

LIM EXPRESS

LOYOLA INSTITUTE FOR MINISTRY

Loyola Institute for Ministry • Holiday 2010

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Message from the Director

Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.

I was fortunate recently to participate in the eighteen-month Ignatian Colleagues Program sponsored by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. Its purpose is to form lay faculty and staff in Ignatian spirituality and its implications so that they can collaborate with Jesuits in maintaining and extending our institutions' Jesuit charism. It was a wonderful experience that involved retreats, including a 19th-annotation version of St. Ignatius Loyola's spiritual exercises, some online courses, and a trip to El Salvador.

One of the gifts of this experience was learning more about the founder of the Jesuits, St. Ignatius Loyola. Jesuit Fr. Howard Gray in his article "Ignatian Spirituality" in Loyola Press's *The Ignatian Spirituality Reader*, sees Ignatius's project as "an effort to make Christian faith alive within a culture and to liberate whatever inhibited the gospel of Christ from informing society, especially in the case of the poor and socially and economically marginated" (71). That is, he sought to spread the Good News; he was evangelical.

"Evangelical" today is often used to describe a particular form of Christianity, usually but not always Protestant and usually but not always thought of poorly by Catholics. I'd like to revisit this term, especially since St. Ignatius, founder of the Jesuits and so central to our work in the Loyola Institute for Ministry, really was evangelical.



Holiday Wishes from Loyola
May your Christmas be blessed and the
New Year filled with joyful hope
for a bright future.

--The LIM faculty and staff

This term comes from a Greek word that can be translated as gospel. It can also mean good news or glad tidings. "News" announces something new, unexpected, surprising. We watch, read, or listen to the news with the hope of learning what we did not know before. Similarly, someone awaiting "tidings" anticipates a report, about loved ones for example. Finally, evangelization does not deliver just any information, it is good information; it is good news to those who receive it.

It strikes me that God was the first evangelical and, throughout history, has modeled evangelization. For example, in Jesus Christ, God delivered good news to the faithful. God's good news is not just generic tidings. God must take history and experience seriously because God's good news is addressed to a particular time and place. God's glad tidings came enfleshed not as a general Everyone but as a particular part of creation, as an individual, first-century, Palestinian human being.

In his own life, Jesus devoted himself to announcing the good news of the in-breaking of God's Reign. It is already present in our midst! Following his example, all Christians, lay and ordained alike, are tasked with proclaiming this news to all creation.

It is in this sense, it seems to me, that we in LIM are called to be evangelical and about evangelization. Following God's example, following St. Ignatius's example, we need to be attentive to our audience and attuned to the signs of the times. We need to be creative in developing ways and means of announcing this message so that people of every race and nation can hear it. Finally, the news we announce needs to be good, not spiked with fear and hatred, but truly glad tidings.

To be sure, the Gospel's good news is, in fact, bad news for some. In the words of his mother, Jesus came to lift up the lowly and cast down the mighty from their thrones. This is bad news for the mighty. The evangelical includes this prophetic impulse, but it must first, it seems to me, announce God's overflowing and unconditional love, which the Spiritual Exercises do at their beginning. That is what we in LIM are about and in what sense we are evangelical and called to evangelize.

I welcome your thoughts on these reflections, and I send you best wishes and our prayers for you and yours this Christmas. May you hear God's glad tidings anew this holy season, and may your New Year be filled with abundant blessings!



Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Ryan" followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

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

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News Notes from Cecelia

Cecelia M. Bennett, J.C.L.

2011 Commencement

The 2011 spring commencement activities will be held the weekend of 14 May 2011. The LIM liturgy and reception is on Saturday afternoon, 14 May, at 4:30 p.m. All certificate and degree candidates are invited to participate with their guests. University Commencement for degree candidates for May, August, and December 2011 is on Saturday, 13 May at 9:45 a.m. in the Earnest N. Morial Convention Center.

Facilitators are sent by email information on the liturgy and reception and the other University commencement activities. They are asked to email or distribute print copies of the email to members of their groups. If your group is graduating in 2011 and you have not received the email, please email Diane Blair <dblair@loyno.edu>.

All 2011 degree and certificate graduates need to apply online at: <<http://www.loyno.edu/records/applicationfordegree.php>>. The university's reply to your online application will be sent to your loyno.edu email address. You may find your Loyola email address on LORA if you do not remember it. Directions on how to do this are in the *Policy Manual* and on LORA.

We have posted on the LIM Documents Web page in the Student Section under "Commencement" general information on commencement and information on the LIM Liturgy. Information will be posted by the university at <<http://www.loyno.edu/ia/publicaffairs/commencement/index.html>> early in the Spring 2011 semester.

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LIM Holiday Office Closure

The LIM office will be closed beginning 23 December 2010 and will reopen on 3 January 2011. The office will also be closed for Mardi Gras on 7-8 March 2011. Please remember these dates when e-mailing course registration forms to Loyola and e-mailing papers to the writing consultant service. Postal delivery to and from the LIM office will also not be available during these times. Please take these dates into consideration when mailing course assignments and other paper work to the office and when expecting graded papers back from the office. Also, do not count the Christmas break in the turnaround time of the adjuncts, as they, like the rest of us, take a holiday break.

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On the Road

LIM will be at several national gatherings and conventions over the next few months. If you attend any of these meetings, please stop by our booth for a visit and a treat. If you can help out at the booth and are willing to talk about your great LIM experiences, please let us know. You may email Diane Blair <dblair@loyno.edu> for the L.A. congress and Cecelia Bennett <cbennett@loyno.edu> for NCCL and NALM.

New Email Address for Distance Education Librarian

The email address for reaching Loyola's Distance Education Librarians has changed to libref@loyno.edu. This email is checked several times a day by the librarians and the change to this email address is designed to shorten response time from a librarian.

When you email the librarians, make sure to let them know you are a LIM extension student and the course in which you are currently enrolled. We are working to update the address in our course materials, especially the course bibliographies.

- The Los Angeles Religious Education Congress: 18 – 20 March 2011 <<http://www.recongress.org/>>
- National Conference of Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Conference and Exposition: 22-26 May 2011 in Atlanta, GA <<http://www.nccl.us/>>
- National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM) Annual Conference: 1-4 June 2011 in Indianapolis, IN <<http://www.nalm.org>>

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Video Problems?

If you encounter any video problems, please alert us by way of the DVD Feedback Form, which is available through the Facilitators/Liaisons Documents link on the LIM Documents website. Facilitators might keep a form handy so that when a problem occurs, you can note the problem right away. If you need immediate assistance with your DVD, please contact Todd McMahon, Associate Director for Instructional Technologies at <mcmahon@loyno.edu>. Thank you!

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Loyola Career Development Center – Services for Distance Education Students

The Career Development Center offers assistance to graduate students in the career exploration and development process by providing a wide variety of individual services and on-line resources. Every effort is made to meet the unique needs of LIM on-site (extension) students. Students have 24/7 access to EMPLOYOLA — our online recruiting tool for job postings, on-campus interviews, career fairs, and a host of other services. Visit the website at <www.loyno.edu/careerservices> for career information and resources and access to other valuable e-job boards. Individual appointments and consultations with a career coach may be scheduled by emailing <career@loyno.edu> calling the center at 504-865-3860. Distance education students have access to all online resources and resume writing services. Distance education students may also contact the center's office to schedule phone consultations with a career coach. Please contact the Career Development Center for more information about the services they provide.

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Join Us for a Free Lecture in Person or Online: Who Cares About God? Finding a God for Young Adults

**Friday, 4 February 2011, 7 p.m. Central Time
Miller Hall, Room 114 and streamed live online**

Check the LIM homepage <www.lim.loyno.edu> after January 24th for instructions on how to log-on to the talk and participate online.

Fr. Mark Mossa, S.J. will address issues in young adult ministry and spirituality. Fr. Mossa is author of *Already There: Letting God Find You* (St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2010), and we will have copies of the book at his talk for sale and signing.

Here is what Fr. Mossa says of his talk:

There is a vocation crisis in the Church in addition to declining numbers of priests and religious. Increasingly young people don't even seem to be asking the "God question." They are not atheists. Nor are they necessarily people who care only for themselves. Many of them are engaged in doing their part to "save the world." But God has nothing to do with it. This is also a vocation crisis.

If we are going to convince young adults that God should matter to them, it may be that we have to rethink many of our basic notions about how and why God matters to us. This talk will explore the questions which arise when we examine these notions, and suggest possible insights we can draw from history, theology, spirituality and cultural experience. If the presumptions on which we have long relied are no longer valid, what new kind of evangelization is required?

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Faculty Search Underway

The Institute has been approved to begin a search for the position vacated by Dr. Cathy Zeph. If you know of qualified candidates, please pass this notice on to them.

Faculty Coordinator for Distance Learning Systems

The Loyola Institute for Ministry (LIM) of **Loyola University New Orleans** invites applications for its Faculty Coordinator of Distance Learning Systems, a tenure-track position. Informed by the methodology of practical theology, LIM has offered its graduate and certificate programs onsite around the country and around the world through its extension program for over twenty-five years and online courses for over ten years. The faculty coordinator is responsible for the recruitment, orientation, and oversight of the adjunct faculty and facilitators involved in onsite and online programming. The position requires collaboration with faculty and staff in the development of onsite and online learning designs and program materials and consults on group process issues. It also requires oversight of courses in the distance learning programs and includes on-campus and online teaching.

The successful candidate will have a terminal degree in theology, religious education, pastoral studies, adult education or another field appropriate for practical theology and will have knowledge of Roman Catholic theology and its contemporary ecclesial context. Also required is professional experience in ministry and/or religious education, in conducting workshops, group-process training, and educational methodologies/technologies. Some travel is required. For more information about the Loyola Institute for Ministry, please see <www.lim.loyno.edu>.

The Loyola Institute for Ministry seeks a highly qualified, diverse applicant pool and especially encourages members of underrepresented groups to apply. Loyola is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. To apply, please send a CV, three letters of reference and an official transcript of highest degree earned to Dr. Thomas Ryan, Director, Loyola Institute for Ministry, 6363 St. Charles Ave. Campus Box 67, New Orleans, LA 70118.

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