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*Fall, 2015*

## **New Logo for Bridges Foundation**

McDonalds, Starbucks, the Cardinals, the Olympics, the American Red Cross. When you hear the names of these companies or organizations immediately there is a visual icon that comes to mind. Over time, it becomes the symbol that is associated with the culture and qualities of the group it represents.

Earlier this year, the marketing committee of the Bridges Foundation board spent some time discussing the Bridges logo. We agreed that a new logo could provide a better understanding of the foundation's name, Bridges. We felt that it should also directly reflect the mission of the foundation and create a connection to those who have been through or may be considering receiving the Spiritual Exercises.

We took our collective thoughts to Amy Fister, the owner and creative director of Fister, Inc. and a former Bridges retreatant. Amy graciously accepted the challenge and provided us with six logo choices. These six options were shared in a board meeting and it was quickly narrowed down to one. After a few additional tweaks we had the logo that we felt best reflected the Bridges Foundation mission and spirit.



When asked to describe the elements of the final logo that was selected, Amy said, "The new logo is intended to be fresh and inviting. It includes a dove representing the Spirit, an archway or 'bridge' representing the name of the program and the two circles representing community. The composition depicts the possibility of the program offering the bridge between our everyday life and our relationship with God."

The tagline "Bringing Ignatian Spirituality to Everyday Life" was also revised to support the logo. It describes the mission of the Bridges Foundation to bring the gift of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius (the 19th Annotation) and other Ignatian programs to those in the St. Louis community.

-- *Sue Todd*

## **Stanislaus Kostka, S.J. (1550-1568)**

Stanislaus Kostka, also known as Stanislaw Kostka, was a Jesuit novice from Poland whose life was brief, but one that was filled with piety, religious fervor, and a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Stanislaus Kostka, S.J.

He was born on about October 28, 1550 in Rostkovo, near Prasnysz, Poland. He was the second of seven children of John Kostka, senator of the Kingdom of Poland, and

Margaret de Drobniy Kryska. His older brother Paul and he were educated in their early years at home in a very strict manner. As a result, Stanislaus was long on modesty, piety, and temperance. In July 1564 Paul and Stanislaus arrived at the Jesuit College in Vienna along with their tutor to further their education.

Remembered by his schoolmates as friendly and cheerful, Stanislaus became devoted to the pursuit of spiritual matters with a special veneration for the Blessed Virgin. Like many fellow students at the Jesuit College, he participated in a variety of activities and joined the Congregation of Saint Barbara. While dealing with a serious illness, Stanislaus claimed that he was visited by St. Barbara, accompanied by two angels, and received the Eucharist from her.

During his years in Vienna, Stanislaus had some serious troubles with his brother Paul, who mistreated him severely, at times using violence. Apparently Paul was upset with his brother's high level of piety and verbally abused and physically attacked him. Stanislaus' message to Paul was "Your rough treatment will end in my going away never to return, and you will have to explain my leaving to our father and mother," to which Paul responded with vehement profanity. The younger brother's reaction was one of stoicism.

Pious and beatific, Stanislaus Kostka set his sights on becoming a Jesuit, according to him following a request to do so when he was visited by the Blessed Virgin. He would need permission from the Jesuits at the college but because his father had been at odds with them, he decided it was best to petition the Jesuits of another province, and undertook a journey on

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## **Stanislaus Kostka, S.J.**

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foot to Augsburg, Germany to seek out Father Peter Canisius, at the time Provincial of Upper Germany. Knowing that his brother Paul would disapprove and pursue him, Stanislaus developed a plan to get a 24-hour head start and to disguise himself as a mendicant. It worked and eventually Paul and the tutor turned back toward Vienna when their horses refused to go further, without finding their target. Arriving in Augsburg very tired, he met with Peter Canisius and stayed for a month. Canisius recommended that the young man proceed on to Rome, which would be a long, hazardous journey but one that did not faze the resolute aspirant.

He was received in Rome by Saint Francis of Borgia and accepted into the Society of Jesus in October 1567. His father, John Kostka, was furious. Stanislaus' determination to follow a course that led him to God and religious perfection would not be deterred, and his return letters to his father were calm but forceful. Over the next ten months in training, it is said that he accomplished as much as another might do in fifty years. He had acquired a reputation as a kind, diligent, serene young man. He maintained his devotion to Mary, and passed it along to his fellow novices. His faith in Mary was very strong and she had granted him favors through messages to him over the years. Stanislaus began a tradition still observed today of turning toward her Church of Saint Mary Major in Rome each day and kneeling, asking for her benediction. It was the same Church where Society of Jesus founder Ignatius of Loyola had celebrated his first Mass.

On August 9, 1568, the night of the Feast of St. Lawrence, Stanislaus developed a high fever and experienced a great weakness, and knew

that the end was near for him. He predicted his own death to those around him. He prayed fervently to the Blessed Virgin and to God and the saints. His desire was to be in heaven with Mary for the Feast of the Assumption six days later. On the night of August 14 his condition worsened, and he died at age seventeen shortly before 4:00 am the next morning. Widely known and admired across the City of Rome, his remains were venerated there. People called him a saint and sought to obtain his relics.



On October 19, 1605 Stanislaus Kostka was beatified by Pope Paul V. In attendance at the ceremony was older brother Paul. Paul had shed tears for many years over his mistreatment of Stanislaus. Paul was on the verge of entering the Society of Jesus when he died himself, in November 1607. Stanislaus is the patron saint of Jesuit novices, aspirants to the Oblates of Saint Joseph, last sacraments, students, Poland, and of broken bones. He was canonized on December 31, 1726 by Pope Benedict XIII. He is remembered for his devotion to the Blessed Virgin as well as his calmness and piety, and is often portrayed in association with Holy Communion and as a young man holding the Christ child. St. Stanislaus Kostka is revered in Poland.

*“...think of the great joy the good will feel at the thought of the service they’ve paid to God. They will be glad because they’ve suffered something for love of him... and didn’t fix their hope and attention on the things of this world that we leave so soon. ...I shall reflect on myself and ask: ‘What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I do for Christ?’”*

*– St. Stanislaus Kostka*

**“Those who  
carry God  
in their hearts  
bear heaven  
with them  
wherever  
they go.”**

— Ignatius Loyola

## **Bridges Retreat**

The Bridges Retreat has begun. This year we have opened a new site in Maryland Heights at Holy Spirit Parish. This site meets weekly on Thursday evenings and replaces our site at Assumption-Mattese. This year we are not operating our Good Shepherd Spirituality Center Site in O’Fallon, Illinois.

We begin this session with 38 retreatants. We have six sites this year, as follows:

St. Francis Xavier-10 retreatants  
St Matthew the Apostle-4  
St. Joseph-Manchester-8  
St. Charles Borromeo-6  
Webster Groves Christian Church-5  
Holy Spirit-5

Magis began on September 19 and has five small groups, including: Spiritual Exercises and Eastern Spirituality, Dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises, Prayer Companion Training, A Way of Proceeding after the Exercises and Interfacing the Spiritual Exercises with 12-Step Spirituality. There will be 51 participants. Magis sessions are held on the third Saturday of each month.

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 December 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).