



Fall, 2018

Participants in Bridges Retreat & Magis 2018-2019

The 2018-2019 Bridges Retreat commenced earlier in September. There is one new site -- it is one to which Bridges is returning after an absence of several years -- at Church of The Annunziata Parish, 9256 Clayton Road. Site co-coordinators there are Laurie Hannigan and Cathy Hoehn; gatherings are held at Annunziata weekly on Tuesday evenings.

BRIDGES RETREAT

We begin this session of the Bridges Retreat with 30 exercitants making the Exercises this year. There are four Bridges sites currently, as follows:

St. Francis Xavier-6 retreatants
St Matthew the Apostle-5
Webster Groves Christian Church-8
Annunziata-11

There are 50 participants enrolled in Magis. The Magis Saturday sessions began on September 22 with six small groups, including: Ignatian Discernment (9), Teilhard and the Spiritual Exercises (9), Living the Fifth Week: Putting on the Heart and Mind of Christ (15), Dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises (8), Prayer Companion Training (6), and Peer Supervision/Consultation (3).

The Saint Louis University Bicentennial Lecture Series Continues

This is a reminder that the Bicentennial Lecture Series resumes this fall. Earlier this year a number of Bridges participants enjoyed the talks given by Mark Thibodeaux, S.J. and Mark Malone, S.J. These events are free to anyone who would like to attend, and reservations are not required. They are held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier College Church at Grand and Lindell Boulevards. The remaining schedule in the series is as follows:

- Monday, September 24
Reimagining Health Care: Ignatian Insights for Achieving the Greater Good
Michael Rozier, SJ
Researcher and Practitioner, health policy and public health ethics

- Monday, November 5
Jesuit Education: Do We Need a New Paradigm?
Michael Garanzini, SJ
Secretary of Higher Education, Society of Jesus, Rome; Visiting Professor of Research, Graduate School of Education, Fordham University

Free parking is available in the Laclede Garage. For further information visit the Facebook page @ SLUJesuitMission or call 314-977-7065. These events are sponsored by Saint Louis University's Bicentennial Committee and The Office of Mission and Identity.

Thomas Ewing Sherman, S.J. (1856-1933)

The Jesuit Son of Union General William Tecumseh Sherman

Thomas Ewing Sherman was a Jesuit priest as well as a lawyer and educator. He was the fourth child and second son of Union Army General William Tecumseh Sherman and his wife Ellen Ewing Sherman.

Thomas Sherman was born on October 12, 1856 in San Francisco. He was raised in St. Louis and Washington, D.C. and attended Georgetown and Yale before earning his law degree at Washington University in St. Louis at age 22. Thomas' father had been one of the Union Army's best and most respected generals and was best known for his march to the sea that led to a scorched-earth policy in Georgia during the Civil War. General Sherman was quite well off but had little pension and had assumed that Thomas would help to provide for him in his old age; the General was very disappointed to receive a letter from Thomas stating his intention to become a Jesuit priest. The General's wife, Ellen, was a devout Catholic and elated to learn of her son's decision.

Thomas Sherman practiced law in St. Louis for two years and then joined the Society of Jesus in 1878 and spent the next three years studying in Jesuit novitiates in London, England, and Frederick, Maryland. He was ordained a Jesuit priest in 1889 and assigned to what was then the Western Province of the Jesuit Order with headquarters in St. Louis. He taught for some years in Jesuit colleges, primarily in St. Louis and Detroit, including a stint teaching philosophy at St. Louis University.

General William Tecumseh Sherman died in 1891. His son was the recipient of some of the celebrity and fame that surrounded the father. In 1898 Thomas served as an army chaplain during the Spanish-American war. He found that he enjoyed lecturing more than he did teaching and travelled about the country giving lectures. There was some anti-Catholic feeling in society at the time and Thomas often spoke out against it. In time he began to drift about the country doing various jobs and was attached to six different Jesuit provinces without really feeling that any of them were home.



Thomas Ewing Sherman, S.J.

He began to experience mental problems in his 50's. Sherman applied for and received a leave of absence from the Jesuits, eventually leaving the order altogether. He wandered up and

(continues on page 3)

The Eleventh. One who is in consolation ought to humble and abase herself or himself as much as possible, and reflect how little she or he is worth in time of desolation when that grace or consolation is absent.

In contrast, one who is in desolation should reflect that with the sufficient grace already available he or she can do much to resist all hostile forces, by drawing strength from our Creator and Lord.

--Spiritual Exercises 324

Thomas Ewing Sherman, S.J.

(continued from page 2)

down the West Coast of the United States. He also traveled across Europe and came back again to spend time with family in the eastern United States. He eventually returned to the Jesuits and an assignment at a Church in Santa Barbara.

Word got back to his family that he was in failing health. Thomas' well-to-do niece, Eleanor Sherman Fitch, lived for part of the

year in New Orleans where she was an ardent supporter of the Jesuits. Eleanor had him admitted to the DePaul Sanitarium in New Orleans which was managed by the Daughters of Charity. He lingered there for two years before he experienced hemorrhaging of the stomach; he renewed his Jesuit vows shortly before he passed away on April 29, 1933, at age 76, in Grand Couteau, Louisiana.

Thomas Sherman is buried in the Jesuit cemetery at Grand Couteau. Somewhat ironically and totally by chance, the son of the great Union General of the Civil War is interred next to the next Jesuit to pass away after him, Father John Salter, who is the nephew of Alexander Stephens, Vice President of the Confederate States of America.

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, Linda Leib 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, 2018. 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.