

# LIM EXPRESS

LOYOLA INSTITUTE FOR MINISTRY

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## From the Director Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.



In his three-volume *Time and Narrative*, French philosopher Paul Ricoeur wonders about stories. Why are they so prevalent across culture and history? At the risk of vast oversimplification, he says that they render time meaningful. Without stories to organize time, it would be just one meaningless thing after another.

Since returning to New Orleans to become director of the Loyola Institute for Ministry (LIM), I've been immersed in stories, often, not surprisingly, involving Katrina and its aftermath. Many are elicited by the one-word question, "*How'djado?*" (which, translated, means "how did you, your, family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances do during and after Katrina?")

What does surprise me is how a New Orleans day seems to have more time in it than those elsewhere. I made this discovery as I witnessed how willing New Orleanians are not only to tell stories but also to listen patiently as others relate their own experiences and also, as in my case, others' experiences at second and third hand.

The other category of stories I've heard since moving here includes those about LIM. Having taken LIM courses as a student, taught on campus and graded extension papers as an adjunct, I thought I knew much of what there was to know, but I was mistaken.

I've learned that we were founded forty years ago as the Catechetical Institute of New Orleans at the Archdiocese's Notre Dame Seminary. Thirty years ago, we moved to Loyola as its Institute for Ministry. Twenty-five years ago, we started our extension program.

The main thread that runs through LIM stories has been its transformative character.

It has affected believers ranging from the traditional to the progressive in jobs from the most obviously ministerial to those much less obviously so. It has led people to leave jobs they found to be incompatible with their faith and to start new ones, often at reduced pay. It has enriched the life of the Church in New Orleans, around the country, and around the world. In fact, several years ago, the Archdiocese of Saint Andrews and Edinburgh, Scotland, held a

three-day celebration to honor its LIM graduates, the first Catholic university graduates in that country since the time of the sixteenth-century Reformation.

Overall, I've found LIM, its faculty, staff, and graduates to be even more inspiring than I expected. It is a gift for me to work here.

To return to my opening thoughts, stories aren't just descriptive. They have power to impart meaning. Sometimes they do so for the worse and, thus, lead to despair, as suggested in myth. For example, the one thing left imprisoned in Pandora's Box was hope, and this after all the world's ills had escaped. A more contemporary example is how some (mis)interpret the Book of Revelation as pinpointing the approaching, inevitable, and catastrophic destruction of the earth. In doing so, such stories devalue creation and obscure God's loving intentions (that we sometimes thwart nonetheless).

Yet stories can also convey the theme that Pope John Paul II stressed throughout his papacy—"Be not afraid!" To be sure, he recognized that God's love does not hold sway everywhere and in all hearts. But the stories that he told, indeed the great stories of our faith about the liberation of the Israelites from slavery, about Jesus' saving death and resurrection, and about God's mysterious presence in the most surprising corners of creation, assure us that God's love will ultimately win out.

It is for this reason that many of my fellow New Orleanians tell Katrina stories. They relate suffering and misery, yet most also convey hope even against so much evidence to the contrary.

It is for this reason also, I believe, that people become LIM students. They want to learn more deeply about faith's stories that speak of liberation from sin and its effects and of God's transformative love for creation. And they want to learn how to tell such stories more persuasively in their many and varied ministerial contexts.

Indeed, LIM has been a gift to me, but for the past four decades it has also been a gift to the Church and the world. Spread the good news!

## **News Notes from Cecelia**

**Cecelia M. Bennett, J.C.L.**

### **Tuition Payments**

Thank you to all of you for paying your tuition online. Please remember to pay online through the pay tuition link on the extension program's webpage (<http://lim.loyno.edu/extension/>), and not from LORA (Loyola Online Records Access) <<https://lorasec.loyno.edu/>>. LORA is where you can check your grades, your account balances and look up your loyno.edu email address or update your postal address. Remember, if you have any Unpaid Balances on your tuition account you will be billed by the University for the Unpaid Balance. If the bill is not paid in a timely manner, you could be charged a late fee by the university. Please read your tuition bills carefully to see if this situation applies to your account.

### **Online Application**

I am pleased to announce that LIM now has an online admissions application. Extension program applicants have the option of applying online for admission. The \$20 application fee is waived for applicants who apply online. Applicants are still able to use the hard copy application given to them by their liaison at an information session. The new application is posted on the LIM home page, the extension program home page, and the on-campus home page. <<http://www.lim.loyno.edu/extension/limexadmissions.html>>

### **Loyola Commencement**

In May 2007, we celebrated the graduation of 114 Loyola Institute for Ministry degree and certificate candidates. Loyola groups graduated from the dioceses of Charleston, Grand

Rapids, Hexham-Newcastle, Madison, Monterey, Nashville, Orlando, Pensacola-Tallahassee, Phoenix, Raleigh, Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Toledo, and Wilmington. Thirty-seven degree and certificate graduates and their families and guests joined us in New Orleans for the celebration.

This year's Loyola Institute for Ministry Commencement Liturgy will be on May 10, 2008 at 4:30 p.m., in St. Ignatius Chapel, Bobet Hall, followed by a jazz reception in the Danna Student Center on the Loyola University Main Campus.

The Loyola University New Orleans Commencement Ceremony for degree candidates is earlier that morning at 10 a.m., at the Louisiana [New Orleans] Superdome. For more information on commencement, please see <http://www.loyno.edu/ia/publicaffairs/commencement.html>.

If your group's due date of papers is between November 6, 2007 and November 5, 2008, you should by now have received from your facilitator a copy of my 2008 Graduation Memo along with an RSVP form for the LIM liturgy. If you do not remember receiving this memo, please email [lim@loyno.edu](mailto:lim@loyno.edu) and let us know.

## **Coming Soon to a Conference Near You**

**Diane Blair, M.A.P.S.**

Our LIM recruiting team will be at several national gatherings and conventions over the next few months. If you attend any of these meetings, please stop by our booth for a special LIM goodie we are giving to our students, facilitators, liaisons, and alums!!

- The Los Angeles Religious Education Congress - February 29 - March 2, 2008 <<http://www.recongress.org/>>
- National Conference of Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Conference and Exposition - April 6-10, 2008 - Houston, Texas <<http://www.nccl.us/>>
- A National Ministry Summit - Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership - April 20 - 23, 2008- <<http://www.nalm.org>>

We will have a full team of folks at these conferences, and it will be a good opportunity to learn what's going on at LIM, to stock up on materials, and to have a place to catch your breath during those hectic conventions! We'll have a little oasis area at most of our booths, and we hope you take advantage of it and relax with us for at least a few minutes.

Are you really excited to share your Loyola experience with others? Think about spending some time at the exhibit booth in order to talk to potential students! Contact Diane Blair for details: [dblair@loyno.edu](mailto:dblair@loyno.edu).

## **Course 7 and 8 Revisions Completed**

**Catherine P. Zeph, Ed. D.**

After many delays, the biggest of which was the interruption of life in New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina that lasted through 2006 and into 2007, Courses 7 (*Faith and Culture* – which explores the sociocultural context of ministry) and 8 (*Faith Development and Spirituality* – which explores the personal context of ministry) in our common curriculum have finally been revised. While gutting and renovating his home and living part of the time in a FEMA trailer, Dr. Mark Markuly was able to write much of the new course book for Course 7 before leaving for his new position at Seattle University. Dr. Barbara Fleischer took what he wrote and fashioned it into the finished product. She also assisted Dr. Catherine Zeph in revising Course 8.

Both courses have kept in some of the “best” of the former courses – for instance, Michael Cowan's work on social and cultural analyses in Course 7 and James Fowler's faith

development theory in Course 8. Course 7 examines how global issues affect local communities and offers specific methods for understanding one's own sociocultural context in ministry. New chapters on the complex relationship between faith and culture and an overview of H. Richard Niebuhr's models for how faith and culture interact are introduced in Course 7. Course 8 examines how our own personal faith development and understanding of spirituality affect our ministry. New chapters on varying dimensions of spirituality, with an emphasis on personal integration, have been written. Course 7 has a full course book and two new reflective essay assignments, while Course 8 has kept its previously modified course book/ancillary texts reading format. Course 8 now has two new reflective essay assignments rather than three. Both courses have new ancillary textbooks. There is new video footage integrated into the courses.

As with all of our courses, we are open to feedback and adaptation as appropriate. If your learning group is or will be enrolled in these two new courses, we look forward to hearing from you on your course evaluation forms. Please let us know your experiences with these courses. Constructive and specific suggestions are always appreciated. We think that you will, for the most part, be pleased with our latest revisions.

## **Online Reminders for Facilitators and Students**

**Catherine P. Zeph, Ed.D.**

We at LIM greatly appreciate all that everyone has done to work with us as we make our transition from delivery of materials and correspondence by "snail mail" to online delivery and e-mail correspondence. While there have been some bumps by all concerned, we are learning along with you and have been generally pleased by the way things are going with our new online systems.

To that end, the LIM Coordinators have asked me if I would remind folks of the following. When contacting LIM staff, please e-mail the staff member responsible for the appropriate area of concern, as follows:

- Enrollment issues and status of Course 1 and/or 2 rosters, candidacy, change of status graduate and CEU, facilitator stipends and mid-course reports, and graduation certification/status information: please contact **Ellen Casanovas** ([ecasanov@loyno.edu](mailto:ecasanov@loyno.edu)).
- Registration, roster and tuition issues, cancellation and withdrawal process and refunds, please contact **Cindy Lee** ([limexreg@loyno.edu](mailto:limexreg@loyno.edu)).
- Adjunct faculty assignments, grade processing and status of papers, due date of papers, due date extensions, and DVDs/course materials, please contact **Cacey Beaulieu** ([limexeva@loyno.edu](mailto:limexeva@loyno.edu)).

If you would like to have confirmation that your e-mailed forms and materials were received, please use the "Read Receipt" function found in the Options menu of your e-mail toolbar (Microsoft Outlook users).

If you have not done so already, please view our *Electronic Resources DVD* that we have provided to each student. This is a friendly 15-minute tutorial that will guide you through our various online resources here at Loyola. *The Administrative Handbook* is also available to facilitators to assist with detailed directions on these procedures. The directions in the *Handbook* are more current than the ones in some of the older facilitator manuals. Cecelia Bennett is in the process of updating the *Handbook* to include the information on the new online admissions application and other issues. She will notify facilitators when it is posted.

Thank you for working with us on this. If you need assistance with any of these procedures, please do call or email us and we will talk you through the process or point you in the right direction on how to get your forms to us electronically.  
Thank you!

## **On the Road Again...**

**Catherine P. Zeph, Ed.D.**

Using the words of country songwriter Willie Nelson, "I just can't wait to get on the road again..." My faculty position is the only one at LIM solely devoted to the extension program, and to that end, I do much of my teaching on the road. I train facilitators both here in New Orleans and at local Loyola extension sites both in the United States and at our international dioceses. While the travel can get tiring, I find myself energized once I am on-site and interacting with students, facilitators, liaisons, and even graduates of our program. It is an honor to represent LIM on the road and to experience the various "contexts of ministry" in which our program is located. While our curriculum is the same everywhere, how people experience the program differs by geographical and cultural boundaries and local needs. For instance, some groups meet every other Saturday and do two sessions in one day, so that folks who live far can travel safely. Other groups meet in parish halls while some meet in schools or diocesan centers. In Belize, the students meet every Saturday morning, and some leave at 5:00 a.m. on buses to make a 9:00 class. That is dedication!

This year, I have traveled to Boise, Idaho; Syracuse, New York; Louisville, Kentucky; Belize City, Belize; El Paso, Texas, and conducted workshops here in New Orleans. I will be returning to Boise next month and going to Phoenix, Arizona, on the same trip. In addition to meeting people when I travel, I also enjoy seeing a bit of the local area, time and energy permitting. On this year's trips, I was able to see the Snake River Canyon in Idaho; the Erie Canal in New York; Belmopan, the capital city of Belize (located in the middle of the country, the capital was moved from Belize City at the coast to avoid destruction by hurricanes); and one of the footbridges over the Rio Grande River in El Paso, Texas, where people walk daily between El Paso and Juarez, Mexico. Each location has its own geographical beauty and sociocultural history that informs the way ministry and life in general is carried out in that region. As a traveler, I have been fortunate to learn about many parts of our world and to meet many of the wonderful people who study and administrate our program and, in actuality, make our extension program happen.

When not on the road, I teach by e-mail and telephone through the many contacts and conversations I have with our constituents. I also teach our other faculty and staff about our sites and serve as an advocate for those in our extension program. I am the Instructor of Record for Courses 1 and 8 and for our Discernment Process and work closely with our staff on administrative matters related to all things extension. I just completed a revision of Course 8 and occasionally publish papers and attend conferences. Every so often, I stop and enjoy the sights, sounds, and tastes of New Orleans. If I ever find myself getting bored, all I have to do is think about the places I've been and start humming "on the road again..."

## **New Features in LIM Course Materials**

**Jennifer Shimek, M.F.A.**

At the request of students, LIM has changed the security settings on course books, facilitator manuals, and syllabi to allow users with the Adobe Reader to copy and paste text and to rotate pages in PDF files. Users who own the Adobe Standard or Professional edition may delete pages as well. All materials with a date of 1/08 or later in the title reflect these new lower-security settings. The date of the file is also found on the lower right-hand corner of the document's cover page.

Users need only to have a copy of the Adobe Reader to use the copy and paste and rotate features. Download or update your copy of the Reader by visiting the official Adobe website <[http://www.adobe.com/downloads/?ogn=EN\\_US-gntray\\_dl\\_downloads](http://www.adobe.com/downloads/?ogn=EN_US-gntray_dl_downloads)>. You may obtain more information about using these features by opening the file "Using Electronic Resources" located in the file General Forms and Instructions on the Course Materials download page at <<http://www.lim.loyno.edu/extension/documents>>.

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Thomas Ryan, Ph.D.

### Pilgrimage to Ignatius's Spain

Our very own Fr. Jerry Fagin, S.J., published author on Ignatian spirituality, will lead a pilgrimage "To the Heart and Home of St. Ignatius," July 20-30, 2008. Join LIM friends and graduates in celebrating LIM's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on this ten-day journey to Ignatius's Spain. Space is limited, so sign up soon! For more information, see <<http://www.lim.loyno.edu/specialevents.htm>>.

### Symposium on *Co-Workers*

Co-Workers in the Gulf South: The Vocation and Challenge of Lay Ecclesial Ministry  
Join us as national experts initiate conversation on the U.S. Catholic Bishops' document *Co-Workers in the Vineyard: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry*. Participants then reflect on the implications of this important document for lay ecclesial in their particular ministry contexts. For more information, including how to sponsor a live, two-way teleconference in your diocese, contact Cecelia Bennett at 1.800.777.5469 ext. 3398, or [cbennett@loyno.edu](mailto:cbennett@loyno.edu). For more information, see <<http://www.lim.loyno.edu/specialevents.htm>>.

### LIM *En Español*

One of the ways that the Loyola Institute for Ministry seeks to serve the Church more effectively is by beginning to address the needs of Spanish-speaking Catholics. Our first step in this direction is embodied in LIM *En Español*, which will begin a testing phase in one or two learning groups later this year. If it is successful with these groups, we will make it available more broadly. It will allow those seeking graduate credit to write their papers in Spanish. Regularly check [www.lim.loyno.edu](http://www.lim.loyno.edu) for updates and further details!

### Each One Reach One

Remember, you are a member of the Loyola University New Orleans community! We'd like to ask you to bring others into the fold. In particular, can you recommend undergraduates who are looking for a challenging education in a vibrant city? If so, see the Each One Reach One website for information on how you can help us identify talented high school seniors who would make a good match for Loyola University New Orleans. <<http://alumni.loyno.edu/eachonereachone.html>>.

## 40th Anniversary Logo

Diane Blair, M.A.P.S.



The year 2008 marks the 40th year of LIM! We are planning to celebrate in a variety of ways, including our pilgrimage to Spain and special events on campus. Part of our celebration is also visual – we have created a logo to mark this landmark in the institute's history. It will appear on many of our publications and advertisements. We encourage you to use it, too, as you promote the program in your respective dioceses! Contact Diane Blair at [dblair@loyno.edu](mailto:dblair@loyno.edu) to receive an electronic copy. You can use it on your web pages, your brochures, in advertisements, and wherever you see fit.