



Spring, 2017

Ignatian Community Retreat 2017 to Focus on Diversity

This year's Ignatian Community Retreat, "For Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: Engaging Diversity through Ignatian Eyes" will be presented by Dr. Christopher Pramuk. The retreat is sponsored by the Bridges Foundation.

Dr. Pramuk was a keynote speaker at the Ignatian Spirituality Conference held at St Louis University in July of 2015 and his address made such a positive and memorable impression that Bridges has asked him back to St. Louis to present at this year's ICR. We are looking forward to his time with us.



Dr. Christopher Pramuk

Dr. Pramuk is on the faculty of Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is an Associate Professor in Systematic Theology. Dr. Pramuk is passionate about Jesuit education, inviting students to think deeply and imagine widely from a Catholic, ecumenical, cross-cultural, and inter-religious perspective. A lifelong musician, he is appreciated by many students for his use of music, poetry, and the arts in the classroom. With expertise ranging from Ignatian spirituality to Black Catholic history and racial justice to the life and writings of Thomas Merton, he has spoken widely and led retreats on all of these topics. Recently he spoke on "Merton

and Racial Justice" at the Festival of Faiths in Louisville, and his recent keynote address for the 2015 Ignatian Spirituality Conference at St. Louis University combined his love of music with Jesuit Fr. General Adolfo Nicolas's vision of Jesuit education and formation for justice. He is a past recipient of Xavier's Bishop Fenwick Teacher of the Year Award.

His award-winning essays have appeared in *America Magazine*, *Theological Studies*, *Cross Currents*, and the prayer journal *Give Us This Day*. He is the author of five books, including *At Play in Creation: Merton's Awakening to the Feminine Divine* (2014), *Hope Sings, So Beautiful: Graced Encounters Across the Color Line* (2013), and *Sophia: The Hidden Christ of Thomas Merton* (2009), which was awarded the International Thomas Merton Society's 2011 "Thomas Merton Award," its highest honor. A lifelong musician and student of African American history and spirituality, he has led workshops on the healing of race relations in society and church as well as retreats on the life and writings of Thomas Merton. He blogs regularly and posts resources on race, faith, and culture at HopeSingsSoBeautiful.org.

Please prayerfully consider attending this year's Ignatian Community Retreat on Friday evening, July 14th from 7-9pm and Saturday, July 15th from 9am to 3pm at the Sisters of St. Joseph Provincial House. Cost of the Retreat is \$70.00. Registration is available online at www.bridgesfoundation.org or contact Cheryl Rauschenbach at 636-225-8433.

-- *Dave Harpring*

The Pontifical Gregorian University

The Pontifical Gregorian University is a Jesuit university located at Piazza della Pilotta, 4 in Rome, Italy. Founded in 1551 as the Collegium Romanum (College of Rome) by St. Ignatius of Loyola, with financial support from St. Francis Xavier, it is regarded as the first university of the Society of Jesus. Pope Paul VI gave the university the right to issue ecclesiastical degrees in 1556. The university was named for Pope Gregory XIII, commissioner of the Gregorian calendar which is still in use today, who had encouraged the expansion of the university in 1567.

The Pontifical Gregorian University exists primarily as an institution of higher learning for the Roman Catholic clergy. It has one of the largest theology departments in the world and counts over one-third of the current College of Cardinals and over 900 living bishops as university graduates; seventeen popes have either taught or studied at the university, including 8 of the past 11 popes. There are currently around 3,800 students at the co-ed university, of whom 30% are laypersons.



Pontifical Gregorian University

The majority of its professors, who come from all over the world, are Jesuits, and the university's rector is appointed by the pope. The university's list of alumni includes 16 popes, 24 canonized saints, and 50 persons who have been beatified. Faculties include theology, philosophy, church history, missiology, canon law, cultural heritage of the church, and social sciences; in addition, the school has institutes of psychology and spirituality. It is also known as the Gregorianum, or the PUG

(for its Italian name Pontificia Università Gregoriana), or simply the Greg. The university's motto is *Religioni et Bonis Artibus* (For Religion and Culture).



Because the Gregorian is a pontifical university, its degrees have full effect in canon law, and the Holy See accredits its curriculum. Through it also licentiate in philosophy and theology, enabling recipients to teach in seminaries, are conferred by some Jesuit colleges worldwide.

Pontifical Gregorian University has a publishing house known as Gregorian and Biblical Press, providing services for both the Greg and its affiliated institution, Biblical Institute. The University Library consists of 1.2 million volumes contained primarily in a six-story tower on the main campus. Included in the collection are many ancient books and rare editions, among them eighty books dating back to the 16th century.

Among its illustrious alumni are Saints Robert Bellarmine and Aloysius Gonzaga, Jesuit mathematician and astronomer Paul Guldin, Salvadoran martyr Archbishop Óscar Romero, Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul I, former President of Ireland Mary McAleese, and former U.S. Representative from Massachusetts Robert Drinan, S.J.

As one of the world's oldest and most distinguished universities, Pontifical Gregorian University continues to educate students from 150 countries scattered across the globe.

Martin Scorsese's *Silence*

Silence is a 2016 film based on Shusaku Endo's 1966 novel of the same name. It is the fact-based story of two young Portuguese Jesuits, Fathers Sebastião Rodrigues and Francisco Garupe, who set off for Japan in 1670 with two goals in mind: to seek their mentor, Father Cristóvão Ferreira, and to spread Christianity. There are rumors that Ferreira has renounced his faith under torture, something which the young Jesuits find difficult to believe. Their journey takes one to Hirado Island and the other to Goto Island to investigate. They find a land where Christians are living under heavy oppression. In short order the film's storyline takes them to Nagasaki, where most of the action takes place from there.



Scorsese, the veteran Hollywood producer and director, was raised in a devoutly Catholic family and had previously directed two religion-based films, *The Last Temptation of Christ* (1988) and *Kundun* (1997). *Silence* is a project he had been working on for over twenty-five years. The film stars actors Andrew Garfield and Adam Driver in the two lead roles (who prepared by making a silent retreat at St. Beuno's Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Wales), with Liam Neeson as their mentor, Fr. Ferreira. It was shot in Taipei, Taiwan. The film's premiere was in the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome in November, 2016 followed the next day by a special preview in the Vatican; a preview was shown to 400 Jesuits in Rome, and the American debut followed in December. James Martin, S.J. worked closely with the filmmakers to ensure an accurate portrayal of the Jesuits.



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: Dave Harpring 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 June 15, 2017. 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.