



Spring, 2019

The Resurrection



Bridges Seeks to Fill Promotions Minister Position

The Bridges Promotion Minister is the person who works closely with the Marketing Committee to make the availability of the Ignatian Retreat known to the Greater St. Louis community. He/she is the face of the Bridges Retreat in Daily Life among the various organizations and worshipping communities. This person, with the assistance of the Executive Director, schedules, organizes and facilitates the summer Information Sessions. These sessions can be scheduled with the person's personal summer plans in mind. For further information contact Linda Leib <linda.leib@bridgesfoundation.org>. Δ

ICR

ICR Will Not Be Held in 2019

Because of the 30th Anniversary Celebration to be held on October 4 of this year, the Ignatian Community Retreat (ICR) will not be held in 2019. There are plans to hold another ICR event in the summer of 2020. Δ

Meet a Member of the Bridges Community: Mike Welling

**Relate a little about your professional, religious and spiritual background:*

Hello. My name is Mike Welling. I have been blessed to have been associated with the Bridges Foundation since 2005. My wife, Stephanie, and I have been married since 1971, and we have two sons, Chris and Joe. Professionally, I spent eleven years as an educator in Catholic schools: three years at Our Lady of Sorrows School, teaching 8th graders English, reading, and religion; a year at Bishop DuBourg High School teaching sophomores and juniors writing and literature; and seven years as principal at St. Mathias School in South St. Louis County. I left Catholic education in 1980 and spent the next eighteen years at McDonnell Aircraft and Boeing in business administration and planning departments in support of engineering functions. In 1998, I returned to Catholic education as the principal of Incarnate Word Parish School in Chesterfield where I labored with love until my retirement in July 2018.

**During the course of receiving the Bridges Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life, what surprised you?*

As alluded to above, in 2005 I looked into Bridges and made the 19th annotation retreat from September 2005 to May 2006. I was familiar with Ignatian spirituality (and the 30-day retreat) because I attended a Jesuit boarding high school, Campion, for four years, and because I spent seven years after high school as a seminarian studying to be a Jesuit priest. In spite of my familiarity with Ignatian

spirituality, once I engaged in the Bridges experience a few things surprised, and even delighted, me.



Mike Welling

**Why would you recommend the Bridges Retreat? Why do you remain active in the Bridges community?*

As rich and meaningful as the 30-day retreat was for me as an 18-year old, it was even more so for me as a 60-year old husband, dad, and working man. I was drawn into the retreat to give more life and strength to my personal relationship with Christ, but I unexpectedly came to value and appreciate the group/communal aspect of the Bridges experience.

After the retreat, I found myself longing to keep the benefits of that special experience present and growing in my life. Bridges Two (now called "Magis") has made it possible and natural for me to continue deepening my understanding of Ignatian Spirituality and invigorating my spiritual life. I appreciate how the subject matter of the retreat is in sync with the Church's liturgical seasons, especially during Advent, Lent, and Easter season. △

John Carroll, S.J. (1735–1815)

John Carroll was the first Bishop and Archbishop of Baltimore. He was born in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, on January 8, 1735, the son of Daniel Carroll, a merchant, and Eleanor Darnall. John's mother had been well educated in France and was from a very wealthy family. At age 12 he went to the Jesuit grammar school in Cecil County, Maryland, where he was known to be a serious student who was very pious, and friendly to others. John joined the Society of Jesus in 1753, three years after his father's death. He studied philosophy and theology abroad, in France, and was ordained at age 34, then taught both subjects for the next four years. In 1773 The suppression of the Jesuit order was taking place, and Pope Clement XIV disbanded the Society of Jesus later that year.



John Carroll, S.J.

John Carroll needed to make some hard decisions about the course of his life. In 1774 he returned to his mother's home in Maryland at a time when there was no Catholic Church

anywhere in Maryland. He would say Mass in his mother's home during the week and in a chapel that he built on the grounds on Sundays, while also serving as a missionary in that state and in Virginia.

In 1776 John accepted an invitation to accompany Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Chase and Charles Carroll of Carrollton in a group sent by the Continental Congress to Canada, to address the issue of Canada's neutrality during the American Revolution. John Carroll's influence on his countrymen was beginning to grow. He continued to live with and care for his 70-year-old mother.

Beginning in 1783, Carroll met with five other priests in Whitmarsh, Maryland in a series of meetings to adopt regulations for the clergy in Maryland. In response to a request from Rome he issued a report on the state of Catholicism in the United States, and his prominent role in the Catholic Church in the USA continued to grow.

He moved to Baltimore in 1786 and his sermons at St. Peter's Church there were very well received. He became involved in civic affairs, particularly in the area of education, and became a trustee at St. John's College at Annapolis and at Baltimore College. Working in both Catholic and secular areas, he was a pioneer of the Maryland Historical Society, head of the Library Company, and found time somewhere to found Georgetown College in Washington, D.C. Fr. Carroll became a vigorous spokesman for the preservation of religious liberty, emphasizing provisions in the U.S. Constitution regarding freedom of religion. He was named by the pope as the first bishop of Baltimore, taking office in 1790. He was well-liked by Catholics in the United States at the

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John Carroll, S.J.

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time, and very popular in Baltimore. He devoted a lot of his time to increasing vocations to the priesthood, something that was very much in need in the eastern USA at the time. Carroll also worked with the government in Washington D.C. regarding missions among the Indians. George Washington had been made the first President of the United States by the Electoral College in 1789, which delighted the Catholics in the young nation.

"We pray, O God of might, wisdom and justice, through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness and be eminently useful to your people over whom he presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality."

-- from *A Prayer to Put the United States into God's Hands* by John Carroll, S.J.

Bishop Carroll worked very hard at everything he did. He set to establishing a cathedral in Baltimore and laid the cornerstone for it in 1806. He became Archbishop of Baltimore two years later – the first Bishop and Archbishop of the Catholic Church in the United States. In later years his health began to deteriorate. He died in Baltimore on December 3, 1815.

John Carroll was a diligent, kind, hard-working, mild-mannered Jesuit priest who was instrumental in the early development of the thirteen colonies in a variety of different areas. John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio is named for him, as are a number of high schools and several other institutions. Today at the entrance to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. there stands a large statue of its founder, John Carroll. Δ



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: Steve Givens, 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 June 15, 2019. 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.