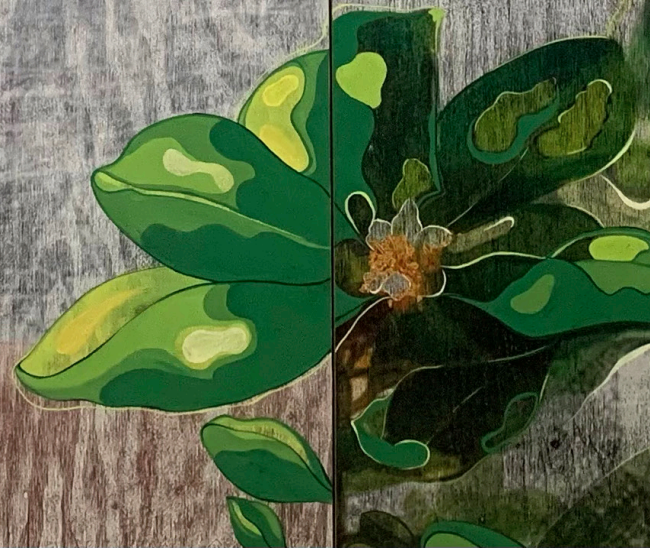
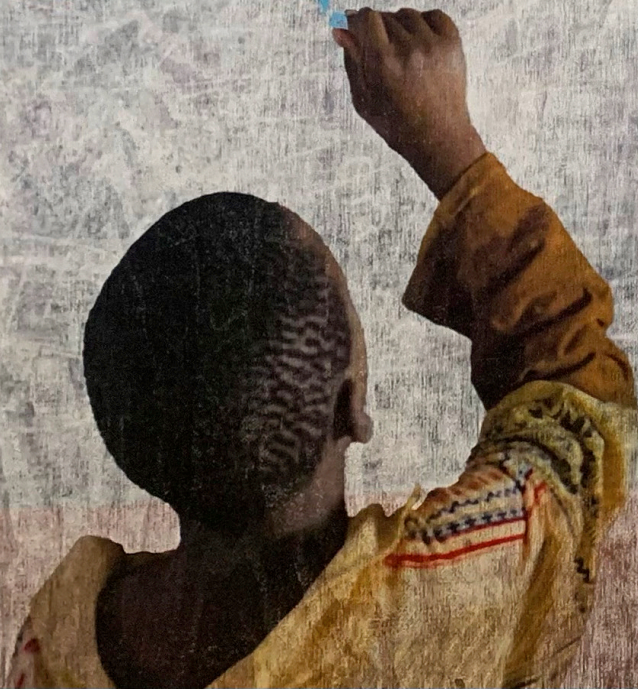




# JESUITS

USA MIDWEST PROVINCE | SPRING 2023

IN THE BEGINNING  
THERE WAS THE WORD







Dear Friends,

I'm drawn lately to the awakening of spring in the world around us; those of us who live in the upper Midwest can make this an obsession in late winter. The weather parallels the Lenten season as we approach the shock and then the wonder of Easter—first in the darkest of moments of Good Friday, and then the almost blinding grace of Easter morning.

Lent will come to an end, but as people of Easter we won't wait for an invitation to renew ourselves in faith and service. I have the privilege of reading this magazine ahead of its printing and take great consolation in the ways our people live out their faith. Ignatian spirituality is constantly engaging the world in new and innovative ways.

Mr. Ryan Birjoo, SJ, and Fr. Garrett Gundlach, SJ, (page 16) are using their Ignatian formation to navigate barriers of language and culture in their assignments in Beirut, Lebanon.

We see engagement in the faith not only overseas, but nearby as well. Catholic “expats” from Kenya, Mexico and Poland (page 8) are finding solidarity and comfort here in Midwestern faith communities.

The dynamic nature of our charism is also evident in the province in the work of an Ohio couple. Jesuit-educated themselves, and now Jesuit educators, they led a group of high school seniors (page 20) on an Ignatian pilgrimage through Spain, France and Italy last summer.

Our spirituality is alive from the Curia in Rome to museums at Jesuit universities across the Midwest, where visual art installations (page 12) invite visitors to see the world with new eyes. Speaking of the arts, Mr. Josef Rodriguez, SJ, shares his musical talents as he explores the recurrence of the Sacred Heart, all the while teaching philosophy as a regent at Creighton University.

Our Jesuit experience calls us to engage the world in the same ways as the people in these pages. I hope that—like me—you are encouraged and motivated by their stories to live out your own faith in service to others.

In Christ,

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

Peruvian Provincial Fr. Victor Hugo Miranda, SJ, (right) visited the Midwest Province offices in December, 2022. The Peru Province has had a mutual partnership of apostolic support and friendship with the Midwest Jesuits dating back to the late 1950s. During his formation, Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ, (left) taught at Colegio Cristo Rey in Tacna, Peru, and with Fe y Alegria (Faith and Joy) schools in Lima, Peru.





## Keeping Faith and Culture Alive



### ON THE COVER

*God, The Creator* by Fr. Arturo Araujo, SJ, and Bridgette Huhtala utilizes a 2013 photograph by Christian Fuchs of Jesuit Refugee Service. For more information on the artwork, see story on page 12.



**Page 8**  
Expat Catholic communities from Kenya, Poland and Latin America (pictured) celebrate Mass, share fellowship and honor the traditions of their homelands in Chicago and Milwaukee

For additional content and more information, connect with us online:

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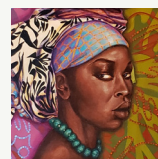
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#### The Sacred Heart Compels

Mr. Josef Rodriguez, SJ, shares enduring his love for the Church, Mass, the priesthood and music, whether he's singing, playing his cello or conducting an orchestra.



Page 12

#### The Power of Art

New art gallery and museum exhibitions educate as much as they inspire at Creighton University, Marquette University, Loyola University Chicago, Xavier University and the Curia in Rome.



Page 16

#### Dispatch from the Middle East

Jesuits Ryan Birjoo and Garrett Gundlach reflect on the challenges they've faced and the gifts they've received over the course of three years in Lebanon.



Page 20

#### High School Pilgrimage

Ohio educators Trena Marks Pacetti, Augie Pacetti and Dan Bizga lead rising seniors on an Ignatian educational tour of Spain, France and Italy.

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Father James S. Prehn, SJ, will serve as socius for the Midwest Province beginning June 12, 2023.

## New Socius Appointed to Midwest Province

Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, has appointed Fr. James S. Prehn, SJ, socius for the USA Midwest Province effective June 12, 2023. Fr. Prehn will also serve as admonitor and province consultant to Midwest Provincial Fr. Karl J. Kiser, SJ.

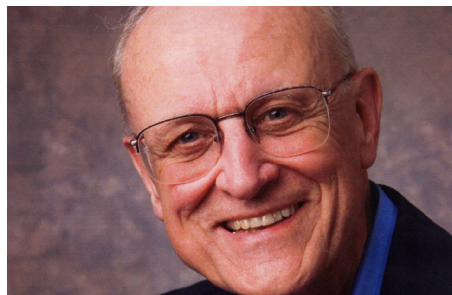
Father Prehn brings close to 20 years of administrative and internal governance experience to his new role. He succeeds Fr. Glen Chun, SJ, who is finishing his sixth year as the Midwest Province’s first socius.

“Glen has served the province faithfully and selflessly, offering his counsel, care and support to Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ, and me,” says Fr. Kiser. “On behalf of the province, thank you, Glen.”

Father Prehn is a former principal of Walsh Jesuit High School and dean of student development at John Carroll University. Since 2016 he has worked at Loyola University Chicago (LUC) as chief of staff and vice president.

“Jim’s demonstrated acumen as chief of staff to the president at Loyola University Chicago, and his tenure as rector of the Loyola Jesuit Community made him the ideal choice for this new assignment,” says Fr. Kiser.

In addition to his work at LUC, Fr. Prehn has served as superior of Canisius House Jesuit Community, vocation director and provincial assistant for secondary education in the Midwest Province.



Father Thomas Sweetser, SJ, is the founder and current director of the Parish Evaluation Project.

## A Half-Century of Parish Help

This spring, the Parish Evaluation Project (PEP) celebrates 50 years as a resource to Catholic parishes across the United States and beyond.

The project began in March of 1973 when a group of priests attending the National Federation of Priests’ Councils Convention in Detroit learned how to uncover the needs and desires of parishioners, and respond with creative plans and actions. In short, PEP helps parishes reach the next level of their faith journey. The process has evolved through the decades, historically involving lengthy meetings stretched out over weeks with long-term strategic planning in mind.

Along the way, the project’s founder and current director, Fr. Thomas Sweetser, SJ, determined that a more basic resource was needed—providing time for personal prayer and group discernment. In September of 2018, the Parish Leadership Retreat became the newest resource offered by PEP. Retreats are designed to help pastors, staffs and lay leaders grow in their own prayer life, their call to ministry and their involvement in group interaction.

To date, 44 parishes have gone through the experience in Chicago, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Connecticut, Texas and Iowa.

“God has greatly blessed this adventure and has allowed me to witness over the last five years people’s spiritual growth and group interaction,” Fr. Sweetser says. “This is perhaps the most enriching and rewarding period for PEP over the 50 years of its existence.”



Midwest Jesuits building superintendent Wayne Sipich will oversee the solar-panel installation.

## Midwest Jesuits Go Green

Construction is set to begin this spring on comprehensive energy-efficient upgrades—including a vast solar energy system—to the Midwest Jesuits Province offices in Chicago. The changes are expected to result in a significant savings on energy bills in addition to their environmental benefits.

Phase one of the construction will include the installation of new roof with energy-efficient insulation. In phase two this summer, Verde Solutions will install multiple solar panels on the new roof.

“This is absolutely the biggest improvement project we’ve ever undertaken at this office,” says Wayne Sipich, building superintendent. “And there’s a greater good to it besides just saving a few dollars.”

It is believed that the solar panels will have the capacity to generate 47% of the building’s normal electricity consumption. Compared to electricity created by burning coal, the solar-panel system will reduce carbon emissions by 237,000 pounds (118.5 tons) annually.

The project is subsidized by federal and state grants, similar to those applied to private homes.





## Cristo Rey Alum Works In HR at Microsoft

**Kiara Machuca** was born in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago, to parents from Morelos, Mexico, and raised in South Minneapolis. She always had a streak of independence, and when she was 14, she noticed a flyer in her brother’s shop. Cristo Rey Jesuit High School Twin Cities was recruiting its inaugural class. Immediately she began researching the first Cristo Rey school, which, by coincidence, was in her old neighborhood

### JESUITS HAD INSTILLED COURAGE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CALCULATED RISK-TAKING

in Chicago. She loved the Cristo Rey mission and decided to register, eventually letting her parents in on the idea. Did we mention her independent streak? “If I didn’t go to Cristo Rey, I would’ve followed a different path,” she says. “I knew that this was the best choice for me.”

She made wonderful connections with her Cristo Rey teachers. “It was a really great experience because the school was small enough to allow our voices to be heard, and it unlocked our potential by letting us dream,” she says, calling particular attention to Jesuit Fathers Bill Johnson, Tim Manatt and John Paul. “I really admire the Jesuits. They have this courage and bravery. They were selfless and very generous with their time, allowing us to be our authentic selves.”

Machuca went on to Santa Clara University, (SCU) which welcomed her much like Cristo Rey had. She thrived there, becoming aware that she was a role model not only to her family, but also to the Cristo Rey students who followed her. Years after graduating from SCU, she returned to her high school alma mater. “I got tapped by someone from the Twin Cities about an open position at Cristo Rey,” she says. “I felt this calling. I interviewed for the job, got a job offer and decided I could make a difference. I wanted to help students graduate from high school and go to college.”

The Jesuits had instilled courage and the importance of calculated risk-taking in Machuca, so while she was working at Cristo Rey, she also pursued a Master’s in Human Resources and Industrial Relations (MHRIR) at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. She wanted to show Cristo Rey students, and the world, that Cristo Rey alums could excel in both college and graduate school. Master’s in hand, she relocated to Seattle and now works for one of the world’s most renowned companies, Microsoft. With a worldwide group of employees in her network, she encounters daily opportunities to live according to the lessons she learned at Cristo Rey and SCU. “I give all the credit to the Jesuits,” she says. “They taught me the value of each and every human being, and to listen when God calls.” ✠

## A Plan for Today With Benefits Now

### IRA Required Minimum Distribution

Are you frustrated by the required minimum distribution (RMD) rules? If you roll over part or all of your RMD to the Midwest Jesuits, you may reduce your tax bill. Let’s review the guidelines for taking your traditional IRA RMD:

- ✓ You must withdraw a portion of your IRA each year based upon your age.
- ✓ You must pay income tax on the portion you withdraw.
- ✓ You will face stiff penalties if you fail to withdraw your RMD.

### Another IRA Option

The law allows up to \$100,000 per person to be distributed from an IRA to a qualified charity each year. If you are 70½ or older, rather than simply take an IRA withdrawal this year, you can direct your IRA administrator to distribute a gift from your IRA to the Midwest Jesuits.

Making an IRA Rollover gift is easy. Most administrators provide forms and a procedure to help you make a rollover gift. You will pay no income taxes on the amount transferred. Please contact Margie O’Neill in our office at **773-975-6911** to let us know how you would like your gift to be used.



# Faith and Music

By Mr. Josef Rodriguez, SJ



Mr. Josef Rodriguez, SJ, inherited his love for the Catholic faith and music from his Filipino parents. As a toddler, he played “Mass” at home with a plate of chips and a cup of juice.

Since my youth, the Sacred Heart has been a steady companion. I grew up in New Jersey where we attended Sacred Heart Church. While our community practiced a regular devotion to the Sacred Heart, admittedly it was a devotion that remained in formulated prayers and sentimental images for me. It was only later that the Sacred Heart would take on the meaning that it has for me today—a heart that burns and compels.

The first burning hearts I encountered were those of my Filipino parents, who shared their fire for the Catholic faith and music. At a young age, I was singing as a boy soprano and taking piano lessons. Eventually, I took up the cello and branched out to other instruments. I ended up stepping in for my dad as cantor at our parish. My heart burned for music.

However, this was surpassed by my love for liturgy. As a toddler, I’d play “Mass” at home with a plate of chips and a cup of juice (later, I’d have a proper understanding of the necessity of using bread and wine!). I’d say the words of institution: “This is my body... This is my blood...” You can imagine my excitement at age 9 when I could finally serve at the altar. Like Jesus in Nazareth, the parish was where I “grew in age and wisdom.” The religious sisters were like aunts to me. Every priest who passed through Sacred Heart Church was a mentor. I was consistently with

people whose hearts burned for the Church, for the Mass, for the priesthood. As such, my heart also caught on fire for these very things.

This burning heart led me to follow a call to religious life, but not with the Jesuits yet. Another religious congregation drew me in with their love for liturgy, Gregorian chant and the Sacred Heart. Through formation, I ended up earning a degree in philosophy. But before I took my first philosophy course, I refused to believe I would ever enjoy it as an “impassioned artist,” the way I enjoy music. However, I came to see how philosophy is a tradition that tests the limits of reason, leaving no topic untouched. Soon my heart would burn for the investigation of truth in a way that it hadn’t before. I was convinced that others could benefit from studying philosophy to articulate what they think and why they think it. This love, combined with the love for education that my mom had instilled in me, brought me to discern being a teacher.

My growing relationship with the Sacred Heart and my continued discernment of my apostolic desires would eventually lead me to the Society of Jesus. Currently, I’m completing my time of regency at Creighton University in Omaha. I teach an introductory course in philosophy, as well as a higher-level course that touches on God and the human person. I participate in the orchestra on campus, and

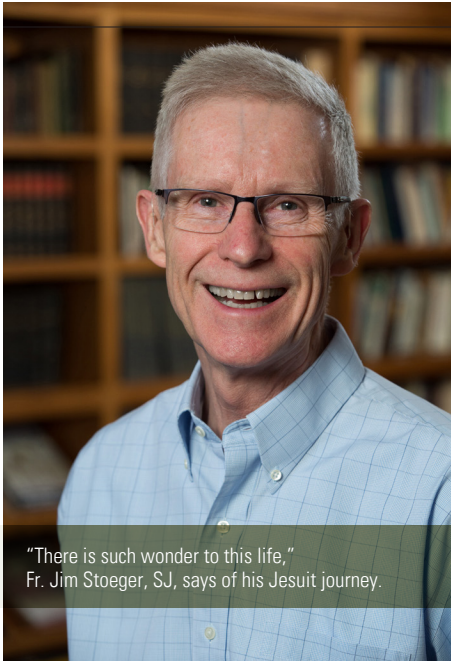
I’ve even had an opportunity to assist with conducting. I also accompany students as a spiritual director and an academic advisor. And I still get to sing at St. John’s Church on campus. Through this assignment, the Society of Jesus has certainly fostered the desires of my burning heart.

As providence would have it, there’s an image of the Sacred Heart in my room. Jesus is holding out his flaming, thorn-crowned heart in one hand and pointing to his chest with the other. It’s as if Jesus is saying, “Let’s trade hearts!” Through my experiences as a Jesuit, I’ve grown in my understanding of how the Sacred Heart is the manifestation of God’s passionate love for humanity. It is a heart that burns in me for the sake of others. A heart that burns for artistic beauty wherever it may be found. A heart that burns to help others in their search for truth. My hope is that I can bring others to this Heart that has burned out of love for me. ✠



Mr. Josef Raoul Rodriguez, SJ, is currently completing regency at Creighton University, where he teaches philosophy and assists with music in the Fine and Performing Arts department. He entered the Society of Jesus in 2016.





"There is such wonder to this life,"  
Fr. Jim Stoeger, SJ, says of his Jesuit journey.

# Companionship & Collaboration

## Father Stoeger's life of working with Jesuits and laypeople

By Amy Korpi

In August 2014, Fr. Jim Stoeger, SJ, wrote a Facebook post for the Midwest Jesuits that reflected on his life and vocation. He began with: "Care matters a great deal to me. The sensitivity and attentiveness of caring persons convey aspects of God's own love. That's the spiritual idea. Actually receiving [God's] care is quite practical—for example, sitting at a counter in a diner across from a thoughtful server. . ."

This thread was woven through Fr. Stoeger's decades of experience as a teacher, administrator or campus minister at high schools from the Chicago area to the East Coast, including Loyola Academy (Wilmette, Illinois), Gonzaga College High School (Washington, D.C.), St. Xavier High School (Cincinnati), and Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School (Indianapolis).

Father Stoeger also served at the Jesuit Secondary Education Association in Washington, DC, as provincial assistant in four areas (pastoral, secondary education, vocations and planning), and as vice president and president. They were all "opportunities to act with and for others, and to bond with them," Fr. Stoeger says, noting this was true of his Jesuit brothers as well as laypeople.

Having opportunities to build relationships with laypeople was a privilege, Fr. Stoeger says. "To know each other, care for each other, and learn from each other adds a richness to life, and an affirming aspect to our work."

**REFLECTING ON MY JESUIT VOCATION ALWAYS LEADS ME TO THE RIGHTNESS OF IT. I CAN'T NAME A SINGLE TIME WHERE I HAD SOME DIFFICULTY THAT FRUSTRATED ME TO THE POINT WHERE I QUESTIONED MY JESUIT LIFE. THAT'S A SERIOUS STATEMENT.**

Companionship remains a key part of Fr. Stoeger's Jesuit identity. "Living together and working together has been greatly fulfilling these many years. And sharing life requires caring for others, making sure in our relationships that we are never alone."

As a result, Fr. Stoeger has maintained many relationships, particularly with people in the Chicago area. "Those interactions have been, and continue to be, really wonderful for

me," he says, noting a picture on his desk of a couple and their children.

Father Stoeger currently lives his mission at a Jesuit health care community in the Detroit metro area, where he prays for the Church and the Society.

"Reflecting on my Jesuit vocation always leads me to the rightness of it," Fr. Stoeger says. "I can't name a single time where I had some difficulty that frustrated me to the point where I questioned my Jesuit life. That's a serious statement. There is such wonder to this life, and it has turned out to be unquestionably right for me. And for the most part, I believe I've turned out to be right for it, including the communities and places I've been." ✠



Amy Korpi, a freelance writer with two degrees from Marquette University, is based in Green Bay, Wisconsin. She has been working with the Jesuits since 1998.



Marty Lane worked for Loyola University Chicago for one-third of the institution's life.

## Loyola For Life

### Marty Lane retires after 53 years—to the day—of working for Loyola University Chicago

By Andrew McKernin

**M**arty Lane had a chance to leave. It was the late 1970s and he'd been working at Loyola University Chicago (LUC) for less than 10 years at that point. Aquinas College called, flew him to Michigan for a campus tour and offered him a job as director of development. In the end, though, he couldn't leave his beloved Loyola, the place he would end up working for more than a half-century, retiring on Dec. 22, 2022, exactly 53 years after the day he started.

"The Aquinas president even told me, 'I can tell that you don't want to leave Fr. Baumhart,'" Lane says a few weeks into retirement. LUC's president at the time, Fr. Raymond C. Baumhart, SJ, is one of hundreds of people who made an impact on Lane over his more than five decades there, a staggering one-third of the institution's life.

It's unusual today to see someone spend a decade, let alone a half-century, with a single employer. That is, unless you've found exactly what you're looking for, a place you're willing to dedicate your life to, a place whose missions you believe in. Lane's connection to the Jesuits goes all the way back to his days attending Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill., when the school was still under construction and didn't have a parking lot, cafeteria or gym. Many of the teachers were Jesuits, and in them he found not only support, but friendship.

He went on to LUC, where his father had earned his law degree and taught for

25 years. After graduating with a political science degree in 1965, Lane shipped off to the Vietnam War, and when he returned, he landed a job as a debt collector for Loyola University Hospital. Father Baumhart had hired him at \$10 an hour. Less than two months later, Lane accepted a job in the university's downtown Chicago development office and never looked back. Today he is well known and beloved as the university's (now retired) long-time director of alumni relations.

#### MEETING LANE, YOU CAN HEAR THE PASSION IN HIS VOICE, AND SEE THE GRATITUDIN IN HIS Demeanor.

Through the years, he engaged alumni at events like the Valentine Ball and the legendary phonathons he ran for 20 years, enlisting the help of new and old grads alike to come to his office and solicit donations four nights a week. He drew volunteers in with his pleasant personality and his genuine passion for all things Loyola. But he always made sure to have plenty of pizza on hand, too.

Meeting Lane, you can hear the passion in his voice, and see the gratefulness in his demeanor. He was surprised in 2015 to receive Loyola's Dux Mirabilis award, but no one else was. The award is given annually to a faculty or staff member for extraordinary contributions to the university. Close to 50

years into his advocacy, there couldn't have been a more worthy candidate. "I walked into my office and there was a letter from Fr. Michael Garanzini, SJ, asking if I would accept the award," Lane says. "Obviously, it made my day, my week, my month, my year."

He accepted the award at his class reunion on the Lake Shore Campus after Mass at Madonna Della Strada Chapel. Tom Hitcho, Lane's longtime Loyola colleague in the athletics department, was there. So was Loyola legend Sister Jean Schmidt, BVM, and some of Lane's friends and family. Loyola was more than just an employer to Lane. The university, and the Jesuits and their missions, shaped him. They shaped his older brother George, too, so much so that he became a Jesuit himself.

Father George A. Lane, SJ, the longtime president and publisher of Loyola Press, now lives in a Jesuit health care community in the Detroit metro area. Marty and his brother Joe make the drive to visit George twice a year, and for Marty the trips have been extra powerful. Besides spending quality time with his brothers, he's been reunited with dozens of Jesuits from both his employee and student days at Loyola. He has reconnected with the teachers, co-workers and friends he credits with helping him when he was young, consoling him in times of hardship, and laughing with him in times of joy. "I never thought I would be able to thank them again," he says about the unexpected reunions. "They helped me so much, taught me so much."

In retirement Lane has few plans beyond attending the occasional Loyola basketball game and spending plenty of time with his children and grandchildren. And who knows—maybe one of them will continue his Loyola legacy. ✠



Andrew McKernin is a Midwest Jesuits gift officer and a graduate of Fordham University. Before joining the Province in 2022, he managed the volunteer relations department and numerous client services at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.



In Rapid City, S.D., St. Isaac Jogues parish serves the local Native American population, but also welcomes vacationers visiting the nearby Black Hills National Forest and Custer State Park.

## Where Cultures and Travelers Meet

By Patricia McGeever

At a small parish on a hill in Rapid City, South Dakota, you'll find a place of service, spirituality and survival. St. Isaac Jogues parish was founded to help Native Americans adjust to city life after World War II. Appropriately, it's named for a French Jesuit who ministered to Native people in New York in the 17th century. But before there was a church, locals gathered at the Mother Butler Center.

"When I was growing up it was really, really family oriented," says parishioner Germaine Little Bear. "There were a lot of events, the children all came."

The Mother Butler Center hosted basketball and boxing tournaments, and at least once, there was a bazaar.

The Mother Butler Center opened in 1950. It was named for Mother Joseph Butler, the founder of Marymount College in New York, after Diocese of Rapid City Bishop William McCarty received a donation in her honor. Two Jesuits served as staff, taking up residences on the second floor of the building, which also included meeting space, a gym, a health clinic and a chapel.

Several years later, an old wooden chapel salvaged from nearby Ellsworth Air Force Base was moved next to the Mother Butler Center, becoming the first home for St. Isaac Jogues Parish. For years, the parish was the center of activity for Native Americans in the community. Then, tragedy struck in 1972.

"The flood came and wiped it all out," Little Bear says. The parish's pastor, Fr. Francis J. Collins, SJ, lost his life, but another Jesuit, Fr. Lawrence E. Edwards, survived despite being swept away in the current.

It's been more than 50 years since the catastrophic Black Hills Flood took the lives of 200 people and injured thousands. The church and Mother Butler Center were among the buildings destroyed.

But the parish family would rebuild. As the process began, the diocese reached a deal with local Lutheran officials, who were selling property that included a church and residence. Two years later, a new Mother Butler Center stood on the site as well.

Today, St. Isaac Jogues remains committed to its mission of serving the Native American population of greater Rapid City. But the parish is made up of people from all backgrounds and walks of life.

"We are welcoming to people of any race," says parishioner Maria Ramos. For some, St. Isaac Jogues is a destination. It also happens to be in a convenient location, near the intersection of two major highways, and when people vacationing in the Black Hills search for a Catholic church, they find St. Isaac Jogues. Ramos says, "A lot of times we have visitors from all over for Mass."

Every Sunday, the 11 a.m. Mass is inculturated, and the Azilya ritual, an incensing prayer led by Lakota men and

women asking God to cleanse, purify and bless, is performed. While the Lakota Four Directions song is sung, a Native person passes by with burning sage. The sacred smoke is fanned over the congregation using an eagle feather. It's a cleansing ritual that also gives honor and glory to God.

Another way the parish reflects its population is in the design of the church. "We have a round altar," says Fr. Ed Witt, SJ, pastor of St. Isaac Jogues. "The circle is key for Native people. We also have Native designs in our vestments."

Currently, the congregation joins other parishes in the region to pray for the canonization of Nicholas Black Elk, a medicine man from the nearby Pine Ridge Indian Reservation who converted to Catholicism. Black Elk was appointed a catechist by the Jesuits in 1907. Much like the Native parishioners of St. Isaac Jogues, Black Elk was devoted both to his Lakota traditions and his Catholic faith. ✠



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.





The Polish community of Chicago (pictured here) has thrived for more than 100 years. Today, the Sacred Heart Mission is served entirely by Jesuits from Poland.

## Expatriate Catholics

### In Chicago and Milwaukee, immigrants from Africa, Latin America and Europe convene to practice faith and fellowship while keeping their cultures alive

by Garan Santicola

In August of 2022, Kenyan Catholics from across the United States gathered in Chicago for the 11th Annual Swahili Mass and Convention. Nearly 250 people took part in a three-day event that featured inspirational speakers, a charismatic healing Mass, and traditional music, dance, dress and food. On the final day, women from the community gathered outside the Church of the Holy Family to dance Auxiliary Bishop Robert J. Lombardo, CFR, into the church for the celebration of a Swahili Mass.

"It was very colorful," says Fr. Paul Kalenzi, SJ, a Chicago-based priest who grew up in Kenya and now works on an ambitious effort to raise funds for a new Jesuit University—Hekima University—in Molo, Kenya. Father Kalenzi also helps Kenyans in Chicago

perpetuate the faith, culture and solidarity that was so vibrantly on display at the 2020 convention. Once a month, he offers a Swahili Mass at the Church of the Holy Family, which was the first home of Jesuits in Chicago and has a long history of serving immigrant communities. The network of Chicago area Kenyan Catholics is small, around 70 people, and when they gather, the joy and comfort is palpable.

"They rejoice when they find themselves together with other Kenyans, to speak Swahili to each other or to pray in that language, and they say, 'I feel very much at home. I'm able to sing this song that I sang when I was a child, and here I am with my country people.'"

In Milwaukee, Fr. Tim Manatt, SJ, serves as pastor of both St. Patrick's and Our Lady of

Guadalupe, parishes separated by 10 blocks on the city's south side. Together, they serve several hundred Hispanics, most of whom have roots in Mexico. But families in the two parishes also come from Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Peru.

Milwaukee is home to the largest Mexican cultural festival in the United States. There, local children and young adults perform traditional music and dance, just as they do at their parishes on Dec. 12, Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe, which is a national holiday in Mexico.

"We retell the story of Juan Diego and the apparition of the Virgin Mary," Fr. Manatt says.

During Spanish language Masses Fr. Manatt weaves Ignatian contemplation into his homilies three or four times a year. "It's a





Kenyans in Chicago preserve their traditions through traditional music, dance, dress and food. In August of 2022, Kenyan Catholics from across the United States gathered in Chicago for the 11th Annual Swahili Mass and Convention.

change of pace,” he says, “and it also honors people’s backgrounds because oftentimes I’ll say, ‘Imagine you’re back home in Mexico or in Puerto Rico or Central America, or maybe you’re on the back porch of your home here in Milwaukee.’ So the Exercises can be a way to honor people’s places of origin.”

Back in Chicago, Polish immigrants have maintained a vital community in the Portage Park neighborhood for more than 100 years, most recently at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart Jesuit Millennium Center. Polish-born Fr. Stan Czarnecki, SJ, arrived in 2001, and in his earliest years, the seven or eight Masses said in Polish on a given weekend would attract 4,500 worshippers. One Sunday Mass for young families routinely drew 1,000 people.

“Can you imagine?” Fr. Czarnecki says. “A thousand people every Sunday. Young families with children, young adults.”

Socio-political factors relating to immigration and work opportunities have led many Polish immigrants to return to Europe, and today about 2,000 people attend weekend Masses. About half of them live in Portage Park, one of the largest Polish communities in Chicago, but the rest travel from elsewhere in

the city and beyond, as far as 60 miles away.

“We are welcoming these people, and they feel at home in a foreign country where they need some support,” says Fr. Czarnecki, who now serves at nearby Loyola Academy, where he continues to cultivate a connection to cultural roots through the school’s Polish Club. He also stays in touch with the Sacred Heart Mission, which is now served entirely by Jesuits from Poland.

Love of family and community is at the heart of efforts to preserve traditions of faith and culture for all three of these immigrant communities.

The Polish community of Chicago and Hispanic community of Milwaukee reflect the Jesuit mission at its most vibrant, meeting the spiritual needs of large numbers of immigrant and first-generation families adjusting to a new country while maintaining ties to their homelands. But it is the much smaller community of Kenyans in Chicago that offers a perspective of hope for all immigrants that the future might not entail a loss of cultural roots.

“The African continent today has the youngest population in the world, and that includes for the Catholic Church,” says

Fr. Kalenzi. “In one generation, we might have a majority African church. Demographically, there’s a huge shift in Catholicism around the world. I can only speak of my hope that in the same way we had missionaries coming from the West to Africa, to bring the faith to evangelize the continent of Africa, we might have something similar happen in the reverse. You see that in the number of African priests who have come to serve, and not only African but also Indian and Latino priests as well. And so, they bring their own cultures and in some small ways might contribute to a new revival of the faith here. So that’s what I hope will happen one day.” ✠



Garan Santicola is a 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 writes regularly for The Christophers. He can be reached at garansanticola@gmail.com.



Creighton University alumnus and board member Dr. Nick Turkal, MD, has drawn on his Jesuit education to guide his career both as a health care executive and a clinical practitioner.

# Caring for Many, One at a Time

Health care executives draw on their Jesuit educations to manage large staffs and put patients first

By Michael Austin

**Nancy Paridy** could have sheltered in her office while COVID-19 raged through public spaces in 2020. As president and chief administrative officer of Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago, she could have led from a safe distance. But her Jesuit training wouldn't allow her to hide away.

"One of my guiding principles is that I should not expect anyone to do something I won't do," says Paridy, an attorney who earned her LL.M. in Health Law from Loyola University Chicago School of Law and has sat on the Loyola Academy board since 2016. "As a hospital administrator, at the height of the pandemic, I felt it was critical for me to be present on the floors of the hospital. If staff were expected to be giving care, I needed to meet their commitment by being present and supportive."



Paridy is one of the many Jesuit-educated executives who manage health care facilities or organizations across the Midwest, a role they say dovetails naturally with Jesuit principles.

"I am grateful to work in a profession that so closely connects to my value system," says **Meghan Clune Woltman, SVP**, chief government affairs officer for Advocate Health, which serves patients in Georgia, Illinois, North Carolina, South Carolina and Wisconsin. "Men and women for others is absolutely at the core of the health care industry."

A double-graduate of Saint Louis University (bachelor's in communication and marketing, master's in communication, studying political rhetoric and journalism), Woltman grew up near Kansas City, the third of five children. Her grandfather,



father, mother and three siblings attended Rockhurst University. Her father and several uncles also went to Rockhurst High School. "The joke in my family was, my parents would let us go to any college we wanted," Woltman says. "As long as it was Jesuit."

At SLU she learned lessons that she still applies to work today. "The Ignatian values of authenticity, integrity and courage have shaped my approach to leading my team, collaborating with colleagues and establishing partnerships outside my organization," she says.

It was Creighton University that influenced how **Dr. Nick Turkal, MD** (pictured above), approaches his role as chief executive officer of the Center for Health Education and Access. Working with partner schools in New Mexico and Idaho, the Center helps create physicians for long-term assignments in rural and urban underserved communities. "My undergrad education helped me understand who I wanted to be as an adult," Turkal says. "While I was a biology major, the other courses I took—theology, philosophy, history—were equally important, as they shaped my ethics

about life. What I found, with the Jesuits and other faculty, who all carried the same values, was that I wanted to be someone who made a difference in the world.”

He went on to Creighton University School of Medicine and maintained a clinical practice even as CEO of Advocate Aurora Health Care. After retiring, he stepped into his current role and returned to the bedside as a hospice physician. “It’s just a different way of using skills and morals,” he says.

**Josie Abboud**, the president and CEO of Methodist Hospital and Methodist Women’s Hospital, serves on the boards of both Creighton University and Creighton Preparatory School. She earned her bachelor’s in nursing at Creighton and her master’s in business administration and health care management at

Regis University in Denver. Her work history, including 27 years at Methodist, has served her well.



“I believe since I started out on the patient side there’s a certain amount of ‘street credibility’ for having been in the trenches,” she says. “The experience I’ve had has played an integral role in how I’ve developed on the administrative side.”

Abboud’s Jesuit education taught her that success will follow if she and her colleagues stay focused on patients, keep their minds open, lift others up, teach, learn and comprehend the power of prayer. “It’s imperative that I listen, to understand what’s happening on the frontlines of the organization,” she says. “However, in health care, things change quickly and we learn new things every single day. It’s not possible for me to know everything, and the Jesuits also teach humbleness and humility. I am grateful for that.”

**Dr. Jay Shannon, MD**, has a similar background, beginning as a staff physician at Cook County Hospital and rising to chief executive officer of Cook County Health. The Jesuits at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala., shaped his decision to serve the most vulnerable populations of society, work he continues today as a principal at Health Management Associates.



“There was more attraction for me to go to places where the patient didn’t necessarily have the same opportunities as some other people,” Shannon says. “Being able to take

**MY UNDERGRAD EDUCATION HELPED ME UNDERSTAND WHO I WANTED TO BE AS AN ADULT.**

that same level of clinical expertise and apply it to people who seemingly get the short end of the stick in every other aspect of their life was far more rewarding for me personally.”

Moving from patient care to administration took some discernment. “I was drawn to leadership,” he says. “But there’s a reluctance because you get pulled away from the care of the individual person. The question became ‘How do organizations care for individual people and get them the best care possible?’ The notion of men and women for others comes through subtly. I feel like that’s had a significant impact on my life choices as I’ve grown as a person and a professional.”

Midwestern Jesuit universities, from Xavier to Marquette and Loyola University Chicago to the University of Detroit Mercy, offer dozens of health care programs and degrees. In the fall of 2023, John Carroll University will offer its first bachelor’s of science in nursing. The

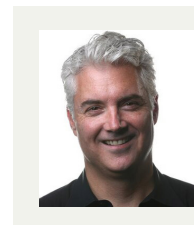
Creighton University School of Medicine also recently opened its Phoenix Health Sciences Campus in Arizona, becoming the only Jesuit medical school in the western United States.

As an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, **Christina Zorn** thought she’d become a doctor. But a change of heart led her to Creighton University School of Law. In 2002, after close to four years of work at a Milwaukee law firm, she joined Mayo Clinic as legal counsel.

She worked in several administrative roles over two decades—chair of the legal division, chief administrative officer of Mayo

Clinic in Florida—and in December of 2021, Mayo Clinic named her chief administrative officer in Rochester, Minnesota. She works extra hard to bridge the gap between the administrative side and the patient side.

“When I’m in a room full of nurses talking about novel treatments, there’s no way I’m going to know more than they do,” says Zorn, whose Jesuit-educated father taught at Marquette University Law School. “But I can do my homework and bring something to the discussion that they cannot. As long as I’m working harder than anyone else, I can contribute in positive ways. And that is absolutely a Jesuit principle, striving for excellence in the work you do, and doing it wholeheartedly and with full intent.” ✠



**Michael Austin** is a freelance writer based in Chicago, a national James Beard Award finalist for magazine feature writing, and a former nationally syndicated columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*.



(THIS PAGE) *Mia at the Graffiti Wall* by Sienna Wright was purchased with grant funds from the Xavier University Women of Excellence and first appeared in the 2019 exhibition *Art at the X, Celebrating 50 Years of Women* at Xavier University Art Galleries. (NEXT PAGE) *Deliverance of Jerusalem*, a 1957 hand-colored etching by Marc Chagall, is part of the permanent collection at Marquette University's Haggerty Museum of Art.

## Art to Help Us See

New exhibitions at university museums across the Midwest and all the way to the Curia in Rome illustrate the value Jesuits place on visual art

By Amy Korpi

Since the first cave drawings, humankind has used art to teach, tell stories, and inspire. In the Christian tradition, art has helped worshipers communicate and experience the idea of transcendence. Ever since Ignatius of Loyola commissioned an illustrated book of Gospel meditations, the Society of Jesus has been involved in creating and promoting artistic media.

According to recently deceased historian Fr. John O'Malley, SJ, co-editor of *The Jesuits and the Arts 1540-1773*, "By the late 16th century, the Jesuits became the most prolific patrons and producers of arts in the world." They were building new churches with novel architecture, adorning them with paintings and sculptures, and making good use of the printing press. Unlike the leaders of many Catholic orders of his time, Ignatius appreciated the revelatory power of the imagination in prayer and contemplation.

### CURIA COMMISSIONS

A new collection that invites such contemplation—*Heaven's Heart*—can be found at the headquarters of the Society of Jesus in Rome. When Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, wanted to imbue the walls in the "Father General's Corridor" with greater warmth, life and mission, he selected Fr. Arturo Araujo, SJ, an artist and associate professor of visual arts at Seattle University. Together they determined that the subjects should evoke the Society's Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs): showing the way to God; caring for our common home; walking with the excluded; and journeying with youth.

One of the collection's pieces, *God, The Creator*, is featured on the cover of this magazine. It measures approximately 6 x 7 feet and combines digital printing, silkscreen, watercolor and gold foiling with ultra-smooth

fine art paper on wooden canvas. According to the artists (Fr. Araujo involved his students in the creation), the piece "illustrates a child's imagination, and its parallels to God's creations. Imagination stems from a youth's environment and its role as the source of their initial creative pursuits."

The image employs a photo from the archives of the Jesuit Refugee Service, which serves displaced people around the globe. In the photo, a young Kenyan refugee is writing on a blackboard. "What I saw was not a boy but God himself in the act of creation," Fr. Araujo says.

### MIDWESTERN EXHIBITS EMPOWER IMAGINATION

One need not travel to Rome to appreciate art within a Jesuit context. Many colleges and universities nationwide are homes to collections of art that educate and inspire



students and the general public. Following are just a few in the Midwest.

The **Lied Art Gallery at Creighton University** presents exhibitions of contemporary art throughout the academic year, showcasing the work of regional, national and international artists as well as Creighton students and faculty. “We believe that all people should embrace the arts as a way to organize aesthetic thought, nourish their soul, and continue lifelong learning,” says the gallery’s director Jess Benjamin.

Founded in 2005, the **Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA)** in Chicago provides a space for “artistic expression that illuminates the experiences of humanity and the spirit through connection, engagement and reflection. As a university museum, the LUMA supports the power of art to inspire and educate,” says Matt McDermott, Loyola University Chicago’s associate director of external communications. He calls the Martin D’Arcy, SJ, Collection “one of the finest collections of medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque art in the Midwest.”

Recent LUMA exhibitions include *Art and Faith of the Crèche*, a holiday tradition for over a decade, with more than 60 crèches representing the local cultures of artists and artisans from more than 50 countries. The LUMA also has a permanent collection titled *Windows of Faith*, featuring five windows from local artists who capture the culture and history of their faith through a rich lexicon of visual imagery and symbols.

Ninety miles to the north, **Marquette University’s Haggerty Museum of Art** “aligns with the Ignatian tradition of teaching and learning, and provides an instrument for finding meaning in life through imagination, feelings, and reflection,” says Susan Longhenry, the museum’s director and chief curator.

One prominent piece in the collection, Marc Chagall’s Bible drawings, does all

these things. Each year, students in MU’s Foundations in Theology course view and discuss the powerful portfolio of 105 black-and-white, selectively hand-colored etchings depicting scenes from the Old Testament. “As a modern, Jewish artist not tethered to traditional Christian interpretations of the Biblical text, Chagall developed a unique visual vocabulary that synthesized elements



from diverse cultural and artistic traditions,” Longhenry says.

The exhibition *Robert Motherwell: Contemplative Beholding* provided another collaboration between an exhibition and a theology course. In 2021, students in a class titled *Contemplation and Justice in a Violent World*, beheld a work of art for 20 minutes every week, then wrote a reflection expressing what they saw, how they felt, and the way the work changed for them over time. “My thought, supported by the literature, is that the disciplined practice of beholding will allow students to perceive everything more clearly,” says Fr. Ryan Duns, SJ, who teaches the class.

The Haggerty also provides a lab for

faculty. In 2022, the museum partnered with Marquette’s Center for Teaching and Learning on *Ignatian Pedagogy: Spiritual Seeking and Visual Thinking*. This professional development seminar sought to help faculty utilize art as an instrument for finding meaning in life through imagination, feelings and reflection; articulate how art can offer an alternative way of “knowing” that strengthens students’ capacity to generate calm, enhance focus and cultivate self-awareness; reflect on personal identity and faith journeys; and more.

The museum will continue such aims in 2023—collaborating with faculty to advance the university’s commitment to environmental justice.

The **Xavier University Art Galleries** in Cincinnati host exhibitions of artwork by professional visual artists, as well as students and faculty in the department of art. Recent special exhibitions and programs include *FotoFocus*, *The Art of Romare Bearden*, *Mirror of Race*, *Focus on Race*, *Native Americans and King Records*.

A summer 2023 exhibition titled *PJ Sturdevant, Photographs – June 1-July 31, 2023 – A Record of Disuse*, is a collection of photographic prints featuring objects that were once functional. Now worn, discarded or even unrecognizable, the objects may cause the viewer to wonder what their original functions may have been.

“We believe art can transform lives, and that exposure to art as part of the broader tapestry of society enriches us all,” says Kitty Uetz, director of Xavier University Art Galleries. ✠



**Amy Korpi**, a freelance writer with two degrees from Marquette University, is based in Green Bay, Wisconsin. She has been working with the Jesuits since 1998.



# Detroit Churches: Becoming a Family of Parishes

By Fr. Jeff Dorr, SJ

How does a group of parishes become a Family of Parishes? It's a question most people would never have to consider. I never thought I would. Another question that had never crossed my mind in the lead-up to my ordination in June of 2021 was what does it mean for priests to be *in solidum*? Nonetheless, these are questions that Jesuit Fathers Gary Wright, Lorn Snow and I are currently trying to live into with the Jesuit parishes in Detroit.

On July 1, 2022, without fanfare, Gesu Catholic Church and School and Saints Peter and Paul Jesuit Church entered into what is called a Family of Parishes. A few months later, on Sunday, October 16, our two parish communities came together for a Family Commissioning Mass and a celebration of this new union. The Archdiocese of Detroit put together what they have deemed a "playbook" to aid in this new collaborative process, but as could be expected, plans only go so far. On the ground we are working to figure out what this all may look like and mean.

The Detroit Jesuit parishes are far from unique in entering into a Family of Parishes. In the Archdiocese of the Detroit, in response to a diminished and diminishing number of priests, all local parishes are being grouped together into families. Across the Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus, many dioceses are exploring groupings. We can see this with the Cincinnati parishes increasing



Fr. Jeff Dorr, SJ at Gesu Catholic Church with Paris and her family as they celebrate her First Communion.

collaborations and with St. John's Church in Omaha exploring what it might look like to collaborate with and expand connections to neighboring diocesan parishes.

Some elements of this process have fallen to us, the priests. While in daily practice Fr. Wright has remained focused on Saints Peter and Paul, and Fr. Snow and I on Gesu, being missioned as *priests in solidum* has drawn us together. To say we are *priests in solidum* means that our parishes are technically served by us as a team of priests working in solidarity. In practice, we gather twice a month and have focused conversations on what is happening at our parishes and how we might collaborate. These considerations have ranged from cooperative staffing to communal celebrations of liturgies. Parishoners have been collaborating, too, most notably in the environmental initiatives of the Green Team.

Environmental efforts carried out by members in the two parishes participating in the Green Team offer a rather organic example of how this growth and coming together is occurring.

Many of the details of what will come for our Family of Parishes in Detroit will emerge over time, but I can already recognize at least three foundational elements of this new project. First, like all parishes, we know we need to embrace expanded lay involvement and empowerment. For us this includes a full-time ministerial leadership position on staff—a

parish life director. Saints Peter and Paul has Rebecca McMaster in this position, and earlier this year Gesu was involved in a search process for a director of their own. Second, our parishes have to do a better job of offering the people of Detroit that which makes Jesuit institutions distinctive. This includes Ignatian spirituality, strong community and radical hospitality. Third, our Family of Parishes needs to use our collaboration as an opportunity to respond to the challenges that face the Catholic Church and our world today, and tomorrow.

In 2022, Gesu celebrated 100 years since its founding, and in 2023 Saints Peter and Paul Jesuit Church will celebrate 175 years. Despite the unknowns about the future in general, and the Family of Parishes specifically, we do know that we have an invitation to reflect on what God has been doing in our parishes, to embrace the invitations of the present and imagine the collaborations God might be calling us to in the future. ✠



Fr. Jeff Dorr, SJ, was ordained to the priesthood in 2021 and is in his 2nd year serving Gesu Catholic Church and now the Jesuit Family of Parishes in Detroit.

# Speaking for the Voiceless

Through community service work at just the right age, a first-generation American learned the importance of being a woman for others

By Kristine Mackey

In 2021 Ruth Lopez McCarthy was appointed by Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker to serve as Senior Immigration Fellow in the Illinois Department of Human Services. She has steered her career, post-law school, toward supporting immigrants and asylum-seekers—members of the world’s diverse diaspora. Her passion for this work began with her own upbringing as a first-generation daughter in a tightly knit Colombian-Peruvian-American family in Chicago.

Her parents emphasized hard work, traditional Catholic family values, and the importance of a good education. They sent their four children to Saint Ignatius College Prep, and Lopez McCarthy says when she arrived she immediately noticed intersection of her family’s values and those instilled by the Jesuits and their lay partners. She graduated in 1999 with a head full of knowledge and a heart full of compassion.

“My religion teacher was Fr. Patrick McGrath, SJ, and I feel my social justice passion has roots in that class,” she says. “He was an amazing teacher, priest and leader.” The service component of Lopez McCarthy’s Jesuit education allowed her access to people in need of a helping hand—in communities she wouldn’t have otherwise encountered. The experience challenged her to ask questions and think deeply. “Being a woman for others is an important motto for me, and I cherish my time at Saint Ignatius.”

While Lopez McCarthy has received many awards in her field, 2020 was a special year for her. She received the Latina Lawyer of the Year award from the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois, and the Champion for Children Award from the Angel Harvey Family Health Center of the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago. Shortly after that, she received the International Award of Merit from her law school alma mater, Chicago-Kent College of Law.

**BEING A WOMAN FOR OTHERS IS AN IMPORTANT MOTTO FOR ME, AND I CHERISH MY TIME AT SAINT IGNATIUS.**

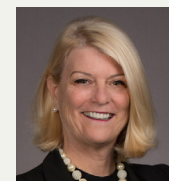
A former student-athlete at Saint Ignatius, Lopez McCarthy no longer likes to keep score. Rather, she asks herself daily: “What am I grateful for today? Am I honoring my parents? Am I the best mom I can be to my three young boys? Have I made a difference today in the world of immigration justice?” She also asks: “How can I be better?” It’s an Ignatian-style examen of sorts.

She’s not the only one who knows that Catholics need to open their hearts to those suffering and seeking a better life. Pope Francis recently said that Catholics have the chance to grow in their faith by welcoming people different from themselves. “In encountering the diversity of foreigners, migrants and refugees, and in the intercultural



Ruth Lopez McCarthy

dialogue that can emerge from this encounter, we have an opportunity to grow as Church and to enrich one another,” he said. None of that can happen without the immigration system and advocates like Lopez McCarthy who speak for those without a voice. ✝



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





# Learning in *Lebanon*

## Jesuits search for the words, and the ways, in a foreign land with profound needs

Jesuit brethren Tomasz Matyka, Ryan Birjoo, Garrett Gundlach, Daniel Atallah and Roudy Khalil at the Mediterranean Sea in the city of Jbeil, also known as Byblos.

By Mr. Ryan Birjoo, SJ and Fr. Garrett Gundlach, SJ

**C**risis and grace, ministry and limitations. Lebanon has lived through a lot since August of 2020, when we, Midwest Jesuits Ryan Birjoo and Garrett Gundlach, came to Beirut to serve and study. We began with simple Arabic courses before Ryan dove full-time into his regency assignment at Jesuit Refugee Service and Garrett stepped into deeper studies in Arabic and Muslim-Christian relations. Nearly three years later, we want to share two stories that speak to the tensions, trials and graces of our time in Lebanon, and the relationships we developed here.

### MR. RYAN BIRJOO, SJ

“Lebanon is a holy land,” says Fr. Gaby, the pastor of the local Maronite church, as I munch on *namoura*, an almost too-sweet confectionary laced with pistachios and syrup. His hospitality lightens the shadowy room. The generator has not yet switched on and, alas, it is not the one golden hour of the day when we receive state electricity. We’ve been discussing patriarchs, prophets and

evangelical encounters with Syro-Phoenician women, a bit of a tangent, albeit edifying, from the predicament that led me to seek advice from him in the first place. After a few more bites, I start explaining. I tell him I’m working with Jesuit Refugee Service, and that I’m responsible for coordinating the distribution of food baskets to families of students we support in educational programs. The catch is that our donors primarily fund programs for Syrian families and during distributions many Lebanese have been asking for help. Having to explain, in broken Arabic, to widows caring for their grandchildren why we cannot provide food is, to put it mildly, jarring. Hunger devours my paltry explanations. I know that the need is real. The multiple crises unfolding in Lebanon have been difficult for most, but in this area of Beirut, where people were already hard-pressed, hyperinflation has rendered each day an exercise in survival.

As the Lebanese face their crises, I face mine, too: What’s the best way to be faithful

to my mission—to serve refugees—in an environment with limited resources? The issue is beyond me as an individual, but in my limited role, I muse on the broader apostolic priority of working with the marginalized. It’s a puzzle to me. What happens when everyone has suddenly found themselves on the margins? I’m beginning to understand why Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, emphasized “spiritual maturity” while working with the poor.

Throughout my time here, I’ve been haunted by the feeling of being limited. And, this is not a bad thing, as it drives me to my knees in prayer. And, it is there that I can feel gratitude for what we are able to do, and entrust shortcomings to God. It is there that a Syro-Phoenician woman enters my thoughts, and this one is not exotic but familiar. I see the Lord reminding me that ministry is broader than our imaginations. Indeed, this is a holy land, not because everything is perfect, but because it’s a place where need is expressed, where God can be argued with, where encounters have the possibility of broadening

minds and expanding ministries, where one might find an unexpected sweetness that is simply divine.

## FR. GARRETT GUNDLACH, SJ

In Lebanese Arabic, God is everywhere in the daily parlance. He is the giver, the taker and the master of any hope or heaviness beyond us. Phrases include *If God wills it, if God desires it, may God give you life, God deliver us, and God forgive you or God straight-up TAKE you*. Yet another phrase stops me every time, *kattar khair Allah*, or *كللا ريخ رتتك* in the local alphabet. Its ambiguous translation betrays its ambiguous gratitude. *God has given so much good* sounds almost like *God has given too much good*, which sounds almost like *God's not giving much anymore*. It begs a consoling response when it's uttered in a sinking tone, without a smile, in the refugee camp, or over coffee waiting for the food bag distribution, or after Mass with the migrant workers, or in a chat with overwhelmed college kids and the priests, brothers or sisters accompanying them: *Keefna* (How are we)? *Kattar khair Allah* (We're living off old graces. Thank God they once were many because we're not feeling them these days).

In the deepening economic-social-political crisis and heightening inter-religious tensions of Lebanon, "Where is God and where's that



Jesuits Garrett Gundlach, Ronney El Gemayel and Ryan Birjoo with hiking friends beside a historic church door near the town of Gharzouz.

grace we're so desperately asking for?" is basically the shape of my whole unfolding priestly ministry. Thanks be to God (*neshkor Allah*), we're praying, listening, chatting, playing, working our ways into answers that all seem to say: here. Despite the despair, God is here, at work, discernible enough to urge our own work in community committees for college kid summer camps, faith formation weekends, migrant worker combo Mass-lunch-cultural shows or stop-the-madness long, Sunday-night socials after prayer.

Project by project, my young priesthood's

been swept into this hunt to embody the hope that is not falling from the sky but instead seems to be emerging from within. Project by project, I'm being called into places I don't feel ready for, in languages and cultures I think I don't know well enough but quickly discover I at least barely do, which is enough to dive in. Project by project, alongside my Muslim-Christian studies and my desperate, daily Arabic vocab work, I juggle exhaustion, exhilaration and encouragement that we're doing our best with what God is giving, not too much and just barely enough, and somehow that cuts it, or as the phrase goes, *kattar khair Allah*. ✠



Jesuit scholastics Roudy Khalil, Ryan Birjoo, Garrett Gundlach, Tomasz Matyka and Osama Halim during a rare opportunity for a snowball fight near Jounieh.



Mr. Ryan Birjoo, SJ, is completing his third year of regency with the Jesuit Refugee Service in Beirut. Three words that characterize his time as a Jesuit are gratitude, discipleship and awe.



Fr. Garrett Gundlach, SJ, is a new Jesuit priest (ordained in 2021) whose formation has brought him through an MSW, the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Paris and now Beirut for special studies.



# The Health of the Province

## Five nurses, spread across the Midwest, make sure Jesuits get the health care advice and advocacy they need

By Emily Rust

When you dedicate your life to serving others, you might have a tendency to forget about yourself at times. This happens in the Jesuit community, where priests and brothers become so focused on their work that their own health care needs fade from their thoughts.

“With us around, we can sort of nudge them and remind them that they have to take care of themselves and stay well so they can continue to do the ministry they want to do,” says Jane Glynn-Nass, RN, BSN, the Midwest Jesuits provincial assistant for health care.



Jane Glynn-Nass, RN, BSN

She cares for Jesuits in Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Twin Cities and South Dakota, and leads a team of four other health care coordinators across the province: Martha Todd, PhD, APRN-NP, in Omaha; Mary Murray, PA-C, RN, BSN, in Chicago and

**MANY JESUITS THAT I HAVE BEEN WITH HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR GRATITUDE FOR HAVING US AROUND WHEN THEY'RE GOING TO THE DOCTOR AND TRYING TO NEGOTIATE THESE HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS.**

South Bend, Indiana; Barb Mechley, RN, BSN, in Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Lexington, Kentucky; and Pat Havern, RN, BSN, in Detroit and Ohio (Toledo, Cleveland and Akron).

The coordinators provide holistic care, which could include performing a health care screening, administering a vaccine, offering advice or taking a Jesuit to a doctor's appointment or surgery.

“I'm providing individual care on a different level, not as a provider, but as an advocate, an educator,” says Todd of Omaha. “I accompany them on their journey. It's good to have somebody with you to help.”

Glynn-Nass says she's seen many changes in her 21 years as a Jesuit health care worker. Health care systems have evolved



Barb Mechley, RN, BSN

dramatically, and what once would have been handled in conversations with a few family doctors now requires navigating a list of hundreds of specialists.

“Many Jesuits that I have been with have expressed their gratitude for having us around when they're going to the doctor and trying to negotiate these health care systems,” Glynn-Nass says.

Anyone who has been through a hospital procedure, or even to a routine doctor's appointment, knows how helpful it can be to have a second set of ears available when the



Pat Havern, RN, BSN

doctor comes in for a consultation. Hearing all the doctor has to say is one thing. Retaining it all is another.

"Some days my job will be helping priests get to and from their doctors' appointments,

**ONE OF THE FIRST PEOPLE I WAS HELPING WITH WAS GOING TO AN ANGIOGRAM. IT WAS SO SERIOUS THAT HE HAD TO HAVE OPEN HEART SURGERY TWO DAYS LATER, THEN BE IN THE ICU. HE COULDN'T DRIVE FOR EIGHT WEEKS.**

helping them absorb what they just heard and what they need to do in the future," says Murray of Chicago and South Bend, Indiana. Though she's been a coordinator only since November 2021, she's already seen the impact the role has on the Jesuits.

"One of the first people I was helping with was going to an angiogram," Murray says. "It was so serious that he had to have open heart surgery two days later, then be in the ICU. He couldn't drive for eight weeks."

Murray accompanied him to his cardiology appointments, and continued to adjust her

schedule to care for him. But she never had to worry about being on her own, at least not in spirit. As a true team, the five coordinators often collaborate with one another.

**THEY ARE CAREGIVERS IN GENERAL, PRIESTS CARING FOR OTHERS, AND THERE NEEDS TO BE SOMEONE WHO CARES FOR THEM, TOO.**

"Two heads are always better than one and the five of us delving into a problem is always much nicer than one person going at it alone," Glynn-Nass says.

The group meets annually to address whatever issues they have, and the five coordinators keep in touch over the course of the year with other Jesuit caregivers outside the Midwest.

"We're so lucky to have been able to find really high-quality nurses," Glynn-Nass says. "We have lots of experience and lots of knowledge, so we can take care of almost anything."

The Jesuits make sure to express their gratitude. "They're all so different and yet so kind and generous and appreciative at the same time," Glynn-Nass says.



Martha Todd, PhD, APRN, NP

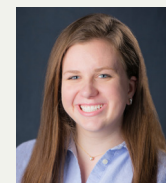


Mary Murray, PA-C, RN, BSN

Todd says the role of a health care coordinator also involves some degree of nurturing. "They are caregivers in general, priests caring for others, and there needs to be someone who cares for them, too," she says.


The role of a health care coordinator isn't for every nurse, but Todd, and surely others, if not all, in the Midwest Province, have felt a special call to serve the Jesuits. "Coming out of the Spiritual Exercises, I thought, What can I do for the second part of my life?" Todd says. "How can I do my part in serving God?"

She found her answer, and because she did, the Jesuits receive as much reward as she does. "I love getting to know each of them on a personal level," she says. "It's a privilege to share health care with someone." ✕



**Emily Rust** is a writer based in Omaha. She holds an MBA from Creighton University and a bachelor of journalism degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.





Augie Pacetti, director of mission at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland, and Trena Marks Pacetti, who teaches theology at Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, led rising seniors on an Ignatian educational pilgrimage in 2022. The trip included a visit to the Pamplona, Spain site (pictured) where St. Ignatius of Loyola was wounded in battle on May 20, 1521.

# Passing Down the Gifts

**A couple returns to their Jesuit alma maters to teach, advise and ultimately share the gift of Ignatian educational travel**

By Ann Power Greene

**T**rena Marks and Augie Pacetti didn't know each other when they were attending Jesuit high schools about 35 miles apart in Ohio in the mid-1990s—she at Walsh Jesuit in Cuyahoga Falls, he at Saint Ignatius in Cleveland. But when they met as students at John Carroll University, their love story began. They got married and returned to work at their high school alma maters, where they remain today.

In true Ignatian spirit, to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary, last summer they led a group of rising high school seniors on an Ignatian Scholars Program and Pilgrimage in Spain, France and Italy.

"It was a great gift to share the experience of being in so many sacred places significant in the life of Ignatius, whose faith, love and understanding of God shaped us individually as Jesuit high school and college students, led us to our vocation in Jesuit education at our alma maters, and ultimately brought us together," says Trena Marks Pacetti, a Walsh

Jesuit theology teacher and a 1997 graduate of the school.

The program began in 2008 and has been offered in its current form since 2013. "We thought it would be a way to make the life of

**ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRIP WAS VISITING THE CITY OF LOYOLA AND BEING ABLE TO CELEBRATE MASS WITH MY FRIENDS IN THE ROOM WHERE ST. IGNATIUS STAYED DURING HIS RECOVERY AFTER GETTING HIT BY A CANNONBALL**

Ignatius come alive for our students, and it is deeply impacting on our students' faith," says Dan Bizga, the chair of Walsh Jesuit's theology department, and a 1993 alumnus of Saint Ignatius. Under Bizga's direction, the travel group has grown to include more than 60 students and adults in 2022, mostly from Walsh Jesuit and Saint Ignatius. But students from University of Detroit Jesuit High School

and Fairfield College Preparatory School in Connecticut have also attended, along with faculty from other Jesuit high schools.

In conjunction with the trip itself—following in the steps of St. Ignatius of Loyola for two weeks—students also take a related online course from June to mid-August (aided by *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life* by Fr. James Martin, SJ), and complete a final project. All of it leads to class credit. "The Six Paths to Finding God" in Fr. Martin's book is the part that prepares students for the trip itself, reinforcing the idea that a pilgrimage is a journey undertaken for the sake of faith, not just travel.

"One of the highlights of the trip was visiting the city of Loyola and being able to celebrate Mass with my friends in the room where St. Ignatius stayed during his recovery after getting hit by a cannonball," says Lauren Bangs, a senior at Walsh Jesuit.

For Trena and her husband, Augie, a 1996 graduate of Saint Ignatius and the school's



director of mission, a highlight was visiting Lourdes, France. "Because Ignatius had a devotion to Mary, the pilgrimage visits the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, where St. Bernadette saw apparitions of Mary in the mid-1880s," Trena says.

In Lourdes, the group participated in the nightly street procession for healing, which included everyone from infants in their parents' arms to the elderly being pushed in wheelchairs while the rosary was prayed in multiple languages over loudspeakers. Students chipped in their own money to buy the largest candle they could find (about 5 feet tall with a 10-inch diameter) and took turns carrying it in the procession. Afterward, in their own prayer service, students were invited to carve an intention on the side of the candle. They left it burning among thousands of others representing the intentions of pilgrims from all over the world. Bizga told the students that their candle, because of its size, would probably still be burning after the new school year started.

Something amazing happened on the trip. Before it even began, as the Ignatian Year neared its end in the summer of 2022, Trena and Augie invited friends and family to share their intentions. The Pacettis wrote the intentions in a journal and promised to pray



Dan Bizga, chair of Walsh Jesuit High School's theology department, and Walsh Jesuit theology teacher Trena Marks Pacetti at the Vatican.

for them at the holy sites they were about to visit. Trena kept the invitation open during the trip, too, by posting it on her Facebook page. While the group sat in Mass in the Chapel of Conversion, where St. Ignatius, recuperating from injury, had turned to God 500 years earlier, Trena's phone rang.

It was Fr. Jim King, SJ, whom Trena has known since her freshman year at Walsh Jesuit in 1993 when the school went co-ed. They've been friends ever since. Fr. King presided at the Pacettis' wedding and baptized their children. He was at Walsh Jesuit when the doors opened in 1965 and spent close to 50 years there teaching theology and counseling students, among other things. Now he was calling to ask for prayers at the exact moment they were sitting in one of the most significant Ignatian sites on earth. The coincidence was moving, to say the least.

"Father King has been a faith companion to us in some of the most significant moments of our lives, and here again God reminded us through him that we are never alone in this mission," Augie says. "God is really present all around us in our ordinary life each day, always waiting for us to answer."

The Pacettis brought back prayer cards and holy water from the spring in Lourdes for everyone they prayed for. "It was a powerful

experience to be entrusted with those prayers and to bring them before God," says Trena, who went on after JCU to receive her master's in pastoral studies from Loyola University New Orleans Institute for Ministry.

The 2023 trip runs from June 29 to July 15. The cost of the full program is about \$4,000, which includes accommodations, meals, excursions and transportation costs on the tour. Airfare, estimated at \$1,200, is separate. Scholarships and reduced rates are available. All parents are welcome, and parent chaperones receive discounts based on the number of students attending.

"It was so beautiful to witness little miracles, little moments of conversion, in the lives of our students," Augie says of the 2022 trip. "As we entered more deeply into the story of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and walked in his footsteps, we saw a model of what it looks like to listen to God in our lives, to discern our own vocation, our mission, our path forward." ✠



Students pooled their money to buy a 5-foot tall, 10-inch diameter candle to carry in the street procession for healing in Lourdes, France. They later carved their own intentions into it.



Ann Power Greene serves as senior director of grants and special projects for the Midwest Jesuits in Chicago. A native of Cleveland, and a Gesu School alum, she has more than 14 years of service to the Jesuits.



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

## Fr. Joseph N. Pershe, SJ

March 2, 1934 – August 7, 2022

*“Joe was a faithful Jesuit priest and a kind pastor. He dedicated his life to bringing Christ to those who were sick, lonely, or in need.”*

Latin and math teacher at Campion Jesuit High School and Marquette University High School; associate pastor at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Mankato, Minn.; chaplain at Metropolitan Hospital and Coler Hospital, both in New York, N.Y.; pastoral minister at LaStorta Apostolic Community and Abbott Northwestern Hospital, both in Minneapolis; pastoral minister in Omaha; missioned to St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Milwaukee, Wis.



of church history at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.; resident of the St. Claude de la Colombiere Jesuit community in Baltimore.

## Fr. John P. Coakley, SJ

July 21, 1940 – September 27, 2022

*“Jack’s greatest joy was his relationship with Christ. This was followed closely by his joy at helping others to encounter God in their lives.”*

English teacher at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis; retreat director at the Youth Retreat House at Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford, Ohio; leadership team member at Loyola House Jesuit Novitiate; campus minister at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati; chaplain at Murray State University in Kentucky; member of the ministry team at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill.; missioned to be a chaplain in the cardiac unit at the Loyola University Medical Center; resident of Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich.



Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio; missioned to Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich.

## Fr. Patrick J. Boyle, SJ

March 13, 1932 – October 25, 2022

*“Pat was there for his guys, risking his life in hot action to defend and care for the wounded and dying. He was, I believe, one of the most decorated chaplains in the Vietnam War.”*

Latin teacher at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill.; assistant principal for discipline at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati; chaplain in the U.S. Army; director of the Jesuit Retreat League at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, Ill.; moral theology professor at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Ill.; missioned to St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Milwaukee, Wis.



## Fr. John W. O'Malley, SJ

June 11, 1927 – September 11, 2022

*“He was loved by his brother Jesuits, students and friends as a person—a holy and generous Jesuit priest—unfailingly kind, helpful, generous, mild, curious, modest and always interested in you.”*

History teacher and chair of Religious Studies Department at the University of Detroit, now the University of Detroit Mercy; acting dean and later acting president at Weston School of Theology (later the Weston Jesuit School of Theology) in Cambridge, Mass.; elected by his Jesuit province as a member of two General Congregations, the ultimate governing body in the Society of Jesus; author of the book *The First Jesuits*, and four others on ecumenical councils, including *What Happened at Vatican II* and *Trent: What Happened at the Council*; professor



## Fr. Thomas L. Schubeck, SJ

March 21, 1936 – October 13, 2022

*“Tom was a model of availability, accepting as best he could even hard assignments. And for his example we can all be thankful.”*

Biology, English and Latin teacher at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill.; professor of social ethics and moral theology at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif.; novice director at Loyola House Jesuit Novitiate; professor of theology and Christian social ethics, and chair of religious studies department at John



## Fr. Gerald F. Cavanaugh, SJ

September 13, 1931 – November 8, 2022

*“Nothing seemed to get him down or depress him, and with that kind of spirit, who could lose? As they say, Jerry was a Jesuit’s Jesuit.”*

Physics, math, and speech teacher at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill.; professor of management at Wayne State University in Detroit; holder of the Charles J. Dirksen Chair in Business Ethics at Santa Clara University in California; professor of business management, academic vice-president and provost, holder of the Charles Fisher Chair of Business Ethics, interim dean of the College of



Business Administration, and a professor of management at University of Detroit Mercy.

**Fr. Frederick E. Brenk, SJ**

July 18, 1929 – December 3, 2022

*“Fred exemplified cura personalis for everyone he encountered.”*

Latin and Greek teacher at Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha; professor and researcher at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., Tufts University in Medford, Mass., Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Mass., and Fordham University in New York, N.Y.; professor for the Greek and Roman background of the Old and New Testament at Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome; expert on Plutarch, authored five books and more than 100 articles.



**Fr. Joseph F. Eagan, SJ**

October 29, 1922 – December 20, 2022

*“Joe had an indomitable capacity for scholarship, friendship, and pastoral care. He never retired intellectually. He just slowed down physically in his 90s.”*

English and speech teacher at Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha and Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie Du Chien, Wis.; director of campus ministries at Creighton University in Omaha; professor of theology at the University of San Francisco; author of the book *Dynasty, the Story of USF Soccer, 1931-1997*; associate pastor and parochial vicar at St. Anselm Parish in Ross, Calif., and an associate pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Larkspur, Calif.; writer and pastoral minister at St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Milwaukee, Wis.



**Fr. Joseph G. Mueller, SJ**

January 2, 1960 – January 12, 2023

*“Joe was one of the most kind, gentle and serene Jesuits I have ever known. His deep peace was rooted in his love of Jesus and the joy of the Gospel.”*

French teacher at University of Detroit Jesuit High School; associate professor of theology at Marquette University in Milwaukee; associate dean for academic affairs in Marquette University’s Helen Way Klingler College of Arts and Sciences; director of graduate studies and assistant chairman for Marquette University’s department of theology; rector of the Marquette University Jesuit Community; represented the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches of Christ; appointed dean of the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in California.

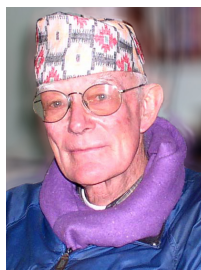


**Fr. Casper J. “Cap” Miller**

December 13, 1933 – January 15, 2023

*“Father Cap was more like a friend than a counsellor and was always surrounded by students, like ants surrounding a sugar cube.”*

Missionary in remote and urban Nepal for more than 64 years; teacher and principal at St. Xavier’s School in Godavari; principal of St. Xavier’s School, Jawakhel; research writer at Human Resource Development and Research Centre; author of the books *Faith-Healers in the Himalayas*, *Decision Making in Village Nepal* and *To Yourself Be True*.

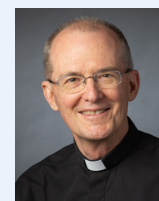


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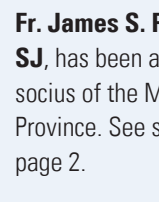


**Fr. John P. Fitzgibbons, SJ**, has been named chancellor of the University of San Francisco.

**Fr. Christopher Scott Fronk, SJ**, has been named president of Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.



**Fr. James Grummer, SJ**, has been appointed staff; socius to the director of novices at the Novitiate of St. Alberto Hurtado.



**Fr. James S. Prehn, SJ**, has been appointed socius of the Midwest Province. See story, page 2.





# Arrupe College Expands

Through a partnership with the Come To Believe Network, the Arrupe model looks to expand as Cristo Rey did at the high school level

By Nora Dabrowski

Father Steve Katsouros, SJ, saw a new opportunity to serve young people in Chicago and beyond with the founding of Arrupe College at Loyola University Chicago in 2014. Drawing on the same principles that have made Cristo Rey Jesuit high schools successful, the Arrupe model is now in a position to expand at scale, offering higher educational opportunities once unavailable to Cristo Rey graduates.

Since Fr. Katsouros transferred leadership of the Arrupe college network to Fr. Thomas Neitzke, SJ, in the fall of 2020, his dedication has not waned. In fact, the organization that Fr. Katsouros went on to found, the Come to Believe Network, is focused on replicating the Arrupe college model much like Fr. John P. Foley, SJ, replicated Cristo Rey schools after establishing the first one in 1996.

The Midwest Jesuits had seen Cristo Rey as an opportunity to grow the ministry within the Latino community on the southwest side of Chicago, particularly in the Pilsen neighborhood, where the original school remains. Since then, Cristo Rey's mission and impact has grown beyond the Jesuits' wildest dreams. Today there are 38 Cristo Rey high schools across the United States. The innovative work-study model, integrating work in corporate environments with weekly school experience, has transformed students, families and communities.

For the past 26 years, hundreds of Cristo Rey students have achieved high school success, but as first-generation college students many have needed extra support to continue their educational journeys. Arrupe College at LUC has provided the bridge some of them have needed, offering a results-oriented, affordable, two-year associate's degree model with wraparound services and a manageable debt load.

The program gives students the opportunity to enter a career with some college on their resume or continue at a four-year institution and graduate with a bachelor's degree. In addition to financial support, Arrupe students receive academic and social growth counseling.

Seeing the success of LUC's Arrupe College, the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul Minnesota opened the second Arrupe model school, the Dougherty Family College in 2017. At least 10 more Arrupe model colleges are scheduled to open in the next five years. And the Come To Believe Network is in contact with even more, offering \$30,000 design grants to fund feasibility studies for prospective universities. Currently, several schools are enrolled in the design grant process, which includes a visit to the original Arrupe College at LUC.

"The students come to believe they belong in higher ed," says Fr. Katsouros, Come To

Believe Network's chief executive officer. "They came to believe in themselves, and finally, we are seeing that universities are coming to believe that yes these students are very much worth the investment."

The Arrupe model speaks directly to the Jesuits' Universal Apostolic Preference of Journeying with Youth. All but 3% of Arrupe students identify as students of color. More than half of them graduate in two years with an associate's degree. Three of every four Arrupe graduates who go on to a four-year program graduate with a bachelor's degree in five years. Less than 25% of students graduate with debt.

Father Katsouros says an important aspect of the Arrupe model is that students are learning on a full university campus. They experience the wraparound services of campus life and the social growth of a new peer group with other university students, and there is value in that. They come to believe that this is where they belong. ✝



Nora Dabrowski is the regional advancement director for the Midwest Jesuits in Michigan and northern Ohio. She is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago and has worked with the Jesuits for over 26 years.

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# Your support of the Midwest Jesuits makes a difference every day. Here's proof.

By Kristine Mackey

Augustin Khey has put in the effort to be where is today—a student at Stanford University—but his life journey has been full of monumental challenges and heartbreak. Now a proud Karenni-American teenager, he couldn't have done what he's done without his own inner strength and the support of so many donors to both the Midwest Jesuits' Greatest Need Fund and Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Milwaukee.

Augustin's story began in his native country of Myanmar, but soon he found himself living in a refugee camp just over the border in the Mae Hong Son Province of Thailand. He remained there for 12 years. When he finally made it to the United States, he enrolled at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Milwaukee. He'd just spent the majority of his life in a refugee camp, and now he was 8,000 miles from home.

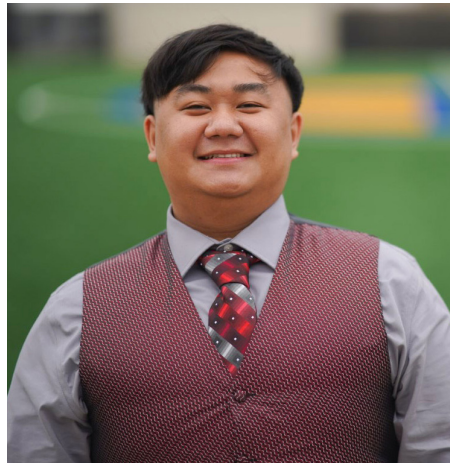
"A chapter in my life came to a close and a new chapter began," Augustin says, but then even more challenges arose, including "a harsh new world full of different cultures, racism, stereotypes and prejudices, and it was hard."

Due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, what was supposed to have been a normal American high school experience was anything but when the pandemic forced Augustin and his classmates into isolation and remote learning. On top of it all, his mother contracted cancer. "But I persevered," he says.

He not only persevered, he thrived, eventually being named valedictorian of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School's Class of 2022. For his efforts, Stanford University, where he is now studying computer science, awarded him a four-year, full-ride scholarship.

In his Cristo Rey valedictory address, Augustin thanked the Corporate Work Study Partners, all the benefactors and scholarship supporters, his teachers and counselors, and most importantly, his parents.

While Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Milwaukee raises its own funds for operations, the Midwest Jesuits Greatest Need Fund contributes seed money to groundbreaking schools, sends Jesuits around the world to kindle the fire and teach, and continues to support people like Augustin in many other ways. Augustin is the real-life product of the tremendous generosity of faith-filled Jesuit supporters. ✠



If you'd like to contribute to the Greatest Need Fund, which supports so many of the Midwest Jesuits' ministries, please contact Kristine Mackey at (773) 975-6913, or visit our website:

<https://www.jesuitsmidwest.org/support-us/donate-now/>.

To learn more about Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Milwaukee, visit their website:

<https://cristoreymilwaukee.org/>.



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## Save the Date: Ordination Mass 2023

The Ordination Mass will be held on Saturday, June 10 at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.  
The Mass will begin at 10 a.m. CDT. For more information and a livestream of the Mass visit

<http://jesuitsmidwest.org/Ordination23>

