



Digital Commons@

Loyola Marymount University
LMU Loyola Law School

Books

Center for Ignatian Spirituality

2014

Seeking Peace

LMU Center for Ignatian Spirituality
Loyola Marymount University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/ignatian_books



Part of the [Practical Theology Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

LMU Center for Ignatian Spirituality, "Seeking Peace" (2014). *Books*. 2.
https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/ignatian_books/2

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Books by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.

SEEKING PEACE

This booklet, a gift from the Center for Ignatian Spirituality, includes brief stories about nine locations within Loyola Marymount University that have been identified as especially helpful for those who choose to step away from the busyness of work or study in order to consider, reflect, pray, or otherwise seek peace of mind and heart.

Expanded stories, historical contexts, and additional images as well as location details can be found at www.mission.lmu.edu/cis



RANDY ROCHE, S.J.



ANNE HENNESSY, C.S.J.

SEEKING PEACE

Center for Ignatian Spirituality
Loyola Marymount University



MARYMOUNT CENTER FOR PRAYER AND PEACE

As soon as University Hall was readied in 2000, the Marymount Center established an interdenominational chapel, containing Hebrew, Christian and Muslim Scriptures as a conscious welcoming of the diversity of faiths among members of the LMU community. The entire front of the chapel is a colorful window designed by Sister Genevieve Underwood, RSHM, who was a member of the Art and Art History Department. The enclosed space of the chapel, with its rows of comfortable seats, is gently illuminated by the one window. A clear glass table was placed in front so that Catholic Mass may be celebrated without changing the nature of the space that is open to all for “prayer and peace.”

Northwest corner of University Hall, Ste. 3000



FOUNTAINS ON SHEA TERRACE

Though University Hall has rooms within it that provide a quiet environment, the sound of splashing water outside the west end of the building provides a distinctive opportunity for reflection and prayer. The uniform sound of water in constant movement covers the sounds of nearby traffic and other disruptive noise, inviting individuals to entertain their own thoughts and concerns. Though the surrounding terraces and wall and the fountains themselves are constructed of metal and concrete, the trees, shrubs and other plants within the setting offer a welcoming sense of calm.

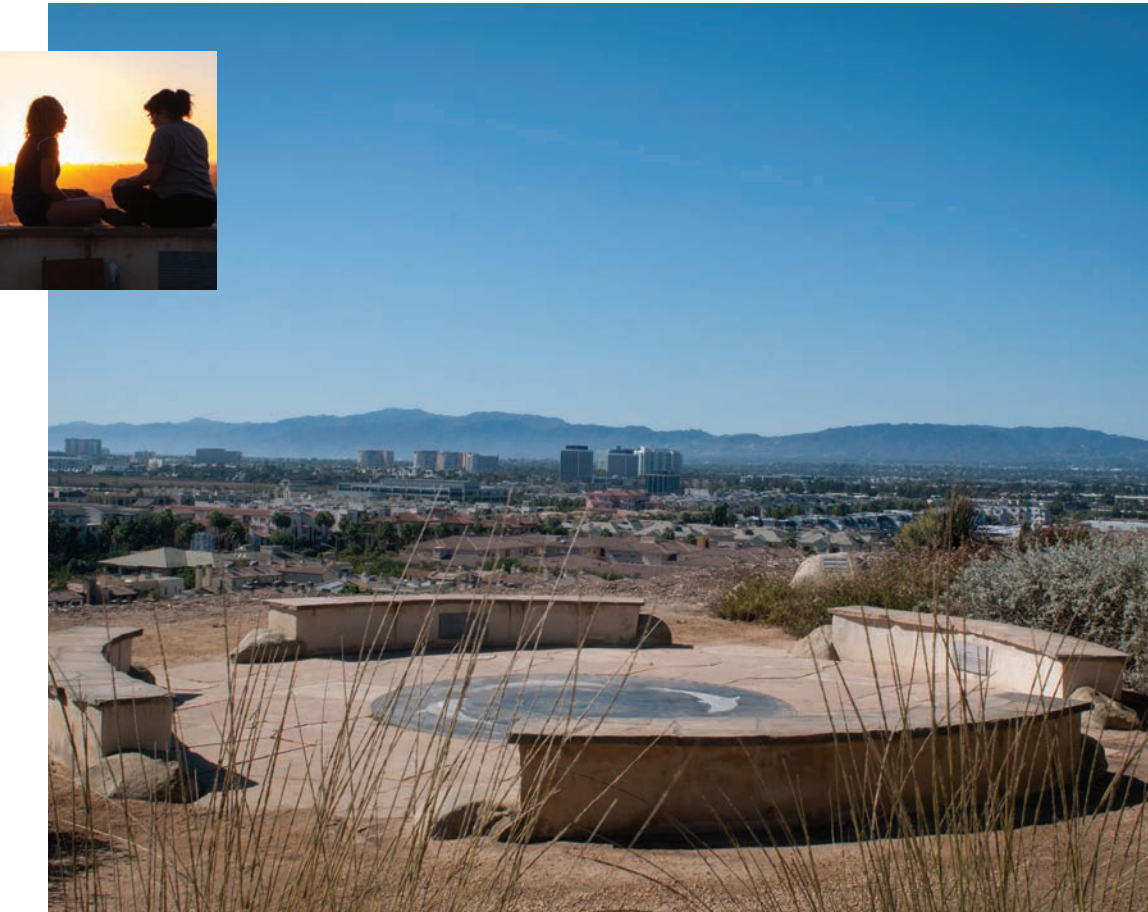
Outside the west end of the University Hall Atrium



TONGVA MEMORIAL

A thousand years ago, the Gabrielino/Tongva tribe inhabited the area now occupied by LMU student residences. The first memorial anywhere to these “People of the Earth” was dedicated in 2000 as a fitting complement to the present-day dwellings. Visitors can gaze out over the Pacific and towards the Santa Monica Mountains as did Native Americans before them. Low stone benches surround a dolphin-motif pavement circle that is, in turn, bordered by explanatory plaques and shrubs and other plants that have long been native to this area, thereby encouraging thoughts of past, present and future to come readily to mind and heart.

On the outside edge of the bluff roadway that passes behind O’Malley and Leavey 4 Residences.

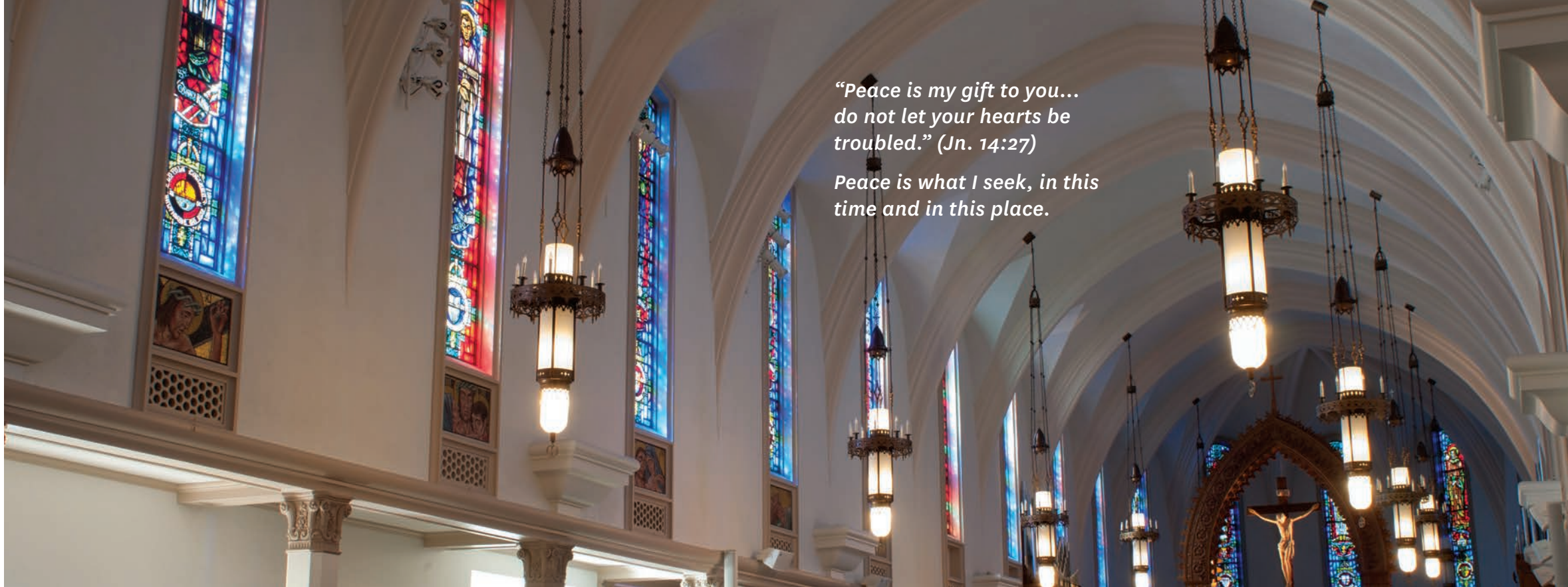


LEAVEY CHAPEL

The chapel of Our Lady of Good Hope was dedicated in 1972 for the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary and the Sisters of St. Joseph, who came to the campus in the early 1970’s and resided in the newly constructed Leavey Center. The windows are signed by Isabel Piczek, a Hungarian, who, at age 16, had been a recognized artist in Rome. The chapel has a sense of intimacy and also of privacy when one is seated in the monastic choir stalls. The floor-to-ceiling stained glass windows are the principal source of illumination, and invite consideration of their symbolism and their possible meaning.

On the upper campus, above and across Ignatian Circle Drive from the Burns Art building





*“Peace is my gift to you...
do not let your hearts be
troubled.” (Jn. 14:27)*

*Peace is what I seek, in this
time and in this place.*



SACRED HEART CHAPEL

The Chapel and tower, with their distinctive adaptation of Spanish Gothic architecture are sited in exactly the location first envisioned in the 1928 plans for the University. But it was not until 1953 that sufficient funds were raised for its construction. Since then, Sacred Heart Chapel has served as the iconic structure of the LMU campus, thus representing its nature and purpose without words. Though the chapel is quite large, those who enter discover a quiet space that encourages peaceful reflection. The brilliant stained glass windows draw the eyes upward to the source of the rich colors and move mind and heart to consider one’s own place within the larger context of the human community and beyond.

Facing the Sunken Gardens and the Central Mall of the upper campus

CHAPEL OF THE ADVOCATE—LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL

The Chapel was designed by Frank Gehry, with wood as the predominant architectural material, in order to suggest to visitors the stable at Bethlehem. The soft wood tones afford a contrast with the concrete and steel that is featured throughout the campus. The cave motif is furthered by having steps down into the space, rather than a straightforward entrance from the central mall as do the other buildings. The interior, with comfortable seating, natural light from large windows and stained glass in the ceiling, provides a sense of intimacy and warmth for those who enter the chapel.

Facing the Oak Tree Quad, flanked by Donovan Hall and Girardi Advocacy Center on the Law School campus.



STUDENT MEMORIAL ON THE BLUFF

*The sculpture, created on campus, was dedicated in 2012 as a memorial to those who died while they were students at LMU. The variety of feelings expressed in the faces and gestures of the figures—everything from deep sadness to expansive hope—are best viewed by walking around the entire grouping. The Latin title, *Ad Astra per Aspera*, tells us that we “reach the heavens through suffering,” which the figures communicate very well to viewers who may themselves have experienced the loss of loved ones. The names of those who are held in memory are on plaques attached to the bottom of the sculpture.*

Directly behind the Sacred Heart Chapel tower



INTERFAITH PEACE GARDEN

For those who find the somewhat hidden location of the Interfaith Peace Garden, even a brief pause there will make the visit worthwhile. The ambience—shade and grass, stone benches and pillars, a view out across part of the upper campus—is serene. The quotations about peace from a variety of faith traditions are engraved in the stones of the memorial, inviting either a complete walk-through or many successive visits so as to ponder them. Avi Schaefer, the young man in whose memory the garden was dedicated in 2013, is quoted on the dedication plaque: “An enemy is someone whose story you have not yet heard.”

Above and to left of the entrance to the Drollinger Parking Structure.



HUESMAN CHAPEL

The first student residence on campus, dedicated to a generous donor, Ralph R. Huesman, was built shortly after WWII and integrates the chapel within the one-story building. Those who enter the plain-looking entrance will find a quiet room illuminated with brilliant warm light from two floor-to-ceiling cut glass windows that provide a deeply calming perspective. The seating of free-standing chairs allows for a relaxed and peaceful atmosphere that is supported by details of wall-mounted oil lamps, a brass dove figure in the curved back wall, and some small stained glass windows.

To the left of the fountain plaza in front of Doheny Residence Hall



LMU|LA

Center for Ignatian Spirituality

An expanded version of *Seeking Peace* is available at:
www.mission.lmu.edu/cis

Loyola Marymount University
1 LMU Drive, Ste. 900, Los Angeles, CA 90045