



# THE RAY

*The newsletter of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center*

December 2015

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New Address:

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center  
2281 North Swan Boulevard  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

New Phone Number:

(414) 302-0240

Website:

[www.ourladyofgracespiritualitycenter.org](http://www.ourladyofgracespiritualitycenter.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center celebrates the Universal Call to Holiness by providing spiritual direction in the Roman Catholic tradition to men and women with a special emphasis on vocational discernment for young adults.

We foster a love for Mary in school children through the Our Lady of Grace Rosary Workshop and with presentations on topics pertinent to the pursuit of holiness in youngsters.

Foundational to the work of the Center is the unsurpassed Ignatian scholarship of the late Reverend Jules J. Toner, S.J. We are the first Catholic Spirituality Center in the world dedicated to promoting his writings and life of holiness.

## *From the desk of Mary...*



Warm Advent greetings from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center!

2015 has been a great year for the Center.

Since our July newsletter, our biggest news is that our location has changed. This past summer we came to the end of our lease at Christ King Parish. We found lovely and suitable office space four blocks up the street where the Center continues to flourish at our new location. We left Christ King Parish on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, with profound gratitude to the Pastor and parishioners for kindnesses over many years that are too numerous to count. As our first home, Christ King Parish will always have a treasured place in our prayers.

Just before our move, we celebrated our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Incorporation with a Holy Hour and Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at Christ King Church with about 150 people attending this beautiful event. Newly ordained Fr. Dennis Saran presided. To our delight at the social, Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI surprised us with a visit and enjoyed ice cream with our guests. Once again, Musica Oramus, a very talented youth choir from many surrounding parishes, provided exquisite sacred music under the direction of Mrs. Julie Cucunato. We are so grateful to all those who volunteered their time to help make this event so special.

Another amazing summer blessing was a gift of a first class relic of St. Ignatius of Loyola from the Society of Jesus to Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center. We are humbled and profoundly grateful for this treasure. You'll read more about this gift in this issue.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter. We are so grateful for your prayers and ongoing financial support that make

the work of the Center possible. Truly we depend on you and can't thank you enough for your generosity. We are confident that God will continue to bless you for your prayers and sacrifices in support of this sacred work.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, from our hearts to yours, I wish you and those you love a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!



September 29, 2015



Fr. Luke Strand blessing the new Center and visiting with the Board of Directors

## *Comments from Attendees of the Holy Hour*

"What a pleasure to attend the Eucharistic Adoration and the ice cream afterward. The Musica Oramus was superb...Jesus must have been basking in the glory and praise of it all."

-Christine

"Many thanks to the Board of Directors and Volunteers of the Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center----for the beautiful Holy Hour in honor of the Queenship of Mary and, of course, the following happy ice cream social. What a wonderful celebration!!" -Marlene and Dick



Scenes from the Social on August 16, 2015

## Relic of Saint Ignatius of Loyola

On July 9, 2015 we were overjoyed to receive a call from the Very Reverend Thomas A. Lawler, SJ, Provincial of the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus, offering us the precious gift of a first class relic of 16<sup>th</sup> century Saint Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. The accompanying paperwork from the General Postulator refers to it as “ex ossibus” (bone) of “ R.P. IGNATII de LOYOLA, Sacerdotis, Fundatoris Soc. Jesu” (Reverend Father Ignatius of Loyola, Priest, Founder of the Society of Jesus).

St. Ignatius died in Rome in 1556. He is recognized throughout the Catholic Church for his work entitled, *The Spiritual Exercises*, which has been used in the ministry of vocational discernment and spiritual direction for the past five hundred years.

The first visitor to the Center to venerate the relic followed up this wonderful gift with an anonymous donation in loving memory of Gordon James for the purchase of a suitable reliquary. We are profoundly grateful to the Jesuits for honoring Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center with this treasure of the Church. We are further grateful to our anonymous benefactor who so generously made possible the purchase of a beautiful reliquary worthy of the dignity of St. Ignatius’ sacred remains. This relic of St. Ignatius has a place of honor at the Center alongside our other three first class relics: St. Louise de Marillac, St. Maria Goretti and Bl. Maria Assunta Pallotta.

If you wish to visit the Center to venerate these relics, please call (414) 302-0240 to set up a time.

## Serra Club Gift

During his visit to Washington, D.C., Pope Francis canonized Junipero Serra, the Franciscan priest who founded the California missions. Serra Clubs worldwide are known for their efforts to foster and support vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life.

Mary DeSantis was invited to speak at the September 8th meeting of the Serra Club of Milwaukee. Following her talk, they gifted Our Lady of Grace with a \$10,000.00 donation. We are so grateful to the Serra Club for their recognition of our work in the Church and for their continued generous support of our efforts to help young adults discern their state in life vocation.

## Memorials

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center gratefully acknowledges the following gifts:

- In loving memory of Gordon James for the purchase of a reliquary (anonymous)
- In memory of the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J. (Margi Horner)

## Board Memberships

We are so grateful to Mr. Michael Canfield for his three years of service as Vice President of our Board of Directors. Mike’s love for the Blessed Mother, his humility and his deep faith have been an inspiration to all of us. We thank him most sincerely for his many kindnesses and we wish him God’s blessing in all future endeavors.

We warmly welcome Mr. Timothy Tarpey as the Center’s new Vice President. Tim and his wife Amy have three sons and reside in Wauwatosa where they are members of Christ King Parish. He is actively involved at Christ King and is the Vice-President of the Milwaukee Council of St. Vincent de Paul. A graduate of the Marquette University College of Business Administration, Tim has been a professional sales person/sales manager for twenty-five years.

When asked why he joined the Board, Tim stated, “I’ve admired Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center since I first talked to Mary DeSantis several years ago. Having a guide to help improve one’s relationship with Christ and discern God’s will is so very helpful and important. If I can help the Center help others, I pray that God help me do that. I’m blessed to be a part of this.”

## O Come Let Us Adore Him



Our yearlong yearnings for peace are intensified as we prepare to welcome our Savior, the Prince of Peace, at Christmas. Below are reflections of three Popes over the past thirty-three years on the true pathway to peace—Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

"The best, the surest and the most effective way of establishing everlasting peace on the face of the earth is through the great power of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament." **St. John Paul II** (Prayer beginning Perpetual Adoration on December 8, 1982 at St. Peter's in Rome)

"In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host. Be assiduous in the prayer of adoration and teach it to the faithful. It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering." **Pope Benedict XVI** ([www.azquotes.com/quote/685967](http://www.azquotes.com/quote/685967))

"If Jesus is to become the center of our life, we need to spend time in His Presence, before the Tabernacle." **Pope Francis** on Twitter @Pontifex (posted on [quotes@franciseveryday.com](http://quotes@franciseveryday.com) on 11/12/15)

We are so grateful for any donation to the Center. All donations are tax-deductible and may be made payable to **Our Lady of Grace.**