



# All Things Ignatian



## Ignatian Faculty-Staff-Student Retreats

### Effective Leaders in the Jesuit Tradition

#### The Beginning

Creighton University hosted a “Mission in Action” day in the spring of 1998 for administration, faculty, and staff on campus. Following those meetings, several faculty members of the Education Department discussed the essence of what had been presented – lead and teach like Ignatius. Their proposal – to integrate charisms into student educational and extracurricular activities – was offered to the chairperson of the department for consideration. The chairperson, eager to make our “mark” as a premier education department and to accentuate our differences from the other Education departments within our region, supported the development of a committee to lead discussions and plan activities to implement those changes.

#### The Charisms

##### CURA PERSONALIS (care for the person)

Education takes place within the context of caring relationships – relationships between students and teachers, teachers and parents, families and professional school communities. Our students are encouraged to develop an ethic of caring for the person which promotes personal relationships and respect for others. An educator who demonstrates this ethic of care seeks to utilize a variety of educational strategies that develop the whole person: body, mind, and spirit.



Faculty/staff /student retreat - skit time



Student Retreat Chapel at Holy Family – Circle of Prayer

##### MAGIS (the more)

Magis is a term coined by St. Ignatius of Loyola and means seeking “the more” or the greater good. Our students and teachers demonstrate Magis in many ways: by striving for excellence, having high expectations, fulfilling their potential by developing gifts and talents, and by recognizing that human persons need solitude and freedom from overwork in order to know what is the greater good.

##### MEN AND WOMEN FOR AND WITH OTHERS

This charism emphasizes helping and learning from others. Teachers and educators demonstrate this charism through building inclusive classrooms and school communities where equality, equity, human rights, and human dignity are fostered. Our students and teachers seek to promote social justice by addressing key questions regarding issues such as, respect for diversity, effective classroom management strategies, and environment.

##### CONTEMPLATION IN ACTION

Contemplation in Action promotes prayerful reflection and ethical decision making. It fosters the process of examining one’s life – personal and professional – and advocates mindfulness as opposed to mindlessness. Discernment – a faith-based process of decision making that is prayerful and seeks to find God in all things – leads to an action orientation advocated by the Creighton University Education Department in building effective leaders in the Jesuit tradition.

#### Retreat Themes

During the past twelve years, the Education Department has held faculty and staff retreats in the fall of each academic year to set the tone for integration and assessment of Ignatian charism activities. These retreats are followed by spring retreats where students join department members in the planning and communicating of these ideas to students. Themes for the retreats focus on the charisms chosen by the Education Department for inclusion within administrative, educational, and extra-curricular activities. Themes have included:

- Reflecting Upon an Ignatian Identity in Education
- St. Ignatius on Inclusion
- Called to Teach: Men and Women for and with Others
- Leadership in the Service of Justice
- Contemplation in Action

#### Outcomes

Outcomes for the Retreats include:

- To integrate charisms and retreat themes into coursework and assignments, assessment, and teaching-counseling-administrative practice
- To understand, learn, live, and teach the charisms to become better Ignatian educators and leaders



Time for contemplation at faculty/staff/student retreat

