

## Letter from the Director

**W**ith the last word of today's Gospel, Jesus urges us to "Watch!" In fact, the Gospel of this first Sunday of Advent, Cycle B (Mark 13:33-37) has Jesus use a form of this Greek word three times, along with two other words for watchfulness. So, keep watch!



Tom Ryan, Ph.D.

For what? In its Markan setting, the text points to the end times. Yet, its location at the opening of Advent adds to its meaning. We should be on the lookout, even in these between-times.

At the end of what reads to me like a 270-page essay on watchfulness, Annie Dillard reproaches the refusal to be on the lookout:

Thomas Merton wrote, "there is always a temptation to diddle around in the contemplative life, making itsy-bitsy statues." There is always an enormous temptation in all of life to diddle around making itsy-bitsy friends and meals and journeys for itsy-bitsy years on end. It is so self-conscious, so apparently moral, simply to step aside from the gaps where the creeks and winds pour down, saying, I never merited this grace, quite rightly, and then to sulk along the rest of your days on the edge of rage.

I won't have it. The world is wilder than that in all directions, more dangerous and bitter, more extravagant and bright. We are making hay when we should be making whoopee; we are raising tomatoes when we should be raising Cain, or Lazarus.

...The gaps are the thing.... The gaps are the clefts in the rock where you cower to see the back parts of God; they are fissures between mountains and cells the wind lances through, the icy narrowing fiords splitting the cliffs of mystery. Go up into the gaps. If you can find them; they shift and vanish too. Stalk the gaps. Squeak into a gap in the soil, turn, and unlock-more than a maple- a universe. This is how you spend this afternoon, and tomorrow morning, and tomorrow afternoon. Spend the afternoon. You can't take it with you. (*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, 268-69)

Jesuit priest and paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin aligned scientific research with adoration, a kind of watchfulness, "Adoration's real name is ... Research" (Thomas King, "Scientific Research as Adoration," *The Way* 44.3 (2005), 21), and Simone Weil wrote that "Prayer [is] ... attention in its pure form" (*Gravity and Grace*, 173).

With his Examen, St. Ignatius provides us with an exercise for Advent watchfulness. It asks us where we've encountered God in our day. Practiced regularly in this season, it can prepare us for God's advent in Jesus 2000 years ago, even today in the expected and unexpected, and at the end. [Here is a version](#), developed by our LIM colleague Rev. Jerry Fagin, S.J. that our students pray as part of the spiritual formation portion of their studies with us. [continue reading the Director's Letter»](#)

## Theologian and Psychologist Michael A. Cowan, Ph.D., Retires

**D**r. Michael A. Cowan will welcome the new year with a new focus as he retires from the faculty of Loyola University New Orleans beginning January 2018. While he leaves behind a distinguished legacy at Loyola where he has served as a member of the LIM faculty and the director of the Lindy Boggs National Center for Community Literacy, Dr. Cowan's professional focus going forward will be on his work to create a toolkit of strategies and approaches that can be used by leaders trying to resolve intractable conflicts.

Throughout his career, Dr. Cowan has pursued his vigorous commitment to seeking justice locally and studying processes for peacemaking. He helped found 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. Currently, he is a senior fellow at the Centre for Resolution of Intractable Conflicts (CRIC) at Harris Manchester College, Oxford University, and Dr. Cowan will continue 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, through CRIC, 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, he is analyzing the results of a research instrument, tested in New Orleans and Minneapolis consisting of online multiple choice and open-ended ques-

tions, to gain insight into the skills, strategies, and mindsets of barrier-crossing leaders. Once perfected, this survey instrument will be 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 in order to learn more about the creative ways they are seeking to promote justice and resolve conflict.



In addition to continuing his research project, Dr. Cowan looks forward to continuing his association with Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, where he is a Visiting Research Fellow in the Irish School of Ecumenics and to continuing his association with LIM as a professor emeritus. Given the number of severely divided communities in the United States and around the world and the need for justice and reconciliation that his research will help to support, Dr. Cowan will certainly have a busy retirement.

## Christina DiMaggio and Materrinan “Terri” Zehyoue Join LIM Staff

**C**ristina serves in both the Religious Studies Department and the Institute for Ministry. At LIM, she is responsible for tracking LIM extension students’ academic progress, for posting LIMEX student grades, and for processing discernment decision forms, extension requests, adjunct faculty contracts and payments, and reordering of promotional materials.



**T**erri serves as the coordinator for the FaithActs program, a week-long summer institute for Catholic high school juniors and seniors that takes place on Loyola’s campus. The goal of the institute is to assist these youth in developing a practical and theological understanding of creation and the stewardship to which Catholics are called. (To learn more about FaithActs, see the article “FaithActs Youth Theology Institute Housed in LIM” later in this issue of the LIM Express.)



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### LIM Office Closure for the Holidays

**T**he university and the Institute for Ministry are closed from December 21<sup>st</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The university and LIM office will open on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Blackboard Upgrade

**B**lackboard will be unavailable from December 26<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup> while the university upgrades the system. Please plan accordingly. The upgrade will include new course tools and a new look.

### LIM’s College Renamed in Time for the New Year

**E**ffective January 2018, the College of Graduate and Professional Studies will undergo a name change to the College of Nursing and Health. It will continue to house the School of Nursing, the Department of Counseling, and the Loyola Institute for Ministry. Renaming the college will allow it to expand its undergraduate program offerings in the Jesuit values of mind, body, and spiritual health. As a result, the URLs of LIM web pages will change, but you will be automatically forwarded to the new URL. You should bookmark the new URLs once the new site is up in January.

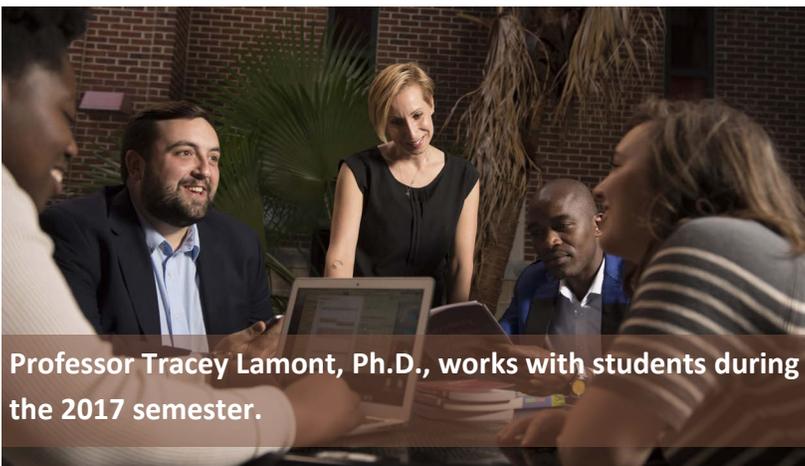
## Youth Ministry Focus Area Becomes Youth and Young Adult Ministry

**T**his fall, LIM received university approval to revise its focus area related to youth ministry to include a young adult ministry, aligning the program with developments in ministry at the national level, including a new focus on this area by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Thus, as of January 2018, the Institute for Ministry will be one of a few graduate Catholic ministry programs to offer coursework specifically on young adult ministry.

The curriculum revision was spearheaded by Tracey Lamont, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Religious Education, who knows the importance of recognizing young adult ministry as a separate but related field to youth ministry. In her work as a member of the USCCB's Young Adult Advisory team and as a committee member for the National Dialogue on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment, she understands the unique spiritual, developmental, and pastoral needs of young adults, ages 18-39, and the ministerial challenges they present to religious educators and ministry leaders.

Students in the Youth and Young Adult Ministry focus area will benefit from the change in several ways. Many church jobs are in youth and young adult ministry, and many directors and coordinators of religious education oversee both youth and young adult ministry. Thus the revised focus area makes LIM graduates both more marketable to employers and better prepared for their ministries. Students in other focus areas may opt to take these courses as electives to broaden their ministerial scope. These courses will keep students abreast of the latest developments in the field, such as the USCCB's call for a renewed emphasis on young adult ministry in their 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2018.

Changing our focus area on youth ministry to include young adult ministry allows our students to be more fully prepared for religious education and ministerial leadership in Catholic and other Christian communities through professional graduate education and through professional continuing education. Foundations of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (LIM 870) will be offered in the Summer 2018 semester, while Youth and Young Adults: Spirituality and Methods of Faith Development will be offered in the Summer 2019 semester.



Professor Tracey Lamont, Ph.D., works with students during the 2017 semester.

### January Webinar: Rising From The Ashes: Reconnecting Young Adults to Church through Moments of Return

Paul Jarzembowski, Assistant Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries at the USCCB, explores how liturgical seasons, Lent in particular, provide pastoral leaders with unique opportunities to encounter and accompany young adults in their late teens, 20s and 30s, especially those who have disconnected from the practice of the faith. 7PM CST, January 24, 2018 [GO»](#)

## FaithActs Youth Theology Institute Housed in LIM

By Materrinan “Terri” Zehyoue

Thanks to a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment, Loyola University will host students on campus for the FaithActs Youth Theology Institute in summer 2018. This is an opportunity for rising Catholic high school juniors and seniors to think theologically, engage in a multi-faceted learning environment, while contemplating God’s call for their lives. In its second year, FaithActs creates a path for students to use theological analysis to understand environmental threats facing Southeast Louisiana. It draws upon the wisdom of Pope Francis to guide this process, who in his encyclical *Laudato Si’*, invites us to look beyond ourselves to all creation when he writes, “The misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognize any higher instance than ourselves, when we see nothing else but ourselves” (#6).

For the first institute in June 2017, FaithActs welcomed 38 high school students from over ten high

schools across five different states. Students volunteered in a local elementary school garden, explored the Bayou Coquille trail at Jean Lafitte National Park, and even recycled Mardi Gras beads at ARC of Greater New Orleans. Each of these activities was complemented by a classroom component where students were taught by Loyola professors and engaged in discussion with institute leaders. Evenings consisted of reflecting in small groups with Loyola undergraduate student mentors and learning various types of prayer and meditation in order to connect the overall goals of the institute with Loyola’s Ignatian values. Perhaps most importantly, the high school students expressed a desire to continue learning about theology and returned to their communities with a continued desire to engage in environmental service. FaithActs leads to a sense of interconnectedness and challenges us all to remember our role as stewards of the gift of creation that God has bestowed upon us. To find out how to participate in FaithActs, [GO»](#)



FaithActs participants Abigail (left) and Christopher (right) cut the seed heads from plants and place them into paper collection bags to take home.



FaithActs participant Ally (right) and her mentor Madeline (left) share in delight at the sunflower they picked from the Edible Schoolyard garden at Samuel J Green Charter School.



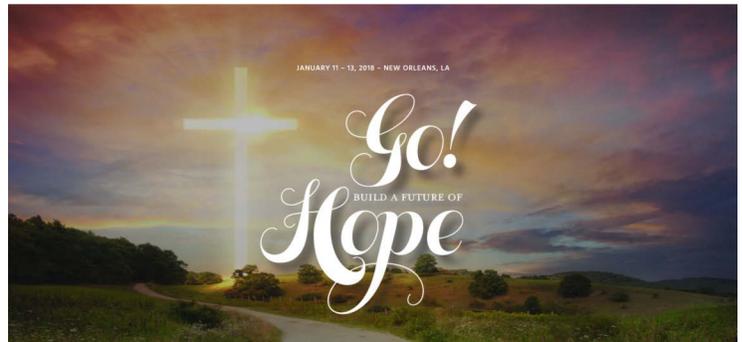
## Fully Online MBA – MPS Dual Degree

Pope Francis affirms the potential of economic life to create a more just world: “Economy and finance are dimensions of human activity and can be occasions of encounter, of dialogue, of cooperation, of recognized rights and of services rendered, of dignity affirmed in work” (2014 Address to World Congress of Accountants #4).

Graduate students who wish to develop a competence in business along with a spirituality of work may earn their Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS) dual degree fully online beginning in January 2018. Students must apply to and be accepted by each department (the College of Business and the Loyola Institute for Ministry, respectively) in order to enroll in the dual degree program. To learn more about the degree requirements, visit the LIM [programs of study](#) page. If you have questions about the dual degree, you may contact Diane Blair, Manager of Admissions and Student Services at [dblair@loyno.edu](mailto:dblair@loyno.edu).

## LIM at Gulf Coast Faith Formation Conference: January 11-13, 2018

This year’s conference will be held at the Pontchartrain Center, 4545 Williams Blvd., in Kenner, Louisiana. Join LIM faculty and staff for a beer, wine and hors d’oeuvres reception to meet students,



graduates, and friends and hear about exciting new developments; it’s on the first floor of the Hilton Garden Inn next to the Ponchartrain Center on Friday the 11th from 5:00 - 6:30 pm. In the exhibitor’s hall, LIM’s booth number is 115. A number of presentations by LIM alumnae, students, and faculty are scheduled:

Mary Birmingham (CPS '96)

- Catechesis and the Catechumenate, January 12, 1:30 - 2:30 pm
- Evangelization and Faith Formation in the Precatechumenate, Jan 13, 3:15 - 4:15 pm

Becky Eldredge (MPS '08)

- Making Hope Real January 12 @ 2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

- Our Lives: Hope for the Restless Heart January 13, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Lorraine Hess (MPS '18)

- Hope: Real-World Solutions for the Interpersonal Challenges of Parish Service, January 13, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Tracey Lamont

- Young Adult Responsive Parishes – January 13, 2:00 -

3:00 pm

- Catholic Identity through Religious Pluralism – January 12, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Amanda Livermore (MPS '14)

- Hope in the Vision, January 13, 11am - noon
- Meeting Teens on their Turf, January 13, 2-3 pm

To learn more about the conference or register [GO»](#)



## Small Christian Community Focus Area Revamped

Join students from around the world in summers 2018 and 2019 in taking updated online Small Christian Communities focus area courses. Prof. Michael Cowan will teach The Inner Life of Small Christian Communities in Summer 2018. For more information [GO»](#)

## Letter from the Director continued

Someone who has taught me about watchfulness is Professor Michael Cowan who will retire from full-time work in LIM and transition to Emeritus status in January. Mike has been at Loyola since 1990 as professor in the Loyola Institute for Ministry where he has taught and inspired LIM students on campus, in LIMEX, and online. He has also served as Executive Director of the Lindy Boggs National Center for Community Literacy, Founding Executive Director of Common Good, and Special Assistant to the President for Community Engagement.

Locally and among other things, he has been Chair of the New Orleans' Ethics Review Board, Chair of the New Orleans Crime Coalition, Chair of the New Orleans' Human Relations Commission, and Co-founder of the Shades of Praise Interracial Gospel Choir.

Farther afield, he is Senior Fellow in the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Social Conflict, Harris Manchester College, The University of Oxford and Visiting Research Fellow, Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin.

He has published on, among many other things, community organizing, small Christian communities, and practical theology, and he continues to research and write.

I am grateful for Mike's attentiveness to, his watchfulness for the signs of the times. I along with LIM, Loyola, New Orleans, the Church, the world are all the better for it. Thank you Mike!



Grace and peace to all this Advent season!

*Tom Ry*



## Job Openings at the Institute for Ministry

### Associate Project Director

The Associate Project Director is responsible for assisting the Project Director in implementing the grant received from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation entitled “Catholic Sisters in Partnership for Sustainability.” The purpose of the grant is to work with communities of Catholic sisters in East Africa to connect their charisms to Catholic social teaching and sustainability, to communicate their work on behalf of Catholic Social Teaching’s commitment to sustainability, and to leverage their work on sustainability through partnerships. This position involves assisting with managing all aspects of the grant—from orienting and assisting students, to communicating with stakeholders, to distributing learning materials, to working with the budget.

Qualifications: Knowledge of Catholicism and Catholic theology required, with a bachelor’s in this or related area, master’s degree preferred. Knowledge of African Catholicism and culture preferred, with work or volunteer experience in Africa preferred. Highly organized, with experience in project and budget management. Experience with an online course management system (such as Blackboard), social media, Microsoft Office, specifically Excel spreadsheets. Ability to learn and use new media and technologies efficiently to communicate with various stakeholders and to support the program. Ability to work and communicate with people from different cultures and countries and to work collaboratively with faculty and staff. Valid passport with ability to travel internationally, including to Africa. To apply, [GO»](#)

### Pastoral Ministry Faculty Position

The Loyola Institute for Ministry (LIM) of Loyola University New Orleans invites applications for a tenure-track, Assistant Professor position in Pastoral Ministry. Informed by the methodology of practical theology, LIM offers its graduate and certificate programs on campus, online, and face-to-face in English and Spanish around the country and around the world. The successful candidate will have a terminal degree in practical theology, pastoral studies, or other related field. ABD candidates will be considered. The successful candidate will teach courses in the areas of pastoral leadership, pastoral organization, and practical/contextual theology. Secondary expertise is welcome especially in moral theology but also in focus areas offered as part of LIM’s Master of Pastoral Studies program, or in areas including the Church in Africa, healthcare ministry, Catholic social teaching, and small Christian communities. The successful candidate will be Roman Catholic and have a thorough familiarity with contemporary Roman Catholicism and its theologies. Also required is experience in ministry and/or religious education, and in online teaching. For more information about the Loyola Institute for Ministry, please see <http://gps.loyno.edu/lim>. 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 email a letter, CV, contact information for three references, and a copy of the transcript of your highest degree earned to [lim@loyno.edu](mailto:lim@loyno.edu). Review of applications begins January 5, 2018.

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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.

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**For more information about  
studying with the  
Institute for Ministry:**

**[gps.loyno.edu/lim](https://gps.loyno.edu/lim)**

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**Merry Christmas!**



**May the timeless message of  
Christmas fill your heart and home  
with joy now and throughout the  
coming year.**

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