



Dear Friends,

The Lay Centre is “on the move” literally in these days. This is our last e-letter from our current location at the Pontifical Irish College on the Via dei SS Quattro 7. In fact as you read this we are in the process of packing up boxes and setting up in the new seat of the Lay Centre at Largo della Sanità Militare, 60 (please note new address below) at the Passionist Monastery of Santi Giovanni e Paolo on the Caelian Hill. **However, please note that our phone and fax numbers and our email and website addresses remain the same.** We are very grateful to Rev. Msgr. Liam Bergin, Rector of the Pontifical Irish College, and the Catholic Bishops Conference of Ireland for the graciousness and kindness that they have shown us over the past several years. We will miss our neighbors, but we move forward with hope and trust in the Lord. To support the Lay Centre and its renovation projects, please visit www.laycentre.org/support.html.

Even though much time and energy has gone into the move and the renovations, our programs have continued as usual during the past few months.



Participants gathered in the garden for a luncheon at the conclusion of the morning of recollection to mark the end of this year's VPI Program on the morning of 7 May (left photo); the group from the Anglican Centre in the garden of the Lay Centre on 13 May.

The 2008-2009 Vincent Pallotti Program drew to a close on 7 May when many friends gathered for a morning of recollection entitled “Mary Our Hope” which included the Celebration of the Eucharist with Rev. Stephen Rehrauer, CSSR, a lecture and conversation and a concluding luncheon in the garden. To watch a video about my presentation that morning, please visit: www.laycentre.org/news.html. To preview next year's VPI program visit: www.laycentre.org/vpi.html.

We also have had the joy this spring of welcoming several guests through the Lay Centre in this period including a group of Anglican ministers who were on a pilgrimage to Rome from England sponsored by the Anglican Centre and a group of Swedish Lutheran seminarians who were visiting with their professor in Stockholm, the Rev. Lisa Buratti, an alumnae of the Lay Centre during her studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

This season was also full of various programs including *Women at the Well: Witnesses to Contemplative Living* from Sunday, 31 May through Friday, 5 June. The program drew a group of women lay ecclesial ministers from the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey, and a few graduate students from the Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. The program focused on how women have made a particular contribution to the

spiritual legacy of the Church and how they challenge us to live as faithful disciples today. For more on the week's program, see the coverage of H2O on our website: www.laycentre.org/news.

From Sunday, 21 June through Thursday, 25 June, the Fifth Annual Rome Seminar for the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities was held in collaboration with the Lay Centre. Fifteen senior administrators gathered from eleven different institutions of Catholic higher education from across the United States and Canada for discussions with various officials and representatives of Vatican dicasteries. Presenters during the week included the Most Rev. Jean-Louis Bruguès, OP, Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education; the Most Rev. Joseph Augustine DiNoia, OP, then the Undersecretary of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith and now the Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship; the Most Rev. Luis F. Ladaria, SJ, Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; the Most Rev. Agostino Marchetto, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples; and His Eminence Renato Raffaele Cardinal Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace;. The week also included moments for the participants to converse and exchange with others involved in the life of the Church in Rome in order to get a larger perspective on their ministry as administrators and teachers. One of the highlights of the week was when the seminar participants were greeted by Pope Benedict XVI during the weekly general audience in St Peter's Square on Wednesday, 24 June. For the text of the Holy Father's address, visit: www.laycentre.org and click on the link on the bottom of right side of the page.



Robert White speaks to participants in Women at the Well gathered in Assisi on 4 June (left photo); Most Rev. Joseph Augustine DiNoia, OP, Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship, greets the Fifth Annual Rome Seminar of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities participants in his office when he was Undersecretary of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith.

For the third year in a row, in collaboration with the Secretariat for Laity, Family, Married Life & Youth of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Lay Centre was able to run the Rome Seminar *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: Called to Communion, Called to Mission*, from Wednesday, 1 July through Monday, 6 July. The seminar introduced the more than 20 participants from across the United States to consider the vocation to lay ecclesial ministry in the light of the historical, artistic, theological, spiritual and ecclesiastical structures of Rome. This year, because of the generosity of the USCCB, we were able to welcome seven lay graduate students to participate in the seminar.

As the year drew to a close, some of our resident students finished their period of study in Rome. Marianne Siegmund, defended her doctorate the Angelicum on 11 June. And we said goodbye to the young Muslim women Radwa Thabet from Egypt and Seda Erkoç from Turkey, who both lived in our community for an experience of interreligious dialogue.

Remaining grateful to all of our friends and benefactors for their support during this time of transition, I want to let you know that we continue to count on your generosity and prayers as we begin a new phase on the journey of faith.

Domenico Orsuto

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