



JESUITS

USA MIDWEST PROVINCE | FALL 2023



World Youth Day

Midwest Jesuits and students connect with the world in Portugal

Also in This Issue:

- Sisters with Ignatian roots
- Jesuit-educated Ukrainian Lawyers
- A Unique Parish in Kenya



Dear Friends,

One of the things I've always enjoyed about being a priest is meeting people and finding that we have something in common. Reveling with someone who has a shared friend or experience immediately lowers a barrier. From the outset, we move forward with a common bond.

The bond of our faith was a centerpiece of the World Youth Day celebration this past August in Lisbon, Portugal (cover story, page 8). Several of our Jesuits attended with students, parents and chaperones from Cincinnati and around the Midwest. It was especially meaningful in light of the four Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus, the third of which instructs us to "Accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future." Youth and hope were abundant in Portugal.

Hope is also abundant at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Parish (page 16) in Kangemi, Kenya, where I recently visited. St. Joseph's changed the way I view parishes, thanks to a wide variety of social and spiritual services offered, beyond just a church and school.

Our connected world of faith is evident elsewhere in the Midwest Province, where graduates of Jesuit schools talk about how their education helped them navigate life and careers in professional sports management (page 22).

On a more serious note, our connections are evident in the work of two women, Ukrainian lawyers and graduates of Loyola University Chicago's Rule of Law Institute in Rome, who have returned to Ukraine and Poland to fight corruption (page 12). We pray for them and their vital work.

Fierce, faithful women like the Ukrainian lawyers and the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph (page 18) have always been the bedrock of the Church. Founded nearly 375 years ago in France, with the help of a Jesuit priest, the Congregation continues its work across the Midwest and beyond. The Sisters are beacons of faith-filled service.

Finally, this past August we were blessed to celebrate the First Vows of nine of our men (page 3). They were replaced at the novitiate the following week by 10 new novices who joined the four others now in their second year, for a total of 14 now at the novitiate.

May these men, and all who journey in faith, find joyful connections throughout their lives, removing any barriers to common bonds in God's love with their brothers and sisters.

Yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Karl J. Kiser, SJ
Provincial
USA Midwest Province

The Very Rev. Fr. Karl J. Kiser, SJ, chats with Fr. Jim Prehn, SJ, (left) and Cardinal Blase J. Cupich (right) during a higher education colloquium at the Midwest Jesuits province offices in Chicago on Sept 6, 2023.

*For we walk by
faith, not by sight.*

—2 Corinthians 5:7





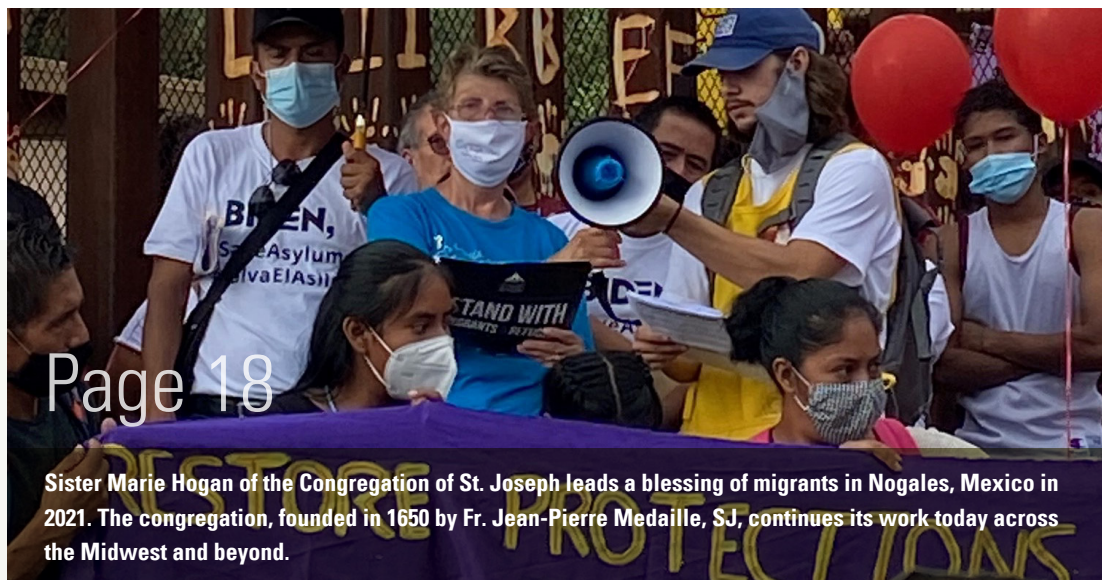
Sisters with Ignatian Roots



ON THE COVER

Fr. Eric Immel, SJ, lifts Xavier University sophomore Rocco Giegerich and his Xavier flag this summer at World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal.

Photo: Courtesy of Xavier University



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Sister Marie Hogan of the Congregation of St. Joseph leads a blessing of migrants in Nogales, Mexico in 2021. The congregation, founded in 1650 by Fr. Jean-Pierre Medaille, SJ, continues its work today across the Midwest and beyond.

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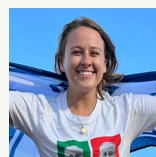
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Meet the New Novices

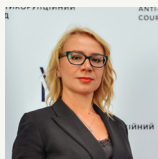
Meet the 10 men who entered the Society of Jesus this year at the Novitiate of St. Alberto Hurtado in St. Paul, Minn.



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World Youth Day

More than 40 students from Xavier and other universities traveled with Jesuits and staff to Lisbon, Portugal this summer.



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Ukrainian Lawyers Fight Corruption

Two graduates of Loyola University Chicago's Rule of Law Institute in Rome put their training to work.



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Jesuit-Educated Sports Executives

Owners and executives from Jesuit schools call on their Ignatian values in the business of professional sports.

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From left, Alzario Palmer, Prince Brunt and Jae Rule of Chicago Jesuit Academy.

Coming Home with a Purpose

Three Chicago Jesuit Academy alumni give back to their alma mater in countless ways

By Kristine Mackey

“Grad at Grad” is a unique term developed by Jesuit Fathers Dick McCurdy and Mario Prietto at St. Ignatius College Preparatory school in San Francisco in the 1980s. Alongside faculty there, they hammered out the five key characteristics of a student at graduation from a Jesuit school. Adopted by Jesuit schools across the world, the entire Jesuit school experience is tailored to help students aspire toward these characteristics. They are: *open to growth, loving, committed to doing justice, intellectually competent and religious.*

Nowhere will you find a group of young men that embody these characteristics more than the young alums, now giving back to their alma mater, Chicago Jesuit Academy (CJA), an elementary and middle school on the west side of Chicago. CJA alums in college and high school have long worked in the various CJA summer programs. But more recently, many older alums work there as full-time professionals during the school year. Their work is the ultimate example of paying it forward, and they embody the “Grad at Grad” concept.

Prince Brunt is a ray of sunshine. He lost his beloved mother as a young boy, and is currently mentoring his younger siblings, who are also in their 20s. But Prince still has so much to give. As an instructional aide at CJA, he is known to be the listener, the one you’d go to if you had a problem.

Jae Rule is a relationship builder. Working in CJA’s development office, he is responsible for telling the story of CJA to potential donors in a variety of ways. He’s the perfect person for the job, as his deep love for the school and his heartfelt gratitude shows on every inch of his six-foot-five-inch frame. Coming back to work there “completes the circle,” he says. “I am confident this is the work I was meant to do.”

Alzario Palmer is a dedicated CJA instructional aide known for his indefatigable resolve and a thirst to do good in the world. A graduate of Loyola Academy and a young man with an entrepreneurial spirit, his warmth permeates the space he inhabits. Students flock to him. In his free time, Alzario works at a shoe store and does all he can to help his mother and brother.

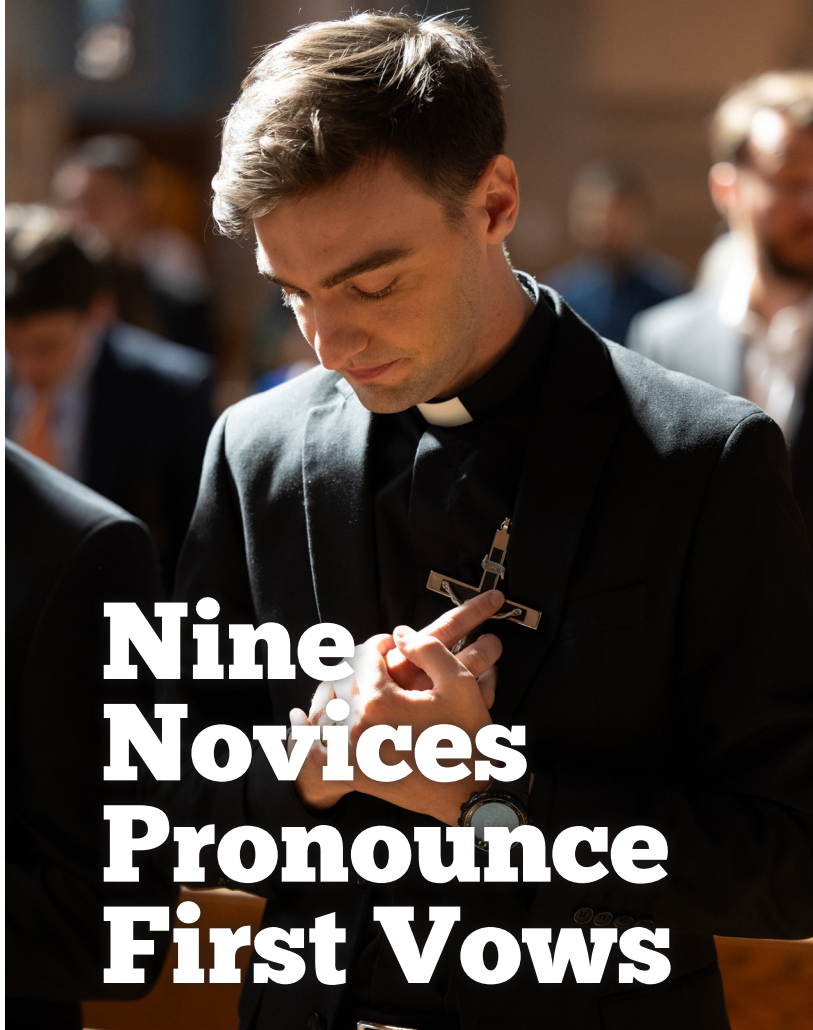
“I have a no one-left-behind mentality, and I try to reach out to anyone teetering on the outside,” he says. How lucky the young souls who look up to him are.

These three young men work alongside other alums, including Jerrod “Jay” Castleberry, a member of the first CJA graduating class. Now a banker, Jay serves on CJA’s board of directors. If the formula for these Jesuit schools (sometimes dubbed the Nativity Model) weren’t enough of a notable educational model, add to it the integration of alums like these. Unstoppable!

In the fall of 2022, CJA opened a girls elementary school on the campus alongside the boys school. To learn more about the school, visit www.cjacademy.org. ✠



Kristine Mackey is the VP for advancement and communications for the USA Midwest Province Jesuits.



Nine Novices Pronounce First Vows



Nine Midwest Jesuits pronounced first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience on Saturday, August 12, 2023, at St. Thomas More Catholic Community in St. Paul, Minn. As part of their public statements of commitment to the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits received vow crosses (see above), which they will keep for the rest of their lives. Pronouncing first vows is the culmination of a Jesuit's two years at the novitiate. There, a man in formation further discerns his vocation, learning more about how to pray and live in community, and about the Society of Jesus. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Jesuit, please visit beajesuit.org.
Photos by Dave Hrbacek except the photo at bottom by Don Doll, SJ





Taylr Bahr

Burlington, Kansas

Taylr attended Creighton University, where he studied economics, social entrepreneurship, and philosophy. While studying at Creighton, he was introduced to the Jesuits and Ignatian spirituality. After graduation, Taylr completed a year of service through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, working with the aging at a regional nonprofit in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In his free time, Taylr enjoys running, reading, getting to know older adults and spending time with loved ones.



Creighton University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in theology, philosophy and classical languages. During his time at Creighton, he was able to work alongside the Society of Jesus at St. John's Parish. In his free time, Jon likes reading, cooking meals for his friends and discovering new music.



management. He worked in health care IT for six years in Kansas City, Missouri. Chris became familiar with the Society of Jesus through his relationships with Jesuits at Creighton and at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Kansas City. He likes walking, spending time with friends, and listening to music and podcasts.

Timothy Long

Barberton, Ohio

Tim first encountered the Jesuits when he read "The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything" by Fr. James Martin, SJ, in high school, which was very formative for his faith. He earned a bachelor's degree in humanities from Villanova University and received his master of divinity degree



Jonathan Herrington

Davenport, Iowa

Jon grew up throughout the Midwest, primarily in Fargo, North Dakota, and Davenport, Iowa. He first met the Jesuits at

Christopher Kinkor

West Des Moines, Iowa

Chris attended Creighton University, where he studied economics and human resource



from the University of Notre Dame, where he also served as an assistant rector in a residence hall and spent time with the Catholic Worker community of South Bend. Tim likes to run, read and bake.

Robert Nichols

Louisville, Kentucky

Bobby first encountered the Jesuits at Xavier University, where he received a bachelor's degree in theology. After graduation, he returned to Louisville and taught theology and was associate director of campus ministry at his high school alma mater for six years. He then pursued a master's degree in ministry and theology from Villanova University and most recently served as the rector of Keenan Hall at the University of Notre Dame. An avid walker, Bobby has walked the Camino de Santiago twice.



Joseph Ripple

Brookfield, Wisconsin

Joe graduated from Marquette University High School and earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Marquette University and a master's in finance from the University of Virginia. He worked in consulting for five years before getting his MBA from the University of Michigan, and then he worked in finance and operations at Tesla in San Francisco. Joe's passion is making a social impact in the developing world, and he founded a social



enterprise in 2018 with partners in Rwanda, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Noah Smith

Des Moines, Iowa

Noah attended Marquette University, where he majored in English literature and theology. He worked as a writing tutor and as a content creator for the Jesuit-run Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network in Milwaukee. He first encountered the Society of Jesus through his Jesuit professors at Marquette and subsequently through his work and participating in retreats through campus ministry. In his free time, Noah enjoys reading, watching Spanish Netflix series and running.



Aidan Stenson

El Segundo, California

Aidan attended the University of Chicago, where he received a bachelor's degree in fundamentals: issues and texts. He began discerning a vocation with the Jesuits while at the University of Chicago, through the example of the late Fr. Paul Mankowski, SJ. During his time in college, Aidan was active in campus ministry at Calvert House and worked as a teaching assistant in the German department. His interests include baseball, rugby, playing music and reading.



Mark Trombley

Troy, Michigan

Mark is an alumnus of University of Detroit Jesuit High School and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Michigan and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He worked in the health care, pharma and health tech industries in California, the Netherlands and London. Mark was an active member of Christian Life Communities for more than 15 years. He has been inspired by incredible Jesuits and is deeply drawn to Ignatian spirituality.



Tijmen van der Maas

Leiden, Netherlands

Tijmen got to know the Jesuits while completing bachelor's degrees in business and in political science and philosophy at Indiana University. He was attracted to religious life by the example of his Dominican pastor and to the Jesuits after reading *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything* by Fr. James Martin, SJ. Tijmen worked as a consultant in London and spent a summer working on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. He is a certified bartender and canoe guide.



God's Light Invites the Journey

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

— Frederick Buechner
Author, Presbyterian minister

By Christopher Williams, SJ

During my sophomore year at Creighton University I was part of a living-learning community called the "Cortina Community." It was named for Fr. Jon Cortina, SJ, a priest trained as an engineer, who worked in El Salvador with and for the poor. Our community focused on how to cultivate a life of faith that does justice by integrating academics, spirituality, service and community. Prior to this, my Catholic faith had been very important to me. But as I encountered this whole new world of the Ignatian charism in a more intentional way, my heart caught fire.

At Creighton, I was encouraged by the words of the former Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Peter Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, to engage the "gritty reality of this world" with my faith. Father Cortina's challenge to become a liberation "whatever"—to be an agent of freedom and justice with whatever gifts I had—echoed in my heart. And Buechner's invitation to see how God honors our deep desires to seek happiness, and to serve others in our vocation, helped open my imagination to what I might become in the future. During my time at Creighton, I began to enact all these things alongside others. We engaged in service, we reflected on our unique identities, and we opened our hearts to God.

Years later I found a former high school theology student or mine. We talked about his hopes and desires for the future, and his preparing to apply to colleges. He was full of passion as he described outdoor adventures he had gone on. He marveled at the natural world but also felt indignant about its destruction due to pollution and exploitation. The quote above from Frederick Buechner came to mind, and I shared it with him. I watched as his face brightened and he said, "Wow, Mr. Williams, that's really good!" My heart filled with joy as I recognized in him what I had once felt stir in my own soul at Creighton, the feeling that inspired my widening vision of a meaningful, passionate life with God.

We pass on the gifts we receive. I was introduced to the Jesuit way of proceeding at Creighton, which sparked a desire that eventually led me to the Society of Jesus. I encountered a God beyond my wildest dreams, a God who captured my heart with the call to a life of love that would fill my heart with what it most yearned for. And now I am able to pass on this same divine message of hope to young people. I hope that I can help them see that in a world fraught with division, distraction and despair, God's light shines



Christopher Williams, SJ

brightly to invite them to a life where their deep gladness and the world's deep needs can be brought together in a meaningful and joyful journey with God. ✠

Christopher Williams, SJ, is studying theology at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif. He entered the Society of Jesus in 2014.

A Life in Peru

Fr. Matt Garr, SJ, greets parishoners after Mass at Virgen de Nazaret Parish in Lima, Peru.

I WENT FOR ADVENTURE AND STAYED TO SERVE GOD'S PEOPLE

By Fr. T. Mattingly "Matt" Garr, SJ

When I was a novice at Milford, Ohio, we were taught that the Jesuits are a missionary order with a vocation to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. But the only opportunity we were offered to do so was to continue our college studies at our formation program in Lima, Peru. I signed up out of a sense of adventure. I hardly knew anything about the country or its culture, but I ended up staying for 58 years, and people have come to know me as "Mateo," which is easier to say in Spanish.

Fortunately, during our traditional humanities studies, I got to spend my summer and inter-semester vacations in little towns in the Andes mountains. After coming back to the then-Chicago Province for the rest of my studies, I had the opportunity to study for a master's degree in cultural anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis. For my regency, through the Andean Pastoral Institute in the Incan capital of Cuzco, I did fieldwork in southern Peru and learned about the syncretic religious customs and beliefs of the Quechua Indian peasants.

After theology studies in Berkeley, Calif., the Peruvian provincial asked me to help start

a rural parish and social justice program in the central Andes near the city of Huancayo. I was there for 12 years, and during the late '80s and early '90s, we were attacked by the Shining Path, a guerilla group of terrorists. Unfortunately, the government's armed response was just as bad. Many of our people were caught between the terrorists and the government's army, and were killed. All we could do was be present with them since we were not allowed to continue our ministries. The late Fr. Robert Dolan, SJ, replaced me there, and the provincial turned me into a "displaced person."

In Lima I worked for the Peruvian Bishops' Conference's Human Rights Commission, where we defended innocent people who were unjustly accused of being terrorists. We also worked with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. At that time, I also began the "hobby" of writing summaries of the pope's social teaching encyclicals so people could actually begin to learn "the Church's best kept secret." Most recently I have been doing that with the documents in preparation for the Synod of Bishops in Rome.

After a sabbatical at the Chicago

Theological Union to obtain my doctor of ministry degree, the provincial asked me to be the pastor of the parish church in the Agustino neighborhood in Lima. I followed in the footsteps of many Jesuit Fathers in that ministry with the urban poor: Daniel Hartnett and Kevin Flaherty, and the late Frank Chamberlain and John Sima.

For health reasons I "retired" in 2021 and will be living at a senior living facility in the greater Detroit area. Of course, Jesuits don't retire! So, in addition to my "popularizing" the Church's social teaching, thanks to the internet, I am now the Peruvian province chaplain of the Christian Life Movement. But don't let me forget my beginnings! I am from Louisville, and while I am known as "Mateo" in Peru, Fr. Brad Schaeffer, SJ, reminds me that I come from a very long line of Kentucky Mattinglys! ✠



Fr. Matt Garr, SJ, entered the Society of Jesus in 1963 and was ordained in 1975.



More than 40 students from Xavier University and elsewhere met in Lisbon, Portugal this summer for World Youth Day.

The Future of Our Church

Midwestern college students connect with humanity at World Youth Day in Portugal

By Patricia McGeever

If there is any doubt about the future of young people in the Catholic Church, one look at the mass of humanity that attended World Youth Day this summer in Portugal will dispel it.

"It was amazing," says Suzie Lyons, a junior at Loyola University Chicago. "Chaotic at times, definitely. But it was amazing."

Lyons was part of a group that included students from Loyola, Creighton, Marquette and Xavier universities, as well as non-Jesuit schools. Led by Xavier regent Matthew Zurcher, SJ; Midwest Province Vocations Promoter Fr. Eric Immel, SJ; and Fr. Paul Shelton, SJ, the Midwest provincial assistant for vocations and the provincial delegate for World Youth Day Magis, the trip was part pilgrimage, part campout, and, for many, entirely life-changing.

The festival had energy, enthusiasm, and emotion. It also had Pope Francis, who generates the excitement of a rock star and commands the reverence of a saint.

"He was everything I think I could have hoped for him to be," says Katherine Colburn, one of the chaperones from Xavier University who got a close look at the pope. "I was surprised by how much it touched me. He was such a humble man."

Colorful flags from 190 nations waved, and several languages were spoken, yet there was no communication barrier. One-and-a-half million young people attended the pope's final Mass, but it was his opening ceremony that touched many, and even brought some to tears.

"It was my favorite part because that was the global Church right there," says Rocco

Giegerich, a Xavier sophomore. "I was able to see it right in front of my eyes. That was a moment where I felt God really strongly, and I was able to recognize God in almost every single person standing there, even though there were hundreds of thousands of people."

In his welcome speech, the pope emphasized that there is room for everyone in Catholicism. "In the Church, no one is left out, or leftover," he said, and at one point the crowd chanted "Todos, todos, todos," which translates to "Everyone, everyone, everyone."

"That message was so refreshing," says Maggie Jurek, a senior nursing student at Xavier. "It gave me a lot of hope for the future of our Church."

Zurcher, an organizer and chaperone, was just as moved by Pope Francis as the students. "I don't know if it's the office or him, but by

far, [he's] the most charismatic human being I've ever seen in my life," Zurcher says. "He's telling us about Jesus. He's telling us we are called by name. He's telling us that God loves us, and people are cheering like crazy. There's no power like that anywhere."

That was only one of the Midwest Jesuit delegation's powerful and endurance-testing experiences. The group arrived in Portugal more than a week before World Youth Day to attend a Magis gathering with other young people affiliated with the Jesuits. Two thousand people gathered at a high school in Lisbon that became known as Magis Villa. For two days, they slept on classroom floors and celebrated Mass on an athletic field. Then, they were divided into groups and sent on Magis experiences in either Portugal or Spain. Some worked with the poor. Others, like Noah Bock, walked parts of the Camino de Santiago.

"We hiked for four days," says Bock, a senior at the University of Michigan. "It was rough. We tried to get up as early as possible to beat the heat. Then we'd have our lunch, we'd swim or take a siesta. In the evening, we'd have Mass and dinner, then go to bed and do again it the next day."

During those four days, his group covered almost 56 miles.

Coburn, the chaperone from Xavier, loved the Magis Circles, the small spirituality groups that met at the end of each day. "You were able to form intimate and deep relationships with people from other countries very quickly," she says.

Maggie Jurek took a 10-hour bus ride to Madrid, where she worked with the elderly, immigrants and young children, all as a non-Spanish speaker.

"I kind of realized love and service, and just being with people, can really surpass any language barrier," Jurek says.

In addition to co-organizing the trip, Fr. Shelton helped organize the Midwest group's Magis event. "Part of our thinking as a province was, this is a great way for people to think about how God wants them to serve the Church," he says. "This is why we wanted



Flags from many nations and schools waved during World Youth Day, and Xavier University students made their presence known.

young men and women to come to think about how is God calling you to give your life for the kingdom of God."

The province also took all pilgrims to Fatima. When the experiences ended, they returned to Magis Villa, where a Mass was celebrated with the provincial of Portugal and Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ. Lyons, the junior at Loyola, was chosen to serve at Mass. "To be a part of that and to be a part of a Mass celebrated by Father General was spectacular," she says. "Getting to serve with people from Zimbabwe, Spain and Portugal was absolutely amazing."

There was added significance to the Mass since it fell on July 31, the feast day of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits.

After Magis, the group moved on to World Youth Day events, and as the week came to a close, they hiked eight miles with their belongings in 95-degree heat to the site of the pope's final Mass. What was hard on the body proved good for the soul.

"It had been a long day and we were camped out in sleeping bags in this huge field, and we had adoration," says Bock, the senior

at Michigan. "It just amazed me how quiet one-and-a-half million people can get in the moment of adoration. I was praying with all the anxiety and the things that were running through my head, and I really felt this peace in that moment."

All saw firsthand that the universal Church has no borders. They also got to see "all of Catholicism's expressions and flavors throughout the world," Fr. Shelton says.

Beyond that, the youth of the Midwest came home with new international friendships, a part of the experience that profoundly moved Xavier sophomore Giegerich. "I have never felt so connected to, not only God, but also humanity," he says. ✠



Patricia McGeever is an award-winning freelance writer and television news producer based in Cincinnati. A proud Xavier Musketeer, she is a retired Irish dancer and instructor.



Tuskegee Airmen (left to right) Dr. Eugene Richardson (99), Lt. Col. James Harvey (100), Lt. Col. Harry Stuart (99) and Lt. Col. George Hardy (98) at the Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago during the 2023 EAA AirVenture fly-in event.

Fly-In Sleepover

Once a year, to make the best of a noisy situation, the Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago pauses its retreats and transforms itself into a home for aviation enthusiasts

By Michael Austin

The skies above Lake Winnebago are quiet once again, and spiritual retreats have long-since resumed.

For a week this past July, though, the Jesuit Retreat House (JRH) on Lake Winnebago in Oshkosh, Wis., paused its normal summer schedule and opened its doors, as it has

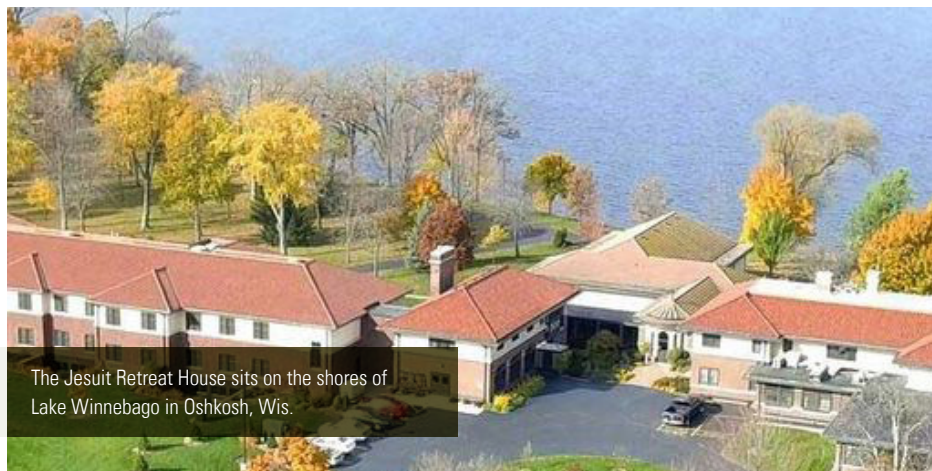
done for decades, to aviation enthusiasts from around the world. This year, JRH guests included four Tuskegee Airmen; private, corporate and commercial pilots; and members of the National Association of Priest Pilots (NAPP).

“I hope to return to this beautiful place for

a directed retreat,” says Fr. Joseph McCaffrey of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, and past president of the NAPP. “Love it here!”

Normally during that week, JRH would be facilitating 5- and 8-day silent retreats. But each year, when Oshkosh’s Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) hosts AirVenture, the world’s largest fly-in event, more than 600,000 visitors descend on the area. The noise and visual distractions from daily air shows at EAA—a mere eight miles away—along with the take-offs and landings of seaplanes directly in front of JRH, make retreats impossible.

Lodging is difficult to find, so to make the best of the situation, and recover lost revenue from canceled retreats, JRH turns itself into a temporary home for travelers. Overnight accommodation includes breakfast and a morning Mass in which a prayer is said for the safety of everyone attending, performing in,



The Jesuit Retreat House sits on the shores of Lake Winnebago in Oshkosh, Wis.

arriving at or departing from AirVenture.

"We get some interesting individuals," says Fr. Mark Carr, SJ, the House's executive director.

Jean Bernard Poupart, a private pilot from Grimaud, France, stayed at the House for the first time this summer, and Mary Build, an aviation safety representative and commercial pilot from Maine, was back for a second year. Tuskegee Airmen Lt. Col. George Hardy, 98; Lt. Col. James Harvey, 100; Dr. Eugene Richardson, 99; and Lt. Col. Harry Stuart, 99, also stayed at the House.

"There's a huge lake there, and it sits right on the edge, and the grounds are immaculate," says Harvey, who travels with his son-in-law Ron Green. "It's beautiful—you've got to go."

JRH's tradition of opening its doors to EAA AirVenture visitors began in the 1990s when the late Fr. Richard McCaslin, SJ, then JRH's director, received a lodging request from Ethel Meyer Finley, a Women's Air Service Pilot (WASP) in World War II and a JRH retreatant. She would be returning to Oshkosh for the fly-in and wondered if she could stay at JRH. In the following years, more WASPs, and staff from the National WASP WWII Museum in Texas, stayed at the House. The guest list grew from there.

"We filled all the rooms," says Susan Philipp, who has worked at JRH for more than 40 years, currently as business manager.



During the EAA AirVenture fly-in event, seaplanes (above and bottom left), take off and land near the Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago in Oshkosh, Wis.

"We hauled mattresses from storage and put them in conference rooms, basement areas, on sofa sleepers, doubled-up single rooms. Some people brought sleeping bags and slept on air mattresses or cots. One person actually brought their camper for a few years and parked it on the grounds."

WASPs and escorts once filled the 40-room retreatants' wing and 15-room annex, but their numbers have declined and this year only staff members from the Texas museum were present.

"The retreat house now boasts a 60-room retreatants' wing opened in 2015 with private bathrooms, a prayer chapel, art room, two lounges, screened porch and elevators—a far cry from the days of sleeping on an air mattress in the basement," says Fr. Chris Manahan, SJ, the House's former executive director.

He recalls a conversation he had at the breakfast table one morning years ago with Elizabeth "Betty" Wall Strohfus, a WASP who was in her mid-90s at the time. "I asked how she got interested in flying," Fr. Manahan says. "She answered with one word, 'speed.'"

Not all the aircraft are loud and fast. One year, Philipp, who lives close to the airfield, was working in her garden when she looked up and received quite a shock. A Stealth Bomber, silent and nearly motionless, was hovering above her yard.

The perks of staying at the Jesuit Retreat House are many—from the beautiful setting and comfortable facilities to the good food, daily Mass and general camaraderie. But there's one more thing that makes it hard to imagine why anyone would want to stay anywhere else. Because of the House's location, just around a peninsula from the AirVenture's seaplane base, guests get to watch the amphibious aircraft gracefully take off and land all week. ✝



Michael Austin is the managing editor of *Jesuits* magazine and a former nationally syndicated columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*.

Fighting Corruption in Ukraine and Poland

Two Ukrainian graduates of Loyola University Chicago's Rule of Law Institute in Rome use their degrees for good

By Barb Frazee

When the air raid alarms go off each day in Kyiv, members of the High Anti-Corruption Court of Ukraine assess the situation.

Sometimes it's only the alarm and no bombs, or the sirens are warning about attacks in a different district of Kyiv, says Kateryna Shyroka, one of the court's judges and a 2018 graduate of Loyola University Chicago's Rule of Law Institute in Rome. After checking the internet for the severity of the situation, people in the courtroom have the option of going to the bomb shelter in the court, which is in central Kyiv, or taking shelter in a nearby metro station. "If it's not a missile attack, we try to continue," she says.

Shyroka and another Ukrainian graduate of the Rule of Law Institute, Iryna Ivankiv (LLM, 2015), give credit to their Jesuit alma mater for helping them manage their current assignments in Ukraine and Poland, respectively.

Shyroka has been a judge at the High Anti-Corruption Court since April 2019. For more than two years, she served as an investigative judge, checking on the legitimacy of the investigative process, and working with detectives and prosecutors during pre-trial investigations. Since December 2021, she has

been a trial judge, hearing cases as part of three-judge panels.

After Ukraine's Parliament established the special court in 2018, Shyroka was vetted by the Public Council of International Experts and underwent seven months of competition ending in her being chosen as a judge. She attributes her confidence in pursuing the selective position to having attended Loyola's Rule of Law for Development program from September 2017 to June 2018.

NOW I'M MORE CONFIDENT. I HAVE A PROACTIVE POSITION AFTER THIS EDUCATION. AFTER LOYOLA, I COMMUNICATED WITH DIFFERENT NGO ORGANIZATIONS AND CONTRIBUTED TO REVISING UKRAINIAN LEGISLATION.

She says she was the first judge from Ukraine selected for the Rome program, and it opened her eyes and helped her work for change in the Ukrainian judicial system. Some of the goals of the High Anti-Corruption Court are strengthening the rule of law and combatting corruption for economic and democratic development.

"Now I'm more confident," Shyroka says. "I have a proactive position after this education.



After Loyola, I communicated with different NGO organizations and contributed to revising Ukrainian legislation."

For instance, one of the new categories of cases for the High Anti-Corruption Court is forfeiture of Russian assets of those who support Russia's aggression.

"We faced some issues when we started hearing these cases," she says. "That's why I decided to write about them."

The CEELI Institute, a nongovernmental organization in Prague, supported her ideas and organized a November 2022 round table with the judges, members of the Ukrainian parliament, Ukraine's minister of justice, and foreign experts.

As a result, some legislative changes were adopted in July 2023, she says, and in late August, working with another idea of Shyroka's, the CEELI Institute organized an international conference focused on freezing, management and forfeiture of Russian assets to compensate Ukraine. Representatives from Ukraine, the Czech Republic and the United States participated.

Shyroka says that in discussions with Ukrainian citizens, she learned that many of them would like to seize Russian assets and use the money for war reparations.

“I feel more confidence because I can understand what they want, and how to change the legislation for bringing the rule of law to the people,” she says.

Shyroka knew at age 12 that she wanted to become a lawyer. Even before obtaining her law license in 2006, she worked as an investigator in the Luhansk regional office of Ukraine’s Interior Ministry. In 2010, she became a judge in Luhansk’s administrative district court, hearing mostly tax and economic cases. As a judge, she has undergone training focused on asylum-seekers, environmental protection and human rights, and anti-corruption legislation.

Her work as a judge on the High Anti-Corruption Court has involved looking into corruption in the Ukrainian judicial system, which can be dangerous work. Before the Russian invasion in February 2022, someone threatened her on Facebook, and when she alerted the Supreme Council of Justice, she was assigned a bodyguard. She and other judges have various safety measures in place, including alarms in their apartments, to protect against assailants.

In May of 2023, the chief judge of Ukraine’s Supreme Court was arrested on corruption charges. He was released the following day, and the High Anti-Corruption Court was expected to hear the case.

Fellow Ukrainian and LUC alum Ivankiv works for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Warsaw. There, she coordinates a project supporting human rights defenders faced with challenging political situations.

“In all countries, in Europe and worldwide, it is fair to say that we are seeing a backsliding of democracy,” Ivankiv says, and when that happens, human rights problems usually follow.

She points to her home country, Ukraine, and what she refers to as Russian aggression beginning with Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. In Belarus, a lack of democratic governance has led to horrible



Iryna Ivankiv

violations of human rights, she says, including illegal imprisonments and torture, forcing many human rights defenders to relocate.

Ivankiv originally wanted to be a criminal lawyer, but at one point in her career she had an especially impactful supervisor who was also a professor of human rights. Once she started doing research of her own on human rights, she never looked back.

In 2015, Ivankiv earned her Master of Law in Rule of Law for Development at the Loyola program in Rome. She began the program with

HOW DO YOU ENSURE THAT YOU DO NOT DO ANY HARM TO THE COUNTRY THAT YOU WANT TO HELP?

experience in international projects but no formal education in how to manage a project. The Rome program gave her those skills in addition to the know-how to design a project in the first place.

She learned not only from her professors but her peers, as well. “This was my first experience studying and working with people from all over the world,” she says, adding that there is a “really strong community of Ukrainian alumni” from the school.

One of the most important things she learned at Loyola was the answer to a very big question: “How do you ensure that you do not do any harm to the country that you want to help?”

Ivankiv joined OSCE in November 2022 after working for the U.N. Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. Most of her family is still in central Ukraine, and she worries constantly, she says. “There is no safe place in Ukraine, but there are places that are safer. We communicate daily, so fortunately, they are accessible.”

Her chosen field of human rights does not divide people based on where they come from, or where they currently live, she says. It inspires people to take power into their own hands and do the right thing even when it is difficult.

Criminals must be held accountable, of course, but even heinous offenders deserve fundamental human rights. “Human dignity is something that is most important,” Ivankiv says. ✝

The Rule of Law Institute continues to offer one-year Master of Laws (LLM) and Master of Jurisprudence (MJ) degrees in Rule of Law for Development. An option for completion over two years is also offered. The LLM program is for those applicants with a first degree in law. The MJ program is for applicants with a first degree in a different subject.

For more information, visit www.jesuitsmidwest.org/ukrainelawyers

Photos provided by Kateryna Shyroka and Iryna Ivankiv.



Barb Frazee spent more than two decades as international editor of Catholic News Service, and enjoys learning about the world. In her spare time, she likes hiking, reading and camping.

Joyful Diversions

Personal hobbies balance the intensity of the Jesuit vocation—and sometimes dovetail into ministries

By Garan Santicola

Father Dan McDonald, SJ, took up cooking out of necessity in 1970. Living in a small Jesuit community in St. Louis, and being on a tight budget, he scoured a local farmer's market for bruised and discarded vegetables. He trimmed and cleaned what he found, and worked meals together from the glorified scraps. "As I developed some dishes people liked, I noticed that the food, in fact, created an atmosphere of relaxation and conversation," he says.

These experiences planted the seed for Fr. McDonald's love of cooking to be fully realized years later when he lived in Italy for more than a decade. Describing Sunday *pranzos* in homes of Italian laypeople, he says, "Course after course was presented with ingredients mixed from an understanding of thinking outside the recipes. What emerged was something that came out of a love of what the earth can produce, something that brings a reflection of self-creation and community."

The world sometimes forgets that priests are people first, and to balance the intensity of the ministry, they turn to personal hobbies and interests just like the rest of us. Today, Fr. McDonald's best dishes are inspired by the lessons of creativity he learned from the great *nonnas* who presided over the kitchens he frequented in Italy. He shares his skills generously, as one of many Jesuits who do the same, cultivating their talents in pursuit of *cura personalis*, to make a greater gift of self to God and others.

It was the desire to create better gifts that led Fr. Ken Styles, SJ, to begin making his own greeting cards. At first, he used Adobe Photoshop to pair images and sayings. But his creativity expanded naturally, and now he makes handmade pop-up greeting cards. Known for their personalized art and messaging, they sometimes include humor, and Fr. Styles is always relieved when the humor is well received.

"As I approach my 80th birthday, I realize my hands will not always allow me to do what I now can do," he says. "Do what you can, while you are able."

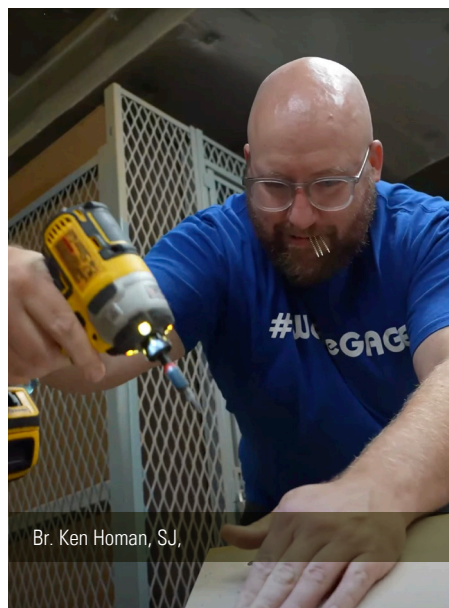
Brother Ken Homan, SJ, first took up

woodworking out of a combination of being a cash-strapped novice and still wanting to give gifts to people on special occasions. "One of the great joys of woodworking is how it brings me closer to others, and is often a form of ministry in and of itself," he says. "I've gotten to make diploma frames for friends who were the first in their families to graduate college. I've made memento boxes for friends' wedding days."

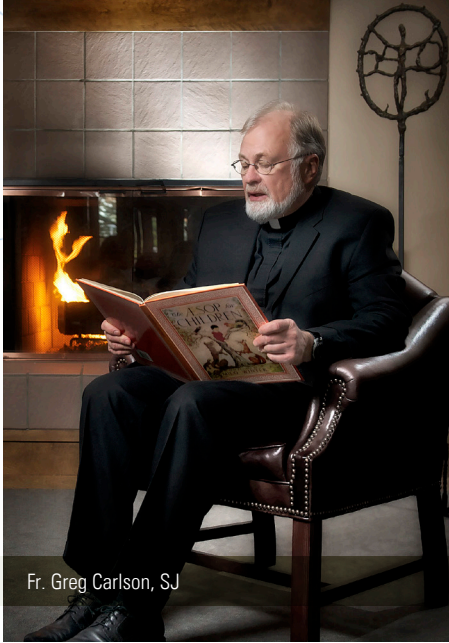
Over the years, he has advanced from creations like wine racks and picture frames to dining tables, nightstands and river-style coffee tables. He's also taken on more high-profile projects, such as building a doghouse on wheels for Georgetown University's Jack the Bulldog mascot. Recently, he has spent summers overseeing the preservation of the Jesuit-built 1854 cabin at the St. Ignatius Mission on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana.

Incorporating prayer into the solitary nature of his craft, Br. Homan is particularly moved by friends who love his creations because they were made by him. "That's been a great way to learn about how God loves us," he says. "It's not because of our accomplishments, but because God loves us and so loves watching us do things that bring us joy."

Collecting is another favorite pastime of some Jesuits. The simple hobby can grow from casual personal interest to a body of work that brings together items worthy of study, such as the world-renowned fable



Br. Ken Homan, SJ,



Fr. Greg Carlson, SJ

collection of **Fr. Greg Carlson, SJ**. Housed in the Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library at Creighton University, the Carlson Fable Collection consists of more than 10,000 unique books and nearly as many objects, including toys, figurines, playing cards, apparel and other unique items. The collection features 73 languages, stamps from 28 countries, and perhaps its greatest treasure, 102 etchings of the Fables of La Fontaine by Marc Chagall.

Father Fran Daly, SJ, began collecting military miniatures when he was in high school. Years later, while cleaning out his family's house after his father passed, he came across his old collection and began adding to it. Featuring painted metal and plastic figures that stand just over two inches high, the collection is focused on the Civil War. Fr. Daly has even created dioramas depicting scenes from famous battles, such as Gettysburg, Antietam and Fort Wagner. Though he has not had much time for his hobby in recent years, to this day anyone entering his office at Manresa Jesuit Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., can see items from his conversation-starting collection on full display.

Midwest Province Secretary **Br. John Moriconi, SJ**, displays pieces from his Star Wars and Star Trek memorabilia collection in his office in Chicago. Featuring action figures, figurines, models, posters, prints and other items, such as a storm trooper nutcracker, a Darth Vader Pez dispenser, and a R2-D2 bobblehead, Br. Moriconi's

collection began in his youth and coincided with a love of science fiction in both literary and cinematic form.

"Science fiction helps one to think about current social issues in a new or different way," he says. "Current-day situations can be projected into the future or set on another world. Using the imagination, we are able to experience another person's life, thoughts, desires and motivations. We can also imagine a possible future, sometimes good and sometimes not so good, that can encourage change in our day-to-day world."

For **Fr. Bob Tillman, SJ**, a lifelong interest in playing card games such as bridge, sheephead and five crowns provided the perfect activity to bring together the small community of Jesuits serving at Creighton Prep in Omaha during COVID-19 lockdowns. "We played every night for almost a year," he says, though he has since returned to his regular schedule of playing bridge three nights a month in three different leagues in Omaha.

Father Tillman also enjoys the regular card games that take place every summer while he's on vacation at Loyola Villa in Waupaca, Wis. "The game is a way to bring people together over a fun activity that also helps you to sharpen your mind in the process," he says, noting that his bridge leagues have brought him closer to people in ways that have served his ministry.

A lifelong athlete, **Fr. Peter Nguyen, SJ**, took up martial arts in his mid-twenties as a change of pace from running. At 5-foot-7-inches and 125 pounds, he eventually settled on Brazilian jiu-jitsu, given that it enables one to compete with much larger opponents. Often having to fight up in weight class, he has proven to be a tough competitor in tournaments, winning a gold medal at



Br. John Moriconi, SJ

the 2020 International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation tournament in Kansas City, Mo.

On March 14, 2023, Fr. Nguyen earned his black belt at Axios Academy in Omaha, where he studied under renowned jiu-jitsu coach John Hansen. He credits his jiu-jitsu friends, training partners and coaches for helping him become a better Jesuit through the rigors of their practice together. He's also applied lessons learned in jiu-jitsu to his teaching at Creighton University, and hopes to continue that at Marquette University, where he began teaching this fall.



Fr. Peter Nguyen, SJ (second from left)

"As a Jesuit Catholic priest, jiu-jitsu has taught me that suffering is a part of life," Fr. Nguyen says. "But it is not the suffering itself that is important. It is the victory beyond the suffering, that can only be achieved through it, that drives me, and hopefully my students." ✠



Garan Santicola is a freelance writer who lives in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. His Beauty & Truth column on the arts has won multiple National Catholic Press awards, and he is currently working on his first novel.



Students work in the electrician's training course at St. Joseph Technical Secondary School.

A Parish and So Much More

St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Parish stands alone in the crowded Kangemi slum near Nairobi, Kenya

By Ann Power Greene

Before 1985, there was no Catholic church in Kangemi, a slum on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya. Christians who lived in Kangemi had to travel to nearby parishes for Mass, yet found it hard to worship in a language they could not understand. As an alternative, they formed Small Christian Communities (SCC), and members met regularly to hear the word of God, and pray, in private homes.

Seeing such strong demonstrations of faith, and knowing of the Society of Jesus' commitment to justice for the poor and marginalized, Cardinal Maurice Otunga of the

Archdiocese of Nairobi invited local Jesuits to visit Kangemi, and on May 1, 1985, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Parish was established. Two years later, the St. Joseph Development Programs (SJDP) was formed to coordinate and manage the various social apostolic works in the parish.

Maintained by Jesuits, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Parish is now one of the 112 parishes of the Archdiocese of Nairobi but is still the only Catholic parish in Kangemi, home to more than 200,000 residents. Because of this, Small Christian Communities (SCC) continue to exist in Kangemi. Today there are

31, each with 40 members, and Masses are still celebrated in homes. But St. Joseph the Worker is the spiritual center of Kangemi, a place where life is a struggle but the idea of *tuko pamoja* ("we are together") offers consolation and hope.

"Visiting St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Parish in Kangemi really expanded how I think of a parish," says Midwest Provincial Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ, who spent time at various Jesuit works in Eastern Africa this past June.

St. Joseph the Worker consists of a church and a school (St. Joseph Nursery and Primary School), as many parishes do, but it also has a



Midwest Provincial Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ (left) visits with children in the Upendo program.

FR. PAUL KALENZI, SJ, A JESUIT FROM THE EASTERN AFRICA PROVINCE NOW LIVING IN CHICAGO, GREW UP IN KANGEMI AND SHARES THIS REFLECTION.

“My family lived in Kangemi as refugees in the early 1980s. Many of my childhood memories date to that time: the kind old man named Jimmy who carried me on his shoulders; my first best friend George with whom I was always getting into trouble; the many Ugandan exiles who came to stay with my family in a two-room (not two-bedroom) shack. I had the good fortune of going back there as a Jesuit during regency (the years of work between first studies and theology). I worked with the parish youth, who remain the most vivacious group I have ever encountered. But I have to admit that returning to Kangemi as an adult was something of a shock: the squalor of the slum; the winter cold that seeped through the walls made of nothing more than corrugated iron; the heartbreaking poverty. It is a good thing to be a child; I couldn’t remember any of that.”

Fr. Paul Kalenzi, SJ, is currently involved in fundraising for Hekima University College in Nairobi. He can be reached at 617-860-7805 or pkalenzi@jesuits.org.



medical clinic, psychological support services, sewing and carpentry workshops, and a technical secondary school offering training in dressmaking, tailoring, fashion and design, hairdressing and beauty, electrical and solar installation, and digital screen printing, among other things.

“They are feeding their parishioners spiritually and attending to all their other needs, as well,” Fr. Kiser says. “I was completely inspired and impressed by what



A student explores laboratory work at St. Joseph Technical Secondary School.

the Jesuits have created in Kangemi.”

Father James Mugwe, SJ, serves as director of programs and oversees the SJDP and its three main works in Kangemi: St. Joseph Upendo Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Education Program, St. Joseph Technical Secondary School and the Uzima Women Empowerment Program.

Upendo is a Swahili word for “love,” and the program’s main objective is to rehabilitate, educate and integrate orphaned or abandoned children, and low-income families. St. Joseph Technical Secondary School offers a four-year

secondary school curriculum which includes instruction on technical and vocational skills to help students become self-reliant. It also provides psychosocial and spiritual care. The Uzima Women Empowerment Program was founded in 2004 as a way to restore dignity to the vulnerable members of the Kangemi community experiencing HIV/AIDS, and to establish networks of HIV/AIDS prevention and care in Kangemi.

Pope Francis made an apostolic journey to Kangemi and St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Parish on November 27, 2015. His visit aligned with his message of service to the poor. “The dreadful injustice of social exclusion leaves the poor with an unfair distribution of land, lack of access to infrastructure and minimal basic services,” he said.

In ways both small and large for close to 40 years, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Parish has helped alleviate some of the issues of the poorest and most vulnerable members within the Archdiocese of Nairobi.

“The Gospel calls us to proclaim the kingdom of God, and this parish lives this out in a beautiful way,” Fr. Kiser says. ✠



Ann Power Greene is the senior director of grants and special projects for the Midwest Province. She visited St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Parish in 2019.



Sister Erin McDonald (center) with (from left) Srs. Pat Altermatt, Jeanne Gamache, Marie Benzing and Marie Hogan on the day of Sr. Erin's final profession of vows at Gesu Church in Detroit in 2019.

Sisters with Ignatian Roots

Founded in 1650 by Fr. Jean-Pierre Medaille, SJ, the Congregation of St. Joseph maintains its traditions in the Midwest and beyond

By Garan Santicola

In 1650, when a group of six women in France heard the preaching of Fr. Jean-Pierre Medaille, SJ, it changed their lives forever and led to the founding of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Close to 375 years later, the Sisters live in communities on five continents, including several across the Midwest and beyond. Their work remains rooted in the Ignatian lessons their founders learned in the city of Le Puy-en-Velay in southern France.

"The Sisters would go out and divide the city," says Sr. Carol Crepeau, CSJ, of the

Sisters of St. Joseph in LaGrange Park, Ill. "Some worked with orphans, others with widows, others with the sick. And they would



come back from this work and share the state of the heart—basically how God's spirit worked with them. Then they would say,

'What does this mean for our house, our small community?' Share the state of the heart and then share the order of the house. That was the spirituality taught to them by Fr. Medaille, and that remains the heart of our spirituality today."

The Sisters arrived in St. Louis in 1836 after Bishop Joseph Rosati wrote to Mother St. John Fontbonne about the diocese's need for educators. They settled in a log cabin in the village of Carondelet, five miles south of St. Louis, where they founded the St. Joseph

Institute for the Deaf, an organization that has expanded to other locations and is still in operation today. The Sisters went on to establish many separate communities throughout the country, and in 2007, the Congregation of Saint Joseph was formed to connect communities of the central United States for mutual support. Today, Sisters continue to live and work in Cleveland; Wichita; Minneapolis-St. Paul; Kalamazoo, Mich.; Tipton, Ind.; LaGrange Park, Ill.; and locations in West Virginia and Louisiana, where congregation member Sr. Helen

IT'S ABOUT BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, WHICH I THINK IS A BIG PART OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH'S CHARISM.

Prejean, CSJ, author of *Dead Man Walking*, has carried out the majority of her anti-death penalty work and death-row inmate ministry.

Sister Rose Ann Hefner, CSJ, of the Wheeling Center in West Virginia is another leader in the field of prison ministry. She spent her first decade of religious life ministering to incarcerated women in a federal prison in Alderson, W.V., and served as project director in the state prison system for the Support Services Network of the West Virginia Council of Churches. Most recently, she has immersed herself in a study of restorative justice.

"Victims and offenders sit down with community members and talk about bringing healing for the person who has been harmed, and in hearing each other's stories, both the person harmed and the one who did the harming learn more about one another," she says. "It's about building relationships, which I think is a big piece of the Sisters of St. Joseph's charism."



Sister Carol Crepeau of LaGrange Park, Ill., at the hearth in Le Puy-en-Velay, France.

Many of the Sisters' ministries link them to their history. For instance, Sr. Carol founded a ministry in Chicago to connect people living on the margins of society with resources

they taught these crafts to others. Today, the Sisters have a thriving ministry of the arts, creating music and visual works, and encouraging others to explore their artistic talents.

"The arts help us to see what you wouldn't ordinarily see," says Sr. Marie Hogan, CSJ, of the congregation's Nazareth Center in Kalamazoo, Mich.

The Sisters' charitable endeavors have always been rooted in the needs of the time, and Sr. Marie has been at the forefront of the congregation's efforts to combat human trafficking in the United States, ministering to people victimized by trafficking and helping fund an app that maintains a database



necessary for survival. She also founded TEACH, a school on wheels offering free English lessons to adult learners.

In the 17th century, the Sisters made lace and ribbon to support themselves, and

of images to assist investigators.

The congregation has a long history of promoting ecological consciousness through efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle and through the cultivation of community gardens.

HISTORY

In 2021, the Sisters made a commitment to the Laudato Si Action Platform. “We involved Sisters, associates, and employees in developing objectives and initiatives to flow from each of the seven Laudato Si goals,” says Sr. Pat Bergen, CSJ, of LaGrange Park, Ill.

Over the past year, the Sisters have focused on ecological education, ecological spirituality, and community resilience and empowerment, and over the summer they entered a critical phase of an important environmental project that had been set in motion years ago. It began with Hurricane Katrina when their New Orleans Center was decimated by flooding. The building was later struck by lightning, which caused fire damage, and so it was deconstructed, all salvageable material donated to Habitat for Humanity.

The Sisters began “praying to discover some way that this sacred land could minister to the city of New Orleans as our sisters had done for years,” Sr. Pat says. What emerged from that prayer was a plan to turn the land into a park that could also serve as an overflow point during hurricane flooding. The composition of the soil will purify the water and then, after the hurricane, the pipes can be opened, returning the water gently to the canals, leaving playing fields and an oak garden available to people once again.

The project is called the Mirabeau Water Garden Watershed and it consists of a design that can be replicated in any urban area, Sr. Pat says. This past summer, on the 18th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the city of New Orleans sent a letter of intent to one of the bidders on the project. “We are on our way,” Sr. Pat says.

While focusing their energies on works at home, the Sisters also take pilgrimages to the International Center of the Sisters of St. Joseph nestled at the base of a crater in the walled, medieval city of Le Puy-en-Velay. Sister Carol leads yearly trips to the city built around three volcanic mountains known as *puy*s. “If you stand at the door of the International Center and look up, you can follow the edge of the crater, which is a



The city of Le Puy-en-Velay, France.

symbol for us in that we’re held there, and our history is honored there, and the experience of the pilgrimage to that place inspires us to rise up just like the *puy*s,” she says.

Dramatic sights rest atop the three high

SHARE THE STATE OF THE HEART AND THEN SHARE THE ORDER OF THE HOUSE. THAT WAS THE SPIRITUALITY TAUGHT TO THEM BY FR. MEDAILLE, AND THAT REMAINS THE HEART OF OUR SPIRITUALITY TODAY.

points, including a 9th-century chapel, the 12th-century Notre Dame du Puy Cathedral, and a 19th-century Virgin and Child statue that stands 52 feet tall. Sister Marie fondly recalls walking in the footsteps of the first Sisters. “We went to Mass where they went to Mass 350 years ago, and there was a fountain where our sisters would have gone to get their water, and I was splashing my hands in the water,” she says.

Sister Rose sees the Sisters’ work today in continuity with the history of the congregation and points to that history as reason for hope. Having visited Le Puy-en-Velay three times, she says, “The most moving part of it for me was visiting the hearth that’s still where the Sisters lived in 1650. There’s this huge fireplace that’s now in the basement of a building. Just to imagine these six women sitting around this fireplace in the evening talking about dividing the neighborhood and asking, ‘What are we going to do tomorrow for the dear neighbor?’ From that grew the Sisters of St. Joseph on five continents. When people get concerned about vocations, I remind them of those humble beginnings and that we started with just six women.” ✠

Loyola High School Detroit Raises Funds For Major Campus Improvements

On Sept. 13, Loyola High School Detroit kicked off its 30th anniversary year by announcing a \$9 million fundraising initiative called Empower Loyola: A Campaign for Exceptional Sons.

Over the past two years, \$6.5 million has been raised—all of it from private donors—and the September event marked the public launch of the Empower Loyola campaign. In that campaign the school hopes to raise an additional \$2.5 million to fund the entire project.

Improvement projects will include a new Welcome Center, a Student Courtyard, a 200-seat Chapel (the first all-new Catholic place of worship to be built in the City of Detroit since the mid-1960s), a Scholarship Fund and a Faculty Retention Fund to recruit and retain dedicated teachers.

"I'd like to thank the Archdiocese of



(Left to right): Dave Smith, president of Loyola High School Detroit; Archbishop Allen Vigneron of Detroit; Fr. Tom McClain, SJ; Nora Dabrowski and Jen LaMaster of the Jesuits Midwest province; Loyola High School Detroit Board Chair Mike Bernard.

Detroit, as well as our co-sponsor, the Midwest Jesuits, for their ongoing and unwavering support, along with that of our community and civic leaders," says Loyola

President Dave Smith.

Loyola High School Detroit was founded in 1993 and has an enrollment of 145 students.

A Homecoming for the New Provincial Assistant for Justice, Ecology and Reconciliation

James Erler recently returned to the Midwest Province as provincial assistant for justice, ecology and reconciliation.

"Whereas other provincial assistants may be concerned with the health, well-being, or progress of individual Jesuits or Jesuit institutions, I must concern myself with the Jesuit mission and how it becomes incarnate in this province," he says.

A Jesuit scholastic from 2011 to 2016, Erler worked for the Archdiocese of Chicago from 2016 to 2023. "Whenever Jesuits or anything Ignatian came up at the diocese, people would look directly at me," he says.

He is clear on what needs to be done in his current role. "With our experiences of the Spiritual Exercises, I think we are uniquely

called to rebuild the American Catholic Church in hope and justice," he says. "I have no agenda other than that, and I hope to be a companion in discernment as our people and institutions seek to respond to the many crises of our time."

WITH OUR EXPERIENCES OF THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES, I THINK WE ARE UNIQUELY CALLED TO REBUILD THE AMERICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HOPE AND JUSTICE.

Erler will work closely with Midwest Provincial Assistant for International Ministries John Sealey, who calls him a steady hand who knows Jesuit apostolic mission and spirituality. "He has a passion for Catholic social teaching and action," Sealey says. "And he's a great listener."



James Erler

Team Managers

Jesuit-educated sports executives draw on their Ignatian values

By Michael Austin

Jeff Berding had no idea that the one-off project he agreed to take on in the mid-1990s would lead to a career in professional sports team ownership more than two decades later.

The project, spearheading the effort to fund two sports stadiums for his hometown Cincinnati Reds and Bengals with a sales tax initiative, was near to his heart, as he was a lifelong fan of both teams. It led to a job with the Bengals, which he kept for close to 20 years. Toward the end of his time there, he wrote up a business plan to bring a third major league team to town. Now he is co-owner, president and general manager of Cincinnati's Major League Soccer team, FC Cincinnati.

"Prior to the Reds and Bengals campaign, I had not given pro sports much thought other than as a fan," says Berding, a 1985 graduate of St. Xavier High School who received his MBA from Xavier University in 1999.

In his work life after college, he acted out

of a sense of civic duty—to keep the city's beloved teams at home and later to possibly create a new one. Berding had played a little soccer in his day, along with track and football at St. Xavier, but it was his young children who were the rabid soccer fans, as passionate as he had been as a boy for the 1975-76 Reds, the legendary Big Red Machine. After securing initial funding, he continued to work on the enterprise build as a civic project, and in 2015 Carl Lindner called to ask if he would like partner with him to bring the plan to life.

"I have had an ongoing intellectual curiosity about the world that the Jesuit education certainly nourished," Berding says. "I learned a calling to excellence, of my whole person. At St. X, the teachers and staff focus on all aspects of our person and talents—not just intellectual, but our social conscience and convictions, our emotions and relationships."

The thing about professional sports team owner jobs is, there are only so many.

Even factoring in front-office executive management jobs that don't involve ownership, the numbers are still relatively small. Yet an outsized number of Midwestern Jesuit-educated people fill these roles today, and to list them all would take up the better part of a page.

But to name a few, Scott Perry, a graduate of the University of Detroit Jesuit High School served as general manager of the New York Knicks from 2017 to 2023, and as an executive with several other NBA teams. Creighton University alumnus Mark Walter is a part-owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers and now, with tennis legend Billie Jean King, he co-owns the new Professional Women's Hockey League, which is scheduled to begin play in January.

Marquette University alum and 2023 NBA Hall of Fame inductee Dwyane Wade recently bought into the Chicago Sky of the WNBA, and Larry Dolan, an alumnus of Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland, is the longtime owner of the Cleveland Guardians (formerly the Indians).

John Carroll University has produced four current or former NFL general managers, including David Caldwell (Jacksonville Jaguars), Nick Caserio (Houston Texans), Tom Telesco (Los Angeles Chargers) and Dave Ziegler (Las Vegas Raiders).

Brian Walsh, a fellow JCU alum who graduated from Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago, is a former part-owner of the Chicago Red Stars women's soccer team and the former owners' group chair of the National Women's Soccer League. Recently, he and Kevin Willer, an alum of Loyola Academy (Wilmette, Ill.) and Boston College, sold the team to a Laura Ricketts-led owners group that includes Jennifer Pritzker, a graduate of Loyola University Chicago.

Willer actually co-owns three other soccer teams—Leyton Orient Football Club, OneKnoxville Sporting Club and Rhode Island Football Club—and he's looking to invest in more. He played soccer as a child, but his fandom grew exponentially when he studied



Loyola University Chicago alums (from left) Kay Golden Hart, Tom Hart, John Doyle and Brian McIntyre with Sister Jean (center) in Dallas before the Ramblers win over the University of Tennessee in the 2018 NCAA basketball tournament.



Kevin Willer after Leyton Orient's English Football League 2 victory in May 2023.

for a year in London. To this day, Jesuit teaching guides his way in business.

"Men for others, from my time at Loyola Academy, has always been a guiding principle in my life," he says. "I've tried to help elevate the sport here in the U.S. and make sure that every professional soccer club I'm involved with has a strong community impact initiative—usually around making the sport more accessible in under-served communities."

Another Loyola Academy alum, Brian McIntyre, worked his way up from freshman basketball team manager to head of PR for the NBA. To be fair, McIntyre did more than just manage the basketball team. Hockey was his game back then. He had played hockey growing up, but Loyola Academy had no team in the 1960s. He volunteered to manage the freshman hoops team and spent the next three years lobbying varsity basketball coach and athletic director Gene Sullivan to start a hockey team. McIntyre got his wish for his senior season, 1965-66, and Loyola has had a successful hockey program ever since.

McIntyre went on to Loyola University Chicago, served as varsity basketball manager and sports editor of the student newspaper there, and then went on to make his mark in the NBA, even though that had never been the plan. "I wanted to be a sportswriter in Chicago," he says. But one night, while

tending bar in college, he shared his dreams with a customer, who replied: "Wouldn't you rather make news than write about it?"

The idea, which had never occurred to McIntyre, rattled in the back of his head for years as he produced and sold an alternate program to the official ones sold outside the Chicago Stadium for Bulls and Blackhawks games. McIntyre's programs had fresh articles and updated rosters, and he ended up out-selling the official programs three-to-one. After four years, the Bulls offered him a job, and less than four years after that, the NBA came calling.

McIntyre ran the league's public relations department from 1981 to 2010, and then served as a senior adviser to NBA Commissioner David Stern until 2014. It was perhaps the most robust era of the NBA, with its first superstar players (Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, Isiah Thomas and Michael Jordan), the proliferation of cable and satellite TV, a visible anti-drug program, and a collective bargaining partnership between the players and owners.

McIntyre navigated it all, and managed not only the message but the personalities. "Put yourself on the head of a needle and spin around really fast, every day," he says. "It was a merry-go-round at ultimate speed."

One of his legacies is the NBA's Sixth Man Award, which he created to recognize the

league's best non-starting player—the guy who comes off the bench and contributes in a quiet but impactful way. The award is Ignatian in spirit.

"I never really thought of it that way," he says. "But that's precisely why I created it. It was for those who selflessly gave of their own stature so the greater whole could benefit. That's how society should work. And that's what the Jesuits preach."

"To me, it's the discipline, the dogged determination to find out what is right," he says. "Respect others, work your tail off, dare to be different—just all these little things that spurred me on. And have a sense of value for others."

Berding says he feels a sense of



From left, Jeff Berding at an FC Cincinnati match with fellow St. Xavier Bombers Mel Rodriguez ('85) and Pat Dearing ('86) in August 2023.

responsibility not only to the Cincinnati community, but to every person his organization touches.

"We want to maximize revenue like other businesses, but must do so aligned with our values of being a family-friendly, inclusive club," Berding says. "We are not chasing every last dollar so much as chasing every new fan. And because we represent the city, we are very involved in efforts to make the community better, more than most businesses. As Cincinnati rises, so does FCC. We rise together." ✠

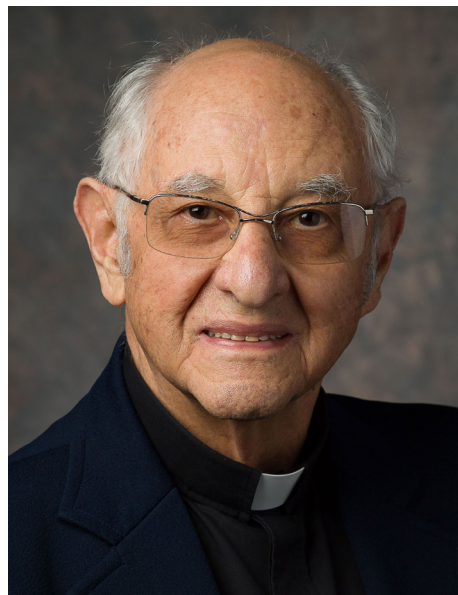
We give thanks for the following Jesuits who have gone home to God.

Fr. Dennis P. Ahern, SJ

Oct. 14, 1938 – June 13, 2023

“Dennis loved stories, making connections, and all things Cincinnati. Listening to him, it could sound like he was either related to or knew everyone in the Queen City.”

Latin and French teacher at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago; French and religious education teacher at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, where he also helped with the drama club; pastor of Community of Hope, a non-territorial parish in Cincinnati; campus minister at both Xavier University and Loyola University Chicago. Missioned in 2001 to St. Xavier High School to work as the chaplain to alumni which he did until 2016 when his health necessitated a move to the Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich.



Fr. Eduardo J. Pinzón Umana, SJ

Jan. 14, 1931 – Sept. 6, 2023

“Eduardo had a pastor’s sensitivity and was attentive to the students, retreatants, counselees and parishioners entrusted to his care in whatever ministry he labored, whether in the United States or in his Colombian homeland.”

Teacher at Colegio San Francisco Javier in Pasto, Colombia, and Colegio Berchmans in Cali, Colombia; psychology, theology, philosophy and English teacher, and director of psychological counseling, at Colegio Mayor de San Bartolomé in Bogotá; professor of pastoral theology and psychology, and director of group psychology department, at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá; professor of psychology at the teachers’ college, Universidad Pedagógica Nacional, in Bogotá; director of Latin American Services at Edgewater Mental Health Center; school psychologist at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill.; associate pastor at St. Fidelis Parish and St. Mary of the Lake Parish, both in Chicago; priest in residence at St. Bartholomew Parish in Chicago; individual and family psychotherapist in Chicago; missioned to Colombiere Center, in Clarkston, Mich., to care for his health and later missioned to Colombia, where he was a pastoral minister and counselor.



Fr. Frank A. Majka, SJ

July 5, 1945 – Sept. 7, 2023

“Frank was a faithful priest and Jesuit. Until the end, he drew strength from his relationship with Jesus.”

English teacher at Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha; campus minister and assistant director of campus ministry at Marquette University in Milwaukee; theology teacher, pastoral minister, Ignatian spirituality formation minister and principal at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee; novitiate staff member; Wisconsin provincial assistant for secondary education; missioned to St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis., to care for his health.

V. Rev. Karl Kiser, SJ
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SPECIAL THANKS

Nora Dabrowski; Br. Patrick Douglas, SJ; Ann Greene; Patrick Kennedy; Nancy Kolar; Dave McNulty; Br. John Moriconi, SJ; Fr. Peter Nguyen, SJ; Fr. Jim Prehn, SJ; John Sealey; Becky Sindelar; Br. Matt Wooters, SJ

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From left, Mike and Frank McGann on Christmas 2021.

Frank McGann Loved *Jesuits* Magazine

Francis T. “Frank” McGann Jr. was triple Jesuit-educated in Detroit—Gesu Catholic School, University of Detroit Jesuit High School and the University of Detroit (now University of Detroit Mercy)—and with his wife Margaret Mary, known as “Dolly,” he raised five kids in the area. One of them was his son Mike, who with his wife Jan and his brother Frank III coordinated his father’s health care toward the end of his life.

“We had been taking care of him for three years, and he was in an independent living place, a retirement home,” Mike says. “His eyesight was getting worse, so I quickly took over his bill paying, reading through all his mail and sifting through the junk mail.”

Frank had earned an engineering degree in college and worked a long and fruitful career in the automotive industry. He was also an avid race fan. At age 93, he still wanted to know what was arriving in the mail over the course of a few days, or a week—from his personal investing letters to the regular mail that just about everyone gets. Although he couldn’t read on his own, even

with the help of a magnifying glass, he still looked forward to receiving and enjoying his beloved *Jesuits* magazine.

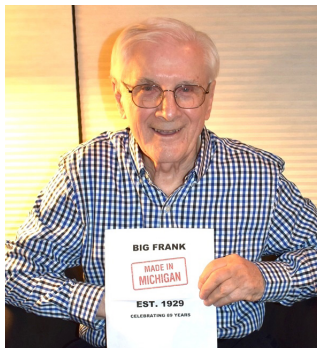
Mike served as his eyes. “I’d scan through the headlines, and then I’d read the stories to him,” he says. “He was still very aware of things. There wasn’t a lot of discussion. I was just reading the magazine to him. My dad really loved *Jesuits* magazine.”

After Frank passed, Mike called us

to cancel his father’s subscription, and we were touched by their story. Sometimes the simplest things near the end of a life stand out.

“As difficult as it was watching my hero grow very old, I really enjoyed our special time together,” Mike says. “Whether

recapping the news, watching a NASCAR race, reading him his *Jesuits* magazine or listening to him recall stories from his, and my, childhood, it was all magic moments for me as we grew closer. He was a great dad, role model, advisor and cheerleader, and he helped make me into the person I am today. I sure miss him.”



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