



Ignatian Conversation at De Smet Jesuit

One of St. Ignatius Loyola's great spiritual insights, and therefore one of his gifts to our world, was a way of engaging in conversation with another person. For St. Ignatius, the other person is a child of God and a person deserving respect and consideration, no matter what opinion the person holds or the history of the relationship with this person. We call this Ignatian Conversation.

At the beginning of the *Spiritual Exercises*, St. Ignatius lays out the presupposition for the entire retreat and for Ignatian Conversations. In it, each person presupposes the good in the other and the goodness of the statement being made. When one believes the statement is not correct, with love one seeks to correct or work to understand the statement so that it may be saved or understood in a correct fashion.

At De Smet Jesuit, we strive to engage in honest, brave and fruitful conversations, which have the following attributes:

Be slow to speak.

Allow everyone the chance to speak.

Talk less and listen more.

Listen attentively.

Listen actively with an ear to understanding others' views.

Listen respectfully without interrupting.

Seek the truth in what others are saying.

Commit to learning, not debating.

Comment in order to share information, not to persuade.

Disagree humbly, respectfully, and thoughtfully.

Avoid blame and speculation.

Avoid assumptions and generalizations.

Allow the conversation the time it needs.

Seek opportunities to continue the dialogue.

Follow up when necessary.