

annual report 2020



MISSION STATEMENT

Bridges Foundation offers opportunities to anyone seeking to deepen their relationship with God and God's people through ongoing formation grounded in the experience of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola in Everyday Life. The foundation members assist individuals in spiritual growth so they can transform themselves and their world.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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2021 Director Additions:

Jill Carnaghi

Marian Love

Pam Mason

Linda Leib

Executive Director

Vicki Harpring

Facilitator for Magis

Susan Givens

Bookkeeper

Steve Givens

Webmaster

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT – DECEMBER 2020

In the midst of trying times, the Bridges Foundation maintains its mission of offering the 19th Annotation Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the Exercises in Everyday Life, to the people of St. Louis and the surrounding area. In March, the Bridges sites, the Magis Program, and board and committee meetings moved from in-person to virtual formats. Site coordinators, prayer companions, facilitators, and presenters embraced the challenge and collaborated to create an environment that is keeping the Exercises alive and relevant. New this year, Sharon Tan, PhD, developed an online site with eight participants, many of whom live outside the St. Louis area. There are plans for the online site to become a permanent fixture of our program, providing a way for persons who live away from retreat sites to receive the Spiritual Exercises.

There are 50 participants in the Magis Program, with six small group facilitators. Magis and Bridges are adapting well to the virtual format, as site coordinators, the Magis director and group facilitators are getting comfortable with new technology.

The Foundation's finances continue to be stable. The Endowment Fund continues to grow because donations result in the income exceeding expenses. With this financial security, the board is continuing to look at ways to reach a wider and more diverse audience in promoting and offering the Spiritual Exercises.

Please check out the committee reports below. These committees are vital to the work of the Foundation and for accomplishing its mission. Each committee brings innovative ideas forward for consideration and then works to put board recommendations into action. For example, Steve Givens, our webmaster, has made our website more user friendly with updated and pertinent articles, videos, and a streamlined application process.

The Foundation continues to be blessed with gifted and dedicated board members. Three directors are leaving the board: Dale Auffenberg, Dennis Klosterman, and Steve Tadrick. We thank them for their years of faithful service. Welcome to the directors starting in 2021: Jill Carnaghi, Marian Love, and Pamela Mason.

I am grateful to Steve Givens, current board marketing committee chair, webmaster, and prayer companion, who will take on the executive director role in the spring of 2021. He will begin working closely with Linda Leib beginning in January. Thanks to Linda, who has served the Bridges Foundation so admirably. Her efforts have supported the quality of the Bridges programs.

The board appreciates the continued support of the St. Louis Ignatian Community. Through your prayers, commitment and generosity, Bridges will continue providing the Ignatian Exercises to the people of the St. Louis region and beyond.

Dave Harpring

President of Bridges Board of Directors

Bridges Ignatian Retreat in Daily Life

The 19th Annotation Retreat of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola sponsored by the Bridges Foundation is currently serving 23 retreatants. This retreat bridges one's spiritual life with everyday life and provides a structure and process aimed at assisting the retreatant in an ever-deepening relationship with God and increasing awareness in ridding oneself of inordinate attachments. The retreatant and an experienced companion meet for 34 one-hour sessions. In addition to the individual sessions, weekly or monthly group meetings are held at each site for the purpose of providing a communal experience and to offer reflections and faith sharing on various movements of the Spiritual Exercises. The schedule includes a Faith Sharing Day in October, Marketplace Spirituality Retreat in the spring and a sending celebration and dinner in mid-May. Starting in March 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the retreat continued to meet but became entirely virtual. An ongoing online site has been developed.

Magis – Greater Understanding, Love and Service

The Magis Program, structured for those who have completed the 18th, 19th or 20th Annotation Retreat, is also virtual this year and functions to support the participant in growing and living the Ignatian Way within a community setting. Currently we have 50 participants and six small group facilitators. The program meets for seven 3-hour Saturday sessions, beginning in September and concluding in April. Each gathering begins with two presentations on various movements of the Exercises followed by small group sessions on various Ignatian topics.



THIS YEAR'S SPEAKERS ARE:

Preparation Days—Virginia Herbers, ASCJ; **First Week**—Christopher Collins, S.J.; **Call of the King**—Danielle Harrison; **Second Week**—Billy Huete, S.J.; **Discernment**—J. Dan Daily, S.J.; **Third Week**—Anthony Wieck, S.J.; and the **Fourth Week**—Marian Love, MAPS. After the presentations, each person participates in one of five small groups, namely: **Dynamics of the Exercises** led by Mark McKenzie, S.J.; **Being Christ in the Form of Compassion** led by Miriam Wesselmann, SSND; **The Beatitudes and the Spiritual Exercises** led by Linda Leib; **Ignatian Discernment** led by Tom and Dale Auffenberg; and **Peer Supervision/ Consultation** led by Hsin-hsin Huang, PhD.

upcoming events

2021-2022 Bridges Retreat in Daily Life Registration

Deadline: Registration Deadline: August 26, 2021—online information is available at <http://bridgesfoundation.org/programs/bridges-foundation-retreat/>

2021-2022 Magis – Greater Understanding, Love and Service

Registration begins June 1, 2021. Planning is in progress and the first session is scheduled for Saturday, September 18, 2021. <http://bridgesfoundation.org/programs/the-magis-program/>

Bridges Marketplace Spirituality Retreat on March 26 & 27, 2021. This virtual retreat is open to all who have received the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Updated information at <http://bridgesfoundation.org/programs/marketplace-spirituality-retreat/>

Ignatian Community Retreat originally scheduled for July 2020 and subsequently rescheduled for July 9 & 10, 2021, and led by Fr. Michael Sparough, S.J., of the Bellarmine Retreat Center near Chicago, has been postponed again until summer 2022 due to the pandemic.

accomplishments of the standing committees in 2020:

MARKETING COMMITTEE

- Made frequent contact with the Bridges community regarding important information, program reminders, registration deadlines, and Ignatian spirituality via Facebook, Twitter, and eLink newsletter.
- Reviewed the means by which the 2019-2020 Bridges Retreat participants learned about the program's information sessions to inform planning for future promotion. This year, a record 45 participants participated in Zoom information sessions, yielding 24 retreatants.
- Created new promotional video for Magis Program at no cost using in-house production. Continued to plan for new Bridges retreat video, postponed by COVID-19 until 2021.
- Regularly updated website with news, member profiles, and Ignatian spirituality videos from Magis program. Enhanced the online application process and experience.
- Continued cross-marketing efforts with Clarence Heller's Moments of Grace + Prayer retreats.

PROGRAM CREATION AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

- Offered and assessed the Bridges Retreat in Daily Life that became virtual in March 2020. This includes a Faith Sharing Day and the postponed Marketplace Spirituality Retreat and Sending Celebration Prayer Service rescheduled virtually in December 2020. THANK YOU to all the prayer companions who assisted in the move to virtual companioning and to Hsin-hsin Huang, who converted the assessments to online questionnaires.
- Offered and coordinated virtual summer 2020 information sessions.
- The current virtual Bridges Retreat is being offered at: Parish of Annunziata, site coordinator Laurie Hannigan; St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, site coordinator Pam Mason; and online site, coordinated by Sharon Tan and Hsin-hsin Huang.
- Three experienced prayer companions are mentoring three first-year prayer companions.
- Planned, offered and assessed the Magis – Greater Understanding, Love, and Service Program, providing ongoing formation of prayer companions

and enrichment for others who have received the Ignatian Retreat. Vicki Harpring is facilitator of Magis and John Pettinger is videographer.

- A new group this year is "The Beatitudes and the Spiritual Exercises," facilitated by Linda Leib.
- "Dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises," a requirement for prayer companion formation, is facilitated by Mark McKenzie, S.J., and has 16 participants, five of whom are already prayer companions.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Continued the online late-July appeal honoring the feast day of St. Ignatius.
- In early November, developed and distributed the annual appeal letter to key constituents.
- These appeals help to meet the increasing costs of offering the Bridges Retreat in Daily Life.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- For last fiscal year, subsidized 40 percent of Bridges Retreatants in varying amounts, and for Magis, subsidized all of the prayer companion attendees as well as 48 percent of the non-prayer companion attendees in varying amounts. Subsidies are made possible by the general donation fund as well as by the donated services of some prayer companions and Magis speakers and facilitators. Income for both Bridges and Magis includes pledges made by retreatants and attendees in any amount they can afford, as well as donated services.
- Received a \$2,000 grant from the Angela Merici Fund, thanks to efforts of Sr. Thomas More Daly, OSU.
- Filed Form 990 with the IRS for fiscal year 2019-2020 and issued a 2019 Form 1099 to any person who provided services to the Bridges Foundation and was paid in excess of \$600 during this calendar year.
- Able to receive qualified donations of appreciated equities from any person who wishes to make such a gift.
- Able to receive cash or security donations from a qualified retirement account as directed by the owner of the account if the donation is made pursuant to Section 408(d)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code and the owner is over age 70-1/2.

fiscal status report

	FISCAL YEAR		
	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020
INCOME			
BRIDGES RETREAT*	\$14,041	\$21,468	\$18,299
MAGIS*	\$13,376	\$18,918	\$15,835
SPECIAL EVENTS**	\$4,295	\$710	\$2,010
OTHER SOURCES	\$1,735	\$2,471	\$3,450
TOTAL INCOME	\$33,447	\$43,567	\$39,594
EXPENSES			
ADMINISTRATION	\$1,209	\$1,417	\$1,538
BRIDGES RETREAT	\$20,272	\$21,121	\$22,751
MAGIS	\$12,050	\$15,748	\$15,468
SPECIAL EVENTS**	\$2,773	\$3,477	\$3,229
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$36,304	\$41,763	\$42,986
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	\$(2,857)	\$1,804	\$(3,392)
Donations/Fundraising	\$11,855	\$13,098	\$10,255

* Includes donated services

** Special Events include Ignatian Community Retreats and other events held for the benefit of the entire community. Because we are cash basis, special event income and expenses are sometimes reflected in a different fiscal year than when the event actually occurred.

information sessions

BRIDGES RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE INFORMATION SESSIONS

During each summer, the Bridges Foundation offers information sessions for those who desire to make the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. For questions regarding locations, dates and times for the 2021 information sessions, visit the website or call Steve Givens at (314) 401-2072 or email executive.director@bridgesfoundation.org. Planned Bridges sites are:

Webster Groves Christian Church

Wednesday morning weekly group meetings

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

Saturday morning monthly group meetings

St. Matthew the Apostle Catholic Church

Saturday morning monthly group meetings

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Valley Park

Tuesday evening weekly group meetings

Online Site

Tuesday evening weekly group meetings

St. Nicholas Spirituality Center, O'Fallon, IL

Thursday evening weekly group meetings

Find us at:

- bridgesfoundation.org
- [facebook.com/bridgesfoundationstl/](https://www.facebook.com/bridgesfoundationstl/)
- twitter.com/ignatianSTL

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