PROPOSAL TO LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL GRANTS
Faculty Research Grant Proposal

Name: Daniella Zsupan-Jerome
Rank: Assistant Professor
College/Department: Social Sciences/Loyola Institute for Ministry
Chair/Professorship: Liturgy, Catechesis & Evangelization

Date Submitted:
Start Date: August, 2013
Completion Date: June 2014

Title of Project: Proclaiming Good News: Exploring the Roman Catholic Church's Documents on Social Communication for the Digital Age

Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Supplies (itemize below)</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Printing &amp; Copying</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Journal Page Charge</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Travel (itemize below)</td>
<td>$1628.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Per Diem (itemize below)</td>
<td>$1205 (total for five days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Other Costs (itemize below)</td>
<td>$249.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$3127.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Budget Justification: (Please do not attach other budget pages.)

Travel: Air Transportation to and from Rome: $1446 (as quoted October 3, 2013, expedia.com)
Roundtrip Transportation from Airport to Hotel 84EUR = $115 (Euro conversion rate 10/3/13; price as fixed fare, as quoted on: http://www.comune.roma.it/PCR/resources/cms/documents/tariffario_taxiluglio_2012.pdf)
Additional Transportation costs in Rome via public transport, 5 days: 50EUR = $67.61

Per Diem*: Hotel with Breakfast, $173/day for 5 days $955 (as quoted for mid-range hotel selected for its proximity to the Vatican, on booking.com)
Additional meals, including tip $50/day for 5 days = $250
*Maximum government per diem rate in Rome $585; my estimate is about the third of that.

Other Costs:  
International Mifi Device Rental $189.1 (as quoted on https://www.xcomglobal.com)  
Digital Recording Device $59.99 (BestBuy.com)
Where will the results be published, exhibited or performed? I am under contract with Liturgical Press for publishing this study.

What other sources of funding (internal and external) have you identified for this project? I am not yet considering other sources.

If you have received any prior Loyola University grant funding within the past three years, please list the years and amounts. For each award, specify whether a final report was submitted. If any documents are outstanding, please explain why and specify whether a formal extension was granted. No prior funding via Loyola.

Does your research involve human subjects? Yes _X No. If yes, funding for this project is contingent on receiving IRB approval. If you have IRB approval prior to submitting your proposal, please attach the approval memo to your application. If you do not have IRB approval at the time of your submission, please complete the IRB protocol as soon as possible after your proposal submission.

I have submitted the Employee Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form. Yes

I have read and understand the University’s reimbursement policy. Yes

Narrative Description of Project (use no more than one additional page and please write for a general academic audience):

The project studies the history of the Roman Catholic Church’s teaching on social communication with an aim toward distilling a comprehensive pedagogical vision for how to form ministers in the digital age. The end product is a seven chapter book on this topic. Multiple chapters of this work, mainly those that rely on historical research on specific teaching documents of the Church from 1963, 1971, 1986, 1992 and 2002, have been drafted, or can be successfully drafted via traditional research methods. I have already benefitted from Monroe Library’s holdings and services in this regard.

The final chapters of this study examine the Church’s current communication practices as implicit teaching for our digital age. These communication practices are diverse, but they fall largely under the work of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, a branch of the Roman Curia working at the Vatican. They are responsible, for example, for launching and maintaining @Pontifex, the papal Twitter account, the Pope App, and other expressions of ecclesial presence in cyberspace. Additional Vatican offices whose work is relevant in this regard are the Vatican Radio, Television and Press Office. What these together convey via the digital media, and the decisions behind how to establish a presence online, I argue, is part and parcel of the Church’s current teaching on social communication, and it is conveyed explicitly through current digital media practices implemented by these offices.

I am requesting funding to visit Rome to observe operations at the Pontifical Council for Social Communications (PCCS) and conduct interviews with the Council Secretary, Mons. Paul Tighe and the Council President, Archbishop Claudio Celli. Both Mons. Tighe and Archbishop Celli are professional acquaintances, and would be amenable to my visit. (Please see Mons. Tighe’s email articulating this; attached.) In addition to focusing my visit on the work of the
PCCS, I would also have opportunity, as Mons. Tighe notes, to visit with Vatican Radio, TV and the Press Office. If granted the opportunity, I would seek to learn from these offices their vision, mission, particularities of operation, and unique opportunities and challenges in the digital age.

Communications technologies have allowed for making connections over great distances. Counter-intuitively, such a close observation of the vision and methods of the Pontifical Council on Social Communications and other offices would be best observed and accessed in person. Gaining access to learn about the work of these multiple curial departments within the institutional structure of the Vatican would present a great difficulty if requested from a distance, given the pressing demands on the curial staff and media professionals who work there. By contrast, starting with the PCCS and via their support, I have the opportunity here to make concrete connections with these multiple offices in person. In terms of time spent, efficiency of research and access to the most relevant human resources, there is a greater potential in showing up in person as hosted by the PCCS, as opposed to requesting attention and feedback to my research questions via email or teleconferencing. I am not sure if these high level Vatican officials and media professionals would be able make time for the latter.

In addition, and more specific to my research, while teleconferencing and email exchanges might be a viable alternative to gathering information about the work of the PCCS and other media offices, there is conceptual relevance to seeing their work face-to-face. In my study, of my argument is to envision a hybrid model for ministry, innovative in terms of technology and also integrative of the face-to-face encounter, which maintains a unique interpersonal element to communication. For this reason, I am interested in learning from these curial offices about their methods of operation. While I can feasibly gain access to the end product of their work online, I am concerned with the process of how they go about their work, and the challenges and opportunities they face as the media continue to transition online. This I hope to observe contextually and gather from it their implicitly and explicit assumptions about being church in a digital age.

If I am selected to receive a grant, please see below regarding my concrete steps and goals for completing this study:

1) Present-December 2013: Continue writing historical chapters, finalize draft of these
2) Contact PCSC to confirm visit and find available time; arrange travel plans, sometime between January and February of 2014
3) In Rome, visit PCSC, observe operations and interview Archbishop Celli and Mons. Tighe. Key areas of research interest: opportunities and challenges of the Church's online presence, PCCS' vision for Church in the digital age, how to prepare ministerial professionals toward this vision
4) In Rome, visit Vatican Radio, TV and Press Office. Observe operations and interview key personnel if available. Gather a sense of their mission and vision, opportunities and challenges. Gather their vision for preparing ministerial professionals with a basic media literacy, and what this entails in a digital age.
6) Disseminate the findings of this study via academic and pastoral conferences. Venues selected in collaboration with Liturgical Press' marketing team, with the aim to promote LIM
and Loyola, and to participate in the work of the academy. Conferences might include: Los Angeles Religious Education Congress, Catholic Theological Society of America, Religious Education Association, TheoCom at Santa Clara University.