



Dear Miriam,

As September settles in, I can't help but feel, along with most elementary school graduates, that I have to account for my summer. What did I do with myself those hottest months? Certainly, the long days at IJC were full of retreats, training programs, farm work, walking, and blinking with incredulity at the almost tropical vitality of the community gardens. Among all this some reading also got done. One book in particular sticks like a burr to me.



Greg Kennedy with Raj Vijayakumar, SJ

Life After Doom, by Brian McLaren, condenses in its cheery title the entire thrust of its 300-page argument. McLaren lives out of a "complicated hope" that foresees the likely collapse of global civilization due to ecological overshoot (humanity's consumption of Earth beyond her capacity of replenishment). At the same time, this hope understands existence at this critical point in human history as privileged. Not unlike a September vegetable garden, already browning into decline, the current world situation "isn't a great time for an easy life, but if you want a meaningful life, you showed up right on time."

What makes this timing so right is the blatant necessity for us to live more consciously, compassionately and communally. Our collective wellbeing, if not survival, depends on it. "A new, humbled, wiser humanity can only be born as the old, arrogant, foolish human civilization is collapsing." Strong words, but pertinent to the peaceful place of IJC. People come here to practice contemplative attitudes conducive to wisdom, humility and openness to new, liberating realities. The silence, the land, the prayer, the celebration of life's interconnectedness alive at IJC are key to unlocking the love that will get us through the crises before us. McLaren points out, as things fall apart, we don't need stockpiled bunkers, we need creative communities that cultivate beauty, solidarity and mutuality. IJC hopes always to be such a community.

And this community keeps growing. We are delighted to welcome Raj Vijayakumar SJ. Raj, a Jesuit in formation, arrives with an affection for film, writing and discernment. No doubt you'll get to know

him over his two-year stay at Ignatius.

Blessings,
Greg Kennedy
Executive Director

[DONATE ONLINE NOW](#)

Loyola House - Retreats & Ignatian Training



**Looking to go on retreat?
Check these out:**

One-Day Retreats -

- **NEW! Dining with Ignatius:** The Saint's guidance for mindful eating - September 12
- **Prayer Bead Pilgrimage** - September 21
- **NEW! Martha & Mary:** Action and Contemplation - September 23
- **From Field to Feast:** One-day Food Retreat - September 25
- **NEW! The Ignatian Examen of Consciousness** - November 21
- **NEW! The Creative Path:** A One-Day Art Retreat - November 23

Multi-Day Retreats -

- **NEW! Living with Soul in the Second Half of Life** - Part A: October 31-November 3; Part B: January 23-26
- **NEW! Eating for Tomorrow:** the Ecology & Politics of Food Weekend Retreat - November 22-24
- **Advent 2024 Weekend Retreat** - November 29-December 1
- **Advent Taize - December 6-8**

[Apply for a retreat today!](#)

The beauty and preciousness of life is intimately linked with its fragility and mortality. We can experience that every day — when we take a flower in our hands, when we see a butterfly dance in the air, when we caress a little baby. Fragility and giftedness are both there, and our joy is connected with both.

~ *Henri Nouwen*



Ignatius Farm, Land & Old-Growth Forest Project Community

AT THE FARM



Golden Beets



Farmer Jennica with fresh tomatoes!

Are you interested in volunteering at the Farm?

We have two upcoming Community Field Days where you can volunteer in the field or community Orchard. You can find all the details and [sign up here](#).

Registration for Term 3 of the New Farmer Training Program is open. [You can register here](#).

ON THE LAND



Wetland Restoration at IJC

If you have driven by the Ignatius Jesuit Centre recently and taken a look at the wetland on the Old-Growth Forest side, you may have noticed a large black tarp and wondered what was going on. This summer, and for the last number of years, the IJC land department has spent many hours restoring the wetland by tackling one of the most invasive and resilient plants that we have here at the IJC – Phragmites.

Invasive Phragmites, also known as the Common Reed, is a very aggressive plant that spreads quickly and outcompetes native species for water and nutrients. Biochemicals are released from its roots into the soil to hinder the growth of surrounding plants ([Invasive Species Centre, 2024](#)). Since it spreads and grows so quickly, and is harmful to native species, the plant rapidly dominates wetlands. As is the case in our own once-luscious wetland, the Phragmites has taken over. In previous years, tarp was used to heat and solarize large areas of Phragmites, but via root growth, the plant has still emerged in the areas surrounding the tarp. However, with the continuous efforts of IJC staff and the help of Trout Unlimited Canada, over 5500 square feet of our wetland was cleared of Phragmites so far in 2024. The invasive plant was soon replaced with approximately 200 native plants including Silky Dogwood, Tamarack, Sycamore, and many others. These native plants will add biodiversity, support the local wildlife, and eventually shade the Phragmites to the point at which it can not grow. This accomplishment was made possible with the generous collaboration of Trout Unlimited Canada, who not only provided the plants for the project, but also spent numerous days removing Phragmites, by hand, alongside the IJC land department.

If you're interested in learning more or participating in invasive species management, check out the link below to read about our community tree planting event happening September 23 2024:

<https://ignatiusguelph.ca/event/repairing-a-forest-community/>

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS - ENRICH YOUR LIFE!

We are looking for an Experienced Cook!

Could this be YOU?! Come work for us as we expand our Kitchen Team! We're looking for hardworking, positive, reliable and fun people that are dedicated to great food. Our kitchen is a beautiful sun-lit space with an outstanding view of the land. This position offers the benefit of a regular salary and rarely working late.

This position is full-time permanent; salary \$19/hour based on experience; includes employer-paid benefits after 3 month + Employer RRSP Matching Program after 3 months.

[Find out more here!](#) Deadline: September 5 2024



Are you aligned with IJC's vision, mission, culture, & values?

Join the Board & help Ignatius thrive



We're looking for YOU!

Are You Looking To....?

- Share your expertise, knowledge and learned experience
- Develop new skills while deepening existing ones
- Strengthen your leadership skills
- Expand your social and professional networks
- Support and strengthen your community
- Be part of taking IJC to the next level

The Ignatius Jesuit Centre is looking for Board members who are interested in rolling up their sleeves and getting involved to promote IJC's Mission and Vision. We aim for our Board members to encompass diverse voices, backgrounds and perspectives. [See this link for more information.](#)

A Taste of Diversity

Local bounty on your plate!



Taste of Diversity!

Get ready for a wonderful night of bountiful food, community spirit, and making a difference!

Tickets are limited so book early to save your seats.

November 13 - Service 5pm, Dinner 6pm

\$100 per dinner

Tickets: [register online here!](#)
or call 519-824-1250 ext 241

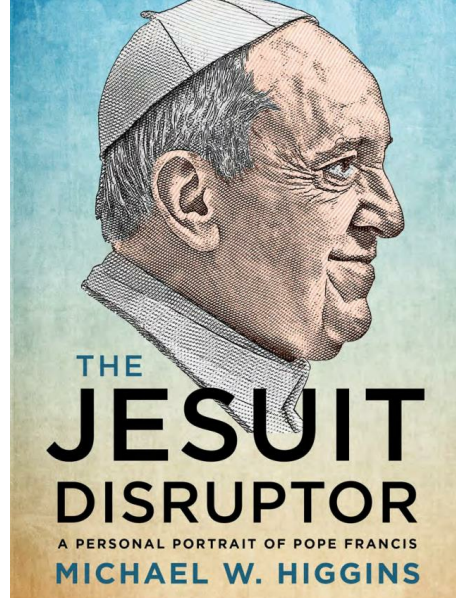
Book Launch - *The Jesuit Disruptor: a personal portrait of Pope Francis*

Wednesday September 11

Loyola House 7-9 pm

Acclaimed scholar, journalist, documentarian and jovial raconteur, Michael W. Higgins launches his latest book, *The Jesuit Disruptor*, written from his longstanding, personal experience of the inner workings of the Catholic Church.

More information: [Book Launch with Michael W. Higgins - Ignatius Jesuit Centre \(ignatiushouse.ca\)](#)



Cedar Circle Sunday Afternoons

Sunday September 22, 2:30-4pm

Meet at Ignatius Farm Workshop

Come contemplate the light and dark in the context of climate action on Autumn Equinox.

[Find out more here at ignatiushouse.ca under events.](#)



Jeff Bird plays Hildegard von Bingen

Thursday November 14, 7pm

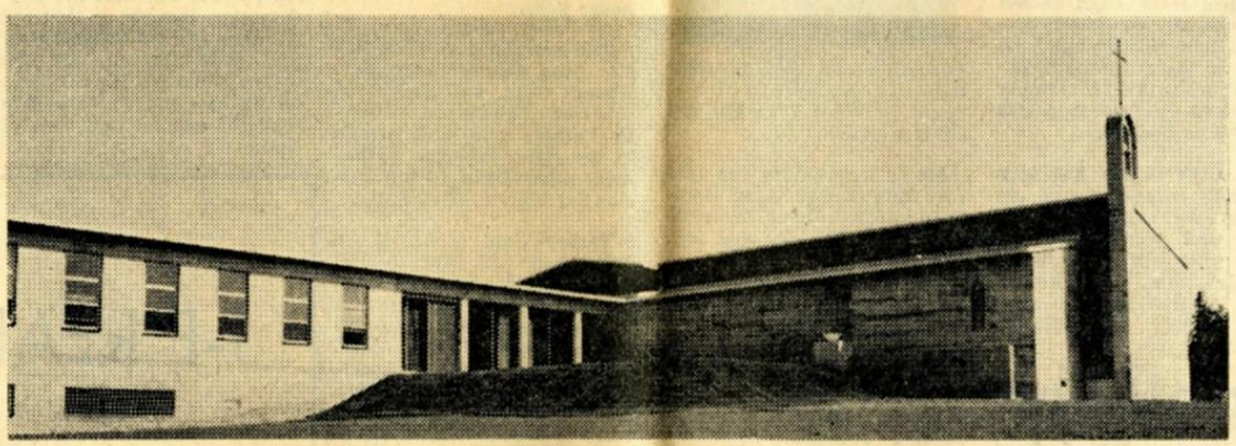
Loyola House Chapel, Tickets \$25/ea

Jeff Bird is captivated with the sublime music of the 12th century mystic Hildegard von Bingen. His luminous arrangements for harmonica reveal his deep love and respect for the transcendent power of this 800-year-old music.

[Find out more about this concert here!](#)



LOYOLA HOUSE 60th ANNIVERSARY



The New Loyola

Situated on a five acre site just north of the city of Guelph on Highway 6 is the new Loyola Retreat House which will be blessed by Bishop Joseph F. Ryan on Sunday afternoon, June 28 at 3 p.m. Nestled in quiet surroundings on sloping terrain, this new retreat house is of Spanish style. Pictured above is the chapel with its arched concrete bell tower and the lounge, dining area

and kitchen wing. The two storey 48 private room wing runs off the other side of the chapel. Designed by Gardiner, Thornton, Gathe & Associates of Vancouver, BC, the general contract was carried out by Ball Brothers Limited, Kitchener. Frank Burcher, architect, Hamilton, supervised construction.

(Photo by Bochsler Studios, Hamilton)

Source: *The Canadian Register*, June 27 1964. Compliments of the Hamilton Diocese Archives.

Loyola House celebrates 60 years in 2024. If you have your own stories of transformation experienced here, please send them to tpacker@ignatiuguelph.ca.

LAND LOVERS

This is the sixth "Land Lovers" profile, compiled by local Guelph artist, writer and Ignatius land lover, Dawn Matheson, with photography by flower grower Teresa Blanking. Please reach out to us if you are a lover of our fields and forests, flora and fauna and want to share in the wonder. We'd like to profile you.

Tish has grown organic cut flowers here at Ignatius for the past 8 years. Her business, "May Moon Flowers," is a nod to the first full moon in May known as the flower moon, and May is her birth month. Each day at dawn during growing season, you can hear Tish's clunky pick-up truck pulling up to her 1/4 acre bed of beauty. Find her @maymoonflowers on Instagram.

Who are you? What do you want us to know about you?

I have always worked in creative fields but came to flowers in the last decade. One funny irony, as a flower grower, I have seasonal allergies as well as anaphylaxis to bee and wasp stings, but, I'm happiest in the garden, so it's something I deal with.

How do you spend your time out on the land?

I spend most of my time tending the flowers. Lots of weeding! Ha! I come out first thing each morning, rain or shine, and do my walkthrough. I take photos every day, and then I get to work.

Why do you come? What does this land offer you?



Working close to nature is healing for me. This land offers me peace, joy, and the opportunity to test my grit. The beauty amazes me, especially now, in peak bloom. It can be a hard job. I start some of the seeds in January under lights in my basement and they don't bloom until now. They are slow growers and definitely worth the wait. When the work feels hard, I keep focussing on this moment: peak bloom. And, here it is. It's so special to stand in a field full of flowers.



How do you do to give back to the land?

I grow everything organically, which is gentle on the earth. I plant specific plants to encourage pollinators (bees, wasps, moths, hummingbirds...) and, of course, the flowers enhance habitat and provide food, like the milkweed plant does for monarch caterpillars. I love to witness their metamorphosis into butterflies.

POETRY

Midland Painted Turtle: Species of Special Concern

by gregor Y kennedy

sunned on a sinking log
by the leafy beaver lodge
Midland Painted Turtle
(Masterpiece)
aware that human art(ifice)
runs rife with fraud
drops at the first shod
footfall into the murky stream;

True Art
is ever more seldom seen.



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