



7 December 2017

To all those taking part in the *Retreat in Daily Life*

Dear Co-Retreatants,

All of us on the team for the English-speaking hope you're finding the journey through the Exercises to be a graced and helpful one.

The materials you are receiving now bring us into the Second Week, a period that immerses us in the person and mission of Jesus. This is what one commentator calls "the heart of the Exercises and their center of gravity."

Because it is lengthy (10 weeks), we are sending the retreat sheets in two parts. This mailing for Part I includes material for four weeks, beginning on December 17th. You will receive the 2nd part in time to begin the last six weeks on January 14th.

In this Second Week, we are invited to contemplate Jesus in the events of the gospel. For this reason, the Supplementary Material includes a short piece on the method of ***imaginative contemplation***, a form of prayer greatly valued by Ignatius. Additionally, we are sending what we hope will be helpful for you in making the suggested ***Repetitions***.

A number of retreatants have told us how helpful they find the images that accompany the retreat texts. We owe these to Sr. Mary Ann Buckley, of the Society of the Holy Child. Mary Ann has been extremely generous with her time and her "discerning eye," and the results enhance and deepen the experience of the retreat for all of us.

I write this on the eve of the feast of the Immaculate Conception, a celebration which reminds us that "grace is more original than sin." As we enter this Second Week, with its intense focus on the One who is our *Way*, we can take heart from the certainty that our own desire for the grace to know, love, and follow Jesus can never match God's will and desire to give this to us.

May this Advent find us filled with great expectations!

Rosemary Mangan, rjm, on behalf of the RDL Team,

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