

BLOY HOUSE

The Episcopal Theological School at Los Angeles



Bloy House News

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January-February 2023

Bloy House Invites You to Explore the Spiritual Journey this Lent

The outward sign of the ashes on our foreheads may now be gone, but inwardly, our Lenten observance has just begun. Many throughout the diocese are starting a Lenten practice or series to dive more deeply into the meaning of Lent. If your church does not have a Lenten teaching series, or you would like to learn more about spiritual practices as part of your Lenten observation, please consider registering for our four-week Tuesday night Lenten series via Zoom:

The Spiritual Journey: A Lenten Exploration Tuesday evenings, March 7, 14, 21, & 28
7-8:30 pm

Cost: \$25
Via Zoom

This Lent, we will offer an interactive and contemplative experience that invites participants into a deep exploration of their personal spiritual lives in a safe, small group setting. It will be a time to reconnect with God in body, mind, and spirit to see more clearly the path that is beckoning you. We will explore together the topics of prayer, the sacred in the daily, images of God and theological assumptions that guide us, and our own experiences of God.



Facilitated by the Rev. Elizabeth Rechter, Director of Stillpoint. Stillpoint, The Center for Christian Spirituality, an institution of the Diocese of Los Angeles, has been offering programs for spiritual exploration & formation for nearly 40 years.

[Click here](#) to register.

Coming in April – Multicultural Ministry and Deacon Classes

21st Century Ministry in Multicultural Contexts: Enjoying our Colorful Tapestry

Saturday, April 29
9 am - 3 pm
Cost \$25

*Note: this class will be held in person at Bloy House campus in Glendale.
Lunch will be provided.*



Ministry - lay or ordained- in our diocese is a multicultural experience. How do we gain skills and insight, not only to understand others' languages and cultures, but to be open to transformative friendships? We will explore the invitation of seeing the "other" as our friend, and discuss the importance of cultivating connections with those who share different backgrounds to bridge cultural and religious divides. What we learn from these relationships—how to nurture, respect, and care for others—will help us make meaningful change in the world.



This is a one day workshop, facilitated by the Rev. Carlos Ruvalcaba and the Rev. Melissa Campbell-Langdell.

Registration will begin the first week of March. The registration link will be [here](#).

Deacons - Who, What, Why: An Introduction to the Sacred Order of the Deacons

Saturdays, April 29, May 6, & May 13
9 – 11 am
Cost: \$50.00
Via Zoom

Three two hours sessions will offer a glimpse into the life and history of the diaconate. We'll answer the questions: What does it mean to be a deacon today? How do I know that I am called? What are the steps for getting there? Participants will hear stories about deacons who act as the bridge between the church and the world and learn about the distinctive diaconal voice. Recommended for those discerning a call to ordained ministry.



Facilitated by the Rev. Deacon Dennis Sheridan, PhD, a professor emeritus of higher education leadership at Azusa Pacific University where he taught for more than 25 years. Dennis joined All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena in 2004 and later discerned for the diaconate at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ojai. Dennis was ordained in 2014, and subsequently served as parish deacon at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pomona and led the deacon formation seminar for the diocese from 2016 to 2019.

[Click here](#) to register.

Dean's Update

Connection and Technology

The pandemic brought us Zoom (and its cousins), and gave us connection and the ability to do business in a difficult time. Zoom is here to stay - even as we are no longer locked down – and with it comes both advantages and disadvantages.



The blessing of Zoom is that in a geographically large and traffic-challenged diocese like ours, we can connect across the miles without the stress of the 405. At Bloy House this Spring, all our lay formation classes so far have been conducted via Zoom. We have had participants from Barstow, Oxnard, Rancho Santa Margarita, and all places in between. Our January Episcopal Identity class had 40 participants, and it's likely that the number would have been much smaller if we had taught it in person.

On the other hand, an in-person learning experience provides for more engaging small group experiences, better interaction with the instructor, and one-to one connections that can lead to deeper relationships. It has been my dream during my start here at Bloy House to foster friendship and collaborations between lay ministers separated by geography. While diocesan clergy have regular monthly and quarterly meetings to support one another in their ministry, there is no diocesan equivalent for lay ministers. We lay people could learn much from each other – how to begin a new ministry, how to fund-raise, how to pass a ministry on to a new leader, how to raise up and train volunteers, etc., and I want Bloy House to assist in this process as much as possible. It's not impossible, but much harder, to get to that level of collaboration via Zoom.

Our new program of trainings for postulants advancing to ordination may show us a way forward. While these trainings have been one day in-person workshops, we have also been

able to include one postulant who is currently in Seattle via a hybrid Zoom set up. We recently purchased a 360-degree Owl camera for this purpose, giving us an even more seamless way to do hybrid meetings with a true in-person feel for the remote participants. Our remote postulant, Jon Acheé, said, *“The hybrid/video/zoom set up at Bloy House is excellent. With the multiple cameras that would switch over to whomever was talking, I was able to see who was talking and could stay engaged with the class. I was very impressed with the high quality and how the instructor did a great job ensuring I was engaged and could actively participate with the in-person students.”*



Recent seminary class at Bloy House using the Meeting Owl camera (camera on table in the middle). Photo: Tim Reed

I hope to explore some alternatives to exclusively Zoom instruction in our fall course offerings. One idea is to take Bloy House on the road, offering in-person courses in a location central to a deanery. We would hope to get a good in-person registration from around that deanery but would also welcome other participants either in-person or via hybrid Zoom. This allows our Zoom participants a quality way to learn from our great instructors, and our in-person participants within a deanery to connect on a deeper level. If your church would like to host one of these in-person courses, or you have other ideas for exploration, please let me know via email (another technology we have come to both love and hate!)

Linda Allport, Dean

President's Update

Postulant Trainings

As Bloy House lives into its new mission serving the full range of educational needs expressed by the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, one of its most important functions involves training postulants for Holy Orders in important areas mandated either by the canons or diocesan policy.

Right now, the church requires that its prospective ordinands be trained in three areas: the policies and procedures of Title IV (Ecclesiastical Discipline concerning clergy misconduct); Anti-Racism (exploring systemic, cultural, personal, and institutional racism in church and society); and Doctrine of Discovery (examining the range of issues around colonialism and the removal and expropriation of Native American communities and land). All of these trainings last six hours and are normally given on a Saturday.



In past years, these trainings were offered by an assortment of different providers, and students were usually on their own to arrange to take them. Beginning this year, the Los Angeles diocesan staff is working with Bloy House to coordinate all the trainings through us.

On January 28 this year, Jeff Baker (Vice Chancellor of the Diocese) and I provided our first Title IV training under the new system. Jeff did the vast majority of instruction, bringing his detailed knowledge of the canons and his experience as church attorney to bear both in a full exposition of the canons and the diocesan policies. I added some examples from my years in the 1990s as Sexual Misconduct Officer of the Diocese. Jeff managed to bring what could, in less engaging hands, feel like traffic school to life, and the students both learned from the day and brought their own experience and questions to bear in a lively six-hour session.

Bloy House will offer two more trainings this year: Doctrine of Discovery on Saturday, March 4, and Anti-Racism on Saturday March 18. It is not too late to apply. We will offer a new schedule of trainings for 2023-24.

[Click here](#) for more information about our postulant trainings or to register.

Gary Hall, President



M.Div. student, Karen James, practicing a baptism in class.

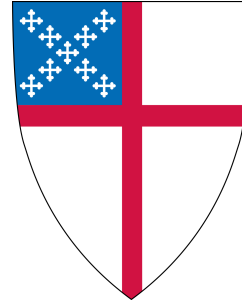
In Other Bloy House News

We are now providing training classes for postulants in the discernment process for potential ordination, at the request of the diocesan Commission on Ministry (see the President's Report)

The national church has allowed each diocese to define its own local vision for deacon formation. Bloy House has proposed a detailed curriculum for a two-year diaconal formation program, currently being reviewed by the diocesan office. We hope to begin the program in the fall of 2023.

For those discerning into the priesthood who have obtained an MDiv degree from a non-Episcopal seminary, the diocesan Commission on Ministry requires further training in Anglican Studies. Bloy House has proposed a one-year curriculum to meet this need, which we hope to begin in 2023.

Bloy House is continuing to assist in the efforts to define a formal process for canonical lay licensing in the diocese, and to implement a methodology to capture and manage applications and renewals. Once approved, Bloy House will begin to offer formation classes to fulfill the requirements for several of the licenses, likely in the 2023-24 program year.



bloyhouse.org

As we transition away from a seminary business model to a wide-ranging diocesan educational institution, where affordable lay formation is a focus, we will depend increasingly on donations from supporters like you. Please join us in this important work.

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