

SOUTHERN IGNATIAN NETWORK NEWSLETTER

SIGN On the Worldwide Web: www.signuk.net

SIGN SECRETARY

Christine Risebero
Secretary, SIGN
4 Oval Road
LONDON NW1 7EB



The Southern Ignatian Network is on the Web.
You can find us at www.signuk.net

In this Issue

This Page – News about the Spring Gathering

After the Conference
Page 2 ‘A Forum Report’

After the Conference
Page 2 – ‘A Cell Group’s Report’

Page 3 – The Chair’s Annual Report

Page 3 – Saturdays at the Priory, Greenwich

Page 4 – Annual General Meeting Elections



SIGN Spring Gathering and Annual General Meeting 11am on Saturday March 12th 2011 ‘The Art of Seeing’ Gero McLoughlin, S.J.

The aim of this workshop is to demonstrate how reflective and fruitful prayer can be inspired by considerations of masterpieces of Western representational art.

It is hoped that, cumulatively, the sessions of the day and the 6 paintings to be examined will help participants to recognise how other mediums may be used to introduce people to praying in a way that deepens conscious sharing in God’s sustaining presence in the world.

In its totality, this workshop reflects a fundamental process of Ignatian spirituality.

Short Biography: The British Province of the Society of Jesus welcomes and encourages groups such as SIGN and their leadership, and seeks to offer them support through the Promoter of Ignatian Spirituality, who is presently Father Gero McLoughlin SJ. Though based in Scotland, he works throughout Britain, providing continuous formation opportunities for the group and fostering good standards of training in Ignatian Spirituality among them. He is assisted by the Promoter’s Consultative Group. Gero is a member of the SIGN Core Group



The Spring Gathering on March 12th is at the London Centre for Spirituality - St. Edmund’s, Lombard St. Doors open at 10.30am.

The Nearest Tube is Bank, exit 6

The Gathering is from 11 am until 4.00 pm Please bring a packed lunch; coffee and tea will be provided. Donation* for the day is £10 for members and £15

for non—members.

*** The cost of the Gathering is to cover materials and expenses. It is important that no one is prevented from coming because of financial hardship therefore a donation that is less (or in some cases more!) is acceptable. Please pay whatever you can afford!**



Check out this brilliant website:

pray-as-you-go.org daily prayer for your MP3 player JESUIT MEDIA INITIATIVES

download MP3 download WMA podcast what’s in it? how to use it

To play a file now, click the date. To download a file, right-click on the date, then choose ‘Save Target As’ from the drop-down menu.

Weekend	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
22 23 January	24 January	25 January	26 January	27 January	28 January

whole week ZIP file (50.3 MB)

The accounts will be available at the AGM. If you are not able to come and would like to see the Accounts, please contact the Secretary who will send you a copy



The Southern Ignatian Network (SIGN) is constituted by Deed of Trust and is a registered Charity No. 1055559. The address is: that of the Secretary of SIGN (see above). The Charity’s objects are the advancement of the Christian Religion in particular by the promotion and encouragement of the Ignatian tradition.



News since the SIGN Conference 2010 'Seeing with New Eyes'

The Open Forum

An opportunity to hear what members are looking for is always good and however small and varied the group an Open Forum is guaranteed to provide a plethora of ideas and this was no exception. We gained insights for gatherings and in-between times and some ideas for the shared apostolate of us together as a Network. It is good to see with new ideas and think about the venues for our meeting and the welcome we provide, particularly for those who come new to their first meeting. The importance of group support within the gathering was highlighted, particularly in groups who are engaged in the same ministries. Our email contact lists received support and there are requests to strengthen these. The importance of building local groups, networks and links with other Ignatian groups was affirmed.

Who we are and where we are going received wide ranging attention. Our new leaflet is a beginning and suggestions were made to use other media to make ourselves known - maybe an Alpha style course, DVD, the use of Facebook. We were asked to consider supervision groups for members of the network and the possible provision of prayer guide training. The need for training courses in areas other than London was highlighted as a possible network apostolate.

Our journey through the Weeks of the exercises in our regular gatherings has come to an end. This has been most valuable to individuals and to the network as a whole. The forum gave a resounding voice that in true Ignatian tradition we repeat and deepen this practice.

Margaret Palladino

Reports from a SIGN Cell Group



At our Autumn Conference five of us decided to form a Cell Group to support one another in our Ignatian ministries. We meet in Luton for a shared lunch which, as you can see from the photograph, is a time for companionship and good food.

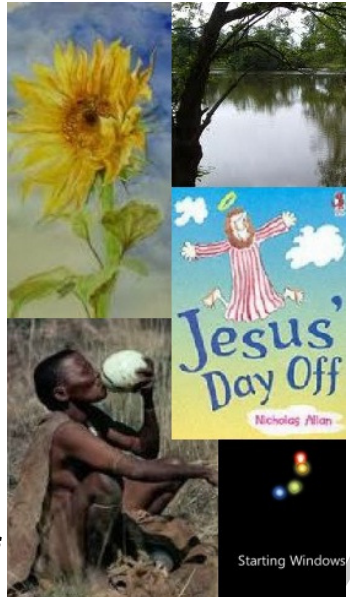
We chat about our work and ministries and the hens in the garden! The relaxed atmosphere leads naturally to sharing after. Something that surprised me as a former Chair of SIGN was uncertainty about eligibility to be 'proper' SIGN members. It seems there is the misapprehension that only Spiritual Directors or those who have done the training at the London Centre for Spirituality (or the Margaret Street Course as it once was!) can be fully fledged SIGN members. Maybe this is one of the reasons we have struggled to build up our Network!

SIGN is, in fact, for *everyone* engaged in Ignatian Ministry. Perhaps the Core Group can give this some thought for our Annual Meeting.

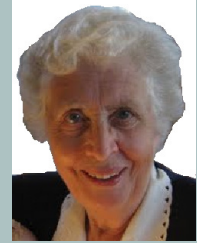
With our coffee mugs in hand we sit comfortably around a candle, lit with a prayer reminding us of Christ in our midst. When the time is right we each reflect on an aspect of our Ignatian Ministry for which we are most thankful and share insights. Afterwards we then share an aspect for which we are least grateful. This seems to sustain us and helps us and equips us for our journey home with food for thought until we meet again in 8 weeks time.

We hope others may follow our lead and look forward to more growth of SIGN as it supports and nurtures us in our ministries together. The collage at the end of the article has significance for each of our members—it is a symbol of some of the richness we shared in a lovely time together in a lovely family home.

Alan Hodgetts



'WANTED' - NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for our Autumn Newsletter. Please send them to our Secretary for inclusion.



"Glory be to Him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine." (Ephesians 3: v. 20)

Looking back over our SIGN YEAR, two events shine out for me like beacons:-

- Our Spring Gathering on 13th March
- Our Conference at High Leigh 12th-14th October

Remembering first the Gathering Day, we were blessed to be reflecting on the Contemplation to Attain Love and Living it Out in daily life. Ian Tomlinson, S.J., led us with the skill and gentleness which comes from one who has a profound experience of St. Ignatius and many years of companioning people in the Spiritual Exercises in Parishes and Retreat Centres. For me, the second talk on Living Out the Contemplatio in Daily Life was extremely powerful and has helped me, over the year, in striving to live out more deeply my involvement in God's Divine Plan for all Creation and for God's greater glory. It has inspired me to reflect more deeply on my Calling so that my commitment to Christ and my union with Him is at the centre of all that I am doing. The following two extracts from Ian's second talk urged me on in my passionate desire "to set the world on fire" with the love of Jesus and to serve in the spirit of Ignatius for "the greater honour and glory of God".....

" God loves us in creation; in deeds not just in words. To find this God in all things, in the circumstances of our lives, is our calling."....."The God who 'works and labours on my behalf in all created things on the face of the earth' (Sp. Ex. 236) will be a welcome companion in the normal stresses and struggles of daily life. This will lead me to a deeper love and more generous service of God in most situations."

Secondly, the Conference was another high point for me. The Core Group had worked long and hard in preparing for those special days and we were blessed in the sharing and team work we experienced - it was, for me, a real deepening of friendships and a recognition of the gifts of each one.

Only 30 people attended the Conference, but this smaller number created a warmth and intimacy which enhanced our group sharing. Our 4 speakers were excellent - we have a snapshot of their presentations elsewhere in this Newsletter. We were certainly challenged by them, but I left feeling that we had been encouraged and strengthened to move forward with hope "seeing with new eyes" and ready to reach out in our ministry of service in the way St. Ignatius would want us to do.

As my time as a member of the Core Group comes to an end, I give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve for 6 years. I have been greatly enriched spiritually and hopefully been better able to support others. For the last 2 years, serving as Chair has been a privilege and I give thanks for God's Love and Grace which, as Ignatius says, have been "enough for me and I ask for nothing more." I give thanks for the real companionship, friendship and support I have received from each of the Core Group members - thank you from my heart. I thank each one of you as members of SIGN for your fidelity and commitment and for all you are doing in your own areas to accompany others. My prayers will continue to be with you all in your various endeavours.

I feel that the following is a fitting conclusion to this Report, which hopefully is what each of us wants and desires:

"I ask the Father to give me an intimate knowledge of the many gifts I have received, that filled with gratitude for all, I may in all things love and serve the Divine Majesty." (Sp. Ex. 233)

.....and a prayer of St. Ignatius:

"Love consists in sharing what one has and what one is with those one loves. Love ought to show itself in deeds more than in words."

Sister Eugenia Geraghty

12th March "Longing for God" -
Sis Frances Browne

14th May A Taster day with CARM - Creative Art Retreat Movement -Christopher Payne

16th April "Fire, Water, Light and Desert"
Diane Greenwood

17th September "Sacred Stories in Religious and Secular Literature" Lynne Broadbent

18th June "Friendship and the understanding of God: the experience of Michelangelo" Gero McLoughlin S.J.

3rd December "Advent reflections on our mature years and our new birth in Christ" Sister Martha O.P & Anna Evans

Saturdays At The Priory in Greenwich.

Martha Stigler, a member of SIGN, will be holding the following Quiet Days and an open welcome is given to anyone who would like to share the day. The Reflection Days run from 10.30am to 4.00pm. Tea and coffee will be provided, bring a packed lunch. Suggested cost per day is £10. Any further information please contact

Martha on tel no:-
0208 692 7677



SIGN Annual General Meeting 11am on Saturday, March 12th 2011

2010—2011 SIGN Core Group

Elected at the 2010 AGM in March

- Chair** Sr. Eugenia Geraghty
- Secretary** Christine Risebero
- Vice Chair** Margaret Palladino
- Treasurer** Laurence Benkhabeab
- Jesuit representative**
Gero McLoughlin sj
- Membership Secretary**
Margaret Palladino
- Other Members**
 - Peter Ashman
 - Sr. Mary Forrest
 - Sheilah Kerr
 - Nicole Paice
 - Iona Rainer
 - Sue Wilson

A Core Group has existed since the beginning of SIgN in 1996 in one form or another. It meets twice a year, in January and September. In between times, members serve on small sub-groups to prepare Gatherings, produce the newsletter, consider matters relating to the membership, and to monitor financial matters.

SIGN SECRETARY

Christine Risebero
Secretary, SIGN
4 Oval Road
LONDON NW1 7EB

NOMINATIONS FOR 4 PLACES ON THE SIGN CORE GROUP to be received by Saturday February 26th 2011

Nominations are invited for 4 places on the Core Group. Nominations have already been received for 2 serving members on the Core Group. See below. Any member of SIgN may make nominations and is eligible for nomination. Please ensure that those nominated are willing to serve if elected, and ask them to provide the Secretary with a brief biography of up to 100 words. Please give the work of your Core Group committed prayer as they build on the 2010 Conference and for members to hear the Lord's call to join this grace filled Ignatian fellowship of devoted people.

The remaining members of the Core Group for the next year are: Margaret Palladino (Vice Chair); Laurence Benkhabeab (Treasurer—co-opted); Christine Risebero (Secretary); Gero McLoughlin sj (Jesuit Representative); Iona Rainer, Sheilah Kerr (with nomination but retiring by rotation having served for 3 years), Peter Ashman (co-opted after 2010 AGM, with nomination for election), Mary Forrest, Sue Wilson.

One vacancy has resulted from the retirement of Eugenia Geraghty, who has served for 6 years. We owe Eugenia much gratitude for all her work of the past 6 years, particularly for her time as the Chair. We are delighted to say that she will continue to be an involved and supportive member of SIGN. Also retiring having served for 6 years is Nicole Paice. We are very grateful for her energy and for all she has contributed, especially the development of the email list, now a crucial communication tool for members. She has kindly agreed to continue with this task for the moment and to carry on being an enthusiastic and supportive member. Sheilah Kerr has retired by rotation, having served for 3 years, but is willing to stand for re-election. The Rev. Peter Ashman was co-opted after the last AGM, and is willing to stand for election.

Please send nominations to the Secretary using this form:

2011 CORE GROUP NOMINATION FORM

Please cut off the form below and send to:
The Secretary of SIgN, 4 Oval Road, London NW1 7EB



NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF NOMINEES

1)

.....

.....

2)

.....

.....

3)

.....

.....

Name and address of sender:

.....

.....

Ensure the are nominees willing to stand
Ensure they send a short biography

Signed