



Ignatian Spirituality Project

Spiritual Retreats Ending Homelessness

Our retreats offer women and men the opportunity to change their lives.



Some Figures

- 1998 Project founded in Chicago, IL and quickly spread throughout the country
- 20 As of 2013, the number of cities within the National ISP Network
- 1,536 Number of retreatants involved in ISP Programs in fiscal year 2013
- 471 Number of volunteers in the ISP Network in fiscal year 2013



Our Story

The Ignatian Spirituality Project began in 1998 when Fr. Bill Creed, SJ was invited to begin making the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius available to the economically disadvantaged. Together with his friend Ed Shurna, Director of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, they created a retreat that brought hope. The *Exercises*, a program with some 500 years of tradition, focuses on seeking union with God and achieving inner freedom.

The wisdom of the *Exercises* expressed in the contemporary language of the 12-Step recovery program provides a unique backdrop for our retreats and a helpful starting point for our retreatants.

We sponsor Weekend Retreats, Days of Reflection, and Ongoing Reflection Programs. Long lasting transformation is only possible when one has a fundamental paradigm of hope: our retreats provide that spark. Ultimately, we hope that our efforts help end the injustice of homelessness.

How can I help?

Baltimore Area Team Coordinator

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Our Network is Growing.

ISP has teams in 20 cities throughout the country and hopes to carry our mission to even more people in years ahead.

Our Retreatants

We partner with service providers throughout our Network to invite men and women who are already working toward ending their homelessness. Often these persons are:

- Sober for two months
- Willing to share their story
- Want to companion others in their journey

Our Approach

We form teams in each of our cities to help facilitate our retreat ministry. Our talented and dedicated volunteers are trained to offer these retreats drawing upon the 500 year old tradition of Ignatian Spirituality expressed in the modern 12-step addiction recovery movement.

Our Needs

We offer our retreats at no cost to our participants. On average, it costs the network about \$250 per person, per retreat. We remain grateful for your prayers and support.

Amanda shares her story of hope with ISP

I showed up at St. Martin's in Chicago, lifeless, penniless and hopeless. Because of my addiction I had severed every family tie. I had almost lost the will to live. Then Sr. Therese told me about the ISP retreat and invited me to attend. I didn't want to go at first, but then I began to feel safe. It was an overwhelming feeling of peace. It was like, "wait a minute - they care about us? They know we

stole, we were raped, we were molested and they still care?! Where is the camera? God is somehow in ALL of this?"

After the retreat, Sr. Therese said I looked different. Everything I learned on the retreat and with the team is like a huge chest of spiritual tools that I can take back to the shelter and to my life and to the women and to their children.



Everyone wins if just one person comes back different.



Join us.

The Ignatian Spirituality Project



Since 1998, ISP has led hundreds of retreats across the country for women and men experiencing homelessness and in recovery from addiction. Using the gifts of the *Spiritual Exercises*, the retreats uniquely provide much needed hope. Consider joining us and learning more about this exciting and needed ministry coming soon to your area.



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