

Thank you for your interest in the continuing education module on Ignatian Spirituality and The Spiritual Exercises offered by The Listening Place. Making The Spiritual Exercises is an opportunity unlike any other; it would be difficult—if not impossible—to overstate their power to shape your day-to-day life; they are unique in their ability to increase your attentiveness, openness, and responsiveness to God. The Spiritual Exercises encapsulate all that we mean when we speak of Ignatian Spirituality.

This training module is bimodal. One component consists of 44 hours of classroom time, spread out over eleven Monday evenings (5:30-9:30) lasting from May until October, as well as a final retreat (8 hours) on Saturday October 28, 2017 (9 am to 5 pm). This didactic portion is meant to steep you completely in Ignatian Spirituality as well as teach you to lead someone through The Spiritual Exercises, a very specific and powerful Spiritual Direction tool.

The second component is making the Exercises using the 19<sup>th</sup> Annotation with a specially trained Spiritual Director (either Mary Grace McCoy or Janice Benjamin). The Exercises are intense and will require some sacrificial giving of your time and energy; that is, you need to be willing to commit to one hour of prayer per day using the assigned material. (We will be using *Place Me With Your Son* by James Skehan as well as *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* by James Martin.) You will also need to make arrangements to meet with your assigned director weekly at a mutually agreeable time. Because the Exercises are very intense, you can choose to do them concurrently with the classroom portion (beginning the week of May 14), or you may do them beginning the week of October 29, following completion of the classroom portion.

*Both components are required for the awarding of a certificate from The Listening Place.* If you have made the Spiritual Exercises previously, we are happy to speak with you to determine if the version you did will meet the requirements for this class. In particular, you must have met regularly for *individual* spiritual direction during the Exercises; if the Exercises were only done in the group setting with infrequent or no individual direction, we would ask you to repeat them individually as above.

The cost for the classroom portion and retreat (a total of 52 hours) is \$1000.00 plus the required books. The suggested donation for the weekly spiritual direction sessions is \$15-30 per session. Payment can be made in whatever manner works for your budget. Please complete the Payment Plan Agreement included with the registration forms on the website. *As is always our policy at The Listening Place, please speak with us if the cost is prohibitive for you, and we will work with you to find a way to make it possible to attend.*



To register, please go to our website ([www.listeningplacespiritualcenter.org](http://www.listeningplacespiritualcenter.org)) and click on the tab “Continuing Education for Spiritual Directors” where you will find an application form, payment agreement form, and details about the class. Please complete and submit the forms as soon as possible. Because so many trained spiritual directors responded to our initial email to gauge interest, we do anticipate the class will be completely full; our maximum number of participants is 12.

We are very excited and enthusiastic about offering this learning opportunity. We look forward to meeting and working with you. Please feel free to contact us by phone (919-307-9068) or email ([info@listeningplacespiritualcenter.org](mailto:info@listeningplacespiritualcenter.org)) if you have any further questions.

*Mary Grace McCoy and Janice Benjamin, Facilitators*

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