



From the Director...



Dear LIS Friends,

Peace and blessings to you for this New Year 2012!

LIS is happy to announce that we are celebrating our 15th anniversary year of ministry and service in 2012! Please join us in giving thanks to God for the graces of these years and in asking the Holy Spirit to guide us into the future. LIS continues to provide spiritual formation in many places and among many cultures, while growing the community of our Associates who are spirituality ministers for the good of the Church and of the world.

Thank you for helping us to bring spirituality to life these 15 years! Please save the date for our annual Hearts on Fire celebration dinner to be held Sunday, May 6, 2012.

Blessings,
Fr. Steve Corder, S.J.
Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Ignatian Morning

Surprised by Joy: Blessings on Our Life's Journey

Presented by: Br. Charles Jackson, S.J., LIS Associates Ken Cachat, Chris Sherrick, Diane Elias and Karin Nuernberg

Time: 10 a.m. to Noon followed by Mass

Date: Sunday, January 22, 2012

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Our Mission

In the Ignatian tradition, Loyola Institute for Spirituality accompanies people in 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.

LIS & Amazon Associate Program!

The store can be accessed directly, or through our website. Any purchase you make through our Amazon store will provide LIS with a rebate of between 4% to 8% of the purchase price. You can use the LIS Amazon store to purchase anything available on Amazon, not just the books we recommend.

We think you will also enjoy browsing

Location: St. Joseph Center Auditorium Lounge, Orange

Fee: Donations appreciated to help benefit LIS Annual Appeal

For more information or to register please contact Br. Charles Jackson, S.J. at (714) 997-9587 ext. 24 or via email at office@loyolainstitute.org

Ignatian Weekend Retreat

Presented by: LIS Staff & Associates

Date: Friday, February 24 to Sunday, February 26, 2012

Location: Pro Sanctity Spirituality Center, Fullerton

For more information on this Lenten weekend retreat please contact Sr. Barbra Ostheimer, S.N.D. at bostheimersnd@loyolainstitute.org or (714) 997-9587 ext. 26

the excellent selection of recommended reading materials, selected by LIS staff for your convenience. Please watch for updates....books on Ignatian Spirituality and other topics of interest will be added on an ongoing basis.

<http://atore.amazon.com/ignatian20>

Zacchaeus

By Br. Charles Jackson, S.J.

The story of Zacchaeus the tax collector is well-known and we all know what he said to Jesus during the dinner with him: that he would give half his possessions to the poor and that if he had extorted anything from anyone he would repay it fourfold. But I believe that there is far more to the person of Zacchaeus than simply a rich tax collector. I sense in him a burning desire for understanding, acceptance and love. Allow Zacchaeus to tell you his story.

I have to tell you what happened. I like to think of myself as a thoughtful and intelligent man - and I am a thoughtful and intelligent man - but all that began to get muddled about two months ago. It was just after Jared's wife Naomi gave birth to Noah, their first son. I began to hear reports about an itinerant teacher in Galilee by the name of Jesus. I understood that this Jesus had grown up in Nazareth, but now called Capernaum his home. People spoke of the wonders and signs that he did, but they seem to have been more impressed by what he said and how he said it than by anything he did. In a word, they seem to have been most impressed by him. This Jesus seems to have touched the hearts of all who listened to him or in any way met with him. But what I found most striking about everything that people said about him was that this Jesus welcomed everyone - and I mean everyone - and even shared meals with them. Moreover, I am told that he even shared meals with public sinners and tax collectors. I suspect that this was what first sparked my interest. You see, I'm a tax collector - the chief tax collector, in fact, here in Jericho. At first, I was only mildly interested in these reports about this Jesus - I mean, one hears a lot of news in a place like this - but several weeks ago, I became aware that I was getting more and more interested in this Jesus and had begun to ask people about him. I suspect that I was initially impressed simply by the signs and wonders he did, or by the manner in which he seemed to touch the hearts of those



who heard him, but when I heard of him sharing meals with public sinners and tax collectors - people so very much like me - well, that seems to have sparked something in me and my thoughtful and intelligent nature began to get more than a little confused. I mean, I was not simply interested in this Jesus; I found that I was thinking a great deal about him and was beginning to imagine myself listening to him and speaking with him and even sharing a meal with him. But this was not simply daydreaming; it was something I most ardently desired. But all of that seemed so impossible, so utterly beyond my wildest dreams - until yesterday afternoon, when I heard that Jesus was approaching Jericho.

The word must have gotten out and gone far and wide, because when I ran up to the north gate, I found that a huge crowd had gathered. People were just everywhere. I was devastated. I so very much wanted to see Jesus, but my hope of seeing him - simply catching a glimpse of him or speaking with him - seem to have been dashed. You see, I'm a short man, shorter than most everyone; I get lost in a crowd. I was almost in tears. But as I turned to make my way home, I found myself brought face-to-face with a small column that I had never noticed before. It was no more than four feet in height and was probably just a remnant of a larger column which, in turn, was part of some larger structure. I had no idea why it was there, but it seemed that it was almost meant to have been there - for me. A small tree stood next to the column and would help me to climb up on it. I suspect that I looked more than a little foolish as I clambered up on the column, but I was now able to see above the crowd. I had found the perfect place to see Jesus.

As events unfolded, I didn't have to wait very long. No sooner had I climbed up on the column than I became aware of considerable commotion: a large number of people suddenly began to enter the city. As they entered, I noticed that they were soon stepping aside and turning to look back through the gate as though they were waiting for someone, and I suspected that they were waiting for Jesus. Finally, as a large cluster of people came through the gate, I saw Jesus. I don't know what I expected Jesus to look like - someone taller, perhaps, or more visually impressive - but what I remember most about him from that first glimpse was the personal warmth that seemed to radiate from him. I mean, as he looked out at the crowd, it seems that he wasn't seeing a crowd of people, but individual persons - people who had names and meaning and were worthy of love. In fact, it seemed that love radiated from him - and I felt privileged simply to be able to see him. And I was delighted that I had found such a wonderful place from which to see him and that he would pass so close to where I was standing. But what happened next is something I had never hoped for - or even imagined - but it is something that I will never forget; it is something that has changed my life. As he approached the place where I was standing, Jesus paused for a moment. At first, it seemed that he was simply gazing at the people around him - and I suspect that he was - but then he turned and looked up at me. I don't know how long he looked at me, but it was more than a passing glance, but in that glance I found something I'll never forget - for he seemed to look into my soul. I don't know what he saw there - Did he see my confusion and fear? Did he see my loneliness and hunger for love? Did he see the uncertainty that seemed almost to define my life? Did he see every-thing that I had ever hoped for and longed for? I don't know what he saw as he looked at me, but as he continued to look at me I sensed in him compassion and understanding and acceptance and love.

Now if Jesus had simply moved on, it would still have been a life-changing experience for me - but he continued to look at me. But then, just when I thought he might be turning away to continue his journey - for it seemed that he intended simply to pass through Jericho - he stretched out his hand toward me and with the love that seemed to radiate from him he called out, "Zacchaeus." I was stunned to hear him call my name. Perhaps he had heard others speak it, but he was calling me. "Zacchaeus," he called out again, "Come down! - for I must stay at your house today."

I really don't know exactly what happened next. Everything is now a blur. All I knew was that Jesus was calling me. Never in my wildest dreams had I imagined that Jesus would want to speak with me - much less share a meal with me and stay with me. Me! He was calling me! I fought off my dazed mind and somehow managed to climb down from the column. My head seemed to be spinning. I wasn't sure what was happening to me. Was all of this simply a dream? But as I turned to face Jesus, I discovered that he was right in front of me and was extending his arms toward me. "Zacchaeus," he said warmly as he took my hands in his. He was looking into my eyes, yet it seemed that he was looking into my soul. "Zacchaeus," he said again, "I must stay at your house today." I stood there, feeling like I was still in a daze as I looked into his eyes. I wanted to stay there forever.

An Invitation...

We Invite you to Help us Bring Spirituality to Life...

Please Consider Making a Tax-Deductible Gift to the Loyola Institute for Spirituality!

We ask you to consider a gift to help set hearts on fire for ministry today as we develop lay spiritual leaders for the future. Any gift in any amount will help benefit our ministry.

Please know that your gift in any amount is deeply appreciated!

LIS is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501 (c) (3). Federal Tax ID# 95-1684071. If you have any questions regarding making a donation, or to make a credit card donation, please call us at (714)997-9587 or visit our website at www.loyolainstitute.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL PARTNERSHIP!