amybalbierz@gmail.com

Praying with Yoga
with Jesuit Scholastic Bobby Karle, S.J.
For Young Adults in their 20s and 30s
Learn how the practice of yoga can deepen your spiritual life and relationship with God, and enrich your Christian faith. Participants should wear comfortable clothing appropriate for yoga. If you have a yoga mat, bring it to the session.

Final Session Tonight
6:00 PM – 7:15 PM in the Parish Lounge
$10 donation requested.
All proceeds will benefit a charitable cause.
For information, email bobbykarle@gmail.com

IGNATIAN 40s
We are the St. Ignatius Loyola ministry for parishioners in their 40s (those in their late 30s and early 50s are also welcome). We organize spiritual, service and social activities, and events that support a deeper understanding of our faith as well as building community and a deeper connection with one another.

Please join us for our upcoming Fall/Winter events:
• Saturday, December 14th – Habitat for Humanity Project
• Christmas Caroling with Boomers & Beyond (date TBD)
• Friday, January 24th – Retreat at Jogues Retreat House, Cornwall, NY

To join our mailing list and learn more about our upcoming events, please email Ignatian40s@gmail.com

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE
About the Education Investment Tax Credit
Did You Know...
...that the Education Investment Tax Credit bill is an opportunity for individual tax payers or businesses to receive a tax credit for donations to nonprofit organizations that provide scholarships for Catholic/private schools?

This initiative would generate greater funding for scholarships to families to help pay private school tuition.

Increased donations to The Children Scholarship Fund, for example, allow more children to receive scholarships.

This credit also would provide funds for public and private school teachers to purchase materials for their classrooms.

For more information, visit www.investined.org

The Role of John the Baptist as the Forerunner of Jesus & Model for Us Today
presented by Rev. Leo J. O’Donovan, S.J.
Wednesday, December 4th
7:00 PM in Wallace Hall
The figures of Isaiah the prophet, Mary the Virgin Mother, and John the Baptist loom large in the Advent Liturgy. This slide lecture will meditate on John as a model for Christian discipleship today, emphasizing his recognition of God’s full saving presence in Jesus and also his sense of his lowliness before it.

Rev. Leo J. O’Donovan, S.J., is President emeritus of Georgetown University and a past president of the Catholic Theological Society of America. He has written art criticism for publications such as America, Commonweal, The Washingtonian, Stimmen der Zeit (Munich), the Los Angeles Times, and the National Catholic Reporter.

To read a letter outlining the background on the legislation, visit our website, stignatiusloyola.org

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Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, November 11th
(St. Martin of Tours)
Wisdom 1:1–7   Psalm 139   Luke 17:1–6
8:30 MEM   Joseph McCormack
12:10 MEM   Valentino Mazzia
5:30 MEM   Frieda Meiert

Tuesday, November 12th
(St. Josaphat)
Wisdom 2:23–3:9   Psalm 34   John 17:7–10
8:30 MEM   John T. Gmelich, M.D.
12:10 MEM   The Meehan Family
5:30 MEM   Domenica Vitarelli

Wednesday, November 13th
(St. Frances Xavier Cabrini & St. Stanislaus Kostka)
8:30 MEM   Giro & Elina Zullo
12:10 MEM   Golden Fitzgerald
5:30 MEM   Yuri Moskovkin

Thursday, November 14th
(St. Joseph Pignatelli)
8:30 MEM   Peter Sailon
12:10 MEM   Mary Trementozzi
5:30 MEM   Living & Deceased Members of the Wallace Family

Friday, November 15th
(32nd Friday in Ordinary Time)
8:30 MEM   Peter Sailon
12:10 MEM   Mary Trementozzi
5:30 MEM   Living & Deceased Members of the Wallace Family

Saturday, November 16th
(St. Roch Gonzalez, St. John del Castillo, & St. Alphonsus Rodriguez)
8:30 MEM   Bob McCooey

Sunday, November 17th
(33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Malachi 3:19–20a   Psalm 98

PRAYER SUGGESTION... Sacred Space
We invite you to make a “Sacred Space” in your day and spend ten minutes in prayer, as you sit at your computer, with the help of on-screen guidance and scripture chosen specially every day.
Visit www.sacredspace.ie

We pray for the faithful departed
Agnes Suarez Galban
May she rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.

Thank you for your generosity now
Please remember us later!
Remember St. Ignatius in your Estate Plan.
Leave a legacy to the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola by including a bequest in your will.
Please contact Fernando Castro, Treasurer, at 212-606-3476, x276 or Castrof@stignatiusloyola.org

Interested in becoming Catholic?
Call 212-288-3588 or email church@stignatiusloyola.org
Thanksgiving Food Drive
to benefit the
New York Common Pantry

NYCP’s Food Pantry Program is New York City’s largest community-based food pantry. Every Wednesday through Sunday NYCP is able to distribute packages to more than 1200 needy families.

Please bring your non-perishable food items to the Parish House through Tuesday, November 19th.

Items most in demand include:
- Canned cranberry sauces
- Rice
- Turkey gravy
- Corn bread mix
- Stuffing mix
- Cake/brownie mix
- Frosting
- Quarts of shelf-stable 1% or skim milk
- 46 oz. unsweetened apple juice (No glass jars please.)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Town Hall Meetings
Today

Parishioners are invited to participate in town hall meetings taking place today in the Grammar School’s McKinnon Hall after the 11:00 AM Masses and again after the 7:30 PM Mass.

The town hall meetings provide a rare opportunity for us to hear the many voices and thoughts of our community.

We encourage every adult parishioner to participate.

The N. P. Mander Organ Recital Series presents

MARY PRESTON
Resident Organist and Principal/Lay Family Chair with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, November 17th at 3:00 PM

Widor Symphonie No. 3: Marcia

Bach Chorale Prelude and Trio on “Alein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr”

Bach Chorale Prelude and Trio on “Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend”

Walther Chorale Prelude on “Lobe den Herren”

Franck Pièce Héroïque

Vierne Naiades (from Pièces de Fantaisie)

Lamontaine Even Song

Gilmant Sonata in D-minor, Op. 42

Tickets: $20 Call 212-288-2520 for 24/7 ticket ordering and customer service.

December at Sacred Music in a Sacred Space

Advent Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 1st at 4:00 PM
Free will offering

This prayer service invites us into the stillness and anticipation of Advent, a foil to the bustling holiday pace throughout the city. The Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola will offer motets centered on the Annunciation.

Later in the month

A Child is Born – Annual Christmas Concerts
Sunday, December 15th at 3:00 PM & Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 PM

A Chanticleer Christmas in New York
Sunday, December 8th at 4:00 PM & Monday, December 9th at 7:00 PM
Tickets (General): $60 (December 9th only)

A Chanticleer Christmas celebrates the mystery and wonder of Christmas with an elegant blend of traditional carols, medieval and Renaissance sacred works, and new holiday gems.

General tickets are available online at www.smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520 (24/7 ordering and customer service).

SVDP Christmas Angel Project

Begins next weekend, November 16th-17th!

It has become a tradition at St. Ignatius for our parishioners to purchase Christmas gifts for parishioners in low-income parishes.

Beginning next weekend, participants will be able to select up to five Angel cards from one of the tables that will be placed in the Narthex and Wallace Hall. Cards will also be available at the Parish House while the supply lasts.

Gifts must be returned to the Parish House no later than Sunday, December 8th.

Thank you for remembering those in need during the holiday season.

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To Be a Pilgrim: A Geography of Faith for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Wednesday, November 13th, 6:00 PM. An encore presentation will be delivered on Thursday, November 14th, 6:00 PM. Fordham University, E. Gerald Corrigan Conference Center, 113 West 60th Street (November 13th) and Rose Hill Campus, Walsh Library, Flom Auditorium (November 14th). Presented by Rev. Patrick J. Ryan, S.J., Professor of Religion and Society. Followed by responses from Professor Alan Mintz, Ph.D., Jewish Theological Seminary and Professor Jerusha Tanner Lamptey, Ph.D., Union Theological Seminary. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call 718-817-4745 or email mcgchair@fordham.edu.

Corpus Christi Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society presents “Love Called Me Out Of Darkness”: Annual Retreat/Day of Recollection. Saturday, November 16th, 9:30 AM. A celebration of the 75th anniversary of Thomas Merton’s baptism at Corpus Christi Church. Retreat Leaders: Jonathan Montaldo, Sr. Suzanne Zuercher, O.S.B., Fr. James Conner, OCSO. Corpus Christi Church, 529 West 121st Street. Donation: $25. A light lunch will be provided. Register by Thursday, November 14th: 212-666-9350.

HealthCare Chaplaincy and the Future of Health Care. Wednesday, November 20th, 8:30 AM. 65 Broadway, 12th Floor. Presented by the HealthCare Chaplaincy. This free event showcases some of the elements of HealthCare Chaplaincy’s clinical practice, education, and research endeavors into multi-faith spirituality in palliative care. To RSVP, contact Michelle Nicholas at mnicholas@healthcarechaplaincy.org or 212-644-1111 x135.

Resume Clinic. Friday, November 22nd. Free private sessions will be held at St. Francis House, 135 West 31st Street, to assist unemployed individuals, as well as others facing possible layoffs, or career transitions. Volunteers will be available to assist in updating/editing resumes. Call 212-736-8500, x357 for an individual appointment. Participants should email a rough draft to resume@stfrancisny.org Because of the preparation work that is necessary, no walk-ins can be accepted.

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<td>Pastor</td>
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<td>Rev. George M. Witt, S.J.</td>
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<td>Associate Pastors</td>
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<td>Rev. William J. Bergen, S.J.</td>
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<td>Rev. Thomas H. Feely, S.J.</td>
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<td>Rev. Ugo R. Nacciarone, S.J.</td>
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<td>Pastoral Associates</td>
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<td>Joanne Cunneen</td>
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<td>Kathryn King, F.S.P.</td>
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<td>Calling Priests (Sunday)</td>
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<td>Rev. Philip G. Judge, S.J.</td>
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<td>Rev. James Martin, S.J.</td>
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<td>Rev. Anthony P. SooHoo, S.J.</td>
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<td>Music Ministries</td>
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<td>Scott Warren, Director</td>
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<td>Nancianne Parrella</td>
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<td>Philip Anderson</td>
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<td>Sarah Murphy, Administrator</td>
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<td>Staff information: on the website at music/music staff</td>
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<td>Assistant to the Pastor</td>
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<td>Diane M. Boyle</td>
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<td>Patricia Schneider</td>
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<td>Director of Facilities</td>
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<td>Czeslaw “Chester” Ciupinski</td>
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<td>Caroline Fernandes</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Fernando Castro</td>
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Religious Education for Children
Joanne Cunneen, M.A., M.S. Director
(212) 861-4764

St. Ignatius Loyola Grammar School
Ms. Mary Larkin, Principal
M.S. Ed. (Admin.), M.S. Ed. (Literacy)
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.

Centering Prayer:
Mondays 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 the hours of 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

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. Ugo
9:30 AM Fr. Bergen
Wallace Hall 11:00 AM Fr. Judge
Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Witt
7:30 PM Fr. Witt

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