

THE IGNACIANO

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REFLECTIONS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Faithfully Waiting on God - a reflection on the prophet Anna in Luke 2:36 - 40

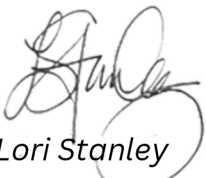
Whether I'm waiting on God to give me the strength to hold on or to let go, it's the accompaniment and encouragement of others that affirm God's presence in every season of my life. Anna reminds me of the seasoned women in the parish of my youth where wisdom, coupled with laying on of hands, was dispensed with regularity. These women were always at church and spoke life into everyone without distinction. If they weren't praying, they would be encouraging.

Anna's faith timeline gives us an idea of the raw material that forged her patient trust in and earnest praising of God. Ripe with eager anticipation, Anna finds it an honor and a privilege to continually wait on God's providence and to share this holy knowing with Mary and Joseph.

The fruitfulness that can take place within a community of faith is captured in Luke. While God's timing is not like ours, faithfully waiting on God is often made easier when our friends, family and parishioners encourage and affirm the sweetness of God's perfect timing. With Anna's spirit, may we practice waiting patiently and listening attentively for God to show up for us and through us.

*Originally published as a Daily Inspiration from JesuitPrayer.org
(December 30, 2024)*

Your sister in Christ,



Lori Stanley
Executive Director

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LIS?

INTRODUCING
THE NEWEST
MEMBER OF
TEAM LIS!



Kristina Simes has joined LIS as our Education & Formation Coordinator. She has been working in the field of Catholic secondary education and ministry since 2012. After graduating from UC Irvine with a major in English and a minor in Spanish, Kristina spent one year in Washington, D.C. serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. She went on to study Theology and Ministry at Boston College. After graduating with a Master's in Pastoral Ministry, Kristina worked as a campus minister at an all-girls Catholic school outside of Boston, run by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. From 2014 until 2024, Kristina worked at Mater Dei High School, teaching Religious Studies. She especially enjoyed her six years of teaching Catholic Social Teaching to high school seniors. Before becoming a mom to three little people, she loved to travel, read as much as possible, and practice creative writing. These days, you can find her with her husband, their three children, and goldendoodle Teddy, exploring the beauty of Southern California, baking gluten-free treats, treasure-hunting at thrift stores, making art projects, and spending time with their extended family throughout Orange County.



LIS team with Diaconate couples during First Spiritual Exercises Retreat

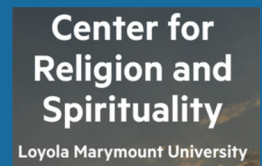
LIS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Spiritual Exercises invite us to a greater self-awareness, an intimate sense of God's active and loving presence in our daily lives, and in response to this awareness to choose what better leads to deepening God's life in us. These invitations are foundational to LIS' ministerial work in the community.

We are all called to recognize what is ours to do within the Body of Christ where each part functions together to bring forth the fullness of the whole. LIS often works collaboratively with faith-based organizations to bring Ignatian formation and programming to their teams, parishioners, and communities. By providing spiritual programs and formation for our partners in ministry, we serve to enhance the execution of their missions and to build effective communities of faith.

Some of our work includes contracting with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange to provide spiritual formation in English and Spanish for those discerning a call to the diaconate ministry; co-sponsoring bilingual Ignatian pilgrimages to Spain and Italy with LMU's Center for Religion and Spirituality; collaborating with Ignatians West's mission to serve in Orange County; and providing Ignatian morning retreats to members of the administrative teams at Mater Dei High School and Homeboy Industries.

If you are interested in Ignatian spirituality for your organization, please contact Elena Cardeña at cardena@loyolainstitute.org or 714-997-9587.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Scan here with your smartphone for more information on any of these offerings or check out our website: www.loyolainstitute.org

February 26 - Meet the 2025 Hearts on Fire Awardees - Spiritual Conversations (online)

March 13 - Info session about Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life Retreat (SEDL) (online)

March 17 - Lenten First Spiritual Exercises (FSE) (5-weeks online)

March 19, 26 & April 2 - Finding God in the Dark (online)

March 25 & April 22 - Companions on the Way (online)

April 5 - La Cueva: An Introductory & Experiential Ignatian Retreat (in person)

April 26 - Hearts on Fire (Christ Cathedral - Cultural Center)

You Are Invited!

Hearts on Fire has been celebrated by the community of Loyola Institute for Spirituality since 2003 as a way to communally honor the impact of Ignatian spirituality and recognize outstanding Christian individuals and organizations whose contributions to spirituality, community service, and Christian leadership have been inspired by the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Join us for a delicious brunch, gospel music, wonderful community, the awarding of the 2025 Hearts on Fire Award, Writer's Award in Spirituality, and Love in Action Award, and an opportunity to support the ministry of Loyola Institute for Spirituality. For more information and to RSVP visit:

www.loyolainstitute.org/heartsonfire

LOYOLA INSTITUTE FOR SPIRITUALITY



On Sale Now!

Lift Every Voice

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025, 10AM
CHRIST CATHEDRAL - CULTURAL CENTER
GARDEN GROVE, CA

MEET THE 2025 HEARTS ON FIRE AWARDEES

Hearts on Fire Award MARY ELLEN BURTON



Mary Ellen Burton is the Vice President of Work Readiness Training at **Homeboy Industries**. She directs the team that accompanies trainees working in one of the Homeboy social enterprises. She is also the program lead for Healing Hearts Restoring Hope - a restorative justice organization serving those affected by homicide. For nearly 20 years, Mary Ellen has accompanied the staff and community of Homeboy as they have grown and transformed into a dynamic force of radical gospel values in the world - based in relationship with each other and living out the fundamental belief in each person's belovedness. She has held numerous jobs throughout her tenure at Homeboy, originally serving as CFO and later overseeing Homegirl Cafe. She is a gifted spiritual director who has spent her career serving others in faith while discerning with God what is hers to do. Mary Ellen holds graduate degrees in economics and pastoral theology. She embodies the Ignatian ideal of a contemplative in action.

Eric Clayton is an award-winning writer, speaker, storyteller and sought-after retreat leader. He is the author of *My Life with the Jedi: The Spirituality of Star Wars* and *Cannonball Moments: Telling Your Story, Deepening Your Faith*, both from Loyola Press. His next book, *Finding Peace Here and Now: How Ignatian Spirituality Leads Us to Healing and Wholeness*, is due out from Brazos Press in 2025. Eric is currently the deputy director of communications at the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. He joined the team in 2019 and produces content that invites audiences to reflect on how to integrate Ignatian spirituality in their everyday lives. He guest hosts "AMDG: A Jesuit Podcast" and writes an award-winning weekly newsletter entitled "Now Discern This" for an audience of nearly 30,000 subscribers. He has a BA in creative writing and international studies from Fairfield University and an MA in international media from American University. He also has a graduate-level certificate from Creighton University's program in the Ignatian Tradition.

Writer's Award in Spirituality ERIC A. CLAYTON



Love in Action Award AIDA OCAMPO & AURELIO CASTILLO



Aida Ocampo and Aurelio Castillo have been beloved members of the LIS community since 2016. Aurelio was introduced to Ignatian spirituality as a child. He invited Aida to join him for a class at LIS when they were dating. Their love for each other and Ignatian spirituality began around the same time. They have been married since 2017. Aida works as an interpreter for students with special needs in the Garden Grove School District and Aurelio works as a tax and mortgage loan preparer. Both are graduates of the LIS Ignatian Spirituality Formation Program and continue to be students and teachers of Ignatian spirituality. Aida and Aurelio served as spiritual companions and retreat leaders for our 9-month 19th annotation of the Spiritual Exercises (EEVD in Spanish) as well as the 5-week 18th Annotation. They are currently part of the LIS team of facilitators who provide spiritual formation for the Diaconate program in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange. In their spare time they enjoy hiking with family and friends and regularly meeting up with many of their LIS friends.