



Summer 2016

**Magis Program to Begin
on September 17**

The Bridges Magis Program has been planned for 2016-2017 and is set to begin on September 17. It is open to all who have completed the Nineteenth Annotation of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, or its equivalent, whether through the Bridges Foundation or somewhere else, and who wish to deepen their experience with the Spiritual Exercises. Seven sessions will run from 9:05 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday in September, October, and November in 2016 and the third Saturday in January, February, March and April in 2017. Scheduled speakers this year include Rich Buhler, S.J., Carla Mae Streeter, O.P., Michael Marchlewski, S.J., Marian Love, MAPS, Hsin-hsin Huang, Ph.D., Mark McKenzie, S.J., Paul Coutinho, Ph.D., Madeleine Lane, S.S.N.D. and Bob Costello, S.J.



Small groups are being offered in the fall to address subjects that include *Discernment in Ignatian Spirituality*, *Dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises*, *Integrating Various Resources in Companioning Retreatants*, *Prayer Group Supervision/Consultation*, *Prayer Companions Training*, and *The Psychological Dimensions of the Exercises*.

Registration is open until September 1. Further information and an online registration form are available on the Bridges web site at <http://bridgesfoundation.org/programs/the-magis-program/>, or you can obtain a brochure from Cheryl Rauschenbach. All sessions will be held at Webster Groves Christian Church, 1320 W. Lockwood, Glendale.

**Ignatian Community Retreat
July 15-16**

Registration is still open for the 2016 Ignatian Community Retreat *Freeing the Self: An Ignatian Way of Healing*, to be facilitated by Matthew Linn, S.J. It will be held Friday, July 15th and Saturday, July 16th at the Sisters of St. Joseph Provincial House, 6400 Minnesota Avenue, St. Louis. Further information can be found on the Bridges web site at <http://bridgesfoundation.org/programs/ignatian-community-retreat/> or obtained from Cheryl Rauschenbach.

Information Sessions for the 2016-2017 Bridges Retreat

The Bridges Foundation is offering a number of information sessions this summer for anyone who may be interested in enrolling in the Bridges Retreat that is beginning in the fall of 2016. Each session is free to all to attend, lasts only one evening, and there is no obligation to enroll. In the summer of 2016 nine sessions are scheduled on different dates and in various locations across the St. Louis area. The content is similar at each session, so anyone with an interest in possibly making the Bridges Retreat need attend only one of the sessions. 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 than one session if desired.

The Bridges Retreat is the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. The program will begin in September 2016 and run through the following May, and in 2016-2017 plans are to offer it at the retreatant's choice of seven different locations. One who enrolls 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 accompanying box), a free brochure and enrollment form, as well as further information are available from Cheryl Rauschenbach at <cheryl_rauschenbach@yahoo.com> or 636-225-8433. Please tell others whom you think might be interested. Bring a friend with you to the information session if you like. All are welcome to attend.

Bridges Retreat Information

Information Sessions Schedule for the Bridges Retreat Summer 2016

Information Sessions regarding the Bridges Retreat are open to all, free, and run for one hour. The complete schedule of information sessions for the summer of 2016 is as follows:

Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
St. Charles Borromeo School
Bicentennial Room
431 Decatur
St. Charles, MO 63301

Wednesday, July 13, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
St. Nicholas Catholic Church
Good Shepherd Spirituality Center
625 St. Nicholas Drive
O'Fallon, IL 62269

Tuesday, July 19, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Church
Resurrection House
520 St. Joseph Lane
Manchester, MO 63021

Thursday, July 21, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Holy Spirit Parish
3130 Parkwood Lane
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Sunday, July 24, after 8 a.m. Mass
and
Sunday, August 14, after 10:30 a.m. Mass
St. Francis Xavier "College Church"
3628 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

Wednesday, July 27, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
and
Wednesday, August 17, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Webster Groves Christian Church
Love Chapel
1320 West Lockwood
St. Louis, MO 63122
(Just west of Berry Road)
(North of I-44 & Berry Road)

Wednesday, August 3, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
St. Matthew the Apostle Catholic Church
Rectory
2715 North Sarah
St. Louis, MO 63113

Matteo Ricci, S.J. (1552-1610)

Matteo Ricci was an Italian Jesuit in the 16th and 17th centuries who was an innovator in introducing Christianity to the people of China.

Francis Xavier, S.J. was sent by his friend Ignatius of Loyola on the same mission a generation before Ricci. At the time, little was known about the people or culture of China, but the common belief in Europe was that no one could attain salvation without faith in Jesus Christ, and no one in China had ever even heard of Him. Xavier died on the island of Sancian, near Canton, in 1552, before ever reaching the mainland of China. Sometime later Alessandro Valignano, S.J., the appointed visitor to the Jesuit missions in the East, studied the situation in China, and wrote a book on the subject. It was his desire to continue attempts to make inroads with Christianity in China. Along with young Jesuit Michele Ruggieri, the two determined that the best man for the job was Matteo Ricci, a thirty-year old Jesuit who was highly intelligent and adept at working with people.

Ricci had been born in Macerata, Italy, near the Adriatic Sea, in 1552, the year that Xavier had died. He was educated at the Jesuit colleges in Rome and Florence and ordained in the Society of Jesus. Ricci possessed a fantastic memory. He was adept at languages, astronomy, geometry, and philosophy. He had skills as a mapmaker, was fascinated with clocks and timekeeping and calendars, and valued friendship, as well as finding joy in holding conversations with the people that he met along the way.

In 1582 Matteo Ricci set out for China. He dressed as a Buddhist monk there, in an effort

to relate to the people of China, later switching to silk robes and headgear somewhat similar to a bishop's miter. Ricci scrutinized the people and their ways, and came to realize that much of what occurred in the lives of the Chinese people -- their culture, history, and way of life in general -- was derived from the teachings of K'ung Fu-tzu, the great sage and first teacher. Ricci studied the teachings of this man and came to an understanding of what drove the Chinese people, and in the process became a great admirer of the man himself. In explaining this in letters sent back to Europe, Ricci Latinized the first teacher's name to Confucius.



Matteo Ricci, S.J.

Confucianism emphasizes love for humanity; high value is given to learning and to devotion to family (including ancestors), peace and justice. Ricci used elements of Confucianism to explain similar concepts in Christianity. He engaged in long and frequent conversations with Chinese scholars, and came to be held in high regard. Ricci had blazed a trail for the foundation of Christianity in China, and by the time of his death in 1610 he had converted approximately 2,000 people. This number would rise to 150,000 within forty years.

For more on the fascinating life and work of Matteo Ricci, see chapter 3 of Ronald Modras' book *Ignatian Humanism: A Dynamic Spirituality for the 21st Century*.



Ignatian Spirituality Institute Workshop at SLU September 8-11

The Ignatian Spirituality Institute of Dallas is coming to St. Louis in September to offer a workshop for persons involved in guiding others in the Spiritual Exercises, and for Ignatian spiritual directors. The topic is *Ignatian Ministry of Practical Spirituality* and the presenter is Joseph Tetlow, S.J., an old friend of the Bridges Foundation.

The workshop begins the evening of Thursday, September 8, and will conclude at noon on Sunday, September 11. Meetings will be held at Jesuit Hall on the campus of St. Louis University. Participants can plan to spend the day, approximately 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. (including lunch), or if they want to stay onsite room and board are available at Jesuit Hall.

Information and details, as well as an online registration form, can be found on the ISI web site at <https://ignatianinstitute.org/isi-workshop-ignatian-ministry-practical-spirituality>. Space is very limited, so persons who want to participate are encouraged to register sooner rather than later. The contact person is ISI Director Carol Ackels at 940-268-8788 or director@ignatianinstitute.org. Carol hopes to see Bridges prayer companions at this workshop.

NOTE: When we sent out the previous newsletter in March, everything sent to an email address ending in @gmail.com was returned as spam, with a note that it was "likely unsolicited mail." Unfortunately there is very little that we can do about this. If you know someone who has such an email address who would like to receive the Bridges Newsletter, please ask him or her to send an email to tsimon@tsimon.com with a new email address, as well as a request to be added to the free email subscription list. Thank you and we apologize for the inconvenience.

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: Carol Ackels, 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, 2016. 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.