

# Graces

Charis  
MINISTRIES

News and Events for Friends of Charis Ministries

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Dear Friends of Charis Ministries,

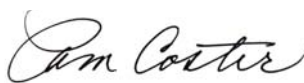
Great things are happening at Charis! We are gratified to see an increasing number of people in their 20s and 30s attending Charis programs. It is your support that allows us to reach out to young adults and encourage them to stay connected to their faith. We know from their testimonies that they are profoundly affected by Charis retreats and events. Now more than ever, such opportunities for spiritual growth are needed and the ability to offer scholarships to those affected by the economic crisis is so important. We are grateful for your help.

This quarter's newsletter highlights one of our goals, which is to partner with more organizations in order to reach a greater number of young people. Partnerships with the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office

of Catholic Schools, Loyola University's Graduate School of Business and University Ministry, and St. Andrew's Parish in Chicago are just some of the relationships Charis is privileged to have developed. Nationally, we continue to support the work of our partners in providing the Charis retreat experience.

I am so pleased to be able to build on the solid foundation laid by Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ, in his ten years of leading Charis. Thank you for supporting our ministry to young adults in their 20s and 30s in the Catholic Church!

Blessings,



Pam Coster  
Executive Director



## LIVING IGNATIAN SERIES KICKS OFF ITS 3rd YEAR

"How glorious can you make it?" Terry Nelson-Johnson, renowned story-teller, challenged 33 young adults with this question at our first Living Ignatian Speaker event of the year on October 7th at Holy Name Cathedral. Terry reflected that finding God in all things means making all things glorious. Through several of his own and others' experiences, Terry illustrated how we can deepen our spirituality by seeing the glory of God in both the simplest and most challenging moments of our lives.

On November 4th, 23 people gathered to hear our second speaker of the series, Fr. Jim Collins, SJ, share his experiences in the Kibera slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Fr. Jim worked as the chaplain of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Jesuit High School, the world's first school for AIDS-affected orphans, before becoming the Associate Pastor at St. Precipitous Parish in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago.



In other Living Ignatian news, young adults are keeping themselves busy with worship and service. On September 23rd, Fr. Ken Simpson celebrated this year's first Evening Mass at St. Clement in Lincoln Park. On the service front, on September 19th a group of 13 pitched in to clean up the Franciscan House of Mary & Joseph, a shelter that houses 246 homeless men and women each night. Our next Service Day will kick off a Jesuit partnership with Christ the King High School. We'll keep you posted!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ONGOING

Spiritual Direction

### DECEMBER

5: Living Ignatian Service Day  
6: Leadership Workshop with St. Andrew: Leading Prayer  
12: Advent Day of Reflection with Chris Lowney

### JANUARY

13: Living Ignatian Mass  
29-31: Come to the Quiet Weekend Retreat

### FEBRUARY

Lenten Faith-Sharing Groups  
3: Living Ignatian Speaker  
20: Lenten Day of Reflection

### MARCH

17-19: Catholic School Teachers' Retreat

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:

**Chris Lowney**, best-selling author, will be the keynote speaker at **Advent Day of Reflection!** See details on page 2.

### Catholic School Teachers' Retreat Scheduled for 2010

March 17-19th, teachers who work at Catholic elementary schools will gather at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat Center in Mundelein. This retreat for young adult teachers takes a closer look at "Jesus as teacher" with the understanding that strengthening a relationship with Christ enables teachers to fulfill their vocation more deeply. Co-hosted with the Office of Catholic Schools at the Archdiocese of Chicago, this program is made possible in part through a generous grant from the McLaughlin Faith Foundation.

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## CATHOLIC OPEN HOUSE PACKS THE ARK CAFÉ

On September 13th, a steady flow of over 90 young adults filled The Ark Café in Chicago's West Town neighborhood for the 2nd Annual Catholic Open House. The crowd kept Charis and 17 partnering organizations on their toes to share the good news and events of their ministries. Many of the attendees were new to the Chicago area and the Open House helped them discover venues to serve, worship, and build community with other young adults. Many thanks to the staff of The Ark Café and the many organizations who sponsored the event and worked to make it such a success!



## SPIRIT@WORK RETREAT DAYS: WHAT ARE MY GIFTS?

Where is the Spirit working in my life? Where is the Spirit calling me? Young adults pondered these questions at the Spirit@Work Retreat Days this October and November. EVOKE, a program at Loyola University Chicago (LUC) that promotes vocational discernment among young adults, co-hosted October's retreat day at the Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center, which drew 18 LUC students. On November 14th, the second of the retreats brought together 35 young adults together from the Chicagoland area.

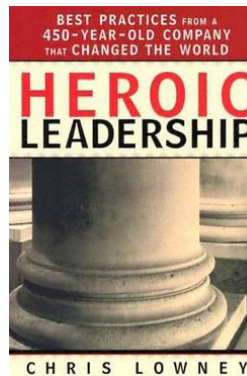
At each retreat, a team of young adults led their peers through reflections about how the Spirit calls us to use our talents in answering the call to create the kingdom of God here on earth. Lucy, who attended the second retreat, had this to say about her experience: "Whenever I come to a Charis event I find myself surrounded by good people who are incredibly open about their faith and I never leave without gaining valuable insight and perspective."



## ADVENT DAY KEYNOTE: BEST-SELLING AUTHOR



A former Jesuit seminarian, Chris Lowney served as Managing Director of JP Morgan & Co. in Tokyo, Singapore, London, and New York. Lowney's books, *Heroic Leadership: Best Practices from a 450-year-old Company that Changed the World* and *Heroic Living: Discover your Purpose and Change the World*, focus on living Ignatian values in whatever personal and professional vocations one is called to.



Lowney will challenge our assumptions about what it means to lead by tying the books' themes into how young adults can live heroically in their daily lives. This Advent, as we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ and search for a purpose greater than ourselves, Lowney will encourage young adults to examine the choices they make in the name of Christ.

### DID YOU KNOW

you can donate online at [charisministries.org](http://charisministries.org)

### EVENT RECAPS

See participant reviews of all of our events at [charisministries.blogspot.com](http://charisministries.blogspot.com).

### Living Ignatian in the Professional World September 28, 2009

25 young professionals listened to Anthony Chirchirillo reflect on the effect of Ignatian values on his successful practices in business leadership. Following the presentation, Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ, facilitated reflection and discussion. The event was jointly sponsored with Loyola University Chicago's School of Business Administration, EVOKE, and University Ministry.

### Come to the Quiet Weekend Retreat October 23-25, 2009

30 retreatants gathered at the Cenacle Retreat Center in Chicago for a weekend of reflection, meditative prayer, and experiencing the peace of the sacraments. Several of the participants are part of the JVC Magis/LU Choice programs at Loyola University Chicago. The programs allow students to volunteer full-time while obtaining a master's degree at Loyola. 2009-2010 marks the 5th year of this partnership wherein participants attend two Charis retreats per year.

*"Few souls understand what God would accomplish in them if they were to abandon themselves unreservedly to God and if they were to allow God's grace to mold them accordingly."*

-St. Ignatius Loyola