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## Message from the Director: Embracing an Unfinished Spirituality

By Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.

A recent invitation to present on the *unfinished* business of Vatican II seemed aimed at resolving the adjective—let’s finish the business. And it’s important to finish, achieve completion, reach closure. Yet, life isn’t always so tidy.

The unswerving desire for closure reminds me of the desire for purity. Catholic sociologist Mary Douglas who wrote an appreciative essay on the appeal of structure to Catholics entitled “A Feeling for Hierarchy,” also wrote on purity. To simplify a very complex theory, societies that are apprehensive about their borders, experiencing transitions, or facing unrest can establish

sharp rules for determining who’s in and who’s not. They can then map their worries onto bodies, focusing on whom bodies can associate with and what goes into and out of them.



Such purity and identity rules are important for groups and socie-

ties preoccupied with self-preservation; they can also attract those interested in drawing clear distinctions and in need of clear answers.

One temptation that Christianity has always faced is preoccupation with purity, the idea that we are saved by being undefiled and isolated from impurity. This attitude can militate against what is central to Christian faith, namely, the Incarnation, in which God deigned to assume human nature, much of which humans share with the rest of creation. So, the central commitment of Christianity is not to distinction but to

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## Join Us On Campus for the Summer Institute

The seventh Summer Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership takes place on Loyola’s campus 9-14 June 2014 and will focus on the Leadership and Mission of Jesus.

Attendees from schools and parishes will focus on their centrality to the Church’s mission to evangelize, that is, to announce in lives and words the Good News of God’s enduring love.

Fr. Paul Manning, director of St. Paul Inside the Walls, is this year’s presenter. He has long experience in both parish ministry and Catholic high school

education, having served as a parish priest and pastor, chaplain, teacher and president in Catholic high school, as well as diocesan vocation director, Vicar for Education, and now Vicar for Evangelization. The Institute concludes with lunch at John Besh’s Restaurant August. On-campus housing is available.

To learn more about the Summer Institute and how you can attend, contact Claire Moldthan at [cmoldtha@loyno.edu](mailto:cmoldtha@loyno.edu) / 504.865.3079, or view information about the Summer Institute online. [GO»](#)



**Learn more about St. Paul Inside the Walls where Fr. Paul Manning is the director. [GO»](#)**

... let us ... ask the Lord to give us a share in his Resurrection. May he open us to the newness that transforms, to God's surprises... so very beautiful. May he make us men and women capable of remembering all that he has done in our own lives and in the history of our world. May he help us to feel his presence as the one who is alive and at work in our midst.

— Pope Francis



May the Lord be with us as he was with the faithful on that first Easter.

Happy Easter to each of you and yours,

— LIM Faculty and Staff

# News of Note

## Arts and Faith: Lent, A Faith Reflection Resource

This resource from Loyola Press features a visual prayer experience in a weekly video about a work of art inspired by the Sunday Scriptures; the commentary for each video is by LIM faculty member Daniella Zsupan-Jerome. These videos will help you to take a new look at this season of spiritual renewal through the lens of sacred art. [GO»](#)



## On the Road at NCCL

Come join LIM at the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) convention in May. It is still not too late to sign up for the conference, which offers wonderful opportunities to network with others working in catechesis and other lay ministries.



If you are able to attend the conference, please stop by our booth for a visit and a treat. You may also participate in workshops by Daniella Zsupan-Jerome at NCCL. If are willing to come by the booth and share your great LIM experiences with conference participants, please contact LIM director [Tom Ryan](#). If you are not a member of NCCL, please consider joining.

The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Conference and Exposition takes place 19-23 May in St. Louis, Missouri, at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel. Its theme is Energize, Evangelize, Catechize. On Monday, Sherry Weddell, author of *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus*, opens the conference with her keynote address:

“Energizing the Church.”

On Tuesday, Professor Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Ph.D., will participate in the General Session entitled “The Call To Evangelize.” She will present a 17-minute, intense, in-depth presentation on evangelization as seen from the perspective of technology. After the presentation, facilitated discussions will take place. Two other colleagues will offer presentations on evangelization seen through the perspectives of intercultural exchange and young adult. The session takes place on Tuesday, 20 May, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Dr. Zsupan-Jerome will also present a Learning Session on Tuesday, 20 May, from 4:30 - 5:45 p.m. entitled “Technology: Go and Proclaim: Exploring the Role of the Pastoral Leader in the Digital Age” (#210). [Learn More »](#)

LIM will also receive the NCCL’s 2014 Catechetical Award at the awards luncheon on 21 May. [Read More»](#)

## Graduation

We are excited to welcome many of the members of the class of 2014 to campus for graduation on May 10. For those of you making the journey to New Orleans, we have a few last-minute reminders:

15 April: Deadline for degree and certificate students to RSVP for the LIM liturgy and reception. To do so, complete the form on the LIM commencement site. [GO»](#)

7 May: Deadline for requesting physical assistance or designated seating for the physically impaired at either the 10 May Baccalaureate Mass or the LIM Liturgy. To do so, contact [Diane Blair](#)



# Dr. Gilberto A. Ruiz To Attend Wabash Institute Workshop

Dr. Gilberto A. Ruiz has been chosen to participate in the 2014-2015 Teaching and Learning Workshop for Pre-Tenure Theological School Faculty run by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. This workshop will gather junior faculty for a week in two successive summers and a weekend winter retreat in a warm location.

The program's purpose is to create a community of committed and skilled teachers. To do so, the Wabash Center gathers senior faculty from theological institutions around the country to meet with 14 faculty in their first years of teaching to explore and develop an understanding of the philoso-

phy and practice of teaching, the importance of developing collegial relationships, ways to negotiate power and authority in institutions, how issues related to diversity affect a professor's teaching role within the institution and the larger academic world,



Dr. Gilberto A. Ruiz

theological education today and the demands it places on educators, and the importance of balancing work and leisure as an integral part of the teaching vocation.

The purposes of the workshop are to equip the participants to reflect critically on teaching philosophies and practices, foster relationships that will support and sustain participants over the year of the workshop and beyond, develop their unique identities as teachers, and understand and navigate institutional cultures.

We are excited for Dr. Ruiz to have been chosen for this prestigious program and know it will benefit him and his students.



**To read more about the Wabash Center's program for pre-tenure Theological School Faculty,**

[GO »](#)

## Online Summer Courses

Study with us from wherever you are! The summer online session runs from 23 MAY to 3 August.

*Introduction to Practical Theology* • Rev. Ben Berinti, C.Pp.S., Ph.D.

This initial course in ministry education introduces students to a process of "pastoral praxis," through a method of keeping theological reflection in constant dialogue with action.

*Religious Education across the Curriculum* • Kathleen O'Gorman, Ed.D.

This course explores a more comprehensive and integrated understanding and practice of religious education in which the religious educator partners with teachers to illumine the presence and activity of God that ultimately and intimately pervades every subject and discipline.

*The Spirituality and Theology of Work* • Barbara Fleischer, Ph.D.

Oriented to those students who understand their ministry as primarily taking place outside of parish or other explicit ecclesial

communities, this course investigates work and profession from the standpoints of vocation and community.

*History of Christian Spirituality* • Tom Ryan, Ph.D.

This course is an introduction to the variety of experiences and expressions of Christian spirituality from the roots of the Hebrew Scriptures to contemporary spiritual writing. The course focuses on monasticism, mysticism, and modern apostolic spirituality as a way of exploring the recurring questions and challenges that shape the human search for God.

*The Emergent Universe* • Emily DeMoor, Ph.D.

This course asks participants to immerse themselves in contemporary discoveries and understandings of the emergent universe and to reflect on its spiritual dimensions and significance.

# Announcements

## LIMFLEX: LIMEX Changes Include New Options, More Flexibility by Tom Ryan, Ph.D.

The Loyola Institute for Ministry has engaged in a process of strategic planning over the last many months, resulting in key achievements to announce.

We have begun to offer an 18-credit LIMEX Certificado en Teología y Ministerio completely in Spanish, and we are

beginning to stream our LIMEX videos online so that students will also have access to them.

We have also developed a new LIMEX curriculum and new ways of accessing it. These new options entail the same commitment to quality, trans-

formative education within an adult learning community that engages in contextual and transformative theological reflection and action, with a Loyola-certified facilitator. To capture both the commitment to traditional strengths and new flexibility, some of us

[continue »](#)



LIM's home on the Loyola Campus is Stallings Hall.

## NCCL Honors LIM with the 2014 Catechetical Award

The Board of the Directors of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) has selected the Loyola Institute for Ministry and its Extension Program (LIMEX) to receive its highest award for 2014, the Catechet-

ical Award. The NCCL Catechetical Award is given at the annual meeting to a person, persons or institution in recognition of outstanding or exemplary contribution to the ministry of catechesis.

The criteria used by the board of directors in the selection of the recipient are that the recipient demonstrates:

- a life of witness to the Word of God,

[continue »](#)

## Online Open House: 27 May 2014

The Loyola Institute for Ministry will host an Online Open House Tuesday, 27 May, at 8 p.m. in CDT for those interested in learning more about our on-campus programs. Please share this information with those you feel may be interested. For more information contact Diane Blair at 504.865.2069 or [dblair@loyno.edu](mailto:dblair@loyno.edu)

### Application Deadlines for Admissions

Summer Semester – April 1<sup>st</sup> • Fall Semester – August 1<sup>st</sup> • Spring Semester – November 1<sup>st</sup>

## Upcoming Webinars

Please join us for our upcoming webinars, which are free and open to the public. Bring a friend!

**8 April**, Sr. Julie Vieira, IHM, participant in [A Nun's Life Ministry](#) will present *I Have Called You By Your Username, You Are Mine: Re-imagining*



*Ministry and Vocation in an Online World.*

**15 May**, Theresa O'Keefe, an assistant professor at Boston College of the Practice of Youth and Young Adult Faith, will discuss *Ministering to Youth in a Busy World.*



### How to Attend

All webinars take place at 8PM CDT. To access the webinars:

1. Go to: <http://loyno.adobeconnect.com/webinar/>
2. Select "Enter as a Guest"
3. Type in your name and click "Enter Room." If you log-in before the starting time, you will need to wait until the start time before being invited in.

Log on and join us for our webinars!



## Letter from the Director continued

solidarity, which can also be described in terms of relationship, association, community, companionship, and accompaniment. Similarly St. Paul closed off the purity option early on. We are not saved by striving for spotlessness; no, all is gift, all is grace.

So, I was drawn more to the endurance of the adjective “unfinished” in the title of the invited talk mentioned above. I’m drawn to it in part because I’m thinking about it in this season of Lent, which insists on putting us in our place—from dust you come and to dust you will return.

So, Lent aligns us with reality by reminding us annually that we remain unfinished business. Given that recognition, it then invites renewal in its first reading on Ash Wednesday, “Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart” (Joel 2:12). Recognition of our incompleteness also allows grace to stir in and transform us, in God’s time, on divine terms. Like we and Vatican II, God isn’t finished with us. God has work left to do and calls us as co-creators to continue it.

Best wishes for a holy Easter season!

*Tom Ryan*



**Dr. Tom Ryan, Director  
Loyola Institute for Ministry**

## Faculty and Staff Transitions by Tom Ryan, Ph.D.

In addition to the new curricular developments I address elsewhere in LIMExpress, I also want to alert our readers to personnel developments in the Loyola Institute for Ministry.

For a variety of reasons, the university’s undergraduate enrollment fell significantly this past fall, a sharp decline for Loyola but not unprecedented in higher education nationally.

Because Loyola is so tuition-dependent, the budgetary effects of this event have rippled throughout the university. Among the ways the university sought to balance its budget was through a combination of voluntary buyouts and layoffs.

Three members of the LIM community accepted voluntary buyouts of their contracts Cecelia Bennett, Barbara Fleischer, and Kathleen O’Gorman.

Cecelia has already stepped down; Kathleen and Barbara will remain with LIM through the end of July. In addition, we have lost our videographer Todd McMahan.

Because these developments are so recent, I don’t feel I have a sufficiently clear vantage point to reflect on what has been and what will be.

But I will offer some initial reflections. What a loss our colleagues’ departures represent for LIM. Their wisdom and years of experience are the foundations on which LIM is built. What a loss.

Yet, Kathleen and Barbara are not leaving us immediately, and all four remain with us in various ways as wisdom figures we can consult and as on-campus and online instructors. Just as importantly, their spirit of innovation in response to the Church’s and the world’s

needs will continue to guide us as we develop new responses to the same.

I am committed to maintaining the quality and creativity of our programming and the responsiveness to questions that LIM has rightly been known for. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you are not sure whom else to reach out to.

As always, keep us in your prayers as we continue to discern and implement ways and means of educating for renewal of the Church and world.

## LIM Community Members Visit Students at Angola Penitentiary

In November 2013 on a visit to LIMEX students who are inmates at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, Dr. Tom Ryan told the men of their classmates all over the world, to which one man lamented that they did not feel that connection but were eager to learn of ministry contexts other than their own of prison ministry. In response, Dr. Ryan invited members of the LIM community to join him

on a future visit to the learning group at the penitentiary, and on Saturday, 22 March, the group travelled to Angola to build community and facilitate conversation.

The visiting group of 20 was led by LIM Director Tom Ryan and included Loyola's Provost Marc Manganaro, LIM faculty member Barbara Fleischer, and LIM adjunct Jim O'Neill. Members of the wider LIM commu-

nity who participated included Rhonda Parenton, liaison for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Rick Beben, facilitator of the learning group at Angola, and LIM students from the on-campus, extension, and online programs, with students coming from as far away as Tennessee and Mississippi to take part in the conversation.

*Loyola community members on the grounds of the penitentiary at Angola on Saturday, 22 March 2014, before visiting with LIM students there.*



## LIMFLEX: LIMEX Changes Include New Options, More Flexibility continued

have begun to speak of LIMFLEX. Several factors are driving the changes. One is the difference between the LIMEX curriculum and that offered online and on campus. We offer the Master of Pastoral Studies and the Master of Religious Education in all three formats, but students in the LIMEX format had different requirements than students in the other formats have.

To align the degrees across formats, we have increased the number of electives in the LIMEX degree by reducing the number of required courses. Students will no longer be required to take Course 7, *Faith and Culture*, or Course 8, *Faith Development and Spirituality*. The contexts that these courses address, as well as our model of theological reflection, will be inte-

grated more intentionally into core theological courses, focus courses, and electives.

The other factor driving changes has been the growth in digital media. Building on its leadership in distance education in ministry, LIM began to offer fully online degrees several years ago, and we are now poised to integrate online options with the best of what LIMEX has to offer.

One factor preventing students' from completing their studies in LIMEX is the length of time the program takes—four years or more. This works for some, but many want to finish more quickly. We will still give groups the opportunity to take all 12 courses in the LIMEX format, but groups will also have the option of taking between

1 and 6 courses in the LIMEX format and completing the rest online. Students who want to take one course at a time could still do so, but those who want to finish more quickly could take online courses concurrently with LIMEX courses and complete a degree in two years.

For a more extensive discussion of changes, please see <http://lim.loyno.edu/lim-flex>. I would welcome your feedback; feel free to email me at [fryan@loyno.edu](mailto:fryan@loyno.edu). Finally, help me spread the news about these new developments and let me know: Are there any current, former, or potential LIMEX sites that might benefit from these new options?

**LIMFLEX includes "both the new and the old" (Matthew 13:52); that is, it involves new options along with the same commitment to quality, transformative education.**

## NCCL Honors LIM with the 2014 Catechetical Award continued

- a magnanimous spirit of love and service to the Church,
- a vocation to ministry characterized by a pioneering spirit and innovative vision, and
- a dedication and significant contribution to the ministry of catechesis in the Church at large.

The award will be presented on

Wednesday, 21 May in St. Louis during the NCCL's 78th annual Conference and Exposition Awards Luncheon.

LIM is proud to be the recipient and stand in the company of previous honorees including Robert J. McCarty, D.Min., and Dr. Margaret Wilson McCarty, D.Min. (2013); Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, MSHS,

D.Min. (2012); Dr. Jane Regan (2009); and the USCCB Committee on Catechesis (2007).





## The Loyola Institute for Ministry

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**Ministry education to make a difference in the world.**

The mission of the Loyola Institute for Ministry (LIM) is to prepare women and men for religious education and ministerial leadership in Catholic and other Christian communities through professional graduate education and through professional continuing education. The Master of Religious Education and the Master of Pastoral Studies degrees are offered in the Institute. A number of continuing education options are also part of Institute programming.

This newsletter is designed for students in all the LIM programs, alums, current liaisons, facilitators, and faculty.

The newsletter is written, edited, and prepared for the web by Jennifer Shimek.



# Spring and Summer 2014 Calendar of Events

## APRIL

1<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday • Bob Marshall, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist with [The Lens](#) presents a talk "Having Faith in Nature" as part of the First Tuesdays Lecture Series • The Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception, 30 Baronne St. • 12:30 p.m. CDT • [GO»](#)

8<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday • Sr. Julie Vieira, IHM, Participant in A Nun's Life Ministry, presents *I Have Called You By Your Username, You Are Mine: Reimagining Ministry and Vocation in an Online World* • 8 p.m. CDT • [Online Webinar](#) • [GO»](#)

## MAY

10<sup>th</sup>, Saturday • Loyola Commencement at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome • 8 a.m. ; LIM Liturgy and Reception at Ignatius Chapel on Loyola's campus • 4:30 pm CDT • [GO»](#)

15<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday • Theresa O'Keefe, assistant professor at Boston College, discusses *Ministering to Youth in a Busy World* • 8 p.m. CDT • [Online Webinar](#) • [GO»](#)

19-23<sup>rd</sup>, Monday through Thursday • National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Conference and Exposition • St. Louis, MO • [GO»](#)

- 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday • Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Ph.D., participates in the General Session entitled "The Call To Evangelize." She will present a 17-minute, intense, in-depth presentation on evangelization as seen from the perspective of technology • 9:30 - 11:30 am CDT
- 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday • Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Ph.D., presents a Learning Session entitled "Technology: Go and Proclaim: Exploring the Role of the Pastoral Leader in the Digital Age" (#210) • 4:30 - 5:45 pm CDT

- 21<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday • LIM receives the Catechetical Award at the Awards Luncheon • 12:45-2:00 pm CDT

27 May • Online Open House for Prospective Students • 8:00 p.m. CDT • [GO»](#)

## JUNE

9-14<sup>th</sup>, Monday through Thursday • Summer Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership takes place on the Loyola campus. [GO»](#)

### Did You Know?

Past LIM webinars are available for viewing online in the archive on the LIM website. [GO»](#)