

annual report 2025



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.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT – DECEMBER 2025

As we look back over the past year, we celebrate a year of transitions and expansion. New sites for the Bridges Retreat at DeSmet Jesuit High School, Glendale Presbyterian Church, and All Saints Parish in St. Peters allowed us to attract retreatants from new geographical areas. Additionally, a new partnership with DeSmet Jesuit High School brought us a new, expansive home for our Magis Program.

We wish to thank our donors, who provided funding that allowed us to support 39% of all Bridges retreatants, 100% of prayer companions who attended the Magis Program, and additional funding for prayer companions that allows them to improve their skills and ability to support retreatants in receiving the exercises. We continue to maintain a strong financial position with the capacity to support our volunteers and our retreatants.

*volunteers are at the heart
of Bridges' success*

Without our site coordinators, who oversee the spiritual experience of the retreatants at each site, it would be impossible to deliver a faith-filled and grounded experience of the Ignatian Exercises. This year, we have six new prayer companions who are continuing their training by working with retreatants under the guidance of experienced mentors. This process of prayer companion training over three years builds our capacity to welcome more retreatants to the retreat in Daily Life.

The Spiritual Exercises offer a timeless way for adults of all backgrounds and ages to grow in deeper relationship with Jesus, and this past year our Marketing and Development Committee worked hard to ensure that our communications materials flow to the broadest audience possible as we continue to seek to reach a younger and more ecumenical community of believers.

We are especially grateful to Steve Givens, our executive director, who is the control center for Bridges and brings our message to the outside community to help ensure Bridges' success.

I encourage you to review this annual report and see for yourself the success of Bridges over the past year. We give thanks to God for the grace granted to the entire Bridges community of retreatants, prayer companions, Magis participants and other volunteers and supporters.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Mr. Gary Peterson
President

Bridges Ignatian Retreat in Daily Life

The 19th Annotation Retreat of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola sponsored by the Bridges Foundation served 24 retreatants in 2024-25. 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 in mid-May. There are currently 31 retreatants participating in the 2025-26 Bridges Retreat.

Magis – Greater Understanding, Love and Service

The Magis Program, structured for those who have completed the 18th, 19th or 20th Annotation Retreat, functions to support the participant in growing and living the Ignatian Way within a community setting. During 2024-25 we had 53 participants and 10 facilitators who led eight small groups. The program meets for seven three-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. There are currently 62 people registered for the 2025-26 Magis Program.

upcoming events

Marketplace Spirituality Retreat with Fr. Marcus Fryer, SJ

April 24-25, 2026
CSJ Motherhouse

Ignatian Community Retreat with Author Eric Clayton

July 17-18, 2026
Pallottine Retreat and Conference Center

2026-2027 Bridges Retreat in Daily Life

Registration begins May 1 and closes August 21, 2026.

2026-2027 Magis – Greater Understanding, Love and Service

Registration begins May 1, 2026.

FOR THE 2025-26 MAGIS PROGRAM,
THE SCHEDULED SPEAKERS ARE:

Preparation Days

Danielle Harrison

First Week

Paul Coutinho

Examen and Contemplating the Incarnation

Fr. Paul Hoelsing

Second Week

Virginia Herbers

Discernment of Spirits

Jeff Harrison, SJ

Third Week

Hsin-hsin Huang, PhD

Fourth Week

Jessica Kerber, aci



Following the presentations (either in-person or pre-recorded video for online participants), each person participates in one of nine small groups. For the 2025-26 year, the small groups include:

Cannonball Moments and the Creative Process

Facilitated by Steve Givens

Spiritual Threads: Weaving Ideas from Psalms, Proverbs, Jesus, and Ignatius

Facilitated by Dan Coughlin

Magis Speaker Forum

Facilitated by Jill Carnaghi
Facilitated online by Hsin-hsin Huang, PhD

Women as Integral Formators of St. Ignatius

Facilitated by Mary White

Exploring Connections: The Spiritual Exercises and the 12-Step Approach

Facilitated by Rick and Laura Lageson

Dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises

Facilitated by David Harpring, Martha Broyles, and David Dickey

The Call to Discernment

Facilitated online by Sharon Tan, PhD

Peer Supervision/Consultation for Prayer Companions

Facilitated by Marian Love and Carol Brescia

Accomplishments of the Standing Committees in 2024-25:

MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Continued keystone marketing and storytelling initiatives, including the Bridges Conversation Facebook Live and podcast episodes.
- Our webmaster oversaw the continuing development and maintenance of the Bridges website, including improving search engine optimization for those searching for Ignatian spirituality in the St. Louis area.
- Expanded distribution of Bridges promotional information to a wider ecumenical spectrum of churches and denominations.
- Following planning and oversight by the committee, the Executive Director took the lead on promotional activities, including issuing press releases and bulletin announcements, placing advertising in key markets, and publishing the quarterly newsletters and email direct marketing to community members.
- Noted St. Ignatius' Feast Day on July 31 via an email and on Facebook.
- Sent Thanksgiving Letter to previous donors and current retreatants thanking them for their interest in Bridges as well as past contributions.
- Raised \$2,981 from 19 donors in our annual appeal, as well as another \$2,555 in memorial gifts and grants throughout the year.

PROGRAM CREATION AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

- Bridges Retreat in Daily Life was completed by 24 retreatants.
- New weekly in-person sites were added at DeSmet Jesuit High School, All Saints Parish in St. Peters, and Glendale Presbyterian Church. The Online site also continued.
- Monthly sites continued at St. Matthew the Apostle Parish and Saint Louis University High School.

- Faith Sharing Day was held in-person at the CSJ Motherhouse and also offered online.
- The Marketplace Spirituality Retreat occurred in March with Fr. Michael Harter, SJ presenting.
- The Sending Celebration was held at the CSJ Motherhouse and also online.
- A Prayer Companion morning of appreciation was held in early June with 24 attendees.
- We offered and coordinated information sessions to market the Bridges Retreat at all of our sites throughout the St. Louis region and online in the summer of 2025. Approximately 40 people attended.
- Prepared for the 2025-26 Bridges Retreat being offered at Glendale Presbyterian Church, coordinated by Carol Brescia and Kate Stroble; DeSmet Jesuit High School, coordinated by Laurie Kohler; St. Peter Claver, coordinated by Pam Mason; Saint Louis University High School, coordinated by Denny Klosterman and Dave Dickey; and the Online site, coordinated by Karen Siebenberger.
- Prepared programming for 2025-26 Magis Program, including selecting topics and choosing speakers and small group facilitators.
- Three first-year prayer companions were mentored by experienced prayer companions during the 2024-25 retreat. There are six first-year active prayer companions in 2025-26. Prayer Companion training is not being offered in 2025-26. The Felling Fund provided funds in the amount of \$2,645 during the past year to support ongoing development of Bridges prayer companions.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Provided financial assistance in varying amounts to 39% of Bridges Retreatants. Provided financial assistance to 100% of all Prayer Companions who attended the Magis program as well as to 18% of all other Magis attendees. Financial assistance is made possible by generous donations from the Bridges Community as well as by the donated services of some Bridges Prayer Companions, Magis speakers and Magis group facilitators. Income for Bridges and Magis is received from pledges made by retreatants and participants based upon what 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 2024-25 and complied with all other governmental reporting regulations.
- As a qualified charitable organization, Bridges is able to accept a donation 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, which applies to individuals over age 70-1/2.

fiscal status report

FISCAL YEAR			
INCOME	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025
BRIDGES RETREAT*	\$22,660	\$22,305	\$22,258
MAGIS*	\$19,921	\$19,050	\$20,590
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$ -0-	\$2,930	\$ -0-
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$5,686	\$9,247	\$11,610
TOTAL INCOME	\$48,267	\$53,532	\$54,458
EXPENSES			
ADMINISTRATION	\$1,326	\$1,894	\$1,604
BRIDGES RETREAT	\$28,429	\$28,576	\$33,249
MAGIS	\$22,786	\$22,763	\$28,624
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$ -0-	\$3,236	\$ -0-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$52,541	\$56,469	\$63,477
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	(\$4,274)	(\$2,937)	(9,019)
Donations/Fundraising (not included above)	\$13,250	\$9,801	\$5,536

* 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 2026 Information Sessions, visit our website or call 314-401-2072 or email executive.director@bridgesfoundation.org.

Find us at:

- bridgesfoundation.org
- facebook.com/bridgesfoundationstl/

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