

In this issue...

- Commencement Reflections from an ISFP Grad
- Online Resources for Prayer
- Celebración “Amor en Acción” / “Love in Action” Celebration, October 2, 2004 - Tickets on sale now!



The Ignaciano

Volume 7, Issue 3

Like A Leaf Changes Colors

It's been years since I've been in school, but September will always be a symbol of a new academic year complete with new classrooms, teachers, and classmates. It was my favorite time of the year as much for the opportunity to start fresh, as for the anticipation of reuniting with the familiar and the mixed emotion of impending change.

I find myself feeling much the same way as summer slowly fades. As in most academic settings, summers at LIS are very quiet – a time for rest, renewal, and catching up with each other and the stacks of paperwork on our floors and desks. There has been a lot to prepare for. The coming year is already unlike any of the other seven because Fr. Allan has departed for his yearlong sabbatical. So did I mention how I don't much like change?

Fortunately I did have the summer to prepare for Fr. Allan's absence. And in the midst of our best wishes for a co-worker and friend and our own adjustment to this change, LIS begins a full year of fulfilling work and intense formation. Here is a taste of the projects we are involved in this year:

- The three years of the Ignatian Spiritual Formation Program (ISFP) begin concurrently with workshops, classes, meetings, and the 19th Annotation Exercises;
- The Equipo Latino Ignaciano (ELI) emerges from the break into its second year with the 19th Annotation Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life;
- LIS continues with the spiritual formation of the Diocese of Orange Diaconate Program as they enter into their fourth and final year; and
- The Ignatian Spiritual Leadership Program (ISLP) will finish at Blessed Sacrament, Hollywood and Our Lady of the Assumption in Pueblo, Colorado.

I forget sometimes that change always makes room for growth. Without it we become static and lose sight of true needs and our own capacity to address them. I can speak for the staff in saying that we look forward to the coming year with all its opportunities and are grateful for the wonderful support system LIS has created. But most, we especially look forward to Fr. Allan's return to a thriving organization that will have missed him and grown stronger because of his foresight and innate need for change and growth.

Lupe Amézquita

Table of Contents:

ISFP Graduate Address	p. 2
19th Annotation	p. 2
En Español	p. 3-4
Online Sources	p. 5
Calendar	p. 5



Mission Statement

The Loyola Institute responds to today's spiritual hungers by enabling people to discover and nurture God's life within them. In response, they are empowered to act on the call of Jesus Christ to communicate and share that life with others. Rooted in the Jesuit heritage, LIS provides services that are mobile, ecumenical and reach out to diverse cultural, language, social and racial groups. It seeks to work in a collaborative and collegial way with all those it serves.



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A Commencement Address

Loyola Institute for Spirituality Ignatian Spirituality Formation Program Commencement Address - Gregory Tabat Santa Ana, CA - 6 June 2004

Join with me for a moment and imagine. Please close your eyes, breathe deeply and relax. Feel the quiet. See the dark.

Now imagine a seed - a small seed in the dark earth - lying there, waiting. Sense the external forces acting on this seed: the pressure of the surrounding earth, the moisture trying to seep in, the warmth stirring something inside. And sense the internal drives within, moving the seed to expand, to break out into the unknown, to change, to grow.

Remember, too, the forces and drives which limit, prevent, or discourage any development - cold, hard, dry earth / contraction, self-protection, fear.

Slowly, easily rejoin us and bring your seed if you like.

When I started the Ignatian Spiritual Formation Program I was like a seed in the ground, but I didn't realize it. I knew I wanted to grow in faith, develop my relationship with God and somehow learn to share that relationship with others.

During the first year we did a lot of course work, a lot of information and concepts - something akin to external forces operating on the seed. We received the support of the earth through the encouragement of our instructors and fellow students. We felt the drip, drip, drip of new concepts and ideas and at times the heat and pressure of trying to take it all in, deal with the unknown and still respond.

Our experience of the second year revealed, exposed, ever more clearly the inner drives within the seed: positive drives for growth and freedom and negative drives for stagnation and remaining bound. Now, not only would we become aware of the forces and drives operating, but we would pay attention to *how* they were operating - for good or ill. And we would learn to discern which are beneficial, which detrimental; those leading and moving toward the

light and those binding to darkness and fear. It is within the experience of the Spiritual Exercises that the choice is made: to maintain the hardened shell of self-preservation and go along with the drives leading to death and isolation, or, to surrender, to break, and follow the drives leading to life and communion. With grace, within love, this choice of love is consecrated - the shell broken, the seed freed. "If God is for us, who can be against, if the Spirit of God has set us free."

(It's a good thing there's discernment because the Spiritual Exercises can be confusing - no disrespect, and for those unfamiliar with the Exercises don't get me wrong, I think they're great. But sometimes it seems like a regular "Who's on First?" I mean, more is less - less is more - shoot for indifference but ask for the magis (Latin for greater) - three classes has nothing to do with first, business and coach other than First class isn't (you don't wanna be there) - and if you get really good...you get the Third Degree!)

Learning to grow toward the light, into, in the light, not just survive within the earth's darkness, is the ongoing process of the third year and beyond - to put into practice the life-learning lessons for ourselves, and, as a natural by-product, to bear fruit for others - giving of ourselves: providing comfort through shade, nourishment through fruit, inspiration through beauty, strength through roots - until eventually we give ourselves completely - to produce more seeds.

I have a sense that... all things considered...I am at groundbreaking.

I thank the producers - Fr. Allan Deck and Board and staff of the Loyola Institute for Spirituality. I thank the directors - Fr. Chi and Sr. Jeanne. I thank my co-stars, my classmates, and especially...

I thank You God for most this amazing day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today, and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth day of life and love and wings: and of the gay great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing breathing any-lifted from the no of all nothing-human merely being doubt unimaginably You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

e.e. cummings

Gregory Tabat is a graduate of the Ignatian Spiritual Formation Program (ISFP). In June 2004, he and five others finished three years of intensive work with Fr. Chi Ngo, SJ, and Sr. Jean Schultz, SP. Greg has already collaborated with LIS on various projects and is coordinating the first-year courses for ISFP.

19th Annotation Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

sponsored by the Loyola Institute for Spirituality

This program will be offered over a nine-month period

Requirements for participation:

An interview with the director for consideration into the program.

Commitment to at least one-half to one hour of private, personal prayer per day.

Attendance to all group sessions.

Willingness to share prayer experiences with the group

If you are interested...

Meetings are held twice a month, during the week in the evenings. Meeting dates for the program will be discussed with the group at the first group meeting. Size of group is limited. To attend on the first night you must have had an interview with the director.

The directors and locations are:

Myrna Larson
Orange, CA
(949)644-0736

myrnalarson1@cox.net
Deadline: October 15, 04

Karolee Hampton
Laguna Beach, CA
(949)494-3795

bkhamp@cox.net
Deadline: Sept. 15,

Sr. Lucy Malarkey
Pasadena, CA
(626)351-0118
lmalarkey@earthlink.net

Calendar of Events

September 18	Catechists conference St. Boniface Parish, Anaheim
September 22-26	Directed retreat for spiritual directors Phoenix, AZ
September 27-30	Ignatian Spiritual Leadership Program (Spanish) Blessed Sacrament Parish, Hollywood CA
October 2	2004 Amor en Acci3n Annual Celebration Sisters of St. Joseph Center, Orange CA (Please see page 3 for more information)
October 5	Ignatian Spiritual Formation Program (open to public) SP-01 Biblical Foundation in Spirituality 4 weekly evening sessions 7:00p.m. to 9:30p.m. By: Fr. Tacho Rivera, SJ & Sr. Anne Hennessy, CSJ Cost: \$80
November 9	Ignatian Spiritual Formation Program (open to public) SP-02 Prayer: Lord, Teach us to Pray 6 weekly evening sessions 7:00p.m. to 9:30p.m. By: Sr. Jean Schultz, SP & Jack Gonsalves Cost: \$120
November 14	Ignatian Spiritual Leadership Program (Spanish) Blessed Sacrament Parish, Hollywood
December 1	Staff Advent Retreat
December 5-10	Holy Family Cathedral, Orange Parish retreat
January 19, 2005	Board Meeting Rosita Diaz Room 4:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.
January 24-28	Diocese of San Bernardino Priests Retreat

For information on these or any other LIS events or to sign up, please contact our office or visit us at www.loyolainstitute.org

Website Sources for daily prayer & reflection

Creighton University's
Online Ministries

www.creighton.edu

Daily Reflections

Daily scripture reflections written by the faculty and staff of Creighton University.

Online Retreat in Daily Life

A 34 week experience of the movements of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

Other Prayer Resources

Practical Prayers, Justice Resources, Advent/Lent Daily Prayers & More.

Jesuit Singapore Website

www.jesuit.org.sg

You will find that one of the main features of this website is to provide a Prayer Ministry service to people of all walks of life; without any charge of course! They keep in mind students and busy people who work in offices and homes and who believe these and others long to be fulfilled spiritually, but "do not have the time to pray daily".

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