

November 2015



From the Director...



Dear Friends of LIS,

November not only finds us celebrating **All Saints** (Nov. 1) and commemorating the faithful departed (**All Souls**, Nov. 2), but we end the month with a special day of **Thanksgiving** (Nov. 26). So we are most grateful to our good friend, **Bishop Kevin Vann**, the shepherd of the Diocese of Orange, for writing another short article for this month's LIS Newsletter, in which he reminds us of several

interesting saints whose feasts are celebrated this month (see below).

For the first time this year, the Catholic Church also invites everyone to participate in "**National Bible Week**," **Nov. 15-21**, under the theme, "The Bible: A Book for the Family." Because Ignatian Spirituality is so strongly based on biblical foundations, LIS continues to offer a variety of biblical courses, workshops, and a multi-year institute to help you deepen your knowledge and appreciation of the scriptures, and thereby to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

This newsletter contains several other interesting articles, so let me keep this intro paragraph short and simply invite you to read on...

May God continue to bless you and inspire you!

Fr. Felix Just, S.J.
Executive Director of LIS

A Note from Bishop Kevin Vann

November 10, 2015

Dear friends of the Loyola Institute,

This morning as I was celebrating 6:30 AM Mass in the Arboretum on the Christ Cathedral campus, during the proclamation of the first reading from Wisdom 3, which speaks of the "souls of the just," the morning sun came through at the exact moment of the Word of God which said, "*at the time of their visitation they shall shine and shall dart about as sparks through stubble!*"

This is certainly a fitting excerpt from the Word of God for us as we begin this month of November with so many saints and feast days in the Church's liturgical calendar. If we have experienced the "discernment" of one's personal vocation through the spiritual exercises, it is indeed a moment when the light of Christ shines on our lives and reflections. The Saints in the month of November do just that for us as well! This month it would be worthwhile for us to take



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Our Mission

In the Ignatian tradition, Loyola Institute for Spirituality accompanies people on their journey toward a life-giving relationship with God, self, and others, through experiential formation to help transform the world.

The values of collaboration, ecumenism and cultural diversity guide the programs and services of Loyola Institute for Spirituality



some time to reflect on the Saints in the calendar, and how they followed their own personal call to holiness and mission.

We can certainly think of the celebration of the anniversary of the dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome (Nov. 9) - a reflection on the entire family of God and what the significance of a Cathedral is for the unity of the Church; St. Leo the Great (Nov. 10) is a call to heroism in challenging times as he defended the divinity of Christ, and in his care for his people was unafraid of the challenges of the invasions from the North; St. Martin of Tours (Nov. 11) teaches us, with the story of his cloak and laying down his sword, of being attentive to the poor and praying for peace. Did you know that November 11 (Veterans' Day) can be traced back directly to St. Martin, because peace treaties were originally signed on his feast day? Thus the treaty which ended the First World War was signed on his feast day; it was originally called "Armistice Day" and the name later changed to "Veterans Day".

St. Josaphat (Nov. 12) teaches us of the heritage of our Eastern Church brothers and sisters and the foundation of being in communion with the See of Rome, for which St. Josaphat gave his life. St. Albert the Great (Nov. 15) is a reminder that faith and science are not necessarily exclusive. Finally, St. Elizabeth of Hungary (Nov. 17), who was a Third Order Franciscan, gives us a history lesson (like that of St. Margaret of Scotland, Nov. 16) that many of the rulers of the Middle Ages lived their faith so definitively that they were always motivated by the spiritual and material welfare of the people in their kingdoms. And there are others as well!

The lives of these holy men and women are truly like the light of the morning sun which reflected the lives of the saints whose example and intercession shines for us "like sparks through stubble" as we pray to find, through prayer, discernment and daily life, our "calling with the calling" of our vocations in the Body of Christ!

God bless you all these holy days.

+Kevin W. Vann

[\(Click here for a PDF version of Bishop Vann's Letter\)](#)



LIS Highlight:

Together: Looking Back; Looking Forward **Ignatian Morning, October 11, 2015**

LIS Staff and Associates presented an "Ignatian Morning" that will not soon be forgotten by those who attended. The day opened with a multi-media prayer experience created by Denise Healey, which set the tone of the day through profoundly inspiring visuals, words, and music. Wayne Hubert delivered a moving presentation on the importance of grate-fulness in one's life, despite whatever life throws at us. We were



invited to reflect and view the events of our own lives through eyes of gratitude. He reminded us to "rest in the love God has given us." Rosa Lim's presentation focused on the importance of putting ourselves in the hands of God and seeing ourselves through God's eyes. She challenged us to embrace the ability to let go of the many things that keep us from living the life God wants for us.

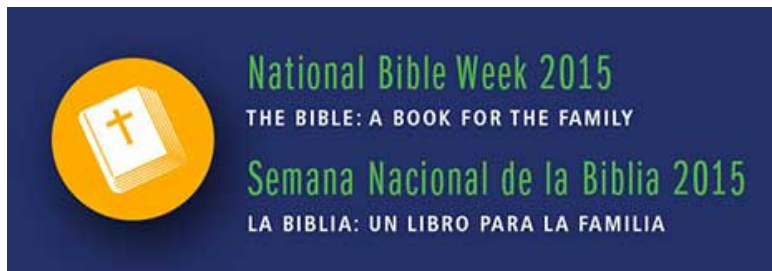
At the concluding Mass, Fr. Felix invited us to place our focus on God, encouraged us to pray for the virtues we need, and reminded us to take time for reflection in order to orient our life to God. Our liturgy was made more beautiful by the music provided by our talented Associates, Jack Gonsalves and Liliana Hsueh-Gutierrez.

The few hours we spent together planted seeds for deeper relationship with God.

The take away: God is good, and gratitude leads us to see that goodness on a deeper level; God has a dream for each one of us, but it's up to us to be open to that dream and it's okay to ask God for help in discovering that life.

A word of thanks to the LIS Associates who shared their gifts and talents to make this a beautiful morning of reflection and spiritual nourishment.

**Mark your calendars for the next Ignatian Morning:
Sunday, January 17, 2016, at the Saint Joseph Center in Orange.**



From November 15-21, 2015, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops invites families, parishes, schools, and other Catholic groups to participate in National Bible Week in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum*. This year's theme, "The Bible: A Book for the Family," builds on this year's Synod of Bishops on the Family and Pope Francis's visit to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families. (Source: USCCB)

[For more information and resources, please visit the USCCB website by clicking here.](#)



Jesuit Father Miguel Pro joined the Society of Jesus in 1909. Shortly thereafter he was

forced to flee his native Mexico due to religious persecution from the government. In 1925 he was ordained a priest in Belgium, and a year later he returned to Mexico where he ministered clandestinely to the persecuted Catholic community of Mexico City and surrounding areas. He would often disguise himself as he went about celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, anointing the sick, and distributing food to the poor.

In 1927 Miguel and two brothers were falsely accused and arrested when a bomb was thrown at President Calles from a car previously owned by one of the Pro brothers. Miguel was sentenced to death for carrying out his priestly duties and defying the ban on Catholicism. Calles decided to make an example of the brothers by publicizing the execution.

Miguel stood in front of the firing squad with courage in his heart and his arms outstretched in the form of a cross. As the order to fire was given, Miguel shouted out, "¡Viva Cristo Rey!", "Long live Christ the King!" Fr. Miguel Pro was beatified on September 25, 1988, by Pope Saint John Paul II. His feast day is November 23.



Not only on November 26, but all year long:

**We give thanks to God for you
and for our ministry as together we continue
*Bringing Spirituality to Life!***

Join the #unselfie Movement

Will you help

LIS? Black Friday. Cyber Monday.
#GIVINGTUESDAY
 December 1, 2015

After shopping on
 Black Friday & Cyber Monday,

please consider participating in
Giving Tuesday
 by making a donation to
Loyola Institute for Spirituality

[Of course, you don't have to wait until then!]

[Please click here to go to our donations page.](#)

Thank you for helping us
Bring Spirituality to Life!



Advent begins November 29, 2015

Anthony De Mello, S.J., told about the following exchange between a student and his spiritual director:

Student: Is there anything I can do to make myself enlightened?

Director: As little as you can do to make the sun rise in the morning.

Student: Then of what use are the spiritual exercises you prescribe?

Director: To make sure you are not sleeping when the sun begins to rise.

Advent comes to us when the nights are darker, the days are colder, and the earth is dormant. Most of us begin to yearn for the warmth and life that come in spring. Over time, the longer days come and the earth sprouts with new life. Christ too comes to satisfy the longings that arise in our darkness. He is "the tender mercy of the Father, the dawn that shall break upon us to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. He is the one who will guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:78-79)

Are you awake as the sun begins to rise?

Save the Date:

LIS Speaker Series
Sunday, January 24, 2016

Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J.

Seeing God in All Things:
From St. Ignatius to Modern Cosmology



Sunday, January 24, 2016

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Center, Orange, CA

Reflections from a Grateful Heart

by **Sr. M. Barbra Ostheimer, S.N.D.**

November, a month marked by Thanksgiving Day, calls me to focus on blessings for which I am grateful. An outstanding gift of the past almost ten years has been God's call to ministry at a spirituality institute, namely, Loyola Institute for Spirituality. A spirituality institute is rare. It exudes spiritual values that counter popular cultural trends that can quietly resist values of the spirit.

Spiritual growth is about relationships, first of which is our relationship with God, with Christ Jesus. An individual is drawn to Loyola Institute in the hope of fulfilling the dream of becoming who God calls him or her to be. Yes, a spirituality institute is about a thirst to BE the person who I can be. It is a search for becoming through growth in a personal spiritual relationship and a desire to make a difference in our world. The interior motivation that draws an individual is not motivation to DO something for gain's sake, but simply to BE for God's sake.

This grace-felt attraction draws one into a relationship with like-minded individuals who share a unique and similar desire to "become", to reach a potential that is popularly unrecognized. Such men and women engage in courses, retreats, and ministry to others and they dedicate themselves to out-reach, to share "the fire of God's love" in an effort to set the whole world on fire as envisioned by Saint Ignatius of Loyola in the 1500's.

As an individual moves through the LIS spiritual formation program, he or she grows, matures into a new "you". The "new you" is someone who is lovingly accepting of others who are both like and very different from oneself. This transformation takes place by God's quiet transformative action. The outcome is a community of persons who are accepting of one another without distinction of social, cultural, religious, and economic backgrounds. The LIS community is formed by a common love for Christ Jesus and by living the values of Christ Jesus. Such a community is motivated by the burning desire to make a difference in our world.

These men and women who make this journey contribute to the transformation of the world by being active in ministry with the staff members of Loyola Institute for Spirituality. Thus, they are called "LIS Associates". They evoke my admiration by their acceptance of one another and their generosity and sacrifice in spiritual ministry. It is a joy for me to give thanks to God for these men and women at the outset of this Thanksgiving month.

As a staff member, I want to express my thanks in a public way for each LIS Associate with whom I have ministered during my years at this most unique Institute, which focuses on Christ Jesus with a passion characteristic of Ignatian Spirituality. I am fortunate to breathe daily an atmosphere that is alive with reverence and respect for each person. Thus each person can come to a deeper awareness of God's great love for him or her and know better who God created him or her to be. I can truly say that the LIS Associates, collectively and individually, bring to my mind a precious line from the Scriptures: "See how they love one another." (John 13:35) These men and women really make a difference! I thank God for the LIS Associates, a cohort of transformed persons marked by generosity, sacrifice and joyful loving service. For each of them, I give thanks to God!

And for what are YOU grateful?



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Become a Member of LIS:

*LIS Membership is open to anyone
who wants to support our vital ministries.*

Members not only receive certain benefits, but also provide much-needed financial support on a more stable and regular basis. We have established several categories of LIS Membership, which are renewable annually, on a calendar-year basis:

- **Regular Members** - those who donate **\$100 or more** within a calendar year
- **Supporting Members** - those who donate **\$250 or more** within a calendar year
- **Major Donors** - those who donate **\$500 or more** within a calendar year:
 - Manresa Circle - min. \$500
 - Peter Faber Circle - min. \$1,000
 - Francis Xavier Circle - min. \$2,500
 - Ignatius Loyola Circle - min. \$5,000
 - Magis Circle - min. \$10,000
- **Sustaining Members** - those who pledge to donate on a **monthly or quarterly basis**
 - Your total annual donations qualify you as a regular member, supporting member, or member of one of the Major Donor Circles.

Membership Benefits include:

- **Gifts of Appreciation** - religious bookmarks, calendars, books, pins, and other items
- **Invitations to Special Events** - annual BBQ, Ignatius Day Mass, Open House
- **Discounts on LIS Programs** - members-only rates on select courses and events
- **Public Recognition** - listing on LIS website and in the "Hearts on Fire" program
- **Personal Satisfaction** - knowing that you are helping LIS ministries to grow

How Your Membership Donation Helps LIS:

- Scholarships for deserving people
- Retreats for homeless persons
- Leadership training for young adults
- Expanded programs in Spanish and several Asian languages

- Spiritual direction for individuals
- New staff to help serve more people

With your help, we will be able to meet growing needs fueled by a deep spiritual hunger that so many people are experiencing today. Our program fees are kept as low as possible, and we offer scholarships whenever needed and possible. We are committed to remaining affordable and accessible for all people, especially in these difficult times.

Become a Member of LIS now.

**For more information, please see our website (www.loyolainstitute.org)
or call the LIS office at 714-997-9587.**

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