

LIM EXPRESS

LOYOLA INSTITUTE FOR MINISTRY

Loyola Institute for Ministry • Summer 2011

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Message from the Director **Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.**

The Risk of Travel

In late May, a group of thirteen Loyola University faculty and staff led by Vice President for Mission and Ministry Fr. Ted Dziak, S.J., and me embarked on an eight-day immersion trip to Belize.

Our purpose was to immerse ourselves in Belizean culture, to give our faculty and staff a better understanding of Loyola’s Catholic and Jesuit mission, particularly how it has been carried out in Belize (for more on that, see

<http://bit.ly/mmwn1D>), and to reflect on the implications of Loyola’s mission for us personally and professionally.

Among other places, we visited Belize City, Dangriga, the Toledo district, and the Mayan ruins of Xunantunich. The trip concluded with a day of snorkeling off Caye Caulker.

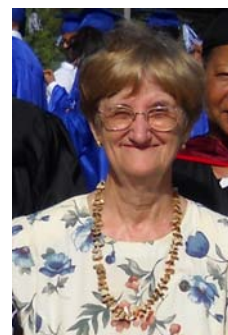
One of the highlights for me was meeting with students, facilitators, and friends of LIM in Belize and Punta Gorda. I was particularly struck by a comment that LIM liaison Sr. Maggie Cooper, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCN), made at one such meeting at Jesuit-run St. John’s College in Belize City. She thanked us for risking a visit to Belize.

Her comment puzzled me initially. Travel in Belize is relatively easy. Moreover, our trip leader, Fr. Ted Dziak, had lived and traveled there for over two decades and knows Belize intimately. What risk?

I thought further; travel does entail risk. Belize was an unknown to most with us. Traveling with a large group can be trying. Then there were the bone-jarring van rides over dirt roads to remote Mayan villages.

The more I thought about Sr. Maggie’s comment, however, the more I realized she was pointing to something deeper.

[Continued](#)



Sr. Maggie Cooper

News Notes from Cecelia

Cecelia M. Bennett, J.C.L.

2011 Commencement

Congratulations to all our 2011 graduates. On 14 May we celebrated the graduation of 84 Loyola Institute for Ministry degree and certificate candidates. Loyola groups graduated from St. John's College in Belize, the dioceses of Belleville, Charlotte, Columbus, Grand Island, Jackson and Glenmary Home Missions, Knoxville, Lake Charles, Monterey, Phoenix, Portland in Maine, and Youngstown. Twenty-six degree and certificate graduates and their family and guests joined us in New Orleans for the celebration.

Next year's Loyola Institute for Ministry Commencement Liturgy will be on 12 May 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. The Loyola University New Orleans Commencement Ceremony for degree candidates is earlier that morning at 10 a.m.

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LIM on the Road

National Conference of Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) 75th Anniversary Conference

Diane Blair and I both attended NCCL. There were 500 participants. Sunday evening began with an opening Mass a dessert reception sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor. In addition to the great food and a wonderful tableau on the 75 year history of NCCL put on by the OSV staff, we had some great conversations. The opening keynote on Monday morning was by James Martin, S.J. He set the tone for the whole conference with his humor and Jesuit jokes.

Our booth in the exhibit hall was located across from Loyola Press, and we had good traffic. Terri Zobel, a graduate and recently certified facilitator for Atlanta, helped worked the booth and generate interest for a Loyola group in the greater Atlanta area. For most of the conference, Diane was staffing the exhibit. It seemed as if I was either in meetings with liaisons or with the staff from the Archdiocese of Atlanta helping to finalize plans for beginning groups again in the archdiocese. I also participated in the Rural Catechesis Committee meeting and workshops.

On Tuesday evening, we took several Loyola liaisons out to dinner and then came back to the hotel for a 45-minute meeting. Dioceses represented were Pueblo, San Angelo, Columbus, Youngstown, Louisville, Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Atlanta, Knoxville, and Pensacola-Tallahassee. Agenda items included the [program in Spanish](#); the "who is missing" email-ad and how to use it locally, the revision of the *Foundations of Religious Education* focus course, the [LPLC certificate in catechetical leadership](#), and the new faculty hire.

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National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM) 35th Anniversary Conference

Loyola hosted a continental breakfast for the pre-conference Formation Directors' Institute and the Roundtable for Parish Life Coordinators, Pastoral Associates, and Business Managers. Our presence was

much appreciated. There were about 20 at the roundtable and 40 formation directors at the institute. I invited the roundtable participants to each take the online brochure I set at their places and to pass it on to someone in their parish who needs a master's degree. The roundtable was given by Larry Boone and Mary Ann Dantuono from St John's University in New York, and it was excellent. Some of their work appears in Ave Maria Press's [*A Concise Guide to Catholic Church Management*](#).



Cecelia Bennett and Marion Danforth (at left) staff the LIM exhibit at the 2011 NALM Conference as other attendees browse the floor.

NALM was a much smaller conference. There were 100 participants. Even with that smaller number, we did have good traffic in the exhibit area. Our booth was between Aquinas and Catholic Distance University. I was grateful for the help of Marion Danforth and Jerry Fagin at the exhibit, as I was often busy with networking and NALM committee and board work. During the Thursday Morning membership meeting, I was installed in my second term as a director on the NALM board.

The keynote presentations celebrating the vision, voice, and vitality of lay ministry were all excellent and inspiring; the keynote speakers were Diana Macalintal, Michael Carotta, Loughlan Sofield, and Kyle Kramer. Marion and Jerry both gave a [wonderful presentation](#) "Integrating Spiritual Formation into the Ministry Education Process" and received a lot of interest and affirmation. Formation directors walked away with some practical ideas on how to more fully integrated spiritual formation into their curriculum. It was also nice to visit with Bro. Bob Moriarty, S.M., Loyola Adjunct faculty, who presented a workshop on small Christian communities.



Cecelia Bennett and Mike Carotta, author of the LIM Focus Course *Adolescent Spirituality and Methods of Faith Development* visit at the 2011 NALM Conference.

At the liaison dinner on Thursday evening, Jerry, Marion, and I hosted liaisons and friends from the dioceses of Raleigh, Charlotte, Jackson/Glenmary, and Lansing and offered the same updates as in Atlanta.

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Prayers Asked for in Wake of Natural Disasters

Jane Hubbard, Loyola Facilitator in the Diocese of Knoxville wrote to me about the tornadoes affecting Chattanooga and Cleveland asking for prayers for all who were killed or made homeless by the April 27th tornadoes, including those in her parish of St. Therese of Lisieux, which is now serving as a Red Cross Shelter for 11 families.

Karen M. Pesek, Loyola Liaison in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, has also requested prayers of the LIM community for the people of Joplin and the recovery workers, including 2 Loyola alums. She sent the following link of a song and YouTube video from a singer in her local area. It is quite powerful: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7_iXoG_UDM.

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Fare Thee Well!

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Dr. Marion Danforth whose year as a Visiting Assistant Professor with us in the Loyola Institute for Ministry is coming to an end. She graciously moved from Raleigh for a year to serve as Interim Faculty Coordinator for Instructional Design, the position previously held by Dr. Cathy Zeph.



Dr. Marion Danforth, Ed.D.

We'll miss her commitment to the Loyola Institute for Ministry. Marion often called us back to our practice of critical and transformative theological reflection on behalf of the Reign of God. We'll also miss the wisdom, patience, and insight that she brought to her teaching, work with facilitators, strategic planning, and renewal of course material. We'll miss her scholarship. While here, she wrote *Christian Morality: Our Response to God's Love, Teacher's Guide* (St. Mary's Press, forthcoming). We'll miss her enthusiasm and curiosity—you could be assured of encountering her at many engaging lectures, concerts, and plays on campus.

We look forward to continuing to work with Marion as a member of our adjunct faculty for extension and online. Thank you Marion!

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Welcome!

We welcome Dr. Daniella Zsupan-Jerome as Assistant Professor in the Loyola Institute for Ministry; she is our new Faculty Coordinator for Distance Learning Systems.

Daniella comes to us with an undergraduate degree in Theology from Notre Dame, a master's in Liturgy from St. John's in Collegeville, a master's in Religion and the Arts from Yale Divinity School, and a Ph.D. from Boston College in Theology and Education. Her advisors were Thomas Groome and Jane Regan. Her dissertation is entitled "Digital Media in the Service of the Word: What Does Internet-mediated Communication Offer the Theology of Revelation and the Practice of Catechesis?" (2011). Hers is a rich educational background that complements our faculty and programming.



Dr. Daniella Zsupan-Jerome

Daniella has co-written two textbooks in the Credo Religious Education Series published by Veritas Publications in Ireland. She also has campus ministry and RCIA experience. You can find her on Linked

In. She says she is “thrilled to come to a new part of the country. The hospitality here is like nothing she’s ever seen.”

As suggested above, Daniella’s interests lie at the intersection of technology and ministry. She has so much to contribute to LIM and the Church in this area. More practically, she brings ideas for how we can more effectively use technology in advancing our mission.

You will get a chance to meet Daniella in an [online conversation](#) in September. In the meantime, please join me in welcoming the newest addition to our LIM faculty!

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Other Faculty News

Dr. Kathleen O’Gorman Honored

Dr. Kathleen O’Gorman, Ed.D., received the [Faculty Community Service Award](#) at the College of Social Sciences Convocation on 13 May 2011. The award recognized her service to the university through her teaching, committee work, activism on the behalf of others.



LIM Faculty Presentation at NALM Annual Conference



Fr. Jerry Fagin and Dr. Marion Danforth prepare their NALM presentation.

In a collaborative effort, Dr. Marion Danforth and Fr. Jerry Fagin, S.J., attended the National Association of Lay Ministry (NALM) conference where they [gave a presentation](#) on integrating spiritual formation into education.

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Let LIM Know about Your Student and Facilitator Success (So we can share it with all of LIM)

LIM wants to post your stories of ministry milestones and professional successes on our homepage to highlight the achievements of LIM community members. If you have a success story or know of one of our graduates who does, please email us at lim@loyno.edu typing LIM Successes in the subject line of your email. Please attach a headshot of yourself or a photo illustrating the success or achievement you write about in the email.

View the latest LIM faculty and student success story at our homepage
<http://lim.loyno.edu>
View all recent successes at <http://lim.loyno.edu/all/successes>

Religious Education Focus Area Revised

By Marion Danforth, Ed.D.

The courses in the LIM Focus Area of Religious Education have undergone considerable revision this year. Religious Educators in the 21st century meet new challenges that emerge from the dynamic of growth and emergence of new understandings. We encounter these changes within the multiple contexts of ministry including socio-cultural realities, institutional visions and guidelines, personal life context, Christian tradition, and in the ever constant yet ever evolving universe. Professional preparation for the field of religious education in parish and school settings should reflect these changes. The revised Focus Area courses on Religious Education address the challenges to reexamine theology and practice, content and methodology in order to meaningfully engage those learners preparing for this ministry area.

In the introduction to the National Directory of Catechesis published by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops in 2005, the church notes the signs of vitality, as well challenges to catechesis facing the catechetical ministry in the United States. Following the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, additional pastoral directives and guidelines have emerged for religious educators and catechists. Those working in the mission of evangelization and catechesis should add to their sources of information the working documents of the Church, as a reflection of the ecclesial context of religious education. These documents are integrated into the course revisions to enhance an understanding of this mission.

The revised Foundations of Religious Education course (LIMX 701) is now available, and the revised Curriculum Development course (LIMX 715) is slated to be completed for students registering after 15 September 2011.

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The Catholic Study Bible and the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE)

The Revised Edition of *The New American Bible (NAB)* was released in March of 2011. It contains a newly revised translation of the entire Old Testament and the 1986 translation of the New Testament. The *NAB* is part of the *Catholic Study Bible (CSB)* published by Oxford University Press which is a required text for the LIM Scripture courses *The Jewish Roots of Christian Faith* and *Christian Origins*. Oxford is currently revising the *CSB* to include the new translation of the Old Testament and will release the revised *CSB* in July of this year. Dr. Evelyn Thibeaux, the Instructor of Record for LIM's Scripture courses, is poised to integrate the 2011 edition of the *CSB* into the courses for groups taking them in the Summer 2012 semester. Until then, groups will continue to use the 2006 edition of the *CSB*. The [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) is working to put the NABRE online by the end of this calendar year.

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Fr. Jerry Fagin's Webinar

On 8 June, Fr. Jerry Fagin held an online lecture "Ministering with the Heart of Christ" and afterward engaged in conversation with viewers. If you missed the live lecture, you can watch it at <http://141.164.8.11/working/special/jerrywebinar060811.html>.

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Looking Ahead

Online Presentations

On 13 July at 8 p.m. CDT, Professors Kathleen O’Gorman and Marion Danforth will have an online conversation about the field of religious education today.

In mid-September, help us to welcome our new faculty member, Professor Daniella Zsupan-Jerome as she introduces herself and delivers an online lecture followed by conversation. We’ll have Daniella’s date finalized by mid-August, and you can check back through lim.loyno.edu or our Facebook page (entitled Loyola Institute for Ministry) for the date and time of this and other upcoming offerings.

Social Action Summer Institute (SASI)

The 2011 Social Action Summer Institute will take place from 10-13 July here at Loyola University. The theme for this year's institute is “Focus on the Worker: New Things in Labor 120 years after *Rerum Novarum*.” Speakers and workshop presenters include Bishop Gabino Zavala, President of Interfaith Worker Justice and Pax Christi USA; Fred Kammer, S.J., a priest, attorney, and author who is a member of the Southern Province of Jesuits; Sue Weishar, Fellow at the Jesuit Social Research Center; Bill Quigley, Loyola law professor and director of the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center; Fr. Manuel Williams, former member of the Congregation of the Resurrection Provincial Council who specializes in African-American Catholic spirituality and history; Abdulrahman and Kathy Zeitoun, local business owners who seek to promote tolerance; and many more! For more information please visit <http://www.catholicroundtable.org/events/sasi/>.

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Electronic LIM Information Session Assistance

Using the same software that allows us to host lectures and webinars talked about above, we would like to put this software to use to help you with recruiting in your diocese and, in particular, for Information Sessions. We will work with you to tailor-make an information session that is appropriate to your location. Whatever you do in your in-person information sessions you can do online. Liaisons, facilitators, and graduates can all appear, as can on-campus faculty and staff; we can also show our Information Session Video. Contact Tom Ryan tfryan@loyno.edu or Cecelia Bennett cbennett@loyno.edu to explore this option further.

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Looking Back

Two events you might want to consider for your diocese: our Catholic School Leadership Institute and Formation in Preaching course.

Catholic School Leadership

The Loyola Pastoral Life Center of the Loyola Institute for Ministry in collaboration with the Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Catholic Schools annually presents the Summer Institute for Catholic School Leadership (SICSL). This year it was held 13-16 June and drew participants from the Archdiocese of New Orleans and beyond, including three participants from Nigeria. LIM is planning the next institute for the same week next year. For more information about this year, please see <http://loyno.edu/lplc/catholic-school-leadership>.

Through the rich interaction between national Catholic experts and practitioners in the field, SICSL provides opportunities for networking and professional development to new and veteran members of Catholic school leadership teams. Participants may register for a different track each summer. The curriculum is based on interests identified by Catholic school presidents, principals, and financial and advancement officers locally and nationally. Consider joining us next summer!

Formation in Preaching

The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension program is used by the Dioceses of Monterey, California, as part of their deacon formation programs. In 2004 they developed two focus courses, *Celebrating the Word* and *Sharing the Word*. With the assistance of LIM graduate and facilitator Deborah Wilhelm, the Diocese of Monterey and LIM has once again developed these preaching and presiding extension courses in support of deacon formation in Monterey. This summer, with the help of Deborah and LIM Liaison Rev. Roy Shelly, we offered the preaching course as service to priests and deacons of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Participants also came from Baton Rouge and Monterey.

The course is available on its own and as part of our degree and certificate programs. It can be offered as a 10-week course similar to (but not exactly the same as) other focus area courses. We can also offer it as a one-week intensive course for priests, deacons, religious and laity who wish to grow in their role as preachers. For information about the course in New Orleans this summer, please see <http://www.loyno.edu/lplc/preaching>.

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Letter from the Director (continued from page 1)

Near the conclusion of our trip during one of our regular reflection times, Fr. Ted asked where we had encountered God. If a rich environment, lovely people, and diverse culture convey God's presence, then Belize clearly does so.

Yet, this question, "Where have you encountered God?" was more freighted than I initially realized. The Bible worries over too close encounters with the divine. God in Exodus 33:20 warns Moses, "But my face you cannot see, for no one sees me and still lives."

Later theologians such as St. Thomas Aquinas parse the senses in which we can “see” God. Our present condition simply does not equip us to see/comprehend/grasp God in the fullest way possible. (See *Summa theologiae* I.12 and II-II.175.) We would need a grace-driven transformation into a heavenly state of glory, incompatible with this earthly life, to do so.

To put it less dramatically, encounters with God, from this perspective, can change us, and change can be difficult. It is in this sense, I believe, that Sr. Maggie meant risk. Let me take one example.



Turtle on the Belize Barrier Reef.

Belize has the second largest barrier reef in the world, the biggest in this hemisphere. Reef inhabitants are almost scandalous in their dazzling shapes, sizes, and colors. It is not hard to discern behind these creatures a gracious, loving, effusively generous (and slightly crazed) God who gifts us with this vast and ever-surprising creation.

If it is indeed true that all is gift, then what else can we do but respond at every moment with words and lives of gratitude? There is more. God also presents us with a model, and our hosts from Belize City to the southern Mayan villages with their gracious hospitality imitated that model. As God overflows in generosity, so did our Belizean

hosts and so ought we. Thus we risk in travel the encounter with a God who invites transformation in us into a more thankful and hospitable people.

There is another dimension to this encounter, however. Though mostly beautiful, Belize’s reefs are also scarred. This is so in part because our way of life depends utterly on the transfer of carbon, mostly from its subterranean state as oil and gas, to airborne carbon dioxide that increases coral-killing heat and dissolves to create coral-killing aquatic acidity. Thus, in travel, we also risk encountering the injustice and degradation that result from our rejection of God’s graciousness. That is, we risk judgment and the demand for change.

As Annie Dillard suggests in her book *Holy the Firm*, we are mostly oblivious to God’s presence in our lives, even during liturgies:

The higher Christian churches – where, if anywhere, I belong – come at God with an unwarranted air of professionalism, with authority and pomp, as though they knew what they were doing, as though people in themselves were an appropriate set of creatures to have dealings with God. I often think of the set pieces of liturgy as certain words which people have successfully addressed to God without getting killed. In the high churches they saunter through the liturgy like Mohawks along a strand of scaffolding who have long since forgotten their danger. If God were to blast such a service to bits, the congregation would be, I believe, genuinely shocked. But in the low churches you expect it any minute. This is the beginning of wisdom. (59)

So often, the travel-industrial complex attempts to preserve us in this oblivion, and it does so by eliminating most of travel's risks, for example in hermetically-sealed, all-inclusive resorts that replicate the comforts of home. To be sure, risk-free travel can be a source of the re-creation so needed by us caught up in life's frenetic pace. But travel can also remove us from the quotidian and confront us with unforeseen divine lavishness as well as with human fallenness that we fail to notice at home.



I periodically speak with groups of high-school students who pass through New Orleans on post-Katrina service trips, and they are invariably enchanted by our city, but they also notice its many faults, particularly its racial and socio-economic divisions. They make these observations with an innocent smugness that lasts until someone points out that the same divides rend their hometowns; they just hadn't noticed.

As with effective liturgies, travel can lead to an encounter with God's extravagance. Yet, this very extravagance places under judgment the parsimony of our responses and, worse, our injustice and ingratitude. This recognition entails transformation and thus risk, but it's a risk worth taking.

Best wishes,

Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.
Director, Loyola Institute for Ministry



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