

INSTITUTE FOR BLACK CATHOLIC STUDIES



Greetings!

I am Dr. Pamela R. Franco and I will be serving as the Institute's interim Director for the 2011-2012 academic year. As many of you already know, **Sr/Dr. Jamie T. Phelps, O.P.**, who served as the Director of the Institute for the past eight years, retired at the end of the 2011 summer session. It is my pleasure to work with the Associate Directors, staff, and you to ensure a successful 2012 summer. As we begin our preparations for the next year there are a few things that I want to share with you.

Summer, 2011:

This summer we saw an increase in the number of students who enrolled in both the Master's and the Certificate programs. At **Commencement** four students were honored. **Fr. Marcos Leon Angulo** and **Ms. Audrey Browder** received the Master's of Theology degree, and **Ms. Evelyn Wells** and **Mr. Tipp Harris** received the Certificate in Youth Ministry.

External Review:

This fall the University will conduct a **comprehensive review** of the Institute to identify a strategic direction to enhance programming and increase enrollment. The program evaluation will be organized in two parts: an offsite review of data and self-study materials on the Institute and an onsite review with the members of the external review committee and campus administrators.

New Director:

In spring 2012, the University will conduct a search for a new director. We anticipate having someone in place by July 1, 2012.

Changes:

In an effort to enhance the administration of the summer Institute, I am considering several changes. They include creating a user-friendly website, identifying criteria for scholarships, offering incentives for early registration, applying additional fees for late registration, and introducing online application and registration.

Marketing and Recruitment:

This fall we will begin an aggressive campaign to market the summer programs. I encourage you to support the Institute by recruiting at least one person to attend the 2012 summer Institute and/or volunteer to help with next year's programs.

This is a critical and exciting year for the Institute, and I look forward to working with you. You can reach me at pfranco@xula.edu and 504-520-7462.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela R. Franco".

Pamela R. Franco, Ph.D.