

Loyola

Institute for Spirituality



www.loyolainstitute.org

September 2015



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From the Director...



Dear Friends of LIS,

What's new in your life this Fall?

Something inspiring or challenging? Maybe something that will help you continue to grow in your spiritual life and in your relationship with God?

Here at the Loyola Institute for Spirituality, the **new program year** is already in full swing, including all of our perennial favorites as well as some new offerings. This is the **first year ever** that LIS has three different groups not only in our English-language ISFP (*Ignatian Spiritual Formation Program*), but also in our Spanish-language PFEI (*Programa de Formación Espiritual Ignaciana*). Students in the first year and third year of each program are taking courses (weeknights in English; Saturdays in Spanish), while those in the second year have begun the nine-month Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life.

We are also busy planning even **greater outreach** to parishes and schools here in Orange and in surrounding dioceses, with presentations, retreats, and other spiritual programs offered not only by our full-time program staff but also by our wonderful Associates. Please see our website for more details, and consider how God is inviting you to continue your spiritual growth.

Our thoughts and prayers this September will also accompany our Holy Father, **Pope Francis**, as he makes his first pastoral visits to both Cuba and the United States. Let us pray not only for the safety and success of his pilgrimage, but also that all people may be receptive to his messages for us, as he continues to challenge

Our Mission

In the Ignatian tradition, Loyola Institute for Spirituality accompanies people on their journey toward a life-giving relationship with God, self, and others, through experiential formation to help transform the world.

The values of collaboration, ecumenism and cultural diversity guide the programs and services of Loyola Institute for Spirituality

LIS & Amazon

Anything you buy through our Amazon store provides LIS a rebate of 4% to 8% of the purchase price. You can use the LIS Amazon store to purchase anything available on Amazon, not just the books we recommend.

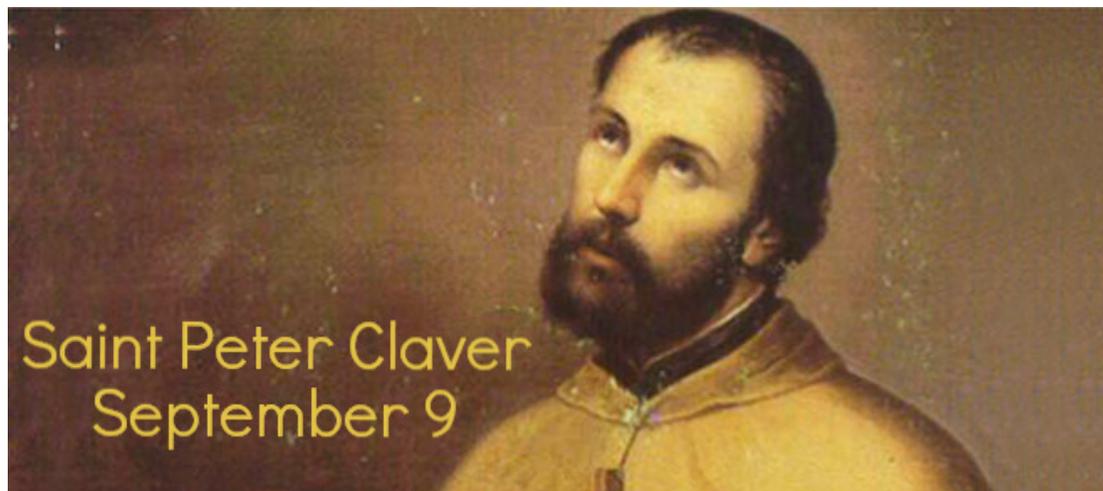
<http://astore.amazon.com>

us to put God's love and mercy into practice in our daily lives, not only as individuals and families, but also as communities and nations.

May God continue to bless you, and may you also be a blessing to others!

Fr. Felix Just, S.J.
Executive Director of LIS

/ignatian-20



Peter Claver set sail in 1610 from Spain at a very young age to go to the New World. He arrived in Cartagena (now Colombia), a central city for the slave trade in the New World.

Tens of thousands of slaves arrived from Africa under inhumane and cruel conditions. Peter, ordained a priest in 1615, spent the rest of his life caring for the slaves by providing them with the most basic comforts of food and medicine, instructing them in the faith, and reassuring them of their human dignity and God's love for them, despite being enslaved by their fellow man. It is said that in his life time he baptized over 30,000 persons. He died on September 8, 1654, and was canonized by Pope Leo XIII in 1888.

His feast day is remembered on September 9.



LEARN TO LISTEN TO THE WISDOM OF YOUR BODY

BioSpiritual Focusing is a process that allows us to deepen our personal self-awareness through a reflective exploration of inner movements-- of emotion, bodily sensation, and memory held in the body.

Upcoming:

BioSpiritual Focusing Book Study:

Rediscovering the Lost Body-Connection within Christian Spirituality

Mondays, September 21 to November 2, 2015

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

David Schwartz, S.J. Room, St. Joseph Center, Orange, CA

For more information please [click here](#) or contact Sr. Jeanne Fallon, C.S.J. at 714-997-9587, ext. 30 or by email at fallon@loyolainstitute.org

LIS Biblical Courses

Let LIS help you "fill the gaps" in your understanding of the Sunday Mass Readings. Our team of academic and pastoral teachers offers mini-courses that blend biblical study with practical application for personal reflection, family sharing, and community building.

Courses Offered in 2015-2016:

The Parables of Jesus: Stranger than You Might Think

Instructor: Fr. Felix Just, S.J.

Sept. 10, 17, 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 2015

Women in the Old Testament: Models of Faith and Hope

Instructor: Sr. Christine Hilliard, C.S.J.

Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, Dec. 3, 10, 2015

Dialogue in Gospel Ecology: The World around Us as Garden and Desert

Instructor: Sr. Nadine McGuinness, C.S.J.

Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 2016

The Bible and Mass: Experiencing the Liturgy More Deeply

Instructor: Mr. Randy Lopez, M.T.S.

Feb. 25, March 3, 10, 17, 31, April 7, 2016

The Acts of the Apostles in the Season of Easter and Pentecost

Instructors: Fr. Felix Just, S.J., and Mr. Randy Lopez

April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2016

All five courses will be offered on **Thursday evenings**, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph Center, in Orange, CA

[Please click here for more information](#)

Ecclesia: Serving Those Who Serve the Church

Preparing for the Year of Luke - Presented by Fr. Felix Just, S.J.

Pope Francis has referred to the Gospel of Luke as "the Gospel of Mercy." Appropriately for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Gospel readings we will hear most Sundays of 2016 are from Luke.

Contemporary Christianity would be startlingly different without Luke's Gospel. We would have far fewer Marian devotions and altered Christmas traditions. We'd be without some very popular hymns and familiar works of art. We might even have a far less inclusive church, with less emphasis on the serving the poor and less awareness of God's mercy.

This series of three workshops will explore Luke's Gospel in depth, preparing for the 2016 Year C of the Lectionary. Each workshop can be taken independently, or all three at reduced cost.

The following are the two remaining courses:

Workshop Dates:

October 24, 2015 - *Praying* the Gospel of Luke

January 23, 2016 - *Living* the Gospel of Luke

Location:

Donahue Center, Mount Saint Mary's University, Doheny Campus
(near Downtown LA, on Adams, between Hoover and Figueroa)

[Please visit the MSMU website for more information.](#)

A Reflection on the Spiritual Exercises

by Bryce Deline, S.J.

A couple of years ago I did something of an experiment, putting together a group of men who would move through the Spiritual Exercises together in an intimate and ongoing "faith-sharing" setting. I had already done it once before, and it had worked out well enough, so why not try it again? At our first meeting, I floated the question: Do you want to be converted? I think it caught the exercitants-to-be off guard; this was not





what they were expecting. The group members' subsequent responses revealed their reluctance, skepticism, and confusion: "What do you mean?" "I don't know..." "I don't think I need that" and, of course, "I'm already Catholic!" What I heard from the group overall, loud and clear, was "I'm comfortable with where I am, and I'm not very interested in having things shaken up, putting in any more work, or going through any more hard stuff, but I'd love to sit and passively learn more about these Exercises; thank you."

This Fall, a new cohort of retreatants is embarking on the Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life (19th Annotation Retreat) here at LIS, and I share this story with the hope of it being helpful for those about to begin, as well as for those still on the fence about whether or not to participate. Though it is easy for us to overlook, forget, or deny that further radical conversion is always possible, the good news is that God seems to constantly be asking us: "Will you turn again to me?" "Will you learn again just how much you are loved?" "Are you willing to see again the way I am calling you to be in the world?" "Will you see all anew again?" The difficult news? It's not easy. In fact it may only increase in difficulty as we go along, as we find God desiring more and more of us, calling us to places we do not immediately wish to go, stretching us in ways inconceivable. And this is part of why Ignatius asks generosity of us in Annotation 5:

"The persons who make the exercises will benefit greatly by entering upon them with great spirit and generosity toward their Creator, and by offering all their desires and freedom to Him so that His Divine Majesty can make use of their persons and of all they possess in whatsoever way is in accord with his most holy will."

By the end of our nearly year-long experiment, when we looked back on our time together, the men discovered something I don't think they expected at the outset: they did want further conversion. What's more, they had been converted, and it had been happening for them all along. This is where it gets easier. While we may find that God asks increasingly more of us as we progress, we might also find that we grow in faith, alacrity, and generosity, that we have an easier time responding to God's invitations with affirmation, and, looking back, that we can draw on past consolations which can help to reconfirm our trajectory and propel us forward. Don't get me wrong, the Exercises are profoundly demanding, but the irony is this: by the end, we find ourselves wanting more. If we are faithful in our practice of the Exercises, we may just find ourselves wanting to do what is most difficult, wanting to be stretched in those previously inconceivable ways, wanting to be free to go where God calls us, wherever that may be -- to bear our crosses and share in the resurrection, again and again and again. So don't worry; it gets easier...and harder!

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Become a Member of LIS:

LIS Membership is open to anyone who wants to support our vital ministries.

Members not only receive certain benefits, but also provide much-needed financial support on a more stable and regular basis. We have established several categories of LIS Membership, which are renewable annually, on a calendar-year basis:

- **Regular Members** - those who donate **\$100 or more** within a calendar year
- **Supporting Members** - those who donate **\$250 or more** within a calendar year
- **Major Donors** - those who donate **\$500 or more** within a calendar year:
 - Manresa Circle - min. \$500
 - Peter Faber Circle - min. \$1,000
 - Francis Xavier Circle - min. \$2,500
 - Ignatius Loyola Circle - min. \$5,000
 - Magis Circle - min. \$10,000
- **Sustaining Members** - those who pledge to donate on a **monthly or quarterly basis**
 - Your total annual donations qualify you as a regular member, supporting member, or member of one of the Major Donor Circles.

Membership Benefits include:

- **Gifts of Appreciation** - religious bookmarks, calendars, books, pins, and other items
- **Invitations to Special Events** - annual BBQ, Ignatius Day Mass, Open House
- **Discounts on LIS Programs** - members-only rates on select courses and events
- **Public Recognition** - listing on LIS website and in the "Hearts on Fire" program
- **Personal Satisfaction** - knowing that you are helping LIS ministries to grow

How Your Membership Donation Helps LIS:

- Scholarships for deserving people
- Retreats for homeless persons
- Leadership training for young adults
- Expanded programs in Spanish and several Asian languages
- Spiritual direction for individuals
- New staff to help serve more people

With your help, we will be able to meet growing needs fueled by a deep spiritual hunger that so many people are experiencing today. Our program fees are kept as low as possible, and we offer scholarships whenever needed and possible. We are committed to remaining affordable and accessible for all people, especially in these difficult times.

Become a Member of LIS now.

For more information, please see our website (www.loyolainstitute.org) or call the LIS office at 714-997-9587.

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