

Loyola Institute for Spirituality (LIS):

Mission: Setting Hearts on Fire with love of God for the world

We bring spirituality to life by:

- inviting spiritual seekers to transformation,
- fostering Ignatian formation and education, and
- nurturing discipleship

Ignatian Spiritual Formation Program: People come to LIS for reasons which many of them could not even begin to describe. These “spiritual seekers” may come simply to take a class or to participate in a half-day program, but their brief encounter with LIS sparks something in them, and they return to take a course and then another course and, almost before they know it, they have completed Ignatian Spiritual Formation Program (ISFP) Phase I. Then, the prospect of making the Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life captivates them and they soon embark upon what becomes a life-changing experience. ISFP Phase I began their spiritual formation and Phase II deepened it but, in doing so, it had also drawn them out of themselves: they want to share the “good news” with others. ISFP Phase III provides them with basic skills for ministry, but soon after graduation from ISFP, they realize that their spiritual and ministerial formation has not ended, but only begun. Thus, they return to LIS seeking further growth.

Ministries:

- The Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life: This is a nine-month version of the full Spiritual Exercises, which Ignatius Loyola describes in the the Spiritual Exercises. LIS currently offers the Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life in English and Spanish, and is able to offer them in Korean and Chinese as well. About 170 men and women are currently making the Exercises in this form (which would be impossible without the assistance of the ISFP-trained directors). The Exercises in this form are offered at:
 - LIS (70 people): Each retreatant meets with his/her director for an hour session once a week at LIS. Many ISFP-trained directors are engaged with this ministry. Stipend.
 - Los Angeles Archdiocese permanent diaconate aspirants/wives (46 people): These sessions are held 9:00-11:00 on a Saturday twice a month. Each director is assigned two retreatants; at each session each director meets with each of his/her directees for half an hour individual direction. Most sessions are held at Bishop Alemany High School in Mission Hills; others have been held in Glendale and Manhattan Beach. Many ISFP-trained directors are engaged with this ministry. Stipend.
 - Orange Diocese permanent diaconate aspirants/wives (36 people): Each director directs two people. They meet every two weeks for individual direction at a place convenient to both. Many ISFP graduates are engaged with this ministry. Stipend.
- Weekend Ignatian Retreat: Two weekends each year, LIS offers an Ignatian retreat at Pro Sanctity Spirituality Center (Fullerton). Currently, three talks are given during the retreat. ISFP graduates give the talks, meet with retreatants seeking individual direction, and reside at Pro Sanctity during the retreat. The cost of their accommodations at Pro Sanctity is covered by LIS. No stipend.
- Diaconate Aspirants/Wives August Retreat: The men and women about to begin the Los Angeles Archdiocese permanent diaconate formation program make a three-day retreat/workshop at Mary and Joseph Retreat Center (Rancho Palos Verdes). This introduces the participants to faith-sharing and forms of prayer they will use during the nine-month Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life. One or two ISFP graduates help facilitate this retreat by giving talks and leading faith-sharing. Stipend.

- Diaconate Ordination Retreats: Every other year the Diocese of Orange permanent diaconate candidates and wives make a five-day individually-directed retreat prior to the candidates' ordination. LIS and ISFP-trained directors direct these retreats. Stipend.
- Ignatian Morning: Three times a year, LIS presents an Ignatian Morning, a two-hour mini-retreat held 10:00-noon on a Sunday morning and followed by Mass. It is comprised of a prayer service, several talks, time for quiet reflection, and faith-sharing. ISFP graduates plan and present two of these mini-retreats; ISFP Phase III students plan and present the third mini-retreat. No stipend.
- Ignatian Experience: The Ignatian Experience is an eight-week program in Ignatian spirituality offered at local parishes. Each session runs two hours and introduces the participants to Ignatian spirituality and various forms of Ignatian prayer. At each session a LIS graduate gives a 5-minute "witness talk" about his/her experience at LIS. Stipend.
- Faith-Sharing Facilitators: At the monthly meetings for those making the Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life at LIS, LIS graduates facilitate the small-group faith-sharing. Stipend.
- Individual Spiritual Direction: People often contact LIS seeking spiritual direction; their requests are passed along to me. I contact the person and ask that he/she provide me with his/her mailing address and the answers to two questions: (1) "Briefly describe your spiritual life and how you nurture it" and (2) "What do you hope to achieve from spiritual direction?" I conclude my note with the following: "In order to support our ministry of spiritual direction, we ask for a free-will offering based on your financial situation and generosity. Many offer \$40 or more for each one-hour spiritual direction session, but we are grateful to receive whatever amount you are able to give." On the basis of the person's mailing address and answers to my two questions, I determine which LIS director might be the best spiritual director for the person. I then contact the director, often share the person's answers to the two questions, and ask if he/she would be willing to meet with the person for spiritual direction. If his/her answer is positive, I send each the other's name, phone number, and e-mail address. I ask the person seeking direction to contact the director to arrange the day, time, and place for the two of them to meet. Stipend.

Continuing Education and Formation:

- Group Supervision: On the evening of the first Wednesday of each month, all LIS-graduates doing retreat direction or spiritual direction gather for group supervision and to reflect, discuss, share, and receive guidance in their direction experience.
- Advanced Courses: LIS desires to develop an entire program of continuing education courses for its graduates. Sr. Jeanne Fallon currently offers "BioSpiritual Focusing" (a course meant to help a person tap into and develop her ability of "felt-sensing" so important in Ignatian discernment).
- Christmas Potluck Dinner: Each year during Advent, those graduates doing ministry through LIS are invited to a potluck dinner at Manresa Residence or one of their own homes. This past year, the dinner was held at Manresa Residence. It was a huge success.
- BBQ at Manresa Residence: Every year, the Jesuit community hosts an afternoon BBQ at its home to which, among others, the LIS graduates are invited.
- Associates Retreat: Each year in June, LIS graduates plan and produce a one-day or weekend retreat that interweaves prayer, reflection, discussion, and enjoyable companionship. This year's retreat, to which spouses are invited, will be held on Saturday, June 9, at Serra Retreat Center in Malibu.