

Ignatian Associates are lay people, single and married, formed by the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius of Loyola, who gather to celebrate and share their Christian faith experience in light of **Ignatian Spirituality**. We seek to understand and do the will of God through lives of contemplative prayer and active service to others in need.

Our Promises

Our 100+ current Ignatian Associates (IAs) make one or three-year renewable Promises of a lifestyle commitment within their families and their current setting and occupation to

Simplicity of Life,

Apostolic Availability,

and

Fidelity to the Gospel and to our Associate and Jesuit Companions.

Most IAs have made these Promises a permanent lifestyle. Though we are technically strangers, through our shared promises, IAs become a close community of companions even across communities.

OUR WORKS

Ignatian Associates fulfill their personal calling to serve others, promote justice, and proclaim the values of the Gospels through various walks of life and careers. Some work alongside Jesuits in universities or as partners in Jesuit ministries. Others incorporate Ignatian spiritual practices into their daily business, medical, professional and family pursuits. Some are retired while others are just a few years out of college.

Because of our commitment to Apostolic Availability, we respond to the call to serve those in need both locally and globally. Some Associates have dedicated their time and lives to work in Africa, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, Central America, and India. We also serve apostolically as a community in various service projects determined by each community. Inspired by the Jesuits, Ignatian Associates seek to work in service to the Christian faith and for the promotion of justice for all people.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Born out of the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits,) Ignatian Associates is an independent, non-profit, association of lay people who strive to practice the Spiritual Exercises in everyday life. We gather a few times a month in our local communities and once a year with

Ignatian Associates from all our communities to learn from and support each other in living out our Promises and practicing Ignatian Spirituality and service. Currently, five communities are established in the United States including in the Twin Cities of **St. Paul/Minneapolis, Chicago** two communities in **Milwaukee** (including a Spanish-speaking community), and **Omaha**. We also have a process for starting new communities in other cities.

Ignatian Associate local **community life** includes:

- Eucharist
- Faith-Sharing
- Family and Social Gatherings
- Ongoing formation in Ignatian Spirituality
- Partnership with local Jesuits
- Days of Reflection
- Opportunities for Service
- Personal support

Ignatian Associates complements traditional parish life by providing an intimate faith community and on-going opportunities for spiritual development and service. All Promised members are invited to share responsibility for leadership of the community on a voluntary basis.

OUR FORMATION

All Associates take the first steps toward membership in the IA community by completing St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises Retreat in Daily Life. The Retreat is a one to two year journey which includes meeting on a regular basis with a spiritual director to discern one's spiritual calling and be grounded in an Ignatian world view. The commitment to Ignatian Spiritual practices is supported by fellow companions making the retreat who gather to share about their faith journey two to three times a month, along with Promised Associates who are responsible for guiding formation. Our commitment to supporting each other through formation includes financial support, if necessary, to cover spiritual direction fees as well as child care during meeting times. At the end of the 18-month Retreat in Daily Life, those in formation are invited, if they so choose, to continue their faith journey with the community as a Promised member.

If you are interested in learning more about the Ignatian Associates, please email us at:

Info@IgnatianAssociates.org.

Or review our website at:

www.IgnatianAssociates.org

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***Catholic lay communities
engaging, practicing, and
living the graces of Ignatian
Spirituality***