

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the second edition of "News from the Lay Centre". This issue will introduce you to the newest members of our resident student community, tell you about two of our summer study programs, and entice you to join us both for the first offering of the Vincent Pallotti Institute this year and our fund-raising evening at the Canadian Embassy to the Holy See later this month. We appreciate your continued support.

New Students

On October 1, students arrived at the Lay Centre to make immediate preparations for the beginning of the 2006-2007 academic year here in Rome. This year the Lay Centre welcomes five new students to the resident community.

Three are from the United States: *Thomas Brascia* of Las Vegas, Nevada, will begin studies in Philosophy at the Pontifical Lateran University, *Maria Teresa Colonna* of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, will begin a license program in Spiritual Theology at the Teresianum, and *Avery Smith* of Dallas, Texas, will begin studies in Philosophy at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

This year the community also welcomes two Muslim students from Turkey: *Esra Gözeler*, a doctoral candidate at the University of Ankara who is studying for a semester abroad at the Pontifical Gregorian University and *Zeynep Ozbek*, who is studying in the Faculty of Religions and Cultures at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

Returning this year are *Lizza Rodriguez* of Paraguay, *Katri Tenhunen* of Finland, *Marianne Siegmund* of the United States, *Pio Takaku* of Japan, *Robert White* and *Nicholas Youmans* of the United States.



Vincent Pallotti Institute

The new year of Vincent Pallotti Institute program offerings got off to a start on Thursday, 12 October with a new program entitled "Contemplative Living in the World." Popular lecturer *Fr. Anthony McSweeney, SSS*, kicked off the nine week program with a presentation on "Discovering the Wisdom of the Christian Spiritual Tradition for Contemporary Christians."

Other presenters on the diverse schools of spirituality that have developed through the centuries include *Abbot Edmund Power, OSB*, *Rev. Paul Murray, OP*, *Herbert Alfonso, SJ*, *John McGowan, OCD*, *Very Rev. Joseph Chalmers, OCarm*, and *Donna Orsuto*.

The program runs on consecutive Thursday mornings from 9.30-12.00 until 7 December.

For registration or more information please contact us at info@laycentre.org

Women at the Well

A group of women from the United States, Canada, Ireland, Turkey and Australia from various Christian denominations and religious traditions gathered at the Lay Centre during the last week of September to learn from the women throughout the centuries who have responded to Christ's invitation to discipleship.

Led by Donna Orsuto, the Revd. Jonathan Boardman, Elizabeth Lev and Robert White the group participated in a series of discussions and site excursions around the city to discover first-hand the witness of holy women who have inhabited the city over the centuries. Each day included the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours and time for fellowship.





Fall Fundraiser

The Ambassador of Canada to the Holy See and Mrs. Donald Smith are graciously hosting an evening reception at their residence on Tuesday, October 24 to recognize the service that the Lay Centre renders in Rome and beyond.

Tickets are available at €25 per person. In addition to providing a reception with entertainment, the evening promises to be a wonderful reunion of past and present friends of the Lay Centre from around the city of Rome.

To sign up for this event or to participate, even long distance in the silent auction with some fabulous gifts donated by our friends (including two nights at an apartment in central London) contact us at info@laycentre.org

Mark Your Calender

Please check our webpage now for some of the interesting programs being planned for the spring and summer of 2007! We are hoping to offer yet again a seminar on Catholic Identity and Higher Education, a seminar on the Eucharist as the Source and Summit of the Christian Life, another on Lay Ecclesial Ministry in the Church and finally a fall program on Catholic Anglican Dialogue which will include a pilgrimage to both Rome and Canterbury, England.

For registration and more information please contact us at info@laycentre.org

Legacy Program

We hope that many of you will want to help ensure the work of the Lay Centre in the years ahead with bequests, charitable trusts, annuities, and other deferred gifts through our fund with the National Catholic Community Foundation (NCCF-Friends of the Lay Centre).

We invite you to learn more about this possibility by contacting Edward Robinson, President of the National Catholic Community Foundation (NCCF) at **1-800-757-2998** or info@nccfcommunity.org Thank you!

Supporting the Lay Centre.

As many people ask how they can support the Lay Centre, the Board of Directors decided we should make it possible for our friends to support us with an on-line gift by clicking on the following site: <http://www.laycentre.org/support.htm>

Catholic Muslim Dialogue

The Lay Centre had the privilege of welcoming Rev. Paul Lawler, OP, as a guest for dinner at the beginning of this month. Father Lawler has had extensive experience of ministry in Muslim contexts, including Iran and Turkey.

He is an accomplished Christian archaeologist who had been assigned to the Basilica of San Clemente, a church staffed in Rome by the Dominicans of the Irish Province.

Father Lawler is shown here speaking in Turkish with two of our new students, Esra Gözeler and Zeynep Ozbek. He left Rome this month to return to Turkey.



Praying In Rome

Parishioners of Holy Trinity Church in Washington DC made a pilgrimage to Rome in July in order to discover the spiritual treasures of the city. The program on "Praying in Rome" also included moments of prayer including the daily celebrations of Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours presided over by Fr. James Greenfield, OSFS, who accompanied the group as a spiritual director.

The week included a series of presentations and site excursions with Dr. David Dawson Vásquez, Donna Orsuto and Robert White. Each day of the week highlighted a progression of historical periods in Rome (with particular emphasis on the art and architecture that monumentalize them) and the contributions of the women and men of that period to the spiritual development of God's People.

Mass in the rooms of St. Ignatius was a highlight for the members of this Jesuit parish which was also celebrating the Ignatian year of prayer.



E-mail Update

Many thanks to all of you who responded to our summer update requests that were sent via e-mail.

To keep you up to date on the news of the Lay Centre in Rome – from wherever you are – please send us any updates to your e-mail address, mailing address or phone numbers.

Changes and updates should be sent to info@laycentre.org