



## LIM Launches New Web Presence

By the time you receive this newsletter, LIM will have launched its new web presence. Visit us at [www.lim.loyno.edu](http://www.lim.loyno.edu). Several months ago, Loyola University New Orleans hired a web developer and LIM immediately appealed for a facelift on its website. A new, state-of-the-art look was developed, and Lisa Maloz, the assistant director of office management and new program development, has worked for several months with the university to “populate” the new sites with our information. LIM has brought the discussion of our website into all of our internal meetings. This will become a bigger feature of our program, and you are encouraged to visit our site frequently for new resources and activities at the Institute. If you have suggestions about our web pages, please e-mail Lisa at [lmaloz@loyno.edu](mailto:lmaloz@loyno.edu).

*From the Director* Mark S. Markuly, Ph.D.

## Rebound of Religion Demands Smart Religious Leaders

Preliminary exit polls have suggested the outcome of the American presidential election hinged on the unexpected turnout of a large numbers of evangelical Christian voters and a significant number of people motivated in their voting choices by the issue of “moral values.” Across the Atlantic, a multi-year religious education study in England by the Biblos Project at the University of Exeter has found that young people have continued to hold on to religious beliefs, despite the strong forces of secularization in English society, low attendance at church services, and their general suspicion of “authoritative texts” that purport to speak definitively on the nature and activity of God in the world.

It was not too many years ago that many scholars and public intellectuals in Western culture predicted that the forces of secularization would soon bury religion. After decades of research in many nations, sociologists of religion Roger Finke and Rodney Stark have concluded these doomsday prophets have it all wrong. It is the entire secularization thesis, which asserts that secularizing forces will eventually replace religious belief and practice, that is in need of getting buried.

Many fields of academic study, which once had little time for spirituality, have taken a renewed interest. Social workers are searching for tools to address the spiritual needs of their clients; health care professionals are creating new resources for speaking of faith and belief in the midst of tending to the ill and dying. Even diehard business professionals, with their noses in

the competitive cauldron of global capitalism, are taking time for the life of the spirit. The upsurge in “business and spirituality” literature throughout the 1990s has generated entirely new conversations in many workplaces.

After decades on the ropes, religion and spirituality have come back into the ring swinging. All students of theology and ministry should find encouragement in these trends. God is here to stay, and the human quest for ultimate meaning and a tangible relationship with a Higher Power is in the midst of a renaissance. Neuroscientists Eugene D’Aquili and Andrew Newberg have even suggested that new brain research is demonstrating the human brain is “wired” for God in their book, *Why God Won’t Go Away*.

But the resurgence of interest in religion and spirituality has a downside. In its less reflective forms, the new interest in matters of faith can often fall short of a truly thoughtful Christian belief and practice. Some well-intentioned and highly motivated believers can forget in their zeal the lessons of history, culture, and language, not to mention the accumulated insights of the lived practice of our ancestors in the faith. Many years ago, Robert Bellah warned his American readers that religion in the United States was losing its status as a beacon of moral guidance. Instead, it was becoming a “therapeutic resource,” a kind of social Band-Aid helping people to maintain their self-esteem and feel good about their



## *From the Director* continued from page 1

decisions, rather than truly discern their choices in light of faith commitments.

When religion becomes only a pawn of human need or desire, a culture and religious leaders need to take warning. As David Tracy has suggested in *Plurality and*

*Ambiguity*, many of the leaders of the Third Reich were raised as Christians, could quote doctrine and theology, and relaxed with forms of high culture, like classical music and literature. Such human beings perpetrated some of the most heinous crimes of human history, deadening the voices of their conscience on the altar of the will to power.

Believers can never act the same in light of the sobering realities of the 20th century. Theological and ministerial education must also shift into a new key. With a renewed interest in religion, our troubled world needs people who can teach and live a critical theological reflection grounded in the treasures of the tradition, authentic human experience, and the best insights of serious scholars of the human condition. This has been the inspiration for the Loyola University New Orleans graduate program during the past 35 years.

Our church and our world have always needed good and virtuous followers of Christ. But with each passing century, we are also in need of sophisticated followers. This will take ministers skilled not so much in telling people what to think about God, self, others, and nature, but how to think about a truly authentic living of faith. This calls for a faith engaged in a

true praxis with the people and events of the world—an endless cycle of action, reflection, and new action. In this cycle, our vision must reach beyond the boundaries of this life and world, but our feet must remain planted on the earth. We need leaders prepared to walk into the fray of a new century with their imaginations set afire with a Gospel that is ever ancient and ever new and their heads and hearts grounded in human experience.

Throughout history, people of faith have been known for their ability to walk through the bitter valley of division and death and make it a spring and garden. Why should they not? Their God, who walked through the Garden of Eden in the cool of the evening, has also walked faithfully beside the human race through the valleys of centuries of toils and troubles. We do not face the challenges of our future alone. We never have.

The 20th century was a troubling century for followers of Jesus Christ. With the burgeoning interest in spirituality and faith throughout the world, the 21st century can become a golden one, if we learn from our past.

Best wishes for the New Year,

Mark S. Markuly  
Director, Loyola Institute for Ministry

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## LIM On-Campus Program – There For You

Reynolds R. (Butch) Ekstrom, M.P.S.

The Loyola Institute for Ministry (LIM) offers courses on the Loyola campus in New Orleans on a year-round basis. During each semester, LIM On-Campus (LIMOC) schedules a variety of core theological courses, focus area courses, and elective courses. LIMOC also offers, during each semester, one or more special one-weekend programs, each of which features a Friday evening, free public lecture followed by a Saturday workshop. During most fall and spring semesters, the on-campus course schedule also includes at least two online (Internet) “focus area” courses. Periodically, and especially during its summer sessions, the on-campus learning community welcomes LIMEX students who come to New Orleans to take (or to make up) coursework for some reason.

LIMOC offers most weekend courses, focus-area courses, and electives on a non-credit/workshop basis for those who would just like to experience the LIM New Orleans campus learning community. Of course, LIMOC-related focus area and internet courses are likewise open to alums and to others who would like to work on the Post-Masters Certificate (graduate credit) or the Advanced Continuing Education Certificate that the institute offers.

If you are not yet familiar with LIMOC, check out the institute’s web page at [www.lim.loyno.edu](http://www.lim.loyno.edu) to see what the on-campus program has in store for the coming months. We would love to have more LIMEX students: alums, facilitators, and/or liaisons visit for a weekend-program, or for some other learning experience, soon.

Consider yourself invited.

# Moving Course Materials from Print to CD

Mark S. Markuly, Ph.D.

LIM has provided individual printed copies of course books and syllabi since its inception. Students have enjoyed this format for the most part. However, we have also heard complaints that the print is too small and that the loose three-hole punch pages are cumbersome.

Although in the early years, student materials were printed on campus and administrative staff packaged and shipped the course books, many years ago these activities were outsourced to a production company as LIM and the extension program grew and office duties became more numerous and complex. The institute now uses a company in another state. This arrangement has worked fairly well in the past, but the rising cost of printing and postage has made the delivery of print materials a growing problem.

Since its inception, Loyola has underwritten the LIM program, allowing us to offer our tuition at half to a third of the cost of comparable accredited graduate programs in theology and ministry. Unfortunately, the university is not in a position to increase this subsidy to meet the rising costs of printing and LIM will need to convert its print materials to a CD format.

Our deadline for the conversion is as follows:

**February 1, 2005** All groups registering for focus-area courses after this date will receive their course book and syllabus in a CD format.

**June 1, 2005** All groups registering for remaining courses after this date will receive their course book and syllabus in a CD format.



We realize this transition will cause some inconvenience and added cost, and we apologize for any inconvenience it causes students, facilitators or liaisons. A computer survey conducted in 2003 demonstrated that only a small number of our student body lacks the computer capability for printing a hard copy of the course book from the CD, should they desire a print version. But, we also estimated the cost of printing the course book and syllabus at a major chain copy store and found it should cost about \$16 per copy, based on a national average. With an average degree completion rate of four years, printing student lecture and class materials at a copy store will add about \$4 a month to the cost of the program.

Despite the added cost, there are several advantages to our transition to CD and online delivery.

- The CD version will help LIM to integrate more technology into our learning design, and students will gain in their skills and confidence using technology which is becoming a requirement for all higher education programs.
- The print format of the course book limits LIM's ability to make learning materials as rich of an experience as it

now can become. With the CD digital format, students will be able to prepare for classes by both reading and making direct Internet links to websites that are embedded in the lectures. LIM course revisions over the next five years will add more of these sites to the course books, helping students to become more educated about religious and spiritual resources that are available via the Internet. Students will also learn skills for discriminating between good and poor, reliable and unreliable information in cyberspace.

- The CD format will also allow future revisions of the course book to add art and images that are currently impossible due to printing difficulties. Students will be able to print the more colorful versions of the course book, although most will probably choose to print it in grayscale in order to save the cost of color ink.
- A CD will allow students to reprint their course book if it gets lost or damaged.
- Interactive bookmarks, essentially an electronic Table of Contents, will also allow students to move through the text with greater ease than the print version allows.



## Welcome New LIMEX Sponsoring Agencies and Groups

A warm welcome to the Archdiocese of Louisville, the Diocese of El Paso, and Glenmary Department of Pastoral Services for the Tupelo, Mississippi, Deanery as they join the LIMEX family as sponsoring agencies for LIMEX. The dioceses of Columbus, Evansville, Houma-Thibodaux, Lafayette, Nashville, Omaha, Orlando, Phoenix, San Bernardino, Shrewsbury, and Shreveport all began new groups this fall.

## Commencement Activities

The 2005 spring commencement activities will be held the weekend of May 13, 2005. LIMEX degree candidates for December 2004 and May, August, and December 2005 are invited to participate in commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 14 at 7 p.m. Certificate and degree candidates are invited to the LIMEX liturgy and reception on Sunday, May 15, at 10 a.m.

This May, we celebrated the graduation of 135 LIMEX degree and certificate candidates. Graduates came from the (Arch)dioceses of Baton Rouge, Belleville, Charlotte, Columbus, Evansville, Fort Belvoir, Fort Worth, Glasgow, Grand Island, Houma-Thibodaux, Jefferson City, Lafayette, La., Nashville, Omaha, Orlando, Pensacola-Tallahassee, Portland, Maine, Richmond, Sacramento, San Angelo, St. Andrews and Edinburgh, St. Augustine, Syracuse, and Wilmington. Seventy-nine students came to New Orleans and celebrated their completion of LIMEX with us at Loyola.

## LIM Reception During the National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM) Conference in New Orleans, June 2 – 5, 2005

Mark your calendars. Take this unique opportunity to come to New Orleans. LIM will host a student and alumni reception honoring Bernard Cooke, Friday evening, during the NALM conference. LIM will be sending information on this event to students and alums in February. For more information on the NALM conference and membership, visit [www.nalm.org](http://www.nalm.org)

## Revised Policy Manual

A revised Policy Manual has been posted to the documents web page at [www.lim.loyno.edu/extension/documents/](http://www.lim.loyno.edu/extension/documents/). Passwords are needed to use the page. For students they are “rex” and “zulu.” Adjunct faculty as well as facilitators and liaisons received their passwords in separate communications, because the sections of the site for them are not accessible to students. There is a new section in the manual called “Access to Technology.” This includes information on the new Campus Wide ID Numbers (CWID)/Student Identification Numbers.

Loyola students now have the option of using a Loyola-assigned CWID instead of their social security numbers on forms that ask for a student ID number. (The social security number is still required on the initial application form itself.) This eight-digit CWID number is assigned after admission to the program. Students are able to find out their CWID numbers by signing onto LORA (see below). For security reasons, it is recommended that you use the CWID whenever possible. If you forget your CWID number, you can log in to LORA and it will call it up for you.

## LIMEX Broadcast E—mail

The institute has just established a broadcast e-mail list ([limxstu@loyno.edu](mailto:limxstu@loyno.edu)) for LIMEX students. It is used to send out broadcast email with news about the Institute, Loyola, and the LIMEX program. To receive emails, you will need to have provided an email address on your admissions application or added or updated a preferred email address to your student record using LORA. To access LORA, go to [www.loyno.edu/lora/](http://www.loyno.edu/lora/) and follow the directions provided.

## LIM Office Closure

The LIM office closes December 23, 2004, through January 2, 2005, and for Mardi Gras, February 7 and 8, 2005. Please remember these dates when mailing course rosters and registration materials to Loyola and when sending papers to the writing tutors.

## Calling the Loyola Institute for Ministry

When calling the LIM office, you will hear a new automated phone attendant. If you know the extension of the person you are calling, you may dial his or her extension at any time during the message. This feature was added to the automated answering system to assist callers in getting immediately to the person with whom they wish to speak. Faculty and staff extensions will be posted on the web page and included where appropriate in institute materials. Additionally, all faculty and staff have e-mail and regularly check it.

Billie Baladouni	x2695	<a href="mailto:baladoun@loyno.edu">baladoun@loyno.edu</a>
Cecelia Bennett	x3398	<a href="mailto:cbennett@loyno.edu">cbennett@loyno.edu</a>
Kelly Blackwell	x2441	<a href="mailto:kblackw@loyno.edu">kblackw@loyno.edu</a>
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Brant Pitre	x3571	<a href="mailto:bpitre@loyno.edu">bpitre@loyno.edu</a>
Cathy Zeph	x3251	<a href="mailto:cpzeph@loyno.edu">cpzeph@loyno.edu</a>
Writing tutors	x3443	<a href="mailto:limtutor@loyno.edu">limtutor@loyno.edu</a>

The automated attendant with its telephone tree was set up to allow coordinators to stay focused on many of their other responsibilities. The tree was evaluated in mid-November, and several changes have been made based on feedback we received from our callers. We hope the modifications will make it easier for you to get to the proper person when you have a question or concern. If you have any difficulties maneuvering through the automated system and telephone tree, please let us know when you call in. We will be evaluating the tree on a regular basis.

## LIM's First International Teleconferencing Event

On March 4, 2005, LIM will pilot its first international teleconferencing event. In early 2004, Loyola added state-of-the-art teleconferencing equipment in the university's library. LIM will telecast a featured presenter from the university to several program sponsoring sites around the world. This teleconferencing set-up will allow students to ask the presenter questions in a face-to-face manner. LIM's adjunct faculty will also be present for the event.

The topic of the event will deal with justice and spirituality, and the presenter will be the Rev. Fred Kammer, S.J., a graduate of the Yale School of Law and former president of Catholic Charities, U.S.A. Kammer is currently provincial for the Southern Province of Jesuits. As the cost of teleconferencing lowers in future years, LIM hopes to hold regular teleconferencing lectures from the university. Most of our extension sites now have accessibility to teleconferencing equipment through local universities and community colleges.

## New LIMEX Course Nine

Pastoral Leadership and Organization, LIMEX Course Nine, has been completely revised and now has a new course book written by Barbara Fleischer and Daniel Gast. Ten videotapes have also been developed for the course. The new course engages in a practical theology conversation that weaves together theory and research in the areas of management, leadership, and organizational development with reflections on Christian spirituality, religious education, and ecclesiology. Peter Senge's work on "learning organizations" and their disciplines forms a centerpiece for the course.

The textbooks for the revised course are: *Leadership and the New Science* by Margaret Wheatley, *The Learning Congregation* by Thomas R. Hawkins, and *The Promise of Partnership* by James and Evelyn Whitehead. All groups registering for Course Nine after October 1, 2004, are using the newly revised course. The new bibliography for the course is available on the LIMEX documents website at [www.lim.loyno.edu/extension/documents](http://www.lim.loyno.edu/extension/documents).

# A LIMEX Learning Group Comes Through for One of Their Own in Baghdad

Warren Hoy and Sally Greig

When we began Course One of LIMEX, our learning group knew there was a possibility that one of our members, Warren, might be sent to Iraq. And he was. Major Warren Hoy, U.S. Army, Associate Dean for European and Latin American Languages at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., was deployed to Baghdad on February 29, 2004. Our group had just finished Course Two. While he was in Iraq, our group completed LIMEX Courses Three and Four.

By the time he left, Warren had become an integral and much appreciated part of the Carmel Mission (Carmel, Calif.) LIMEX group, and we were not willing to lose him as a member. Thanks to e-mail, we never lost touch with him while he was in Iraq.

Warren carried his course materials with him in his duffel bag, and he faithfully e-mailed us his responses to the discussion questions for each session. During our discussions here in Carmel, we would ask what Warren had to say, and someone would read his e-mailed insights. Sometimes he would ask questions about the material, and group members would e-mail him their thoughts. The weekly contact with Warren was a blessed experience of community for us all.

For Warren, the weekly contact provided motivation to keep up his studying despite the long hours and frequent mortar attacks that were part of his life as a soldier in a combat zone. Hearing from his LIMEX classmates not only reminded him that many people

were praying for his safety and eagerly awaiting his return but also assured him that he would somehow catch up with his classmates and finish LIMEX on schedule with them. By keeping up with the readings for each week, and even drafting his papers, Warren was able to remain a part of the group and keep on track with the program. He would only have to make up the class sessions for the courses he missed.

Warren is back with us for Course Five, and the whole group is helping with his make-ups. He has just finished making up Course Three and is now beginning Course Four. The other group members have enjoyed reviewing the course materials and have found it very valuable for their overall understanding of the program. It's been quite a challenge for Warren, to make up two courses while continuing with Course Five and working full time, as it has for the other members, as they find time in their schedules to sit down for the makeup sessions, but it has been a special blessing to support each other and work together.

We should also note that this unusual program would not have been possible without the cooperation of the Loyola Institute for Ministry. LIMEX Associate Director, Cecelia Bennett, was extremely helpful in finding a way for Warren to continue in the Carmel Mission group and not fall irrecoverably behind. The LIM staff made this all possible through their creativity, flexibility, and forward thinking. Thanks and blessings to you all!

# LPLC Welcomes New Extension Sites

Reynolds R. (Butch) Ekstrom, M.P.S.

The Loyola Pastoral Life Center (LPLC) offers two unique, continuing education programs—the Specialized Certificate in Parish Life and Administration and the Specialized Certificate in Christian Spirituality.

LPLC began the Specialized Certificate in Parish Life and Administration extension program in 1996. It first offered its Specialized Certificate in Christian Spirituality program in 2003.

During the fall, LPLC welcomed several new sponsors of the Specialized Certificate in Parish Life and Administration. They are the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Mich., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community, San Jose, Calif., and the Diocese of Monterey, Calif. The Diocese of San Bernardino, Calif. remains a longtime sponsor of this certificate program.

During recent months, the LPLC has also welcomed new sponsors of its Christian spirituality certificate program. They include the Diocese of Raleigh; Region 10 Parishes of Abingdon Va., the Diocese of Orlando; Spirit Site (Spirituality Center)—Diocese of San Jose, and the Diocese of Monterey. The charter sponsors of the Specialized Certificate in Christian Spirituality continue to offer courses, too, in the Diocese of Richmond, Va. and Inverness, Ill.

For more information about the LPLC and its continuing education programs, please see [www.lim.loyno.edu/lplc](http://www.lim.loyno.edu/lplc) and/or call or e-mail Butch Ekstrom at (800) 777-5469 or [lpplc@loyno.edu](mailto:lpplc@loyno.edu).

The child grew  
and became  
strong, and filled  
with wisdom, for  
the favor of God  
was upon him.

—Luke 2:52

Our best wishes and prayers  
to each of you for a happy  
and holy new year,

—The Faculty and Staff of LIM



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