The Importance of Religious Education

When considering the meaning of religious education, we must first consider our understanding of the human person. Knowing that we are made in the image and likeness of God/imago Dei (Genesis 1:27) we may begin with what Bernard Lonergan, S.J., the Canadian Jesuit philosopher and theologian, coins “realistic optimism.” That is, acknowledging that we are sinful and fallen, yet redeemed and capable of great good through God’s grace.

The term ‘religious education’ is a term that could be applied to any and all education in religion, but this does not mean that religious education is an education in generalist terms.

We think of catechesis and religious education as being “symbiotically related,” as the Irish born religious educator and theologian, Thomas H. Groome describes it, and not as disparate practices with unrelated languages. My understanding of religious education encompasses this symbiotic relationship.

My understanding is also influenced by the Catholic philosophies of education. Catholic education’s core conviction is that education is of great value and the education of the whole person is very important. My understanding also takes into account that we live in an increasingly multicultural and religiously pluralistic world. On a daily basis, we may interact with people who hold a diverse range of philosophical and religious convictions. This is why I firmly believe we must authentically engage and dialogue with other religious traditions.

As I mentioned in a previous bulletin, religious education should encompass the whole life span of the human person. We need, therefore, to direct faith education in such a way that we are preparing life-long learners and seekers.

Education should always be humanizing. As a religious educator, I must constantly strive to embody my convictions, so that I may be an agent for change in the lives of God’s people rather than an obstacle to God’s grace and love.

For an adequate understanding of religious education, the personal and social development of our children and adolescents must also be taken into account. The relationship between family, school, parish, and other forms of religious education should be enforced and encouraged as much as possible. God’s ongoing presence within the human community should play an important role in the shaping of our educational praxis.

All of this must be set against an acknowledgement of activity of supernatural wisdom and the divine initiative. We need to engage our children’s hearts and minds. We must appeal to their religious imagination so that we consciously foster God’s initiative in them. We must foster their God-given gifts and talents so that they may be used in the service of God and the needs of our sisters and brothers. We must foster their commitment to make a difference in the broader world.

When we provide our children and adolescents with an adequate religious education, we provide them with a road map for navigating the world in a manner that recognizes that all of life has a religious dimension. We must also encourage our children and adolescents to make a conscious decision to belong to our faith community and to enter deeply its rituals and traditions. It is so important that we connect our vision of religious education to the surrounding visions of education, so as to further integrate being “in” the world while not being “of” it.

Religious education can present unique opportunities to become immersed in a language and a symbol system that is often excluded from the many other educational opportunities on offer to our children and adolescents. I greatly encourage you to help foster the religious education of your children, sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews and god-children. You will be providing them with a precious gift that they will have for life.

— Carly-Anne Gannon
Director of Religious Education
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SVdP Thanksgiving Food Drive continues through Monday, November 17th. Details on page 5.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9th
Sunday Social. 8:30 PM. Wallace Hall. Hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults. Follows the 7:30 PM Mass. Details on page 3.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12th
Job Transition Support Group. 10:00 AM. Parish Lounge. Details on page 3.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE
Begins Sunday, November 23rd!
SVdP is sponsoring a toy drive to benefit the children of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish on Staten Island.
From Sunday, November 23rd through Monday, December 15th, please bring new, unwrapped toys or games for boys and girls between the ages of 6–12 to the Parish House. Thank you for your generosity!

PRAYER RESOURCES
Pray as You Go
http://www.pray-as-you-go.org
Pray as You Go is a daily prayer session designed for use on your iPod or other portable MP3 player.

3-Minute Retreats
http://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm
Take a short prayer break right at your computer. Spend some time reflecting on a Scripture passage.

WALLACE HALL AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL
The space is available for a variety of events including fundraisers, lectures, receptions, and formal banquet-style dinners.
For more information, contact Caroline Fernandes at 212-288-3588 or fernandesc@saintignatiusloyola.org

For your convenience...
To reach the Giving page on the parish website, scan the QR Code at left with your smartphone’s camera.

November is Jesuit Vocation Month
Please also join us in praying for all of the saints and blessed of the Society of Jesus.

Missed Getting a Pin During Commissioning Weekend?
Please stop by the Parish House to receive one.

IGNATIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE

Fair Trade Handcraft Sale
November 15th & 16th
Wallace Hall
After all Masses (except the Sunday 7:30 PM Mass)

Featuring handmade products from Africa, Asia, & Latin America:
- Toys
- Home Decor
- Pottery
- Religious Items
- Bags & Purses
- Indigenous Art
- Cards & Gifts

Representatives of HandCrafting Justice, a Fair Trade economic justice project of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, will be selling handicrafts made by women in 20 countries throughout the developing world.

Prayer for Life on Death Row:
A Cities for Life Memorial Prayer Service
Monday, November 17th at 7:00 PM
Church
Sponsored by Ignatian Social Justice, in conjunction with the Community of Sant’Egidio

For more information, email ignatiansocialjustice@gmail.com or the Community of Sant’Egidio at santegidiousa@gmail.com

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

PLEASE OPEN FOR PAGES 3 AND 4
**Sunday Socials Fall/Winter 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).”

**Sunday Social Dates:**
- Nov. 9 & 30
- Dec. 14
- Jan. 11
- Feb. 8 & 22

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**December at Sacred Music in a Sacred Space**

**Advent Lessons and Carols**

*Sunday, November 30th at 3:00 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.

**A Chanticleer Christmas**

*Friday, December 5th at 7:00 PM & Sunday, December 7th at 4:00 PM*

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.

Called “the world’s reigning male chorus” by The New Yorker magazine, Chanticleer is known around the world for the seamless blend of its twelve male voices and its original interpretations of vocal literature.

**Heavenly Light: Annual Christmas Concerts**

*Sunday, December 14th at 3:00 PM & Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 PM*

Centering on excerpts from J.S. Bach’s *Christmas Oratorio*, our ever-popular Christmas concerts will offer you and your family the inspiring warmth and joy of the season. Includes well-known carols for all to sing. Featuing the Combined Choirs & Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola

Tickets are available online at [www.smssconcerts.org](http://www.smssconcerts.org) or by calling 212-288-2520 for 24/7 ordering.

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**Job Transition Support Group**

*Wednesday, November 12th at 10:00 AM in the Parish Lounge*

Bringing together a group of experienced professionals looking to secure employment, we hope to help one another in the job search process. Please bring your resume.

*For more information, contact John Holewa at jfholewa@gmail.com or Christian Nolan at ctnolan59@gmail.com*

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**New Parishioners:** We welcome new parishioners and invite you to fill out a Parishioner Registration Card located in the pew racks, at the Parish House, and online at [stignatiusloyola.org](http://stignatiusloyola.org)

Registration is our only means of certifying membership in the Parish.
Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, November 10th
(St. Leo the Great)
8:30 MEM   Teresa Costello
12:10 MEM   Valentino Mazzia
5:30 MEM   Florence Craffey

Tuesday, November 11th
(St. Martin of Tours)
8:30 MEM   Mary Gugliano
12:10 MEM   Joseph Teresi
5:30 MEM   Gloria Bodziak

Wednesday, November 12th
(St. Josaphat)
8:30 MEM   Giro & Elina Zullo
12:10 MEM   Greg Curran
5:30 MEM   Roman Putyra

Thursday, November 13th
(St. Frances Xavier Cabrini)
Philemon 7–20   Psalm 146   Luke 17:20–25
8:30 MEM   Josephine Engelbrith
12:10 MEM   Golden Fitzgerald
5:30 MEM   Sheila Joyce

Friday, November 14th
(St. Joseph Pignatelli)
8:30 MEM   Josephine Engelbrith
12:10 MEM   Joan Fitzpatrick
5:30 MEM   Josephine Engelbrith

Saturday, November 15th
(Thirty-second Saturday in Ordinary Time)
8:30 MEM   Jack O’Leary

Sunday, November 16th
(Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31   Psalm 128
1 Thessalonians 5:1–6   Matthew 25:14–30
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 which meets the needs of its families by providing nutritiously balanced food.

Please bring your non-perishable food items to the Parish House through Monday, November 17th.

Items most in demand include:
- stuffing mix, rice, and turkey gravy
  (No glass jars please.)

Annual Turkey Drive

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul invites you to participate in its annual Turkey Drive to support the New York Common Pantry. A donation of $30 will help the Common Pantry provide a full Thanksgiving meal to a family in need.

Please bring checks to the Parish House by Tuesday, November 18th and make them payable to: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Please note Turkey Drive in the memo section)

Thank you for your generosity!

SVDP Christmas Angel Project

Begins the weekend of November 15th–16th!

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

Beginning the weekend of November 15th and 16th, SVdP invites parishioners to select and register up to five Angel cards from the Christmas trees in the Narthex and Wallace Hall. Cards will also be available in the Parish House for pickup while the supply lasts.

Wrapped gifts must be returned to the Parish House no later than Sunday, December 7th.

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

ANNUAL APPEAL

The Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2014 is now available. It details the parish’s spiritual and financial highlights of the past year.

Thankfully, our ministries are flourishing and there are many opportunities for service and spiritual growth.

In order to fund the current level of service and programming, we rely heavily on the Annual Appeal, which is now underway. We ask that you please be generous.

To electronically access the Annual Report and a letter from Father Witt about the Annual Appeal, scan the QR code at left or visit our website at www.saintignatiusloyola.org

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Longing for the Prince of Peace, While Facing the Horrors of War

An art-slide lecture presented by Rev. Leo J. O’Donovan, S.J.

Thursday, December 4th 7:00 PM in Wallace Hall

This lecture will reflect on how 20th century artists protested war in the bloodiest of all centuries and prepared us imaginatively to hear the repeated calls for peace by all the recent popes: John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and now Francis. The images will try to help us realize more concretely what peace requires.

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.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
Lecture: What Is Wisdom?: The John C. and Jeanette D. Walton Lecture in Science, Philosophy, and Religion. Presented by Stephen Grimm, Ph.D. Wednesday, November 12, 6:30 PM. Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus, E. Gerald Corrigan Conference Center, 113 West 60th Street. Professor Grimm discusses what it is that the wise person knows and also why contemporary philosophers have had so little to say about wisdom, in contrast to their ancient and medieval predecessors. The lecture is free and open to the public. Reception to follow. For more information, contact Office of Special Events at 212-636-6575, email rsvp@fordham.edu or visit fordham.edu/walton

Lecture: Preaching to the Choir or Reaching for the "Nones"?: Pope Francis, Worship, and Engagement with Disaffiliated Catholics. Presented by Edward Foley, Capuchin, Professor, Chicago Theological Seminary. November 17th, 6:00 PM. Fordham University, Rose Hill Campus, Tognini Hall, Duane Library. Can Catholic worship respectfully and effectively address those who are "Religious Nones"? This lecture looks to how Pope Francis’ vision of the church’s engagement with contemporary culture can indeed foster such a new moment in the relationship and ritualizing between the Catholic Church and those who have "opted out" of religion. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jodi Hunt at 718-817-5966 or events@fordham.edu

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

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<th>PARISH STAFF</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pastor</strong></td>
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<td>Rev. George M. Witt, S.J.</td>
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<td><strong>Associate Pastors</strong></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. Michael P. Hilbert, S.J.</td>
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<td><strong>Pastoral Associates</strong></td>
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<td>Joanne Cunneen</td>
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<td>Carly-Anne Gannon</td>
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<td>Kathryn King, F.S.P.</td>
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<td><strong>Assisting Priests (Sunday)</strong></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><strong>Music Ministries</strong></td>
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<td>Scott Warren, Director</td>
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<td>Nancianne Parrella</td>
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<td>Michael Sheetz</td>
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<td>Maureen Haley</td>
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<td>Philip Anderson</td>
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<td>Sara Murphy, Administrator</td>
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<td>Staff information: on the website at music/music staff</td>
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<td><strong>Assistant to the Pastor</strong></td>
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<td>Diane M. Boyle</td>
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<td><strong>Administrative Assistant</strong></td>
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<td>Patricia Schneider</td>
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<td><strong>Communications Coordinator</strong></td>
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<td>Elizabeth O’Sullivan</td>
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<td><strong>Director of Facilities</strong></td>
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<td>Czeslaw “Chester” Ciupinski</td>
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<td><strong>Asst. to the Director of Facilities</strong></td>
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<td>Caroline Fernandez</td>
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<td><strong>Treasurer</strong></td>
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<td>Fernando Castro</td>
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| Religious Education for Children |
| Ms. Carly-Anne Gannon, M.Phil., M.Ed. 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 (212-288-3588 x632) 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 (212-288-3588 x632) 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.