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## Message from the Director: Pope Francis, S.J.

By Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.

Where were you when the new pope was announced? What were your initial thoughts? What are you thinking now? Post a reflection on LIM's Facebook page: <http://goo.gl/RvKXY>.

I was in a LIM meeting. Professor Daniella Zsupan-Jerome was monitoring her iPad and, seeing the white smoke, beat the Cardinal Proto-Deacon to the punchline, "Habemus Papam!" I couldn't access the proceedings on my computer, and so I sought out a spot in front of a TV in Loyola's Communications building. Class let out as the new pope appeared on St. Peter's balcony, and we greeted him with pleased responses, "A Jesuit," "a South American."

My first reaction was to be quite moved, but some amusing ques-



**Pope Francis I**  
Credit Alessandro Bianchi/Reuters/Landov

as, "How many Jesuit popes are there now?" Well, two—a black one and a white one. (Some non-Jesuits refer to the Superior General of the Society of Jesus as the Black Pope because he wears black and, with his worldwide order, has global influence that bears some resemblance to the pope's.) Also, does Pope Francis have to obey himself since Jesuits take a fourth vow of obedience to the pope? And what would happen if his provincial ordered him to live in Rome's Jesuit community instead of in the Vatican's Santa Martha guesthouse, or what if he ordered him back to Buenos Aires? (-;

tions also occurred to me, such

continue →

## Summer Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership

The sixth Summer Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership co-sponsored by the Loyola Institute for Ministry and Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Catholic Schools and Office of Religious Education takes place on Loyola's campus 10-13 June 2013 and will focus on the Catholic Spiritual Leader.

This summer's institute will bring together leaders and aspiring leaders from schools and parishes and concentrate on the centrality of prayer, recognizing that authentic and effective educational leadership rests on and

flows from prayer.

Jennifer Coito, M.P.S., will facilitate the Summer Institute this year. She has worked in faith formation for over ten years and currently works for the California Province of Jesuits in the Christian Life Community (CLC) Program.

To learn more about the Summer Institute and how you can attend, you may contact Eileen Chapoton at 504.865.2109 or [chapoton@loyno.edu](mailto:chapoton@loyno.edu) or view information about the Summer Institute online. [GO»](#)



**Learn more about the Christian Life Community of the USA where SICEL facilitator Jennifer Coito works.**  
[GO »](#)

*And he departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find him. For he departed, and behold, he is here.*

— St. Augustine



*May the risen Lord's victory over death put hope in our hearts as we celebrate the joy of Easter.*

*Happy Easter to each of you and yours,*

— LIM Faculty and Staff

## Notes from Cecelia

By Cecelia Bennett, J.C.L.

### On the Road at NCCL and NALM

Come join LIM at the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) and National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM) conventions in May and June. It is still not too late to sign up for either conference, both of which offer wonderful opportunities to network with others working in catechesis and other lay ministries.

If you are able to attend either of these conferences, please stop by our booth for a visit and a treat. You may also participate in workshops by Daniella Zsupan-Jerome at NCCL and Cecelia M. Bennett at NALM. If are willing to come by the booth and share your great LIM experiences with conference participants, please let me know at [cbennett@loyno.edu](mailto:cbennett@loyno.edu). If you are not a member of either organization, please consider joining one or both. LIM Director Tom Ryan just was featured in the NALM student [news-letter](#).

### NCCL Conference

The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Conference and Exposition takes place 20-23 May in Cleveland, OH. Its theme is Ignite the Fire of Faith. On Monday, the day after the Feast of Pentecost, Father James Mallon opens the conference with his keynote address: Over-shadowed: "The Holy Spirit, the True Fire Starter." [GO»](#)



Professor Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Ph.D., will present a workshop at NCCL entitled "Proclaiming Good News through Digital Media: Facing the Challenges and Exploring the Possibilities." It takes place on Tuesday,

21 May, at 3 p.m.

### NALM Conference

## Beating the Odds

The National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM) Annual Conference takes place from 30 May to 1 June in Las Vegas, NV with the theme Lay Ministry: Beating the Odds. Pre-conference events for parish pastoral ministers, business managers, pastoral planners, and formation directors begin on 29 May. A group registration rate is available. The keynote address by Rev. Michael White and Thomas Corcoran is "Rebuilt: Changing Church People from Consumers to Contributors." [GO»](#)

Cecelia M. Bennett, J.C.L., presents a workshop "Playing by the Numbers: Canon Law for Business Managers" in a breakout session on 31 May. [GO»](#)

### Graduation

For those students who will graduate this spring, a few final deadlines are upcoming:

12 April Deadline for degree and certificate students to RSVP for the LIM liturgy and reception. To do so [GO»](#)

8 May Deadline for requesting physical assistance or designated seating for the physically impaired at either the 11 May Baccalaureate Mass or the LIM Liturgy. To do so, contact [Diane Blair](#)



# Diocese of Baton Rouge Hosts Annual LIM Event

The Diocese of Baton Rouge held its second annual Loyola Institute for Ministry evening on 7 March 2013 at the Diocesan Catholic Life Center on Acadian Parkway. It was a very special gathering with the diocese honoring Betty Bourgeois, MRE '85 and former director of their office of Religious Education. The evening included refreshments, prayer, a talk on spirituality, a presentation of thanks to Betty Bourgeois, and sharing.

Rhonda Parenton, director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, Gloria Vanderwall, and Mila Gernon, also with the office, hosted the event to which all Loyola Institute for Ministry alumni and current students were invited.

Attendees mingled and enjoyed refreshments. Rick Beben offered a



**Rhonda Parenton (l) presents Betty Bourgeois (r) with a candle in recognition for her years of ser-**

prayer before Dr. Ryan gave his talk entitled "Faith and Popular Culture: A Spirituality for Today." After his pres-

entation, Rhonda and alumni shared their stories of Betty and her influence on their work in ministry and spoke of her many years of service to the diocese and bringing LIM to catechist in Baton Rouge. Rhonda presented Betty with gifts of gratitude following Betty's comments. Tricia Greely closed the meeting in prayer.

The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis hopes to make this an annual event for gathering alumni and current students of the Loyola Institute for Ministry. Mark your 2014 calendar for next year's gathering on 13 March.

**To read more about Tom's talk and the presentation honoring Betty, read the story in the *Catholic Commentator*, the Diocese of Baton Rouge's newspaper.**

[GO »](#)

## On-Campus Summer Courses

Study on campus in New Orleans this summer!

17 JUNE – 17 JULY

*Thomas Aquinas, His Theology and Spirituality*

Discover another side of Aquinas in this course that examines the range of his writings from *Summae* to biblical commentaries to hymns.

- Mondays-Wednesdays 3-6 p.m.
- Tom Ryan, Ph.D.

10 JULY – 23 July

*Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counseling*

This popular course explores pastoral dimensions of the clinical practice of counseling.

- 6:20-9:05 p.m. (except for July 11 and 18, which run from 7:15 – 10 p.m.)
- James O'Neill, Ed. D.

For more information about the summer on-campus courses [GO»](#)

## Online Summer Courses

Study with us from wherever you are! The summer online session runs from 27 MAY to 22 JULY.

*Introduction to Practical Theology* • Evelyn Thibeaux, Ph.D.

This initial course in ministry education introduces students to a process of "pastoral praxis," through a method of keeping theological reflection in constant dialogue with action.

*Curriculum Development* • Kathleen O'Gorman, Ed.D.

This course enables participants to distinguish models of teaching and learning that are practiced in various educational contexts and to consider their strengths, weaknesses value, relevance, and appropriateness.

*Ministry in the Marketplace* • Carol Holden, D.Min.

This course investigates work and profession from the standpoints of vocation and community.

*Spirituality for Ministers* • Staff

This course discusses the theological foundation of Christian life and explores how ministry is rooted in and gives expression to the minister's relationship with God

*Universe as Divine Manifestation* • Staff

This course engages students in a process of discernment, interpretation, and response to the natural world as revelatory, as a primary mediation and distinctive focus of divine presence and activity.

# Announcements

## Keeping Up with Student and Faculty Successes

LIM forms a community of believers striving to do God's work intentionally and faithfully. Like any healthy community, we celebrate the accomplishments of those among us and draw strength from their

example.

We share those accomplishments on the [LIM homepage](#) in the Student and Faculty Successes section.

Check the homepage often to read new stories and access

older posts you may have missed.

Let us know about your success by emailing the details and an image of you to us at [lim@loyno.edu](mailto:lim@loyno.edu)



Share your success with the LIM community. [Go >>](#)

## Come and See: On-Campus Open House: 21 April 2013

The Loyola Institute for Ministry will host an Open House Sunday, 21 April 21, at 7 p.m. in the Manresa Den, located in room 107 of Bobet Hall for those interested in learning more about our on-campus programs. On-campus graduate students may pursue the following degrees:

- Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.),
- Master of Pastoral Studies (M.P.S.)
- Master of Pastoral Studies and Master of Criminal Justice (M.P.S. / M.C.J.)
- Master of Pastoral Studies and Master of Business Administration (M.P.S. / M.B.A.)
- Master of Pastoral Studies and Master of Science in Counseling (M.P.S. / M.S.C.)

On-campus Certificate students may pursue the Certificate of Religious Education (C.R.E.) or the Certificate in Pastoral Studies (C.P.S.).

Please share this information with those you feel may be interested. For more information contact Eileen Chapoton 504.865.2109 or [chapoton@loyno.edu](mailto:chapoton@loyno.edu)

### Application Deadlines for Admissions

Fall Semester 2013 – August 1<sup>st</sup> • Spring Semester 2014 – November 15<sup>th</sup>

## Upcoming Webinars

Please join us for our upcoming webinars, which are free and open to the public. Bring a friend!

**16 April**, Ansel Augustine, LIM graduate from the Office of Black Youth and Young Adult Ministry will present *Multi-Cultural Ministry and the New Evangelization*.

**14 May**, Fr. James C. Carter, S.J., President Emeritus, will

discuss *God, Quarks, Tadpoles, and My Faith*.

**18 June**, Michael Cowan, Ph.D., professor at the Loyola Institute for Ministry, presents *Faith vs. Belief: Implications for Discipleship Today*.

### How to Attend

All webinars take place at 8PM CDT. To access the webinars:

1. Go to: <http://loyno.adobeconnect.com/webinar/>
2. Select "Enter as a Guest"
3. Type in your name and click "Enter Room." If you log-in before the starting time, you will need to wait until the start time before being invited in.

Log on and join us for our webinars



## Pope Francis, S.J. continued

I was also moved by his predecessor's decision to step down. It reflected a vulnerability, an admission that he could not do what needs to be done. True, this was not entirely unprecedented; others have chosen this option. Almost 600 years ago, Gregory XII stepped down to heal church division caused by several pretenders to the *cathedra* of St. Peter. And yet, it has been 600 years, and Benedict XVI's decision has raised questions (what will he wear, do, be called; what impact will his presence in the Vatican have on his successor) that can only be answered in the doing. Another question: what else that was before practically unthinkable might now become thinkable?

In some ways, the election of the current pope was unthinkable—a South American, a Francis. He has already accentuated simplicity, humility, God's mercy, and concern for creation. Also almost unthinkable is that he's a Jesuit. Who'd have thought? LIM faculty have appeared on television and radio some dozen times to offer commentary on Pope Benedict's decision to resign and the election of Pope Francis (see for example <http://goo.gl/E4yeG> and <http://goo.gl/mHwly>). One question that I received is what difference does it make that he's a Jesuit?

I will continue to look for evidence of this in his papacy, but I note three things now. First, Pope Francis has linked himself very intentionally to St. Ignatius Loyola the founder of his order who celebrated his first mass upon being ordained a priest at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome. This was also the church Pope Francis visited the first morning of his pontificate.

Second, a central theme in the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius is indifference and, its opposite, attachment. This is how our former colleague Jesuit Fr.

Jerry Fagin spoke of indifference and attachment in the Ignatian spirituality formation program that he wrote during the "Katrina semester," fall 2005:

The better word for indifference is freedom. We need to be free. There are many things that capture our heart. Many things that can keep us from being free enough to hear God's call in our life. We say to God we are willing to do anything but this one thing. "God I will do anything as long as I don't have to let go of this. God, I will go anywhere in the world for you as long as I don't have to move out of this city." That is what Ignatius would call an attachment. That is something my heart is wrapped around and something that is wrapped around my heart.

So, indifference asks whether "something is going to bring me closer to God or not bring me closer to God." It is a freedom for "God and God's plan that embraces everything we do."

In this sense, I am struck by the freedom of Pope Francis—the freedom to bow in humility before his flock, the people of the Church of Rome, and request their blessing; the freedom to highlight poverty and injustice, wear simple clothes, live in a Vatican guesthouse room instead of in the Apostolic Palace, as Cardinal to criticize an inward-looking church and "hypocritical neo-clericalism," and, finally, the freedom to fail and admit mistakes.

On the latter a Claretian friend of his, Father Gustavo Larrazábal in an interview with *U.S. Catholic*, quotes the former Cardinal Bergoglio on his time as Jesuit Provincial during Argentina's "Dirty War" in the 1970s, "I swear Gustavo, that I did what I could and what was within my reach. I was totally inexperienced and certainly made many mistakes as a provincial. But I did what I know how to do and what I could." I can't help

but think that the early emphasis of his papacy on divine mercy reflects the recognition of his own need for mercy.

Third, Jerry alerted me to another emphasis in Ignatian spirituality—the goodness of creation—and he framed this insight in terms of gratitude. The worst sin for St. Ignatius was ingratitude because all creation can be seen as gift, as means of glorifying God and loving God and neighbor. The only proper response is one of gratitude. So Pope Francis's regular highlighting of the importance of creation reflects not only St. Francis of Assisi's prizing of nature but also St. Ignatius's.

Thus Pope Francis has already manifested his Ignatian commitments, and I will remain on the lookout for more. Beyond that, I'm sure Pope Francis is a complex figure and will challenge people across the political and theological spectrum. I look forward to watching as his papacy unfolds and will keep him and the Church in prayer as it does.

So, where were you when you first heard about Pope Francis? What are you thinking? Look for our Facebook post with the image of Pope Francis and post your reflections there: <http://goo.gl/RvKXY>.

Best wishes for a holy Easter season!

Tom Ryan



**Dr. Tom Ryan, Director  
Loyola Institute for Ministry**





## The Loyola Institute for Ministry

Loyola University New Orleans  
6363 St. Charles Avenue, Campus Box 67  
New Orleans, LA 70118

Phone: 504-865-5555  
Fax: 504-865-2066  
E-mail: [lim@loyno.edu](mailto:lim@loyno.edu)

**Ministry education to make a  
difference in the world.**

The mission of the Loyola Institute for Ministry (LIM) is to prepare women and men for religious education and ministerial leadership in Catholic and other Christian communities through professional graduate education and through professional continuing education. The Master of Religious Education and the Master of Pastoral Studies degrees are offered in the Institute. A number of continuing education options are also part of Institute programming.

This newsletter is designed for students in all the LIM programs, alums, current liaisons, facilitators, and faculty.



# Spring and Summer 2013 Calendar of Events

## APRIL

16<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday • Ansel Augustine, Lim graduate and member of the Office of Black Youth and Young Adult Ministry, presents *Multi-Cultural Ministry and the New Evangelization* • 8 p.m. CDT • [Online Webinar](#) • [GO»](#)

## MAY

11<sup>th</sup>, Saturday • Loyola Commencement at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome • 8 a.m. ; LIM Liturgy and Reception at Ignatius Chapel on Loyola's campus • 4:30 p.m. • [GO»](#)

14<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday • Rev. James C. Carter, S.J., President Emeritus and Gerald N. Gaston Distinguished Professor in Religion & Science discusses *God, Quarks, Tadpoles, and My Faith* • 8 p.m. CDT • [Online Webinar](#) • [GO»](#)

20-23<sup>rd</sup>, Monday through Thursday • National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Conference and Exposition • Cleveland, OH • [GO»](#)

21<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday • Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Ph.D., presents a workshop at NCCL: "Proclaiming Good News through Digital Media: Facing the Challenges and Exploring the Possibilities" • 3:00 - 4:15 pm EDT [GO»](#)

30 May to 1 June • National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM) Annual Conference • Las Vegas, NV [GO»](#)

31<sup>st</sup> May, Friday • Cecelia M. Bennett, J.C.L., presents a workshop at NALM: "Playing by the Numbers: Canon Law for Business Managers" • Las Vegas, NV [GO»](#)

## JUNE

10-13<sup>th</sup>, Monday through Thursday • Summer Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership takes place on the Loyola campus. [GO»](#)

18<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday • Michael Cowan, Ph.D., professor at the Loyola Institute for Ministry, presents *Faith vs. Belief: Implications for Discipleship Today* • 8 p.m. CDT • [Online Webinar](#) • [GO»](#)

### Did You Know?

Past LIM webinars are available for viewing online in the archive a on the LIM website. [GO»](#)