Father Ted Dziak, S.J. assumed the position of Vice President for Mission and Ministry at Loyola University New Orleans in August 2008, having arrived at Loyola in 2006 to serve as director of the Jesuit Center. Prior to that, Father Dziak spent eight years in the Caribbean: six years working in Jamaica where he served as President of St. George's College in Kingston and two years in Belize, Central America, working in pastoral work in the Mayan villages and as director of the Trinidad Farm retreat house in Belize City. Previously, Dziak worked at Boston College for eight years where he served as assistant to the President, Fr. J. Donald Monan, S.J., as director of immersion programs, and director of the Boston College Neighborhood Center, a neighborhood outreach center that he helped establish in Allston-Brighton/Boston. He has been involved in retreat and spiritual direction programs for students and faculty/staff.

Dziak has been facilitating service and immersion programs his entire Jesuit professional life, having led over forty international immersion service trips for university students, faculty/staff and alumni to developing countries around the world. He founded the Ignacio Volunteers, short-term immersion programs. There are currently six Ignacio Volunteer programs at Loyola University New Orleans. In 1983, Dziak founded the Jesuit International Volunteers (now JVI) and served as the organization's executive director for six years. Located at Georgetown University, the JVI is an affiliate of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, an agency that places university graduates in service work. Dziak earned a bachelor of arts in English from Michigan State University, a master of arts in teaching from the University of Illinois, studied graduate philosophy at Boston College, and received a master’s degree in divinity and a master’s degree in theology from Weston School of Theology/Boston College in Cambridge, Mass. He was also in doctoral studies at Boston College in Higher Education Administration. In addition, he is certified in Ignatian spirituality retreat work from St. Beuno’s Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Wales, U.K. Dziak was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1983 and is a member of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus. (Jesuits)
Office of Mission and Ministry 2011

The Office of Mission and Ministry (M&M) is under the supervision of Father Ted Dziak, S.J., Vice-President for Mission and Ministry. The office of M&M was created in August 2007 in a reorganization of the area of campus ministry and Catholic/Jesuit mission & identity by President Kevin Wildes, S.J., moving University Ministry and the Jesuit Center under his supervision. Fr. Dziak is also the Director of the Jesuit Center. Mr. Kurt Bindewald is the Associate Director of Mission & Ministry and the Director of University Ministry (UM), with eight full-time staff under his supervision. There are two UM assistant directors: Laura Quigley and Josh Daly. Ms. Debbie LaMarca is the Executive Assistant to the Vice-President. The Jesuit Center is staffed by an Assistant Director for Faculty/Staff development (Ricardo Marquez) and a new position, Director of University Programs.

The main role of Mission & Ministry is to foster the Jesuit and Catholic Mission & Identity of Loyola University. This includes on-going facilitation of orientation sessions and on-going formation of its mission for students, Faculty and Staff, Administrators, Board members, parents and alumni. Mission & Ministry also includes university ministry programs which allow the Loyola community to express its Jesuit/Catholic identity, including all retreats, service programs and sacramental activity (masses/ confessions/ confirmation/ etc.)

Sampling of M&M Activities/ Events of 2010 - 2011:

- Announcement of the renovation of the vacant old library into the Tom Benson Jesuit Center (October 2010), made possible through a major gift from NO Saints owner Tom Benson. This 2-3 year project will be a new physical focal point of Jesuit/Catholic mission activity on the campus. Architect (Holly & Smith) has been chosen to assist.
- M&M facilitates an annual new faculty breakfast in August and monthly orientations for new staff. In addition, Jesuit/Catholic workshops are offered for faculty groups to assist in integrating an Ignatian pedagogy into curriculum. Published a new pamphlet (Fall 2010) on Ignatian pedagogy, with faculty contributions. Orientation on Jesuit/Catholic identity held for new students during summer orientation sessions.
- Loyola Week (First week of November): Annual week celebrating Loyola's Jesuit identity includes Outdoor Mass/ concert & speakers / games / and Dinner with the Jesuits.
- Spiritual Days of recollection & retreat offered to Faculty/Staff. Extensive developmental retreat program and Christian Life Communities (CLC) offered for students.
- Ignacio Volunteers Immersion trips. Each winter break, spring break and summer students travel to Jamaica and Belize for service. Activities include camps, as well as working with elderly, disadvantaged youth and special needs children. In May a new faculty/staff immersion trip brought 12 volunteers to Belize.
- An e-newsletter, Magis Moments, is published twice each semester. A revamped M&M web site will continue to expand its on-line spiritual offerings to the Loyola community.
2011-2012: PLANS FOR THE FUTURE: Implementation of Strategic Plan

- The Center for Volunteer and Public Service (CVPS) is planning to open in Fall 2012. The CVPS will bring a cohesion to the varied service and service-learning programs and would allow for better communication, coordination and collaboration; it would provide increased support and better supervision; it would allow for a more integrated reflection component and a greater link to Loyola’s Jesuit mission & identity; it would provide a greater service profile for Loyola and to the greater New Orleans community. It would also help Loyola’s commitment to community-based learning.

- Board Formation on Jesuit Mission & Identity includes more formation on Loyola’s Jesuit/Catholic, supplementing the Board retreat (held in March 2011). An Ignatian Pilgrimage to Loyola/Spain planned for Board members and faculty/staff (May 2012)

- The UM retreat program is in its third year of reorganization to allow for a formative progression ranging from the first-year Awakening retreat through sophomore-junior and senior discernment retreats. Retreats and days of recollection for faculty/staff and various student groups (basketball and baseball teams) are being expanded.

- Ignacio Volunteer immersion programs are being expanded, with the hiring of a new Coordinator (August 2011). A new collaboration with the School of Nursing (SON) brought SON faculty to Kingston, Jamaica to work with children with special needs. Dialogue has begun for an M&M/SON collaboration to allow for an expansion to Belize and Jamaica. Other new initiatives including a Spanish-speaking program as well as domestic service immersion programs (i.e., addressing ecological issues).

- Expanding our focus on sustainability by broadening the area of expertise of Assistant Director Josh Daly, who now has responsibility for Faith, Justice and Sustainability at Loyola University, while continuing to serve as advisor to LUCAP. This includes a new developmental plan for student engagement in community service. The new M&M Fellow will report to him.

Ted Dziak, S.J. / June 2011