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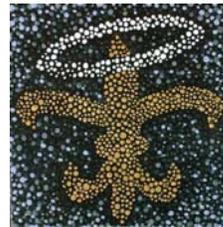
Message from the Director: The Saints and Theology

By Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.

The end of Lent seems as good a time as any to reflect on sin and grace. The New Orleans Saints, our local professional football team born on All Saints Day 1966 and the source in this Catholic city of some good Catholic humor, offers a good occasion for doing so.

You may have read of the recent scandal the Saints have endured. As of this writing, mid-level coaches have been accused of running a scheme that paid New Orleans defenders for causing bodily injury to opposing offenses, and upper-level coaches and management are accused of knowing about it and doing nothing or, even worse, of lying about it.

You might respond, so what? Football is a violent game, and I'm not a sports fan in any case.



The fleur-de-lis, a symbol of the Saints and New Orleans, is encircled by a halo in a mix of sacred and secular.

Well, there's more to all this than just sports and sweaty men. It reveals something about New Orleans and, more importantly, something about the human con-

dition.

The New Orleans Saints have always functioned as something of a mirror for the city. Mostly they've been loveably hapless. Their nadir came in 1980 when their 1-15 record earned them the name of New Orleans Aints and drove fans to don paper bags to hide their grief. If/when you visit us, you'll see how easy it is to fall in love with the city, but it's also one the nation's leaders in murder, low student achievement, AIDs rates, political corruption, and racism.

In the weeks and months following Katrina, New Orleans hung in the balance; it was basically shuttered for a month; many schools didn't reopen until January 2006.

[continue](#) →

The Growth of Lay Ministry and the Development of National Standards and Certification for Lay Ecclesial Ministers

By Cecelia Bennett, J.C.L.

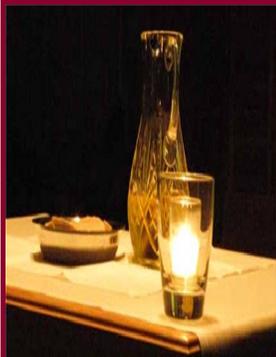
The growth of lay ministry in the United States has been called a work of the Holy Spirit by the bishops of the United States. The bishops acknowledged this growth in Called and Gifted Catholic Laity in 1980 and again in 1995 in *Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium*.¹ Twenty five

years later, the bishops focused on lay ecclesial ministry in *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*:

Lay ecclesial ministry has emerged and taken shape in our country through the working of the Holy Spirit.

In response to these new opportunities and situations, lay men and women have responded generously to renewed awareness of the implications of their Baptism and to the needs of their Church communities.²

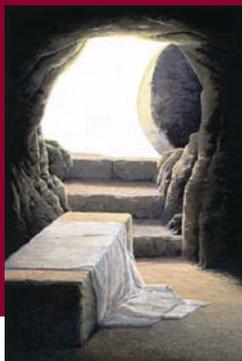
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1168 Beginning with the Easter Triduum as its source of light, the new age of the Resurrection fills the whole liturgical year with its brilliance. Gradually, on either side of this source, the year is transfigured by the liturgy. It really is a "year of the Lord's favor." The economy of salvation is at work within the framework of time, but since its fulfillment in the Passover of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the culmination of history is anticipated "as a foretaste," and the kingdom of God enters into our time. 1169

Therefore Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the "Feast of feasts," the "Solemnity of solemnities," just as the Eucharist is the "Sacrament of sacraments" (the Great Sacrament).

-Catechism of the Catholic Church



Notes from Cecelia

By Cecelia Bennett, J.C.L.

Loyola Commencement

Congratulations to all our 2012 graduates! The faculty and staff of the Institute look forward to celebrating with you and your guests.



The Loyola Institute for Ministry Commencement Liturgy will be on May 12, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. in St. Ignatius Chapel, Bobet Hall, followed by a jazz reception in the Danna Student Center on the Loyola University Main Campus. Please [RSVP](#) for the LIM Commencement Liturgy and reception by April 13th. This is a different form from your degree or certificate application. All degree and certificate candidates attending the LIM liturgy are acknowledged in the Liturgy program. Using the RSVP forms lets us know you will be there, but also helps us plan for you and your guests.

The Loyola University New Orleans Commencement Ceremony for degree candidates is earlier that morning at 9:45 a.m. at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, New Orleans. Detailed information on commencement is posted on the LIM homepages for the on-campus, extension (on-site) and online programs at <http://www.lim.loyno.edu/oncampus/commencement>.

On the Road in May and June: Come join us at NCCL or NALM

LIM will be at several national gatherings and conventions over the next few months. It is still not too late to sign up for the NCCL or NALM conferences. Both offer wonderful opportunities to network with others working in the field of catechesis and lay ministry. If you are able to attend either of these conferences, please

stop by our booth for a visit and a treat. If you can help out at the booth and are willing to talk about your great LIM experiences, please let us know. You may email Cecelia Bennett cbennett@loyno.edu.

National Conference of Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Conference and Exposition: 7-12 May 2012 – San Diego, CA <http://www.nccl.us/> with Rev. Frank DeSiano, CSP, Martha Fernández-Sardina, John Roberto, Jonathan Sullivan, Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ann Garrido, Jack Jezreel, Vallimar Jansen View the [brochure](#).



National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM) Annual Conference: 31 May to 2 June 2012 – Washington D.C.

Embracing the Future of Ministry with Dr. Carole Eipers, Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo, Bishop John C. Wester, and pre-conference (30-31 May) events for pastoral associates and PLC's with Dr. Zeni Fox; parish business managers with Rev. James A. Coriden, J.C.D., JD and Christopher C. Scarpa J.D.; and formation directors with Dr. Mary Hess. View the [flyer](#).



Diocese of Baton Rouge Hosts Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Ph. D.

By Eileen Chapoton

The Diocese of Baton Rouge, Office of Evangelization and Catechesis hosted an evening at St. Aloysius Church for diocesan members and Loyola Institute for Ministry alumni and students with Dr. Zsupan-Jerome speaking on “The Word Made Digital: Proclaiming the Good News through New Media”.

Rhonda Parenton, Director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis welcomed everyone, introduced Dr. Tom Ryan, Director for the Loyola Institute for Ministry who then introduced the guest

speaker from Loyola, Daniella Zsupan-Jerome. Those in attendance enjoyed the presentation and following it participated in a conversation about how the Good News is communicated in, through and with digital media.

Rhonda announced the plan to gather again next year to honor the 25th anniversary of the LIMEX first graduating class and to make this an event in the Diocese. Plans are in the making for March 2013!

Following the presentation all enjoyed the refreshments provided.

Gloria Vanderwall and Mila Gernon assisted in preparing for the event from the diocese as did Eileen Chapoton from LIM. Also in attendance from LIM were Dr. Evelyn Thibeaux and Diane Blair.



St. Aloysius Church in Baton Rouge, site of Dr. Zsupan-Jerome’s talk.

Research Guides for Course Papers

By Jennifer Shimek, M.F.A.

Research Guides are your source for online resources to help you do research for specific course papers. Each LIM Focus Area now has its own Research Guide. Access them at Loyola’s Monroe Library: <http://researchguides.loyno.edu/ministry>.

Each Guide

- offers live links to appropriate databases, ebooks, and web-

sites.

- explains how to cite electronic sources.
- includes additional information about conducting research and getting help.
- gives detailed information about each source or how to cite it when users click on the icon of a blue circle with an “i” in its

center located next to a particular source.

Brian Sullivan, Online Learning Librarian at Loyola, developed these pages along with Jennifer Shimek, the LIM Writing Consultant and Materials Specialist, in conjunction with each course’s Instructor of Record.

“Research Guides . . . help you do research for specific course papers.”

Congratulations to LIM Staff Member Elizabeth Gblende on Her Marriage to Christopher Harris!

Elizabeth Gblende and Christopher Harris celebrated their nuptials on December 11, 2011 at Southern Oaks Plantation in New Orleans. They were joined by family, friends, and co-workers. Following a honeymoon in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, the couple will reside in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Elizabeth and Chris prepare to jump the broom during their outdoor wedding ceremony.



Announcements



Please check your loyno email and respond to the ASPS survey if you have been randomly selected to do so.

Log on and join us for our webinars



Student Survey

A randomly selected group of our graduate students will receive an email to their Loyola email account asking them to fill out the Adult Student Priorities Survey (ASPS). It is a national survey administered by Noel-Levitz, and it

allows us to find out what our students are thinking compared with other graduate students at Loyola and other adult students nationally. If you are a student, please check your Loyola email to see if you have received an invitation to

participate in this survey. If so, please fill it out. Responses are anonymous and will help us to improve our programs.

Work Online toward National Lay Ecclesial Ministry Certification

LIM is partnering with Ministry Training Source to offer two courses to enable you to be among the first to pursue national certification. These online courses will engage participants in understanding the certification process while

helping them build portfolios and complete all the steps necessary to apply for certification. The first course, which takes place from April 16-26, is called "Discernment and Application" and prepares you to apply by the May 1, 2012 dead-

line. For more details, please see <http://loyno.edu/lplc/nationalcertification>.

Multiple-Parish Ministry Workshop

LIM is offering a hands-on, practical opportunity for pastors, pastoral administrators, parish staff, key parish leaders and others who are currently ministering or preparing to minister in multi-cultural par-

ishes, consolidated parishes or multi-parish settings. Mark Mogilka and Connie Pare will lead the workshop which takes place at Loyola on 31 May – 1 June 2012. For more information, please visit our web page

<http://lim.loyno.edu/events>.

Upcoming Webinars

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

11 April, Sr. Terri Bednarz, RSM, Assistant Professor of New Testament Studies, Department of Religious Studies, "Humor in the Gospel of Luke: The Rhetoric of Just Livin

15 May, Fr. Stephen Sauer, SJ, Pastor of the Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception, New Orleans, "The Roman Missal: A Look at the New Translation"

4 June, Tom Ryan, Director of the Loyola Institute for Ministry, "Eucharist and Adoration," in anticipation of the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

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.

Summer Institute for Catholic School Leadership



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Summer Institute is aimed at current and potential school leaders. It takes place at Loyola on 11-14 June 2012.

The Institute will include one track and focus on Catholic schools' Catholic identity. Presenters all have expertise in Catholic education. They take a hands-on approach and are nationally known for their practical and engaging style. As a result, partici-

pants will be able to lead their schools to become more recognizably Catholic and, therefore, more attractive to parents seeking a Catholic education for their children. Presenters include Michael Horan, Mike Carotta, and Mary Carter Waren. For more information, visit our web page <http://www.loyno.edu/lplc/catholic-school-leadership>.

A collaborative effort of the Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Catholic Schools, Office of Religious Education and the Loyola Institute for Ministry, this year's

“Liaisons are invited to nominate facilitator candidates to attend a summer certification workshops”

Summer 2012 Extension Program Facilitator Certification Workshops

Loyola Extension Program Administrative Liaisons are invited to nominate facilitator candidates to attend a summer certification workshop:

Please contact Dr. Daniella Zsupan-Jerome at for more information dzsupanj@loyno.edu.

- June 14-17, Ohio (limited spots available)
- June 21-24, New Orleans (open to all)

Summer 2012 Schedule of Online Classes

The summer online session runs from 29 May to 10 August.

- [Introduction to Practical Theology](#) (LIM G703 W01) [Evelyn Thibeaux, Ph.D.](#)
- [Religious Education across the Curriculum](#) (LIM G716 W01) [Kathleen O’Gorman, Ed.D.](#)
- [Catechetical Leadership](#) (LIM G800 W01) [Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Ph.D.](#)
- [Emergent Universe](#) (LIM G814 W01) [Emily DeMoor, Ph.D.](#)
- [Spirituality and Theology of Work](#) (LIM G819 W01) [Joe Giarrusso, J.D.](#)
- [History of Christian Spirituality](#) (LIM G828 W01) [Steve Lodesky, Ph.D.](#)



Study where you want, when you want.

The Saints and Theology continued

“As the graces of St. Ignatius’s Spiritual Exercises reveal, we, all of us, all creatures are loved, truly, deeply and uniquely loved by God.”

Dr. Tom Ryan, Director of the Institute for Ministry



Who knew if the city would ever recover? Coincidentally, Saints owner Tom Benson initially flirted with moving the team to San Antonio. He did not, and the Saints returned to the Superdome in September 2006.

In the first quarter of that game against their division rival the Atlanta Falcons, the Saints’ punt block hinted at better times to come, and they did. The Saints won that game and went on to win the Super Bowl after the 2009 season.

As an aside, I’ve always been struck by the resonance between the concluding words of the Jewish Seder meal and what Saints fans have said since the beginning. The Seder meal’s final words, “Next year in Jerusalem,” articulate the expectation not simply of physical presence in that city but, even more powerfully, the dream that the whole world will know the shalom, the peace, that is announced every time that city’s name is pronounced. “Next year in the Super Bowl” had always been something of an eschatological statement for Saint fans, a hope beyond hope.

In February 2010 after the Super Bowl victory, it felt like the eschaton had arrived, not only for the Saints, but for the city. One had only to look around. Amazingly, more restaurants are open now than before the storm. That area of uptown closest to the river and so on higher ground (sometimes humorously referred to as the sliver by the river or the isle of denial) is more vibrant than ever.

However, in retrospect, it looks like our reactions have caromed between two extremes. On the one hand, there is pride, which distorts one’s vision of oneself. We fans had a hand in the over-

confidence that led to the team’s recent woes by loading our intense hopes for the city’s recovery onto Saints players’ shoulders, thus creating heroes out of humans. Similarly, the Saints’ exceptional character rubbed off on our views of the city. The Saints success and the city’s recovery lulled us into believing that they/we by their/our efforts had avoided the frailty to which everyone else is subject. We were different.

The bounties proved otherwise. In fact, the team isn’t that exceptional; its members are complex human beings with mixed motivations and a mix of admirable and regrettable qualities. Like the rest of us, they are subject to the human condition or, as we say in the trade, to the effects of original sin.

Once the news broke about the bounties and the subsequent punishment handed down by the NFL, reaction was swift and sometimes incredulous. It has also caused some of us here to ricochet to an opposite extreme. To speak theologically, the reaction of some has been marked by despair. For St. Thomas Aquinas, this vice is, from the human perspective, the most grievous sin, greater than pride, greater even than unbelief and hatred for God, because it represents a distorted view of God that cannot believe the Good News about God’s offer of salvation, love, and mercy.

Our despair appeared in local letters to the editor and online forums. Even more ominously, and playing on the city’s Catholic character and the team’s Catholic name, the Times Picayune’s headline on the day after the punishments read “FALL FROM GRACE.”

This headline begs the question whether we can fall from grace. As

those who have taken the course Grace, Christ and Spirit know, our every breath is graced. As the graces of St. Ignatius’s Spiritual Exercises reveal, we, all of us, all creatures are loved, truly, deeply and uniquely loved by God. True, we can lose track of grace; we can become anesthetized to it, but we can’t fall from it.

And so despair, the opposite of pride, is also to be avoided. In fact, if I had to choose between the two, I would pick the latter. At least the Super Bowl victory resulted in love, hope, and joy. These can be fruitful even if misdirected. We are a better city because of them.

In the fall of 2005, our city hung in the balance. It could have gone either way. Yes, the incredible infusion of federal funds and private contributions of time and money buoyed New Orleans, but so did locals’ determination, a determination fired in part by a team that, at one time, couldn’t but now could. Notwithstanding our many woes, our city is better after Katrina. We don’t take for granted the many gifts that our region represents. We are hopeful in the face of much evidence to the contrary, and isn’t that the point?

The bad news is that sin runs rampant. There is much evil, injustice and suffering in the world. The Good News is that these things do not have the last word. Death has been overcome by life, hatred by love, despair by hope. Good News indeed, and something that we are coming to know here in New Orleans.

Best wishes,

Tom Ryan

The Growth of Lay Ministry continued



Along with the large numbers of laity ministering in the world and in the Church, there is also a diversity and plurality of lay ministries. For example, the ministries of Catholic laity with a focus on the world has flourished through lay movements and organizations like Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, Beginning Experience, Project Rachael, Stephen Ministry, Society of Saint Vincent De Paul, and Just Faith, to name only a few. The ministry of laity in the Church has grown with lay volunteers serving on parish pastoral and finance councils, as lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, as catechists and RCIA sponsors, and in other parish ministries, too numerous to name.³ At the same time, there has been a growth in laity serving in professional (paid and volunteer) ministries in parishes and dioceses. Most parishes have a parish catechetical leader or parish director of religious education; many have a pastoral associate, a lay person who serves on the parish staff in a leadership role and assists the pastor in general parish ministry. Even others have youth, liturgy and music directors. In dioceses where parishes have been combined or clustered, lay ministers serve in these positions on multiple parish staffs along with a pastor and a team of priests and deacons. In dioceses that have implemented canon 517/2, laity serve as parish life coordinators. These are examples of ministry positions that are described in *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*,

as lay ecclesial ministry.⁴

Like most movements, when they become established, structures begin to emerge and form. Likewise, in the three decades of growth of lay ecclesial ministry, the importance is increased for having processes in place which access the competencies and qualifications of those being called and asked to serve by their pastors. For lay ministry, national standards have developed from the grassroots through the national lay ministry organizations.

Since the 1980's, standards and competencies for ministry were developed by three national organizations: the National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM), the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL), and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM). In the late 1980's, NALM members and committees surfaced the need for national certification standards for lay ministry that could be used by graduate and diocesan programs. From 1991 to 1994, NALM developed its first certification standards for pastoral ministers, pastoral associates, and parish life coordinators. In March 1994, these standards were approved by the USCC/CCA and then published by NALM that same year. During this same time period, NFCYM was developing standards for coordinators of Youth Ministry. The USCC/CCA⁵ in January 1990 approved NFCYM's standards. In 1996, NCCL's standards were approved for Directors of Religious Education.

Beginning in June 1997, the first intra-organizational meetings were held to discuss the possibility of collaboration on the development of standards for lay ecclesial ministers.⁶ This effort, along with the requirement of the USCC/CCA to

have standards updated and re-certified by 2003, was the impetus for the three organizations to work together to develop a set of common competency standards. This required each organization to revise its own standards for each specialized ministry in light of the common standards. The USCCB/CCA approved the standards in March 2003.⁷

The national certification standards covered five areas: 1) Personal and Spiritual Maturity, 2) Lay Ecclesial Ministry Identity, 3) Catholic Theology, 4) Pastoral Praxis, and 5) Professional Practice. These standards were intended for use by lay formation directors in diocesan programs and by directors and faculties of college, university, schools of theology, and seminary programs that provide degrees, certificates, and professional ministry formation for laypersons. In these formation and educational settings, the standards and competencies are used in the process of designing, developing and evaluating curriculum and in developing tools for assessing the competencies of participants. The Loyola Institute for Ministry certificate and graduate programs' curriculum conformed to these standards and competencies.

The next step in the development of standards and competencies was for the national ministry organizations to provide a pathway for the professional certification of the lay ecclesial minister; much like other professions do, for example teachers.⁸ In 2005, the three national organizations NALM, NFCYM, and NCCL were joined by National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) and formed the Alliance for the Certification of Lay Ecclesial Ministers (Alliance) to produce updated common standards for lay

Reflecting on Lay Ecclesial Ministry, Preparing for National Certification

Beginning May 2012

- Two-course program
- Offered online
- Perfect for alums

The Loyola Pastoral Life Center (LPLC) in collaboration with Ministry Training Source (MTS) is offering a pilot program to assist lay ecclesial ministers in preparing for national certification.

Be among the first to apply:

<http://www.loyno.edu/lplc/nationalcertification>

[continue](#) →



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**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, alumni, current liaisons, facilitators, and faculty.



The Growth of Lay Ministry continued

ecclesial ministry and to develop and implement a process for the certification of lay ecclesial ministers. In 2009, the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) joined the Alliance. The Alliance working with the members of their respective organizations revised the 2003 National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers and organized them into the four pillars of formation described in *Co-Workers*.⁹ The alliance also developed a process for the certification of lay ecclesial ministers that is carried out by the individual professional ministry organization for its members. In October 2011, the standards and certification procedures were approved for seven years by the USCCB/CCA. Beginning in May 2012, the national ministry associations will accept applications for certification for Director of Worship (FDLC); Parish Life Coordinator

(NALM); Pastoral Associate (NALM); Director of Music Ministries (NAPM); Catechetical Leader (NCCL), and Diocesan or Parish Youth Ministry Leader, including *Pastoral Juvenil Hispana* (NFCYM).¹⁰ If you are serving in one of these roles and meet the prerequisites, consider applying for certification. Certification is an opportunity for you to affirm and be affirmed in lay ecclesial ministry, to support the professional organization that represents your ministry focus and to earn a national portable credential. For a full detailed description of the process and requirements see the [Alliance web page](#).

NOTES

1. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. *Called and Gifted Catholic Laity* (Washington D.C.: USCC, 1980), 7 and *Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium* (Washington, DC: USCC, 1995), 3.

2. *Ibid*, *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord* (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2005), 14.

3. *Ibid*, USCCB, *Co-Workers*, 9.

4. *Ibid*, USCCB, *Co-Workers*, 11.

5. USCCB/CCA Commission on Certification and Accreditation the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Commission on Certification and Accreditation was formerly known as the USCC/CCA.

6. *Common Formation Goals in Ministry: Rooted in the Competency-Based Certification Standards of the National Association for Lay Ministry, National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Inc.*, ed. Rev. Joseph T. Merkt (NALM, NFCYM, NCCL, 2000).

7. *National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers, Serving as Parish Catechetical Leaders, Youth Ministry Leaders, Pastoral Associates, Parish Life Coordinators*. Published by National Association for Lay Ministry, National Conference of Catechetical Leaders, and National Federation Catholic Youth Ministry, 2003. Published as a flipbook in English and Spanish. Hereafter referred to as the *National Certification Standards*.

8. USCCB, *Co-Workers*, 39. Ensuring the quality of pastoral care provided by lay ecclesial ministers requires a process for deciding that a given candidate has the education, formation, and professional skills necessary to serve in a particular role.

9. *Ibid*, *Co-Workers*, 34. The four pillars are human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation.

10. Alliance for the Certification of Lay Ecclesial Ministers, 2012, Web, <<http://www.lmcertification.org>>.