



A Place of Peace

The Ignatius – Loyola News 2008

V o l u m e 6 • I s s u e 2

The Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph is home to Loyola House, the Ecology Project, Ignatius Farm CSA, Ignatius Farm, and the Plant an Old Growth Forest Project.

Caretakers of the Land

Message from Jim Profit, SJ, Executive Director

I was walking the east side of our land a while ago and came upon a father and his two children. The father shared stories of his days as a boy playing on the banks of the Speed River and his early attempts at constructing a cedar log cabin in the woods along the riverbank. He was delighted when I informed him that not only were the remnants of the cabin still there, but that I could take him to the exact spot. Overgrown with brush, the cedar log walls still peeked out from the greenery. The father was delighted to relive and share the memories of building the cabin with his friends. I left my trail mates happy to know that the land still offered fond memories to this father who now shared those memories with his children.

Our land continues to act as the seed of memories for many people. For almost a century this land was farmed and cared for by young Jesuits in training. We have passed that nurturing spirit to thousands of young people who come here throughout the year. Students from the Catholic school board are helping to transform our old villa into a student retreat and ecology centre. The Jesuit community has enjoyed the bounty of the gardens planted last spring by students from St. James High School attending Terra, an outdoor education program. The energy, skill and knowledge brought to our farm by the

six organic farm interns of the Community Shared Agriculture have been a great blessing. It is hard not to have their hopes rub off on me – hopes for a future of farming and a more ecologically healing way of life. I remember the excited voices of the young children attending our Cosmic Camp for Kids back in July and shared in the contagious joy of the Willow Road Public School students who planted 1,200 trees on two warm days in early November. I am confident that some of these teens will one day return with their own children, point to the trees and proudly state “I planted those trees, and look at how they have grown!”

As I write, the 40-day Spiritual Exercises Institute is concluding. Our retreat house has been filled with the youthful energy of nine Jesuit novices from Jamaica and Canada. It has been over a decade since Jesuit novices last made their retreat at Loyola House. I remember with fondness the two 40-day retreats that I made at this retreat house, the first as a young novice and the second more than a decade later. Each time I enter the retreat house chapel my mind is flooded with memories. The chapel has become one of my spiritual homes. This land also carries so many memories. When I walk the land I remember planting trees that are now more than a quarter century old. My soul finds rest in this land.

This year has been one marked by much change and renovation. We have completed the transition from a Jesuit novitiate into a full-fledged Ignatian spirituality and ecology centre. In February 2009, we will complete the last of our major works with the opening of the new student retreat and ecology centre at the old villa. We renovated Loyola House and constructed new apartments at Ignatius College for participants of the retreat centre training programs. The Stations of the Cosmos, expected to be completed by spring, will provide a great educational and spiritual tool. We are expanding an integrated ecology-spirituality program. These and other ongoing changes will ensure the future of our property, a future that will hopefully continue to speak something of the glory and beauty of God.

This land defines our identity. It determines who we are. As one of our Board members has remarked: “This land is special, it draws us here and is an integral part of our work here. This land is central to the apostolic work of the Jesuits in Guelph.” That is true. However, I know that nothing is more central than your prayers and support. Without you, nothing is possible on this land. You gift the land with life and abundance. For that I am deeply grateful. May God continue to bless you. May you continue to bless us.

The Lord God planted a garden and placed there human persons to cultivate and care for it. (Gn 2:8,15)

A year in review

We are celebrating.....with your ongoing support, our accomplishments in 2008:

- Continue to subsidize all of our retreat programs
- The Stations of the Cosmos will be opened early in 2009
- Replaced all the windows in the dining room, chapel, and kitchen of Loyola House
- Undertook extensive renovations to Loyola House and Orchard Park
- Offered reduced rate retreats in the winter
- Planted more than 2,000 trees on our property
- Set aside an additional 14,000 metres of land for the Plant an Old Growth Forest Project (bringing us to a total of 21,000 metres)
- Provided food shares from our CSA farm to a local community group
- Organized and co-sponsored the Great Lakes CSA Conference
- Conducted ongoing research in climate change and biodiversity
- Continued surveying lichen in the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland



This summer we received a generous donation from the School Sisters of Notre Dame to support the Plant an Old Growth Forest Project.

The Sisters support the project as part of their commitment to "hear the cries of the earth and its people".

We are deeply grateful for their gift and support.

In gratitude to our volunteers - Thank You!

Many people contribute their time and energy to our work. They include Board members, CSA core group, Ecology Project working group, Business advisory committee for the CSA, the gardeners, tree planters, trail maintenance volunteers, and those who help in our library and with administrative duties.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN 2009

8-Day Directed Retreat - January 9-17

Eco-Spirituality Retreat - January 24

Finding Your Way - Discernment Weekend (ages 18-30) - Feb 6-8

Directed Prayer Weekend (all ages) - Feb 6-8

5-Day Directed Retreat - February 16-21

8-Day Directed Retreat - February 16-24

Directed Prayer Weekend - February 27-March 1

Food for the Journey IV - March 2-7

Living in the Heart of God - March 16-21

Lenten Taizé Retreat - March 27-29

8-Day Easter Retreat - April 4-12

Easter Triduum - April 9-12

40-Day Spiritual Exercises - May 2-June 11 and October 3-November 12

Individual Directed Retreats - May 8-June 4

Land Blessing - May 31, all welcome

Spiritual Implications of Climate Change - June 12-14

8-Day Directed Retreat - June 24-July 2

Sharing the journey of St. Ignatius, the Pilgrim



Pilgrim tents at St. Peter's Church in Oustic

For the last six years in early August a group of pilgrims have walked the 185 km journey from Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph to the Jesuit Martyrs' Shrine in Midland – a place that honours early Jesuit missionaries and the people of the Huron Wendat Nation who welcomed the new Christian faith.



Each year, the walking pilgrimage highlights themes of Ignatian spirituality. As a pilgrim, St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, experienced the beauty and mystery of God in all things, and understood that God dwells in all creatures, and labours for us within all of creation.

Wayne Forest, pilgrim and local artist, captured the journey through a series of line drawings he completed during the pilgrimage.

Several of the 2008 pilgrims were asked to explain why they did the pilgrimage and to share moments of feeling close to God.

"One of the highlights for me was on one of my nightly trips to the washroom to see the incredible sky, filled with stars shining bright. God's creation is unsurpassed by anything we can make."

"As we walked down quiet country roads past creeks and streams, fields of golden wheat, corn, barley and soya beans, horses and cattle out grazing, cemeteries, beautiful wild flowers and rolling hills, I felt the nearness of God in my heart, loving me and affirming my faith."

"I wanted to draw apart once again to walk a closer walk with Jesus, to hear from him and to bring him all my needs."

"For the first time in my life I was totally consumed by the present - I wasn't thinking about the next corner or the next break or even

stopping for the night - I was focused on putting one foot in front of the other and I've learned that God is very present in the present!"

"This experience was, for me, not simply a test of strength and endurance or a destination reached, but a journey with and toward God; a time away from the stress, fast pace and materialism of this modern age to a destination that historically, and still is, a centre of conversion and healing. And the pilgrimage continues. It taught me a lot about myself, showed me how good people really are and as I reflect on the experience, I am excited to share it. I have many fond memories that linger with me. Would I do it again? My husband waited a few days after the pilgrimage to ask me that question. My response...of course! "

For more information visit www.ignatiusguelph.ca/pilgrimage.html



Wayne Forest, pilgrim and local artist, soaking his tired feet while drawing.

How does one go about rebuilding a forest?

The Plant an Old Growth Forest Project at Ignatius Jesuit Centre has set out to answer that question and you can be part of the process to help plan the forest.

It is clear that after 200 years of deforestation and intensive agriculture, just “planting a few trees” won’t recreate the beauty and majesty of the original forest that once graced the lands of the Ignatius Jesuit Centre. A methodical, researched, and planned approach to reforestation is needed.

A new, volunteer Restoration Committee was struck over the summer to develop the formal reforestation plan for the Plant an Old Growth Forest lands.

After reviewing scientific literature and meeting with experts in the field, the Restoration Committee hopes to hear from past and present users of the Plant an Old Growth Forest lands.

In addition, the Restoration Committee plans to host a series of speakers on topics related to old growth forest and forest ecology.

If you are in Guelph, plan to come to the events. If you are out-of-town and use the lands when on retreat or when visiting Guelph, your input is still valuable. The Plant an Old Growth Forest website will soon feature a section where you can voice your thoughts.

Growing a forest will take hundreds of years. The time spent now in planning will ensure those years are well spent in the future.



Plant an
**OLD GROWTH
FOREST**

**...the seeds of
something big**

The Plant an Old Growth Forest Project will see 100 acres of the area's original forest brought back to life on the land at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph. Your donations of \$20 will help nurture and protect a square metre of land in perpetuity. What's more, when you donate to the project your donations are matched by the Ignatius Jesuit Centre. Donations can be gifted to others for special occasions and holidays. Contact Heather at 519-824-1250 x 224 or visit www.oldgrowthforest.ca for more information.

Trick or Treat?

Nope, this year it was trick or tree for one young man.



This year, a few weeks before Hallowe'en, our staff at the Plant an Old Growth Forest Project was contacted by a local ten year old, Caleb. It turns out that Caleb's request was to have 50 brochures about our tree planting project sent to him so that he could collect money for the project, rather than candy, as he went door to door in his neighbourhood.



Caleb's tree costume, and his distribution of our literature captured many of his neighbours' interest and in early November he presented Jim Profit, SJ, with the bounty of his journey. This was, for us, a true gesture of generosity of youth and a commitment to the future of our earth. This is financial stewardship at its best.

God's wide embrace at my window

An interview with spiritual director and Loretto Sister, Jeanine Glute, ibvm



What brought you here to Guelph and the Ignatius Jesuit Centre?

I received my spiritual direction training in Chicago but felt that the Ignatian piece was missing, the spirituality that emphasizes the finding of God in all things. When I came to Guelph in the summer of 2005 I felt immediately at home not only with the work but with the setting. I have found my roots here.

What are your roots?

I lived on a mixed-farm in Saskatchewan until I was eight and then my family moved to a small city where my Dad farmed on weekends and was employed during the week as a carpenter. My younger sister and I would go with Dad to pick raspberries or work in the garden picking potatoes and other vegetables or eradicating potato beetles.

The work on this land and at Loyola House is bringing me back to the first experiences I had of God as a child.

What was your experience of God as a child?

My youth shaped my image of God. It was, and still is an image of a big sky, the long horizon, the rhythm and visual images of sunrise and sunset. The landscapes of Saskatchewan formed my first image of God – God with a wide embrace. It is the wide horizon that illustrates the wide embrace of God and I can see that out my office window today. I experience it here everyday.

Where do you live?

There are a small number of Loretto Sisters here in town but we do not live in a community together as we are all doing different types of work. I live in Guelph and at present enjoy the peace and solitude of living alone as I find the work of spiritual direction intense. My time at home, alone, allows me the space to re-energize.

Where were you trained?

I attended the University of Regina and majored in Early Childhood Education. I entered the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loretto Sisters) in 1979 and taught primary school for more than two decades. In 1994 I was invited to be novice director. Later I acted as vocation director and assistant dean at Loretto College, a training centre at the Institute for Religious Formation in St. Louis, Missouri.

What led you to spiritual direction?

While on sabbatical in 1999, I participated in spiritual direction training at the Institute for Spiritual Leadership in Chicago. It was during this training that I realized the next stage in my religious life would be providing spiritual direction. I have come to realize that listening is a much needed ministry and I feel called to provide that ministry.



How would you describe your work at Loyola House?

I love my work as spiritual director. People come here with a limited amount of time and I see them grow in their ability to listen to God and grow in their relationship with God very quickly. God works in the time God has.

Manna from heaven: Cuisine at Ignatius



Lisa Calzonetti, Conference and Catering Manager, delights in cooking with food from the Ignatius farm.

There is nothing new about simple fresh food; it's been around for centuries in the smallest of gardens in every corner of the world. There's also nothing new about eating what comes out of those backyard gardens, but somewhere along the way we began thinking that kiwi from Australia, that orange from South Africa, or that tomato from Mexico would taste so much better.

What makes us buy tomatoes that travel more than four thousand miles away when we have the best tomatoes here, from our own land?

Simply put, getting back to the land, while as ancient as time itself, is comfortably enjoying a resurgence and thankfully that is where local

comes in to play. From our own Ignatius Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) gardens to that small patch in our grandparents backyard, it is all right here and so easily attainable. Although Canadian born, my father brought his Italian heritage and culture to life here in Guelph. The backyard garden of my childhood flooded our kitchen with a deluge of sensory delights. It is the taste of those tomatoes and peppers that launched my love of both food and cooking. Do we really know what food tastes like anymore when so much of what we are eating lacks flavour? It has been grown with high production, high yield methods that use pesticides and fertilizers and then trucked or shipped thousands of miles.

When the Jesuits came to this land almost a century ago the men farmed the land to feed their community. Over the years there have been many changes and although the novitiate is long closed the tradition of farming continues. Here on our property we have our CSA farm that provides food for many local residents and our own kitchen here at the retreat house.

There's a "new" movement afoot called the 100 mile diet. It is our

attempt to eat well based on the need to reclaim that simple fresh food once again.

But we all know that's not new.

We want to eat better. We want to taste what our land produces. Nothing makes me happier than cooking with produce that was harvested less than a day before.

We are fortunate that we can do that here at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre and in the Loyola House kitchen every chance we get. We hope you do too. *—Lisa Calzonetti*

As the morning sun takes to the sky and the breeze tickles my shirt tails, I walk down to the barn to load up some tomato trellising supplies. I can't help but thank God for the glory of another beautiful day. As I load up the farm truck with the other interns, I glance over at Tara, and say "It's a good day to be a farmer" and she smiles and nods.

*Heather Lekx
CSA Farmer*

NEW WEBSITE

Visit our new website at www.ignatiusguelph.ca

It's simply beautiful, so check it out.

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul. ~John Muir

With great thanks to our webmaster Jack Lincoln who more than exceeded our expectations.



Land as Apostolic - Land as Sacred

I spoke at the Homewood Health Centre, here in Guelph, and during the course of my presentation I spoke about how we view our land here at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre with an apostolic vision. Out of this vision has flowed many positive and on-going projects. Such a vision is based on a quote by John English, S.J.

We need to cease considering this land as part of our "financial portfolio" but rather learn to consider it as part of our "spiritual portfolio." – John English, SJ

Mr. Mitchell Hewson, the first Registered Horticultural Therapist to practice in Canada, was in the audience and afterwards he came up to me and said that the idea of our land being part of our spiritual portfolio really resonated with him, it moved and inspired him deeply.



The Homewood has so much beautiful land and they hadn't thought about their land in this way before. The idea opens many doors to them, excites them, gives new life to their visioning, and it came from our own John English.

It delights me to share our work, and vision with others during my speaking engagements.

–Marianne Karsh

Christian peace

The appearance of peace is three-fold:

Peace of the heart:

Peace is before all else an interior thing, belonging to the spirit.

Social peace:

This is solidly based on the mutual and reciprocal respect for the personal dignity of all people.

International peace:

The basis of international peace is, above all, truth. For in international relations, too, the Christian saying is valid: "The truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

Adapted From The Christmas Message of Pope John XXIII, December 23, 1959.



From all of us at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre Guelph...



"Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you" (John 14:28).



If you have played the game of Scrabble you know that every letter has a value and that the letter Y has one of the higher values. That Y combined with two other letters provides the greatest value to our organization. With YOU, every one of YOU, our future is bright and our work is secure.

Please help us put the YOU on a triple word score by continuing your commitment to our work.

How can you help?



- Come visit the Ignatius Jesuit Centre located just north of Guelph on Highway 6 and experience the peace and tranquility of these grounds. Visit www.ignatiusguelph.ca for details on all of our activities.
- Stay at Loyola House for a night, a week, or come for a 40-day retreat! Visit www.loyolahouse.ca for full details on the retreats that are offered all year long.
- Pray for success in all of our programs.



Volunteers are integral to our future. You share your talents and energize us with your gifts.

Please visit – www.ignatiusguelph.ca/common/volunteer.php to fill in a volunteer application.



- Make a donation to the Plant an Old Growth Forest Project using the enclosed coupon. For every \$20 you donate, a square metre of land will be protected and another square metre of land will be matched by the Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph.
- Order a Loyola House Cookbook. Only \$25 (includes S&H costs) and full of delicious recipes.
- Order a “Good Food Ideas” Cookbook from the Ignatius Farm CSA. Only \$25 (includes S&H costs) and a vegetarian’s delight!
- Please make a donation using the enclosed coupon.
- Consider becoming a monthly donor.

- Consider making a lasting gift through a Planned Gift or will bequest.
- A formal Planned and Asset Giving Program was initially introduced to retreatants and other friends of Loyola House two years ago. Will Bequests, Strip Bond Donations, and the Donation of Securities are the most popular Planned and Asset Giving instruments.

Canada Revenue Agency is now allowing the donation of securities without the payment of income tax on capital gains by the donor. Prospective donors now have several donation options available through securities:

1. The outright gift of securities instead of a cash gift.
2. The use of securities to purchase and donate Ignatius Jesuit Centre strip bonds.
3. The use of securities to purchase Life Insurance to be donated to Ignatius Jesuit Centre.



A Place of Peace

The Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph is a place of peace, grounded in the spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola.

We are committed to sharing the sacredness of Creation through the spiritual development and education of people, the fostering of community, and the care of the land.

Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph

P.O. Box 1238
Guelph, Ontario N1H 6N6
Phone: 519.824.1250, ext. 241
Email: adminassistant@ignatiusguelph.ca
www.ignatiusguelph.ca

Loyola House

Phone: 519.824.1250, ext. 271
Email: Loyola@loyolahouse.ca
www.loyolahouse.ca

Charitable Number: 11896 6373 RR0001

