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THE IGNACIANO

Official Newsletter of the Loyola Institute for Spirituality

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

I remember reading about St. Ignatius of Loyola's penchant for writing approximately 7,000 letters over the course of his lifetime. It was a community-builder of sorts wherein he encouraged friendships, faith in God and the importance of a healthy community amongst his companions. While in elementary school, I began writing letters and enjoyed sending personal messages to family, friends and even pen pals in far-away countries. There was much excitement when I'd get a written response from a letter I sent! The back and forth was a connection that was simple, yet intentional. My goal was to let the person know I was interested in who they were and what they enjoyed doing. Connecting with others and sharing ideas, experiences and encouragement are still important to me.

Like letters, I want to send the message that LIS intends to connect with all of you to cultivate a faith-filled community that empowers and inspires. As we prepare for another year, we are excited about plans to create community-building opportunities and gatherings that encourage faithful friendships and a deeper trust in God's personal love for you! Ignatian spirituality will be the glue that connects our faith experiences to one another as we intentionally celebrate relationships...one gathering at a time. I'm looking forward to it!

Your Sister in Christ,



Lori

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Associates Spotlight

DEACON AMANTE PULIDO

How did you first hear about LIS and Ignatian spirituality?

My wife embarked on the months-long 19th Annotation retreat. Her demeanor changed, her worldview changed, her spirituality deepened, all of which in turn piqued my interest. After she completed the year, I asked to be invited to do the retreat, all the while my wife further desired to delve into Ignatian spirituality and elected to enter the three-year formation program with me in tow. The rest is history, as they say.



What is your current occupation?

I retired as a physician after twenty-seven years as I entered the Diaconate formation in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, then was ordained into the Order of Deacon and now serving at my home parish.

Is there a ministry or organization that you affiliate with? Why?

My wife and I continue our association with LIS. In our parish, we have helped develop and coordinate ministries of accompaniment and presence to caregivers, mental illness sufferers and their families, to the elderly, and serve as our parish's liaison with the Archdiocese in its Office of Life, Justice, and Peace. There was also a time when, for three consecutive years, we facilitated at our parish Fr. Joseph Tetlow's Lightworks version of the 18th Annotation with encouragement from our Pastor who saw and felt the need, and with assistance from fellow LIS associates.

How has Ignatian spirituality impacted your relationships with God, self, and others?

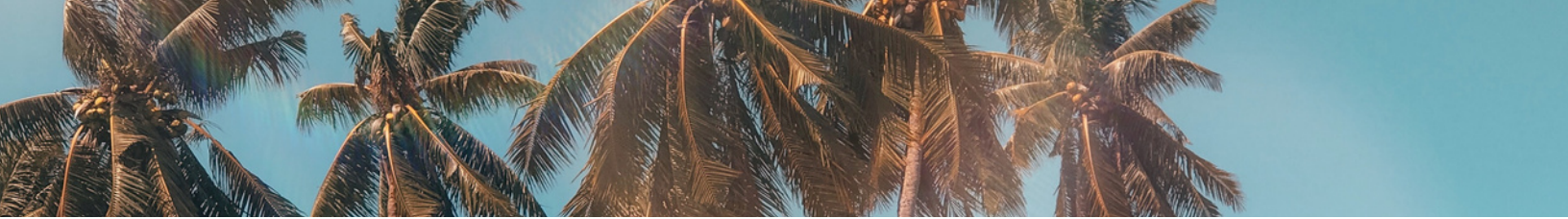
I saw God more emanently, in all things and in others, and began to notice the mystical in all things. I grew to know more of my true self vis a vis the draw and temptations of the false self. I am learning to accept more my forgiven-ness as I learn to be more forgiving. It's like an end to a contemplation when I am dismissed by the Spirit and sent out with deep gratitude to be loving, forgiving, merciful, caring, and to be Christ to the world.

What is your favorite book, podcast, or movie?

My favorite podcast/short video at this writing is *Seek Silence* with Nicky Morris because it really articulated what had been in my thoughts and ponderances on silence and interior peace. My favorite books are poetry books. My favorite movie remains *The Mission*, the cinematography of it, the historicity of it that tugs at my heart, the spirituality of it, and certainly the thematic music by Ennio Morricone.

What are your hobbies?

Not in any particular order of favorites: watching sports, especially college football, my LA pro teams (all of them), reading books (essays, especially Rahner essays), babysitting my so delightful granddaughter, taking pictures of my front garden as the white and purple bloom (Lilacs, Lavenders, Sacred Grandfather White Sages), long drives with my wife, and reminiscing with her our "pocket joys."



Associates Spotlight cont'd

BLANCA MUNGUIA

How did you first hear about LIS and Ignatian spirituality?

A friend of mine told me about Ignatius of Loyola and The Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life retreat. I was searching for something deeper that I very much needed and I felt that this was a door that was opening for me. I was not mistaken.

What is your current occupation?

I am a Community Worker. I help the community with various resources, in addition to offering workshops as needed. I do case management and accompany families as needed in their ongoing process.

Is there a ministry or organization that you affiliate with? Why?

At this time I do not participate in a specific ministry but I am open and desiring to serve in something.

How has Ignatian spirituality impacted your relationships with God, self and others?

Wow! For me this was the beginning of an encounter with myself and with God. I finally understood what I had not been able to understand for so many years which was how to live in peace, love and happiness. Once I found it, I have not stopped practicing it, because it has helped me in my afflictions. I found my path and I continue to walk it but now I can recognize my obstacles, my "stones". I no longer turn them over, I face them, to find my weakness and put aside the ego and my false self and to continue to grow in my spirituality, my consciousness, and to live under God's will, not mine. Every day is an opportunity to judge less. I swap it with compassion. I listen more and my empathy has grown. Now I prefer to feel love, and when there is anger, I fast until I find where that anger is stuck. The Holy Spirit accompanies me and blesses me with the answers I need. No doubt my life has changed a lot and it is not over yet!

What is your favorite book, podcast, or movie?

A movie that I watch very often because I feel that God is speaking to me through it is *The Shack*. I love to read books by the following writers: Thomas Merton, Thomas Keating, Carl Jung, Anthony de Mello, Louis Bourbeau, Alejandro Rocamora and many more. I also like books on thanatology, to understand more about those who suffer a loss.

What are your hobbies?

I LOVE to read!



Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life Retreat

WHAT THIS ONLINE RETREAT INVOLVES

A SINCERE DESIRE TO DEEPEN ONE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER.

DAILY PRAYER WITH THE BIBLE AND SPECIAL IGNATIAN EXERCISES.

WEEKLY MEETINGS WITH ONE'S PERSONAL SPIRITUAL COMPANION.

MONTHLY SESSIONS ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS FOR SMALL GROUP FAITH SHARING.

PARTICIPATION PROCESS

FILL OUT AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION ONLINE, PARTICIPATE IN A VIRTUAL INTERVIEW, THEN COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION PROCESS ONCE YOU'VE DECIDED TO DO THE RETREAT.

Applications available
on July 1st.

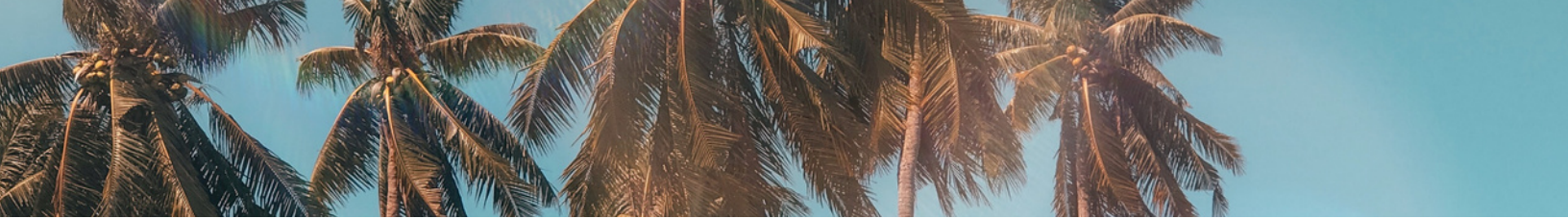
Visit www.loyolainstitute.org for more information.

Ignatian Corner

The Jesuit Post (TJP) produces literary content that touches on topics including current events, politics, spirituality, Church news, pop culture, and debates about belief and secularity. The website also presents a wonderful collection of videos on one-minute homilies, one-minute saints, and retreats, as well as thoughtful podcasts offering audio retreats and faith-centered topics dealing with the USA/Mexico border.

A project of Jesuits in formation, nearly all of the contributors are either scholastics or brothers. For more information, visit <https://thejesuitpost.org>.





Hearts on Fire

Rain or shine the gala went on! No storm could quench these hearts on fire for a celebration and the opportunity to come together.

New and familiar faces filled the banquet room that was made available at the last minute for a night that felt joyful and intimate. There was a buzz and a warmth to the space that has been missed in recent years due to the pandemic. What a way to mark a reunion that was 25 years in the making!

Of all the logistical things that made the evening beautiful and enjoyable, it was the stirring speeches that left a mark on every attendee. From our guest speakers to our award recipients, we were all witnesses to the life-changing and transformational power of Ignatian spirituality. No one left without feeling touched by the Spirit.

Between delicious food and drink, smooth jazz music, exciting silent and live auctions, and impactful speeches, it was a night to be remembered. Every person, whether just through their presence or through their financial support, made a difference for us.

We hope you'll join us next year.

SAVE THE DATE
Hearts on Fire
May 2, 2024

Class of 2023

In May, 11 dedicated participants graduated from PFEI, the Spanish equivalent of the Ignatian Spiritual Formation Program. Congratulations graduates and welcome to our new Associates!

María del Rocío Arias Ramírez

Ileana G. Bonilla

Carmen Lucía Cayón de Castillo

Gloria Luz Galvez

Brenda González de Salcido

Juana Hernandez Alvarez

José Francisco Mendoza

Rosa E. Monroy Bonilla

Claudia Ortega

Macrina Hilda Prado

Erika Samiabyaneh

