

JSRI

JESUIT SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS

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Training Revolutionaries in the Legacy of Fr. Louis J. Twomey, S.J.

“These problems are vital and urgent. May God give this nation the grace to meet the challenge it faces. For the sake of generations of future Americans, and indeed for all humanity, we cannot fail.” --
Discrimination and the Christian Conscious, Statement by the Bishops of the United States, 1958

The quote above is included in the 1967 letter on the [Interracial Apostolate](#) written by then Superior General for the Jesuits, Fr. Pedro Arrupe S.J., with influence and support from Fr. Louis J. Twomey, S.J.

The **“problem” is racism and all of humanity is at risk.** The same sentiments are true today, nearly 60 years later.

Our nation's challenges have never ceased, but we also continue to be blessed with leaders in our community like Fr. Twomey S.J., who corresponded with Martin Luther King Jr. and was an example of courage and conviction.



Fr. Louis J. Twomey, S.J. was a Loyola alumnus (1931) and Jesuit priest who returned to Loyola University New Orleans in 1947 where he founded the Institute of Industrial Relations. Fr. Twomey was an early and outspoken advocate for racial justice, hosting racially integrated classes at Loyola starting in the early 1950's. Fr. Twomey's monthly newsletter, *Blueprint for the South*, was an inspiration for a generation of Jesuits and lay people engaged in the fight for equal rights for African Americans as both laborers and human beings.

In 2023, JSRI established the Fr. Louis J. Twomey, S.J. Legacy Scholar in Residence position and invited civil rights leader and community organizer, Dr. Ronnie Moore to be our inaugural scholar. Over the past two years, Dr. Moore has presented to classes, mentored staff and faculty, and organized events in partnership with Dillard's Center for Racial Justice and the Amistad Research Center, which holds the [Ronnie Moore Collection](#). In August 2024, Dr. Ronnie brought a group of students and community members to [Donaldsonville, Louisiana](#) where he led the Freedom Summer Project in 1963



to register Black voters (featured in the documentary [Louisiana Diary](#)). Students accompanied Dr. Moore into the jail cell where he watched the March on Washington with James Farmer after organizing a protest against segregation. In May 2024, Loyola awarded Ronnie Moore an honorary doctorate degree for his lifetime of service and leadership to build a better future for our nation. Dr. Ronnie will continue to serve our campus and organize events to encourage us to remember the civil rights movement of 60 years ago and build the future that we want to live in 40 years from now.

JSRI is excited to announce our next Fr. Louis J. Twomey, S.J. Scholar in Residence, William Quigley J.D.

Bill Quigley has been an active public interest and human rights lawyer since 1977. He is an emeritus professor of law and served as Director of the Law Clinic and the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center at Loyola University New Orleans for more than 30 years. Bill has served as counsel with a wide range of public interest organizations on issues including public housing, voting rights, death penalty, living wage, civil liberties, educational reform, constitutional rights, civil disobedience, and social justice issues following Hurricane Katrina. Bill has also litigated numerous cases with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., the Advancement Project, and with the ACLU of Louisiana where he was General Counsel for over 15 years.



Bill is the author of *Ending Poverty As We Know It: Guaranteeing A Right to A Job At A Living Wage* (2003) and *Storms Still Raging: Katrina, New Orleans and Social Justice* (2008), as well as numerous articles that focus on revolutionary lawyering, civil disobedience, international human rights, and a continuing history of how the laws have regulated the poor since colonial times.

As one of his first initiatives at JSRI, Bill will serve as the editor for a special series of the JustSouth Monthly newsletter to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and explore the impacts of the storm with attention to JSRI's core issues of race and poverty.

Bill is also a leader that is deeply informed by Catholic Social Teachings. All of his efforts as a lawyer, teacher and leader are informed by faith and guided by the pursuit of justice. Bill's work answers the call from Fr. Pedro Arrupe S.J. in 1967 to have 'Courage of a high supernatural order' to realign "our manpower and resources to meet the crying needs of our brothers in Christ who languish in racial degradation and inhuman poverty."

In his 2006 article on [Revolutionary Lawyering](#), Bill urges us to **"Refuse to accept the reality of those who think that our future is predetermined by the powerful and will never change. Certainly, never accept our current reality as the inevitable future. Accept no limits! Never let anyone tell you what you can achieve or who you can become. Challenge injustice even if you don't know the solution."**

Bill has spent his life challenging injustice, inspiring students, building coalitions, and working with communities. In his role as the Fr. Louis J. Twomey, S.J. Legacy Scholar in Residence, Bill will continue to lead and inspire new generations of freedom fighters and revolutionaries at Loyola and beyond. We are grateful to work with him!

If you would like to collaborate with Bill Quigley or invite him to speak to your class, please contact JSRI@loyno.edu for more information.

About the Fr. Louis J. Twomey, S.J. Legacy Scholar in Residence Program:

The Fr. Louis J. Twomey, S.J., Legacy Scholar in Residence Program honors the life and work of Fr. Twomey, one of the greatest social apostles the Jesuit province of the South ever produced. The program invites a distinguished scholar who has retired from a field of study where the scholar addressed one or more of JSRI's core issues (i.e., race, poverty, and migration) to spend one calendar year at JSRI to reflect and write about their life's work and build upon Fr. Twomey and Loyola's legacy of racial justice with the Loyola community. The scholar will have access to resources to host events and convenings and be encouraged to present to students and faculty to enrich the Loyola community with their experiences and wisdom.

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