

Dear ISP-Dayton Community,

Our prayers are with you, especially during these turbulent times. We hope that you and your family and friends are healthy and in good spirits.

We write to you with an update about our mission and program here in the Dayton area. As with so much of our day-to-day life, the effects of COVID-19 have forced us to change the way we carry out our mission. Considering the serious risk factors, ISP cannot in good conscience risk the health of our participants, volunteers, and the communities in which we serve. As a ministry that works almost exclusively with those residing in congregate living situations, many of whom have underlying health conditions, we must exercise particular caution. Retreats have been postponed through December 31. However, please know we are continuing our ministry in new and innovative ways.

We wish to report on our ISP Dayton Affiliate activity for the last fiscal year 2020 (July 2019-June 2020) through March 2020 when the ISP Network Office asked its affiliates to suspend all in-person programming. We also want to share the myriad ways ISP continues to pursue its mission to provide spiritual support to men and women in recovery.

A Summary of our FY 2020 Activity

During the fiscal year 2020, ISP-Dayton conducted:

- Three weekend retreats for 69 women and two retreats for 50 men
- Three follow-up day retreats for 32 women and one follow-up retreat for 30 men

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the ISP Experience breakfast we had planned to hold in March for our donors, volunteers, and participating agencies, and the 10th anniversary celebration we had hoped to have this September.

Ways our Ministry Continues

Although none of the 29 ISP affiliates across the USA, Canada, and Ireland will offer retreats through December 2020, the ISP Network Office and affiliates have devised new programming and delivery methods that promise to keep our ministry vibrant.

First, there are programs for affiliate leadership. We receive weekly update bulletins and participate in bi-weekly Zoom meetings that keep us informed about what other affiliate groups are doing to meet the specific needs of their retreatants. There is also a weekly spiritual formation initiative, *Gathering in the Spirit*, via Zoom to build community and deepen our shared mission. Finally, our national leaders have developed Spiritual Accompaniment Materials (SAM) for use at the affiliate level. These include Imaginative Prayer, Examen, and Lectio Divina.

As your Dayton leaders, we are planning to use the SAM resources. We recently piloted Evening Prayer based on the Ignatian Three Minute Retreat via Zoom. Other programs we are planning will explore different ways of coming together as a community to pray and share. Still, the most important thing we do is the one-on-one conversations we have each month with retreatants and the transition home supervisors with whom we are associated. We recognize the sobriety anniversary dates so important to people in recovery and celebrate the milestones in their lives through cards, emails, and calls.

The essence of our work has not changed; it's only the methods by which we strive to build a strong, more impactful ISP ministry. We remain committed to those we serve, and we are encouraged that many of our retreatants continue to participate in virtual NA and AA meetings. Your prayers and support for ISP sustain the mission for which we are most grateful.

Please know that we welcome your comments and suggestions as we endure COVID-19's impact together. The easiest way to stay current with our affiliate activity is to "friend" us at ISP Dayton on Facebook (and LIKE us!), and visit our Network webpage at ispretreats.org. Your ongoing support of ISP is making a difference at a time our retreatants are most vulnerable.

With gratitude and love,

Sr. Teresa Laengle, S.C.
ISP Dayton Women's Team
Coordinator

Norm Rich
ISP Dayton Men's Team
Coordinator

Mary Funke
Steward



Zoom meeting, pictured on the left, from July 27 with the Dayton leadership team. We went overtime, indicating a desire for more opportunities to gather, share, and pray.