

LIM EXPRESS

Loyola Institute for Ministry · Fall 2018

Letter from the Institute

By Tracey Lamont, Ph.D.*



I wanted to take a moment to read the “signs of the times” with you. As a religious educator, I would be remiss if I failed to address the issues that affect our ministries and communities so deeply. The recent reports from the Pennsylvania Grand Jury and about former Archbishop McCarrick, along with the latest round of subpoenas in New York are heart and soul wrenching.

Amid many ongoing questions and concerns, one that comes to the forefront of my mind is, where do we go from here? How do we meaningfully respond — and can we? [Continue reading»](#)

* Dr. Lamont, Instructor of Record for courses in Religious Education and Youth and Young Adult Ministry, originally posted this letter to the students in her Fall 2018 Blackboard courses.

LIM Celebrates its Fiftieth Anniversary of Transformative Education

Placing the 50 year history of the Loyola Institute for Ministry in context is a daunting task.

Current director, Dr. Tom Ryan, explains it this way:

“I regularly tell people that LIM has helped to transform the US Church, and I do so with a smile that acknowledges the statement's hyperbole. But, really, we have. Graduates regularly tell me how their LIM studies have changed them and, through them, those they work with. With thousands of graduates around the country (and around the world), LIM has had a profound impact on lives and institutions.”



An exploration of the Institute’s past explains the truth behind his statement.

A Look Back

The history of the Institute for Ministry is, essentially, a story of adaptability, of responding in faith to the signs of the times, particularly as they relate to the needs of the Church and the laity for spiritual and educational formation and transformation. In its response, the Institute has, indeed, affected lay faithful the world over, and they, in turn, have shaped their local churches, dioceses, and communities.

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Second Hilton Grant Empowers Sisters as Leaders of Sustainable Development

by Sarah Demarais, Hilton Grant Administrator

Last November, we concluded the three-year project “Communicating Charism: Educating for Leadership and Social Media Capacity in Communities of Women Religious.” With funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, LIM partnered with seven congregations in the USA, Africa, and Asia. The participating Catholic sisters studied with LIM and developed skills for communication, technology, and leadership.

In recognition of the impact of this project, the Hilton Foundation funded a second grant. I joined the LIM team in January to manage our new grant, “Catholic Sisters in Partnership for Sustainability.”



New LIM students meeting LIM faculty and staff through video chat



Sisters in Tanzania working on their online Loyola applications

Our project aims to extend the remarkable impact religious sisters make as leaders of human development. In their commitment to serving the poor and marginalized, sisters contribute to the realization of the UN Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs), 17 “global goals” for human well-being and environmental protection. The SDGs are resonant with the ideals of Catholic Social Teaching (CST).

To build the capacity of sisters to work in partnership towards achieving the SDGs, LIM developed a new Certificate in Catholic Social Teaching. The coursework empowers students to connect the SDGs to CST and their own cultural identities and congregational charisms, while developing skills in partnership, resource development, and communication.

I joined this project because I am inspired by LIM’s model of practical theological education that inspires transformative action in service of human flourishing. In March, I traveled to East Africa to meet our new students and orient them to LIM. The

[Continue reading»](#)

sisters—nearly 40 women from eight partnering congregations—minister in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and South Sudan. They include teachers, congregational superiors, counselors, a medical doctor, a university professor, and more—all committed to leadership of sustainable development.

On my visit I was embraced and inspired by these remarkable women, joyful servant-leaders, and experienced the tangible grace of hospitality and cross-cultural partnership. The sisters eagerly collaborated and built friendships across congregational, national, and tribal lines. One sister reflected, “I felt a sense of awakening... [the meeting] inspired me to rethink and find ways to bring into light the many unrecognized works that my fellow sisters do for the sake of sustainable development.”

When I try to explain the profound impact of my encounters with the sisters, I find myself wanting for words, and so I reach for this story: one of our students ministers to internally displaced persons in South Sudan, a new nation facing many challenges. She described immense suffering, trauma, and

deprivation, and the ever-looming threat of renewed violence. It would have been easier to remain safely with her own family in Kenya. But she came to serve, she said simply, because “this is where people are suffering.” Her congregation accompanies the suffering, without regard for their own safety or comfort.

This awe-inspiring mission prompts me to reflect on the many ways I cling to my own safety and comfort – sometimes, perhaps, in ways that function to insulate me from the poor and vulnerable. Our new LIM students truly live, and indeed embody, Catholic Social Teaching. They actualize communities committed to peace, justice, and sustainable development, and they inspire all of us at LIM with their profound commitment to building the Reign of God.

It is our hope that their LIM education empowers these sisters with skills for leadership, communication, and partnership, to enrich their ministries and extend their influence in service of sustainable development.

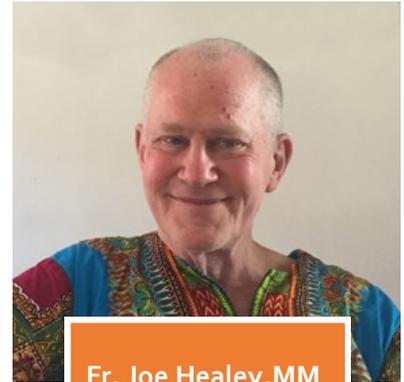


Sarah (center, in purple sweater) with Kenyan and Ugandan sisters in Nairobi

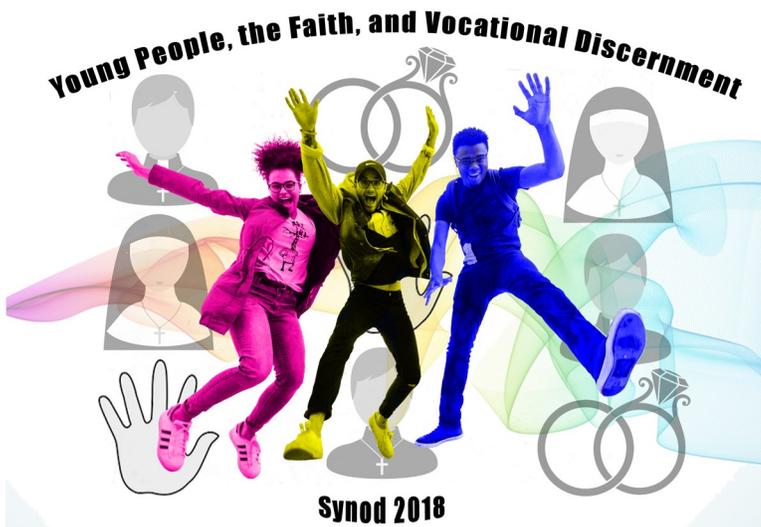
LIM EVENT **Listening to Young People Around the World: A Book Release and Report on the Synod on Young People** NOV. 2, 2018

At 7 p.m. Central on Friday, November 2, LIM will host an evening with Maryknoll Missionary Fr. Joe Healey, who will report on and respond to the Synod on Young People. LIM will also celebrate the release of *God's Quad: Small Christian Communities on Campus and Beyond* (Orbis Press, 2018), to which Fr. Healey is a contributor.

This October in Rome, Pope Francis will convene the Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment. Recognizing the gifts that youth offer the Church and the challenges they face, it will gather youth and church leaders to identify how to accompany young people in discerning God's calling for their lives.



Fr. Joe Healey, MM

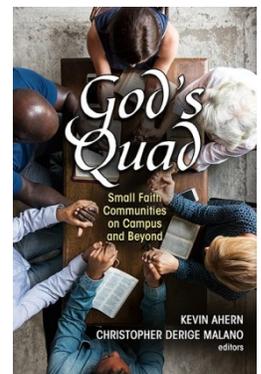


Flowing from its commitment to youth and young adult ministry, LIM will host this event entitled "Listening to Young People Around the World: A Book Release and Report on the Synod on Young People." The first part involves participants from the Synod reporting on their experience at the event and its implications for youth and young adult ministry; a book release celebration follows.

You can attend the event in person by coming to Miller Hall, Room 114, on Loyola's Main Campus on November 2, or you may attend virtually via Facebook Live. The program will begin at 7 p.m.

Book Release Celebration at November 2nd Event

Small Christian communities for young adults represent an important response to the challenges the Synod will address. The book *God's Quad: Small Christian Communities on Campus and Beyond* (Orbis Books 2018) is a collection of case studies that reveal the best practices of Christian communities for young adults. Contributors to the volume, Joe Healey, MM, and LIM graduate student Alloys Nyakundi, will be on hand to discuss the book's implications for creating and sustaining young adult faith communities.



Students in Benin City Earn Certificates in Religious Education

On June 16, the Archbishop of Benin City, Nigeria, who is also President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria, presided at a Mass of celebration on the occasion of the graduation of two groups of students.

One was the second LIMEX group from Nigeria to graduate with 12-course Continuing Education Certificates. The other were participants from the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the project entitled "Communicating Charism: Educating for Leadership and Social Media Capacity in Communities of Women Religious" funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. They received 6-course Certificates in Theology and Ministry.



LIM graduates assembled at a Mass celebrating their achievement.

LIM graduate Sr. Cecilia Dimaku, SSH, represented Loyola at the graduation and read a letter from LIM Director Tom Ryan that concluded with, "Our educational partnership with you has been a blessing to me personally as a result of my visits there and the inspirational hospitality you have extended to me. I have grown in understanding of the Body of Christ, the Church, as a result. You have also been a blessing more broadly to us at Loyola University New Orleans and have enriched our own understandings of ministry and the universal Church. For this we are deeply grateful and thank God for all that has been and will continue to be as we trust in the Spirit who leads us all."

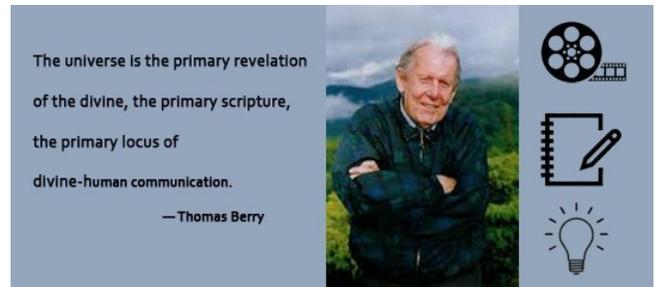
The faculty and staff at Loyola congratulate our 2018 graduates in Africa as well as those in the United States!

The Thomas Berry Project: Moving Forward

LIM is grateful especially to the leadership of graduate Carol Lenox and graduate and adjunct faculty member Marion Danforth for their work in helping to make the life and thought of Thomas Berry more widely known.

A number of videos of Thomas Berry's appearances at Loyola have been digitized and a small committee is working to develop a package containing videos and reflections from Thomas Berry that could be used for a retreat, morning of reflection, discussion group, etc. When it's done, we want to make it available to our students and graduates to test out and give us feedback. Then we can distribute it more widely and develop other material for these and similar uses.

For more information about the Berry Project and to support its work, [GO»](#)



LIM's College Renamed

In January 2018, the college in which the Institute for Ministry resides was renamed, changing from the College of Graduate and Professional Studies to the College of Nursing and Health. CNH continues 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. It will also enable the college's three units to collaborate on efforts related to their shared commitments to health in mind, body, and spirit. As a result of the new name, the URLs of LIM web pages will change, but if you use an old URL, you will be automatically forwarded to our website.

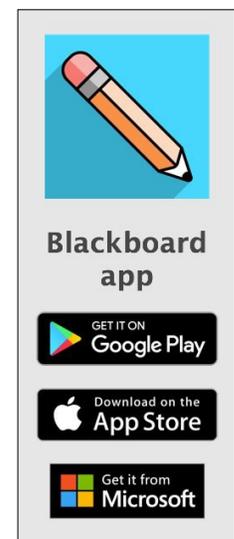
Blackboard Upgrade: Collaborate

Many LIM students are familiar with using Go-To-Meeting to connect in real-time with their professor and fellow students; a recent upgrade to Blackboard includes Collaborate, a virtual classroom that will replace Go-To-Meeting.

With one click, users can meet face-to-face in a virtual chat with faculty and students. The application has many helpful features: students can raise a virtual hand to get the professor's attention, users can share their screens with one other, and participants can even divide into breakout groups during a session.

Making this application even more appealing is that fact that it is mobile-friendly. Users can connect through their phone as well as a tablet or laptop.

Collaborate is available in Fall 2018 courses. To view a tutorial, [GO»](#)



Loyola Pastoral Life Center, LPLC, Turns 25

In November 1992, the Institute for Pastoral Life (IPL) from Kansas City, Kansas, relocated to Loyola University and was renamed Loyola's Pastoral Life Center, LPLC. Although the move took place in November 1992, it was not until the summer of 1993 that LIM first offered courses with a direct, traceable connection to the ministry education curriculum for parish life coordinators inherited by LIM from the former IPL.

In late 1994, the mission statement of the LPLC underwent a significant revision. The current mission of the LPLC today is to provide continuing education opportunities, ministry studies programs, and spiritual enrichment for women and men involved in various aspects of the church's life in order to prepare them for leadership in Christian ministry and further the mission of the church community to promote the Reign of God.

In pursuing its important mission, the Loyola Pastoral Life Center is particularly dedicated to helping the national church, diocesan pastoral offices, and ministry leaders in local churches improve the quality of grass-roots level Christian life and ministry. In doing its work, the LPLC remains particularly attentive to the multicultural and ecumenical dimensions of the church in the United States, to smaller dioceses and Christian home missions, and to local church communities with new and emerging forms of lay pastoral leadership.

The LPLC is living its mission with programs supporting the leadership development. Since 2007 in collaboration with the Archdiocese of New Orleans, the LPLC hosts the annual Summer Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership.



Through the rich interaction between national Catholic experts and practitioners in the field, the Summer Institute provides opportunities for networking and professional development by new and veteran members of Catholic school leadership teams.

The LPLC supports the development of future leaders by housing, since 2017, the FaithActs Summer Youth Theology Institute, a one-week residential program to help students develop their Catholic faith as they explore the intersection of morality, service, and social justice. The theme for the 2019 program is Healing the Earth.

A third program reaches out to Spanish-speaking Catholics seeking to understand and apply theology in a practical way to their ministry. Through the *Certificación en Teología y Ministerio*, the LPLC gives participants a grounding in the Catholic biblical and theological tradition, so that students may deepen their own understanding of and relationship to God and are better prepared to serve others in their ministries.

To learn more about the LPLC and its programs, [GO»](#)

Letter from the Institute by Dr. Tracy Lamont *continued*

Several Bishops have written letters or made public statements apologizing, expressing their guilt and shame, and demanding more accountability. They are calling for more stringent reforms to the [policies](#) designed to protect children and young people. Pope Francis issued a [statement](#) to the global church, urging the faithful to unite in prayer over these atrocities. I spent time with several priests at a conference in San Antonio recently, many of whom expressed their own upset and agony over the scandal, hoping they can be a part of the institutional change needed to address this tragedy.

Finally, each one of us is likely processing and/or suffering over this crisis in our own ways. Several of you have already begun discussing this in our online learning community.

Fr. James Martin, SJ, encourages Catholics to take this anger and sadness and turn it into holy action. In a recent Op-Ed for the *New York Times*, Fr. Martin [writes](#):

Those Catholics who are feeling angry today are, in the Christian worldview, feeling God's anger. This is, as I see it, God's primary way of acting in the world: through our human emotions. How else would God act, how else would God intervene, how else would God move to change things, other than to rouse in us a burning desire to upend the tables of the clerical culture and chase out all those who have defamed and abused the trust placed in them?

What can Catholics do? Listen to your anger. Let it inform you. Let it move you to act in whatever way you think will most protect children and root out the clerical rot that gave rise to these crimes. I can only suggest a few specific actions: Speak to your pastor, write to your bishop, express your anger to the Vatican's nuncio in this country. Most of all, work in any way that you can for real change, even at the cost of being seen as a troublemaker.

I affirm Fr. Martin's words, and hope to turn my own anger and sadness into holy action. As many of us know, the young church is hungering for communities they can proudly call their own, for authentic witness of the faith. Amidst these tragic, scandalous, and dire reports, many have walked away, ashamed to be a part of an institution that seems to perpetuate these appalling acts. We can still reach out to the young church, and to others, to comfort them and offer them an attentive ear.

Some parishes and dioceses are hosting listening sessions where the faithful can discuss openly their anger, frustrations, pain, and fears. There are several good models and resources for hosting listening sessions, including a "Courageous Conversations" facilitator guide. You can ask your pastors and/or parish councils to do the same, and ask the directors in your diocese what resources they may have, such as trained facilitators or professionals in grief counseling, to support these sessions.

Above all, I wanted to write to let you know your LIM community stands with victims, is advocating for change, and praying for healing.

LIM Celebrates its Fiftieth Anniversary of Transformative Education

continued

The Institute for Ministry began in 1968 as the Catechetical Institute of New Orleans at Notre Dame Seminary. As circumstances changed, so did the location of classes and student residences, which moved in 1973 to Loyola's campus, although administrative offices remained at Notre Dame Seminary. The Catechetical and Pastoral Institute of New Orleans moved permanently to Loyola in 1978, where it was renamed the Catechetical and Pastoral Institute of Loyola (CPIL) and became part of the university's program of graduate studies, offering master's degrees in pastoral studies and religious education. Five years later in 1983, the Board of Trustees changed CPIL's name to the Loyola Institute for Ministry (LIM) and the extension program (LIMEX) was begun.

The move to Loyola also marked a shift in the students the program served. While previous students were primarily seminarians and religious brothers and sisters, increasingly lay people began enrolling in the on-campus program. The newly-formed extension program that had been initially created in response to the request by Louisiana dioceses for graduate education in their locations would soon serve students not only in Louisiana, but also in Switzerland, Scotland, England, Canada, Belize, and Nigeria.

Changes in response to the signs of the times continued in the following years. In 1989 new on-campus concentrations were developed and added to religious education, including pastoral administration, pastoral counseling, and small Christian community formation. Additional concentrations were added as student needs arose and their interests broadened, such as Christian spirituality, digital culture and ministry, youth and young adult ministry, marketplace ministry, and religion and ecology.

In Fall 2009, the extension program trained its first facilitators in Nigeria, while in the summer of 2010, the Institute piloted its Spanish-language courses in the extension format. Seeing the need for greater flexibility in educational options, in the 2011-2012 academic year, LIM launched its fully online master's degree programs, allowing students to earn graduate degrees or certificates wherever they might reside and serve others.

Outreach to religious sisters in Africa, made possible through grants by the Hilton Foundation, continues the Institute's mission, mirroring the Jesuits' willingness to serve where called for "the greater glory of God and the good of souls," as Saint Ignatius says in the *Constitutions of the Society of Jesus* (part VII, ch. 1, n. 1). Similarly, the Institute and its students continue to serve where needed to build the kingdom of God.

Looking Forward

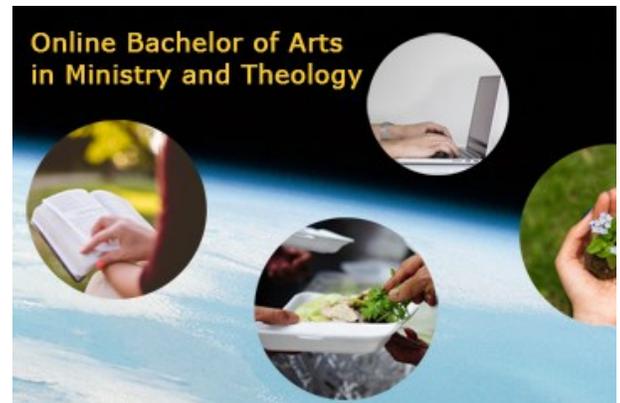
Charting a course forward in turbulent waters is never easy. Truly, current events in the worldwide church and beyond its borders challenge the faithful, and the Loyola Institute for Ministry also finds itself navigating changing conditions. Yet its history of finding innovative ways to respond to the needs of adult learners and

[Continue reading»](#)

New Undergraduate Degree in Ministry and Theology Online

LIM is excited to announce its fully online Bachelor of Arts in Ministry and Theology. This undergraduate degree will develop students' knowledge of the Christian tradition and help them to develop the skills needed to serve others in meaningful work in the world in response to the Spirit's call. The fully online Bachelor of Arts in Ministry and Theology degree allows students to pursue their passion where they are, whatever their ministry or workplace service may be.

The program requires two or more years of full-time work or volunteer experience for admission, allows students to transfer up to 90 credit hours of coursework from accredited colleges and universities, and requires 120 credits for completion. To learn more, [GO»](#)



LIM Celebrates its Fiftieth Anniversary of Transformative Education

continued

the Church suggest that the Institute will continue to develop new ways to educate men and women to make a difference in the world.

The Institute will continue to draw strength from its network of students, alumni, facilitators and liaisons, faculty and former faculty, staff, generous donors, foundation partners, and diocesan colleagues. When reflecting upon the Institute at 50, LIM professor emerita and former Director Barbara Fleischer acknowledged the personal and professional connections that shaped her experience at LIM and that enabled LIM, in turn, to shape the world and church:

“As I think back on the richness of the Loyola Institute for Ministry’s 50 years of service, I can only give thanks for the wonderful network of amazing people who have been associated with LIM and who have touched my life in so many ways. While there are many memories that I could share with gratitude, I share one of my earliest. Thirty-two years ago, LIM Director Robert Ludwig told me in my initial interview (prophetically) that the Loyola Institute for Ministry would have a major impact on the church in the United States. A few years later we had over 1,000 students, future pastoral leaders, in over half of the United States dioceses. Little did Dr. Ludwig know at that time that we would eventually have students in Canada, Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. It has been a humbling and most growthful experience to have been blessed with the opportunity to work at the Loyola Institute for Ministry. May LIM discover new and creative ways to serve during its next 50 years!”

As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Loyola Institute for Ministry, we echo Dr. Fleischer’s gratitude for what has been and ongoing commitment to serve the Church and the world for many, many years to come!

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 digital distribution by Jennifer Shimek.

Programs of Study

Graduate Degrees

- Master of Pastoral Studies
- Master of Religious Education
- Master of Pastoral Studies/Master of Business Administration
- Master of Pastoral Studies/Master of Science in Counseling
- Master of Pastoral Studies/Master of Criminal Justice

Graduate-Credit Certificates

- Graduate Certificate in Theology and Ministry
- Post-Master's Certificate in Pastoral Studies

Continuing Education Certificates

- Certificate in Pastoral Studies
- Certificate in Religious Education
- Continuing Education Certificate in Theology and Ministry
- Advanced Continuing Education Certificate in Pastoral Studies
- Certificación de Educación Continua en Teología y Ministerio

Bachelor's Degree Programs

- Bachelor of Arts in Ministry and Theology
- Religious Studies BA/Master of Pastoral Studies or Master of Religious Education

**For more information about
studying with the
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cnh.loyno.edu/lim**



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