

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

If you would be interested in finding out more about our work and events please email us at office@loyolainstitute.org

LEMP Graduation

On a warm Sunday afternoon, May 16, 2010, almost 60 participants from 16 different parishes graduated from the "Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program" (LEMP) of the Diocese of Las Vegas, NV.

This was the second group to graduate from LEMP in Las Vegas, a two-year program in which the Loyola Institute for Spirituality is deeply involved. This ministry formation program was founded in 2006 by Fr. Allan Deck, S.J., the former director of LIS. Since 2008, it has been coordinated by Fr. Felix Just, S.J., currently the Director of Biblical Education at the Loyola Institute for Spirituality, who works closely together with Dr. Marc Gonzalez, the Director of the Department of Faith and Ministry Formation in the Diocese of Las Vegas. Fr. Felix not only teaches some of the weekend sessions himself, but also gets to recruit many other faculty members to go to Las Vegas to teach the wide variety of subjects necessary for the theological and pastoral formation of Lay Ecclesial Ministers. LEMP instructors have included other present and former members of the LIS staff, including Frs. Stephen Corder, Allan Deck, and Tacho Rivera.

Each December, the annual weekend retreat for the LEMP participants is also led, in English and in Spanish, by various LIS staff members and associates. In addition to Fr. Felix and Fr. Tacho, retreat directors have also included Sr. Barbra Osheimer, Br. Charlie Jackson, and LIS associates Jack Gonsalvez, Teresa Cossios, Dolores Martinez, and Humberto and Julia Ramirez.

The graduation ceremony on May 16 was held in the Guardian Angel Cathedral and presided over by the Most Rev. Joseph Pepe, the Bishop of the Diocese of Las Vegas. In his homily, Bishop Pepe thanked all the participants for their hard work and dedication in completing the two-year formation program, and also challenged them to put their newly gained skills at the service of their parishes. He then presented each participant with a certificate and congratulated all of them individually.

The format of the graduation ceremony consisted of a bilingual "Liturgy of the Word," at which the cathedral choir of the Diocese of Las Vegas provided some beautiful musical selections. Bishop Pepe's final words encouraged the graduates to "return to your parish commu-

nities to continue to spread the word of the Lord and use this formation so the reign of God will grow until the end of time." The ceremony was followed by a reception in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, during which many cookies were eaten and many pictures were taken, as one would expect.

Although "graduation" might sound like an ending, most of this year's LEMP graduates plan to continue in the "Advanced Ministry Formation" program of the Diocese of Las Vegas for three more years, beginning with another retreat this August, which will again be led by the staff and associates of LIS.



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The Ignaciano

A newsletter for friends & benefactors of LIS

Spring/Summer 2010

Director's Corner

Dear LIS Friends,

We have completed another grace-filled year here at Loyola Institute for Spirituality and are busily preparing for the next! We have successfully piloted a new parish program entitled the "Ignatian Experience" which introduces people to Ignatian spirituality through an 8-week retreat and mini-course. In May and June, we offered this program at St. Martin de Porres in Yorba Linda with about 100 people participating in morning and evening tracks. Three other parishes around the Diocese are now interested in a similar program.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Ignaciano! We are so proud of our graduates in the Ignatian Spiritual Formation Program and Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program. It is exciting to see the new initiative of the Equipo Latino Ignaciano as well. Br. Charlie offers this issue's spirituality reflection and we hope you consider getting a set of Fr. Felix's excellent new CD's on the New Testament.

Thank you for your prayers and support! Please consider making a contribution today to our Summer Appeal. During these economic times and the summer months, we need your help to continue the level of our services and to grow in the year ahead. The attendance in our courses and programs has been increasing. At the same time, the requests for scholarship assistance have also been greater. Thank you for your donation so that we can continue to grow and to offer scholarships to those in need.

You are in our thoughts and prayers! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Gratefully in Christ,

Fr. Stephen Corder, S.J.
Executive Director, Loyola Institute for Spirituality

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 8-15 8-Day Silent Guided Directed Retreat
Mary & Joseph Retreat Center
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

September 14 ISFP Course
Biblical Foundation in Spirituality

Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life (Sept-June): Applications now being accepted.



ISFP Graduation

On Sunday, June 13th, LIS celebrated the graduation of the 2010 Ignatian Spiritual Formation Program (ISFP) participants. This three-year formation program consists of three phases. During the first year the students begin a 5-series course of study that starts with Biblical Foundation in Spirituality and ends with Ignatian Discernment. The second phase of the program is the 19th Annotation Retreat of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola in Daily Life. The participants end this program with Phase Three which is a practicum where they work side by side with LIS Staff and LIS Associates.

Participants who work with LIS Staff in helping provide retreats, conferences, workshops, days of prayer, spiritual direction and many more spirituality based events in Orange County and beyond.

Congratulations to the Class of 2010

Ken Cachat
Francis S. Chang
Victoria Dendinger
Sr. Grace Duc T. Le, L.H.C.
Sr. Maria Uyen Winnie To, L.H.C.

Many blessings to this exceptional group of individuals. We are truly blessed to have them be a part of our team.

"At its core Ignatian Spirituality for me is all about one, simple, little, four-letter word, LOVE!"

It would be impossible to express and explain in a few minutes all that has happened to me during these past three years in the Ignatian Spiritual Formation Program. It was really a highlight for me as I experienced the 19th Annotation of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola in daily life. This is a nine month process of daily prayer time with our Lord, a weekly meeting with a spiritual director/companion, and a monthly faith-sharing meeting with others who are making the retreat. This experience was both amazing and miraculous and left me with a deep sense of the reality that is Ignatian Spirituality. At its core Ignatian Spirituality for me is all about one, simple little, four-letter word, LOVE!

-Ken Cachat, ISFP Associate Class 2010

We Need Your Summer Support!

Traditionally, summer is a time when most non-profit organizations experience a dramatic decline in the number of donations they receive. This often leads to a critical cash flow shortage.

Many donors plan on making a year-end gift rather than giving year round, and other regular donors simply forget about making their planned donations once the children of grandchildren get out of school and vacation plans begin.

Please prayerfully consider helping us through the "summer slump" by making a gift to LIS today at one of the following levels:

- Ignatian Circle-\$3,000 (Either one gift or an annual pledge of \$250 per month)
- Francis Xavier Circle-\$1,200 (Either one gift or an annual pledge of \$100 per month)
- Peter Faber Circle-\$600 (Either one gift or an annual pledge of \$50 per month)
- Friends of LIS-\$420 (Either one gift or an annual pledge of \$35 per month)

Please know that your gift or pledge in any amount is deeply appreciated! **Please help LIS continue to be available year-round for all who are seeking a closer walk with God!**

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 contact us at (714)997-9587 or visit our website at www.loyolainstitute.org

Thank you to our top donors!

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The New Testament: A Guided Tour

36 25-Minute Topics on 12 Audio CD's (with Written Study Guide)

By Fr. Felix Just, S.J., Ph.D.

- Director of Biblical Education, Loyola Institute for Spirituality, Orange, CA
- Academic Coordinator, Lay Ministry and Deacon Formation, Las Vegas, NV



The Scriptural Experience of a Lifetime

This course consists of 36 erudite, lively lectures spanning the entire New Testament and is taught by one of America's leading biblical lecturers.

The New Testament: A Guided Tour explores each book's perspective on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, as well as the beliefs, practices, and problems of the early Christian communities. You will examine the purpose, contents and theology of each New Testament book, and also explore the historical contexts necessary for understanding the Bible better.

Ignatian Pilgrimage



Fr. Corder and Fr. Roide with fellow pilgrims Gil and Consuelo Asuncion in the Cave of Manresa where St. Ignatius began to write the Spiritual Exercises

In the Autobiography of St. Ignatius Loyola, the saint refers to himself as "the pilgrim." In this same spirit of pilgrimage, 43 pilgrims departed from Los Angeles International Airport on May 28 for a two-week prayer journey in Portugal, Spain, and France, through June 11. The group was led by spiritual guides Fr. Stephen Corder, SJ, and Fr. Russell Roide, SJ. A number of pilgrims were from Loyola Institute for Spirituality and the Diocese of Orange, including LIS Associates Paul Bryant, Penny Hansen, and Joan Trivett. Another part of the group came from Fr. Roide's Holy Spirit Parish and Newman Center at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. Others joined us from Northern California and from as far away as New Orleans and Washington D.C.

Our journey began in Lisbon with a special trip to the Marian shrine of Fatima and a visit to the Carmelite Monastery at Coimbra. We then proceeded north to the Basilica of Santiago de Compostela, an ancient pilgrimage site of the resting place of St. James the Apostle. Then we

journeyed on to the Ignatian sites, visiting the ancestral home of the Loyola family and the castle of the family of St. Francis Xavier. From there, we took a trek through the Pyrennes and spent time at the Marian shrine of Lourdes, a place of healing, procession, prayer, and singing. We continued on to the Benedictine Monastery of Montserrat and visited the Cave of Manresa where Ignatius began to write the Spiritual Exercises. We completed our trip with a brief stay in Barcelona and saw Gaudi's Church of the Holy Family. Each day we celebrated the Eucharist together in these holy places and remembered all the friends of Loyola Institute and Holy Spirit Parish and Newman Center.

One of the most moving experiences for our group was to visit the Conversion Chapel of St. Ignatius at his ancestral home in Loyola. Here Ignatius spent his long recuperation time after his wounding at the Battle of Pamplona against the French. Here, during his most vulnerable moments, God offered his abundant grace and love. Through a gradual process of reading, reflecting, and listening, Ignatius realized that God was calling him and inviting him to a life of faith and service. He began to sense a deep inner peace. There is a large sign over the altar of this Chapel that reads, "Here Ignatius of Loyola gave himself to God."

At the beginning and end of our pilgrimage trip, it was an inspiration to see the thousands of people gathered at Fatima and Lourdes to pray, to sing, and to process in candlelight vigil with the statue of Mary. What a blessing to see so many people from all around the world praying and signing in so many languages. One has a glimpse, if only for a moment, of the beauty that awaits us in the heavenly community with God - a place of everlasting peace and joy.

Equipo Latino Ignaciano

From September, 2009 until June of 2010, ELI accompanied a Desafio retreat group at the Loyola Institute, working with the Latino community in an extended process of Ignatian reflection that involved bi-weekly group gatherings for teaching and sharing, and a daily prayer/reading/contemplation practice on the part of each participant. The impact was profound and life-changing for many, allowing them to deepen their walk with self and God.

The members of ELI have also undergone an extended group meditation during the past year on the themes of Ignatian spirituality and leadership, using as a foundational text Chris Lowney's *El Liderazgo Al Estilo de los Jesuitas (Heroic Leadership is the English title)*, in order to further discernment regarding future ministries related to the mission of the Equipo and the Loyola Institute for Spirituality. Recognizing the many spiritual needs of the wider Latino community in the region, as well as the limits of human and facilities resources for the group, ELI has decided to partner with LIS's Ignatian Spirituality Formation Program in the fall of 2010 to offer a program in spiritual formation for interested bilingual persons in the Orange County area. The ISFP classes will be offered in English, while the Equipo will provide support in Spanish for further reflection, community-based discernment of spiritual vocation, and social connection (*convivencia*).

ELI members have also participated in various activities related to spirituality for married couples (*matrimonios*). Such activities are part of a wider Equipo focus on the promotion of spiritual growth and discernment among couples and families in the Latino community.

By Br. Charles Jackson, S.J.

Butterflies

Several weeks ago, I happened to glance out the window of our kitchen and was surprised to see that a tree in our front yard seemed to be covered with something that hadn't been there a few days before. I hurried outside to take a closer look and was stunned to discover that the tree was covered with black spiny caterpillars - not just some caterpillars, but lots of them - and others could be seen making their way through our lawn, or marching intently along our sidewalk, while still others were climbing up on our house. I knew that I would have to deal with the matter and would probably have to get the tree and area sprayed, but who would do that sort of thing? After several phone calls I happened to speak with an arborist. "Is your tree a mulberry tree?" he asked. I said I really didn't know. "Are these black spiny caterpillars... about two inches long?" the man asked. "Yes," I said. He went on to explain that he had watched this phenomenon since he was a kid. About this time of the year, he said, caterpillars will find a mulberry tree, fill up on its leaves - which they love, he said - and will then find a place where they can form a cocoon and, in a little more than a week, they will become butterflies.

"You mean, if I do nothing," I said, "something good will come out of this." He assured me that was exactly what would happen - and he was right.



Over the course of the past few weeks, well over a hundred caterpillars have found secure places under the eaves of our house, have formed cocoons, and about half of them - to date - have become beautiful orange-and-black monarch butterflies. Last night, I watched in awe as three of the butterflies fluttered about our garden. Now I realize that butterflies don't have consciousness as we do, but I found myself trying to imagine what it must be like for a caterpillar - its sense of "joy" and "absolute delight," if a caterpillar could experience such emotions - for it to be transformed into something as wonderful as a monarch butterfly. Yet as I say this, I realize that we who have embarked upon a spiritual journey are undergoing a similar yet far more wonderful transformation as we are gradually being formed into the image of Christ - or, as St. Paul so beautifully expressed it, "All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit" (2 Cor. 3:18).

By Br. Charles Jackson, S.J.