

VOL. 2 ISSUE 2 · MAR 2023

THE IGNACIANO

Official Newsletter of the Loyola Institute for Spirituality

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

In *The Posture of Accompaniment*, Becky Eldredge* notes “we are invited to accompany others as Jesus did. We, too, are invited to come alongside people, whether that is in some sort of formal ministry or in the everyday roles of our lives.”

I find accompaniment to be such a life-giving force! It animates the idea of finding God in all people as we respect the uniqueness of others. I witness this through our Spiritual Exercises retreats in 18th and 19th formats where invitations to fruitful accompaniment between spiritual companions and over 70 retreatants including diaconate aspirants and their wives, is realized. Earlier in the month at our in-person English and Spanish Lenten Ignatian Mornings, we accompanied one another through prayer, reflection, and spiritual conversation. Again, on the 11th, we collaborated with the Orange Diocese’s Office of Life, Justice & Peace and the Knights of Peter Claver to host a Gospel Mass to celebrate the lives of six Black holy men and women on the road to canonization. The liturgical celebration invited us all to do what Becky also suggests in her article—“to pause, to notice the persons before us and to receive their stories as we held space to witness God at work in the world” through their faithful and holy service. From the hope-filled liturgical music to the empowering words of the homily, I felt the unifying power of accompaniment embodied in the Universal Prayer and Holy Communion.

May we continue to look lovingly and generously for opportunities to accompany one another during this Lenten season and beyond.

Your Sister in Christ,


Lori

* *The 2023 Writer's Award in Spirituality recipient*

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Associates Spotlight

CYNTHIA CONVEY

How did you first hear about LIS and Ignatian spirituality?

I heard about the Spiritual Exercises during Catholic school, many years ago. I was curious then, but the 30-day retreat (which was all that was offered at that time) was not possible while I was in school. I had always wanted to do the Exercises but never took the step. Then, when I came across the website through the Orange County Diocese webpage. I inquired, applied, and started a wonderful spiritual journey at LIS.



What is your current occupation?

Currently, I am retired. For the last 30 years working, I was a Title V/Title IX/labor attorney in higher education. As part of my duties, I served as the Equity and Diversity Officer. Since retirement, I have started multiple ministries which keep me busy.

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

I was invited to join the Board of LIS and am privileged to serve in that capacity. I am a facilitator for the Finding God in the Dark program at LIS. I serve as a sacristan at my local parish. My husband and I are also involved with ministries to help the underprivileged and homeless in two parishes.

Why is an interesting question. I thought I heard a call. I worked with educational boards throughout my later career and the work with the LIS board seemed a good fit with my skills. I have had a life-long passion for movies and Finding God in the Dark allows me to share that passion in new and enriching ways. I became a sacristan because there was a need and not many were stepping up during Covid. The work with the underprivileged comes from a deep sense of gratitude that we have the ability (physically and financially) to be able to help.

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

It has changed the way I look at the world. I was always somewhat cautious (and still have some of that) as I approached my work and my life. The Spiritual Exercises gave me both the freedom and courage to relate in a more human way with those I live with and encounter.

What is your favorite book, podcast, or movie?

My bachelor's degree was in English Lit. and I have studied and watched countless movies. I don't have a favorite. At different times, different books or films speak to me and I discover different things in them. If you look at the films that I choose for Finding God in the Dark, you will see which movies have called to me.

What are your hobbies?

I love to walk and preferably with my dogs, Joey and Zip. I love going to the movies and attending book clubs. I love taking classes like those at LIS, the Catholic Bible Institute, and through extension at different Catholic colleges.



Associates Spotlight cont'd

AMPARO CORIA

How did you first hear about LIS and Ignatian spirituality?

Ignatian spirituality was something new to me. In the 1990's I was taking the Christological Initiation course and I was invited to experience an eight-day silent retreat. This changed my life and turned it around as I continued with the Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life.

What is your current occupation?

I am already retired from my job. However, I am still active in my parish with Lectio Divina and Legion of Mary ministries. Plus I am a grandmother and enjoy my grandchildren.

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

My parish is where I am still active and where I enjoy being able to talk about God with others.

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

After being very busy in the various ministries and apostolic groups within the church like JPC, Charismatic Renewal and prisoner and liturgical ministries, it was an invitation to experience the Spiritual Exercises that made me realize many things in my life that I needed to change. God also allowed me to get to know myself as I got to know Him. My children and other people told me that I was no longer the same. I myself could see that I was no longer reacting but taking the time to discern, reflect and make decisions after my prayer. My son would say, "We can have a conversation now." That meant a lot to me and I could see God's grace at work in my life.

What is your favorite book, podcast, or movie?

I don't have a favorite book but I do have some favorite authors like Og Mandino and his motivational novels, and Victor Hugo for Les Miserables. The movie The Mission is one of my favorites.

What are your hobbies?

My favorite pastime these days is spending time with my family, cooking for them, taking care of them and spoiling them.



HEARTS ON FIRE

save the date

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023
5PM - 8PM

Loyola Institute for Spirituality
is celebrating 25 years with
a faith-filled community...

Recognition Awards

Live Music

Dinner & Drinks

Silent & Live Auctions

...all under a starry night!

SUMMIT HOUSE
FULLERTON, CA

WWW.LOYOLAINSTITUTE.ORG/HEARTSONFIRE

Buy. Sponsor. Donate.

The site goes live on Friday, March 24th!

Ignatian Corner

Last December, the General Curia of the Society of Jesus announced the launch of a free “Jesuit Pilgrimage” smartphone app. It aims to give an intimate experience of the locations that helped make Ignatius of Loyola a saint. Through maps, 360-degree photographs, audio, and text meditations, users can visit each of the transformational stops on Ignatius’ journey, either virtually from home, or on-site in each of the 44 places covered. The app is available in English, Spanish, Italian, and French, both for Android and iOS. For more information, visit <https://jesuitpilgrimage.app>.





LIS around town . . .

It has been a busy and exciting time as we have more events in person. Here's just a snapshot of what we're doing.

Diaconate Formation Days



OC Food Bank for Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Above: Ryan Pratt in Knights of Peter Claver regalia for St. Agatha's 100th year celebration



Religious Ed Congress

Gospel Mass at Christ Cathedral

Grateful to Bishop Vann, Cathedral staff, Eddie Hilley, Fr. Brendan Busse SJ, and for all those who attended the spirit-filled celebration!



THANK YOU

To our staff, Board of Directors, Associates, volunteers, donors, friends (both old and new), and partners in ministry - thank you for your continued support!