This widely unknown joyful sketch was drawn by Pablo Picasso in gratitude for his time with the Benedictine community in Montserrat, Spain. An important pilgrimage site because of the "Black Madonna of Montserrat," that has been honored there for hundreds of years. In the sketch it seems though that it is not Mary at the center but rather a dancing Eucharistic community. Probably, representing part of the experience of Picasso staying with the Benedictine community of Montserrat. The dancing around the sun, the Eucharistic host, the Holy Spirit, while carrying flowers and receiving flowers from the outer surrounding of that central joy radiating into the community is a surprising image for the stern black veiled monks who are coming together for liturgical prayer and Eucharist in the dark ave of the sanctuary, that is only lit by orthodox lantern instead of natural sun light. Maybe Picasso experienced what is invisible for the eye. A joy, flexibility, humility and humor of the male and female spirit that carries community in the faith of the resurrection. A great artist rather known for neglecting Christian faith, transmitting to us what never can be a lonely and isolated experience: The Risen Christ.

May we experience and create community that transmits this joy and hope of the Risen Christ during these weeks and months to come,

Julia
Looking back:

OUR SYNODAL DIALOGUES

The synodal dialogues have been amazing in their truthfulness to important issues, enriching in diversity and constructive in their critique.

Because of illness the April 21 meeting was canceled, but a final meeting will be held Wednesday May 11 7:30pm-9:00pm. Please, excuse this change and pass along the invitation!!

A summary of the notes taken at the meeting will be available before the next meeting on our new Synodal part of the ISLC website. The final draft write up will be available after Sunday May 15.

April 28, 2022
6:30-8:00pm

All is Hidden in Christ:
At the Ignatian Spiritual Life Center (ISLC)
Thursday, April 28, 2022
6:30 – 8:00 pm (in person and via zoom)
To join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87854212304?pwd=RUVaNzdLRkRNREFpbURmKmRCZUhoUT09

Have you ever been or dreamed to go on a pilgrimage? This evening we are invited to an embodied event: Becoming a pilgrim right where we are, living our pilgrimage at home, in our back yard and beyond. Sharing how pilgrimage is a sacred practice developed in early Christian times and has become of crucial importance under lock-down and travel ban times.

Sara Postlethwaite, VDMF is Co-director of Spiritual Ministries at Saint Agnes. As part of her advanced theological research under the direction of Professor Kathryn Barush she explored the spirituality and practice of pilgrimage in particular how it intersects with the historical practices of pilgrimage in Ireland.

In this evening, Sara will lead us on a fascinating journey, where pilgrimage becomes a healing possibility for us, as she will share her "replicated pilgrimage" of St. Kevin's Way.

Here is a taste of engaging with Sr. Sara Postlethwaite's STL work on pilgrimage: https://youtu.be/jZ1eTE0HwoE
Looking back:

OUR LENTEN EVENING PRAYER

Beautiful and inspiring were our Lenten Evening Prayer:

"Recharging,"
"What I needed,"
"Music to pray with,"
"A liturgy to find rest,"
"Lent in a nutshell,"
"Haven't felt so silent for years,"
"Powerful,"
"Inspirational,"
"Felt so intimate,"
"It seems we are a community,"
"Beauty is in the simplicity."

were some of the comments of people who took part in the two evenings during lent.

Deep gratitude to the choir members who spent an extra evening under Frank’s guidance to hold us in the harmonies that made the contemplative prayer special.

MAY 12
6:30 - 8:00 pm

500 Years Ignatius Special Series
May 12 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
TITLE: The Church in India: Missionary Legacies, Popular Devotion & Enduring while asking Post-Colonial Questions
By Brent Otto, SJ

Description: Over five hundred years ago Roman Catholic missionaries set foot on Indian soil, a land where an extant Christian community which traced its ancestry to St. Thomas already lived. Jesuits were among the many missionary groups that would arrive in India from the 16th century forward, but some of the Jesuit approaches were unique and have had major enduring impacts on the course of Christianity in the subcontinent – both Catholic and Protestant. Local forms of religiosity and popular devotions have also shaped the formation of the Christian community. The historical connection between Christianity and Colonialism remains a thorny issue the Indian Church has to contend with, even now, 75 years after Independence. This presentation will attempt to highlight some interesting chapters of Christian history in India in the last five centuries, the Jesuit legacy, and paint a colorful contemporary picture of Christianity in India.

Speaker Bio: Brent Howitt Otto is a Jesuit priest of the USA East Province, a PhD candidate in Modern Indian History at UC Berkeley, and a priest in residence at St. Agnes Church. His work focuses on the community of mixed race, the colonial Church and missionaries.

June 2
6:30 pm

The Berrigans: Devout and Dangerous

The Berrigans — brothers Philip and Daniel, both Catholic priests, and Philip’s wife, Liz, a former nun — spent their entire lives engaged in faith-based, nonviolent resistance to war, nuclear proliferation, racism, and the Catholic Church. As told through the eyes of the next generation of Berrigans, ‘The Berrigans: Devout and Dangerous’ is a potent testament to the power of unrelenting faith and nonviolent resistance in the wake of so many of the challenges we are facing around the globe today.

Movie Screening at ISLC and following discussion facilitated by Karen Kelly

July 30th
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Vigil celebration of 500 years Saint Ignatius at ISLC. Come and enjoy our heritage as we festive and delicious celebrate 500 years of the beginnings of Ignatius as a Companion of Jesus.

Any ideas for the evening - email julia at ISLC.
Looking back:

MONTHLY EVENTS AT ISLC

The monthly ISLC events were a great gift for the ones who had a chance to participate in person or online.

Kevin Burke, SJ talk was well attended with over 30 people and delightful in the depth of poetry and spiritual-theological reflections regarding Denise Levertov and what is at stake in our faith in the 21st century.

The audios of the talks by Bill O’Neil SJ, Sophia Park SNJM, Kevin Burke SJ and Sara Postlethwaite, VDMF are available on the ISLC website.

Pamela Prime's talk on Divine Sophia: The Feminine that holds us will be repeated in Fall since the virtual transmission was inadequate. Anybody who connected please, take our apology and hope to see you in Fall!!

May 18, 2022
6:00-8:00pm

The Synodol Journey
Pope Francis Invites Your Voice
Concert & Roundtable

Wednesday May 18, 2022
6:00pm to 8:00pm
Saint Agnes Church, San Francisco

Join us for beautiful music and engaged discussion!

What is happening?

We invite you to an amazing treat: Well known pianist Kevin Navarro will awe us with pieces of music that inspire him under the theme “Journey.” He will share with us pieces along Western music classics, by Scarlatti, Bach, Mozart, Ravel, and Chopin!

In the intermission we will hold for 45 minutes a roundtable that brings together representatives of the three four (four) Jesuit non-parish organization: USF, SI Prep, ISLC and St Quentin. Snacks will be provided.

The roundtable will present to you the work that has been done over these last months in the different institutions regarding the synodal journey. Erin Brigham, Megan Pryor Lorenz, Julia D.E. Prinz, VDMF will enter into dialogue with the audience about the draft proposal, that we would like to bring to Rome in June. The draft will be available beforehand on the ISLC website. Let’s enjoy synodality now.

We would like to celebrate this special evening with anybody who would like to come, listen and share!

THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL INVITATION. PLEASE, BRING ANYBODY ALONG WHO YOU THINK WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BEAUTIFUL MUSIC AND OUR SYNODAL DIALOGUE!!
PLEASE, BE ATTENTIVE TO THE ONGOING INFORMATION THAT GOES OUT IN THE WEDNESDAY WEEKLY ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE MONTHLY EVENTS, ESPECIALLY REGARDING MAY 26 AND JUNE 29!!

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION
Are you a spiritual director at ISLC: please, consider to come to our spiritual director hub: June 7!
Are you interested in having the support of a spiritual director or of doing the spiritual exercises in the tradition of Ignatius of Loyola contact islc@saintagnessf.org
Are you a spiritual director and interested in a supervision group for Spiritual directors? please write to islc@saintagnessf.org

IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS CONTACT JULIA AT ISLC.