



Promoting Ignatian Spirituality for Laity in Northeast India

Two Lay Women and a Jesuit Offer Conferences on Lay Ignatian Spirituality for Jesuits and Laity in the Jesuits' Kohima Region

What did we do?

Joan Lanahan, Maryanne Rouse, and Fr. Greg Carlson undertook in December, 2013 to guide a process of Jesuit reflection on Ignatian spirituality, how Jesuits are living it, and how they might choose to intentionally share those values with the people to whom they minister. Those values include things like "Finding God in All Things," "Discernment," and "The Union of Faith and Justice." After two days of sessions with the Jesuits, the same three Creighton people explored those same values with 25 lay leaders chosen for this adventure. A third set of sessions was held beforehand by the two lay women for Jesuit Novices. These sessions were in the Northeast States of India, an area of tribal, poor people to whom this region of Jesuits are missioned—an area of twinning for the Jesuits' Wisconsin province.



Maryanne, Joan, and Greg in Kohima



Jesuit Attendees from the Kohima Region

Whose Idea was this trip?

The request grew out of Fr. Anand Pereira, sj's vision born from five years of experience in a CLC community in Omaha. Here, while doing his Ed. D. program, he experienced a group of lay people who shared with him at the deeper level of core values. Pretty exciting! Fr. Anand has prepared trips to Kohima for some eight groups of people from Creighton and Marquette. One of those groups last February included Maryanne and Joan.

Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.

An idea is born!

As they evaluated the experience near its end last February, the idea came to them to return to foster the development of lay spirituality. For them, finding this spirituality, especially in CLC groups, has been a crucial part of their lives, and they wanted to share it with these partners, Jesuit and lay, halfway across the world. Maryanne and Joan looked for a Jesuit to partner with them in this adventure.



Lay Attendees from Northeast India

Extensive preparations

The threesome, now including Fr. Greg, met some eight times to prepare their interactive conferences and flew to Northeast India at the end of the fall semester. Ask any one of them and they will tell you great stories of heroic Jesuits, friendly people, cold nights, hard roads, and rich experiences!

They will also tell you that Santa in India always wears a mask!



Masked Indian Santa