FOR APPLICANTS TO THE IGNATIAN EXERCISES PROGRAM (MA OR CERTIFICATE)

Applicants to either the MA or Certificate in Spiritual Direction: Ignatian Exercises Program should include an additional section in their personal statement addressing the following questions:

1. Describe your experience with spiritual direction/companioning. Include information on the format of that experience, length of time, and directors.
   - Based on this experience how would you distinguish good spiritual direction from poor spiritual direction?
   - Name one or two things that you have learned from your experiences of spiritual direction.

2. Describe your experience with the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola, including when and where you made the Exercises and the format (e.g., 7-8 day, 30-day, 30-week).
   - Briefly describe the effects and grace of the Exercises for you?

3. Describe your theology of God.
   - Who is God for you?
     - Describe your images, names, concepts and/or experiences of God.
   - Who are you for God?
     - Describe the images, names, concepts and/or experiences that God has for you.

4. Describe your regular practice of prayer, both practically and conceptually. Include a discussion of your favorite prayer forms.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE IGNATIAN EXERCISES PROGRAM (IEP)

In addition to the two Letters of Recommendation required for admission to the Institute of Pastoral Studies (IPS), a third Recommendation is required for the Ignatian Exercises Program (IEP). The IEP Recommendation should come from a person who knows the applicant well, has a general understanding of the work of spiritual direction and the dispositions and skills required to do it well, and who can respond in a personal and informed manner to the four questions on this form. Please send the following instructions to your third recommender.

Dear Recommender,

The person requesting this recommendation from you is applying to the Ignatian Exercises Program (IEP) at the Institute of Pastoral Studies (IPS) of Loyola University Chicago. The IEP trains persons to give spiritual direction in the tradition of Ignatius of
Loyola and his Spiritual Exercises. Please answer the following questions about the applicant to the IEP.

1. For how long and in what capacity have you known the Applicant?

2. Comment on the Applicant’s spirituality, that is, the Applicant’s actual lived experience of faith, and/or the Applicant’s spiritual journey thus far in life.

3. Comment on the Applicant’s readiness, temperament, and talents for functioning as a spiritual director.

4. If you have this knowledge about the Applicant and are able, please comment on the Applicant’s relationship to, or familiarity with, or attraction to Ignatian spirituality and the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola.