

Exciting things are happening at Charis! With the support of our donors, we are reaching more young adults than ever with an invitation to “come and see” how a relationship with God, based in our beautiful Catholic faith, can be the foundation of their lives. The transformative retreats created by our founder, Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ, and others since 2000 are being documented and shared with young adult ministers across the country. Over 1,200 young adults experienced Charis retreats and programs in the year ending June 30th. We hope you enjoy reading about the many ways Charis reaches out to those in their 20s and 30s, helping them *learn, reflect, serve, grow!*

Blessings from all of us at Charis,

Pam Coster
Executive Director

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Communications
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Partner Program
Coordinator (Athens, GA)

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Charis Reaches out to Young Alumni of Jesuit Colleges & Universities

On October 20, Charis will sponsor an event in Chicago for Jesuit-educated alumni in their 20s & 30s. The focus will be “Ignatian Spirituality in the Real World” - encouraging participants to reflect on how work and spirituality are intertwined. Fr. Timothy Kesicki, SJ, Provincial of the Chicago-Detroit Provinces of the Society of Jesus, and Shaun Budnik, Jesuit-educated President of the Deloitte Foundation and Partner at Deloitte Touche, will offer their thoughts on what it means to be men and women for others in daily life.



‘For the Least’ Retreat Explores Church Social Teaching



In May, 35 young adults gathered for Charis’ annual *For the Least* Retreat at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, IL. This year’s focus was responding to the Gospel call to serve ‘the least’ in the context of workers’ rights. The Pope’s *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth) was discussed, and a team of young adults spoke of their inspiring work with those in need.

“This was a great retreat to meet other people, see where our lives intersect and how we can work together, and support each other in following God’s call.” Liz, Chicago

FALL CALENDAR

ONGOING

Contemplative Leaders in Action
Service Partnership with The Port
Spiritual Direction

SEPTEMBER

10 *Contemplative Leaders in Action Weekend Retreat* - Chicago

Seekers’ Retreat - Buffalo, NY

11 *‘What Next?’: The Transitions Retreat* - Baton Rouge, LA

OCTOBER

20 *A Jesuit Alumni Networking Event: Ignatian Spirituality in the Real World* - Chicago

23 *Spirit@Work Retreat* - Athens, GA

NOVEMBER

3 *Catholic Open House* - Chicago

5 *Seekers’ Retreat* - Buffalo, NY

Spirit@Work Retreat - University of New Mexico

Spirit@Work Retreat - Jemez Springs, NM

12 *Come to the Quiet Silent Weekend Retreat* - Chicago

19 *Seekers’ Retreat* - Buffalo, NY

For the complete
2010-2011 Calendar,
visit charisministries.org

*“Go forth and set
the world on fire.”*
St. Ignatius Loyola

Atlanta Partner Hosts Successful 'What Next?' Retreat



by Kathy Powell, Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center

What Next?: The Transitions Retreat on August 6th was the fifth Charis retreat at Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center in Atlanta, GA.

The graces of the weekend were many. It felt like each of the 24 retreatants had been deliberately called there, and the entire retreat had a constant call to go deeper. It was a beautiful weekend with many of the retreatants expressing interest in more. As a response, Ignatius House will be hosting an Evening of Reflection in a few weeks to further expose young adults to the Spiritual Exercises and God at work in their lives.

The best thing about Charis retreats is sitting back and watching the graces flow!



Chicago 'What Next?' Retreat Held at Camp Quarryledge

In August, 25 young adults came together to reflect on their past and move forward with courage and grace.

What Next?: The Transitions Retreat reflects on life's transitions through the lens of the Paschal Mystery; within each transition, young adults experience the joy of Holy Thursday, the loss of Good Friday, the waiting of Holy Saturday, and the new life of Easter Sunday.

Retreatants enjoyed the outdoors and 'summer camp'-style accommodations of Camp Quarryledge in Oswego, IL, and all approved of this new Charis venue!



"After 23 years of being a Catholic, the Charis retreat was finally where I truly, honestly, wholeheartedly accepted Christ into my life."

Raymond, Chicago

Inner-City Jesuit Organization Builds Charis' New Website



The new Charis Ministries website will be launched this Fall, and features a new easy-to-use interface to serve all those who are interested in Charis: participants, donors, and members of our Partner Program throughout the country.

The site is being built by Hopeworks 'N Camden, a non-profit organization founded by Fr. Jeff Putthoff, SJ. Hopeworks serves the community of Camden by training inner-city youth to assist in designing and creating websites, empowering them with marketable skills for their future.

Contemplative Leaders in Action

This Fall, 14 young professionals will become Chicago's first cohort of *Contemplative Leaders in Action*. The program aims to develop emerging Christian leaders by providing faith formation and leadership training.

Charis is honored to be the Chicago host of this 2-year program which brings together young professionals including educators, lawyers, business professionals, and social workers to share in their faith. Each year will begin with a retreat, after which the group meets once a month. Participants also meet regularly with a mentor from their field for guidance and support.

The program began in New York and is now also in Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

Charis Retreats - Nationwide

Ten members of Charis' Partner Program provide Charis retreats throughout the country and their number is growing!

Our 9 Retreat themes are:

- Seekers' Retreat (Spiritual Search)
- Who Do you Say I Am? (Jesus)
- What Next? (Transitions)
- For the Least (Social Teaching)
- Spirit@Work (Discernment)
- Sex in the City of God (Sexuality)
- Choosing to Be Catholic (Catholic Identity)
- Catholic School Teachers' Retreat
- Come to the Quiet (Silent Retreat)

'Graces Online'

In order to use our resources more efficiently, we now offer this newsletter in electronic format. Please e-mail maryellen@charisministries.org to receive this by email. Thank you!