

Ignatius Jesuit Centre is a place of peace that values all of creation, compassion, unity in diversity, ecological sustainability, interfaith connections, social justice, and the spiritual journey.

We are dedicated to providing programs that:

- Foster an ecological way of life, for the healing of the world
- Nurture a deeper spirituality in people, leading to inner freedom
- Promote the production of local sustainable food
- Provide a welcoming space for individual and communal discernment, and education

Loyola House – *Retreats & Ignatian Training* - central to the Ignatius Jesuit Centre, is located on the Centre's 640 acres just one km north of Guelph. Explore this beautiful land with its walking trails, forest and woods, and wetlands—all an integral part in our retreats and programs.



Ignatius Jesuit Centre
A Place of Peace

Loyola House

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Getting Back to the Garden: contemplative work on the land

August 11-19 2019

August 21-29 2020

*With Greg Kennedy SJ, and
the Ignatius Farm &
Old-Growth Forest project teams*



Loyola House

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loyolahouse.com

Getting Back to the Garden: contemplative work on the land

In the beginning of the book of *Genesis*, physical labour, specifically farming, is imposed as punishment for stealing apples. Ever since that fateful imposition, saintly people of many traditions have sought to reevaluate the spiritual significance of work. St. Benedict, convinced that “idleness is the enemy of the soul”, praised manual labour as a key component to the sanctifying effects of monastic life. The famous Zen proverb - “Before enlightenment: chop wood, carry water. After enlightenment: chop wood, carry water” - equally points to the profoundly transformative power of basic chores done gracefully.

Loyola House, beautifully situated on 640 acres of certified organic, prime, Ontario farmland, is well-placed to continue in this venerable line of spiritual masters. Here, working the land is caring for it and for those creatures (human and non-human) who will eat of its gifts. Weeding, harvesting, planting, controlling invasive species literally become corporal works of mercy involving the hands and heart of the worker. This retreat will allow the retreatant in their totality--body, soul and will--to enter into contemplation through the simple, humble tasks of growing food and restoring waterways and native forests. A morning or afternoon of each day will be dedicated to the physical work of making a living on the land, joining the Ignatius Farm and conservation teams. For the remaining

time, the retreatant will have leisure to reflect on the experience and feel the satisfying burn of joints and muscles put to good use. A spiritual director will accompany the retreatant through the thick & thin of life on the farm and in the woods. Maximum of 6 participants.

This retreat is facilitated by:

- Greg Kennedy, SJ - Spiritual Director, Loyola House
- Ignatius Farm team
- Old-Growth Forest project team

What to bring includes: non-glass refillable water bottle, rain gear, sun protection, and clothing suitable for field work that can get dirty.

August 11-19 2019
August 21-29 2020

Cost: \$792



To apply for this program, complete the online application form at loyolahouse.com under Application. A downloadable form may also be completed, from the application webpage.

Retreats and Programs

It is our intention to ensure the financial sustainability of the retreats and programs we provide at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre. Cancellations represent an expense to the Centre and a lost opportunity for others to participate in the retreats and programs.

Payment

Payment in full must be received in order to secure your booking. Cancellations & refunds are managed on an individual basis.

Fees

The costs of all programs are in Canadian funds. Payment may be made by cash, cheque, money order, VISA, MasterCard, online or bank draft in Canadian funds payable to the Ignatius Jesuit Centre. We are unable to accept e-transfers.

The fees for all retreats include accommodations and meals, sessions with a spiritual director, daily liturgy, all required materials, and access to the land. Please note that commuter fees do not include breakfast or access to a bedroom.

Checking In

Unless otherwise noted in the schedule, retreats and programs begin at 7:30pm on the first day and end at 1pm on the last day. You may arrive between 4-7pm (supper is not provided on opening night).