

The Beholder

NOTRE DAME SEMINARY PROGRAMS FOR LAITY

E A S T E R 2 0 2 1

JOY OF THE LORD //

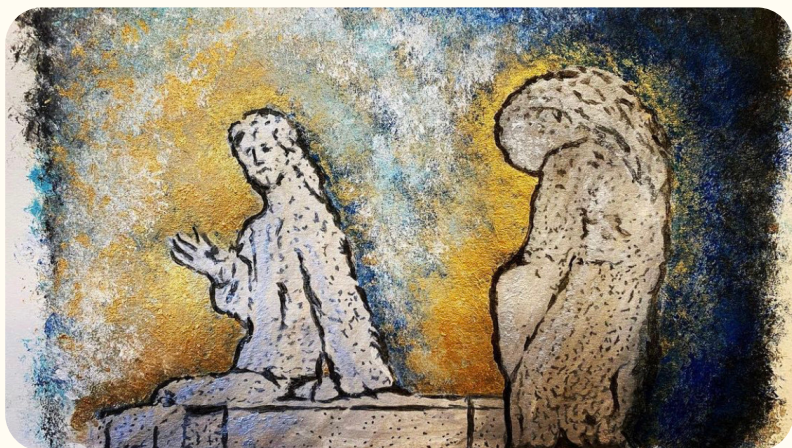
Written by Susan May, President of the Lay Student Association



This past February, during my Spiritual Direction, I was challenged for my takeaway to grow in the virtue of JOY. The month before, I had been going through some difficult times and had been feeling depressed, so I thought. My Spiritual Director suggested that I learn the difference between feeling joy and feeling happy.

She said think about the times you feel happy and

times you experience joy. Well, in the next few weeks every time I prayed, read or listened to something Joy was either in the statement, book or Psalm, even though we were in Lent. Then I received an email from Pamela asking me if I would like to write something for the Easter Newsletter on the Resurrection or Joy. I knew deep within my heart that this was really the Holy Spirit calling me to deepen my joy. I have learned that joy is not an emotion or feeling. It is rooted deep within the promises of God and how they are related and revealed to us. Joy is so much more than happiness. It is the deep faith in the beauty and wonders of Christ. I found out once again that as a Christian, I can have deep and lasting joy in the midst of difficult times, no matter how hard. Deep faith gives me joy deep within my heart knowing that the best is yet to come. It is the Resurrection! My hope is in the Lord. Only Jesus and my relationship with Jesus can give me this sustained joy.



UPCOMING DATES

- Eucharist Lecture Series: "The Real Presence of the Eucharist," by Dr. David Liberto:
Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at 5:30 pm in Schulte Auditorium
- Eucharist Lecture Series: "Eucharistic Images and Art," by Prof. Jordan Haddad:
Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 5:30 pm in Schulte Auditorium
- Eucharist Lecture Series: "The Eucharist and Human Suffering," by Fr. Michael Champagne, C.J.C.: *Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 5:30 pm in Schulte Auditorium*

Congratulations to the Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry Class of 2021 on their Commissioning!



*Pictured left to right
Top: Jack Biven, Virginia Callaway, Laurie Smith, Kelli Josphe, Jacquelyn Sofio
Bottom: Gavin Matherne, Stephanie Bollman, Toni Landeche, Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Susan
May, Patricia Reed, Candace Robertson
Not Pictured: Christopher Lazarine*

The Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry Class of 2021 was commissioned by Archbishop Gregory Aymond on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at St. Louis Cathedral.

ILEM RETREAT *January 22-24, 2021*



"Learning about the challenging lives of the saints and taking time away from my demanding work and home life for the ILEM retreat this January was JUST what the doctor ordered in this difficult year! I was SO grateful for the time to rest, reflect, and get to know my cohort better. My wheels kept turning long after we dispersed on Sunday and I felt inspired and rejuvenated in the days and weeks following!"

THERESA TRUXILLO, ILEM 2023

The 2023 Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry gathered together for the first time as a class at their annual retreat on January 22-24 at the Archdiocese of New Orleans Retreat Center in Kenner. The weekend was an opportunity for ILEM's new cohort to grow in fellowship and prayer as they begin the 2-year long program together.

Archbishop Aymond addressed the students instructing them to be "co-workers in the vineyard," encouraging the work and service they give to the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Fr. Jeffery Montz served as the retreat master, giving mini-conferences on "The Sanctity of the Lay Vocation: Learning from the Wisdom of the Saints," highlighting the witness of saints like Therese of Lisieux, Jane de Chantal, and Francis de Sales.



THE VOCATION OF A CATHOLIC ARTIST//

Written by Rachel Moore

Rachel Moore is a Catholic artist and member of the 2023 Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry cohort at Notre Dame Seminary.

"Through the Incarnation, God invites His creation to see Him--my favorite part about my vocation as a Catholic artist is to help Him be seen! God is total Truth and Goodness, and we can't forget that He's total Beauty, too. Therefore, a Catholic artist's go-to icebreaker when it comes to evangelization is to share beauty.

The Church in her resistance to iconoclasm triumphs as a great guardian of beauty. The faithful are called to participate as fellow guardians. In fact, following the thought of Hans Urs von Balthasar, Bishop Robert Barron advocates that appealing to beauty is a key strategy for evangelization. There's something unthreatening and soothing about the beauty that awakens wonder in a way that rigid apologetics can't quite achieve (I personally like to call this the Bob Ross Methodology of Ministry). So, when Catholic artists remember that any beauty illuminated in their work is meant to point to Beauty Himself, craft becomes catechesis.

Thomas Aquinas' formula for something to be beautiful is that it must possess integrity, harmony, and radiance. In my journey as a Catholic artist, I incorporate radiance into my craft as I choose metallic paint and shimmery materials to capture and reflect light--my hope is that it reflects Light Himself."



Christ is Risen!

May you have a
meaningful Easter season.

From, The Programs for Laity Office

*Welcoming our newest
member:*

ELIZABETH
YVONNE
HADDAD



**On Monday, April 5th,
Jordan Haddad, the Director of
Lay Formation, and his wife,
Shannon, at 1:18 PM welcomed
their second daughter,
Elizabeth Yvonne Haddad
to the world!**



NOTRE DAME SEMINARY *2021 Commencement Ceremony*

Congratulations to all of our lay
graduates. You are in our prayers as
you embark on your next journey!

CONGRATULATIONS

to ILEM student Mark Elsensohn and his wife, Carmen, who were awarded the Order of St. Louis Award by Archbishop Aymond on October 18, 2020 at a prayer service held at St Catherine of Siena Church in Metairie. This award is given to lay people for service and leadership to the Church. Mark and Carmen have been volunteer catechists at St Margaret Mary Parish in Slidell, LA since 2004. They served as Parish School of Religion catechists teaching 5th grade until 2019 when they began preparing the junior RCIA group for the reception of the sacraments of initiation. In addition, they have been active as group leaders in the adult RCIA program since 2015.



Mark commented that "it was a tremendous honor to be considered for this award, and we are grateful to our Pastor, Father Ed Grice and to Archbishop Aymond for recognizing our small contribution to the work of Jesus in our Church."

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ENROLLING IN ONE OF OUR PROGRAMS?

 Notre Dame Seminary,
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