



Contemplative Leaders In Action – New York participants on retreat

The Contemplative Leaders In Action program has really helped me get a better sense of what it is that I truly want to do in the world and to remember that I'm a co-creator on this earth and that I can make a difference myself. – Mark Orrs, Contemplative Leaders In Action – NY

We talk about having Ignatian partners, these women and men who share what the Jesuits have been about – a faith that does justice – but how to give them the training that we Jesuits have enjoyed in our lives, how to share that wisdom with them. That's the question that The Jesuit Collaborative is trying to answer. – Vin DeCola, S.J.

Who We Are

The Jesuit Collaborative (TJC) was launched in 2006 by the three East Coast Provinces of the Society of Jesus – Maryland, New York, and New England – in response to a great hunger for the fruits that the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius can provide. Developed by Ignatius some 450+ years ago, the *Spiritual Exercises* help people to discover their true selves in relation to God and others, attain the freedom to discern the purpose for which they were created, and make a personal commitment to fulfill that purpose.

The world hungers for this encounter with God. All of us were born for intimacy with God. That is our greatest desire; and the *Spiritual Exercises* provide a way to achieve that intimacy and union with God.

More than a new organization, TJC is a new kind of organizational form, one that crosses geographic and institutional boundaries in order to strengthen and spread the ministry of the *Spiritual Exercises*. This ministry consists of retreats that vary in length and format, individual spiritual direction, and various programs that draw from the *Exercises*.

Our Mission

The mission of The Jesuit Collaborative is to promote the *Spiritual Exercises* and make them more accessible to people. We are doing that through:

- Training and formation in the ministry of the *Exercises* for lay women and men, Jesuits, and other religious;
- Providing various opportunities to experience the *Exercises*;
- Building community and networks to share the wisdom and graces of the *Exercises*.

Our mission includes outreach to groups who have not traditionally been served by the Jesuits, e.g., young adults (ages 25-35), and others such as Hispanics whose growing populations are eager to experience the *Exercises*.

Our Programs and Projects

Retreats and Prayer Days

- Ignatian Leadership for Mission Retreats – for Jesuits and lay colleagues
- Ignatian Advent and Lenten Meditations

Programs

- Contemplative Leaders In Action – leadership training and formation for young adults

- Intensive training in directing the *Spiritual Exercises* – at Fairfield University and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Conferences and Workshops

- National and regional conferences on Ignatian Spirituality
- Conferences on Ignatian Spirituality for Hispanics/Latinos
- Workshops on directing the 18th and 19th Annotations of the *Exercises*
- Ongoing training and formation of Jesuits in retreat direction

Projects

We are developing:

- A model of prayerful reflection and communal discernment to provide an Ignatian way of proceeding for boards of directors of Jesuit institutions
- A model of prayerful reflection and communal discernment to help plan for how to advance the ministry of the *Spiritual Exercises* in retreat houses, parishes, schools, etc., in the future
- An Ignatian Ministry Resource Directory



Jackie Perez

Jesuit Collaborative

Promoting the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

The Jesuit Collaborative is vital to the work of the Church and the Jesuits today because its goal is to promote the ministry of the Spiritual Exercises to a wide range of people in the midst of the business of everyday life, and the Exercises have something to teach them about how to pray, how to live, and how to serve.

– Kevin O’Brien, S.J.

Profile: An Ignatian Woman for Others

“It’s funny how connected my life is,” says Jacqueline (Jackie) Perez. “I cannot separate medicine, music, and ministry in my life.” These connections and God’s unfolding in her life have inspired Jackie to share an abundance of gifts with men and women in need, physically and spiritually, in her own backyard and across the world.

Jackie works as a primary care doctor in internal medicine in the Community Medicine Department at St. Vincent’s in Manhattan, caring for the marginalized in a variety of settings. “I learned so much about my faith through working with the poor, and that’s how I got connected with the Jesuits.” Jackie started making annual retreats in 1997 and made the 30-day retreat in 2002. She also completed the Veni training program in spiritual direction at Mt. Manresa Retreat Center on Staten Island.

Jackie desired to give back to the Society and eventually traveled to Malaysia to work with Kumpulan ACTS (A Call To Serve), an affiliate of the Jesuit Refugee Service. Although the settings were different from those in New York City, the work of going out to care for people where they lived was the same. “I saw so much healing going on. People were loved and cared for, and that’s what made them better,” Jackie says of her experience in Malaysia.

Music has been another major part of Jackie’s life and a source of connection. Jackie sings with several choral groups. She is a founding member of the Ignatian Schola, a group of lay and Jesuit music ministers who inspire and delight with their singing and entertainment. The Schola has performed at a number of TJC liturgies and events, enhancing our communal prayer and shared experience of Ignatian Spirituality.

“With the Jesuit Collaborative, I am able to fulfill where God is calling me to the fullest,” Jackie says. Jackie is a true daughter of St. Ignatius; her desire to help others is rooted in the extraordinary gifts God has given her. Where there is gratitude, there is generous self-gift.

Partner With Us

We invite you to collaborate with us in our work of promoting the *Spiritual Exercises* and helping more people to experience their transformative power. Please contact us to discuss how you can become a part of TJC’s vital ministry. Potential opportunities include:

- Mentoring young adults in the CLIA program
- Attending or helping to facilitate a retreat
- Participating in a workshop
- Lifting us up in prayer and through your financial support

