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Letter from the Director : The Sacramentality of Birds

Birds are sacramental for me. Unbidden, they periodically startle me to attention.

This occurred on Good Friday's annual Way of the Cross/Way of Justice—a Stations of the Cross that winds through downtown New Orleans and highlights ways Jesus continues to be crucified in the poor and the marginalized, in the devastation of creation, and in offenses against the dignity of all life.

Local Jesuit Volunteers (JVs) dramatized the seventh station by focusing on environmental degradation, and they did so in part by reading Mary Oliver's "Poem of the One World": "This morning/ the beautiful white heron/ was floating along above the water/ and then into the sky of this/ the one world/ we all belong to/ where everything/ sooner or later/ is a part of everything else/ which thought made me feel/ for a little while/ quite, beautiful, myself."



*A sanderling on the Florida coast.
Photo by Tom Ryan.*

Continue reading →

Online Summer Classes Set

Students are able to register now on LORA.

The summer semester runs from 25 May through 12 August. The courses are:

[Introduction to Practical Theology](#) (LIM G703-W01) • Rev. Benjamin Berinti, CPpS, Ph.D.

[Universe as Divine Manifestation](#) (LIM G813-W01) • Kathleen O'Gorman, Ed.D.

[Ministry in the Marketplace](#) (LIM 820-W01) • Carol Holden, D.Min.

[Spirituality for Ministers](#) (LIM 827-W01) • Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.

[Catechetical Leadership](#) (LIM 846-W01) • Marion Danforth, Ed.D.

[Adolescent Spirituality and Methods of Faith Development](#) (LIM 876-W01) • Charlotte McCorquodale, Ph.D.

View the schedule of [fall online](#) and [fall on-campus](#) courses.

News Notes and Announcements

Tuition Remains the Same

Again for the 2015-2016 academic year, our students will *not* see a tuition increase!

On-Campus Open House: Join Us and Invite a Friend

23 April 2015 • 6:30 p.m. • Manresa Den, Bobet Hall (Main Campus)

If you know someone who may be interested in LIM on-campus programs, please encourage them to attend our Spring On-Campus Open House. Those interested can meet our faculty and staff and learn about our on-campus programs, which are Ignatian, practical, transformative, and affordable. We will also discuss our new focus area in Digital Culture and Ministry. All are welcome. A light dinner will be served. To RSVP or to ask questions, please email Diane Dougherty dmdoughe@loyno.edu or call 504-865-3727.

Webinar: “Between the Bible and the Blues”

13 April 2015 • 8 p.m. Central

Walter Pousson, Jr., recording and performing artist and honorary member of the Louisiana Blues Hall of Fame, will present "Between the Bible and the Blues." Attend the webinar [GO»](#)

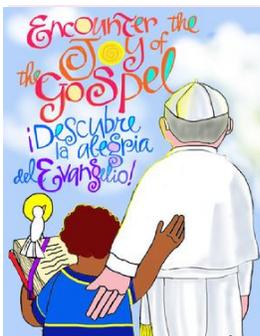


Graduation 2015: RSVP for LIM Liturgy and Reception

This year’s graduation ceremonies take place on 9 May in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. If you have not yet completed your RSVP for the LIM liturgy and reception that takes place later that afternoon, the deadline for doing so is 15 April. Complete your RSVP online [GO»](#)

Recruiting Assistance for Liaisons

Let us know if you need any assistance recruiting; we can offer webinars, online information sessions, and printed prayer cards geared to your diocese. We can even offer presentations in your diocese. To learn more about how we may assist you, contact Tom Ryan tfryan@loyno.edu / 504-865-2069.



LIM at NCCL Conference 18-21 May in Buffalo

The 79th Annual National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Conference and Exposition will be held in Buffalo, New York, at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center, 153 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY 14202. This year’s theme is Encounter the Joy of the Gospel!

LIM will be exhibiting at the conference; please stop by our booth to visit! Liaisons, if you will be attending the conference, please let us know; we want to host our liaisons for dinner. Liaisons, please RSVP to Diane Blair dblair@loyno.edu.

Milestones Alumni Spotlight: Allison Dreher (MRE 2009)

Since her graduation, alumna Allison Dreher has seen many changes in her life and ministry. She is the Education Coordinator for the St. Augustine Foundation, a charitable organization established in Yonkers, New York, in 2001, whose mission is promoting the teaching of the Catholic Church. In 2014, the foundation, with Allison's assistance, launched the website Catholic Sexuality. Allison appears on the website in videos that give a full introduction to the Billings Method of Natural Family Planning.

Early this year, she served as a delegate to the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the



Presentation "Defending Human Dignity in Reproductive Health" at the United Nations attended by delegate Allison Dreher. Photo by Allison Dreher.

Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York that was held from Monday, 27 February to Friday, 9 March 2012. Established in 1946, the CSW is a global intergovernmental body whose mission is the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. At the conference, Allison observed that "the UN is very polarized when it comes to women's issues. One views motherhood, and family as a hindrance to women's empowerment, and the other sees it AS women's empowerment. There was a large group of young students from Mexico that I had the pleasure of meeting. In every event I

attended they were there speaking out about the complementarity of men and women. This 'complementarity' conveys the understanding that women's empowerment is a direct result of working together with men in industry and family, not asserting and removing oneself from those responsibilities."

One of the highlights of the conference for Allison was attending an event co-sponsored by the Holy See, C-Fam, and WOOMB International entitled "Defending Human Dignity in Reproductive Health," which explored the lucrative business of in vitro fertilization and the relatively new science of the menstrual cycle as a key to addressing many women's health issues. The video can be viewed online at <http://webtv.un.org/watch/defending-human-dignity-in-reproductive-health-csw59-side-event/4122385176001?>

Of her current ministry, Allison says that she is "grateful to be a part of [it]." We are grateful for her service to and for women.



Catholic Sexuality Website

A project of the St. Augustine Foundation, [Catholic Sexuality](http://CatholicSexuality.com) is a website offering resources on Natural Family Planning (NFP), human sexuality, the virtue of chastity, marriage, conjugal love, and responsible parenthood. It features several brief courses tailored for young adults. The full 9-session Course Lesson Plan is available as a free download and can be used in 40-minute classroom settings. Also included on the site are videos of interviews with [Catholic physicians](http://CatholicPhysicians.com).

The website was recently endorsed by the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](http://UnitedStatesConferenceofCatholicBishops.com).



Share Your Milestones

Please share your milestone with the larger LIM community by emailing limmiles@loyno.edu. Include 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. Your milestone may be featured in a future issue of the LIM Express or in the Successes spotlight on the LIM homepage.

Attend the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC): *Encounter*

LIM Partnering on the MOOC To Foster Faith in Youth

Join the National Association for Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders and thousands of people from around the world for a five-week, free online learning experience about helping young people encounter Christ and the Church.

Each week's session has a theme:

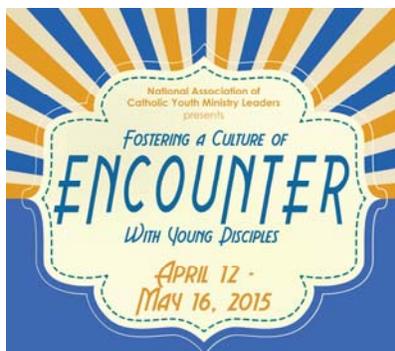
- April 12: Encounter as Transformative Missionary Action
- April 19: Encounter as Inculturating Faith within Cultural, Secular, and Ecclesial Realities
- April 26: Encounter as the Call to Spiritual Accompaniment and Being Heralds of the Word
- May 3: Encounter as Social Mission by Becoming the Hands and Feet of Christ
- May 10: Encounter as Spirit-Filled Evangelizers

What It Involves

You may participate as an individual, or you may join a learning community. Either way, you will complete a weekly reading from *Evangelii Gaudium* and view a video by a master teacher sometime between Sunday

and Tuesday; on Tuesday, you will participate in—or watch a recording of—a live web discussion at 1 or 9 p.m. Eastern. Those who participate by joining a learning community have additional opportunities from Wednesday to Saturday to share learnings and explore course content.

Detailed information about the MOOC can be found at the NACYML website at <http://www.nacyml.org>; the section



on *Encounter* is found on the left-hand side of the page.

Register

Register yourself (and encourage others to do so as well!) at <http://nacyml.org/moocRegister.htm>.

Partner with NACYM

If you are part of an organization that offers resources that can assist MOOC attendees in fostering a culture of encounter, you may join the Loyola Institute for Ministry and other organizations as partners. You may volunteer for one week as a guest expert to lead a discussion board from Wednesday through Saturday. Your organization can sponsor the discussion and share information about resources within the discussion thread.

If you wish to partner or serve as a guest expert, please complete an online form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1sbhR1ZWnPpizx4IsVVJrfhROo92Q1tPnAcVPrZm5vJl/viewform?usp=send_form to provide information about your and your organization. If you have any questions or still trying to figure out what is best to share, please contact Charlotte McCorquodale at 417-693-1882 or email chair@nacyml.org.

Please join LIM in praying for the success of this international learning event.

Summer Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership

This year's Summer Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership takes place from 8 to 11 June on Loyola's main campus. The theme to be explored is the Vocation of Communication. Current and future parish and school leaders will come together for a week of workshops and presentations to consider more intentionally their own vocation of communication, learn a Catholic spirituality of communication, explore Scripture and the Catholic tradition as resources for their vision of leadership, and practice the skills leaders need to communicate our faith effectively.

Father Roy Shelly will lead the summer institute. Fr. Shelly is a priest of the Diocese of Monterey, CA, where he is known as an engaging and inspiring speaker and retreat leader. He has worked in numerous Catholic high schools, including Archbishop Shaw in the Archdiocese of New Orleans and has directed retreat centers and worked in youth ministry. He is a member of the International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry (IASYM).

Additional details as well as a link to the Registration Form can be found online at <http://www.loyno.edu/lplc/catholic-educational-leaders>.



*Photo of a willet on
the Florida coast.
Photo by Tom Ryan.*

Letter from the Director Continued

Just then, two pigeons, as if on cue, hurtled themselves at the JVs, missing them because the JVs ducked. The birds continued on their way toward One Shell Square, New Orleans' tallest building, named after the multinational oil company.

Birds aren't usually so dramatic, but they regularly surprise me. Once a hawk took up residence in the expansive live oak in Loyola's Peace Quad—a raptor on our urban campus.

I just returned from camping on the west coast of Florida and encountered busybody sanderlings that scooted p and down the beach. A sandpiper, a willet I believe, pursued its prey with more dignity. A great egret with its show-off plumage, tiny eyes, and needle-sharp beak stared me down at close range as we struck camp.

Birds abound here in south Louisiana, yet I remain mostly oblivious. When I do take note, it's often when I'm set or my world seems fixed. Defying gravity, birds swoop in to remind me of God's wild side—the Holy Spirit who blows where it wills, who challenges my moderate hopes with extravagant possibilities, who brings a smile to my face.

The Holy Spirit also counteracts my unawareness of “the one world we all belong to/ where everything/ sooner or later/ is a part of everything else.”

And that seems to me the point of Easter. To be an Easter people is, counterintuitively and empowered by the Spirit, to hope in and work for the solidarity of all creation. It is to live a life informed by the vision of Isaiah in the Easter Vigil's fifth reading, a vision of God's lavish preference for the thirsty and penniless. “All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! ... [Y]ou shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare.”

Best wishes for a holy Easter season!



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



The Loyola Institute for Ministry
Loyola University New Orleans
6363 St. Charles Avenue
Campus Box 67
New Orleans, LA 70118

Phone: 504-865-5555
Fax: 504-865-2066
E-mail: lim@loyno.edu

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

APRIL

10th to 20th May • *Encounter*
MOOC • [GO»](#)

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

23rd • On-Campus Open House •
Webinar • 6:30 p.m. Central •
Manresa Den, 1st floor Bobet Hall •
[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»](#)

18th–21st • LIM at NCCL Conference
in Buffalo, New York at the Buffalo
Niagara Convention Center [GO»](#)