

annual report 2022



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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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT – DECEMBER 2022

Over the past year, the Bridges Foundation continued its mission of providing the 19th Annotation Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and ongoing formation in Ignatian spirituality for many individuals who thirst for a deeper spiritual life and discernment.

This year, Bridges is providing online and in-person retreats to 27 individuals, and the Magis Program has 65 people enrolled. Both programs reach participants living outside of the St. Louis region. Through the generosity of benefactors, the Bridges Foundation's finances remain stable, and the endowment fund continues to prosper in a challenging financial market.

As a follow up to the Board's strategic plan adopted last year, Bridges embarked upon the plan's initiatives by establishing committees to address: serving a wider range of ecumenical Christians and the Hispanic community, expanding the geographic range for retreat sites, and continuing the professional development and formation of prayer companions who are so vital to the success of the retreat.

Through the leadership of the Board and Executive Director Steve Givens, Bridges experienced many highlights through the year, including:

- > Strengthening the relationship with the Office of Ignatian Spirituality of the Central and South Province of the Jesuits, including co-sponsoring an online advent retreat and participating in the planning of a number of Ignatian Year activities.
- > Creating an inspiring new set of videos showcasing the Bridges program.
- > Increasing presence on social media platforms, including hosting nine "Bridges Conversations" Facebook Live interviews.
- > Hosting a successful Ignatian Community Retreat at Mercy Center for 53 individuals led by Fr. Hung Pham, Director of the Office of Ignatian Spirituality.

The Bridges Foundation is grateful and appreciative for the continued support, prayers, and generosity of time and treasure of so many in our community. Also, I would like to recognize and thank Joan Kletzker for her tireless hours serving as the Board secretary for the past three years.

Thanks also to the new and returning officers of the Bridges Foundation as of January 2023: Gary Peterson, president; Jill Carnaghi, vice president; Mary Jane Farrell Lane, treasurer; and Karen Siebenberger, secretary. Other new incoming members of the board are Kate Stroble and Deb Meister.

Again, many thanks for your passion and dedication to help advance the beautiful Bridges mission.

In peace and gratitude,

Maureen Herrmann
President

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 27 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 Retreat in October, a Marketplace Spirituality Retreat in the spring and a Sending Celebration and Dinner in mid-May.

Magis – Greater Understanding, Love and Service

The Magis Program, structured for those who have completed the 18th, 19th or 20th Annotation Retreat, resumed meeting in person in fall 2022 while still offering several online options. Magis functions to support the participant in growing and living the Ignatian Way within a community setting. Currently we have 65 participants and 11 facilitators who lead eight small groups. 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.

upcoming events

2023-2024 Bridges Retreat in Daily Life

Registration begins May 1 and closes August 25, 2023
More information at: <http://bridgesfoundation.org/programs/bridges-foundation-retreat/>

2023-2024 Magis – Greater Understanding, Love and Service

Registration begins June 1, 2023. More information at:
<http://bridgesfoundation.org/programs/the-magis-program/>

Marketplace Spirituality Retreat on April 28-29, 2023. Although preference is given to current retreatants, the 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/>

THIS YEAR'S MAGIS SPEAKERS ARE:

Preparation Days

Fr. Hung Pham, SJ

First Week

Fr. Mike Harter, SJ

Nativity and Incarnational Living

Fr. Mike Rozier, SJ

Consolation and Desolation and the Two Standards

Virginia Herbers

Discernment of Spirits

Pam Mason

Third Week

Danielle Harrison

Fourth Week

Jeff Schulenberg



Following the presentations (either in-person or pre-recorded video for online participants), each person participates in one of eight small groups, namely:

Ignatian Discernment

led by Tom & Dale Auffenberg

The Beatitudes and the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises

led by Linda Leib and David Harpring

Interfacing the Spiritual Exercises with 12 Step Spirituality

led by Rick Lageson, JD

Racial Healing and the Spiritual Exercises

led by Kate Stroble

Dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises

led by Hsin-hsin Huang, PhD

ONLINE Dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises

led by Fr. Bob Hagan, SJ

ONLINE Peer Supervision/Consultation

led by Hsin-hsin Huang, PhD

Prayer Companion Training

led by Marian Love and Steve Givens

accomplishments of the standing committees in 2021-22:

MARKETING COMMITTEE

- Made frequent contact with the Bridges community regarding important information, program reminders, registration deadlines, and Ignatian spirituality via social media, website, targeted emails and quarterly eLink newsletter.
- Targeted emails to former retreatants, press releases, a new marketing video, social media, and print advertising worked together to generate attendees for information sessions, yielding 27 retreatants as the new fiscal year began.
- Created nine episodes of Facebook Live “Bridges Conversations” with members of the Bridges community, resulting in hundreds of views and engagements.
- Released new four-minute marketing video, in addition to a series of FAQ videos and a series of “Bridges Stories” about individual retreatants.
- Created promotional materials for parish promotion ministers and coordinated outreach to specific audiences, including Catholic deacons, the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and the local Christian Church organization.

PROGRAM CREATION AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

- Offered and assessed the Bridges Retreat in Daily Life. All of the meetings are now in person with the exception of the online retreat. The Faith Sharing Day was in-person at the CSJ Motherhouse, as was the Marketplace Spirituality Retreat and the Sending Celebration. The Prayer Companion Morning of Sharing was planned and held in May at Webster Groves Christian Church.

- Offered and coordinated eight information sessions to market the Bridges Retreat at several sites throughout the St Louis region and online in the summer of 2022.
- Secured sites for the 2022-2023 Bridges Retreat: Webster Groves Christian Church, site coordinator is Carol Brescia; Sacred Heart Valley Park, site coordinators are Mary Fehner and Dave Harpring; St. Louis University High School, site coordinators are Linda Leib and Dennis Klosterman; and the Online Group, coordinated by Sharon Tan.
- Ensured that six first-year prayer companions were mentored by experienced prayer companions.
- Planned, offered and assessed the Magis—Greater Understanding, Love, and Service Program that provides ongoing formation of prayer companions and enrichment for others who have received the Spiritual Exercises.
- Decided to offer the Ignatian Community Retreat every other year. The most recent ICR was held in July 2022 at the Mercy Retreat Center and Rev. Hung Pham, SJ was the presenter. Therefore, there will not be an Ignatian Community Retreat in the summer of 2023. However, there will be a Prayer Companion Morning of Sharing which will be held following the ending of the 2022-23 Bridges Retreat.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Continued the online late-July appeal honoring the feast day of St. Ignatius.
- In December, developed and distributed the annual appeal letter to key constituents.
- These appeals help keep the Bridges Retreat and the Magis Program accessible and affordable to all, regardless of their ability to pay.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- For last fiscal year, subsidized 40% of Bridges Retreatants in varying amounts, and for Magis, subsidized 100% of the Prayer Companion attendees and 16% 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 is earned from pledges made by retreatants and attendees in any amount they can afford.
- 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 2021-2022 and issued any required Form W-2s or Form 1099-NECs for personal services payments made during 2022.
- 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		
INCOME	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021*	2021 - 2022**
BRIDGES RETREAT***	\$18,299	\$15,010	\$39,449
MAGIS***	\$15,835	\$17,677	\$22,320
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$2,010	\$0-	\$3,179
OTHER SOURCES	\$3,450	\$4,660	\$4,660
TOTAL INCOME	\$39,594	\$37,347	\$72,839
EXPENSES			
ADMINISTRATION	\$1,538	\$454	\$1,580
BRIDGES RETREAT	\$22,751	\$17,187	\$34,458
MAGIS	\$15,468	\$16,866	\$21,459
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$3,229	\$0-	\$3,146
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$42,986	\$34,507	\$60,643
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	\$(3,392)	\$2,840	\$12,196
Donations/Fundraising	\$10,255	\$9,426	\$5,726

*Because of a change in fiscal year end, FY 2020–2021 includes 13 months of income and expenses.

** Both income and expenses were unusually high for FY 2021-2022 due to the usually large number of people who participated in the Bridges and Magis programs for that year.

*** Includes donated services.

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 any questions regarding location, date and time of the 2023 Information Sessions, visit our website or call 314-401-2072 or email executive.director@bridgesfoundation.org.

Find us at:

- bridgesfoundation.org
- facebook.com/bridgesfoundationst/

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