



Some of the Lay Centre students on the Day of Recollection at Tre Fontane: (left to right) Aan Rukmana, Eric Bernhard, Katie and Cameron Thompson, Anna Surrey, Matthew Tan, Doyen Nguyen, Sofia Seguel Nancuqueo, Michael Markovich and Julia Cheung on 9 October.

Opening the New Academic Year

The new academic year officially started with a week of orientation activities at the Lay Centre, with a community half comprised of returning residents and half of new members. House meetings led by Donna Orsuto and Robert White included topics ranging from the sharing of life and responsibilities, prayer in community, to living with diverse faith traditions and the psychology of building healthy community life. Felix Körner, SJ and Tim Costello, SM of the Gregorian joined us on different

nights to add their wisdom to the discussions. The week culminated with a day of reflection spent at the Casa San Bernardo at Tre Fontane led by Rt. Rev. Edmund Power, OSB, Abbot of the Benedictine Abbey at St. Paul Outside the Walls. This year's student community is made up of sixteen Roman Catholics (from Australia, Canada, Chile, Hong Kong, Mexico, New Zealand, and the United States), one Serbian Orthodox Christian, and three Muslims (from Albania, Bosnia, and Indonesia).

The Synod on the Church in the Middle East

From 10 October through 24 October, bishops representing the eparchies and dioceses of the Church in the Middle East gathered for a historic synod focused on the pastoral concerns of Christians of various eastern rites living in the biblical lands. The Lay Centre was privileged to have an evening with the Rev. David Neuhaus, SJ, Patriarchal Vicar for the Hebrew and Russian speaking Catholics of the Latin Rite in Jerusalem. Father Neuhaus had been invited as an expert to speak during the

synod and shared some insights from his own years of ministry in the Holy Land into the situation of Christians today in some of the most ancient Christian sees. Lay Centre students were able to ask Fr. Neuhaus candid questions about the history of the various rites of the Catholic Church, the tensions between the three Abrahamic religions in the lands of Jesus, and the Church's mission to promote dialogue and justice by collaborating with our Jewish and Muslim sisters and brothers.



Lay Centre students listen during a presentation over dinner by Rev. David Neuhaus, SJ, Patriarchal Vicar for Hebrew and Russian speaking Catholics of the Latin Rite in Jerusalem during the community evening on 13 October.

Russell Berrie Fellows Orientation Program in Interreligious Dialogue



Russell Berrie Fellows Orientation Program in Interreligious Dialogue interact with Rev. Norbert Hoffman, SDB, at the offices of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

From 26 September to 1 October, the second and third cohorts of the Russell Berrie Fellows participated in the first orientation program in interreligious dialogue at the Lay Centre. This academic workshop focused on the "Commitment of the Catholic Church to Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue." In addition to lodging, meals and liturgies at the Lay Centre, the days also featured visits and meetings with Rev. Norbert Hofmann, SDB, Secretary of the Commission for Religious Relations with Judaism at the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Rev. Thomas Casey, SJ, Director of the Cardinal Bea Centre for Judaic Studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rev.

Felix Körner, SJ, Director of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies of Religions and Cultures at the Pontifical Gregorian University, and Rev. Miguel Angel Ayuso Guixot, MCCJ, President of the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies. The board of trustees of the Russell Berrie Foundation came to Rome after the conclusion of the orientation program. They were all welcomed for a dinner one evening at the Lay Centre. In addition to funding the twenty fellows, the Foundation also provides for the John Paul II Center for Interreligious Dialogue at the Angelicum, supplies visiting faculty each year, and sponsors an annual lecture in interfaith dialogue.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN US FOR THE FALL VPI PROGRAM: Seeking and Finding God's Will

Plan on joining us for the last three Thursday morning sessions from 9:30-12:00 on 4 November with Rt. Rev. Edmund Power, OSB, Abbot of St. Paul Outside the Walls, and Thursdays, 11 and 18 November with Rev. Stephen Rehrauer, CSsR. Each morning features two presentations and discussion, a coffee break, and the Celebration of the Eucharist.

SAVE THE DATE: Advent Morning of Recollection on Blessed John Henry Newman

Mark your calendar now and plan on joining us for a morning of recollection from 9:30-14:00 on Thursday, 2 December with Msgr. Roderick Strange on the theme of "Advent Watching in the Writings of Blessed John Henry Newman." The program will feature Morning Prayer, a lecture, time for private prayer, the Celebration of the Eucharist and lunch.

SAVE THE DATE: Vincent Pallotti Institute Celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the Lay Centre in 2011

Beginning in January, the Lay Centre will be celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. To mark this important milestone, the VPI will be offering a special winter program with Rev. Brendan Hurley, SJ, and Rev. Mike Woods, SJ, entitled: "Called Forth from the Waters: A Baptismal Spirituality in and for the World." The program will entail a "return to the font," that is the baptismal font. It explores how baptism—our own and that of others—potentially shapes a Christ-centered view of the world. Baptism calls us to ongoing conversion, to a discreet sensitivity to the presence of God, to Christ-centered choices and to a community that recognizes him in the breaking of the bread and in the marginalized. Thursdays, 27 January, 3, 10, 17, 24 February, and 3 March 2011 from 9:30 to 12 noon.



Participants in the Fall 2010 Vincent Pallotti Institute Program: "Seeking and Finding God's Will: Discernment and Christian Decision Making" which began with a presentation by Dr. Marian Diaz on Thursday, 14 October.

Porticus Düsseldorf Scholars Summer School in Spirituality & Leadership at the Lay Centre



Porticus Düsseldorf Scholars get a bird's eye view of the Vatican on 23 September during the Summer School co-sponsored by the Angelicum and the Lay Centre.

Leadership is "in". A lack of leadership is blamed for corruption and slow development in Africa, for the global financial and economic crisis, for a sense of cynicism and lack of participation in politics in many societies. What is leadership? What forms does it take? What kind of leadership is lacking? Is there a lack of leadership because there is a lack of emphasis on its spiritual and religious dimension? In fact, leaders of major organizations, in business, government and civil society, are recognizing more and more the need to draw on spiritual resources in order to face the challenge and the strain of leadership in today's society. From 15 to 25 September, the Summer School for Porticus Düsseldorf Scholars on "Spirituality and Leadership in Church and Society" attempted to address these questions

by looking at which spiritualities are appropriate for leadership in the context of the various socio-religious situations in Central and Eastern Europe. The intensive days which featured scholars' presentations and academic debate sought to bridge the connection between religious faith (seen theologically) and a spirituality for leadership. Site visits and meetings with leaders in the Church and in the world of economics and politics, including Hanna Suchocka, the Polish Ambassador to the Holy See, helped the scholars to focus on ecumenical and interreligious aspects of leadership in the contemporary world. The Lay Centre organized lodging, meals, liturgies and site visits for the scholars in coordination with Sr. Helen Alford, OP, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum).

Promoting Ethics and Dialogue in Ghana



Lay Centre Alumnus Africanus Diedong pictured with his wife Justina and family in Ghana in September. He is now Executive Secretary of the Department of Social Communications of the National Catholic Secretariat at the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference and Head of the Department of African and General Studies at the University of Development Studies.