

# LIM EXPRESS

LOYOLA INSTITUTE FOR MINISTRY

Loyola Institute for Ministry • Fall 2009

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## ***Message from the Director***

**Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.**

Hurricane Katrina, the fourth anniversary of whose landfall is fast approaching, is never far from our minds here in New Orleans. On my travels, I'm often asked two questions about it. The first is personal, "How did Katrina affect you?" The second is more sweeping, "How's New Orleans doing?"

In response to the first, I note that I grew up in New Orleans and that much of my family was here shortly before its landfall on August 29, 2005, but I was not. I was living in Miami

and teaching at St. Thomas University there, and we did experience a direct hit from Katrina. It formed in the Bahamas, and its eye passed over South Florida on Thursday August 25, the first time I had ever been in the eye of a hurricane, a category 1 storm at that point.

Katrina affected me personally in many other ways, and I will write about them more in the future, but let me turn to the city's recovery because New Orleans is your home, in a sense. Students in the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program go to school in New Orleans or, at least, by way of New Orleans. So it is important for you to be aware of what's happening on your campus and in your city.

My response to the second question above is that the recovery has been mixed. On the positive side, the city and state are more environmentally aware. More restaurants operate in New Orleans now than before Katrina. Things once taken for granted are celebrated with fervor; there's even a Po Boy Preservation Festival that honors the city's distinctive sandwich <[www.poboyfest.com](http://www.poboyfest.com)>.

As for residents, those with money tended to have insurance and to live closer to the river and, thus, on higher ground (incidentally, I'm struck in retrospect by all the songs, popular and otherwise, that praise higher ground). As a result, their possessions tended to be less affected by the floodwaters, and their neighborhoods look better in many ways now than before Katrina. Houses have been painted, roofs replaced, yards landscaped. Similarly, Loyola is located on higher ground, so it was not as badly damaged as other colleges and universities. This fall, it anticipates welcoming one of the largest first-year classes ever.

This is all evidence of renewal, yet renewal is not universal. Those areas in uptown New Orleans close to the river have been mockingly tagged the "sliver by the river" and the "isle of denial" because one can live in them and forget the slow recovery or no recovery that others have experienced.

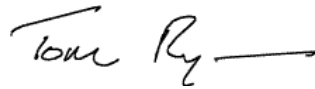
Signs of new life are emerging even in the Lower Ninth Ward, a place whose name became synonymous with devastation. As the linked images show <<http://www.lim.loyola.edu/lower9.html>>, most of the wreckage has been cleared, and housing that combines references to traditional New Orleans architecture and more contemporary touches with an eye to environmental sustainability is rising in its place. This is due in part to the work of Brad Pitt and his Make It Right Foundation <[www.makeitrightnola.org/](http://www.makeitrightnola.org/)>.

Pitt is but one of the people to give his time, talent, and treasure to renewing New Orleans; there have been many more. This summer the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) sent some 35,000 youth to work in the city for a week. Catholic religious orders who did not have communities here before have made New Orleans home. Catholic volunteer organizations have made New Orleans an option for their post-graduate volunteers. So there is an exciting vibrancy to life here.

Incidentally, the New York Times recently responded to a question posed by a reader: "Will a visitor to New Orleans be disappointed?" The answer was, not at all. For the full answer, see <<http://bit.ly/9oqfT>>.

So, we are on a journey here in our city of New Orleans, one with many fits and starts. Yet this is not just our home. It is also yours; Loyola is your campus; New Orleans is your city. Pray for us, and come visit us — if not now, at least when you graduate!

Best wishes,



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



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## **News Notes from Cecelia**

**Cecelia M. Bennett, J.C.L.**

### **2010 Commencement**

The 2010 spring commencement activities will be held the weekend of May 8, 2010. Degree candidates for May, August, and December 2010 are invited to participate in commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Louisiana Superdome.

<<http://www.loyno.edu/ia/publicaffairs/commencement.html>>. All certificate and degree candidates are invited to the LIM liturgy and reception on Saturday afternoon, May 8, at 4:30 p.m. All 2009 degree and certificate graduates should apply online by October 15:

<<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 address on LORA if you do not remember it. Directions on how to do this are in the *Policy Manual* and on LORA.

This past May, we celebrated the graduation of degree and certificate candidates from across the country and from the England and Scotland. It was the first graduation for the Diocese of El Paso. Groups graduated from the (Arch) dioceses of Charlotte, Columbus, St. Andrews and Edinburgh, El Paso, Hexham and Newcastle, Lafayette, Nashville, Omaha, Orlando, Palm Beach, Raleigh, Richmond, Shreveport, Syracuse, and Youngstown.

### **New Staff Member**

In the spring, we welcomed Eileen Hooper Chapoton to LIM. Eileen is the manager of recruitment, promotion, and LPLC. She has a BBA from Loyola University New Orleans with a major in Marketing. Eileen is a former Annual Fund Director and Alumni Director for Loyola New Orleans. She is responsible for the development and coordination of the Institute's recruitment and promotional efforts. She will also manage the Loyola Pastoral Life Center which hosts the Institute for Catholic School Leadership and the continuing education certificate programs for LIM.

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## Online Catechism Course

Help us spread the news about this course on the Catechism.

*Invitation to the Catechism* is a 1 credit hour online course offered from September 8-October 6, 2009 and taught by Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.

The course includes:

- Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Praying with the Catechism
- The Spirituality of the Catechism
- An Invitation to a Fuller and Deeper Engagement with the Catholic Faith

Extension students are welcome to sign up for this course for graduate or CEU credit.

To register, contact Diane Blair at <[dblair@loyno.edu](mailto:dblair@loyno.edu)>.

## Loyola Liaisons Retiring

Over the past year, we have had several Loyola liaisons retire or move on to other employment: Dan McGill from Boise, Sr. Marie Vianney Bilgrien from El Paso, Cindy Muenchrath from Grand Island, Barbara Dodd from Nashville, Tony O'Malley from Orlando, Sr. Mary Steedman from St. Andrews and Edinburgh, and Dinah Davis from Shrewsbury.

We thank them publicly for their many years of service to Loyola and our students. Without the dedication and commitment of Loyola's liaisons, the program would not be possible in your local area. Take the time to reach out to your Loyola Liaison <<http://www.lim.loyno.edu/extension/liaisons/>> and offer your help as they work to support and grow the Loyola program in your location.

## Diocese of Youngstown Facilitator Terry Murphy Facilitates 7th Group

Tom Sauline, Loyola liaison in Youngstown writes, "I wish to announce the start up of a new learning group facilitated by Terry Murphy, a veteran facilitator. This is Murphy's seventh group since the Diocese of Youngstown began sponsoring LIMEX in 1986. I believe that is an international LIMEX record [for facilitating]. Since 1986 over 100 have graduated from Loyola through the extension program. Approximately 30% of our professional lay ecclesial ministers are Loyola grads."

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## Revised MLA Style and Guide to Reflection

Jennifer Shimek, M.F.A.

In March 2009, the Modern Language Association (MLA) published a revised version of their Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). The changes in some areas are significant, and the revised LIM Guide to Written Theological Reflection reflects those changes. The Guide is available on the student section of the LIM documents web page <<http://lim.loyno.edu/extension/documents>>.

A brief highlight of three key changes illustrates the type of revisions in the new edition. First, titles of books, magazines, journals, movies, t.v. shows, CDs, and so forth are now set in italics, not underlined. Second, every source on the Works Cited page must now list its medium (for example, Print., Web., CD-ROM., MS., and so forth) at the end of the entry. Third, electronic resource citations have changed the most. MLA no longer requires URLs to be included in the Works Cited entry unless required by an instructor; LIM has decided to continue to require students to include the URL as part of the entry for web-based resources. Examples and specifics can be found in the revised Guide.

As you might imagine, integrating these changes into all the LIM documents and course materials has been (and continues to be) a large challenge. As of 1 August, all the Focus Courses reflect the updated MLA style, as do Common Curriculum Courses 1-4. Revisions to the remaining courses and the Discernment Process are scheduled for completion by January 2010.

Adjunct faculty will continue to evaluate the correct use of MLA format in graduate student papers with sensitivity to the fact that some papers may reflect the style of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the MLA Handbook as students transition into using the revised MLA style of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition.

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## Facilitator Invoice Reminder

Claire Moldthan, B.S.

Please remember that the Mid-Course Report and the Facilitator Invoice forms, as well as a W-9 if not previously submitted, must be faxed (504-865-2066) or mailed to the attention of Claire Moldthan at LIM, Loyola University New Orleans, 6363 St. Charles Avenue, Campus Box 67, New Orleans, LA 70118. ALL the requested information – including your signature – must be completed on the invoice. Incomplete invoices will not be able to be processed and will be returned to facilitators, thus delaying payment. If you are co-facilitating with another person, each facilitator must submit an invoice, as well as a W-9 if not previously submitted, for his or her honorarium. Please submit both Facilitator Invoice Forms with the Mid-Course Report Form together. The W-9 form is available as a quick link to Forms and Publications on the IRS web site <<http://www.irs.gov/>>.

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## Sabbatical Announcement

Catherine P. Zeph, Ed.D.

I have been granted an academic sabbatical for the fall 2009 term. It officially began Saturday, 1 August and continues through 31 December 2009. I will be using this time to polish up articles and lectures with an eye towards refereed and professional publications and will be taking some time for research and writing out of town. I am looking forward to translating some of my rich Loyola experiences into articles to share with other professionals.

While I am on sabbatical, other faculty members will be serving in my place to assist our students and facilitators. Dr. Barbara Fleischer will serve as the Instructor of Record for Courses 1 and 8, so any questions about course content or the assignments may be directed to her by email at <[fleische@loyno.edu](mailto:fleische@loyno.edu)> or at extension 3397. Dr. Tom Ryan will be available to address any administrative items or group issues that may arise, questions related to the Discernment Process, and any requests for facilitator workshops. He may be contacted by email at <[tfryan@loyno.edu](mailto:tfryan@loyno.edu)> or at extension 2069.

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## LIM and Technology

Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.

People don't always associate religion with technology and change. In fact, the Church has always been a technological innovator and adopter. Think of the Bible, a book with many pages. You might consider your *Catholic Study Bible* assigned for Courses 2 and 3 as bulky. But imagine carrying it around in the form of numerous scrolls. That would be much bulkier!

Scholars of antiquity surmise that the technology of the codex (i.e., the book) may well have been developed in part to meet the needs of early Christian missionaries for a portable text, one that could be carried at great distances more easily than a set of scrolls.

Or think of the difference the printing press made. Before it, books were a relative rarity, as was literacy. Now, in the developed world at least, most take both for granted. So the Church has often been the cause of technological innovation or an early adopter of it.

We in the Institute for Ministry are no different. We have already integrated technology into our pedagogies. You can download your course materials from the Internet either to print them up or read them online. Through our library, you have access to vast reserves of specialized scholarly material on theology, spirituality, and beyond, material that is available nowhere in the Internet's public domain. I hope you can take advantage of these library offerings. <<http://lim.loyno.edu/extension/resources.html#library>>

One thing we have begun experimenting with is Twitter, which allows us to post short updates about the Institute that will keep you abreast of what's going on in the program. You can follow us on Twitter at

<<http://twitter.com/LIMINO>>. We also used our home page to post job opportunities in New Orleans and beyond. If you have a job you'd like to advertise, let us know. If you're looking for one, check it out.

We also have lectures available online, including one via webcam to students, graduates, and friends in Phoenix by Professor Jerry Fagin, S.J., creator of the Ignatian spirituality piece that has been integrated into our program. (We will send you the address and password to those lectures in a separate email.) We have webcams available, so we can deliver other lectures over the Internet and even help with information sessions from a distance.

As I say, I hope you take advantage of the technology offerings through our library. It is amazing the kind of resources it makes available to you. Just go to the Monroe Library homepage <[www.library.loyno.edu](http://www.library.loyno.edu)> and click on the database link. I would also welcome your ideas for how we can use technology to link us more closely to you and to make your educational experience a richer one. Email me with your thoughts <[tfryan@loyno.edu](mailto:tfryan@loyno.edu)>.

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## **It's a Small World After All**

**Catherine P. Zeph, Ed.D.**

With a nod to Walt Disney's song, "It's a Small World After All," I had the opportunity and privilege of representing Loyola University New Orleans and the Loyola Institute for Ministry in two distinct cultural contexts within a month's time this summer, in addition to welcoming facilitators here in New Orleans. In mid-June, I went to El Paso, Texas, to participate in the local graduation festivities for their LIM graduates. Upon my return, I conducted a Facilitator Certification Workshop here in New Orleans with people from California, Nebraska, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Grenada in the mix. Two weeks later, I was in Benin City, Nigeria, to conduct our first-ever Facilitator Certification Workshop in Africa! The El Paso and Nigerian events were sources of rich cultural expressions of food, music, and language, some of which I tried to capture on camera. There are links on our LIM webpage that show a few of my pictures <[www.lim.loyno.edu](http://www.lim.loyno.edu)>.

### **Celebrating at the Border**

Tepeyac Institute is the name of the ministry formation center for the El Paso Diocese <<http://www.elpasodiocese.org/education/tepeyac.asp>>. It is the sponsoring agency for our Loyola program, and in big-time Texas style, they celebrated nineteen degree and certificate graduates, the highest number of graduates from any of our sponsoring sites this year. On 13 June, the graduates, in their academic robes, were introduced at the 5:30 vigil Mass of the St. Pius X Catholic Community. Afterwards, families and friends enjoyed margaritas or wine, soft drinks, appetizers, dinner, and desserts in the St. Pius Placita, under an open and windy sky. Balloons and festive ribbons in the Loyola colors of maroon and gold waved from lamp posts and chairs, and live music played in the background. All enjoyed time to relax and celebrate the accomplishments of their favorite graduates!

At 3:00 the next afternoon, there was a first-ever Tepeyac Institute-Loyola University graduation ceremony in their St. Patrick Cathedral, which was officiated by El Paso Bishop Armando X. Ochoa, D.D. The cathedral was packed with families, friends, and other local representatives. The graduates marched in as part of an academic procession: a cross and banners of both the Tepeyac Institute and Loyola University led the way, followed by diocesan ministry directors, clergy, Tepeyac staff, and the graduates. Everyone was in their academic regalia. A medallion was presented to the bishop, The Summons by John Bell was sung, and readings were proclaimed in both Spanish and English. After the bishop gave his reflection, I gave remarks and greetings from Loyola to the graduates. The bishop gave each graduate his or her academic hood, a diploma or certificate cover, a LIM ministry towel, and a cross from Tepeyac. The absolute highlight of the



afternoon was the procession with red flowers to Our Lady of Guadalupe. A live mariachi band was brought in to surprise the graduates, and they led the procession up the main aisle to the altar. The procession was extremely touching to all, and there were many teary eyes at the sight of Our Lady. After closing prayers, the academic gathering recessed down the aisle singing Vayan al mundo/Go Out to the World, by Jaime Cortez. A commencement reception was held in the cathedral high school gym, where a big "LIMEX" cake and lemonade were served. Loyola decorations and colors again added to the festivities. Everyone was very happy and glad to celebrate these Loyola graduates, not only for their achievements, but for what it represents to a local culture that has no Catholic university and

where a good education can be difficult to achieve. Like Scotland and northern England, El Paso is known as a borderland, as it is shaped geographically and culturally by the Rio Grande River that separates it from Juarez, Mexico, and the centuries of travelers who have passed through. It is a bi-cultural and bi-lingual area, as everyone floats fluently between English and Spanish. It was important to Bishop Ochoa and the leaders of Tepeyac to celebrate and remind others of the importance of lay ministry and graduate education and to attest that the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program is a program worth aspiring to. With this graduation, two learning groups in El Paso have completed their studies, and two more are currently in progress. There is great hope for continued recruitment and ongoing leadership in lay formation throughout the Diocese of El Paso, especially after such a lively and well-earned celebration. ! Vivé LIMEX!

### **Celebrating in a new Continent!**

In less than a month after being in El Paso, I was off to Africa to conduct a Facilitator Certification Workshop in the Archdiocese of Benin City, Nigeria <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benin\\_City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benin_City)>. This connection was made at the invitation of Sr. Cecelia Dimaku, a Sacred Heart sister from Benin City and a graduate of our LIM on-campus program. We were able to secure a \$35,000 grant from the Koch Foundation to start our program in Benin City, with initial funds to include CEU tuition for 15 students to take our first three courses; a follow-up grant has been written to expand our funding.

Dr. Tom Ryan, director of LIM, visited Benin City in late May, where he met with Archbishop Richard Burke, a native of Limerick, Ireland, toured the archdiocese, signed the liaison's agreement, and promoted our program. While he was there, renovation was begun of the former principal's home on the campus of Immaculate Conception College (ICC), a Catholic boarding school for high school boys. This building is set higher than all the other buildings on campus, upon the edge of the old Benin Moat, which at one time was the largest manmade structure in the world after the Great Wall of China. Centuries ago, slaves dug by hand moats around the Kingdom of Benin in order to keep warring tribes outside. Vestiges of the moats are still in place and the older parts of the city are defined by being inside the moat area. In 1944 when the ICC was being built, the principal at the time was a friend of the King of Benin, and his home was one of the few buildings that were allowed to be built on the moats.

During a time of recent government takeover of all the Catholic schools, this building was looted because it had been the principal's home. Approximately five years ago, the schools were returned to the Catholic archdiocese, and the necessary repairs and renovations are slowly happening. The Loyola program became an incentive to rebuild the principal's home, and in six weeks time, between Dr. Ryan's visit and my arrival,

this building was completely overhauled. It was painted in bright colors similar to Loyola's maroon and gold, flowers and bushes were planted, flagpoles have gone up, and a huge "Loyola University New Orleans – LIMEX" sign announces its purpose. The archdiocese is making this a dedicated building for the Loyola program, and it is a beautiful sight to behold. Upon my arrival, my hosts organized a big welcoming reception and dinner on the first night of the workshop, complete with a blessing of the building, prayers, speeches, and a sense of great excitement, welcoming a new educational venture into the archdiocese. Representatives from the archdiocese, the ICC, the community, and the University of Benin were present to welcome our program into existence!

This sense of excitement infused my time and our workshop in Benin City. Because of the distance traveled and the local needs, I trained 12 facilitators, the most for any one workshop I have conducted. The circumstances were unique, and I was able to include more participants while still upholding the rigors of the workshop. Everyone had a turn to practice facilitating, and the group quickly caught on to the critical reflection process and became increasingly animated and engaged in each of the session dialogues. Eight of the participants were priests, so we had Mass every day, and many prayers and blessings were said throughout the week. All the participants had laptops, which was a new experience for me; I told them that "the rest of the world needs to learn from Nigeria!" They were a lively and lovely group of people who enjoyed learning about the program and made me feel most welcome in their country and city. The summer months are the rainy season, so like New Orleans, it was very humid, hot, and rainy. Many of their foods are similar to those in New Orleans: rice, beans, okra, stews, and soups; I explained to them how New Orleans is rich with African foods, music, and culture and that they would feel quite at home in our city as well. As in New Orleans, they do enjoy celebrating, as they held an "end of workshop" party on the fourth evening during which local high school boys entertained us with dancing while we enjoyed drinks and dinner. More speeches were given and photos "snapped" (their expression for taking pictures). On the last morning, we were able to get everyone connected to the Internet so that they could learn of our websites and administrative procedures. After a final lunch, we all said our goodbyes and left as friends, looking forward to the next time we would meet.

Like Belize in Central America, where we also have our program, Nigeria is a former British colony, so that everyone speaks English in addition to their home tribal languages. The school system, language, dialect, teatimes, and sense of social interaction ("can I help you, Madame?") is very much influenced by the British. I attended a parish Mass on my first weekend and a wedding on my second weekend; the Church there is very much the Roman Church that we all know, with the African spirit of song and celebration livening up the services.

My trip to Nigeria, my workshop in New Orleans, and my trip to El Paso, all in a month's time, were indeed lessons in learning once again that we are all connected, no matter where we live, by virtue of the human heart, the common experiences of daily living, and our shared faith. How we live our lives and express ourselves is very much rooted in our own contexts, which is the very thing that we try to teach in our program. As I observed the Guadalupe procession in the El Paso cathedral, I could almost imagine the same scene in New Orleans, played out in the form of a brass band marching down the street! In Nigeria, I came to understand in a deeper way the story, song, and foods of African Americans. While conducting the workshop in New Orleans, the participants talked of their multi-cultural experiences, as we had a Grenadian who has spent much time in New York City, and a Californian who grew up in Korea. We also had a mix of folks from across the United States, talking in different dialects. As I left Nigeria, headed to the airport, Walt Disney's song really did come to mind – that we are indeed – a small world after all!

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