

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 · DEC 2021

THE IGNACIANO

Official Newsletter of the Loyola Institute for Spirituality

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

God continues to do great work through each of us and we've been fortunate at LIS to witness all that we're able to accomplish together! Last month's Giving Tuesday was a perfect example of this. We exceeded our goal due to our concerted efforts. As this calendar year comes to a close, we set a course for the new year with a nostalgic twist by bringing back *The Ignaciano*, an earlier, quarterly version of the newsletter, just in time to commemorate our 25th anniversary. We want to offer more meaningful content that will spotlight Associates, happenings around the globe, and more. Additionally, you'll continue to receive brief monthly communications featuring upcoming LIS-sponsored or collaborative events. Do check out the upcoming events in this issue which include a Facebook Live conversation on relationships and a link to the Called & Gifted workshop being offered early in the new year to discover your spiritual gifts. With Christmas season around the corner, consider the gift of spirituality for your loved ones: a course, a workshop, or the Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life retreat. Make your gift the gift that keeps on giving!

I'm grateful for journeying with you this year. I pray that, amid the challenges, you were able to sense graced moments through these last 12 months. Wishing you an abundant slice of Heaven on Earth as you soak in God's presence in your daily routines throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Your sister in Christ,



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Associate Spotlight

LANELLE GORDIN



The daughter of a Southern Baptist minister, Lanelle Gordin sought to better understand the Christian contemplative tradition. A Google search led her to LIS where she signed up to make the Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life retreat. This experience led her to complete the formation program from which she graduated in 2017.

Lanelle's greatest joy is being a wife, mother, and grandmother to her family. She is an educator with a specialized focus on leadership training. When education began to embrace Professional Learning Communities, she saw a need to train teachers not only to view themselves as leaders but also to lead, facilitate, and collaborate with each other.

Now retired, she generously gives of her time and talent to further LIS' mission! She was recently voted onto the LIS Board of Directors and next month she will teach Ignatian Leadership: Developing the Inner Wisdom to Guide Others in Ministry and Service beginning January 11, 2022. [Click here](#) for more information on this course.

We are grateful to Lanelle for sharing her gifts with LIS and exemplifying a heart on fire who channels her love for God to empower others.

Fun facts:

- Most recent book read: The Last Train to Key West by Chanel Cleeton
- Current TV series: The Crown on Netflix
- First job: piano teacher through high school and college
- Hobbies: reading, yoga, puzzles, gatherings

LIS Associates are graduates of the three-year Ignatian Spiritual Formation Program who regularly collaborate with LIS in varying capacities.

Make a Donation

As you prepare for your tax-deductible, end-of-year giving, please consider making a contribution to LIS. More than ever, LIS relies on your generosity to sustain itself and continue to adapt to these changing times. To make your donation and to read our 2021 Annual Report & Appeal, please [click here](#).



Advent Reflection

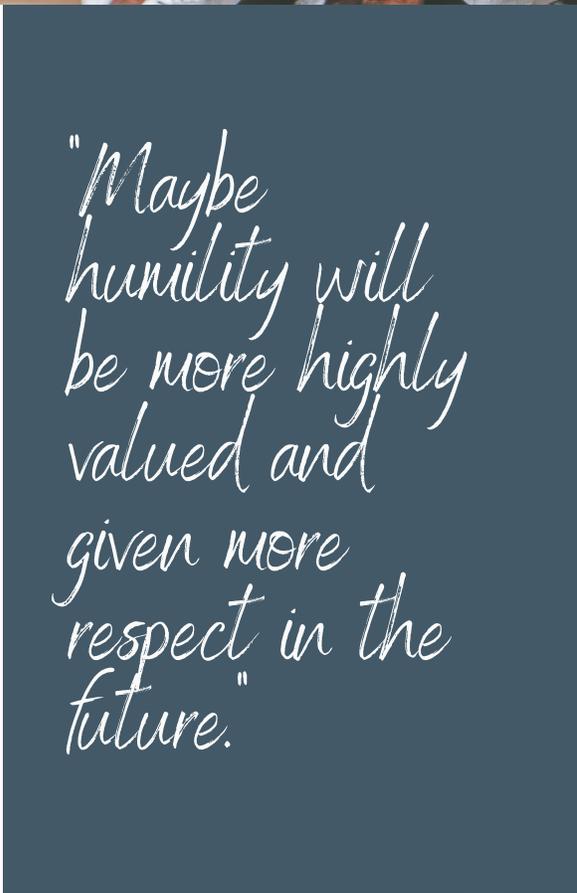
Sitting in my armchair contemplating the pandemic in the loving presence of God confronts me with reality. Above all else, I identify the grace which is glimpsed within and underneath today's ongoing tragedy. I discover that now I appreciate humility, the recognition of the truth about who God is and who we human beings are. I discovered that the way leading to God goes through exactly what we are experiencing. This road is not some fantasy tour of my romantic imagination. I contemplate it and discover what it might mean for me and for our fragile humanity. I remain in the grip of God's providential presence, even in that of Diosito - the loving, humble "little God" of my grandmother's Mexican Catholicism. I experience consolation.

Maybe humility will be more highly valued and given more respect in the future. I realize now that Walter Burghardt's definition of prayer, "a sustained, loving look at the real," is closely correlated to that of humility. Both prayer and the Christian virtue of humility demand that we opt to plant our feet firmly on the ground, what God did when the Word became flesh in Mary's virginal womb.

Excerpt from Fr. Allan Figueroa Deck's article, [A long loving look: Advice for praying about the pandemic, and why you should](#), which was initially featured in [Americamagazine.org](#) (July 2021). To read the full article, you can [click here](#).

Did you Know?

Did you know that Loyola Institute for Spirituality was formerly Manresa Jesuit Retreat Center in Azusa, CA? Located on about six acres of land, the retreat center was open for almost 50 years before it closed in August 1994 due to declining attendance and increasing costs to maintain the property. The California Province of the Society of Jesus, now known as Jesuits West Province, agreed that without a retreat center in Southern California there had to be another way of sharing Ignatian spirituality. LIS was born in 1997 and to this day continues to serve, adapt, and change as needed with the times.



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Upcoming Events

Dec. 18 **Bridging the Cosmos: An ADVENT Conversation on Relationships - Human and Divine**

Conversation Partners: Allan Deck, SJ, Dr, Michael Downey, Dr. Nancy Pineda-Madrid and Monty Williams, SJ
[Facebook Live](#) and Free; [click here for more information.](#)

Dec. 24-31 Office Closed

Jan. 11 **Ignatian Leadership: Developing the Inner Wisdom to Guide Others in Ministry & Service**

Instructor: Dr. Lanelle Gordin, EdD
Tuesdays, January 11 to February 15, 2022 (7 to 9:30 p.m.)
Cost: \$180
To register: <https://www.loyolainstitute.org/course-catalog>.

Ignatian leadership focuses on the knowledge of self, creative flexibility in a world of change, heroic aspirations, and serving others with love—all aimed at furthering God’s richest intentions for all people. This 6-week course is for anyone who desires to develop greater self-awareness. It will explore the emergence of leadership values and how they can be applied in your everyday life.

Jan 19-Feb 9 **Finding God in Everybody: Seeing the Value in Everyone’s Journey**

Cost: \$32 before Jan. 14, and \$40 after
This 4-week retreat movie series will offer an opportunity to enter a contemplative experience on the themes of God’s constant compassionate mercy and deep love for us.
[Click here for more information.](#)

Feb 2022 **Called & Gifted**

The *Called & Gifted™ Discernment Process* has been used since 1993 by over 100,000 lay, ordained, and religious Catholics and other Christians around the world. Participants will have the opportunity to gain greater self-awareness and a deepening desire to discover God’s unique call for their lives by identifying their spiritual gifts.
[Click here for more information.](#)

Ignatian Corner

RYAN PRATT

Founded in 2006 by Fr. Peter Scally, S.J., Pray As You Go is a daily podcast produced by Jesuit Media Initiatives, the media arm of the Jesuits in Britain. It is like a mini-retreat for busy people on the move. Each day’s session consists of a meditative hymn, Scripture reading from the day’s lectionary, and reflection questions, usually lasting around 10-13 minutes total. The biblical passage is read twice allowing for an experience of audio divina.

The goal of Pray As You Go is to help listeners “become more aware of God’s presence in your life; listen to and reflect on God’s word; [and] grow in your relationship with God.” It is available online at <https://pray-as-you-go.org>, as well as through both the App Store and Google Play.

