

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Notes from Cecelia 2

An Opportunity to Give 3

LIMEX in Spanish 3

Announcements 4

For Advent 6

Calendar of Events 6

Message from the Director: After Graduation

By Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.

I recently skyped with our Nigerian students who are in their final LIMEX course in the Archdiocese of Benin City. One student sought to test his assumption that fellow Catholics, and especially parish and diocesan leaders, share the depth of knowledge and view of Church he's gained in his studies.

Some do. Yet many in the Church—in Nigeria and elsewhere—have not studied in a setting that prizes the wisdom and experience that adult students bring to class. Not all value practical theological reflection and the attention to context it requires. Not all are prepared to listen appreciatively and draw out the good in even problematic

positions. Not all are willing to acknowledge the status of the lay baptized as priest, prophet and



Students in Benin City, Nigeria, in front of the building they converted for use as LIMEX classroom space.

crate the world to God in their daily lives. Yet our students have learned all this and much more.

Not infrequently our students sense dissonance between what they have learned and the realities of Church life. So, how should they respond as professionals with graduate credentials? Here are a few thoughts. I'd enjoy hearing yours.

One idea is to maintain proficiency in the communication and facilitation skills learned in course I. These include I-statements—"it's my understanding that....," "what I hear you saying is...." No claims for the possession of

royalty, or to serve the laity whose vocation it is to conse-

continue →

New Spring Courses on Digital Media, Preaching Open to All

Our new online courses this spring include [Digital Media and Ministry](#) taught by Dr. Daniella Zsupan-Jerome and [Sharing the Word: An Online Preaching Course](#) taught by Dr. Deborah Wilhelm.

To explore how we communi-



cate faith in the digital age, *Digital Media and Ministry* focuses on key topics of faith and digital culture to enable learners to approach the task of communicating faith with confidence and clarity about both the potential and the limits

of digital media for expressing, forming, and experiencing faith. This course also seeks to enhance basic digital media literacy skills for ministry, primarily focusing on the potential of social media for sharing and communicating faith.

To preach effectively requires practice and feedback, and this course will include both, along with instructions and conversation. Both lay and ordained students will explore a



theology of and formation in preaching for graduate or certificate credit on its own or as part of a LIM certificate or degree.

Check out these cutting-edge courses that draw on the best in new technology and are grounded in the tradition in all its richness. Students, graduates, and others are welcome to take these courses.

Sign up for online classes on LORA
[GO»](#)

*May you have the gladness
of Christmas which is hope;
the spirit of Christmas which
is peace; the heart of
Christmas which is love.
- Ada V. Hendricks*



*We send wishes for a blessed
Christmas and a hope-filled
New Year to each of you and
yours.*

Sincerely,

The LIM Faculty and Staff

Notes from Cecelia

By Cecelia Bennett, J.C.L.

2014 Commencement

The 2014 spring commencement activities will be held the weekend of 10 May 2014. The LIM liturgy and reception is on Saturday afternoon, 10 May, at 4:30 p.m. All certificate and degree candidates are invited to participate with their guests. University Commencement for degree candidates for May, August, and December 2014 is on Saturday, 10 May at 9:45 a.m. in the Mercedes Benz Superdome. Students who apply for graduation in



2014 are sent by email information from Diane Blair dblair@loyno.edu on the liturgy and reception and the other university commencement activities. Information is also posted on the university [commencement page](#).

All 2014 degree and certificate graduates (students who have successfully completed 27 hours or 9 courses) need to [apply online](#) for graduation. The university's reply to your online application will be sent to your loyno.edu email address. You may find your Loyola email address on LORA if you do not remember it.

LIM Office Closure for Christmas

The university and LIM offices will close for the Christmas holiday from Monday, 23 December through Wednesday, 1 January. The last day for LIM Extension students to submit a paper to the Consulting Service is Friday, 13 December.

2014 Extraordinary Synod on the Family

The upcoming synod on families called by Pope Francis is all over the news. As LIM students and alums you might be asked "What is this all about?" As the staff assistant at the U.S. Bishops' Conference for the 1980 "Year of the Fam-

ily" that also led up to the 1980 Synod on the Family, I took special interest in the 8 October 2013 announcement of Pope Francis of the upcoming extraordinary synod on the topic of family. Since then I have been following the news on the 2014 synod, and now share some thoughts and resources with you. This synod is being called as an extraordinary synod. Canonically, an extraordinary synod is called for matters that require a "speedy solution" (C 346 §2). As early as July in Francis' pontificate, on the 28 July, 2013 [interview on the plane trip](#) coming back from World Youth Day in Rio, the pope talked about his pastoral concerns related to family, marriage, and marriage and divorce.

In preparation for a synod, a preparatory document is normally sent out to bishops so they are able to come to the prepared to synod fully participate with the most current information from their local churches. Unlike the 1980 preparatory document, the 2014 preparatory document, [Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelization](#), is available for all to read on the Vatican web page, and Pope Francis had invited all the faithful to give their input to their bishops or directly to the Vatican.

If you want to participate in the preparation for this synod, many bishops and episcopal conferences have posted on their web pages the preparatory document and survey questions with directions on where to send responses. In the United States, individual bishops are doing this. If you Google "family synod survey" and the name of your arch/diocese, you should be able to find a local link. If you cannot, the Bishops of England and Wales have established a SurveyMonkey link for input and have said they will pass your feedback on to your local diocese if you use their link. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FamilySynod2014>.

An Opportunity for Giving: LIMEX in Nigeria

Dear Friends,

The Loyola Institute for Ministry's is known for its educational outreach. One of our most far-reaching programs is in Benin City, Nigeria, where one group is completing its graduate certificates and another has begun.

One of the challenges the students face is cost. Though less expensive compared to many similar programs in the United States, LIM tuition and materials can still be a burden here. This is even more the case elsewhere.

In collaboration with Loyola's Office of Institutional Advancement, LIM is piloting for the university an innovative form of microfinance. Similar to a Kickstarter campaign,

This program seeks to gather small contributions to make a big differ-

ence—in this case to make LIM's practical and transformative model of theological reflection available to the Church in Nigeria.

The proceeds from the campaign will purchase much-needed books for LIM students in Nigeria.



Current LIMEX Students in Benin City, Nigeria.

n this season of giving, your small gift can make a large contribution to others who value graduate education for ministry as much as you do.

Want to learn more? Check out the web page <<http://giving.loyno.edu/empower>>.

Thank you!
Tom Ryan

To learn more about the campaign, or to make a donation, visit the [Empower](http://giving.loyno.edu/empower) web page.

LIMEX in Spanish:

Continuing Education Certificate in Theology and Ministry

According to the US Census Bureau, 75.1% of Hispanic Americans age 5 and older speak Spanish at home, and according to CARA, 68% of Hispanics in the United States identify themselves as Catholic. (Statistics quoted by the [USCCB](http://www.usccb.org)). These facts suggest both the value of graduate study in Spanish for lay ministers and the need for them to serve the Spanish-speaking members of their churches and communities. Thus LIM has worked to translate the LIM model for graduate education into Spanish.

Two pilot groups—in Tupelo, MS,

and Raleigh, NC—have tested out our Continuing Education Certificate in Theology and Ministry program in Spanish. The program consists of

- the six theological core courses,
- course books and syllabi,
- course videos, and
- Ignatian spirituality material

all in Spanish.

The feedback has been very positive. Like our program in English, LIM en Español prepares students to be leaders who, attentive to

context, can reflect theologically and transformatively.

If you are interested in starting LIMEX en Español through your sponsoring agency, learn more in English at <http://www.loyno.edu/lplc/lim-spanish> or in Spanish at <http://www.loyno.edu/lplc/lim-hispano>.

**Download and print the flyer for
LIM en Español [GO](#)»**

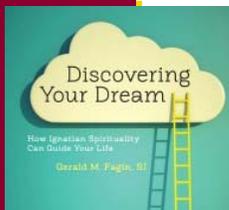
Announcements

LIM Says Goodbye to Eileen Chapoton

It is with sadness at her leaving that LIM says goodbye to Eileen Chapoton, Manager of Recruitment, Promotion, and the Loyola Pastoral Life Center, as she pursues a new chapter in her life. Eileen will be the director



of donations at the University of Louisville in Tennessee. All of us at LIM thank her for her hard work and many contributions to the institute, and we wish her much success in her new endeavor.



Limited Edition Fr. Jerry Fagin Books Available

LIM has a limited number of Fr. Jerry Fagin, S.J.'s recently published *Discovering Your Dream: How Ignatian Spirituality Can Guide Your Life*. This limited

edition comes with the Loyola Institute for Ministry logo on the cover and costs \$11 per book, including handling and shipping. Give Ignatian Christ-

mas gifts this year! Email lim@loyno.edu to place your order.

First Tuesdays Lecture Series

Join us on the first Tuesday of the month, October through May, for food and fellowship centered around a talk from a local leader on the theme "Spirituality in the City."

All presentations begin at 12:30 in Lenex Hall, 130 Baronne Street, which is the parish center of Immaculate Conception Jesuit Church. All

are invited to share a simple lunch that starts at 12:15.

Upcoming speakers include:

7 January • Carlos Prieto, music director and principal conductor of the Louisiana Philharmonic, Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Mexico, Orquesta Sinfónica de Minería, and YOA Orchestra of the Americas, will speak.

4 February • Martin Gutierrez, the vice-president of community services at Catholic Charities New Orleans speaks on "Many Faces in God's House"

Additional speakers are still being scheduled. To learn more about the First Tuesdays Lecture Series by [visiting the webpage](#).

The parish center of Jesuit Church, pictured below, is the site of the First Tuesdays Lecture Series.



Dr. Daniella-Zsupan-Jerome to Speak at NCCL Conference

Will you be at the 2014 [NCCL Annual Conference](#) in St. Louis? If so, you may want to plan to attend LIM faculty member Dr. Daniella Zsupan

-Jerome's TED presentation "The Call to Evangelize: The Technology Perspective" on Tuesday, 20 May.

LIMEX Course Videos Online

This spring, we will pilot offering LIM videos online using Blackboard as a secure and

centralized location to house them. Liaisons and facilitators will be receiving further details

via email regarding how to access and view the videos.

Upcoming Webinars

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

10 December • Gilbert A. Ruiz, Ph. D., associate professor at LIM, speaks on "The

Challenge of the Infancy Narratives."

All webinars take place at 8PM CST. 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



After Graduation continued

The Truth these; they are marked instead by provisionality, as if to say, 'I hold this position; it's the best I can do now, but new knowledge and circumstances may require change.'

Because of its provisionality, I-language makes its users vulnerable. They open themselves to critique. One advantage is that the vulnerable are less threatening and, as a result, may be heard more effectively. They can also model for others a behavior that is realistic (none of us has owns the whole truth) and so more persuasive.

The second idea starts as a movie recommendation. I recently offered opening remarks at the screening of *The Way* at Loyola's Medieval Film Festival. Starring Martin Sheen, this movie traces the journey of a U.S. ophthalmologist to retrieve the cremated remains of a wayward son who had just begun the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. On a whim, he decides to walk El Camino himself, carrying the remains of his son with him. In doing so, he endures a trek of hundreds of miles; recognizes his dependence on others, and grows in knowledge of self and God. I recommend this film.

In my opening remarks, I indicated that pilgrim and pilgrimage are traditional images for the Christian and the life of faith respectively. Thomas Aquinas, for example, regularly speaks of humans as *vitatores*, wayfarers. I suggested that his great work of theology, the *Summa theologiae*, might be seen as mapping a pilgrimage from our origins as God's creatures to our goal of divinization or deification.

The *Summa* has a cosmic sweep and creation and materiality mat-

ter. So, I further suggested that all creation shares this destiny and that we see all creation as journeying together on pilgrimage toward life with God.

This perspective has environmental implications. Seeing other creatures—human and non-human, animate and inanimate—as fellow pilgrims on a journey to a divine destiny could transform our relationship to the rest of creation.

This perspective can also influence Church relationships. If we're all in this together or, as the Saints go marching in), then none is exempt from the "joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties" of our time on earth.

If all this is the case, then LIM graduates are in solidarity with and can relate more empathetically to other members of the body of Christ who, like them, are fellow pilgrims on the way.

Some questions:

- Would practicing the communication and facilitation skills you learned in LIM improve your professional relationships in the Church?
- Would framing the life of faith as a pilgrimage do likewise?
- What suggestions do you have for how to relate to leaders and others who do not have your education, have not benefited from LIM studies, or do not share your view of Church?

Finally, season's greetings. W.H. Auden speaks of Christmas as a time of "Remembering the stable where for once in our lives/

Everything became a You and nothing was an It." We live now in hope, in hope that such a memory can be more enduring and not so fleeting. "In the meantime/There are bills to be paid, machines to repair/Irregular verbs to learn, the Time Being to redeem/From insignificance" (From "For the Time Being").

On behalf of LIM faculty and staff, I extend warm greetings to you and yours as we begin the new liturgical year. May our encounters with the Incarnate One renew our commitment to revealing God's transforming presence even now, in the Time Being.

Sincerely,

Tom Ryan



Dr. Tom Ryan, Director
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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.



For Advent 2013

- Dr. Daniella Zsupan-Jerome has created a five-part online reflection series for Loyola Press' website where users can pray with works of art during the Sundays of Advent, and on Christmas Day. [GO»](#)
- LIM alum Skya Abbate has recently published a book of poems *Incarnation: Daily Poems for Advent* [Learn more »](#)
- LIM student Lorraine Hess is presenting an Advent concert series in the New Orleans area; some of the proceeds will benefit ACCESS Pregnancy and Referral Centers, a charity of the Archdiocese. [Learn more »](#)

Spring 2014 Calendar of Events

JANUARY

7th, Tuesday • Carlos Prieto speaks at the First Tuesdays Lecture Series • Lunch, 12.15 pm, lecture 12.30 pm, CDT • Lenes Hall, 130 Baronne St. Center • [GO»](#)

FEBRUARY

4th, Tuesday • Martin Gutierrez speaks at the First Tuesdays Lecture Series on "Many Faces in God's House" • Lunch, 12.15 pm, lecture 12.30 pm, CDT • Lenes Hall, 130 Baronne St. Center • [GO»](#)

MAY

10th, Saturday • Graduation for all LIM degree candidates • 9:45 am, CDT • Mercedes-Benz Superdome • [GO»](#)
20th, Tuesday • Dr. Daniella Zsupan-Jerome presents "The Call to Evangelize: The Technology Perspective" • NCCL Conference • St. Louis, MO • [GO»](#)

To Learn More about LIM and Loyola Events
You can access the Loyola Calendar that lists LIM
and university events at: <http://calendar.loyno.edu/>