We were walking in the woods on a bright day, wearing jumpsuits, gloves, and hardhats, when our guide suddenly pointed to the ground. “There it is.” I looked down and saw nothing. I looked again and saw only a crevice, a slight break in the gray-green rock and moss landscape. Surely the guide must be kidding; he could not ask us to enter a place that did not exist. I looked a third time and there it was: a dark abyss. A dozen teenagers watched my face, waiting for a signal, scanning for confirmation: Was this it, the cave?

Reading Henri Nouwen’s *Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life* summoned this memory of a destination I could not see. In the foreword, Robert Jonas hails Nouwen as a “genius in the art of spiritual spelunking as he explored the cave of the heart.” Jonas extends this metaphor by depicting Nouwen wearing the Holy Spirit in the form of headlamp. Nouwen expresses a central mystery of existence as the paradox that “the Lord, who is the creator of the universe, comes to us in smallness, weakness, and hiddenness.” The mystery that morning was an urgent, practical question: Could I really contort myself into that small, hidden space? If so, what could possibly be gained from doing so?

This was, indeed, the cave. The decision to chaperone the caving outing was made days before, so it was too late to do anything but embrace the terrifying fact that I would go into that hole, convincing and encouraging others to do so by example. I took a deep breath, switched on my headlamp, and descended into the earth. The darkness obscured my fear, but withheld answers.

“The most interesting things in life often remain invisible to our ordinary senses, yet are visible to our spiritual perception,” Nouwen writes. How can we direct our attention to such moments? As New Yorkers, we are experts in dodging distractions, sometimes considering the city an obstacle to leading a contemplative life. It’s true that the most visible signs don’t seem to lead to God, but that’s only if we’re being literal about what it means to see. Advertisements permeate the city. If we stopped to look at everything, we would hardly move. However, if we’re motivated, we can move deftly through throngs of people, making space where there was none.

Our instincts as city dwellers can teach us about observing the Lord’s presence. Maximizing efficiency propels our way of seeing; we have honed a capacity for distillation. It is not the brightest or biggest signs that intrepid, focused sidewalk navigators read; they perceive small, unmarked spaces amidst the bustle. They look for absence, so as to make a way. Consider how you got to Mass today; you may realize that you, too, already see the outlines of emptiness.

Dirt pressed in from all sides as I crawled through the sliver of darkness. So did the bodies of the girls in front and behind me. After traversing a tunnel prone, we reached an opening where we could sit upright. In the company of a multitude of bats, we turned off our headlamps. In a few minutes, we could see in complete darkness. Coming back to the surface, I snapped a photograph of forest. From inside the cave’s mouth, the stark white bark of slender tree trunks dominates the frame.

My conviction that the caving guide would not ask us to do the impossible proved accurate. Indeed, but what that meant was that my perception of what was possible was incomplete. As Nouwen warns, “we can become very knowledgeable about spiritual matters without becoming very spiritual people.” It is easy to confuse accumulation with progress, knowledge with wisdom, segregation with community. We can acquire information, disconnect from others, and curate our experiences, fueling the gap between our spiritual knowledge and our spiritual selves.

On Saturday, September 17, Lay Ministers Enrichment (LME) is offering a reflection on discernment—*Discernment and Decisions in an Age of Distraction*—by Fr. Sam Sawyer, S.J., a weekend assistant priest at our parish from America Media’s staff. LME is not a ministry dedicated to a specific age demographic, requiring a specific skill set, or focusing on a single interest. LME aims to nurture and deepen the faith life of all parishioners, through the lens of examining our lives and unique gifts as ministers. While LME is a meta-ministry—ministry for those who minister—we invite everyone to participate, regardless of whether you serve in a formal role.

— Cynthia-Marie Marmo O’Brien
Parishioner & Lay Ministers’ Enrichment Committee Member

See page 5 for details about Fr. Sam Sawyer’s upcoming LME presentation.
TODAY
11:00 AM Wallace Hall Family Mass.
Will include prayers and blessings for students and teachers as the school year begins.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th
Ranger Rosary Ministry.
7:00 PM. Meeting Room. Details on page 3.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th
Ignatian Social Justice.
7:00 PM. Conference Room.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th
Lay Ministers’ Enrichment:
Discernment and Decisions in an Age of Distraction. Led by Fr. Sam Sawyer, S.J.
9:30 AM. Wallace Hall. Details on page 5.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

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 that will begin in the Fall.

A group will meet 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, which is called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is also open to those Catholic adults who have not received the Sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation.

For more information, contact Maureen Fullam at 212-288-3588 or email church@saintignatiusloyola.org

PRAYER RESOURCES
Pray as You Go
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
www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm
Take a short prayer break right at your computer. Spend some quiet time reflecting on a Scripture passage.

IGNITE! TEEN MINISTRY
Saturday, September 24th
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM in the Parish Lounge
Teens 13–19 years old are welcome!

IGNITE! offers a forum through which high school students and their families may find a deeper relationship with God and each other.

Registration for each session is encouraged but not required.

For more information and/or to register, email Teresa Cariño at carinot@saintignatiusloyola.org

EMMAUS BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP
A six-session support group for those who have experienced the death of a loved one will begin on Tuesday evening, October 4th, in the Parish Lounge, from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM.

The sessions, both educational and supportive, are run by experienced facilitators.

For information and/or to register, please email EmmausBereavementGroup@gmail.com or leave your name and phone number at the Parish House.

Registration is required.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF 8TH GRADERS!
The TACHS (Test for Admission into Catholic High Schools) will be administered in the Archdiocese of New York on Friday, November 4th.

Online registration is available 7 days a week by going to the website www.tachsinfo.com or by calling 1-866-618-2247.

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

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

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

PLEASE OPEN FOR PAGES 3 AND 4
**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

**Annual Friends of the Poor Walk**

**Saturday, September 24th**

Join us as we walk 2.6 miles from the steps of St. Patrick’s Cathedral to The Church of Saint Gregory the Great, 144 West 90th (between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues).

This fundraising event helps support our St. Lawrence O’Toole Conference (at St. Ignatius Loyola) serving those in need, with 100% of all funds raised remaining within our Conference. We are ready to set this year’s walk on fire with our strong legs and generous hearts!

Help us reach our Team Goal of getting 150 Walkers for our Team, and raising a total dollar amount of $10,000.

For more information, please email svdpmembership980@gmail.com

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**BOOMERS & BEYOND**

Join other 50+
Catholics for

BOOMERS & BEYOND
AT THE MET

**Saturday, October 1st at 5:00 PM**

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Come join us for this first event of the new season—a private tour of the exhibit Jerusalem 1000–4000: Every People Under Heaven, which is the first exhibit to unravel the various cultural traditions and aesthetic strands that enriched and enlivened the medieval city.

After the tour, enjoy a cocktail, conversation, and the spectacular view at sunset at The Roof Garden (cash bar).

Meet at 4:30 PM by the “Group Tickets Desk” inside the Great Hall (on the left).

Cost: $25 (Pre-paid reservations only)
Send check to: Boomers & Beyond, c/o St. Ignatius Loyola 980 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10028

Checks must be received by Monday, September 26th.

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**FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE**

Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious, or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sr. Eileen Clifford, O.P., at 212-371-1000 x2949, or Deacon George J. Coppola at 917-861-1762. Both may also be reached via email at victimassistance@archny.org

Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, www.archny.org

In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

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**RANGER ROSARY MINISTRY**

**Monday, September 12th**

7:00 PM in the Meeting Room

The Ranger Rosary ministry, which started at St. Ignatius in August 2009, meets twice a month to make rosaries for Catholics who are serving in the armed services. These combat rosaries are constructed from materials with no metal parts that might reflect light or make a rattling noise.

New members are always welcome!

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY NOW PLEASE REMEMBER US LATER!**

Remember St. Ignatius in Your Estate Plan.

Over the years, it has been the gifts left to the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in wills, bequests, and memorials that have helped us to continue to operate: as a place of worship, as a place to protect and teach our children, and as a caring and generous parish where area residents may come for spiritual guidance.

If you would like information about planned giving, contact Fernando Castro, Treasurer, or visit our website at www.stignatiusloyola.org
**Announced Masses and Readings for the Week**

**Monday, September 12th**  
*(Twenty-fourth Monday in Ordinary Time)*  
1 Corinthians 11:17–26, 33    Psalm 40    Luke 7:1–10  
8:30 MEM Dorothy Casey  
12:10 MEM Arline Furrer  
5:30 MEM Joseph Sullivan, Sr.

**Tuesday, September 13th**  
*(St. John Chrysostom)*  
1 Corinthians 12:12–14, 27–31a    Psalm 100    Luke 7:11–17  
8:30 MEM Olga M. Davenport  
12:10 MEM William Kelleher  
5:30 MEM Joan A. Demurjian

**Wednesday, September 14th**  
*(The Exaltation of the Holy Cross)*  
Numbers 21:4b–9          Psalm 78  
Philippians 2:6–11         John 3:13–17  
8:30 MEM Paul Choix  
12:10 MEM Pasquale (Pat) Tarallo  
5:30 MEM Thomas F. McEvily, Jr.

**Thursday, September 15th**  
*(Our Lady of Sorrows)*  
1 Corinthians 15:1–11    Psalm 118    John 19:25–27  
8:30 MEM Kelly Gillebaard  
12:10 MEM Marie Bishko  
5:30 MEM Jack O’Leary

**Friday, September 16th**  
*(SS. Cornelius & Cyprian)*  
1 Corinthians 15:12–20    Psalm 17    Luke 8:1–3  
8:30 MEM Thomas O’Grady  
12:10 MEM Judith Moser  
5:30 MEM Shane O’Reilly

**Saturday, September 17th**  
*(St. Robert Bellarmine)*  
1 Corinthians 15:35–37, 42–49    Psalm 56    Luke 8:4–15  
8:30 MEM Rose M. Hurley

**Sunday, September 18th**  
*(Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time)*  
Amos 8:4-7                  Psalm 113  

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**The Communion Rite of the Mass**

The Prayer After Communion is the natural conclusion of the Communion Rite. The presider leads us in thanksgiving for the gifts we have received and in petition that the same gifts will transform and empower us to live in deeper union with each other and with the Lord.

To read the parish announcements before the Prayer After Communion, as has been our custom, disrupts the flow of the Communion Rite and displaces the announcements from their proper position as part of the dismissal.

Starting this weekend, we will return to the practice of praying the Prayer After Communion before the lector reads the announcements. We will remain standing for the announcements unless, in view of their length, the presider or lector invites us to be seated.

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**Pope Francis’ September Prayer Intentions**

**Universal:**

Centrality of the Human Person

That each may contribute to the common good and to the building of a society that places the human person at the center.

**Evangelization: Mission to Evangelize**

That by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelize.

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**Ready to try a 500-year-old workout regimen with proven results?**

The Jesuit Collaborative invites you to share the gift of Ignatian spirituality and the opportunity to meet interesting people who are ready to further develop their spiritual lives.

Please visit us at www.jesuitcollaborative.org

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**The 7th Annual Friends of the Jesuits Golf Outing**

**Tuesday, September 27th**  
**Quaker Ridge Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY**

Individual golfer: $1250  
Contact Debra Ryan at the USA Northeast Jesuit Office: 212-774-5544.

For raffle tickets, registration, and information on sponsorships and journal ads, visit www.jesuitseast.org/golf2016
**Lecture**

*With Refugees on the Way of the Cross*

An art-slide lecture presented by

**Rev. Leo J. O’Donovan, S.J.**

Wednesday, September 21st, 7:00 PM in Wallace Hall

Presented in conjunction with the United Nations Summit on Refugees and President Obama's Leadership Summit on Refugees, this lecture will be a revised and expanded version of Fr. O'Donovan's Lenten art slide presentation, with a soundtrack, new images, and commentary regarding recent developments in the refugee crisis.

*Rev. Leo J. O’Donovan, S.J.*, is President emeritus of Georgetown University and Director of Mission for the Jesuit Refugee Service. He has written art criticism for publications such as *America, Commonweal, The Washingtonian,* and the *National Catholic Reporter.*

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**MUSIC**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH**

**11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS**

Installation of Dennis J. Yesalonia, S.J. as Pastor

**Elgar**  *Sonata for Organ, Op. 28: III. Andante espressivo*

**Palestrina**  *Sacerdotes Domini*

**Howells**  *Te Deum (from Collegium Regale)*

**Mendelssohn**  *Sonata No. IV, Op. 65: IV. Allegro maestoso*

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**Choral Elements: Earth, Air, Fire and Water**

Wednesday, September 28th, 7:00 PM

The four elements—earth, air, fire and water—portrayed in lush pieces for choir, harp and string quartet by W.A. Mozart, Gustav Holst, Frank Ferko, Frank Ticheli, John Kennedy, and others. Includes a New York premiere by composer Julia Adolphe and poet Nahal Navidar.

**Tickets:** $25–$80

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**Philippine Madrigal Singers**

Thursday, October 13th, 7:00 PM

Under the direction of Mark Anthony Carpio, the Philippine Madrigal Singers are UNESCO Artists for Peace, “putting fame and influence at the service of UNESCO’s ideals and efforts to promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace.”

The Madz is one of the most awarded choral groups in the world, having consistently won all top prizes in major choral competitions.

The group has a virtuosic repertoire range while continuing to promote Filipino choral works. The group sings in a distinctive seated semicircle without a conductor.

**Tickets:** $35–$80

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**Jesuits in the Americas: Zipoli and His World**

Friday, October 28th, 7:00pm

Celebrating St. Ignatius Loyola’s 150th anniversary as a Jesuit parish, this concert centers on the music of 18th-century Jesuit composer Domenico Zipoli and his contemporaries in the missions of Bolivia and Paraguay.

**Tickets:** $35–$80

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

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**LAY MINISTERS’ ENRICHMENT**

**Registrations now being accepted!**

**Discernment and Decisions in an Age of Distraction**

with

**FR. SAM SAWYER, S.J.**

Associate Editor, America Media & Weekend Assisting Priest, Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

Saturday, September 17th, 9:30 AM–3:30 PM

Wallace Hall

Discernment is the practice of inviting the Holy Spirit into our decision-making. How do we tell when we truly need to discern versus simply deciding? How do we prepare ourselves to discern, especially when we feel distracted or pressured to decide?

This workshop on the practice of discernment, led by Father Sam Sawyer, S.J., will help us answer these questions and reflect on our experience of God’s presence when we faced difficult or confusing options.

*All parishioners are invited to attend.*

To register, visit now [http://tinyurl.com/fall2016LME](http://tinyurl.com/fall2016LME)
Music Information: (212) 288-2520   Email: music@stignatiusloyola.org