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Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Grant Helps LIM To Provide Catholic Educational Opportunities

The global network of LIM community members is about to enlarge as the institute prepares to offer skill-building opportunities to Catholic sisters through a generous grant.

The Hilton Foundation awarded the \$900,000 grant, *Communicating Charism: Educating for Leadership and Social Media Capacity in Communities of Women Religious*, to the Loyola Institute for Ministry in December 2014. The institute will use the grant to help Catholic sisters in the U.S. and Africa to enhance leadership skills and build social media capacity, thereby increasing membership. The funds will also provide computers, internet access, and solar power to some of the communities in Africa. See grant-related resources and the participating congregations at www.lim.loyno.edu/charism.

"Communities of women religious have such vital charisms and do such important work around the world," said Thomas Ryan, Ph.D., director of the institute. "This grant is meant to empower women religious to make effective use of digital media to get the word out about their work and its transformative potential for faith and life today."

Four religious communities in the U.S. and three in Africa will benefit from the grant, which will provide members and their associates graduate-level education through the LIM online program, integrating leadership, theology and communication. While earning the Certificate in Theology and Ministry from LIM, participating communities will work with Salt + Light TV of Canada to develop high quality videos and social media strategies to help promote their work.

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LIM Welcomes Diane Dougherty

New Recruitment and Evaluation Coordinator

LIM is pleased to share the news that Diane Dougherty has joined the staff of the institute. Diane assists with all elements of recruiting including responding to inquiry comments or questions, coordinating recruitment events, implementing social media and marketing campaigns, and maintaining relationships with sponsoring agencies. In addition, Diane tracks admitted students' progress through the LIM programs, as well as maintaining databases of students, applicants, and inquiries.

Diane earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology from The College of New Jersey where she specialized in Industrial/Organizational Studies. She has previously worked with the Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont and the Law School Admission Council.



New Focus Area in Digital Culture and Ministry

The institute is proud to announce its latest focus area in Digital Culture and Ministry, which gained university approval on 29 January. This focus area builds on the institute's growing emphasis on communication in ministry, evident in Dr. Daniella Zsupan-Jerome's recent book *The Church and Social Communication in the Digital Age* (Liturgical Press, 2014) and the Hilton grant.

The courses that form this focus area are *Digital Media and Ministry* and *Religious Communication*. Together, these two courses invite students into the communicative aspects of theology and ministry, which is especially important in our digital age.

This focus area may be of special interest to those whose ministries involve professional communication, such as media professionals, writers, or people in broadcasting. However, as our digital culture breaks down the division between communicators and recipients, this focus area is becoming an increasingly essential part of ministry as a whole. Given the potential of social and digital media to extend the reach of our ministries, we are all becoming professional communicators in the context of our work.

Digital Media and Ministry focuses on our present cultural context and asks how we might approach the task of communicating faith in the digital age. Special topics explored by this course



include participation, authority, mobility, and presence, all in light of the Christian and Roman Catholic tradition of social communication.

Religious Communication offers an overview of fundamental theology, especially in terms of the theology of revelation, a branch of theology that

considers God's self-communication to humankind as a starting point. Ministry emerging from the theology of revelation asks what we can learn from God's self-communication for our own communicative practices, especially if we are called to communicate the gospel. The *Religious Communication* course builds on this theology and examines from a historical perspective the range of the Church's communication practices through the centuries. Along these lines, this course explores a variety of media used for communicating faith: visual, oral, electronic, embodied, musical, and digital.

Dr. Daniella Zsupan-Jerome has been instrumental in developing the courses for this focus area and shares her excitement about the new focus area: "I am delighted that LIM is now officially offering Digital Culture and Ministry as a focus area. Engaging in ministry in our day and time necessarily involves awareness of our increasingly digital cultural context. With a special focus on digital communication, this focus area will help our students to better encounter, engage with and serve people, making present the Word in new ways and contexts."

"Given the potential of social and digital media to extend the reach of our ministries, we are all becoming professional communicators in the context of our work."



Share Your Milestones

Have you recently experienced a milestone in your life that you would like to share with the larger LIM community? If so, please email it to limmiles@loyno.edu.

We may share your milestone in a future issue of the LIM Express or feature it on our homepage in the Successes section. If you are a current student or graduate, please be sure to include in your email, your degree, (expected) year of graduation, and program (online, on-campus, or LIMEX).

If you wish to include a photo of yourself or the milestone event in your life, please add it as an attachment to your email.



Photo of LIM Director Tom Ryan with members of a LIM learning group in Benin City, Nigeria, the result of hard work of many, including Sr. Cecilia O. Dimaku, who is excited by the opportunities for religious sisters that the Hilton Foundation grant will help to provide.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Grant Continued

Barbara Fleischer, associate professor of pastoral studies emerita, and the associate director of the project, said the grant also will help make Loyola Institute for Ministry programs more widely accessible. "We're delighted to receive this grant to be of service to communities of religious," she said. "We're excited that it will expand our online master's program to three other countries. It's already available in Nigeria. This will extend it to Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. It also will provide improved electricity and Internet connections to those communities needing them."

Loyola Institute for Ministry alumna Sr. Cecilia O. Dimaku, SSH, MPS '07, who was instrumental in getting the LIM program off the ground in Nigeria, is excited about the potential of the new grant. "The threefold advantage of bringing together the rich traditions and charisms of the participating congregations, the training of the sisters in pastoral leadership and communication, and sharing of the story and charism of these different congregations, from different parts of the world, through a documentary video is most awesome. What a wonderful way to be witnesses to our world and to respond to Pope Francis' 'Wake up the World' call. Thank you to Loyola University for conceiving this project. Thank you to the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation for making it a dream come true," she said.

The Hilton Foundation is the legacy of late hotelier and businessman Conrad Hilton. The Foundation's grant making programs regularly fund several priorities, including strengthening communities of Catholic sisters in order to advance human development more widely and effectively.

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation was created in 1944 by international business pioneer Conrad N. Hilton, who founded Hilton Hotels and left his fortune to help the world's disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

The foundation currently conducts strategic initiatives in six priority areas: providing safe water, ending chronic homelessness, preventing substance abuse, helping children affected by HIV and AIDS, supporting transition-age youth in foster care, and extending Conrad Hilton's support for the work of Catholic Sisters.

In addition, following selection by an independent international jury, the Foundation annually awards the \$1.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to a nonprofit organization doing extraordinary work to reduce human suffering. From its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1 billion in grants, distributing \$92 million in the U.S. and around the world in 2013. The Foundation's current assets are approximately \$2.4 billion.



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Ministry education to make a
difference in the world.

The Loyola Institute for Ministry

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, faculty, and friends.

The content of the newsletter is collected, edited, and prepared for the web by Jennifer Shimek.



Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

19th • Diana Macalintal offers a presentation "Prayer: Turning the Ordinary Into Extraordinary Moments of Grace" • Webinar • 8 p.m. Central • [GO»](#)

MARCH

3rd • Alexis Berk, rabbi at Touro Synagogue, speaks at the First Tuesdays Lecture Series • Lunch, 12.15 pm, lecture 12.30 pm, CDT • Lenes Hall, 130 Baronne St. • [GO»](#)

5th • Br. Elliott Maloney, O.S.B., offers a presentation "Saint Paul: Master of the Spiritual Life 'In Christ'" • Webinar • 8 p.m. Central • [GO»](#)

APRIL

13th • Walter Pousson, Jr., offers a presentation "Between the Bible and the Blues" • Webinar • 8 p.m. Central • [GO»](#)

MAY

9th • Loyola Commencement at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome • 8 a.m. ; LIM Liturgy and Reception at Ignatius Chapel on Loyola's campus • 4:30 pm Central • [GO»](#)