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e della Spiritualità Ignaziana*

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The ancient formula recited with the imposition of ashes at the beginning of Lent in the Roman Catholic tradition reminds us that we are made of dust and that to dust we will return. But what special dust we are! The second chapter of the book of Genesis uses fantastically beautiful and powerful imagery in saying that God molded dust of the earth in the divine image and then breathed into that dust the breath of life. Ashes in the form of a cross remind us that we are dust so precious and loved that Jesus poured out His blood on the Cross to redeem us. The injunction that we return to the dust of the earth reminds us that Holy Spirit given to us in baptism empowers us for a mission of serving others until the moment when we return to the Creator to dwell with the Trinity forever.

The offerings of this edition of *Ignaziana* highlight the power and resources that the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius can offer as we strive to appreciate and respond to the particular wonder of our individual and collective creation, redemption, and sanctification through mission.

The homily that newly appointed cardinal Gianfranco Ghirlanda, SJ, emeritus professor of canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University, preached when he officially took possession of the Church of the Gesù in Rome on the feast of the Immaculate Conception places us at heart of *Spiritual Exercises* and Ignatian spirituality. Like the Madonna, we are humble disciples with the lofty mission of serving others.

Father Paul Rolphy Pinto, SJ, *professore straordinario* in the Institute of Spirituality of the Pontifical Gregorian University, suggests ways in which the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius might provide the basis of a spirituality of synodality that can assist the People of God as they strive together as a community of believers in responding to the signs of our times.

The Australian Jesuit Father Iain Radvan thoughtfully and creatively explores a question that General Congregations and Superiors General of the Society of Jesus have asked for generations: “What might we do to experience the transformative dimensions of the *Spiritual Exercises* as profoundly as we would like?” On the basis of interviews, research data, and the reflections of experts in Jesuit formation, Father Radvan makes a number of observations that can help anyone who wants to dwell more deeply in the reality of divine life.

Sister Zuzzana Glasek, who received a licentiate in Spirituality from the Pontifical Gregorian University in 2021, presents a substantive and insightful introduction to the perspectives and methods of the Hungarian Jesuit Father Franz Jalics, who died in February 2021, on the topic of Christian contemplation.

To assist our readers by means of some perspectives on the contemporary family, the privileged place where the dust of our lives is first formed and nurtured, we reprint articles from *Manresa* and *Il Regno*. Ana Carratolà Marco, director of the Fundación San Francisco de Borja, writes thoughtfully about the importance of the family as the school where God teaches us the most important lessons in “La familia: escuela de aprendizaje de Dios, espacio de plenitude”. Three presentations about the reality of families today examine the existing situation and the resources we can bring to bear for deeper and more significant human flourishing. Lisa Sowle Cahill, the J. Donald Monan Professor of Theology at Boston College, outlines the complexity of family relationships today. Hélène Bricout of the Institute Catholique in Paris discusses how the sacraments nourish married and family life. French Jesuit Alain Thomasset (Centres Sèvres, Paris) discusses the place of consciousness, norms and discernment in helping us thrive.

Throughout this Lenten and Easter season, these offerings from *Ignaziana* can help us reflect on the wonder of the dust from which we come, the opportunities we have for serving others in the simplest ways, and the glory to which we ultimately go.