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February 2015



At the 5th annual LIS Speaker Series event on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015. Pictured here (from l to r): Fr. Felix Just, S.J., Sr. Barbra Ostheimer, S.N.D., Fr. Bob Stephan, S.J., Bishop Gordon Bennett, S.J., Br. Charles Jackson, S.J., and Sr. Jeanne Fallon, C.S.J.

From the Director...



Dear Friends of LIS,

LENT is coming... Soon! Ash Wednesday, this year on Feb. 18, is the beginning of the annual Christian season of renewal, a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth, for looking honestly at our lives, for growing closer to God, for reflecting on how we can better serve those in need.

Lent is not just a time to "give something up" (although a bit of fasting and almsgiving can help us get in touch with the daily struggles of the poorest among us), but also for doing things a little better: a little more prayer and reflection, a little more reading of scripture, a little more charitable service. Something that will really help improve our lives AND the lives of those around us. Something that will help us grow closer to God and closer to one another.

This Lenten Season will find several LIS Staff members, including myself, on the road some weeks giving "parish missions" throughout Southern California. LIS is also once again offering a Lenten weekend retreat in English on Feb. 20-22, and---for the first time in many years---a one-day Lenten retreat in Spanish on March 28.

Whether we are coming to your parish, or you come to one of our retreats, or you find other opportunities for spiritual growth this

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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



Lent, we hope and pray that it will truly be a season of renewal for you!

Felix Just, S.J., Ph.D.
Executive Director, LIS

LENTEN IGNATIAN RETREAT

**Jesus' Passion and Death:
Encountering the Human Jesus**
*Directed by Br. Charles Jackson, S.J. and
LIS Associates*



We invite you to step aside from the hustle and bustle of everyday life
and enjoy a quiet weekend retreat just before Lent begins.

This silent retreat will include guiding conferences as springboards to prayer,
celebration of the Eucharist, opportunity for sacramental confession,
and spiritual directors available for personal accompaniment.

February 20-22, 2015

7:00 p.m. Friday to 4:00 p.m. Sunday

Pro Sanctity Spirituality Center
205 S. Pine Drive, Fullerton, CA 92833

For more information, please see our website: www.loyolainstitute.org

To register, please contact Br. Charlie Jackson, S.J.
at 714-997-9587 ext. 24 or jackson@loyolainstitute.org

Retiro de Cuaresma

PRESENTADO POR CARLOS OBANDO Y EQUIPO

Sábado, Marzo 28, 2015

de las 9:00 a.m. a las 3:00 p.m.



Costo

\$30 por persona. Incluye almuerzo y materiales de trabajo

Donde

Loyola Institute for Spirituality
Salón: Fr. David Schwartz, S.J.
480 S. Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868

Para más información o para registrarse favor de llamar a
Cindy Guzman 714-997-9587 ext. 23 o email guzman@loyolainstitute.org

***El cupo es limitado. Por favor regístrese lo más pronto posible.**

Forty Days, Forty Years

by Fr. David C. Robinson, S.J.

In the lives of many Christians, one of the earliest memories of participation in a common practice of renunciation and self-control can be found in their early experiences of "giving something up for Lent." The practice is meant to

help the community recognize its dependence on divine providence, and to remind believers of the need to limit the desires and wants that can lead them away from a focus on God. Giving up chocolate

(a truly spiritual sacrifice!) or a favorite television program becomes an annual rite (whose observance is often as short-lived as the proverbial New Year's Resolution). The parallel to the 40-day fast of Jesus in the desert is an obvious one—a willingness to put aside any and all creature comforts to seek God's presence and call in a new, more profound way. This is a noble intention, and one that is intended to help us live out the Ignatian maxim, to "see Thee more clearly; love Thee more dearly; follow Thee more nearly, day by day" (with thanks to Godspell).



With the passing of the years, the implicit value of small sacrifices begins to wane, and adults tend to speak more of special practices that help them to grow in their spiritual connection to God. The notion of renouncing television as a sign of devotion begins to seem minimalist. At this stage of life, another parallel begins to present itself: the desert Exodus and journey of the fledgling nation of Israel for 40 years. Their wandering represents far more than a 'season of denial' as a sign of religious loyalty. Their learning is more about the discovery that a life of faith must allow God to be God. Emotional transactions and bargaining—if I do this, I expect to receive that—are gradually relinquished. The Golden Calf certainly proves the human capacity for manipulating the symbolic to achieve selfish ends!

Seen in this light, our Lenten observances can invite us to reflect on a radically different awareness of our life with God. With the passing of the years, we can gradually embrace the knowledge that our spiritual practice is less about the perfecting of our identity and behavior—things that can make us more 'acceptable' as finite, fallible creatures. Instead, we learn to appreciate the ways in which the love of God can liberate us from a perceived need to be 'better.' The wisdom of our years can help us to recognize and cherish that our lives of faith (inside and outside the Lenten season) ultimately help to free us from ourselves. As we age, we can lament the waning of our energy, our strength, our memory, or we can finally acknowledge that what we have held so tightly as the measure of our worth is only a temporary gift that empowers us to cherish life's mystery and beauty. When we no longer hear or see or remember as well those things and people that have brought us joy, we are finally free simply to surrender

to gratitude for all that is. We can celebrate our lifelong invitation to live for God alone.

Thus, like the Israelites after their forty years of spiritual pilgrimage, we can finally enter the land of promise, the place we have inhabited all along, 'knowing it for the first time' as T.S. Eliot has so poignantly observed. Lent is no longer our 'fast from chocolate,' but rather our banquet of simple gifts.

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office@loyolainstitute.org

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 similar items
- **Invitations to Special Events** - annual BBQ, Ignatius Day Mass and Luncheon, Open House
- **Discounts on LIS Programs** - members-only discount rates on select courses and programs
- **Public Recognition** - listing on the LIS website and in the annual "Hearts on Fire" program
- **Personal Satisfaction** - knowing that you are supporting the growing spiritual ministries of LIS

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 the 2015 calendar year.

Membership brochures and return envelopes were mailed in late November 2014 to everyone already on our mailing list. Please call our office if you do not get yours.

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

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