

**Notes Regarding Gonzaga University Second Life (GUSL)**  
**By Michael R. L. Carey, Ph.D.**  
**Acting Dean / Virtual Dean**  
**School of Professional Studies / Gonzaga University Second Life**  
**Gonzaga University**

Second Life (SL) is a 3-D virtual environment that you access via the internet. Originally a gaming platform, SL has evolved to include more and more business, organizational, and educational applications. Since the beginning of January 2010, Gonzaga University has a presence on SL known as "Gonzaga University Second Life." Within this virtual environment, I am in the process of creating a "virtual monastery" called the **Abbey of Saint Antony** to serve as an educational tool for our course on Leadership and Community, as well as for the Rule of Benedict section of the course on Leadership and Imagination.

St. Antony's Abbey is designed to illustrate principles of community described in the *Rule of Saint Benedict*. Monks of all faith traditions are radical seekers of the ultimate meaning of life. Monks who live under the **Rule of Benedict** also embrace this radical lifestyle, but they understand that the search for ultimate meaning is not a solitary journey, but happens through relationships and within community life.

As you wander around this virtual monastery, notice objects and spaces that are sacramental in nature: that is, they bring about what they represent. Notice that the balance is emphasized: work and leisure, eating and sleeping, study and prayer. Notice that relationship is emphasized: spaces bring individuals together for work, study, eating, sleeping, decision-making, and prayer.

Rather than extinguishing the individuality of each monk, the *Rule of Benedict* seeks to nurture his or her "true self." The true self already exists but often has been hidden under layers of the "false self," created by our fears and our desires, our anxieties and our longings. By entering a Benedictine community, a monk learns to remove these layers of false self through his or her relationships with others.

### **Accessing the Virtual Monastery**

Since SL was originally a "gaming" site, there is still a lot of weird stuff going on in parts of Second Life (as there are weird things going on in parts of real life . . . ). I have created some instructions to get you onto Second Life and into a safe environment until we can get you access to Gonzaga University Second Life, so as to avoid as much of the weird stuff as possible. First, go to

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Al%20Andalus%20Generalife/230/21/57>

If you already have a SL account, then skip the next section.

-----  
At (<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Al%20Andalus%20Generalife/230/21/57>)  
click on one of the "Sign Up" buttons.

Type in a first name you would like to use, and then choose an available last name for the avatar (i.e., a 3-d representation of you in Second Life, or SL). Create a password, add your e-mail address, and enter your date of birth (hint: I usually keep date-of-birth as January 1, and then just add my year of birth, so that way my actually birthday is not given out—just me being paranoid, perhaps . . .).

Click [CREATE ACCOUNT], and then download the Second Life Viewer. Once the viewer is loaded and open, type in your avatar's first and last names, password, and then click on [LOG IN]. Accept the terms of service, and click [CONTINUE].

-----  
If you are logged onto Second Life, and you used the url <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Al%20Andalus%20Generalife/230/21/57> , then you will be taken to the second floor of the Convivencia Institute in the SL sim called "Al Andalus Generalife." The Convivencia Institute was developed Gonzaga teachers in leadership programs, and teaches methods of dialogue. On the command bar at the very top of your screen, click on "World" and then on "Set Home to Here." Now when you return to SL you will come here first.

Now click on the "Search" space at the top of your screen and type in the words Convivencia Institute. One of the listings is for the Convivencia Institute group (with a "people" icon next to it)—click on it and you will find information on the group, and then click on a button that says PROFILE, and then click on "join" (which is free!). Now you are an official member of the Convivencia Institute group! As the Director of the Convivencia Institute, let me be the first to say: "Welcome!"

While you are at the Convivencia Institute, you can "friend" me by right-clicking on your avatar, then selecting "Friends" from the circle menu that appears, and then clicking [ADD], and typing in the name "Michael Khandr" (watch the spelling, and don't select "Micaela" because she isn't me!). Highlight the name "Michael Khandr" and click [SELECT]. When it asks if you want to offer friendship to Michael Khandr, click [OK]. I am known as Micael Khandr in Second Life, by the way . . . . Close the "Communicate" window, and explore. "Welcome!", one more time!

After you have requested friendship from me as Micael Khandr, I will accept and then enroll you into the Gonzaga University Second Life group. I will also give you a "landmark" to GUSL, and the next time you are on Second Life you will be able to access the GUSL sim. Please send me an e-

mail at [carey@gonzaga.edu](mailto:carey@gonzaga.edu) to let me know what your SL name is, so that I can keep track of everyone virtually and really!

By the way, Second Life doesn't cost anything. You can input your credit card information if you want to purchase things on Second Life—like new clothes for your avatar—but you don't need to give any credit info to be able to wander around in the environment or participate in the Convivencia Institute events.

The Abbey of Saint Antony is a work in progress, one which I hope you can help me complete for future students. See you "in world" (that's SL talk . . . )!

--Michael Carey / GU

--Micael Khandr / GUSL