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*Summer 2015*

## **Revisions to Bridges Foundation Website**

**[www.bridgesfoundation.org](http://www.bridgesfoundation.org)**

The Bridges Foundation is in the process of re-doing its website. The website serves as a central, accessible source of information on all things related to Bridges. It is some work to keep it fresh, meaningful, informative, and up-to-date, but there are those working in Bridges to do so in order that you will have a resource for what you need to interact with Bridges.

The new website is being designed with some revisions and was recently approved by the Bridges board. A series of summer information sessions related to the Bridges Retreat is scheduled to begin on July 8 and if all goes according to plan, the revised website will be running before the Summer Information Sessions begin.

Earlier this year, the Bridges Marketing Committee decided it would be good to update the website and make it even more interactive for the Bridges programs. The goal is to provide all the information necessary for the Bridges Retreat as well as the Magis Program and Ignatian Community Retreat. In addition, the intent is for people to be able to register online for these programs and also have the ability to make donations, read the newsletter, and learn more about the purpose of the Bridges Foundation.

Bridges decided to have HopeWorks develop the site. HopeWorks is an organization run by Fr. Jeff Puthoff, a Jesuit who formerly taught in St. Louis. Fifteen years ago, Fr. Jeff developed a program for young men and women in Camden, NJ where they would receive training in order to develop websites for businesses and non-profit organizations. The program's goal is to help young people get back in school and sustain a safe pathway to their future. (There is more on HopeWorks at [www.hopeworks.org](http://www.hopeworks.org).) Recently it was announced that Fr. Jeff would be leaving HopeWorks. It was decided that now would be the right time to create a new logo and brochure for the Bridges Retreat. Amy Fister, owner of local advertising agency Fister, Inc. and a longtime supporter of Bridges, once again donated her time and talent to create the logo and brochure. We are so grateful for her continued commitment to the Bridges Foundation. The cost of the revisions to the website represented a considerable expense to Bridges, but fortunately over half of that expense was donated by a very generous contributor to the Bridges Foundation.

Plans call for the revised website to go online in mid-to-late June. It will give people the option to register for the Bridges Retreat and Magis programs online and pay with a credit card if they wish. If you are looking for information about the Bridges Retreat, the Magis Program, the Ignatian Community Retreat, or anything else related to Bridges, please visit the website: [www.bridgesfoundation.org](http://www.bridgesfoundation.org).

**Pierre-Jean De Smet, S.J.  
(1801–1873)**

Pierre-Jean De Smet, S.J. (1801–1873), also known as Pieter-Jan De Smet, was a Jesuit priest from Belgium who did missionary work with the North American Indians in the Midwestern United States and Western United States in the Nineteenth Century.

Pierre-Jean was born in Dendermonde, Belgium on January 30, 1801. In 1821 he travelled to the United States with the desire to do missionary work. He entered the Jesuit novitiate at Whitmarsh, Maryland and in 1823 he left for a new mission that the Jesuits were establishing in Florissant, Missouri for the purpose of working with American Indians. Ordained in 1827, he became one of the founders of the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus.



Pierre-Jean De Smet, S.J.

In 1838 he left on a missionary tour to meet with Native American Indians, and established St. Joseph's Mission in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Among other things during this time period, he arranged a peace treaty between the Sioux and the Pottawatomi Indian tribes. As early as the 1830's some Rocky Mountain Indians had travelled to St. Louis in an unsuccessful attempt to get "black-robos" to come to live and work in their communities. Three such delegations later, a group of Iroquois was successful in their attempt, and the black-robe who was assigned to help them was Fr. De Smet. He was very pleased to handle such an assignment and in short order came to the realization that he had found his life's work.

He headed to the Rocky Mountains in 1840, meeting with various Indian groups along the way. Before departing to return to St. Louis, he promised to return to build them a mission. He did so, embarking on an expedition in 1845-1846 and founding the St. Mary's Mission on the Bitterroot River, not far from present-day Missoula, Montana. He continued his travels meeting with various Indian groups throughout the West, and founding the St. Ignatius Mission on Clark's Fork of the Columbia River, which was later moved to present-day Lake County, Montana.

Some of the Indian groups had trouble getting along with each other, and the Blackfeet in particular were troublesome to just about all of them. Fr. De Smet made it his business to talk with the Blackfeet, come to an understanding of their problems, and settle their disputes. He started a mission there too, leaving his associate Fr. Nicholas Point to handle the affairs of the Blackfeet.

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## **Pierre-Jean De Smet, S.J.**

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After a period of three-and-a half years Pierre-Jean De Smet returned to St. Louis and another career change. His Jesuit superiors told him that his work with the Indians was finished, and assigned him to work at St. Louis University. He had spent a great deal of time with many different Indian groups, sometimes in hazardous situations, and had written a great deal about his travels in the West. These writings were well-known and well-regarded worldwide. He had become a leading expert on the Indian culture, as well as a peace-maker, which caught the attention of the United States Government. He served as an emissary to European nations regarding Indian affairs. When hostilities arose between various Indian groups in Oregon and California, a gathering of 10,000 convened in the Creek Valley near Fort Laramie. Fr. De Smet was sent by the U.S. Government to serve in a role of keeping their peace, and he was so well-known and respected and admired by all that he was able to help to defuse a lot of the tension.

There were problems resulting from more and more whites moving to the West, and many of the Indian tribes learned through experience to distrust and despise them, mostly as a result of the whites' cruelty and disloyalty. By 1868 Pierre-Jean was experiencing some health problems, and returned once again to St. Louis. In 1868 there were hostilities between the Sioux and the whites, there had been murders and atrocities and it seemed that the only representative of the whites that the Sioux could trust was Fr. De Smet. That year he negotiated a Peace Treaty that was agreed upon by all the major Indian chiefs, and

persuaded Sitting Bull to accept the Treaty of Fort Laramie. De Smet had come through once again. He travelled back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean nineteen times, finding resources, workers, funding and more than a few Sisters of Notre-Dame de Namur to provide much needed aid. He visited kings, popes, presidents, and it is estimated that he travelled more than 180,000 miles in his time.

De Smet was an adept map-maker, charting the upper Missouri River and other areas, as well as a prolific writer. He was appalled at the devastation and severe family problems caused by alcohol to many different Indian tribes, yet maintained a positive, almost cheerful attitude despite the obstacles he faced. His writings are a valued resource to anyone studying the Indians of the Western United States in the Nineteenth Century.



Fr. De Smet died on May 23, 1873 in St. Louis, at age 72. He is buried at Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis. De Smet's writings are maintained at the Jesuit Archives - De Smetiana series in St. Louis, as well as the Pierre-Jean De Smet Papers at the Washington State University Archives in Pullman, Washington. Towns have been named for him in Idaho, South Dakota and Montana. De Smet Range and Roche de Smet can be found in Canada and Lake De Smet in Wyoming. De Smet Jesuit High School is in Creve Coeur, Missouri.

## Magis Begins on September 19

Bridges will once again sponsor its Magis program for those who have completed the Spiritual Exercises in a directed retreat, and desire to continue exploring topics related to the Exercises. A series of seven sessions lasting 2-3/4 hours begins on September 19, 2015, continuing on the third Saturday of each month (except December) until April 16, 2016. All sessions are held at Webster Groves Christian Church, 1320 W. Lockwood in Glendale.



Speakers scheduled to appear this year include Paul Coutinho, Ph.D., Hsin-hsin Huang, Ph.D., Mike Welling, Carla Mae Streeter, O.P., Michael Marchlewski, S.J., Bill O'Brien, S.J., Chris Pinnè, S.J., Sandy Spencer and Madeleine Lane, S.S.N.D. Since last year two new small groups have been added. One is *Interfacing the Spiritual Exercises with 12 Step Spirituality*, facilitated by Rick Lageson, J.D., and the other is *Spiritual Exercises and Eastern Spirituality*, facilitated by Paul Coutinho, Ph.D.

Registration is now open and will remain so until September 1. Further information and a registration form are available on the Bridges website at <http://www.bridgesfoundation.org/themagiprogram.html>.

## Information Sessions for the Bridges Retreat 2015-2016

The Bridges Foundation is offering a series of information sessions this summer for anyone who may be interested in enrolling in the Bridges Retreat which is beginning in the fall of 2015. Each session is free to attend, lasts only one evening, and there is no obligation to enroll. In the summer of 2015 eleven sessions are scheduled on different dates in various locations across the St. Louis area. Anyone with an interest in possibly making the Bridges Retreat need attend only one of the sessions; the content is similar at each one. It is suggested that one attend the session at the site where one would be likely to enroll, but a person is encouraged to do whatever is convenient, and may choose to attend any one of them, or more sessions if desired.

The Bridges Retreat is the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. The program begins in September 2015 and runs through the following May, and in 2015-2016 it will be offered at the retreatant's choice of six locations. One will receive instruction in daily prayer and meditation on the Spiritual Exercises one-on-one from a qualified prayer companion each week, attend group meetings once a month or once a week depending on the chosen site, and participate in two weekend retreats held in the St. Louis area, one each in the fall and the spring.

A schedule of the summer sessions (as shown in the box on the next page), a free brochure and enrollment form, as well as further information are available from Cheryl Rauschenbach at <[cheryl\\_rauschenbach@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryl_rauschenbach@yahoo.com)> or 636-225-8433. Please inform others who you think may be interested. Bring a friend with you to the information session if you like. All are welcome to attend.

## *Bridges Retreat Information*

### **Bridges Retreat Summer Information Sessions Schedule**

The Bridges Retreat is a program for those who desire to make the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Information Sessions run for no more than 2 hours. The complete schedule of information sessions for the summer of 2015 is as follows:

Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 7 p.m.  
St. Charles Borromeo School  
Bicentennial Room  
431 Decatur  
St. Charles, MO 63301

Thursday, July 9, 7 p.m.  
Holy Spirit Parish  
3130 Parkwood Lane  
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Tuesday, July 21, 7 p.m.  
St. Joseph Catholic Church  
at Resurrection House, 520 St. Joseph Lane  
Manchester, MO 63021

Wednesday, July 22, 10 a.m.  
Webster Groves Christian Church  
Love Chapel  
1320 West Lockwood  
St. Louis, MO 63122

Wednesday, July 22, 7 p.m.  
St. Nicholas Catholic Church  
Good Shepherd Spirituality Center  
625 St. Nicholas Drive  
O'Fallon, IL 62269

Wednesday, July 29, 7 p.m.  
St. Matthew the Apostle Catholic Church  
Rectory  
2715 N. Sarah Street  
St. Louis, MO 63113

Wednesday, August 5, 7 p.m.  
St. Charles Borromeo School  
Bicentennial Room  
431 Decatur  
St. Charles, MO 63301

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### **Bridges Retreat Summer Information Sessions Schedule**

(continued from column 1)

Wednesday, August 12, 7 p.m.  
Webster Groves Christian Church  
Love Chapel  
1320 West Lockwood  
St. Louis, MO 63122

Wednesday, August 12, 7 p.m.  
St. Nicholas Catholic Church  
Good Shepherd Spirituality Center  
625 St. Nicholas Drive  
O'Fallon, IL 62269

Thursday, August 13, 7 p.m.  
Holy Spirit Parish  
3130 Parkwood Lane  
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Tuesday, August 18, 7 p.m.  
St. Joseph Catholic Church  
at Resurrection House, 520 St. Joseph Lane  
Manchester, MO 63021

This is the newsletter of the Bridges Foundation of St. Louis. The newsletter is published quarterly and distributed as a PDF file via email, free to anyone who would like to receive it. Thank you to the contributors to this issue: Cheryl Rauschenbach, Sue Todd, and Tom Simon.

Quarterly issues are sent late in the months of March, June, September, and December. The deadline for submission of material is on the 15th day of each of those months for inclusion in the issue to be mailed later that month. Look for your next issue around the time that the seasons change.

The deadline for submissions to the next issue of the Bridges Newsletter is September 15, 2015. Please send articles, letters, mailing list additions and deletions, and other correspondence to: Tom Simon, Editor, 1730 Derrynane, Manchester, MO 63021, or by email to [tsimon@tsimon.com](mailto:tsimon@tsimon.com).