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Message from the Director: Of Many Things

By Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.

Kathleen and Barbara

Drs. Barbara Fleischer and Kathleen O’Gorman are now faculty emeritae at Loyola. This means that have retired from their full-time faculty positions and so no longer need to attend LIM or college meetings. However, they retain their offices and continue to teach for us, both as instructors of record for LIMEX and as professors in on-campus and online classes.

What a gift they have been! Together they have contributed over six decades of service to Loyola, LIM, the Church, and the world. They were both instrumental in developing the innova-

tive distance-learning model that became LIMEX and so helped set a precedent for ongoing innovation in LIM. They have also been responsible for so many transformations in our graduates both in New Orleans and around the world—for example, Kathleen through her work in religious education and religion and ecology and Barbara as director and in the area of pastoral life and beyond.

Both have also been influential for me personally. As a young teacher at Jesuit High School here in the late 1980s, I took classes at LIM with Kathleen, and she opened my eyes to new perspectives on education that con-

tinued to inform my work.

Barbara as director hired me to teach two summers on campus. She also hired me as a LIMEX adjunct professor. So, thank you to Kathleen and Barbara—for what has been and for what will yet be!

With A Twist!

Dr. Marion Danforth, LIMEX and online adjunct professor, recently led a facilitator training “with a twist” in the Diocese of Scranton, which saw students from there enroll in the LIM online program this fall.

Catherine Butel, Diocesan Secretary for Parish

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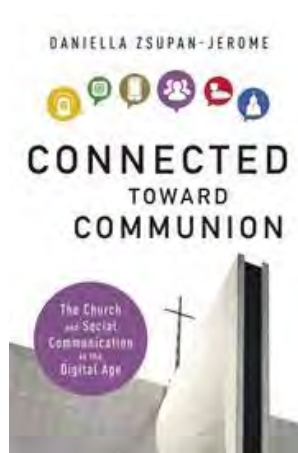
Book Release and Celebration of *Connected toward Communion: New Text* by LIM Faculty Member Daniella Zsupan-Jerome

Event Set for 2 December

On 2 December, LIM hosts a book launch for Dr. Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, to take place in the Whitney Presentation Room in Thomas Hall on Loyola’ campus. The event will also be streamed live online as a webinar.

Published by Liturgical Press, Dr. Zsupan-Jerome’s new book is entitled *Connected toward Communion: The Church and Social Communication in the Digital Age*.

Dr. Zsupan-Jerome begins by acknowledging the cultural shift



brought about by digital communication and the ways in which it has reshaped the way we interact, form and maintain relationships, and gain knowledge and understanding. From this starting point, she explores the ways in which Christians might communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to all those shaped by digital media. This question addresses the whole church, from the baptized faithful to pastoral ministers and the institutional structures that serve the

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” To be just, it is not enough to refrain from injustice. Once must go further and refuse to play its game, substituting love for self interest as the driving force of society.”

*– Pedro Arrupe, S.J.
28th Superior General
of the Society of Jesus*



LIM Professor Michael A. Cowan Named Senior Research Fellow at Oxford University



A view of Harris Manchester College at the University of Oxford.

LIM professor Michael A. Cowan, PhD, has been named a Visiting Fellow at Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford. Harris Manchester College is the thirty-seventh College of the University of Oxford and accepts students over the age of 21 to study for Oxford first degrees and higher degrees.

Dr. Cowan travelled to Oxford in mid-September. As part of his activities as a Visiting Fellow, he participated in a conference entitled Understanding Fundamentalist Thinking sponsored by the Centre for the Study of Intractable Conflict at Harris Manchester

He conducted a public meeting in Omagh, Northern Ireland, the site of the final terrible bombing in the thirty years of sectarian political violence that plagued Northern Ireland in the last half of the 20th Century. The topic of the meeting was the state of Protestant/Catholic relations sixteen years after the Belfast Peace Agreement of 1998.

He also took part in the United Against Hate Seminar on 18 September at Queen's Univer-

sity Belfast (QUB). The event was hosted by the Institute for the Study of Conflict, Transformation and Social Justice at QUB and by the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building.

Along with Dr. Cowan, participants included Lord Alderdice, FRCPsych, Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford, and Professor John Brewer, Queen's University Belfast.

Professor Cowan and Lord Alderdice, via their backgrounds in psychotherapy and political life, explored the metaphors, the differences, and similarities of racism and sectarianism that reproduce community divisions. The discussion was framed with regard to political and cultural impasses in New Orleans and Belfast. John Brewer explored the differences and similarities between racism and sectarianism, highlighting the role of faith underpinning both.

LIM Bids Farewell to Elizabeth Harris, LIM Evaluation and Educational Resources Coordinator

It is with sadness at her leaving that LIM says goodbye to Elizabeth Harris, Evaluation and Educational Resources Coordinator, as she pursues a new chapter in her life. She earned her Master of Criminal Justice this past spring and will be moving to the Washington, DC area. All of us at LIM thank her for her hard work and many contributions to the institute, and we wish her much suc-



Elizabeth Harris, M.C.J.

cess in her new career.

LIM hopes to fill Elizabeth's position, but in the meantime, you may continue to use the Evaluation Coordinator's phone number (504-865-3727) and email address (limexeva@loyno.edu) for communications you would have directed to Elizabeth.

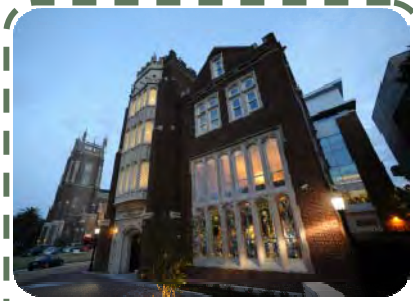
Book Release and Celebration of *Connected toward Communion* continued

church locally and globally.

The book traces the Roman Catholic Church's contemporary thought and practice of social communication, from *Inter Mirifica* of the Second Vatican Council to the church's approach to communicating faith through social networking today. Throughout, a key question forms a common thread: how might we form pastoral ministers

today for serving the church in the digital age and beyond.

Please join us on 2 December. Copies of Dr. Zsupan-Jerome's book will be available for purchase; proceeds benefit the LIM scholarship fund. If you won't be in New Orleans, Learn how to learn how to attend online. [GO»](#)



Nighttime view of Thomas Hall on St. Charles Avenue, site of the book launch celebration on 2 December.

Praise for *Connected toward Communion*

"Her theological review — written in a style accessible to the average reader — provides a concise analysis of the church's teachings regarding modern social communications ... Bishops and academics, pastors and catechists, seminarians and Catholic media professionals, and others will find *Connected toward Communion* to be a valuable resource in their ministry."

— Helen Osman

Secretary of Communications, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Online and On-Campus Spring 2015 Courses

Study with us from wherever you are or join us on campus!

Introduction to Practical Theology •

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. *ONLINE*

Christian Origins (New Testament) • Gilberto Ruiz, Ph.D.

This course introduces students to the literature, history, and theology of the early Christian scriptures commonly known as the New Testament. *ONLINE AND ON CAMPUS (Tuesday nights)*

Church, Sacraments, and Liturgy • Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Ph.D.

This course presents the experience and theology of church, sacraments, and liturgy as they have unfolded throughout Christian history. A major part of the course is dedicated to a deeper understanding of the meaning of sacramentality and the theology of the individual sacraments in the Catholic tradition. *ONLINE AND ON CAMPUS (Wednesday evenings)*

Spirituality, Morality, and Ethics •

Traditional Catholic ethics are examined in the light of Vatican II. Students study the nature of the human person and the meaning of freedom and sin. They also explore the role of Scripture, reason and the natural law, norms, conscience, and Church authority

in making moral decisions. *ONLINE*

*Introduction to Pastoral Care Hybrid** • Michael Cowan, Ph.D.

This course is a religious and social psychological introduction to the basic stance of pastoral care and counseling. It explores how pastoral counseling is like and not like secular counseling practice and articulates the unique characteristics of forms of counseling calling themselves pastoral. *ONLINE*

*Pastoral and Educational Praxis Hybrid** • Michael A. Cowan, Ph.D.

In this capstone course, students employ the method of practical theology to reflect on concerns related to their ministerial and educational praxis. *ONLINE*

Religious Communication • Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Ph.D.

This course explores how a variety of communication media can benefit ministers in their particular settings. Both theory and practice of contemporary communication media, especially the use of television, are explored with hands-on experience.

* Hybrid courses require students to meet synchronously (at the same time) at least twice in the semester via GoToMeeting or AdobeConnect. At those synchronous meetings, faculty meet in person with students whose initial coursework has been on campus or who live in the New Orleans area.

Announcements

First Tuesdays: Spirituality In the City Speaker Series Announces Its Fall Offerings

If you live in the metro New Orleans area, please join us on the first Tuesday of each month for a light lunch at 12:15 p.m. followed at 12:30 by a talk on spirituality from a local community leader at the Jesuit Church in New Orleans.

7 October • Dr. Tom Ryan, Director of LIM, gives a talk "Spirituality and Its Bewildering Varieties: A Field Guide and Suggestions"

4 November • David Crosby, Pastor, First Baptist Church, gives a talk "Your Pain Is

Changing You"

2 December • William Thiele, Pastor, Parker United Methodist Church, gives a talk "Seeking God in a Frantic World"

For more information, please see www.loyno.edu/lplc/



Jesuit Church, located at 130 Baronne Street in New Orleans, is the site of the First Tuesdays Lecture Series. The lecture takes place in the church's social space, Lenex Hall.

Log on and join us for our webinars!



Online Open Houses: 2 October & 28 October 2014

The Loyola Institute for Ministry will host an Online Open House on Thursday, 2 October and Tuesday, 28 October, at 8 p.m. CDT for those interested in learning more about our programs. The web link for those interested in attending the online open house is www.lim.loyno.edu/open-houses. Please share this information with those you feel may be interested. For more information contact Diane Blair at 504.865.2069 or dblair@loyno.edu.

Application Deadlines for Admissions

Summer Semester – April 1st • Fall Semester – August 1st • Spring Semester – November 1st

Upcoming Webinars

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

14 October, Hosffmann Ospino, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Hispanic Ministry and Religious Education at Boston



College and principle investigator of the National Study of Catholic Parishes in the United States and Hispanic Ministry in Catholic Parishes, will present *The Immigrant Church: Yesterday and Today*.

18 November, Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ph.D., commentator on religious issues known

as Dr. Italy, and author of *When the Church Was Young: Voices of the Early Fathers* (Servant Books 2014), will discuss



Meeting the Saints: Early Church Fathers, *Who They Were and Why They Matter*.

2 December Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Ph.D., assistant professor at the Loyola Institute for Ministry, introduces her



new book *Connected Toward Communion: The Church and Social*

Communication in the Digital Age (Liturgical Press, Forthcoming). You may also attend on-campus.

For more information, please see

www.lim.loyno.edu/webinars

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.

Diocese of Syracuse Celebrates 20 Years of LIM

On 12 September, the Diocese of Syracuse celebrated the 20th anniversary of the first graduating class from the LIM extension program in the diocese. In 1994, the diocese had 52 graduates; in the years since, it has had 144 graduates. Through its long-standing commitment to partnering with LIM to provide graduate-level education to adults through LIM's Certificate program, the diocese has empowered local laity to grow in faith, deepen theological knowledge and reflection skills, and serve others through a variety of ministries.

The celebration included Bishop Robert J. Cunningham, alumni, pastors, and supporters. Bishop Thomas Costello, a long-time supporter of the program, and Gerrie Kaluzny, the former diocesan Director of Religious Education who initially brought the program to the diocese in 1990, presented a look back at the history of LIM in the diocese (billed as the "Tom and Gerrie Show"). LIM faculty emerita Barbara Fleischer, Ph.D., was the special guest speaker and added her reflections on the LIM program in the diocese and the commitment the graduates have made to increase their competencies as lay ministers. She was instrumental in setting LIMEX up in the diocese and trained the first facilitators. Cathy Cornue, diocesan director of the Office of Faith Forma-

tion, was on hand to mark this milestone and helped to host the event; she was one of the original graduates 20 years ago,

The evening began with jazz music provided by the Soda Ash 6 band and a New Orleans "second line." The opening prayer was set to "When the Saints Go Marching In" followed by New Orleans cuisine for dinner. After the ceremonies, the attendees continued enjoying conversations and photos, new and old.

LIM wishes to thank the bishops, liaisons, facilitators, and students who participated in and supported LIM over the years, and we at the institute echo the words of Dr. Fleischer who told the

assembled celebrants, "We celebrate your hard work and we revel in your accomplishments." Here's to 20 more years!



Photos, top to bottom: Barbara Coon and Cathy Cornue enjoy the celebration, LIM supporters and graduates gather for a group photo, Gerrie Kaluzny and Dr. Barbara Fleischer reminisce and catch up on the present.

Share Your Success with the LIM Community

LIM is a community that wants to celebrate the professional milestones of its members. Whether you are a current student, alumnus, facilitator, liaison, or faculty member, we want to hear about—and share—your academic and professional successes with the LIM community through our website.

Each new success story is featured on the LIM home page, and all past stories can be read on the Successes web page.

If you have a success to share, please email LIM director Tom Ryan tfryan@loyno.edu. Include the details of the success and attach a photo of yourself or one related to the story.

- View the latest success story on the homepage [GO»](#)
- View all success stories [GO»](#)



Letter from the Director, continued

Life and LIMEX graduate from the Archdiocese of Kansas City, wants Scranton online students to gather periodically to reflect on their online coursework and to do so in a local, LIMEX-like setting. And so she worked with Marion who revised our facilitator training for this particular purpose.

Several parish leaders, who will not study or facilitate, filled out the cohort. They were attracted by the opportunity to learn the LIM method of contextual theological reflection as well as communication and leadership skills that they can put into practice in their ministries.

By all accounts, it was quite a success. Catherine wrote, "All found the training to be very intense and highly valuable."

If dioceses, parishes, or other groups would like to consider such a hybrid facilitator training in your setting, let me know. Your leaders might well value such an opportunity to grow their capacity in leadership, communication, and theological reflection.

New Developments

Some of us have begun to speak of our new LIMEX mode as LIM-FLEX. It combines the convenience and flexibility of online with our traditional commitments to adult learning and experience, contextual and transformative theological reflection and action, and facilitated learning

communities. Learn more at: www.lim.loyno.edu/lim-flex

Communication is fundamental to the Christian faith. God communicated God's very self in Jesus, continues to communicate through the work of the Holy Spirit, and invites the faithful to share in the divine task of communicating God's word in the Church and world today. With the growth of social media, it's crucial to attend to its implications for the Church and the life of faith today. In LIM, we are doing that in several ways, including by way of Dr. Daniella Zsupan-Jerome's book, which we will celebrate on campus and online on December 2, her class she taught last spring on digital media and ministry, and the one she'll teach this spring on religious communication. Check out these events below.

Our new Spanish brochure (folleto en español) is available at www.loyno.edu/lplc/lim-hispano#folleto

Evelyn

Please keep Dr. Evelyn Thibeaux—former LIM faculty member and instructor of record for our Bible courses—in your prayers. Her husband Nick Scheller died September 4 in Alexandria, LA where Evelyn and Nick moved upon her retirement from Loyola. Nick was committed to the Church and to justice as a Glenmary Missioner, social worker, and

husband. For more background on Nick and his work, please see www.kramerfunerals.com/obituaries/Nick-Scheller/#!/Obituary

Fr. Cyril

Please keep Fr. Cyril Ofoegbu—our liaison in Benin City, Nigeria—in your prayers. He died June 5. As I note in my letter to Archbishop Akubeze, I was inspired by Fr. Cyril's hospitality and commitment to lay ministry. He was such a gift to the Archdiocese of Benin City as well as to so many others around the world, including us at LIM.

Best wishes,

Tom Ryan



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

LIM Graduate Symposium To Take Place on 21 October

LIM graduate students, liaisons, facilitators, and adjunct faculty are invited to join Scripture professor Dr. Gilberto A. Ruiz for a graduate symposium from 6:30-8:00 p.m. CDT on Loyola's campus. You may attend in person or online. Please RSVP by 14 October at <http://goo.gl/b2mKAt>.

Persons attending on campus are invited to arrive at 6:00 p.m. to enjoy pizza and



LIM professor Gilberto A. Ruiz, Ph.D., presents the graduate symposium on 21 October.

conversation before the symposium begins.

Dr. Ruiz will present his research as a way of initiating conversation among students and faculty. The symposium's focus is Interpreting Pontius Pilate in the Gospel of John.

Persons who RSVP should watch their email for further details about the evening and how to attend online.



The Loyola Institute for Ministry

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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, alums, current liaisons, facilitators, and faculty.

The newsletter is written, edited, and prepared for the web by Jennifer Shimek.



Fall 2014 Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

2nd, Thursday • Online Open House for Prospective Students • 8:00 p.m. CDT • [GO»](#)

7th, Tuesday • Dr. Tom Ryan, Director of LIM, gives a talk "Spirituality and Its Bewildering Varieties: A Field Guide and Suggestions" • 12:30 p.m., CDT • Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception • [In New Orleans](#) • Learn more [GO»](#)

14th, Tuesday • Hosffmann Ospino, Ph.D., assistant professor of Hispanic Ministry and Religious Education at Boston College, presents *The Immigrant Church: Yesterday and Today* • 8 p.m. CDT • [Online Webinar](#) • [GO»](#)

21st, Graduate Symposium hosted by Dr. Gilberto Ruiz on Loyola's Campus or Attend Online • 6:30-8:00 p.m. CDT • [GO»](#)

28th, Tuesday • Online Open House for Prospective Students • 8:00 p.m. CDT • [GO»](#)

NOVEMBER

4th, Tuesday • David Crosby, pastor of First Baptist Church, gives a talk "Your Pain Is Changing You" • 12:30 p.m., CDT • Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception • [In New Orleans](#) • Learn more [GO»](#)

18th, Tuesday • Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ph.D., commentator on religious issues known as Dr. Italy, discusses *Meeting the Saints: Early Church Fathers, Who They Were and Why They Matter* • 8 p.m. CDT • [Online Webinar](#) • [GO»](#)

25th, Saturday • James Martin, S.J., author and cultural editor of *America* magazine, presents a talk "Encountering Jesus" for the Presidential Guest Series • Roussel Performance Hall, 2nd floor, Communications/Music Complex • Loyola University New Orleans • 7-9 p.m. CDT • [GO»](#)

DECEMBER

2nd, Tuesday • William Thiele, pastor of Pastor, Parker United Methodist Church, gives a talk "Seeking God in a Frantic World" • 12:30 p.m., CDT • Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception • [In New Orleans](#) • Learn more [GO»](#)

2nd, Tuesday • Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Ph.D., assistant professor at the Loyola Institute for Ministry, introduces her new book *Connected toward Communion: The Church and Social Communication in the Digital Age* • 7 p.m. CDT • [Online Webinar](#) • [GO»](#) / [On-campus Event](#) • [GO»](#)

Did You Know?

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