



December 2015



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## From the Director...



Dear Friends of LIS,

**Ignatian Spirituality** teaches us that we are all sinners, but that God never ceases to love us, forgive us, and shower his compassionate mercy upon us. Indeed, without **God's mercy and love** sustaining us each and every day, we would cease to exist!

Last Tuesday, Dec. 8, on the 50th Anniversary of the Conclusion of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Francis ceremonially began the Extraordinary Holy Year, the **Jubilee of Mercy**, by opening the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. This past Sunday, Dec. 13, he also opened the Holy Door of St. John Lateran, which is the Cathedral church of the Diocese of Rome, just as bishops throughout the world opened a Holy Door in every other cathedral.

**Pope Francis invites** all Catholics, indeed all Christians and even non-Christians of good will, to take advantage of this Holy Year, which ends on the Feast of Christ the King on Nov. 20, 2016. He asks us to focus on the merciful love of God not only for our own benefit, but also so that we can become more **"Merciful Like the Father"** (the motto for this Jubilee Year).

As we continue the Season of Advent, preparing to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us become more and more aware that **"Jesus Christ is the**

## 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



**face of the Father's mercy"** (Pope Francis, *Misericordiae vultus*, 1). To learn more about this Holy Year, please see the article below.

May God continue to be merciful to us, and help us to be more merciful to others also.

**Advent Peace and Blessings** to you and yours!

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



## **L I S Highlight: Retiro Ignaciano**

*Tuvimos la bendición de tener 110 participantes en un retiro el 21 de noviembre de 2016. Pasamos unos momentos muy especiales, orando, cantando, gozando y comiendo... Gracias a todo el equipo por su ayuda y entrega para que este retiro se llevase a cabo.*

*El tema del retiro fue, Gratitude: Camino a la felicidad y santidad. Tuvimos la oportunidad de reflexionar en la importancia de tener un corazón agradecido hacia Dios y hacia nuestros hermanos y hermanas. También tuvimos la oportunidad de reflexionar en silencio mientras gozamos de un día bello al caminar en los jardines de Saint Joseph Center. Fue un retiro que mucha gente comento había sido muy bien presentado y lleno de bendiciones.*

*Tendremos un retiro Cuaresmal el sábado 12 de marzo del 2016. Reserven la fecha; para más detalles visita nuestro sitio en la web.*

Spanish-speaking members of the LIS community gathered on November 21, 2016, for an Ignatian Retreat, a *Retiro Ignaciano*.

Over one hundred ten participants gathered to reflect on the theme of "Gratitude: A Way to Happiness and Holiness." The day included talks by Deacons Martin Ruiz and Carlos Origel, Carlos Obando, and music by the talented Maty Santiago.

The retreatants were able to spend time in the gardens, meditating on what it means to live a life of gratitude and how to develop a more grateful heart. We are grateful for the contribution of all the volunteers who made this a great day.

The next *Retiro Ignaciano* is scheduled for Saturday, March 12, 2016. Please visit our website for more details.



Mother Teresa of Calcutta was once asked how she and her sisters were able to do the work they do in caring for persons who were hungry, persons who were poor and those who were dying. Her response was, "We begin each day by contemplating Christ in the Eucharist. Then, we go out and find Him."

How will you be an agent of mercy? Will you allow yourself to be a door through which those seeking consolation and mercy can step from suffering into grace? Will you seek Christ in those who suffer among us?

### **Corporal Acts of Mercy**

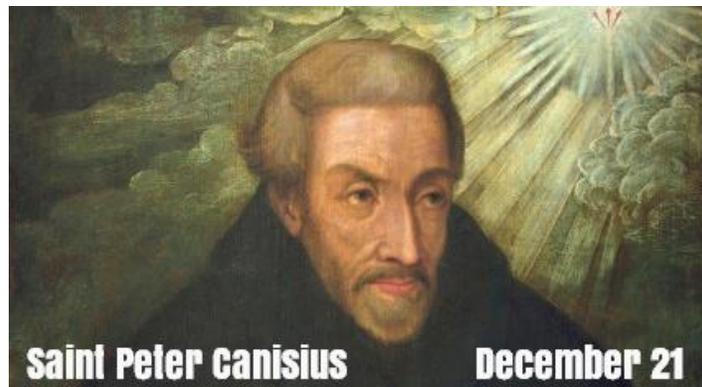
- Feed the Hungry
- Give Drink to the Thirsty
- Clothe the Naked
- Visit the Imprisoned
- Shelter the Homeless
- Visit the Sick
- Bury the Dead

### **Spiritual Acts of Mercy**

- Instruct the Ignorant
- Counsel the Doubtful
- Correct Sinners
- Comfort the Sorrowful
- Forgive all Injuries
- Bear Wrongs with Patience
- Prayer for the Living and the Dead

### **Some links to resources for the Holy Year of Mercy:**

**Diocese of Orange**  
**United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**  
**Vatican Website**



**Peter Canisius**, born in Holland in 1521, was a Jesuit during the Catholic

Reformation in Europe. St. Peter Faber, one of the founders of the Society of Jesus, was a good friend of Peter's and influenced him to join the Order. Peter was instrumental in writing a Catechism in the German language that was easily accessible and understood by common people. This became especially valuable as Protestantism grew in influence. His greatest accomplishment was his work in Germany where he established many schools and seminaries and implemented the decrees of the Council of Trent. He was widely regarded as a great preacher. He spent any extra time he had ministering to the sick and the dying.

Peter suffered a stroke at the age of seventy. He lived his final years writing.

Peter Canisius died in December 21, 1597. He is known as the Second Apostle of Germany for his efforts in the Catholic Reformation in Germany and was named a Doctor of the Church for his writings and contribution to the understanding of our faith.



**The LIS office will be closed  
from Dec. 24, 2015, to Jan. 3, 2016.**

## **A Christmas Reflection**

by Brother Charles J. Jackson, S.J.

In his Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius of Loyola begins the imaginative contemplations on the life, death, and risen life of Jesus with a contemplation on Jesus' incarnation. The contemplation begins with a vision of the Triune God -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- looking upon the world and seeing there people of every age, race, and culture going about their everyday lives: the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the happy and the sad; so many aimless, hateful, and killing; so many undernourished, sick, and dying; so many struggling with life and blind to any meaning for their lives. It is a vision of human life in all its complexity and confusion. Yet as God ponders this, God realizes that the "fullness of time" has come, the time when the mystery of salvation, hidden from the beginning of the

world, is to shine forth into human darkness and confusion. And thus it was that a child was born in Bethlehem and named Jesus. This is the good news that we celebrate at Christmas: God is with us.

It goes without saying, however, that we can pick up the morning newspaper or turn on the nightly news and feel that virtually nothing has changed from the aforementioned vision. There are so many people who are aimless, hateful, and killing; so many undernourished, sick, and dying; so many struggling with life and blind to any meaning for their lives. We may wonder if anything has changed. It is important to recognize, however, that God not only continues to look upon our world; God looks upon it with love. God did not become human in Jesus to give us a set of beliefs, but rather a way of living our lives. And this way of living is to love as generously and universally as Jesus loved. Our vocation as Christians is to love. Although Jesus of Nazareth no longer walks among us, he did not leave us orphans. The Spirit of the risen Jesus Christ remains with us and impels us: Stir into flame the grace of God that is yours in Christ Jesus.

Teresa of Avila reminds us: "Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on the world; yours are the feet with which he walks about doing good; yours are the hands by which he blesses the world. You are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."



LIS depends on the generosity of our many donors to fulfill our mission of  
*Bringing Spirituality to Life!*

As we come to the end of 2015,  
we look forward to 2016 and all the blessings and challenges it will bring.  
We look forward to the many people who will walk through our doors  
in earnest search for a deeper relationship with God.  
May they find in this place a source of knowledge and a place where faith abounds  
so that, nourished, they may go out and spread the fire of faith that St. Ignatius  
envisioned.

We need your financial help to fulfill this valuable mission.

Will you consider being a part of the group that makes this possible?

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE ONLINE](#)  
or call our finance office: 714-997-9587

*THANK YOU!*

## **LIS Speaker Series 2016:**

**Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J.**

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

"The Heavens proclaim the Glory of God." This insight from Psalm 19 is more appropriate today than ever. Beneath the beauty of the outward universe is another more profound and subtle beauty - the symmetry, orderliness, and elegance of its constants and initial conditions that make life possible. As we probe the universe's inner beauty, we see evidence not only of a Creator, but also a remarkably

imaginative and intelligent mind that manifests an unconditionally loving heart.

Fr. Spitzer will examine this beauty from the vantage point of mind and heart, suggesting the compatibility and complementarity of science, theology, and aesthetics.



**Sunday, January 24, 2016**

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

St. Joseph Center, Orange, CA

To register, or for more information, please contact:

**Raymond Uribe**

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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](http://www.loyolainstitute.org))  
or call the LIS office at 714-997-9587.**