

# Bon Secours Launching Monthly Workshops on Compassion

THERE IS NO GIFT in the Christian tradition more reflective of the presence and action of God in our world than the gift of Compassion. *“Bon Secours' service is first and foremost a service of being with and doing for those in need: compassion is about deeds - about doing - about the active relief of the suffering of others.”* It is compassion that stimulates action for justice, love that acts to relieve the suffering of others.

*“Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes and they could see. The sufferings, hopes, despair, aspirations of today's people reflect the needs of today's world which must touch us and be touched by us.”*

It is God's gift of compassion that ultimately compels Bon Secours and kindred spirits to act boldly for the good of others. God's Spirit has demonstrated such a conviction for compassion in other spiritualities and religious congregations, who, with the Sisters of Bon Secours, strive to relieve suffering and to act on behalf of those who must endure injustice or struggle to achieve the dignity that is their right as children of God.

Bon Secours' mission – Bon Secours' compassion – is healing and liberation, action in the cause of justice.

*We strive to bring our good God - our good help - to those in need, through who we are and what we do to alleviate human suffering. Bon Secours is nothing if it is not compassion. Bon Secours' compassion is to liberate, to do justice. Bon Secours' justice is to make the Kingdom of God visible in our healing ministry. In Bon Secours' health care, compassionate people who relieve the needs of others reveal a compassionate God.*

As you read earlier in this edition, the Sisters of Bon Secours are presently engaged in a reordering of their organizational structures to better focus themselves on their commitment to respond to the needs of the



poor, the suffering and especially those without others to stand for them. Bon Secours Spiritual Center joins in recognizing and honoring this initiative and creative strategy by the Sisters in their re-organization for better service by inviting you to join us to reflect on the power and potential of compassion to serve and change our world.

During 2010 the Spiritual Center will invite expert guides from a variety of spiritual traditions to reflect with you on the importance and impact of God's gift of Compassion in our world today. During 2010 we will set aside nine Saturdays for prayer and reflection on how God continues to tell us the story of compassion and invites us to better know the work of God's Spirit and to discover how we might become better signs of God's compassion in our world.

Each month during 2010, these programs will invite you to join in study, prayer and reflection on the gift of compassion from the spiritual traditions of St. Francis deSales and

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ond book, *The Golden Legend*, by Bishop Jacques de Voragine, he came to see the mercy of God working powerfully in the souls of those we call saints.

The stories stirred Loyola's soul. As he recovered, he changed, dedicating his life to Christ and to God's kingdom. And he came to realize that decisions led to action which required discipline and consistency of spirit. He named his process of decision-making "discernment of spirits," a special gift and discipline that would eventually make him an unsurpassed practical genius in the field of apostolic decision-making.

Once recovered from his wounds, Ignatius spent eight months as a hermit at Manresa in Spain, where he wrote the first draft of his *Spiritual Exercises*, now the "guide book" for those discerning how to follow the inspirations of God in the Jesuit tradition. By 1534, while in Paris completing his theological studies he led his first six companions in his emerging Company of Jesus in a 30-day spiritual exercises retreat.

Ignatius' *Spiritual Exercises* are organized to focus on the Gospels and to allow their message to flow back to the seeker

after Jesus through meditation, self-examination and personal action in faith. If there is a "gold standard" in the spiritual development process, it is Ignatius' 30-day retreat, a graced time when those who follow Ignatius' walk find their way most clearly.

Bon Secours is blessed during 2010 to offer those ready for this level of opportunity, a 30-day retreat in the Ignatian tradition. Led by Fr. Joseph Lacey, S.J., and Fr. Frank O'Connor S.J., the retreat invites all those ready for the discipline and the benefits of this wonderful event to join these seasoned guides to discover in prayer and silence what Loyola discovered: A clearer path to a fuller knowledge and love of God.

For particulars on the 30-day retreat at Bon Secours during July 2010, call 410-422-3120 or consult the website, [www.bonsecoursspiritualcenter.org](http://www.bonsecoursspiritualcenter.org) for registration and program information. Follow the path of Ignatius. Come to Bon Secours to know the Lord and yourself better. ♡

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St. Jane de Chantal (Salesian); St. Francis, St. Clare and St. Bonaventure (Franciscan); St. Benedict and St. Scholastica (Benedictine); St. Paul of the Cross (Passionist); St. Vincent DePaul and Louise de Marillac (Vincentian); St. Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross and Theresa of Lieseu (Carmelite) ; St. Ignatius of Loyola (Jesuit) and the Celtic traditions and, of course, the Charism of Compassion of the Sisters of Bon Secours, in seeking and acting for a more compassionate church responding to God's call for compassionate care for all in need of healing and care in our world.

For \$55 per session (includes breakfast, lunch, participation in each day's activities at the Center and all session materials for each event) you may join each day's full

program at the center. If you pre-enroll for the entire series (\$385) by January 15, 2010, you save \$110. Please see the website, [www.bonsecoursspiritualcenter.org](http://www.bonsecoursspiritualcenter.org), for details and other information.

Come and join us, honor the Sisters of Bon Secours and learn how God is telling the story of compassion in the lives and teachings of the spiritual masters who have led and inspired so many to be the compassionate people who relieve the needs of others and reveal a compassionate God. ♡