

"No One Mentions Courage"

(From *Annunciation* by Denise Levertov)



This seminar looks at the experiential reality of multiple international identities among the membership of religious institutes. Some congregations were founded as international congregations, some are growing into international realities. Using the Gospel narrative in which Jesus encounters the Syrophenician woman as a forum and catalyst for developing a mutual learning mode, we will probe the implications for our sacramental and social imagination. The presenter will introduce recent research in Spirituality, in the mystical-political dimensions of religious life and in the importance of the “in-between” experiences of international identities. Those liminal spaces are often precisely the windows of creativity and growth in personal life, mission, formation and community. The seminar will include lecture, personal reflection, group work and a round table of insights and possibilities. These will help Congregations and individuals to enter into spaces for genuine international relationships and friendships as models for the world surrounding them.



Julia D.E. Prinz, VDMF, a missionary in the *Verbum Dei Missionary Fraternity*, has been involved in base-community work with Hispanic and Asian immigrant populations in San

Francisco since 1995. She has also served her congregation as a formation director and from 2008 to 2014, as the United States Provincial Superior.

Dr. Prinz is a regular speaker at regional and national theological conferences in Germany and the United States. Her speaking assignments and publications in general, specifically her book, Endangering Hunger for God, show her commitment to using theological research for the empowerment of the marginalized. Her current research includes a specific interest in spiritual and theological formation in Asia and the dialogue between theology and photography.

Holding advanced degrees in Political Science, Psychology and Theology from German and Italian Universities, Dr. Prinz also completed a Ph.D in Christian Spirituality from the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley in 2006, and has been a lecturer at JST-SCU ever since. She was also appointed as Professor at the Instituto San Pablo Verbum Dei, Loeches-Madrid, Spain.

Dr. Prinz serves as the Coordinator of the Henry Luce III Foundation-funded Women of Wisdom and Action Initiative, serving women religious and their congregations and missions from different parts of Asia. The initiative is a comprehensive approach to providing theological leadership training and networks for sisters to become change agents in their home communities and societies.

The Formator as Leader

Entrusted with the sacred responsibility of forming religious for God's tomorrow, formators are necessarily leaders.

John Quincy Adams offers a valuable criterion for evaluating oneself as a leader, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, to learn more, to do more and to be more than they are, then you are a leader." But the standard of evaluation for religious formators is still more demanding: to form ministers and leaders who will reflect Jesus Christ, the one who promises not only "more" but "life to the fullest," to all whom they encounter. Today's formator is called to be a leader who consistently

- exudes joy, life and zeal,
- is a person of compassion and forgiveness, and
- animates the gifts of all for the sake of the mission.
- puts forth a vision for religious life

In addition to exploring these hallmarks, we will also focus on some principles of leadership, including:

- Utilizing supervision and consultation;
- Creating a climate that fosters dialog;
- Fostering healthy, mature individuals and communities;
- Avoiding unrealistic expectations, "niceness," exhaustion;
- Confronting loss, transition and termination.

Through his leadership, Pope Francis is forming us into the church of which he dreams: a "community of missionary disciples." This too is the task of the religious formator as leader.

Presenter: Brother Loughlan Sofield, S.T., is



a Missionary Servant of the Most Holy Trinity. Loughlan is currently the Director of the community's Senior Ministry house. He has served as Director of the Missionary Servant Center for Collaborative Ministry; Director of

the Washington Archdiocesan Consultation and Counseling Center; and Assistant Director of the Center for Religion and Psychiatry, Washington, D.C. Brother Loughlan has worked in almost 300 dioceses in six continents.

As Senior Editor of Human Development magazine for over thirty years, he also published numerous articles on ministry, and is co-author of a number of books. Brother Sofield has served on the faculty of or lectured at many colleges and universities in the United States and in other countries. He previously served as a member of the Advisory Board of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Family, Women and Youth.

His awards include the Lumen Gentium, conferred by the Conference for Pastoral Planning and Council Development on an individual "who has implemented the direction and goals of the Second Vatican Council in an extraordinary manner" and the National Association of Lay Ministry's Gaudium et Spes award, presented to one who has "evidence to the vision of Church articulated in the documents of the Second Vatican Council and who in a special way has advocated and fostered the enhanced role of laity."

Consecrated for Compassion: What Earth Might Teach Us About Tomorrow

As consecrated religious, we are “set apart” for the sake of the Reign of God. We are called to model the Kingdom in our lives and reach out to the world through our charisms and missions. In a changing world, the way our charisms are expressed and the way our missions are shaped is often shifting. Now, when civil society does much of the same work our congregations were founded for and faced with unprecedented global upset, how is God calling us to today?

This presentation focuses on two concepts. The first is the world around us will have different needs in the future than it does now. The second is there are two things in the Universe that continue to intensify: complexity and compassion. Together, we ponder the “signs of the times” in an ecological light, peer into the future to see what is beckoning, and notice what is already stirring. Participants will be encouraged to dream the future with joy and hope and articulate its significance for formation, both initial and ongoing. The choices we make now will form the future.



Presenter: Linda Gibler is a Dominican Sister of



Houston. She is the Associate Academic Dean at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX and an adjunct professor for the Loyola Institute for Ministry.

Linda studied with Brian Swimme at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco and completed her PhD in Philosophy and Religion in 2007. In addition to the PhD, she earned a MA in Philosophy and Religion at CIIS, a MAPS at Aquinas Institute of Theology, and a BA in Sociology and Life Science Ethics at the William Paterson College of New Jersey.

Before her San Francisco studies, Linda was the director of social ministry for a parish in Houston where she coordinated direct services, social outreach, and social justice programs. She worked for a Texas agency to insure health care for indigent women, and served on a hospital medical ethics board.

Linda delights in telling the 14 billion-year story of the Universe, stars, and Earth, as well as the stories of the common things that surround us. Her book, *From the Beginning to Baptism: Scientific and Sacred Stories of Water, Oil, and Fire* (Liturgical Press, 2010), tells the cosmic stories of the primary sacramentals of baptism and considers the difference it would make if we allowed Nature to teach us about God, ourselves, and right relationship with all members of the Earth community.

