



Letter from the Director: Catholic Sisters and Sustainable Development in Africa

In mid-October and along with over 100 leaders of congregations of women religious in Africa, I attended “Catholic Sisters: Champions of Sustainable Development in Africa,” a conference sponsored by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Its name derives from the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) approved by 193 nations in 2015.

The goals are ambitious, as is their timeline. They seek to end poverty and hunger, to promote access to quality education for all, and to combat climate change — all this and much more by 2030. The conference sought to frame the work of Catholic sisters in Africa in terms of the SDGs.

On my trip, I met with some of our LIM students who belong to the Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro and the Kenya-Uganda Province of the Religious of the Sacred Heart. If our students are representative (and they surely are), Catholic sisters in Africa (and around the world) haven’t been using UN language to describe their ministries, but, in fact, they are ahead of the curve. They’ve been addressing the SDGs all along.

I could choose any of our students I met as an example, but I’ll focus on Sr. Teresa Aura, RSCJ, with whom I traveled around Kampala my last day there.

She is in her second stint at a girls school in Moroto in northwest Uganda. To get there, she can choose one of two daily buses for the 10-hour trip from Kampala, half of it on unpaved roads. When it rains and she’s traveling, Sr. Teresa welcomes it but prays that it not be torrential or else she and her fellow travelers spend the night on the side of the road. The closest grocery store of any size is 5 hours away.

Happy to be there now, she had a difficult introduction. She started at a time of unrest during which she spent nights on the floor avoiding gunfire and worrying about those caught in it. Prayer and community got her through.

Moroto is located in Uganda’s arid Karomoja subregion. Sr. Teresa worries about climate change and whether it will affect the annual rains that provide water, allow some agriculture, and support the central feature of Karomoja culture — cattle-herding. No rain could equal famine.



The SDG campaign invites governments, the private sector, civil society, and everyday citizens to take part in the campaign. [Learn more»](#)

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Exciting Opportunities for Study & Spiritual Growth

Ministry Skills Course

LIM 860: Practices for a Religiously Diverse World

- Spring 2017
- Wednesdays 6:20-9:05 p.m.
- Available to On-Campus and Online students

This course addresses practical matters pertaining to interfaith relations in the contemporary world. It helps students develop the necessary skillset and provides them with a broader theoretical framework for meeting the complex challenges of religious diversity in an increasingly globalized world. Students will not simply learn about interfaith relations but also how interfaith relations can be improved in their own experience in real-world situations. Students will critically analyze various points of contention in interfaith relations throughout the semester and propose potential solutions that lead to positive outcomes for all parties involved. The course will be taught by Professor Adil Khan, Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies at Loyola University New Orleans in the Department of Religious Studies. For more information, [GO»](#)



Arabic calligraphy of the Islamic phrase translated as "in the name of God, the gracious and merciful"; it is the phrase recited before each sura (chapter) of the Qur'an – except for the ninth.

10th Annual Summer Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership

- June 5-7, 2017
- Catholic Education/Formation: From and For Faith
- Keynoter: Thomas Groome, Ed.D.

Be sure to save the date for this year's Summer Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership! The Summer Institute, co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of New Orleans Offices of Religious Education and Catholic Schools along with LIM, is proud to announce that Thomas Groome, internationally acclaimed author and Professor of Theology and Religious Education at Boston College, will lead the institute.

Graduate students have the opportunity for attending the Summer Institute and earning credit for doing so as part of an independent study.

Alums, watch your email for details regarding a reception to take place Sunday evening before the Summer Institute begins on Monday.

Summer Institute Homepage [GO»](#)



*Thomas Groome, Ed.D.,
leader of the Summer
Institute*

Education for Social Justice: Summer Internship Program

LIM is looking for inquisitive minds to join our Social Justice Summer Internship program in New Orleans. This is a 3-credit program that engages passionate thinkers, doers, activists, and organizers in the work of transforming the city's most fragile and disposable communities. Participants will partner with Our School at Blair Grocery (OSBG) to learn, educate, and organize side-by-side with young people in the Lower 9th Ward to shift the geopolitical landscape that divides our city and our country. Located in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, OSBG is an alternative high school that incorporates experiential learning into the curriculum through its sustainability education center. At-risk teens learn about sustainability thinking as they are empowered to work to end hunger in New Orleans while building a community food enterprise that includes goats, a garden, and grocery. Learn more about OSBG [GO»](#)



To learn how you can become an agent of change in a movement to build practical, replicable, and achievable solutions, please email Dr. Tracey Lamont at tlamont@loyno.edu for more details.

Our School at Blair Grocery (OSBG), an independent alternative school and sustainability education center based in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans. Image Credit: [City Farmer News](#)

Spring Classes Set

Students are able to register now on LORA.

Online

[Practices for a Religiously Diverse World](#) (LIM C860-051)

[Christian Origins](#) (LIM C712-W01)

[Church, Sacraments, and Liturgy](#) (LIM C722-W01)

[Spirituality, Morality, and Ethics](#) (LIM G704-W01)

[Religious Communication](#) (LIM G885-W01)

[Pastoral and Educational Praxis](#) (LIM G886-W01)

On-Campus

[Practices for a Religiously Diverse World](#) (LIM C860-051)

[Christian Origins](#) (LIM C712-051)

[Church, Sacraments, and Liturgy](#) (LIM G722-051)



Faculty and Staff Updates

Tracey Lamont Joins LIM Faculty

In August 2016, Dr. Tracey Lamont joined the LIM faculty. She brings with her a breadth and depth knowledge and experience in religious education, particularly youth and young adult ministry. From her studies at Fordham University in New York City to her ministry and teaching in Tampa, Dr. Lamont has explored the role of religious education in the moral development of youth. Her research explores how constructive-developmental theory can help religious educators construct new ways to think about young adult moral development in a complex global society. An additional area of study and interest is the relationship between personal morality and social justice activity. These two areas of inquiry are addressed in an internship program she will be leading this summer with Our School at Blair Grocery in New Orleans (see page 3 for the full story). We welcome Dr. Lamont and are grateful for the talents and expertise she brings to the LIM community!



Cynthia Lee Says Farewell to LIM

It is not often that an organization has the blessing of employing a capable, personable, and conscientious individual for over twenty years, yet that is exactly the blessing that Loyola University and the Institute for



Ministry have had in Cynthia Lee. As Registration Coordinator of the Institute since the 1990s, Cynthia is well-known to facilitators and students in the extension program whom she has served in her gentle and supportive way, processing course registrations, withdrawals, and leaves of absence, researching financial questions, and ensuring access to course videos and audios. Even while working full-time at LIM, Cynthia earned her undergraduate degree at Loyola and, along with her husband, raised three children.

Cynthia will be leaving LIM in January 2017. As she anticipates the next chapter of her life, she remembers fondly all the relationships she has built over the years with members of the LIM community.

Dr. Michael A. Cowan on Sabbatical in Spring 2017

In academia, a professor uses sabbatical leave to study, conduct research, or engage in other activities related to scholarly interests, and a professor typically uses the time to pursue intellectual development and achievement. Dr. Michael Cowan will do just that as he takes a sabbatical in the spring 2017 semester. Given his vigorous commitment to seeking justice locally and studying processes for peacemaking that have global implications, Dr. Cowan will be busy.

As a founder of Common Good in New Orleans, an organization of religious and civic leaders seeking deep, structural ethics and criminal justice reform in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, and as a senior fellow at the Centre for Resolution of Intractable Conflicts (CRIC) at Harris Manchester College, Oxford University, Dr. Cowan has focused his research and public engagement on identifying and using the methods that barrier-crossing leaders rely on when attempting to resolve stubborn conflict.

As reported in the Spring 2016 LIM Express, Dr. Cowan is engaged in a research project to study how barrier-crossing leaders facing deep conflict—which is characterized by distrust and power imbalances and structured along racial, ethnic, religious, national, and class divides—are able to share leadership and address conflict positively. Currently, a research instrument is being tested in New Orleans and St. Paul, Minnesota. The research instrument, consisting of online multiple choice and open-ended questions, will give Dr. Cowan and his fellow researchers an insight into the skills, strategies, and mindsets of barrier-crossing leaders. Once initial data collection ends later this year, Dr. Cowan will interpret the results and modify the survey if needed before it is administered to barrier-crossing leaders facing intractable conflicts in a variety of locations, such as Belfast, Dublin, London, Seoul, Singapore, Paris, Berlin, Cairo and other locations in Latin America and the Philippines.

As he continues his study of barrier-crossing leaders during his sabbatical, Dr. Cowan will also work on behalf of the CRIC, founded by Lord John Alderdice of Belfast in 2013, as the volunteer coordinator of a financial stewardship campaign for the center. Acknowledging that divided communities are a threat to the world and the survival of all, CRIC has as its purpose supporting peacemaking in centers of conflict around the world, whether they be conflicts of war, such as in Syria, social conflict, such as the longstanding tensions between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland, or the racial tension—sometimes between police and citizens—across the United States. Just as practical theology is the practice of putting theology into action and refining that practice through experience and observation, those affiliated with CRIC acknowledge that in the field of peacemaking “theoretical advancement must be based on the evidence emerging from direct involvement with communities in conflict, and that resolving conflicts can be assisted by the thoughtful application of lessons learned from studying the experiences of other communities that have suffered similarly” (CRIC). To learn more about the center and its work, visit its [website](#).



On sabbatical, a scholar may visit an institution other than his or her own in order to gain new perspectives and stimulate fresh ways of thinking. Dr. Cowan will do this by teaching a seminar at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, where he is a Visiting Research Fellow in the Irish School of Ecumenics. The course will explore Jewish-Christian relations.

Although armed conflict may cease, stubborn confrontation still may exist. Here a young boy looks at a Loyalist (Protestant) paramilitary mural Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015, in Belfast, Ireland. The effective strategies of barrier-crossing leaders in such divided communities are being studied by Dr. Cowan who hopes to develop a toolkit that leaders facing similarly intractable conflicts may use. Credit: [International Business Times](#)

News and Announcements

Webinars

All webinars are free and open to the public, but attendance is limited to 100 participants and available on a first-come, first-served basis. To attend a webinar, go to <http://loyno.adobeconnect.com/webinar/>, select "Enter as a Guest," 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.



New Directions in Young Adult Ministry • November 16 • 8 p.m. Central

Tracey Lamont, Ph.D., lecturer in Religious Education and Practical Theology, Loyola Institute for Ministry will bring attendees up to date on trends and directions in contemporary young adult ministry.



A Update on the Diaconate • December 5 • 8 p.m. Central

Bill Ditewig, Ph.D., is Director of Faith Formation, Diaconate, and Planning in the Diocese of Monterey. Bill is also the author of books on a range of theological topics, including on the diaconate and the possibility of women deacons. He will offer his insight into the current state of the diaconate and where it might be headed.



Respect Life: Our Archdiocesan Approach • January 17 • 8 p.m. Central

Debbie Shinskie, Director of the Respect Life Office in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, discusses the approach, different from that take in other dioceses, that the Archdiocese of New Orleans takes in its Respect Life campaign and the programming it offers in support of it.

**Access past webinars at the
Webinar Archive**

[**GO»**](#)

Holiday Office Closures

Loyola University and the Institute for Ministry will be closed on the following dates for the upcoming holidays.

- November 23rd-25th • Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 22nd-January 2nd • Christmas

We will respond to email, voicemail, and fax communications upon our return to the office. Facilitators in our extension program may want to submit their course registrations for the spring 2017 semester by the first week of January to ensure timely processing.

Conferences: LIM at NCCYM, Gulf Coast

LIM will attend the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry's annual conference being held in San Jose, California. This year's theme is "Connect in Christ." The conference's emcee is Ansel Augustine, LIM graduate MRE Year. [Learn more»](#)

- San Jose, California
- December 1-3, 2016
- Booth #204
- San Jose Convention Center

Please stop by our booth to say hello!

LIM will also be at the GO! Gulf Coast Faith Formation Conference. This year's theme is "Prayer: The Faith Prayed and Lived." [Learn more»](#)

- Kenner, Louisiana
- January 12-14, 2017
- Pontchartrain Center



LIM Extension E-Submission Update

The LIM faculty and staff would like to thank all of the facilitators, students, and adjunct faculty who have shifted to using Blackboard for accessing course materials and forms and submitting papers and forms. While individual questions have arisen, the new process is working smoothly. If you have a question, see if it is answered on the e-submission [FAQ page](#). If not, send your question to LIM technical support at limtech@loyno.edu.

Letter from the Director Continued

Her main ministry addresses SDG 4 (quality education). From my conversation with her, it's clear her work also touches on SDG 1 (poverty), 2 (hunger), 3 (health and well being), 5 (gender equality), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 8 (decent work), 10 (reduced inequalities), 11 (sustainable communities), 13 (climate action), 15 (life on land), and 16 (peace and justice).



According to the United Nations, "On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years."

This season of thanksgiving and hope prompts me to express my gratitude. I am so inspired by and thankful for all our LIM students and graduates. In this particular case, I am grateful for my time in Kenya and Uganda, for the witness I encountered, and for the hospitality I received. I also value the SDGs as a frame for apostolic work. It can get those who address them the recognition and resources that so often go wanting. And while communities of women religious are not NGOs and would more likely characterize their work as evangelical, the UN's categories may help them find common ground with others in contributing to the flourishing of all life as envisioned by the Gospel.

Wishing you joy,

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



The LIM faculty and staff wish you Thanksgiving and Christmas blessings!



The Birth of Christ, Federico Barocci, 1597



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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

NOVEMBER

16th • Tracey Lamont, lecturer in Religious Education and Practical Theology at LIM, explores “New Directions in Young Adult Ministry” • Webinar • 8 p.m. Central • [GO»](#)

23rd-25th • Thanksgiving Holiday • University and LIM office closed

DECEMBER

1st-3rd • LIM at NCCYM Conference in San Jose, California, at the Conference Center • Booth 204 • [GO»](#)

5th • Bill Ditewig, Director of Faith Formation, Diaconate, and Planning in the Diocese of Monterey, gives “An Update on the Diaconate” • Webinar • 8:00 p.m. Central • [GO»](#)

22nd-Jan. 2nd • Christmas Holidays • University and LIM Office closed

JANUARY

12th–14th • LIM at the Gulf Coast Faith Formation Conference in Kenner, Louisiana, at the Pontchartrain Center • [GO»](#)

17th • Debbie Shinskie, Director of the Respect Life Office in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, discusses “Respect Life: Our Archdiocesan Approach” • Webinar • 8 p.m. Central • [GO»](#)