



# JESUITS

USA MIDWEST PROVINCE | SUMMER 2021



## Ordination 2021

Introducing Eight New  
Midwest Jesuit Priests

### Also in This Issue:

- Reflections from Jesuit Jubilarians on 50 Years in the Society
- Dental Clinics Are a Beacon of Light on the Rosebud Reservation
- Jesuit Coaches Connect Spirituality with Sports



Dear Friends,

It is my honor and privilege to write to you for the first time as provincial of the USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus.

In the few weeks since assuming this position, I've been struck by the graces—large and small—that have accompanied my new role. In a very short time, I've met Midwest Jesuits I'd not previously known and visited some of the works of the province I'd not previously seen. And while there are many more to meet and much more to see, I am heartened by the vitality of our shared mission.

This vitality was evident at the ordination of eight new priests on June 12 in Milwaukee. Each of these men brings gifts that will benefit the Church and its people for decades to come. I hope you will enjoy reading and getting to know a little bit about these wonderful servants of God (page 10). I hope you'll also enjoy reading messages from our jubilarians—Jesuits celebrating 50 years in the Society of Jesus (page 16). What a blessing it is to reflect with them on their lifetime of service.

It is in the spirit of service that Jesuit Frs. Michael Graham and John Fitzgibbons have modeled their long careers as university presidents (page 7). Service is an attribute whose ripple effect invites others to give back, as shown by the students at Jesuit schools taking on environmentally focused projects (page 24) and with the Creighton University dental students volunteering on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota (page 5). We are grateful for all who work for and with others.

Lastly, on the Monday after the ordinations, at a Mass in the province office's chapel, the leadership reins were passed to me from Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ (page 6). I am very grateful to Brian for his work in preparing me for this important mission. And I am especially grateful for the warm welcome I've received from the office staff; I am blessed by their patience and unfailing assistance in supporting me.

I'm just beginning to learn of the breadth and depth of the dedication of our friends and benefactors—the readers of this magazine—to the Jesuit mission. Your commitment to walk with us in service to others is so important; none of our work would be possible without you. I stand on the shoulders of those who have preceded me. I ask for their blessings, and I ask for your prayers that I may be found worthy of this mission.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl J. Kiser, SJ'.

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





### ON THE COVER

From left: newly ordained Jesuit Frs. Robert Karle, Garrett Gundlach, Hung Nguyen, Jeffrey Dorr, Aaron Malnick, Thomas Bambrick, Trevor Rainwater, and Jeffrey Sullivan

Photo: Steve Donisch

## Care for the Environment Alongside Care for the Person



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The farmers' market at Chicago Jesuit Academy is just one of the ways students at Jesuit schools are responding to Pope Francis' call to "care for our common home."

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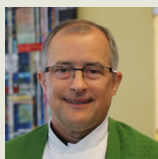
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#### A Joyous Journey

The Midwest Province has installed its second provincial, Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ, who looks forward to sharing the faith during the newest part of his journey.



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#### Ordination 2021

Eight new Midwest Jesuit priests express their gratitude after being ordained on June 12 at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee.



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#### Honoring the 2021 Jesuit Jubilarians

Midwest Jesuit jubilarians celebrate 50 years in the Society of Jesus by offering wisdom and spiritual insights.



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#### Fostering Community, Furthering a Mission

Led by pastor Fr. Warren Sazama, SJ, St. Thomas More Catholic Community takes pride in its status as the only Jesuit parish in the Twin Cities.

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Photo: Marcus Fast Wolf



Members of Red Cloud's Truth and Healing Committee, Maka Black Elk and Fr. Brad Held, SJ

## New Truth-telling Initiative Confronts Red Cloud Indian School's Past

Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota has begun a Truth and Healing process, with Maka Black Elk serving as executive director.

Black Elk is the great-great-grandson of Lakota leader Nicholas Black Elk and a graduate of Red Cloud himself.

By establishing a formal Truth and Healing committee, Red Cloud hopes to tackle the school's past head-on. In the fall of 2019, the school administration formed a working group, which included Black Elk, Fr. Brad Held, SJ, and other community members, and tasked the committee with investigating Red Cloud's history as a boarding school. The Truth and Healing process is based on the research of Dr. Maria Yellow Horse Braveheart and will follow four phases she has identified: confrontation (or truth-telling), understanding, healing, and transformation.

The committee is currently focused on truth-telling, aiming to uncover the facts of Red Cloud's history and the lived experiences of its survivors through testimony gathering, community dialogue, archival research, and an institutional acknowledgement of harm.

"I'm faithful in the sense that I think this process is sacred," said Black Elk. "My hope is that through this process—no matter what the outcome is—the outcome is only something that makes us better, that gets us closer to justice, that is welcomed by God."

Read more about the initiative at [JesuitsMidwest.org/RCHealing](https://JesuitsMidwest.org/RCHealing)



Dr. Alan R. Miciak is John Carroll's 26th president.

## Dr. Alan Miciak Named President of John Carroll University

Dr. Alan Miciak took office June 1 as the 26th president of John Carroll University, succeeding Dr. Michael D. Johnson.

"As president, my single focus will be to ensure each student receives the right mix of academic challenge, experiential opportunity, and personal formation," said Dr. Miciak. "I look forward to working with our outstanding faculty, staff, and the entire John Carroll community to put our full focus on the well-being and success of our students."

Dr. Miciak previously served as executive vice president of John Carroll and as the John M. Boler Dean of the Boler College of Business and brings nearly 20 years of experience in Catholic higher education leadership to the role. Under Dr. Miciak's leadership, the Boler College of Business developed new programs and facilities across its schools and departments and secured three significant naming gifts, part of \$25 million raised in the college's Inspired Lives campaign.

"The board saw in Dr. Miciak a unique opportunity to engage a highly qualified new leader from within who has a proven track record at John Carroll to steer the university through the next stage of its transformation," said Bill Donnelly, chair of the John Carroll Board of Directors. "Working closely with Michael, Al has shown a clear vision and plan for propelling the university to 2050 and beyond with a renewed focus on the student experience."



Vanessa Solis, president of Nativity Jesuit Academy in Milwaukee

## Vanessa Solis to Lead Nativity Jesuit Academy as Next President

Former teacher and principal Vanessa Solis assumed the presidency of Nativity Jesuit Academy in Milwaukee on July 1. While there was incredibly strong interest in the presidential position within the community and several strong external candidates were interviewed, the presidential search committee found that the best candidate, Solis, was already at Nativity.

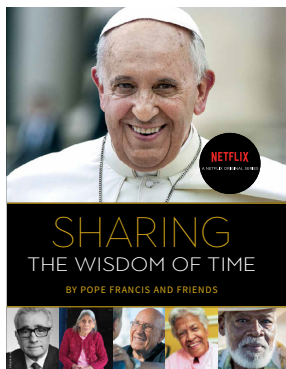
Solis joined Nativity in 2014 and has led groundbreaking work since. She served as Nativity's first-ever K4 teacher, laying the foundation for the elementary school to grow as Nativity became a full K-8 school with more than 250 students. From that position, she then transitioned to Nativity's director of elementary school education and ultimately became the principal in 2018. During the past year, Solis has navigated the school through a new set of challenges brought on by the pandemic. Through each stage of her time at Nativity, Solis has felt called to do more.

"While my time, energy, and focus were on my current work as principal, I kept feeling that I was meant to do more for Nativity, more for our students and our families," said Solis. "I know firsthand that a high-quality education is transformational not only for our students but their whole family, and it is an honor to provide the same opportunities that were made available to me to our deserving students." Solis will be succeeded as principal by Jon Nowak, who most recently served as the school's director of operations.

## Netflix to Produce Documentary Series Based on Loyola Press Book

Loyola Press, a Chicago-based apostolate of the Midwest Jesuits, has announced that Netflix is in the final stages of producing an original documentary series based on its award-winning book *Sharing the Wisdom of Time* by Pope Francis and Friends. The documentary series is being produced in four languages and is set for a Netflix global release later this year, premiering in 190 countries.

*Sharing the Wisdom of Time* is a collection of photographs and stories of older adults from over 30 countries. Through their stories, older adults share wisdom gained from lifetimes of experience. Pope Francis contributes as a fellow older adult, offering the preface, his own story in each chapter, and reflections on dozens of others' stories. The book follows Pope Francis' call to younger generations to recognize older adults as reservoirs of wisdom and historical memory.



Joellyn Cicciarelli, president and publisher of Loyola Press, said of the series, "We were thrilled to publish the book *Sharing the Wisdom of Time*. This docuseries takes Pope Francis' mission one step further—meeting young people where they are, through media—and inviting them to find ways to connect with and learn from elders."

For more information about *Sharing the Wisdom of Time*, visit [SharingWisdomOfTime.com](http://SharingWisdomOfTime.com)



## Carlos Smith

Hometown: Detroit, MI

Schools: Loyola High School (class of 2021) and University of Arizona (incoming freshman)

Passion: Debate\* and political science

### Why did you choose to attend Loyola High School?

Essentially, Loyola has always been there in my mind. My uncle works there, and he's worked there for a while now. I had an older brother who also attended Loyola. He passed last year, rest his soul. But he went there, so it was always in the back of my mind as an option to attend coming out of middle school.

### What Jesuit values have resonated with you during your time at Loyola?

Loyola has taught me that loving is a choice. You choose to be that wholesome version of yourself, a man "for others." As St. Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity goes: "to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest." When you start to do those things, you're making the choice, just like St. Ignatius did. Choosing to be loving doesn't mean "I don't see hate," "I don't see color," or "I don't see all these sociopolitical issues." It is that I choose to acknowledge them, and I choose to be loving.

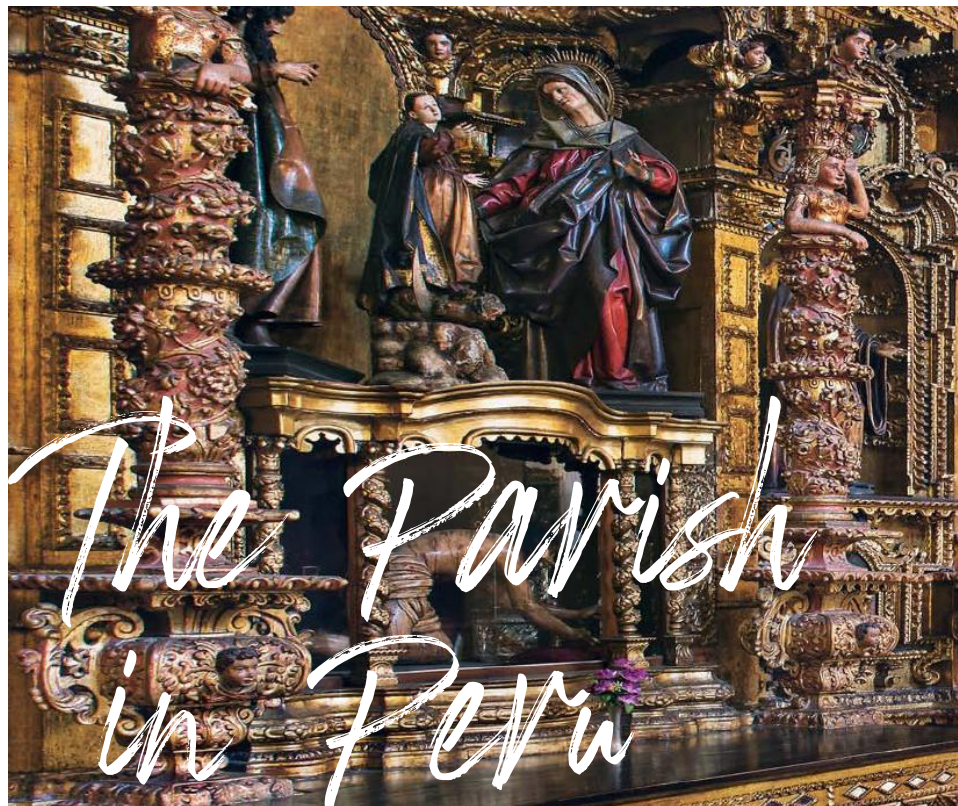
### How did you get started with debate?

Coming out of middle school, I was really into academic competitions at the time. I wanted that same experience coming to Loyola. I was also involved with mock trial, and I really wanted something similar to that. Then I went on to Loyola. Even as I was shadowing my first couple of days, it was just like, "Oh, you should totally do debate." One of my teachers told me that. And I basically said, "Okay, for sure." I eventually went to practice and got started with the debate coach, Miss Gross.

### Are there any Jesuits in particular who've had an impact on your life?

Father Adam DeLeon has always been there for students at Loyola. From day one, he makes an effort to connect with everyone on some level. He grew up in a similar way as most of us, which we talked about on retreats. Coming from that experience, Fr. DeLeon understands a lot of us. And even then, if he doesn't understand you, he'll try to.

\*Smith was recently named as the top debater in the state of Michigan. He is the first Loyola student to earn that ranking.



Retablo de La Familia de la Virgen (woodwork art behind the altar at the Parish of San Pedro)



Fr. Murtaugh with a painting of the Virgin Mary by Br. Bernardo Bitti, SJ (1548-1610)

By Fr. Charlie Murtaugh, SJ

Since August of 2018, I have been at the Parish of San Pedro in Lima, Peru. It is a colonial church dating back to the arrival of the first Jesuits to come from Europe. The Jesuits were sent by St. Francis Borgia, SJ, in the second wave of missionaries. The church that we are in is one of two so-called “confessionals of Lima,” where people come from all over to go to confession every day for most of the day. The fact that I lost my capacity to walk by walking too much on my previous assignments helps to keep me in the church and mostly in the confessional.

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic changed all this, but we hope that it will fully go away eventually. The church is downtown, and that means very few people live close by. The question is whether they will all come back after the pandemic is over. Will it ever be over, or will it just begin to fade with the passage of time?

Before I got to San Pedro, I was in Trujillo, Peru, at a parish that celebrated Mass twice daily during the week and three times on

Sundays. There were also two chapels with Masses on weekends. I had a Mass in a different place each weekday morning. Then I had to see to it that the place kept running—gathering supplies and legal documents, repairing broken things, etc. Sometimes there were funeral Masses or visits to sick people. In the afternoons, the parish office was open to prepare for baptisms, matrimonyes, and plenty of unexpected things. Several confessions and meetings of parish groups took place in the evenings. Three or four of us were there at a time.

Sometimes you hear teachers say that they have learned more from their students than their students have learned from them. This is certainly true in my case, and I think everybody feels something similar. I am favorably impressed with the number and quality of spontaneous groups that arise. Many of them are inspired by a patron saint, and people will organize an annual procession, complete with a festival; prepare and sell food; and then contribute to a worthy cause. If someone

in a group tries to say, “Instead of making 50 sandwiches, I will just donate money,” the answer is usually, “We want your active participation, too.” There are groups dedicated to Bible study, charismatic prayer, visiting the sick, choirs, liturgy, and more.

Working with the parish groups has helped my own prayer life. Some things I have done were just “doing my job,” such as saving the house when the sewers were being replaced on our street and the sewage started flooding us. That was just “doing my job,” but dealing with the people in a pastoral setting is really living. ✠



Fr. Charlie Murtaugh, SJ, is a Jesuit of the Midwest Province, originally from Chicago. He currently resides in Lima, Peru, where he serves at the Parish of San Pedro.

# A Beacon of Light

on the Rosebud Reservation

By Thomas Drexler

Everyone wants to keep their teeth in good shape for the long haul. The simplest way to do this is daily brushing and regular preventative dental care. For the past nine years, the St. Francis Mission (SFM) Dental Clinic has offered care to the Lakota people of the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The clinic began in 2013 after conversations between Fr. John Hatcher, SJ, then president of St. Francis Mission; Dr. Jack Boarini, a Loyola School of Dentistry alumnus; and Dr. Boarini's sons, who were visiting the reservation. To operate as a dental clinic, an LLC needed to be formed, consisting of three dentists from South Dakota. Today the LLC operates as a free, four-chair clinic serving the Lakota people. Each year, there are 20–25 clinic sessions, and over 1,200 patients are served. The clinic was forced to close during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it reopened in March 2021 and is once again ramping up its services.

The need is great; an American Dental Association study found that 90% of the Lakota people on the Rosebud Indian Reservation have chronic tooth decay or gum disease, and a 2014 Indian Health Services (IHS) survey found that preschool-aged Native American children had four times more cases of untreated tooth decay than non-Hispanic white children. Paul Knecht, executive director of the South Dakota Dental Association, says there is a "chronic shortage of dental providers, and there are no private practices on the reservations. Most oral



health care is provided through IHS, and they have challenges in budgeting and recruiting providers."

The SFM Dental Clinic is vital to the people on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Knecht calls it a "beacon of light."

Clinic director and registered dental hygienist Marty Jones, who has spent 40 years serving this population, says that one advantage of having the clinic on the reservation is accessibility and trust. "We provide a service similar to private settings, but they don't have to jump through hoops to get these services," says Jones. "There is also an element of trust that exists between the clinic's staff and volunteers and those receiving care." Jones also spoke of the clinic's emphasis on education and preventative care: "We can't rely on drilling and filling to get us out of this dental health problem." Besides Jones, the staff includes a dental assistant and a receptionist/billing clerk, the latter due to a grant. Jones and her small staff are all members of the Sicangu Lakota Nation.

Rosalee Whirlwind Soldier was incredibly happy when she learned of the dental clinic. Though two of her teeth needed to be pulled, four decaying teeth were able to be saved. Whirlwind Soldier is thrilled by the clinic's impact on the community, saying, "My beautiful Native people have smiles now."

The clinic relies on the generosity of volunteer dentists and dental hygienists who

come from across the country. Jeff Olson, DDS, a member of the LLC, says the goal is to have a dentist working at the clinic daily. "The need is so great we could have three dentists seven days week," says Dr. Olson, a 1988 graduate of Creighton University's School of Dentistry.

Dr. Olson volunteers four times a year, often supervising dental students from Creighton. In addition to working in the clinic, volunteers learn about and experience Lakota culture. Another volunteer and member of the LLC, Chuck Scanlon, DDS, Creighton Dental '08, spoke of getting involved in the community while there, including sharing meals with students at Sapa Un Catholic Academy.

Father James Kubicki, SJ, president of St. Francis Mission, is proud of the clinic's success. "We are able to provide services that are otherwise not available to people here, like root canals, crowns, and dentures." He credits "the leadership and hard work of Marty Jones [and] the many volunteer dentists and hygienists and dental students who come from all over the country." ✠



Thomas Drexler is a major gifts officer for the Midwest Jesuits and former executive director of the Ignatian Spirituality Project. He is a graduate of Marquette University High School, Creighton University, and Washington Theological Union.

# A Joyous Journey:

## Fr. Karl Kiser's Mission as Provincial

By Quentin Maguire

On June 14, 2021, at the end of an otherwise routine midday Mass at the Midwest Jesuits' province office, Fr. Glen Chun, SJ, socius of the Midwest Province, rose to read a short letter from Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus. The letter read:

*"Confident in the Lord with regard to your integrity and prudence, I choose and name you Provincial of the United States Midwest Province. In doing so, I confer on you all the authority, rights, and privileges which belong to this office according to our Institute, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. I pray that the Eternal Lord in His Wisdom will guide and assist you in all things to His greater honour and glory. Amen."*

With that, the leadership of the 400-plus Jesuits and 80-plus works of the province changed hands from Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ, to Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ.

Father Paulson, appointed in 2014, heads to Washington, D.C., to assume the presidency of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States this fall. Father Kiser is now the second provincial of the Midwest Province, which formed in 2017 after the former Chicago-Detroit and Wisconsin Provinces were joined.

Father Kiser describes his childhood in

the small town of Menominee, Michigan, as idyllic. Raised in a pious, Catholic family, he admired the faith-filled, service-and-justice-oriented priests and nuns he encountered in his formative years at Catholic schools on both sides of the Menominee River. The third of four children, he was born to a truck driver father and a mother who worked in health care. "I was the slacker," Fr. Kiser jokes, noting that his brother and two sisters followed their mother into careers in health care. It wasn't until later—after earning a bachelor's in political science from Michigan State University—that he discerned his vocation to the Society of Jesus. He entered the former Detroit Province on August 30, 1986.

During his formation, Fr. Kiser taught at Colegio Cristo Rey in Tacna, Peru, and with *Fe y Alegria* (Faith and Joy) schools in Lima, where he learned to speak Spanish. He studied at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid, Spain; and the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 14, 1997.

Father Kiser served as superior of the Jesuit novitiate in Berkley, Michigan, and then at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy for one year, before becoming the president of the school from 2002 through 2016. Prior to his appointment as provincial,

Father Brian Paulson, SJ (left), poses with Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ (right), at Fr. Kiser's installation Mass on June 14, 2021.

Fr. Kiser was pastor at Church of the Gesu in University Heights, Ohio.

"Father Kiser inspires others by living our companionship with Jesus in an open and authentic way," said Father General Sosa. "He collaborates well with others and left many friends behind when he moved from the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy to the pastor's office at Gesu Parish in Cleveland. He is a discerning leader. I am confident that, with the help of a good team, he will provide excellent spiritual, personal, and apostolic governance."

Of his mission as provincial, Fr. Kiser said, "I've found that in journeying with people, you help them, but also there's a deep personal joy that comes from it. One of the things I have found rewarding in my life is in finding ways to explain the faith in easy, simple ways. I've found that people are very, very receptive."

As Fr. Kiser looks forward to this accompaniment with lay people, he also looks forward to his work with fellow Jesuits. "I think I will find the most life in the company of my brother Jesuits on this journey over the next six years," he said. ✠



**Quentin Maguire** is director of communications for the Midwest Jesuits. He has worked with the Jesuits for over 12 years.



# The Ministry of a Presidency:

## Midwest Jesuits Who Lead Universities

By Grace Rice

For all the work the Jesuits do in Ignatian spirituality, social justice, and on the frontiers, the Society of Jesus is perhaps most well-known for education. What began



Father Michael Graham, SJ, served as Xavier's president for 21 years.

with St. Ignatius of Loyola establishing the Roman College (now known as the Pontifical Gregorian University) in 1551 endures today, as the United States is home to 27 Jesuit colleges and universities, which compete on a national level in academics, research, and athletics. While some of these institutions are now led by laypeople, they all share a strong foundation that was put in place by Jesuit leadership, and they continue to be guided by Jesuit values.

Midwest Jesuit Fr. Michael Graham, who arrived at Xavier University in 1984 and assumed the presidency in 2001, retired this year, and he is succeeded by Dr. Colleen Hanycz, who he notes is a "Xavier person already."

Notably, the process of missioning a Jesuit to serve as a university president has changed

significantly over the years. Any Jesuit who serves as university president is held to the same standards in terms of background and experience as a lay candidate would be. Father Graham's Jesuit vocation was always tied to his desire to work in higher education, as he entered the Society midstream through his doctoral work. Entering a religious order while pursuing a doctorate might seem like an unconventional choice, but his formation as a Jesuit only served to strengthen his abilities as a leader.

"Discernment skills have been indispensable—both individually and collectively," Fr. Graham says. "At my best, I've brought a decidedly pastoral dimension to my work here always, whether as a faculty member or in this office."

Father John Fitzgibbons, SJ, had also hoped to be an educator, but he had not initially considered serving in administration. After serving as director of the Jesuit humanities program at Creighton University and then director of novices in St. Paul, Minnesota, Fr. Fitzgibbons headed to the University of San Francisco in 2006, where he planned to transition back to college teaching. Subsequently, the university's president at the time, Fr. Stephen Privett, SJ, invited Fr. Fitzgibbons to undertake an "administrative internship," which led to Fr. Fitzgibbons serving as an academic dean and vice president for administration. Father Fitzgibbons then became assistant provost for faculty development at Marquette University, and in 2012, he took office as the 24th president of Regis University in Denver. He notes that while he is not actively engaged



Fr. John Fitzgibbons, SJ, president of Regis University

Photo: Brett Stakeim

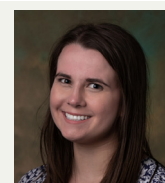
in pastoral ministry, the role of president is "a very priestly and Jesuit ministry." Father Fitzgibbons says, "At the heart of this service is the requirement that one helps the faculty and staff teach students of all ages and backgrounds to be critical thinkers, faithful persons, and lifelong learners."

With nearly 4,000 colleges and universities in the U.S., only a small fraction of students each year decide to pursue a degree from a Jesuit institution, and the Jesuit universities don't take the responsibility of educating those students lightly. With all the challenges facing higher education, Fr. Fitzgibbons says, "The challenge is the hope. We form critical thinkers and communicators who become good and faithful citizens. There is no more noble vocation." ✝

### Other Living Midwest Jesuits Who Have Served or Are Currently Serving as President of a Jesuit University

Fr. Lawrence Biondi, Fr. Albert DiUlio, Fr. Daniel Hendrickson,\* Fr. Timothy Lannon, Fr. William Leahy,\* Fr. Richard Salmi, and Fr. Robert Wild

\*Currently serving



Grace Rice is a journalist based in Chicago and a graduate of Boston College, where she was editor-in-chief of *The Rock*. Currently, she works as assistant director of communications for the Midwest Jesuits.



Patrick Hyland, SJ, has spent his regency teaching Spanish and coaching football at Christ the King Jesuit College Prep in Chicago.

# A Calling Built on Community and Laughter

By Patrick Hyland, SJ

Every year, eighth graders in Cleveland have several options of where to attend high school. Luckily, in eighth grade, my parents let me choose where I would attend. When I got to Saint Ignatius High School, I remember being impressed with the Jesuits there. I was struck by how different they were from my parish priest. I was surprised that priests could be so human as to tell jokes and laugh. This would be the first of several encounters with Jesuits that would seal my own fate as a member of the Society of Jesus.

I did not have a Jesuit as a teacher until my freshman year at Boston College. Like with high school, what I saw in the Jesuits at BC was a prayerfulness and commitment to the Church combined with a sense of humor and ability to laugh at oneself. At the time, I had no idea that these encounters would become the seeds for further discernment. I did not seriously consider becoming a Jesuit

myself until my senior year of college. For me, discernment and growth took time. I ended up working with the Jesuits at Hogar de Cristo in Ecuador and then at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy before I finally entered the novitiate. I came to the realization that if I were to become a Jesuit, I would still have opportunities to work in jobs and places that I knew would be fulfilling.

My experience in formation so far has proven this to be true. I spent the last three years teaching and coaching at Christ the King Jesuit College Prep in Chicago. I found it interesting that some students had the same questions that I had when first considering life with the Jesuits. "What is it like living in community? Who is in charge? Do you have to ask permission to do *everything*?" Life in community has been an unexpected grace in my journey thus far. To live with others who are both committed to the Gospel and

who possess a sense of humor inspires and grounds me. As formative as academic studies can be, I more often find myself recalling time spent with other Jesuits than lectures or philosophical arguments. If St. Ignatius of Loyola or Christ were to visit my community, I hope that they would not be disappointed. Like any group of people, we have our flaws, but focused on Christ, the goal becomes more evident. It is not about us; it is entering the lives of others that matters. ✠



Patrick Hyland, SJ, is a Jesuit scholastic in theology studies at Comillas Pontifical University in Spain. He recently completed his regency at Christ the King Jesuit College Prep in Chicago.

# A Joyful Mission

## Fr. John Coakley's Passion for Retreat Ministry

By Nora Dabrowski

When you meet Fr. John "Jack" Coakley, SJ, there are a few things you'll learn in the first few minutes: He is an Irishman who loves to talk; he sees God's work in his everyday life as a Jesuit; and he hopes that you meet God through him.

Father Coakley was raised on the South Side of Chicago. His father died eight days before he was to begin his freshman year at Saint Ignatius College Prep, and Fr. Coakley's mother was unsure how she would be able to cover his tuition without his father's income and with four other children to support. At the wake, Jesuit Frs. Laurence Barry and Raymond Grant, the school's president and principal, told Mrs. Coakley that if Jack could maintain at least a B+ GPA, they would cover his tuition and fees. Father Coakley recognized this as a true gift and worked hard to honor it.

More than 18 scholastics taught at Ignatius during Fr. Coakley's time there, and he was impressed by the generosity of these Jesuits. During his senior retreat, he realized with certainty that God wanted him; he had a gut feeling that he was meant to be a Jesuit.

With this gut feeling and certainty in his heart, Fr. Coakley entered the Society of Jesus in 1957, right after high school. So many men were entering the Society then that he was sent to the novitiate in Florissant, Missouri, which was part of the former Missouri Province.

Father Coakley received his BA and MDiv from Loyola University Chicago and his MA in counseling from Boston College. Early in his formation, he imagined himself teaching history, only to find that teaching was not his gift. As he spent his regency working at the newly opened Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis, he discovered his



Fr. John Coakley celebrating Mass at St. Xavier High School, where he served from 1976 to 1984

Photo: Courtesy of St. Xavier High School archives

passion for retreat work with young adults. He enjoyed walking with students as they grew in their faith.

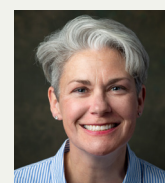
Following ordination, Fr. Coakley was assigned to the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford, Ohio, to work on the youth retreat program. It was a good fit, given his gift of connecting people with their faith. He enjoyed seeing young people "sneak up on God" and realize God's presence in their lives.

His joyful mission of connecting young people with their personal faith and the Lord continued in the late '70s and early '80s, as he got involved with campus ministry at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati and Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois.

Father Coakley put his gifts to daily use when he was missioned as chaplain of Loyola University Medical Center in the cardiology department for 20 years. He loved the work, as he was able to offer support in those moments people felt scared and nervous. He visited every patient, regardless of whether or not they were Catholic. When visiting patients, he always took a moment before

entering the room and, in prayer, asked that this person meet God through him. Father Coakley guided patients to rely on their faith for strength and comfort during trying times. Patients connected with Fr. Coakley because of the way he demonstrated such joy in living his faith.

Father Coakley speaks to God in daily prayer, sharing his heart. He says that when he sees God in his next life, and God asks him his story, he will be able to see where God was with him along the way. Father Coakley has been a member of the Jesuit community at Colombiere Center since 2010, where he prays for the Church and Society, as well as the Midwest Province's friends and benefactors. ✠



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.

ORDINATION



## ORDINATION 2021

Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

— Proverbs 19:21





**On June 12, eight Midwest Jesuits were ordained to the priesthood** by the Most Reverend Jerome ListECKi, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee. Watch the video recording of the ceremony at [JesuitsMidwest.org/Ordination21](https://JesuitsMidwest.org/Ordination21)

(Opposite, above, from left) front row: Jesuit Frs. Hung Nguyen and Trevor Rainwater; middle row: Jesuit Frs. Robert Karle, Thomas Bambrick, Jeffrey Sullivan, and Jeffrey Dorr; back row: Jesuit Frs. Garrett Gundlach and Aaron Malnick



**Fr. Thomas A. Bambrick, SJ**

- Born: October 8, 1980
- Entered Society: August 28, 2010
- As a Jesuit: Father Bambrick has engaged in ministry with immigrants and incarcerated youth in Minneapolis and with college students and those experiencing homelessness in Detroit; performed pastoral work in a hospital and retirement center in New York; taught at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Milwaukee; offered spiritual direction; served as a deacon at St. Patrick Parish in Oakland, California; and served on the leadership team of the Jesuit Anti-Racism Sodality.
- Assignment Following Ordination: Father Bambrick will serve as director of Jesuit Mission and Identity at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School-Twin Cities.

I am filled with gratitude for so many companions on this journey. I have been accompanied, formed, and sometimes carried along by so many people who offer me their love, prayers, and support.

Truly, I would not be who I am today, and I would not be able to do what God calls me to, without the immense community of support around me. And hopefully I am able to share some of the abundant love and companionship that I have received with others along the way. I give thanks for all of you who have shown me glimpses of the kingdom of God—the beloved community where all are welcomed, embraced, and cared for. I look forward to working together with you and with God to build this kingdom.



**Fr. Jeffrey R. Dorr, SJ**

- Born: August 13, 1984
- Entered Society: August 29, 2009
- As a Jesuit: Father Dorr taught at Creighton Prep in Omaha, worked at the Jesuit Archives and Research Center in St. Louis, ministered to men and women in addiction recovery, and served as a deacon at St. Columba Catholic Church in Oakland, California.
- Assignment Following Ordination: Father Dorr will serve as associate pastor of Gesu Parish in Detroit.

“I require a You to become; becoming I, I say You.” As I joyfully contemplate my vocation and my ordination, these words of the early 20th century Jewish philosopher Martin Buber resonate deeply with me. Ever since my parents brought me into this world, I have been becoming, and I have never—not for a single moment—done so on my own. You, to whom I am so grateful, is the God of love, the God who is love. At the same time, I am so

grateful to you, the people who God has been working in and through. So, what have you done? What has God done through you? You—family, friends, teachers, coworkers, students, and benefactors—have inspired, supported, challenged, accompanied, and loved me.

How do I say “thank you” when the gift that I have received is nothing short of everything and all that I am? The best I can imagine is offering the person I am becoming. So many Jesuits have been recognized for a diversity of incredible accomplishments. Perhaps I will be as well, but, if God’s name can be heard through me, I hope it is first and foremost through the way that I live and love.



## Fr. Garrett P. Gundlach, SJ

- Born: June 5, 1987
- Entered Society: August 28, 2010
- As a Jesuit: Father Gundlach has engaged in ministry with the Lakota people on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and with migrants and refugees in Chicago, Paris, and Beirut, Lebanon.
- Assignment Following Ordination: Father Gundlach will return to the Middle East to engage in pastoral ministry in Jordan, as well as volunteering and ongoing Arabic studies. This fall, he will return to Beirut to study Muslim-Christian dialogue at Saint Joseph University.

Gratitude can begin no better than with the hundreds of lunch sandwiches and weekend or weeknight pancakes that my parents made for us boys, each a small example of their huge love that has carried me here. I cannot thank them enough for the ways they built, nourished, and steered our little “house Church” into larger engagement with—and service to—the world around us. I am

grateful for the dozens of families and friends of these larger communities, the other families that surrounded my own family: grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, classmates, and the after-church donut-social friends, these families who not only helped my own world feel bigger, but also safer. There’s no way I could live so comfortably as a Jesuit—whose “home is the whole world”—were it not for these widening and encouraging circles of family and friends.

I am grateful to my mentors-become-friends and my inspirations-become-companions, who have guided my adult life. From Boy Scouts to St. Catherine’s High School to Marquette University campus ministry to Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest and more, I can’t thank them enough, as they’ve endured my flakiness and over-persistence, my marathon questions and unflagging energy. So often they helped me to direct this somewhere good—such as prayer, community, simplicity, service, and celebration.

And I am grateful to my friends-become-inspirations who have been my companions in this adventure of vocation and of discovering God’s dreams for our world. Blood brothers,



Jesuit brothers, family-becoming-friends and coworkers, thanks for the laughter in light moments and honesty in heavy ones, for patience in my self-righteous and arrogant moments, and encouragement in my weakest ones. Let’s keep going.

## Fr. Robert E. Karle, SJ

- Born: April 25, 1985
- Entered Society: August 28, 2010
- As a Jesuit: Father Karle performed apostolic work at an ESL school, a L’Arche community, and the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota; engaged in various forms of ministry (including teaching yoga at Fordham University and at a Bronx food pantry) in New York City; taught religious studies and yoga at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis; cofounded the Ignatian Yoga organization; and served as a deacon at St. Ignatius Parish in San Francisco.
- Assignment Following Ordination: Father Karle will serve as associate pastor at St. Mary’s Student Parish in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to my family, friends, Jesuit mentors, and colleagues who have accompanied me throughout this journey. When I consider the Ignatian principle of “finding God in all things,” I first and foremost recognize God’s presence in the communities and

relationships that have shaped my life. Amidst the many ups and downs, challenges, and forks in the road, I have always felt the unceasing support and care of the people around me. I wish to express my love and gratitude for my four grandparents and my great-grandmother whom I grew up very close to and who imbued in my family and me what I consider to be at the heart of the Catholic tradition—love, mercy, table fellowship, and servant leadership. May they rest in peace.

I appreciate the way Jesuit life allows me to be myself and to carve my own path while progressively incorporating into this 500-year-old global institution of the Society of Jesus. Rather than being forced to conform to a cookie-cutter mold, I’ve been encouraged to live as my authentic self and to share my unique gifts and challenges alike. For, above all, authentic self-giving is the only way a vocation can flourish. Surely, it also involves a willingness to be formed by the other and to let go of thoughts and behavior patterns that no longer serve. As we say, it is both a freedom from and freedom for. Thank you to all those who support our freedom to carry on the mission and ministries of the Society



of Jesus. I am grateful for the ways my community of friends and family helped me realize my areas of growth and brought out the best in me.

**Fr. Aaron B. Malnick, SJ**

- Born: May 28, 1979
- Entered Society: August 25, 2012
- As a Jesuit: Father Malnick ministered with the Missionaries of Charity in St. Louis; taught theology and worked in advancement at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois; and served as a deacon at St. Mary of the Assumption in Brookline, Massachusetts.
- Assignment Following Ordination: Father Malnick will serve at Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Elmo, Minnesota.

As I am deserving of nothing, You have given me everything. Help me to reciprocate this grace. These words bubbled up to my lips during my last retreat as I took a long, loving look back over my years of formation—both before and throughout my time in the Society of Jesus. From my Polish grandmother, who always “joked” about my brother or me becoming a priest, to the strong faith

foundation given to me by my parents, Greg and Judy; from my grad school education at Loyola University Chicago—where I met some of my first Jesuits—to Jesus Christ, who forgave me in the confessional at St. Peter’s Church in Chicago; from the novitiate staff—Frs. Tom, Charlie, and Chris—to all of the women and men I have ministered to and who have ministered to me over these years of formation (from the inmates at the Ramsey County Jail to the parishioners at Church of the Gesu in Cleveland and from the guests of St. Anthony’s Shelter in the South Bronx to the students of Loyola Academy); from friends who have believed in and encouraged me to follow Christ’s call to benefactors both known and unknown... I have been deserving of nothing, and yet, you have given me everything. I pray that my priesthood reciprocates this grace.



**Fr. Hung T. Nguyen, SJ**

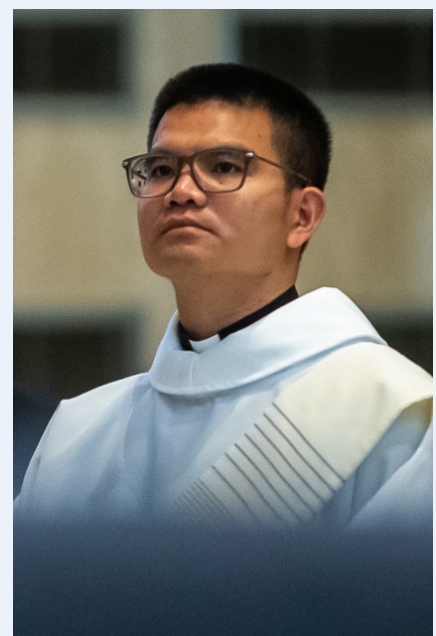
- Born: November 20, 1987
- Entered Society: August 19, 2006
- As a Jesuit: Father Nguyen taught at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago; accompanied migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border; was involved in spiritual direction ministry and Holy Week mission trips with students at Colegio San Bartolomé La Merced in Bogotá, Colombia; ministered at San Quentin State Prison in California; and served as a deacon at the Vietnamese Martyrs Catholic Community of Divine Mercy Parish in Oakland, California.
- Assignment Following Ordination: Father Nguyen will serve as parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish in El Paso, Texas.

In January of 2017, I arrived in Bogotá, Colombia, for theology studies. During the first week, we visited the Jesuit church on the main plaza, which was in the late stages of a renovation project. That day, the workers were laying the bricks in patterns to cover up the bare floor. The sanctuary area was

being dug up, exposing the various layers of bricks and stones which detailed the stories of the 400-year-old building. I was privileged to see what lay hidden underneath the floor before the project’s completion.

As I complete my 15th year in formation, culminating in ordination to the priesthood, I give thanks to God for having blessed me with many gifts in my life. Particularly, I give thanks for my family, my friends, the Society of Jesus, and the many benefactors who are the bricks and stones that have helped build my life as a Jesuit. The limitless support from you all, which is often unseen, has become firm ground for me to stand on in this vocation of service and love. I am in a privileged place to recognize the precious gift of the human, spiritual, and intellectual formation that I have received, made possible by your generosity. Many have also offered countless prayers, blessings, and words of encouragement for me in my formation. In the name of our loving and generous God, may you receive the abundant graces to live in peace, love, and joy.

Just as that church floor was meant to hold up the mystery of the Body of Christ, I ask that you pray



that my priesthood will be a humble service to the people of God. Please know of my prayers for all of you.



## Fr. Trevor J. Rainwater, SJ

- Born: January 2, 1988
- Entered Society: August 28, 2010
- As a Jesuit: Father Rainwater taught theology to freshman at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy.
- Assignment Following Ordination: Father Rainwater will continue graduate studies for his licentiate in liturgical history at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

I am extremely grateful to all the benefactors who helped make my life and the lives of so many other Jesuits possible. Just as Jesuits bring people to Christ, so does everyone who works at our institutions. The guidance of lay colleagues, who are willing to continue to spread the message of how transformative having a personal encounter with Christ can be, is especially important with Jesuit numbers decreasing at some of our institutions.

With that in mind, I am also thankful for those who have been part of my formation from St. Paul to St. Louis and from Detroit to Toronto. As much as I was formed by God throughout formation, I was also formed by individuals, both inside and outside of my Jesuit community, who shaped me to be a better minister in the Lord's vineyard as a newly ordained priest.

I am grateful to my family—the foundation of my vocation. While going to Mass together and praying at meals strengthened our bond, it also laid the foundation for experiencing Christ in Scripture, which is a key point of the Spiritual Exercises. Additionally, it has been through this strong family unit which I was a part of that I hope to share with others with whom I live in community.

Most importantly, I am grateful to God for allowing me to be of service to others and to help to show others, in my own tiny way, how God has been generous to me and how I must share and discuss this gift.



## Fr. Jeffrey D. Sullivan, SJ

- Born: November 19, 1980
- Entered Society: August 29, 2009
- As a Jesuit: Father Sullivan has served as youth minister at St. Procopius Parish in Chicago; a teacher and campus minister at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois; and a prison chaplain at the women's Federal Correctional Institute in Dublin, California.
- Assignment Following Ordination: Father Sullivan will serve as a campus minister at Creighton University.

Few words can reflect my Jesuit formation better than the words that Jesus speaks to his disciples in John's Gospel: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." While Jesuit formation has not always been easy or linear, I have had the great grace of having so many people make sacrifices in their lives for me on my way to priestly ordination.

My parents, Dave and Karen, are the exemplars of the love that Jesus expounds upon in John's

Gospel. Sacrificing much—their time and treasure—for the sake of providing my brother and me with 16 years of Catholic education, they have modeled this grace in a very humble and loving way (doing so with our signature Indiana twang and Hoosier hospitality).

My vocation has also been sustained by loving families who have opened the doors to their homes and hearts for me throughout my Jesuit vocation. My brother Daniel, my sister-in-law ("in-law" does not feel right) Kendra, and their children, Jonathan, Gabriella, Anna Kate, and Timothy, have loved me into being. My aunt and uncle—Linda Ryza and Deacon Pete—have taught me how to be a minister of love and service. My college friends, Neal and Hannah Reykdal and Jason and Sara Beste, have invited me into the very sacred role of being a godfather to Owen Reykdal and Xavier Beste. I am grateful for how they open their hearts daily for others.

And, finally, my Jesuit vocation would not be possible without the following companions who have laid down their life for me these 12 years: Fr. Patrick Gilger, SJ; Fr. Joshua Peters, SJ; all the unnamed but unforgettable Jesuits in



my life; Elaine Mueller; Diana Valenzuela and the St. Procopius Youth Group; and my friends and colleagues at Creighton University.

# CELEBRATING THE 2021 JUBILARIANS

In 2021, we congratulate the Midwest Jesuit jubilarians who are celebrating special anniversaries of their entrance into the Society of Jesus. Each Jesuit's path is different, but they are united by their vocation to faithfully serve the Lord. We offer prayers of thanksgiving for their service, which has spanned not only across the country, but across the world. We are especially grateful to honor our golden jubilarians, who are celebrating 50 years in the Society. These Jesuits offer reflections and wisdom from their ministry over the past five decades.

## CONTEMPLATION TO ATTAIN THE LOVE OF GOD

By Fr. Philip Chmielewski, SJ

The Third Point in St. Ignatius of Loyola's "Contemplation to Attain the Love of God" in the Spiritual Exercises reads: "Consider how God works and labors for me in all creatures upon the face of the earth, that is, He conducts Himself as one who labors."

Some notes connect this point with the divine encounters in my years in the Society.

At the start was the Word. One teaches how to use words—to persuade, to forgive, to promise. In learning forgiveness, both students and teacher learn compassion.

Frequent engagement with Jesus's present-day disciples has been restorative, vivifying, endearing, and fun: Jules Toner in Detroit, Ray Bertrand in Boston, Hans Winfried Juengling in Frankfurt, Angel Tejerina in Salamanca, Paul

Bernadicou in Los Angeles, the Carmelite Sisters in Santa Fe, Mother Teresa's Sisters in Tangiers and Hong Kong. And the array of Jesuits in my home province who, whether I was distant or local, offered both challenge and support. All these have labored with the Lord for his people.

How the Lord sorrows now! In this world of war and woe; of persons and entire peoples harmed, hungry, helpless; of persons marginalized and forgotten on the West and South sides and near the steel mills, the Lord sorrows. He is grieved with active troops or returned veterans, with Dreamer students, with Navajo wracked by disdain



Fr. Philip Chmielewski, SJ

and disease, with jailed teens, with peaceful demonstrators hungering for justice. The Lord now amid the darkness sorrows, dies, descends.

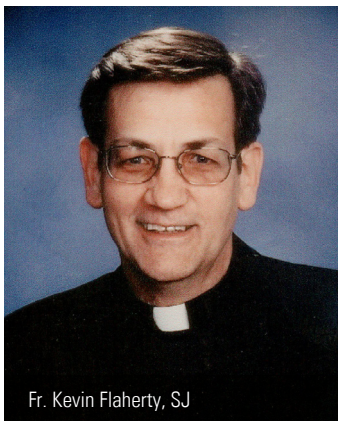
Teaching and pursuing research in the field of engineering ethics has led repeatedly to an amazement at the Lord's delightful labor as seen in the biosphere, in grand or tiny physics and within the human ingenuity in

crafting structures and devices. He labors as well in the compassionate hope emergent through the steady efforts of engineers, impelled by the spirit, to shape a gentler, more caring world.

## FIFTY YEARS A JESUIT

By Fr. Kevin Flaherty, SJ

The Loyola House Jesuit Novitiate opened in 1971, with a formation team led by Jules Toner and Howard Gray. I was a part of the first class to enter the novitiate, housed in a former parish convent in Berkley, Michigan. Little did I realize how significant those first years in the Society of Jesus would be for my Jesuit life. My novitiate experience gelled during my



Fr. Kevin Flaherty, SJ

long experiment in Belize and Honduras. Since then, the intertwined themes of following Jesus through Ignatian spirituality, caring for others through psychology, and seeking justice with a commitment to the poor have shaped my journey in the Society.

I am blessed to be a member of two provinces. Upon completing the counseling psychology for ministry program at Loyola University Chicago, I came to Peru for regency. After theology studies in Berkeley, California, I was

missioned to St. Ignatius Parish in Chicago before spending six years in our parish in El Agustino, a poor district of Lima, Peru. In discernment during tertianship in Lima, I opted for further graduate studies in pastoral psychology in Chicago to better serve the Church of Peru. During my own formation I never imagined that I'd be involved in the formation of others, but now I've spent over 20 years in formation in Lima and with the first studies program at Loyola University Chicago. I also have been blessed with weekend pastoral work in El Agustino, spiritual and psychological accompaniment of priests and sisters, teaching, and workshops. So much of what I share here in Peru is thanks to so many people and countless gifts received from the Midwest Jesuits.

**“WORD” IS THE WORD**

By Fr. Thomas Krettek, SJ



Fr. Thomas Krettek, SJ

“Oh, it is just a disagreement about words,” is what one hears as a way of dismissing the dispute in conversations regarding important issues. However, this undermines the foundation of the Church and, consequently, the ministry of the Society of Jesus. Both Formulas of the Institute ground the purpose of the Society in the ministry of the “word of God.” That word of God is the word of John’s prologue,

the word of Scripture and tradition, and the word manifested through the sacraments and all reality.

While it may be thought that my word “word” derives from my penchant for puns or plays on words, it really derives from having spent a good portion of

my life in the Society on teams ministering in the humanistic, philosophical, spiritual, and academic formation of newly vowed members of the Society. I have learned from team members the significance of the word

of God for the Society’s ministry of preaching, teaching, and spiritual conversation/direction, as well as for my own spiritual life. Some disagreements about words are disagreements about life and salvation and are not to be treated glibly. As Jesus says, “The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.” Isaiah expresses it: “The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word,” which finds its Eucharistic expression in the assembly’s response before Communion, “Only say the word and my soul shall be healed.”

**GOD’S WAYS, NOT MINE**

By Fr. James Kubicki, SJ



Fr. James Kubicki, SJ

During the summer after my junior year at Marquette University High School, I went on a camping trip with Fr. John Eagan, SJ, and five classmates. It changed my life. A seed was planted that grew into my vocation. At the end of the trip, driving back to Milwaukee, we gave awards to one another—best swimmer, best diver, best cook. The award I received was “Worry Wart of 1969”! I had spent the trip worrying about various potential disasters such as rain when we set up tents or cooked or hiked.

Later, when I applied to the Society of

Jesus, Fr. Eagan cautioned me. He said that if I wanted to be a Jesuit, I would have to learn not to worry so much because my future would involve a lot of unknowns. That has certainly been the case.

There’s a saying about making God laugh by telling God your plans. I have given God many things to laugh about. I entered the Jesuits planning to teach in an urban college prep high school like the one I attended. How many years have I done that? Zero.

God’s ways were not my ways. God’s plans were not mine, but they were so much better. Through the challenges and ministries of my 50 years as a Jesuit, I have grown in ways that I could never have imagined. And so, as I celebrate 50 years of surprises, I’m grateful to God and all the people who have prayed for and supported me.

**THE WORLD IS MY HOUSE**

By Fr. Theodore Munz, SJ



Fr. Theodore Munz, SJ

My Twitter profile reads: “Jesuit. Cyclist. Ride a Seven. Practical Visionary. Contemplative in Action. Team Player. Preach the Gospel.”

I am thankful for 50 years in the Society, for the people I know and have known, for the good apostolic works to which I have been assigned.

The words of the 32nd General Congregation of the Society of Jesus continuously inspire me. “What is it to be a companion of Jesus today? It is to engage, under the standard of the Cross, in the crucial struggle of our time: the struggle for faith and that struggle for justice which it includes.”

I am consoled to be a companion of the Lord, helping souls.



**Father James Murphy, SJ**, of the Irish Province, who is currently a professor at Loyola University Chicago, is also celebrating 50 years in the Society of Jesus.

Molly Schaus is a graduate of Boston College and two-time Olympic silver medalist.

# Going for the Gold

## Athletes draw on lessons from their Jesuit education to succeed in the Olympics and beyond

By Michael Austin

Pole vaulting entered Tim Mack's life by chance, as an alternative to long-distance running on his middle school track team. He continued to vault at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland, and while he enjoyed it, he wasn't very good by his own estimation. He never qualified for the state meet, and it wasn't until summer track after his senior year that any colleges showed interest. Even by the end of college, despite having improved, he was still just average.

But over the course of the following decade, he would draw on his high school experience to help him earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic team. Often alone during training sessions, he constantly reminded himself to work hard and stay focused.

"I definitely would not be where I am today if not for the education I received from the faculty and staff at Saint Ignatius," he says. "It truly laid the foundation of who I am, and

**SEEING HOW THINGS WORKED THERE GAVE ME THE COURAGE TO GO OUT AND TAKE A CHANCE, AND TRY TO DO SOMETHING BIG MYSELF.**

will become, which has allowed me to reach the highest goals I could ever imagine."

Tim Mack failed three times to make the Olympic team, but eventually, at age 31, he earned the right to represent the United States at the 2004 Games in Athens. He set

the bar high, at 5.95 meters (19 feet, 6¼ inches); if he could clear that height, he'd set an Olympic record. He missed on his first attempt, and again on his second. On his third and final try, he launched upward, extended his legs, curled his body, and sailed over the bar, winning gold—quite a feat for someone who doesn't even hold the pole vault record at his high school.

Today he prepares a new generation of athletes at SPIRE Institute and Academy in Geneva, Ohio, drawing on lessons he learned at Saint Ignatius. He tells himself to keep moving forward, keep his faith, treat others with respect, practice humility, and be a good role model. "I try to stay balanced in life, faith, and sport," he says.

Notably, NCAA Division I Jesuit university athletes graduate at a rate of 95.55 percent,

5.5 percent above the national average. Currently, Boston College is tied for seventh place among Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) schools, and the BC women's hockey team is one of the university's 12 teams with a perfect 100 percent graduation rate. That program includes U.S. Olympian Molly Schaus.

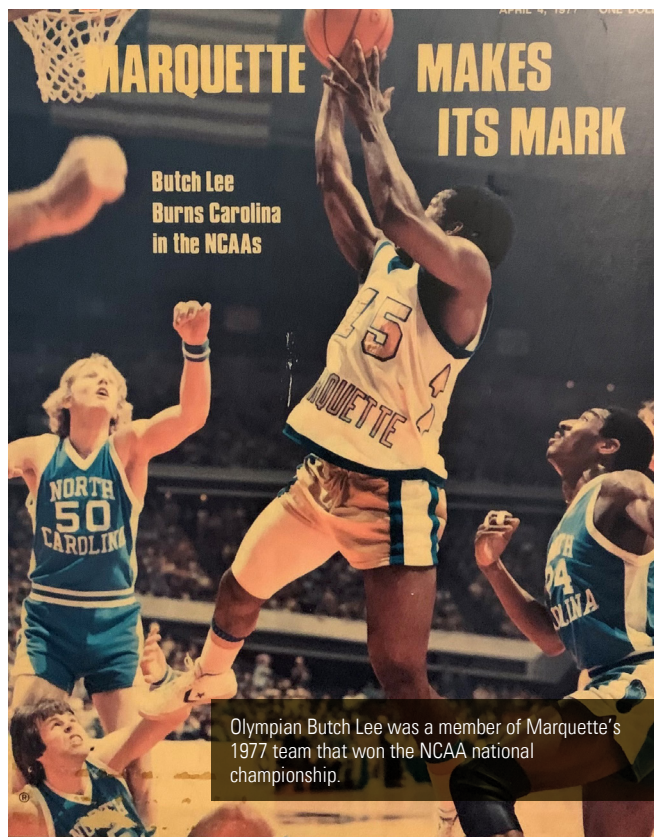
"We were often reminded that we were student-athletes, and that the word 'student' comes first in that combo," says Schaus, a goaltender who won silver medals in both the 2010 (Vancouver) and 2014 (Sochi) Olympics.

She had dreamed of playing Olympic hockey since fourth grade, when she watched the U.S. women's team win gold in 1998 (Nagano). Playing in college had been another dream, but she got much more than hockey and a degree in education from Boston College.

"I valued the Jesuits' commitment to 'men and women for others,' and was grateful for so many opportunities to volunteer throughout my four years on campus," she says. "I worked for a few different nonprofits after college as I was training for the 2014 Olympics, and my post-hockey career has centered around

community engagement and educational outreach."

Jesuit high schools and universities have been associated with Olympians for over a century, going back at least to when Marquette University's John Brennan competed in the 1908 London Games. Since then, nine others from Marquette have participated in the Olympics, including basketball players Dwayne Wade and Alfred "Butch" Lee, a member of the Puerto Rican national team at the 1976 Games in Montreal.



Tim Mack at a recent visit to Saint Ignatius High School

"Even though I arrived at Marquette with a lot of confidence, seeing how things worked there gave me the courage to go out and take a chance, and try to do something big myself," says Lee, who—after a successful career in the NBA—returned to his native San Juan, Puerto Rico. He coached multiple professional basketball teams there and has opened a sign printing business.

Lee graduated in 1978, and he recalls how much he loved reading philosophy at Marquette and how naturally it dovetailed with the

streetwise lessons of legendary coach Al McGuire. McGuire fulfilled his promise to Lee's parents that their son would graduate.

"I don't think at the time we realized the education we were getting from him," Lee says. "You want to win games, but he told us sometimes when you lose in a certain context, it makes you better. He talked about life not being fair and the importance of being professional and respectful. You add Al McGuire to Marquette, and you have an extraordinary education." ✝



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*.



# Sports for the Soul

By Mary Dolan and Maggie Palider

Sports have always been an important part of life for Fr. Patrick Kelly, SJ. He initially tried to set aside this passion, dismissing sports as “childish.” Eventually, though, he felt called to work at the intersection of sports and spirituality. Father Kelly is now a scholar-in-residence at the University of Detroit Mercy and, in 2012, he authored *Catholic Perspectives on Sports: From Medieval to Modern Times*. Father Kelly believes play is important to living a fully human life and developing the whole person, saying, “When a young person is participating in that embodied activity, that engagement also affects them at the level of their consciousness and at the level of spirit, which St. Paul says makes us capable of a relationship with the Holy Spirit.”

Father Brian Taber, SJ, also emphasizes the development of the whole person as a football coach and sports chaplain at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago. Father Taber believes that team interaction is key to developing character and achieving intellectual excellence on and off the field. When athletes lean on their peers to release frustrations and improve, they learn lessons that transfer into

other aspects of their lives. Father Taber also encourages *age quod agis*, or attentiveness to tasks. Athletic success, like spirituality, is bettered by practice. In addition to creating persistence in sports, *agis* furthers students’ persistence in faith, service, and education. He says, “When failure arises, I remind my students of the passion of Jesus Christ. His suffering taught us that we are capable of rising above all failures.”

Athletic formation and faith formation go hand in hand, according to Fr. Adam DeLeon, SJ. As a wrestling and rugby coach at Loyola High School in Detroit, Fr. DeLeon frequently reminds his student-athletes that their participation in sports is a way of honoring God. “What they’re doing is an expression of their gifts and talents,” he says. “That’s a way to give God glory and honor.” Father DeLeon believes in the importance of reflection, and as a coach, he gives student-athletes an opportunity to grow. He encourages them to reflect on their strengths, weaknesses, and contributions to the team.

Similarly, Fr. Cy Pinchak, SJ—cross country and track coach at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland—sees sports as an Examen. He

finds that running is a great way to reflect, saying it’s “an experience of encountering God in activity.” Father Pinchak also encourages the student-athletes to encounter God while they run. He says, “The passion they have for running is a manifestation of their passion for life in Christ.” Whether the athletes are running by themselves or as a team, the conversations that are shared with God, and with each other, can influence their life outside the sport. Father Pinchak believes that when society bridges the division between religion and other aspects of life, we are able to “pray without ceasing,” as St. Paul calls us to do. ✠



**Mary Dolan** is an intern for the Midwest Jesuits and a rising senior at Loyola University Chicago, where she is majoring in communications with a minor in photography.



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# Fostering Community, Furthering a Mission



Father Warren Sazama, SJ (right), has served as pastor at St. Thomas More Catholic Community since 2016.

By David Hart and Joe Whittle

There are more than 17,000 Catholic parishes across the United States, but it's difficult to imagine many of those being as tight-knit as St. Thomas More Catholic Community in St. Paul, Minnesota. Just from its name, St. Thomas More stands out—the Jesuit church and school aren't two separate entities; they form a community founded on relationships, a commitment to justice, and a shared love for their brothers and sisters in Christ.

St. Thomas More is home to both the only Jesuit elementary school and the only Jesuit parish in the state of Minnesota, and the community is led by pastor Fr. Warren Sazama, SJ, and associate pastor Fr. R. J. Fichtinger, SJ. Working alongside the school's principal, Patrick Lofton, these Jesuits strongly believe in walking alongside others on their faith journeys. St. Thomas More devotes time and resources to engaging their parishioners, with efforts like "Donut Sunday," the young adult ministry, and the STM Free Store.

Donut Sunday is popular among parishioners as it allows them to connect with new faces sitting beside them in the pews. After every Mass, Fr. Sazama challenges people to talk to someone new and is quick to remind them, "Don't cheat!" Parishioners and visitors alike appreciate the welcoming and inclusive environment. Lofton says, "When we talk about community, it is rooted in relationships, and [those] relationships are built and fostered over many years."

Leading such an engaged, unified group may seem like a daunting task, but for Fr. Sazama, it's a passion project, as he believes having strong parish ministry is "where the rubber hits the road."

Father Fichtinger spearheads the young adult ministry, which is committed to serving those in all stages of young adulthood, with a diverse group that includes doctors, lawyers, young parents, and graduate students, who come together to share their love for God and one another. One active member of the young adult ministry is Jessica Miller, a self-described "cradle Catholic," who spent months looking for a parish community where she and her son felt truly welcome. After her first experience at St. Thomas More, Miller thought to herself, "These people get me; this is our home."

The sense of community is not limited to just the official parishioners; St. Thomas More does extensive outreach to the marginalized, including owning the Holy Family Apartment, which provides shelter to those who may be threatened by deportation. The community provides companionship, food, and clothing to residents of the apartment. Additionally, the STM Free Store, which is run by parish volunteers, connects the church with the wider St. Paul community and provides clothing and toiletries to those in need.

Given this wide range of ministries, St. Thomas More has outgrown their facilities, prompting prolific fundraiser Fr. Sazama to launch a capital campaign to cover much-needed updates to the church and school

buildings. This includes improving accessibility and infrastructure and creating a new parish center for gathering and hosting ministry programs.

The parish's ministry continues beyond Minnesota borders with a sister parish, St. Francis Xavier Parish in the Kohima region of India. The two parishes are committed to maintaining a strong and supportive relationship. For example, St. Thomas More plans to donate \$10,000 from its capital campaign to help St. Francis Xavier construct a new church building.

The future of St. Thomas More Catholic Community is bright, with a steadily increasing membership, exciting developments, and meaningful new relationships being formed regularly. Lofton looks forward to the completion of the renovations and ongoing projects and the continuation of the community's growth, saying, "We're trying to build the Kingdom of God right here and now at 1065 and 1079 Summit Avenue." ✠



**David Hart** is an intern for the Midwest Jesuits and a senior at Loyola University Chicago, where he is majoring in advertising and public relations.



**Joe Whittle** is a former intern for the Midwest Jesuits and a graduate of Loyola University Chicago. This fall, he will start graduate school on full scholarship at the University of Cincinnati.

# In Memoriam

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



**Fr. Philip F. Dreckman, SJ**

April 20, 1928 – March 25, 2021

*“Phil enjoyed sunshine and reading history. Summer days would often find him outside with a good book.”*

Regent at St. Francis Mission and minister of the St. Francis Mission Jesuit community on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota; history teacher at Campion High School in Prairie du Chien, Wis., Marquette University High School in Milwaukee, and Cretin-Derham Hall in St. Paul, Minn.; pastoral ministry in the Twin Cities.



**Fr. Joseph B. Kappes, SJ**

May 24, 1939 – May 18, 2021

*“Joe liked to be with other people—whether that was playing cards, playing golf, visiting with his family, sharing a meal, or having coffee with parishioners after Mass.”*

History, psychology, and religion teacher and student counselor at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy; teacher and student counselor at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland; history, theology,

and psychology teacher, assistant to the president, student counselor, assistant principal, and college guidance counselor at St. John’s Jesuit High School in Toledo, Ohio; president of Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; associate pastor at Church of the Gesu in University Heights, Ohio, and St. Therese Catholic Church in Mooresville, N.C.; pastor of Gesu Parish in Toledo, Ohio; minister at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee.



**Fr. Paul B. Steinmetz, SJ\***

July 10, 1928 – April 14, 2021

*“Paul remained cheerful in the face of physical ailments and often flashed a broad smile. He was a lively companion in community and a dedicated Jesuit priest.”*

Regent and teacher at Red Cloud Indian School and pastoral minister at Holy Rosary Mission on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota; doctoral studies in the anthropology of religion at the University of Stockholm

in Sweden; visiting scholar; pastoral ministry in Wellington, Fla., Novato and Orinda, Calif., and Milwaukee.

\*Although Fr. Steinmetz was a member of the USA Central and Southern Province, he was applied to the USA Midwest Province since tertianship.



**Fr. Eugene Hattie, SJ\***

July 18, 1922 – June 12, 2021

*“As he continued with his mission in India, the Lord showed Fr. Hattie another field where ‘the harvest was plentiful, but the laborers were few.’”*

Teacher and hostel superintendent at Bettiah, in India; teacher, principal, and hostel superintendent at various other schools in India; pastor, school principal, and teacher at Barbigha, Bihar, India; assistant principal at St. Xavier’s High School in

Patna, India; mission procurator in Cleveland; teacher at St. Xavier’s High School in Lupungutu, India, St. Xavier’s High School in Delhi, India, Lake Secondary School in Mwanza, Tanzania, St. Peter’s Senior Secondary School in Kampala, Uganda, Nyenga Minor Seminary in Jinja, Uganda, and St. Paul’s Minor Seminary in Kabale, Uganda; teacher at major seminary and senior seminary in Wau, South Sudan; teacher at minor seminaries in Moroto and Tororo, Uganda; youth ministry, grant writing, and vocation promotion in Kampala, Uganda.

\*Father Hattie was a member of the former Chicago and Detroit Provinces; he transcribed to the Eastern Africa Province from Patna in 1987.



To read the full obituaries of Jesuits who have gone home to God, visit us at [www.jesuitsmidwest.org/In-Memoriam](http://www.jesuitsmidwest.org/In-Memoriam)

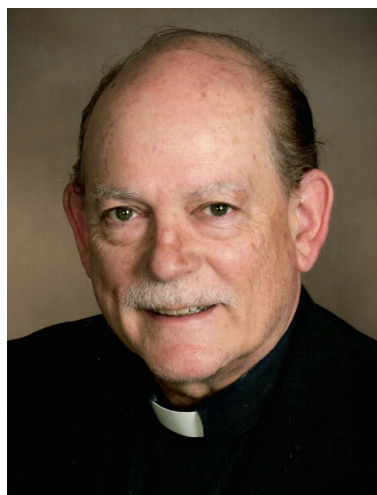


**Fr. William J. Ellos, SJ**

May 15, 1937 – July 8, 2021

*“Bill had a keen mind. He dedicated his professional life to teaching philosophy and advised numerous health care staff and patients about medical ethics.”*

Latin and Greek teacher at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee; instructor at Creighton University in Omaha; philosophy professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Marquette University in Milwaukee, Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., Loyola University Chicago, and St. Mary’s University in San Antonio; clinical professor of medical ethics at the University of Texas Health Sciences Complex in San Antonio; member of the Methodist Health Care Center Institutional Review Board; author.



**Fr. David L. Smith, SJ**

December 3, 1953 – July 9, 2021

*“David was creative, hardworking, and dedicated, always wanting to improve things and bring beauty to the environment in which he lived and ministered.”*

Art teacher, assistant principal, and superior at Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota; minister and professor of education at Creighton University in Omaha; director of Creighton University Retreat Center in Griswold, Iowa; pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption in Panama, Iowa, St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima in Portsmouth, Iowa, and St. Boniface in Westphalia, Iowa.



**Fr. Eugene F. Dwyer, SJ**

September 17, 1924 – July 16, 2021

*“Gene was a gentle, kind man who was attentive to the needs (and moods) of others. These traits made him an excellent student counselor, pastoral minister, guestmaster, and sub-minister.”*

Latin and math teacher at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago; English teacher, coach, and student counselor at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill.; sub-minister and guestmaster at Loyola University Chicago; community service at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich.

## ASSIGNMENTS



**Fr. Mark Carr, SJ**

has been named executive director at Jesuit Retreat House in

Oshkosh, Wisconsin.



**Fr. Tim Kesicki, SJ**

has been missioned to work for the Descendants Truth &

Reconciliation Foundation.



**Fr. Ben Osborne, SJ**

has been named superior of Arrupe House Jesuit Community and

will serve as associate pastor at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee.



**Fr. Warren Sazama, SJ**

has been named superior of Markoe House Jesuit Community in Minneapolis.



**Fr. Brad Schaeffer, SJ**

has been named superior of Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Michigan.

# Care for the Environment Alongside Care for the Person

By Kristine Mackey



Creighton Prep student Ryan Quinn (left) and teacher Trevor Herron (right) with the school's garden

Published in 2015, Pope Francis's second encyclical *Laudato si'* challenged us to care for our common home, the earth. His message was bold and urgent, calling us to act swiftly, reject blind consumerism, abandon irresponsible development, and reconsider the many ways in which we can care for our planet.

Many projects at our Jesuit schools are in alignment with *Laudato si'*, and students are leading the way.

Gesu Catholic School in Detroit began to improve their "community green" in 2018, building a playground and a labyrinth, installing picnic tables, and creating a safe green space within their courtyard. Grants from United Auto Workers (UAW)—GM and Ford—bolstered the efforts.

Led by science teacher Kathleen Barrett and volunteer Anita Sevier, the students began to research clean energy, learning that asthma was prevalent in 8% of the population nationally, 21% of the population of Michigan, and 27% of the population of Detroit. They even realized that four students among the 10 in their project group suffered from serious asthma. This was the catalyst for their solar project, and they sprang into action.

This new Solar Club produced a video on the topic, which led to financial support from UAW allies, Michigan Interfaith Power & Light, and others and eventually resulted in the installation of an array of 24-kilowatt panels on the roof. The sun shines, and

clean energy flows, producing electricity for the school, all while reducing their carbon footprint, and best yet, creating a healthier environment for those with asthma. The Solar Club has morphed into the Science Club, which has embarked on a drainage project.

Graduates mentoring those who walk behind them is exactly the story behind the greenhouse project at St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo, Ohio. Chet Micek, a 2020 St. John's graduate, spearheaded a project to resurrect a greenhouse on the school's property (previously tended by student Jason Day), as his senior year's *magis* project. When Micek left, he passed the torch to Wil Skaf '21. In addition to the work of the St. John's greenhouse where fruits and vegetables are grown, distribution to food pantries and people in need is central to the mission.

Lucy Gaven, a longtime volunteer at Chicago Jesuit Academy, describes herself as a "nutcase gardener." Originally started as the "recess agriculture group," CJA students under Gaven's guidance grew vegetables and raised chickens, moving to indoor plants during the winter. For a period of time, they conducted their own farmers market on the school property, which, Gaven says, "provided many business lessons for those boys."

Trevor Herron, teacher at Creighton Prep in Omaha and moderator of the Sustainability Club, began working with the students' garden concept during the past school year. Herron says, "I try to be sure the ideas come from

the students." When they pitched a garden, he was thrilled. They struck a deal with Hillside Solutions, a company that collects the discarded cafeteria food and turns it to compost for sale. The club's compost for the garden comes back from Hillside, completing a meaningful circle. Outgoing senior president of the club Aiden Chapman expanded on his involvement, branching out to a citywide group called Students for Sustainability. Club member and sophomore Ryan Quinn has begun to turn his deep interest in solar energy to a new club initiative aimed at bringing solar energy to Creighton Prep.

"We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach," Pope Francis says in *Laudato si'*. He has accelerated a universal movement and the evolving recognition that we all have a part and can contribute in some way. All of this is evident in the light that shines on these beautiful, hopeful, and impactful student projects. ✝



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

## Pope Francis on Conversion:

# A “Daily Matter”

By Amy Korpi

On May 23, 2021, thousands of people from across continents, ages, nationalities, and cultural heritages united in a virtual prayer experience called “Pilgrims with Ignatius” to launch the Ignatian Year, a global celebration marking the 500th anniversary of the saint’s conversion.

Pope Francis, one of the Jesuits who participated in the prayer event, expressed hope “that all who are inspired by Ignatius and Ignatian spirituality may truly live this year as an experience of conversion.”

What exactly does conversion mean? After all, St. Ignatius of Loyola had been an orthodox Catholic who followed the religious practices of his time.

St. Ignatius’s conversion “involved his deepest desires and commitments, that essential center of the personality in which [one] stands before God,” wrote Fr. David Fleming, SJ, in *What is Ignatian Spirituality?* “His religious practice and intellectual understanding deepened over time, but it was his heart that was transformed.”

Conversion is also ongoing, according to Pope Francis.

He explained, “[It is] a daily matter; it is never once and for all. Ignatius’s conversion started at Pamplona, but it didn’t end there. All through his life he converted . . . And he did so through discernment. Discernment

is not about always getting it right from the start, but it’s rather about navigating, about having a compass to be able to set out on the road which has many twists and turns

and letting oneself be guided always by the Holy Spirit who is leading us to an encounter with the Lord.”

“Let us be signposts for others, showing the way to God. Conversion always happens in dialogue. With God, with others, with the world,” Pope Francis added. “I bless you with all my heart, that this year may really be an inspiration to go out in the world to help souls and to see all things new in Christ.”

Find more of Pope Francis’s message and other resources at [Jesuits.org/Ignatian-Year](http://Jesuits.org/Ignatian-Year).



### WHAT IS IGNATIAN DISCERNMENT?

- Making choices “by attending to the inner movements of our spirit.”
- Going “beyond the merely rational or reasonable.”
- Being guided “to decisions that will join us ever more closely with Christ and with our working with Christ in the world.”

— From *What is Ignatian Spirituality?* by Fr. David Fleming, SJ

V. Rev. Karl Kiser, SJ  
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The 2021 ordinands share a light moment while preparing for their June 12 ordination Mass at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee (page 10).

From left: Jesuit Frs. Garrett Gundlach, Jeffrey Dorr, Aaron Malnick, Hung Nguyen, Trevor Rainwater, Thomas Bambrick (partially obscured), Robert Karle, and Jeffrey Sullivan

# **Congratulations to the 2021 ordinands!**

**May we turn and follow Jesus with the courage it takes to change and grow.**

**Open our eyes so we might see all things new in Christ.**

— From "A Prayer for the Ignatian Year,"  
offered by the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States