



# Institute for Spiritual Direction

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## THOUGHTS FROM FR. DAVID



*"Well done, good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:21*

As I'm sure you're aware by now, I have stepped down as director of the retreat center and Bishop Boyea has granted me "Senior Status." This term, "Senior Status" shouldn't be confused with going into full retirement. I'm hardly ready for that. In his letter to me dated September 3rd, he wrote:

*"Clearly, your gifts and experience over these years are valuable. [Your retirement from SFRC] will allow you to find meaningful engagement as a senior priest, giving you a greater chance for participation in other projects.*

*"On behalf of all those you have nourished by Word and Sacrament, please accept my gratitude for your years of valued priestly ministry to the Diocese of Lansing which I know will continue, and most especially for the witness of Christ's presence you have provided at the retreat center and in your various ministerial endeavors and assignments over the years.*

*"I assure you of my personal prayer that you will continue to feed our people in a rich and fulfilling ministry as a senior priest, continuing to bring forth the presence of Christ, our Priest and Good Shepherd.*

*"With fraternal best wishes, Bishop Boyea."*

The senior years of a priest's ordained ministry are important for the completion and perfection of the priestly vocation. Most of us know of senior priests that have served for decades in ministry to this end. These canonical norms are intended to promote the value and dignity of the person as well as the importance of priestly ministry and the mission of the Church.

In accord with the Code of Canon Law, these norms propose that retirement from a diocesan appointment (i.e. my stepping down as director of the retreat center) does not imply an end to ministry. Upon retirement a priest enters into a time of life where the Spirit calls him to complete the ministry to which he has been called.

As for completing the ministry to which I have been called, I will focus now as director of the Institute for Spiritual Direction. This is with the full approval and affirmation of Bishop Boyea, who has provided me with a residence at the senior priest housing adjacent to the St. Francis Retreat Center. *continued...*

## SUMMER ALUMNI DAY

The Summer Alumni Day has become a treasured tradition of the ISD. This is a day for teaching, relaxing together, sharing meals and information and enjoying a time to be together. A favorite part of this day is having a chance to welcome the upcoming class members who begin class every September.

This year we met on August 12 and the day began with a meal together, followed by three talks: A talk by Fr. David, which highlighted the work being done by the ISD Council of Ministries; by Deacon Peter Ludwig on the development of the Early Church; and by Rev. Barbara Swartzel, a Presbyterian Minister, on the Ignatian Suscipe Prayer.

The day concluded with Mass and a festive meal, welcoming our new members of ISD, who began their classes in September. It is always a good time when we are able to spend a day together. It is great to be part of the ISD family!

*...continued*

As we welcome Cohort #6 to our Fall Semester, the ISD has entered its sixth year. I will now have time to direct the ISD Commission of Ministries toward fulfilling its mission. As you'll note on our website, we have six ISD Commissions. I will devote my prayers, time and attention toward guiding the development of each commission. I would ask you to consider sitting on one of these commissions, working with me to help achieve our growth goals for this year.

During this exciting time of growth and change, please feel free to contact me directly with your questions and concerns. Know that you are steadfast in my thoughts and prayers, as I offer your intentions in my daily Masses.

# WHAT'S NEW AT THE INSTITUTE FOR SPIRITUAL DIRECTION?

## Cohort 5 Prepares to Graduate

Cohort 5 taught us all a lesson in perseverance in the face of difficult times. More than any other group they were affected by the shutdowns and restrictive practices that came with the advent of Covid 19. They had to adjust to virtual classes with virtually no notice. But with characteristic good humor they made the adjustments and are now approaching graduation on December 15. We wish them well and thank them for the lesson they taught us all about approaching difficult changes with faith in the grace of God.

## Welcome to Cohort 6

As we read this newsletter, Cohort 6 is already well into their first semester of training and we welcome them wholeheartedly. One of the signs of God's faithfulness to ISD is that he has brought so many new members to our family, even in the midst of all the concerns expressed in our society about possible health issues. There is such a growing interest in spiritual direction and God continues to send people with open hearts and a willingness to serve so this need can be met in the Church. So we welcome each of you and look forward to getting to know you. Our new cohort members are:

Denyse	Shannon	All Saints Bay City
Kenia	Ismael-Jorge	Cristo Rey Lansing
Stephanie	Kopf	St. John the Evangelist Jackson
Drew	Keast	Catholic Community of Flint
Kathy	Dey	St Thomas/St John East Lansing
Della	Seeley	St Vincent de Paul Shepherd
Mary	Mullally	St. John - Davison
Elaine	Riley	Resurrection - Lansing
Jon	Seeley	St Vincent de Paul Shepherd
Faustina	Quinlan	St Vincent de Paul Shepherd



**ISD**  
Council of Ministries

### *Spiritual Resources for Individuals and Parishes*

Over the last year members of this council have been busy establishing teams to serve the ongoing needs of ISD. Mission Statements for ISD and goals for the individual teams have been established to guide in the growth and development in coming years.

We have six ISD Commissions identified in our Strategic Plan: Communications, Academics, Retreats, Local Parish Ministry, Alumni Development and Sustainability, and Finance.

We invite you all to get more familiar with this work of development and consider how you can help with the growth of this ministry.

You can see more of the details that have been developed here: <http://www.isdministries.org/ministries.html>

### **Job Posting Available at ISD**

The ISD has a full time position available for someone with skills in office and back-office management, and entry level image graphics experience. **See full details at [isdministries.org](http://www.isdministries.org)**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Ignatian Weekend Retreat:** October 29 - 31, 2021

*For more information: <http://www.isdministries.org/ignatian-retreats.html>*

- **Into Your Hands, Father Retreat:** November 19-21, 2021

A retreat for Spiritual Directors, those receiving direction, and all those seeking a deeper, contemplative, spiritual life.

*For more information: <http://www.isdministries.org/contemplative-retreats.html>*

- **Cohort 5 Graduation:** All are invited to celebrate graduation for cohort 5 on December 15. Plan to arrive at the St. Francis retreat house chapel by 4:00 to be ready for Mass at 4:30. This will be followed by a reception and festive dinner to celebrate the event. Please join us.



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For more information on the Institute for Spiritual Direction, on how to become a spiritual director, or how to find a spiritual director, please visit [www.isdministries.org](http://www.isdministries.org), or email Fr. David Rosenberg at [drosenberg@isdministries.org](mailto:drosenberg@isdministries.org).