



CONVERSAR NEWS



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COMPANIONS— A COMMUNITY OF CONSOLATION

Companions Conference 2014 - Canisius

Thursday 14th August 3pm to Sunday 17th August 2pm

‘Science, Evolution, Sacred Story, and the Spiritual Exercises’ Key Presenter Neil Vaney S.M.

'The implications of the scientific fact of evolution for our faith understanding of the source of sin, the incarnation, and the universe that is our home'. Including the implications for 'sacred story' and of giving the first and second weeks of the Spiritual Exercises.

The vastness of the universe in both space and time helps us to leave behind body mind dualities and to understand the cosmos as a matter/energy/spirit continuum. Into this vastness God broke through in the radical emptying of the incarnation allowing us to see resurrection and heaven in an entirely new way.

In developing his themes Fr Neil will use contemporary stories such as The Lord of the Rings and the Harry Potter novels as imaginative retellings of the redemption story in order to develop the healing and re-parenting themes that he sees as being so important in weeks one and two of the Spiritual Exercises.

NEIL VANEY SM

Neil has Master's of Arts degree from Canterbury University and a PhD from the University of Otago and is a Lecturer in Ethics and Moral Theology. For those of you who wish to become acquainted with Neil's writing before this year's conference a brief extract of a review of *Christ in a Grain of Sand* from Ave Maria Press follows.

In his book *Christ in a Grain of Sand*, Neil Vaney extends 'an invitation to a journey of discovery, a challenge to look for Christ in all things and to find him everywhere, even in a grain of sand. Exploring for the first time the unique connection between ecology and the Exercises, Vaney reveals their relevance in our contemporary age. He leads us on an adventure, helping us make the Exercises with a new awareness of the intimate bond between spirituality and the natural world'.

Happy Reading!

FR GEORGE PATTERY S.J. VISIT— APRIL MAY 2014

Those who have been fortunate enough to attend the Ignatian Immersion Course at Manresa in Spain will be well acquainted with Fr George Pattery who is a substantial contributor to that course. George has been the Provincial Superior for the Jesuit Province of Calcutta and is currently the acting President of Janadeepa Vidya-peeth, the biggest ecclesiastical faculty in South Asia. He completed his PhD at the Gregorian University in Rome on 'The Faith and Justice Struggle in Mahatma Gandhi'

Fr George will be giving an in depth workshop at Campion on 'The Weeks of the Spiritual Exercises' and two short Workshops at Faber on 'The Relevance of Ignatian Spirituality' and 'Themes in Ignatian Spirituality' Check the Campion and Faber websites for further details.

YOUR NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND THEIR ROLES

Chair: Anne Wakatama email: anne.wakatama1@gmail.com

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John Reilly S.J. email: reillygj@bigpond.com **Michael Ryan S.J.** email: micksj@gmail.com

Website: Tricia Giles and Dale Keenan **Conference Convenors 2014:** Sally Longley and Anne Wakatama

Conversar Moderator : Tricia Giles **Conversar News Editor:** Anne Wakatama

IGNATIAN IMERSION COURSE - MANRESA 2014

Several Companions members have been accepted to attend the six weeks Ignatian Immersion program at Manresa next year. The group includes Dale Keenan and Marea Richardson from Queensland and Kevin Gallagher and his wife Lyn from Christchurch in New Zealand. All the previous participants have come back greatly enriched and energised from this experience.

The Delphine O'Shea Fund has once again generously supported the group. We wish the group every blessing on their journey deeper into the heart of Ignatian spirituality

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dale Keenan

Prior to her retirement, Dale worked for 20 years in the field of education and training. Since her retirement her energies have been channelled into spiritual direction, giving the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius and the supervision and formation of spiritual directors and givers of the Spiritual Exercises. She is a member of the Faber Team and the Brisbane Arrupe formation team. She is also a supervisor in the Anglican St Francis Theological College Formation Program for Spiritual Directors. Dale is interested in alternative delivery modes for giving of the Spiritual Exercises, and has worked extensively giving the exercises to people in non-metropolitan areas using Skype and other technologies. Dale has a Master's degree in Spiritual Direction from Campion in addition to her many qualifications in education and training.

Kevin Gallagher

Kevin is married to Lyn has four adult children and four grandchildren. He lives in Christchurch NZ and practices spiritual direction and retreat direction through a Mercy spirituality centre there. He has been formed in Ignatian spiritual direction through St Beunos and has recently completed an MA through Sentir. Kevin is on the Arrupe team at Campion. Kevin is also a trained physiotherapist.

CONGRATULATIONS

During 2013 **Peter Saunders** received his PhD from Monash University for his dissertation titled *Psychodynamics and the Giving of the Spiritual Exercises in Australia: A Phenomenological Exploration of the Relationship between Director and Exercitant*. Peter's qualitative research explored the relationship between director and exercitant with a particular focus on psychodynamics occurring during the making of the Exercises and the way in which this relationship parallels the exercitant's experience of God in the Exercises

Marlene Marburg also completed her PhD through the Melbourne University of Divinity with her dissertation entitled *Poetry and Grace: An Autoethnography which Explores Writing Poetry as Prayer in the context of Ignatian Spirituality*. Marlene begins by wondering why her poetry became more inspired and energized when she prayed the Spiritual Exercises and then moves to explore the nature of the relationship between poetry and prayer and to explore whether poetry is prayer.

Companions congratulates both Marlene and Peter on their contributions to the field of Ignatian Spirituality

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS THE DITCH!

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, one of our newest committee members, Kevin Gallagher comes from New Zealand. He has been on the Campion Team for some time. His long interest in Ignatian Spirituality is soon to accelerate as he develops the Arrupe Program in New Zealand in collaboration with the Campion Team. The Program is planned to commence in 2015 and participants are already lining up to join. In recognition of the importance of this development, your committee has decided to hold the 2015 Conference in Wellington 13th—16th August 2015. A site has already been booked and Kevin will work with Kerry Holland on the theme for the conference which is already starting to take shape. Watch this space for updates.!