



Summer 2017

**2017-2018 Bridges Magis Program
Begins September 16**

The Magis Planning Committee of Bridges has prepared its program for 2017-2018. It is to begin on September 16 and conclude the following April 21. As in previous years, there are seven sessions with a break in the month of December. They will be held on the third Saturday of each month from 9:05 am to noon at Webster Groves Christian Church, 1320 W. Lockwood in Glendale.

Presenters at the large group sessions this year include David Meconi, S.J., Paul Coutinho, PhD, Sandy Spencer, Marian Love, MAPS, Chris Collins, S.J., Leobardo Almazán, O.P. and Steve Givens. Small group sessions will be held addressing topics that include The Examen Prayer, Compatible Dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises and the 12-Step Program, Teilhard and the Spiritual Exercises, Dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises, Peer Supervision/Consultation, and The Spiritual Exercises and Eastern Spirituality.

MAGIS

Completion of the Nineteenth Annotation Retreat (the Bridges Retreat) or its equivalent is required for enrollment in the Magis Program. A brochure and registration form is available from Cheryl Rauschenbach at [<cheryl.rauschenbach@bridgesfoundation.org>](mailto:cheryl.rauschenbach@bridgesfoundation.org)

or 636-225-8433. Further information and an online registration form can be found on the Bridges website at www.bridgesfoundation.org/programs/the-magis-program/.

**Ignatian Community Retreat
July 14-15, 2017**

This year's Ignatian Community Retreat, sponsored by the Bridges Foundation, is titled "For Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: Engaging Diversity through Ignatian Eyes" and will be presented by Dr. Christopher Pramuk. Dr. Pramuk is on the faculty of Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is an Associate Professor in Systematic Theology.

The ICR is to be held on Friday evening, July 14th from 7-9 pm and Saturday, July 15th from 9 am to 3 pm at the Sisters of St. Joseph Provincial House, 3400 Minnesota Avenue in St. Louis. Cost of the Retreat is \$70.00. Further details can be found in the previous issue of this newsletter or online at <http://bridgesfoundation.org/programs/ignatian-community-retreat/>. Registration is open until July 1. There is an online registration form available at <http://bridgesfoundation.org/icr-registration-form/>. To register by mail, you can print the registration form at <http://bridgesfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2017-ICR-Registration.pdf> or contact Cheryl Rauschenbach at 636-225-8433.

2017-2018 Bridges Retreat Summer Information Sessions

The Bridges Retreat will be offered at five different locations beginning in September, 2017 and lasting until May, 2018. Information sessions will be held in July and August of 2017 at various locations for those who would like to learn more about the Bridges Retreat. Each session is held in only one day or evening, and goes for about one hour. They are free to attend and open to anyone who is interested. One need attend only one session, whatever is convenient, but attendance at more than one session is fine if so desired. Following the session one returns home and decides on his or her own time whether or not to enroll in the Retreat; enrollment is accomplished by completing a form and mailing it in with a small deposit.

See the accompanying Information Sessions schedule. Further details as well as a brochure and enrollment form are available from Cheryl Rauschenbach at cheryl.rauschenbach@bridgesfoundation.org or 636-225-8433.



Information Sessions Schedule Bridges Retreat Summer 2017

Wednesday, July 19, 2017, 10 am
Wednesday, August 16, 7 pm
Webster Groves Christian Church
1320 West Lockwood
St. Louis, MO 63122

Wednesday, July 26, 7 pm
St. Matthew the Apostle Catholic Church
Rectory
2715 North Sarah
St. Louis, MO 63113

Thursday, August 3, 10 am
St. Nicholas Catholic Church
Good Shepherd Spirituality Center
625 St. Nicholas Drive
O'Fallon, IL 62269

Sunday, August 6 after the 8 am Mass
Sunday, August 13 after the 10:30 am Mass
St. Francis Xavier "College Church"
Ballroom
3628 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

Wednesday, August 9, 7 pm
Holy Spirit Parish
3130 Parkwood Lane
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Arturo Sosa, S.J.
(1948-)

Following the resignation of Adolfo Nicolás, S.J., as Superior General of the Society of Jesus in 2016, 212 Jesuit electors from across the world met in Rome on October 14 of that year to elect his successor. Their choice was 67-year-old Venezuelan Arturo Sosa Abascal, S.J., who became the first Latin-American leader of the Society since its foundation in 1540. He is the organization's 31st Superior General.

Fr. Sosa was born in Caracas, Venezuela, on November 12, 1948. He speaks Spanish, Italian, and English as well as understanding French, and holds a doctorate in Political Sciences from the Universidad Central de Venezuela.

The first Latin-American leader of the Jesuits has a background that is curiously similar to that of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J. who is currently serving as Pope Francis, the first Jesuit pope.

Fr. Sosa was in charge of the Jesuit-run social and action research center, known as the Centro Gumilla. He also headed the social apostolate of the Jesuits in Venezuela, a role in which his duties included the very large Jesuit school network, *Fe y Alegría*, which primarily serves the poor.

"...one has to seek and find, St. Ignatius said, the will of God. It is not a frivolous search. Discernment leads to a decision: one must not only evaluate, but decide."

– Arturo Sosa, S.J.

Arturo Sosa was Venezuelan provincial of the Society of Jesus from 1996 to 2004. Dictator Hugo Chávez was in place during much of Sosa's time working in Venezuela, creating a great deal of hostility and tension in the nation. Sosa has described the authoritarian regime of Chávez's successor Nicolás Maduro as a "popular tyranny."



Arturo Sosa, S.J.

Fr. Sosa has taught political science in a number of different institutes and colleges, was rector of the Catholic University of Táchira and a member of the founding board of the Andrés Bello Catholic University in Caracas. He also served as a visiting professor at the Latin-American Studies Center of Georgetown University in 2004.

From 2014 until his appointment as Superior General two years later he worked as the Delegate of the General for the International houses and Works of the Society of Jesus in Rome, a post that made him responsible for Jesuit formation and other houses, including the Jesuit headquarters or General Curia, as well as the Gregorian University, the Pontifical Biblical Institute, the Pontifical Oriental Institute and the Vatican Observatory.

Although many of his thirty predecessors who have led the Jesuits have had beards, Fr. Sosa is one of very few who have a moustache.

*Thanks be to Thee, my Lord
Jesus Christ
For all the benefits Thou hast given
me
For all the pains and insults Thou hast
borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer, friend and
brother,
May I know Thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly,
Follow Thee more nearly.*

-- Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester



*"... to ask for interior knowledge of
the Lord, Who for me has become
man, that I may more love and follow
Him."*

-- Spiritual Exercises 104



*Oh Dear Lord
Three things I pray
To see thee more clearly
Love thee more dearly
Follow thee more nearly
Day by day*

-- *Day by Day*, from Stephen
Schwartz's *Godspell*



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 September 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.