



# JESUITS

USA MIDWEST PROVINCE | SUMMER 2023



## Ordination 2023

Introducing Six New  
Midwest Jesuit Priests

### Also in This Issue:

- Jesuit-educated Lawyers Draw on Ignatian Spirituality
- Xavier University Plans for New Medical School
- Jesuit Jubilarians Reflect on 50 Years in the Society



Dear Friends,

At a Mass in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on June 10, 2023, the Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland, received the Ordination vows of six of our Jesuits.

Bishop Malesic's homily message has stayed with me since then. In fact, I paraphrased a part of his message in my remarks at the end of the Mass, reminding the new priests, "The church needs men who know Jesus Christ, who are his companions. The church needs men who love, who are merciful, and who are kind. You are those men."

It is a wonderful summation of the reasons these men—and all who are called to Catholic religious life—hear and follow the call. To live as a companion of Jesus is a commitment to justice and mercy, loving and serving others. It is my joy and privilege as provincial to present in these pages Jesuits who have, after more than 10 years of formation, fully answered their call to the priesthood. I invite you to read about them, look at the beautiful photos of the Mass, and join me in prayer that they may have long, fruitful lives of service to God's people.

As our new priests achieve a milestone in their formation, we draw a parallel by celebrating Jesuit Jubilarians (page 20) marking 50 years in the Society of Jesus. Each of them was sent forth many years ago with the hope of long and meaningful service; those hopes have been realized many times over. I'm sure you'll enjoy, as I did, reading the reflections of our Jubilarians as they look back on lives well lived.

Milestones are also useful in appreciating the life of a ministry. In this issue we look at significant anniversaries of several of our well known works. Whether it's 10, 25, 125 or 175 years, each of them is a testament to faith-filled people walking together, caring for each other.

And even as we celebrate the birth and life of ministries, it's worth noting that sometimes the life of a ministry comes to an end, as was the case with the Kentucky Jesuit Mission after 40 years (page 5). We know the good that was done in Kentucky carries on in the lives of the people that we served, and in the hearts and memories of the Jesuits who lived there.

Finally, I hope you'll join me on a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Land (page 19). I was blessed recently to be there for a few days with some of my Jesuit brothers, and although I had been there before, I was able to see it this time in a new and different way. I hope my experience will encourage you to visit these holy sites, virtually or in person, and that you'll come away renewed, as I did.

Yours in Christ,

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

Left To Right: Fr. Daniel J. Dixon, SJ; Fr. Damian G. Torres-Botello, SJ; Fr. Aaron W. Pierre, SJ; the Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland; the Very Reverend Karl J. Kiser, SJ, provincial of the Midwest province; Fr. Daniel J. Kennedy, SJ; Fr. Nicholas A. Albin, SJ; and Fr. Andrea Bianchini, SJ, at the Ordination Mass on Saturday, June 10, 2023.





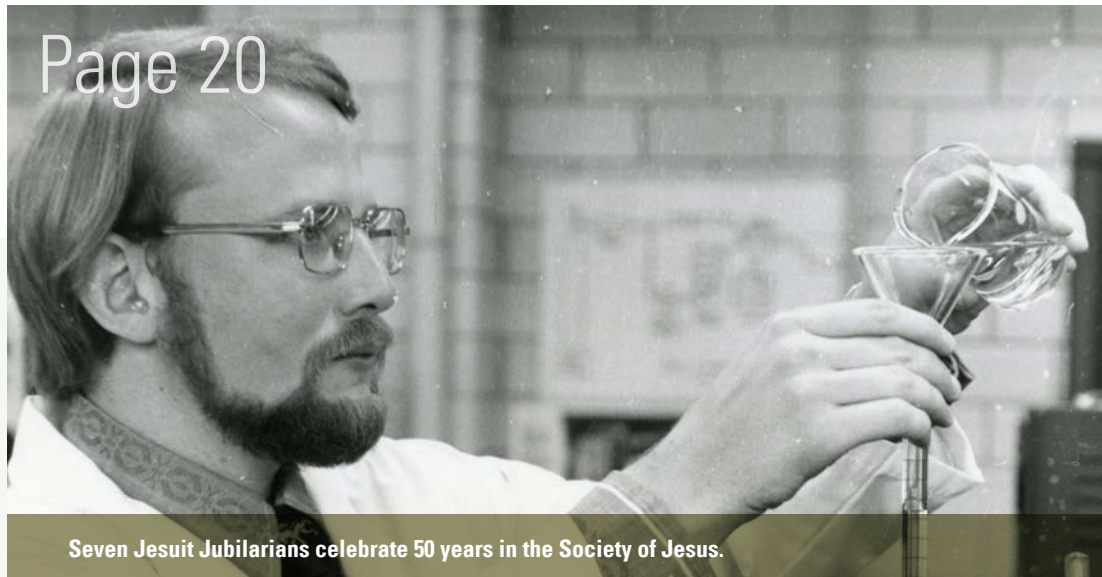
## Honoring the 2023 Jubilarians



### ON THE COVER

The 2023 ordinands at Church of the Gesu on the campus of Marquette University.

Photo: Steve Donisch



Seven Jesuit Jubilarians celebrate 50 years in the Society of Jesus.

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Page 5

#### Reunion with Pope Francis

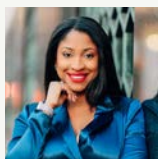
Fr. James M. Radde, SJ, travels to Rome to pay a visit to an old classmate, Pope Francis.



Page 6

#### Midwest Jesuits Ordination

On June 10, six Midwest Jesuits were ordained by the Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, bishop of Cleveland.



Page 16

#### Discernment in the Law Profession

Four Jesuit-educated lawyers and one law student draw on Ignatian spirituality in their work and studies.



Page 19

#### Prayer and Silence in Israel

Midwest Provincial Fr. Karl J. Kiser, SJ, gains new insight and considers new questions on his third visit to the Holy Land.

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

News.....	2-3	Spirituality.....	14	In Memoriam.....	24
A Heart on Fire.....	4	Living the Magis.....	15	News.....	25
History.....	13	Ministries.....	23		



Fr. Paul Shelton, SJ

## Father Paul Shelton Preaches as part of Eucharist Revival

The Covid pandemic took a heavy toll on our nation and our world. We were shaken, spiritually as well as physically and emotionally. Pastors have seen diminishing numbers in their congregations since 2019, with some experiencing decreases up to 25 percent.

In response, the National Eucharistic Revival is a two-year mission in the USA Catholic Church to renew and deepen our devotion to Christ, who gathers us at Mass and feeds us in the Eucharist.

Fifty Eucharistic preachers have been missioned to travel, preach, and lead prayer in service of the Revival. These preachers include several Jesuits, including Fr. Joseph Laramie, SJ, national director of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, and Fr. Paul Shelton, Midwest provincial assistant for vocations. Thus far, Fr. Shelton has preached in the Diocese of Richmond, Va., and in August he will preach for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Mich.

“I hope this preaching mission will help people become that which they consume in the liturgy—Christ,” Fr. Shelton says.

The two-year mission concludes in July 2024 with a Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, where 80,000 youth are expected to gather.

“Through parish missions, retreats, diocesan conferences and more, the Revival can help us to grow in our knowledge and love of Christ present in the Eucharist,” Fr. Laramie says.

For more information, visit [www.eucharisticrevival.org](http://www.eucharisticrevival.org).

Photo: ABC News



Gianni Quintero (center, holding trophy)

## Marquette University High School Wheelchair Racer Wins State Championship

When Marquette University High School rising sophomore Gianni Quintero was 6 years old, he contracted a virus that led to permanent paralysis in his left leg. But even as a young boy, he knew he didn’t want to give up sports.

He started with wheelchair basketball and moved into wheelchair track and field last year, at age 14. Already he has broken school records in 100-, 400- and 800-meter races, and in the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association State Track and Field Championships this June, he captured two first-place finishes.

In the 400-meter race at Veterans Memorial Stadium in LaCrosse, he bested 11 other top Wisconsin high school wheelchair racers, finishing with a time of 1:00.48. His winning time in the 800-meter race, among a field of six racers, was 2:00.32.

Keep in mind he did this all as a 15-year-old freshman.

“I get to participate in a sport for high school, and I don’t just get to sit around and really do nothing,” he said in a segment on *ABC World News Tonight* shortly after his state tournament success.

We look forward to his future victories.



The Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, Ohio

## Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, Ohio Marks 125 Years

The Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, Ohio, has been a destination for priests, religious and laypersons longer than any other retreat center in the country. Founded in 1898, the center celebrates its 125th anniversary this year.

Nestled in 57 acres of forest, wetlands and meadows in northeast Ohio about 10 miles south of downtown Cleveland, the facility serves more than 5,000 people a year, including more than 2,000 high school students and young adults. Directed retreats are available, as are seasonal retreats (Lent, Advent), and ongoing formation for spiritual directors. For those preparing for the sacrament of marriage, the center offers PreCana programs.

The center began as the Saint Stanislaus Novitiate, but superior and novice master Fr. Theodore Von Rossum, SJ, soon invited laymen to make retreats there. This grew into the Lay Retreat League, which brought thousands of men to retreats in the first half of the 20th century. In the late 1930s, Sr. Ignatia Gavin, a Sister of Charity of Saint Augustine, working at Saint Thomas Hospital in Akron, Ohio, helped usher in recovery retreats for men, and later women—work that continues today. Also, in 1937, Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, arrived to make his tertianship at Parma before being missioned to Japan and later elected Father General.

For more information, visit [www.jesuitretreatcenter.org](http://www.jesuitretreatcenter.org).

## New Life for Redesigned Jesuit Prayer App and Emails

In 2012, the Midwest Jesuits launched Jesuit Prayer, and recently the site received a makeover, updating both the user experience and back-end technology.

While the daily content remains unchanged—daily Scripture, a reflection written by a Jesuit or lay colleague, and a prayer—the site now has a fresh look, faster loading times, and the ability to create a more personalized experience, including improved translation options for more than 100 languages.

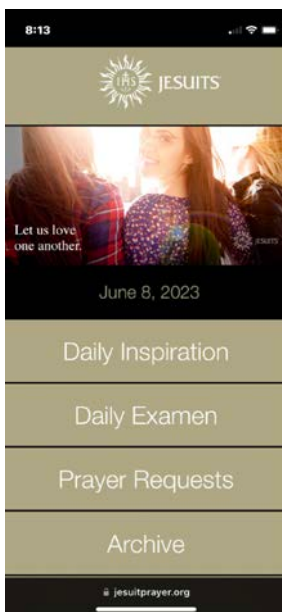
Since Jesuit Prayer's inception, more than 550 authors from Jesuit parishes,

universities, high schools, retreat houses, and other institutions around the world have shared their reflections on the Scriptures.

To date, 125,000 people have downloaded the app. Approximately 15,000 people receive the daily email, and thousands more access the content via

the website, [www.jesuitprayer.org](http://www.jesuitprayer.org). In 11 years, Jesuit Prayer's community of readers has expanded to 156 countries. From the start, the goal has been to put the gifts of Ignatian spirituality directly into people's hands no matter where they are, physically or spiritually.

Jesuit Prayer continues to be a collaborative online ministry of the Midwest, Central and Southern, East, West and Canada provinces. To sign up for daily emails, or to download the app, visit [www.jesuitprayer.org](http://www.jesuitprayer.org).



Saints Peter and Paul Jesuit Church

## Saints Peter and Paul Celebrates 175 Years in Detroit

Construction began on Detroit's Catholic Cathedral in 1844, and four years later, the same year our nation's sixth president died, the building was complete. In 1877 the diocese entrusted the church to the Society of Jesus, which used it as a base for pastoral ministries, social services and educational institutions that continue to thrive today. This year, Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church celebrates its 175th anniversary.

The church, Detroit's oldest, is home not only to the parish but also the acclaimed Pope Francis Center, which provides free meals, clothing and services to hundreds of Detroit's homeless population daily.

"Sharing the story of Ss. Peter and Paul's past has made me more in awe than ever of the great people on whose shoulders we stand, and the great legacy we've inherited," says Fr. Gary Wright, SJ, the parish's pastor.

In its 175 years, Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church has celebrated 7,000 weddings, 15,000 baptisms and countless funerals. Today it is meeting contemporary needs with programs in the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola, including "Spiritual Exercises for the City," an Ignatian leadership development program for young adult professionals, and new children's programming for the next generation now filling the pews.

To commemorate the anniversary, the parish plans to publish a pictorial history book and host several events this year. For more information, or to register for events, visit [www.sppjesuit.org](http://www.sppjesuit.org).

## Sogang University Honors its First Faculty Members

More than sixty years after the founding members of Sogang University's faculty taught their first classes on its Seoul, South Korea campus, they returned in a way. They'll remain there indefinitely in the form of a painting unveiled this spring in the school's Administration Building.



The mural, which measures more than 6 feet wide by 4 feet high, was inspired by a 1960 black-and-white photograph of the school's original 14 professors—Jesuits and lay people from South Korea, the United States and West Germany. John L. Mitchell was among them (seated, far left in the photo and mural).

A former Jesuit in the Wisconsin Province, Mitchell was a scholastic sent to Sogang to learn Korean and teach English. "In recent years I dreamed of having the photograph made into an historic mural and positioned in a place for all to see," says Mitchell, who now lives in Salt Lake City. "So, this is a dream come true."

Commissioned and funded by the Mitchell family, the painting was created by artist Park Hee-jung.

For more information on Sogang University, [www.sogang.ac.kr](http://www.sogang.ac.kr).



God has guided my heart  
along the way

Taylor Fulkerson, SJ, pronounced first vows in 2017.

By Taylor Fulkerson, SJ

In August of 2020, when the world was still far from imagining a return to normalcy, my regency at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School began with tense days of orientation for new faculty and students followed by many months of virtual classes. I had just moved back to the United States from Peru and spent two weeks in isolation. I barely knew my colleagues, or even my way around the school building, and suddenly I was welcoming freshmen into the Cristo Rey community.

It was surreal. It was confusing and disorienting. I felt like I was teaching into a void. I had to take a deep breath every time I prepared to plunge into another video call where I would attempt to share something new without seeing my audience's reaction.

Yet it was also a graced time. Even in the midst of calamity, I felt my heart adapting to the reality before me.

I had spent my last semester in Peru in online classes, so I felt an immense compassion for my students. If it had been a

challenge for an adult, what would it be for a teenager? How could the students possibly feel at ease with a camera facing them all day long? How could they possibly find new friends at a new school through a screen?

In the same way I wondered about my students, I wondered about myself. That first semester, I had no idea how I was doing. I had no idea whether I was teaching well or not, and I didn't know my colleagues well enough to "talk shop."

It occurred to me one day that I could find out whether I was teaching well or not only by asking myself whether I was loving as Jesus loves, as St. Paul outlines in his First Letter to the Corinthians. Would my students say Mr. Fulkerson is patient? Is Mr. Fulkerson kind? Does Mr. Fulkerson bear all things and endure all things?

I learned two lessons, each simple yet profound—we all have a need for compassion and a simple, yet demanding, standard of love.

I have seen in the course of my Jesuit

formation that the Lord has taken me by the hand and led me, over and over. He prepared me to be the teacher I am today. He certainly prepared me as I studied Latin American history in Peru, and as I floundered through conversations in a Minnesota jail and a Bronx nursing home, and as I struggled to lead prayer in my second language in many places. And as I look back on the beginning of this stage of my formation, I see more clearly than ever that he guided my heart along the way.

As the prologue to St. John's Gospel says, the darkness has not overcome the light. Better yet, the light feels so much brighter in the darkness. ✠



Taylor Fulkerson, SJ, recently completed his regency at Chicago's Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, where he taught religion and Latin American history. This fall, he will begin theology studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

# Pilgrimage to El Papa

## A Minneapolis Jesuit pays a visit to an old classmate, Pope Francis

By Fr. James M. Radde, SJ

In honor of my 50th year as a priest, I requested permission to make a jubilee pilgrimage from my home in St. Paul, Minn., to Rome. I wanted to see Pope Francis and present him with a cross (pictured below) I had made for him.

With permission granted, I wrote to Pope Francis via email, in Spanish, asking if I could see him and present him with my cross. I reminded him that we had been theology students together in Buenos Aires in 1968-69. Thirteen hours after I sent my email, I received his hand-written, emailed response. He began (in Spanish), "Dear Brother." The key sentence was, "Be sure to let me know in advance, when you will be in Rome, so we can see each other." He signed it, "Fraternally, Francis."



I planned my time in Rome to give him adequate recovery time from his travels to the Congo and South Sudan. On receiving my Rome dates, he responded immediately, inviting me to see him at Casa Santa Marta, the Vatican guest house where he lives, at 3 p.m.

At Casa Santa Marta, a gentleman in suit and tie showed me to a sitting room. It had a small table surrounded by six chairs. Soon, Pope Francis walked in—no wheelchair in sight.

I expressed my love and admiration for him, and passed along the same from a multitude of friends—Catholics, Protestants and others. And then I presented him with my porcelain cross, eight inches long and colored blue and gold, similar to his coat of arms.

We spoke of ministry to the LGBTQ+ community. I put in a plug for the Discerning Deacons movement (restoring the Diaconate for women as in the early Church). We also chatted about restorative justice. As we left the room, Pope Francis beckoned to a Swiss Guard to take our picture.

While in Rome, I stayed at the Canisio (St. Peter Canisius Residence), an international community of Jesuits just two blocks from the Vatican. I had never lived with such a variety of Jesuits. Many worked at Vatican Radio, and they were most gracious in their hospitality.

Staying in that community allowed me to



Fr. James M. Radde, SJ, with Pope Francis

meet three of my Jesuit heroes. One was Fr. Federico Lombardi, SJ, who served as director of the Vatican Press Office under three popes. Another was Fr. Francisco de Roux, SJ, who is from Colombia and chairs the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition. The third was Cardinal Michael Czerny, SJ, who was born in the former Czechoslovakia and grew up in Canada. I met him there in 1971, when we worked on a retreat team together. Today, he is Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, a dicastery being the equivalent of a government ministry.

I returned to St. Paul deeply grateful for my brother Jesuits, especially Pope Francis. ✠



James M. Radde, SJ, is the Associate Director of the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1960 and was ordained in 1972.



# ORDINATION 2023

**It is not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain.**

— John 15:16a

Watch the recording of the Mass at [JesuitsMidwest.org/Ordination23](https://www.JesuitsMidwest.org/Ordination23)



This page photos clockwise from top: Steve Donisch, Steve Donisch, Art Montes, Fr. Don Doll, SJ







## Fr. Nicholas A. Albin, SJ

- **Born:** November 4, 1989
- **Entered Society:** August 25, 2012
- **As a Jesuit:** Father Albin served as a deacon at St. Leonard of Port Maurice Parish, a Franciscan church in Boston's North End neighborhood; taught theology and mathematics at Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; and led high school students in academic summer immersions to the Ignatian sites in Spain, France and Italy.
- **Assignment Following Ordination:** Father Albin will serve as assistant to the president for mission at Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha, Nebraska, while pursuing graduate studies at Creighton University in educational leadership and Ignatian spirituality.

A pleasant surprise in my Jesuit formation was serving as a high school teacher in my regency—a job I never imagined myself doing when I entered the Society of Jesus. However, to my complete surprise, I fell in love with it. The students were wonderful, and I had excellent colleagues. For three years, I taught sophomore theology (ecclesiology) and algebra I to first-year students. I also loved serving as the moderator for student government, where I helped the students with hosting events to boost school spirit, creating fundraising and service opportunities for the local community, and planning school dances. I was the one tasked with teaching the students about theology and mathematics, but they were the ones teaching me how to be a Jesuit priest.

While I have had many mentors in my journey, one mentor who stands out for me is Fr. Cyril Whitaker, SJ, who I had as a philosophy professor during my junior year at Xavier University. One day, I emailed him my assignment on Descartes, and he replied back in an email: "Thank you for your paper, Nick. By the way, have you ever thought about becoming a Jesuit priest?" It was his question that inspired me to begin my discernment—which led me to go on retreats, attend spiritual direction and pray with St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises—ultimately leading me to enter the Society of Jesus. His desire to bring people closer to Christ and his care for those he ministers to and with continue to serve as a positive example which I desire to follow in the Jesuit priest I hope to become. ✠

Large photo by: Steve Donisch  
Inset photo by: Steve Donisch



## Fr. Andrea Bianchini, SJ

- **Born:** September 4, 1981
- **Entered Society:** August 25, 2012
- **As a Jesuit:** Father Bianchini worked one summer with migrants at the Kino Border Initiative at the U.S.-Mexico border in Nogales, Arizona; trained as a hospital chaplain for a summer at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois; volunteered as a kindergarten teacher's aide at St. John Chrysostom School in the Bronx, New York.
- **Assignment Following Ordination:** Father Bianchini will do a residency program in clinical pastoral education at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois.

To tell my vocation story in six words or less would be to say: "Put out in deep water." One of the highlights of my time as a novice was spending six weeks with people with various disabilities in a L'Arche community in

Cleveland. Spending a summer with migrants and accompanying college students to the Kino Border Initiative at the U.S.-Mexico border in Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Mexico, were two deeply transformative experiences that marked my regency. Being with migrants and refugees showed me how God is present and can be encountered in a unique way in the poor and marginalized. I also learned how faith in God can be a source of hope and strength in the midst of the gloomiest predicaments. This experience profoundly influenced my approach to ministry and made me more aware of my responsibility to announce the Gospel.

My Jesuit vocation has taken me to places I never thought I'd go, including a female federal jail in Dublin, California, to offer spiritual direction to the inmates. Although I went there to help them with their prayer, it

was actually my own prayer that benefited the most. Seeing God so conspicuously at work in the lives of these women made me more attuned to and responsive to God's voice.

My favorite saint is St. Teresa of Ávila because of the depth of her spiritual writings and the fortitude she constantly displayed in front of incredible challenges. I especially admire her unwavering trust in her mystical experiences despite the opposition of many reputed church ministers. She's a true testimony to Ignatius' conviction that God can communicate directly to people "like a schoolmaster teaches a pupil." ✠

Large photo by: Art Montes  
Inset photo by: Steve Donisch



## Fr. Daniel J. Dixon, SJ

- **Born:** June 11, 1987
- **Entered Society:** August 25, 2012
- **As a Jesuit:** Father Dixon helped to start The Welsh Academy, a middle school for families of modest economic means in Cleveland; taught classes for English language learners to migrants and refugees at Saint Rita's Center in the Bronx, New York, and at Oakland Catholic Worker in Oakland, California; taught RCIA classes for adults and served as a deacon at St. Elizabeth Parish in Oakland, which exposed him to the beauty and joy of sacramental ministry in the church.
- **Assignment Following Ordination:** Father Dixon will be a pastoral associate at St. Mary Student Parish at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

The reason I wanted to be a Jesuit priest always came down to the pastoral. I love walking with people, listening to their stories

and forming connections. I believe that God is at work in every person's life, and that gives me a great deal of hope for the future of our Church and our world, even when being realistic about the many injustices and challenges that people face.

Saint Oscar Romero's closeness to the poor and suffering people of El Salvador taught him the importance of speaking out against the killing and injustice of the government, at great personal risk. This conviction was rooted in his knowledge of and love for Jesus, who was poor and identified with the poor, most powerfully through his suffering and death on the cross. Saint Oscar Romero is an inspirational example to me of someone who used his power and position to advocate for others, never losing sight of his relationship with God or his responsibility to those most marginalized.

There is so much I love about being a Jesuit. For example, the diversity in the Society makes community life much more interesting. Before entering, I worried the long formation process was designed in part to make Jesuits think a certain way or be interested in studying a particular thing. Happily, I have never been more wrong! I have friends who are professionals in sociology, physics and theater. There are Jesuits with views spanning the political spectrum. Some of us are obsessed with sports, while others couldn't care less. I have learned that Jesuits do take seriously "finding God in all things" in the way that guys are encouraged to follow their passions, interests and desires in their personal and professional lives. ✠

Large photo by: Art Montes  
Inset photo by: Steve Donisch



## Fr. Daniel J. Kennedy, SJ

- **Born:** February 20, 1990
- **Entered Society:** August 25, 2012
- **As a Jesuit:** Father Kennedy worked at Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha, Nebraska, as a theology faculty member and the director of student activities, overseeing student clubs; volunteered as a telephone crisis worker for Lifeline, the national suicide and crisis hotline; served at Eastern Point Retreat House in Gloucester, Massachusetts, as a spiritual director, accompanying individuals on eight-day Ignatian retreats.
- **Assignment Following Ordination:** Father Kennedy will serve as special assistant to the president of the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy while also working toward a master's degree in mental health counseling at John Carroll University.

What I love most about the Society of Jesus are both the people and the mission. Being

a Jesuit has allowed me to accompany, collaborate and pray with many individuals I would never have met unless I was in this form of life. When I reflect on my vocation, I find gratitude never in short supply for these relationships. The Society's mission to seek God's greater glory has evolved since its foundation, and I feel humbled to be able to add my small contribution to our shared task to meet the needs of the Church and world in our time.

I would never have thought I would be "Mr. Fun" at a high school, planning school-wide engagement events like pep rallies and dances, and running a student cheer section. When I heard these were part of my responsibilities, I felt unequal to the task. Even then, God guided me in the ways students and colleagues showed me what would work and how to serve them. I had to learn to enjoy the

experimentation, not dwell too much on the failures and have a good laugh at the end of a day.

While there are too many Jesuits to count, I want to highlight two laypeople outside my family who had a lasting impact on my Jesuit vocation: Brad Boyle, a former theology teacher at St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy in Toledo, Ohio; and Ellen Modica, a campus minister at Boston College. They encouraged me during my years of discernment, asked me good questions and inspired me to find my path to holiness as they did. My vocation is the result of laypeople being great vocation promoters for the Society. ✠

Large photo by: Art Montes  
Inset photo by: Steve Donisch



## Fr. Aaron W. Pierre, SJ

- **Born:** April 26, 1988
- **Entered Society:** August 25, 2012
- **As a Jesuit:** Father Pierre coordinated a summer program for gang-involved youth in Chicago through the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation; taught ethics to juniors, worked on the campus ministry team and drove a school bus route at Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge, South Dakota; ministered to inmates at Pelican Bay State Prison in Crescent City, California, through the Jesuit Restorative Justice Initiative; studied for a semester at Hekima University College in Nairobi, Kenya, and volunteered with Jesuit Refugee Service.
- **Assignment Following Ordination:** Father Pierre will serve as associate pastor of the Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Patrick's Parishes on the south side of Milwaukee.

Most people don't know that I acted as a child, taking on roles in about a dozen

community theater plays before high school. While I am by no means an actor today, those experiences have definitely given me a foundation of confidence for public speaking and leading liturgies.

During the seven months I spent in Eastern Africa, I worked really hard to become conversational in Swahili, a fascinating and beautiful language. For me, languages are like 5,000-piece puzzles which, as they take shape, become a tool to open social doors to new experiences and meaningful encounters. Being able to carry on basic conversations in Swahili helped me make authentic connections with real people, unquestionably the most rewarding part of pastoral ministry.

I never imagined doing cell-by-cell visits in the solitary confinement pod of one of California's "supermax" prisons, Pelican Bay State Prison. A summer of assisting the Jesuit Restorative

Justice Initiative out of Los Angeles gave me that opportunity and drastically reframed my perception of the people caught in our criminal justice system.

If I could travel back in time and meet myself the first day I entered the Society of Jesus I'd tell myself: "Don't take yourself so seriously!" God doesn't. And the world doesn't need another somber, rule-driven, perfectionist who is out of touch with the joy of the Gospel. I'd say "Take a deep breath and let in God's loving acceptance which never wavers, even when you don't get something 'just right.'" Jesuit community means sharing in a collective commitment to following Jesus, firmly rooting ourselves in the Spiritual Exercises, and being willing to share in the joys and sorrows of a life of ministry. ✠

Large photo by: Art Montes  
Inset photo by: Steve Donisch



## Fr. Damian G. Torres-Botello, SJ

- **Born:** July 15, 1978
- **Entered Society:** August 25, 2012
- **As a Jesuit:** Father Torres-Botello was a founding member, and remains a member, of the Jesuit Antiracism Sodality leadership team; worked with the Detroit Mercy Theatre Company during regency; saw God's hand in how he was loved, cared for and accompanied by the Jesuits when his mother passed away in 2014.
- **Assignment Following Ordination:** Father Torres-Botello will serve as parochial vicar of Bellarmine Chapel at Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Throughout my formation, I held this quote from St. Francis de Sales close to my heart: "Be who you are and be that well. So that

you may bring honor to the Master Craftsman whose handiwork you are."

I LOVE seeing people offering their talents to the world. By this I mean, people who sing, dance, play instruments, paint, take photos. Whether professionally or amateurly, or even badly, the bravery and audacity and hope it brings to see someone step out into the world in such a way brings me so much joy! Witnessing people open their hearts through their talents, showing a part of themselves in such a way is so vulnerable, and that is amazing to see. It excites me and it ignites my heart.

It's no surprise that education is a huge part of the Jesuit identity. I entered with one bachelor's degree in theatre from a small school not many have heard of: Saint Mary

College (now University of Saint Mary) in Leavenworth, Kansas. And now I carry two more higher-level degrees than when I entered. Let me tell you, it was a struggle getting those degrees! But here's the thing: In my Jesuit academic journey I discovered spiritual direction, a ministry that accompanies people in their spiritual life. I had no idea where I would go in my Jesuit vocation, I still don't, but I didn't realize that I would find something that fits me, that taps into my personality, my strengths and parts of my own identity. In all of the challenges I faced in my education, a seemingly simple act of listening to others talk about their burgeoning relationship with God is somewhere I never thought this vocation would take me. ✠

Large photo by: Steve Donisch  
Inset photo by: Steve Donisch

# Mission Complete

## The Kentucky Jesuit Mission shuts down after more than four decades of service

By Michael Austin

Father Walter J. Bado, SJ, was the first to arrive at the Kentucky Jesuit Mission in 1980, and so it is fitting that recently, in the spring of 2023, he was the last to leave.

With his retirement, and his move to Wisconsin, came the shuttering of the mission that had served the people of Kentucky for more than four decades.

"We, of course, are sorry to see a beloved work come to its conclusion, but our work carries on and even now begins in places where the need is greatest," says Midwest Provincial Fr. Karl J. Kiser, SJ.

The Kentucky Jesuit Mission began when Fr. Leo J. Klein, SJ, provincial of the then-Chicago Province, sent Fr. Bado to Lexington, a place where the Jesuits had no institutional presence. The city had a thriving economy, but the surrounding rural areas were among the poorest in Appalachia.

Though the name "Kentucky Jesuit Mission" might call to mind a place—perhaps a building with clergy offering social services and pastoral guidance—the mission was more of a collection of ministries under a single organizational umbrella. Some Jesuits lived in community in Lexington, while others lived on their own in other areas of the Bluegrass State.

"The mission saw 30 stalwarts of the former Chicago and Detroit provinces in diverse pastoral, educational and scholarly ministries," Fr. Bado says. "At the high point, there were eleven or twelve of us living separately or in small bands. But even in the diaspora period, efforts were made to get together regularly, at least once a month."

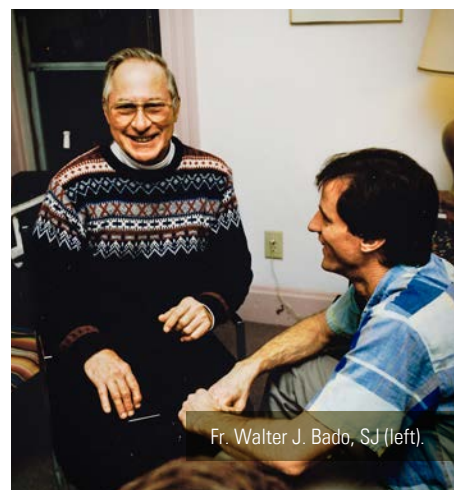
They met outdoors when they could, in

state park environments, or at one of the places they worked and/or lived, including the three residences in Lexington. Fellowship always thrived, and the work benefited from it.

Jesuits made the Kentucky mission what it was. By the time the mission was founded, Fr. Albert J. Fritsch, SJ, had already been working in Kentucky (since 1977) as co-director of Appalachia–Science in the Public Interest (ASPI). The ASPI helped people live better lives through ecological education and affordable housing, among other things. Fr. Fritsch ended up leaving Kentucky only a few months before Fr. Bado.

### OUR WORK CARRIES ON AND EVEN NOW BEGINS IN PLACES WHERE THE NEED IS GREATEST.

Father George C. Maynard, SJ, was also working in the area at the time of the mission's founding, as a chaplain at the local Veterans Affairs hospital. But after Fr. Bado arrived, many followed, and ended up serving as pastors, administrators and spiritual directors at various churches, schools, hospitals and spirituality centers. Father Bado recalls Jesuits such as Joseph H. Boel, Robert J. Bueter, George A. Curran, Walter C. Deye, Robert J. Geisinger, Robert J. Hagee, W. Henry Kenney, John L. Kieffer, Peter J. Maurer, Bernard J. Mulhern, Robert J. Murphy, Carl J. Moell, Thomas P. O'Donnell IV, Joseph E. Peschel, Paul G. Peterson, Robert J. Ross, Robert W. Schneider, Peter E. Sharkey, Robert C. Thul, Stanley C. Tillman, George W. Traub and George E. Von Kaenel working at one time or another in Kentucky.



Fr. Walter J. Bado, SJ (left)

For most of his time in Kentucky, Fr. Bado served as campus minister of the University of Kentucky's Newman Center. He was also a chaplain at the University of Kentucky hospital, and a teacher in the ministry formation program of the Diocese of Lexington. The current Midwest provincial assistant for formation, Fr. Charles V. Rodrigues, SJ, was a graduate student at the University of Kentucky when he met Fr. Bado at the Newman Center. Father Rodrigues credits that meeting, and the resulting friendship, as a big part of what drew him to the Society of Jesus.

The Midwest Province operates close to 90 works in addition to maintaining relationships with seven provinces and regions in South America, Africa and India. The time may come when other Jesuit works reach the end of life—ministries that are now thriving as much as the Kentucky Jesuit Mission once did. But the Society of Jesus is always in search of people on the margins to serve, and there will always be a new frontier, a new place to go in service to others. ✠



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

# Sacred Stories

**FOR 25 YEARS, THE IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY PROJECT HAS BROUGHT HOPE AND JOY TO THE LIVES OF PEOPLE RECOVERING FROM ADDICTION AND HOMELESSNESS**

By Emily Rust

Father Bill Creed, SJ, and Ed Shurna, the former executive director of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, had an idea in 1998. They thought if they combined the 12-Step program of Alcoholics Anonymous with the Spiritual Exercises developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola, they could offer hope and healing to Chicagoans recovering from homelessness and addiction.

In the fall of that year, they did just that, hosting their first small overnight retreat. Now, 25 years later, the Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) is a global network of more than 20,000 alumni, with retreats and spiritual reflection programs offered in 23 cities across the United States, Canada and Ireland.

ISP overnight retreats, held at retreat centers across the country, invite 12 participants to gather with four volunteer facilitators, including a retreat alumnus, and tell their stories. The hope is that the participants will have an opportunity to reflect, connect with each other, notice some common struggles and ideally spark transformations of their own.

"ISP invites people to reflect on their experience in the light of faith," Fr. Creed says.

First offered to men, ISP began hosting women's retreats in 2006. Today, in Chicago alone, there are six overnight retreats a year for women, and four for men.

"You look at your brokenness, your sinfulness, and you do that knowing you're loved unconditionally by God," says Tom Drexler, ISP's former executive director, now

a Midwest province major gifts officer for Milwaukee and the Twin Cities.

Current ISP Executive Director Christine Curran remembers a retreat when a participant, now a team member, first heard St. Ignatius' story of begging. He was blown away, she said, because he had lived on the streets himself in Boston. For many years, he had relied on the generosity of strangers. "He said, 'I was expecting to hear a story about a saint, and someone I couldn't relate to,'" Curran says. "He said, 'But I've done a lot of begging. I know what that's like.'"

**YOU LOOK AT YOUR BROKENNESS, YOUR SINFULNESS, AND YOU DO THAT KNOWING YOU'RE LOVED UNCONDITIONALLY BY GOD.**

Many participants are surprised to find that ISP retreats don't include a preacher trying to throw the fear of God into them, Fr. Creed says. Instead, ISP invites people to find God within their own experiences, and to trust that God has not abandoned them but has been with them their whole lives—even now.

It's a way of making meaning out of the dark places, which we all must do," Curran says.

"Why did this happen? How do I make sense of this? ISP creates spaces for people to develop a relationship with God that they can trust. Participants come out with a palpable sense of hope and joy. You can just see it, and feel it, and you're like, 'What magic just happened here?' It's the spirit that comes, and people are holding



ISP began hosting women's retreats in 2006.

onto something they didn't have before."

After retreats, ISP supports participants through various programs, including follow-up days and weekly or monthly spiritual reflection sessions. The two-year Ambassadors of Hope program helps alumni deepen their spiritual journey while learning pastoral leadership skills.

Another way ISP stays connected to alumni, and helps them stay connected to each other, is via the mobile and web-based versions of its ISP Journey app. The app offers Daily Inspiration, which could be a Scripture passage, a prayer, a poem or a thought-provoking quote; and Reflecting Our Light, which aids in facilitating small faith-sharing groups.

Future plans for ISP include deepening collaboration with parishes and universities, so the ministry can reach more people and have a greater impact in the local community. ISP also hopes to raise \$2 million in this 25th anniversary year to support programs and create a sustainable future.

To learn more, or to become one of ISP's 600 current volunteers, visit [www.ispretreats.org](http://www.ispretreats.org) or email [info@ispretreats.org](mailto:info@ispretreats.org). ✝



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.



# A Midwestern Jesuit Family, East to West

Anna Cate and Caroline Meis follow in their parents' footsteps, furthering their family's Jesuit education legacy

By Kristine Mackey

**A**nna Cate and Caroline Meis have Jesuit education in their DNA.

So many wonderful families throughout the Midwest Province have created their own Jesuit legacies by choosing Jesuit education, working on behalf of Jesuit schools and supporting Jesuit ministries. Our hats are off to all of them, the hundreds of families we all know and love.

Today we would like to highlight just one of those families, the Meis family, which has ties to Midwest Jesuit universities from east to west, and smack dab in the middle.

Anna Cate and Caroline, who are 21-year-old twins and kindred spirits, graduated in the spring of 2023 from Loyola University Chicago (LUC). Their graduation might have been the most important date on the family calendar that month had it not been for their father Aaron's graduation (Ph.D) from the University of Pennsylvania, which shared the top spot.

An LUC alum just like the twins, he currently serves as vice president and chief enrollment officer at Xavier University in Cincinnati. Their mother, Cynthia, graduated from Creighton University in Omaha, and previously worked as a counselor at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago.

The twins' choice to head from their hometown of Cincinnati to Chicago for college confirmed that the apple did not fall far from the tree. Both Anna Cate and Caroline are grateful for the experiences they had at LUC.

"Within my time at Loyola, I had the

opportunity to develop friendships and explore my faith in communities all over Europe," Anna Cate says. "Spending the second semester of my junior year at the John Felice Rome Center, I learned so much about the importance of understanding the varied, lived experiences of people all over the world, and how God works uniquely through all of us."

As she enters the job market, seeking a position in social and digital media, she will recall the lessons she learned at Loyola. "I am especially grateful to Professor [Rex] Huppke, who taught Feature and Opinion Writing and taught me to feel strong in my spoken and written voice."

Caroline's plans include graduate school in Chicago and a career as a therapist for athletes.

"At Loyola, education is not simply a means to better oneself, but a tool to better serve those around you," she says. "Dr. Steven Millies, my political science teacher, was not only an engaging lecturer but also incredibly inspiring. He continuously emphasized how important it is for us to be informed about what's happening in the world, to form our own opinions and be active members of society. A phrase he used that I'll never forget was, 'Public opinion is a force in even the most despotic of regimes.'"

Anna Cate and Caroline have a younger brother A.J., a high schooler with plenty of time to decide where he will go to college. Given how deep Jesuit roots run in the Meis



Anna Cate and Caroline Meis

family, perhaps he, too, will end up on a Jesuit campus, where the value of the magis is high and the legacies of families thrive. If his sisters have any influence on his decision, he might end up in Chicago.

"Words cannot express how truly grateful I am to have attended Loyola, and to have received a Jesuit education," Caroline says. "It has shaped me into the woman I am today and has inspired me to go set the world on fire." ❖



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



# Advocates for Others

Darrell Kelly

Ignatian discernment guides Jesuit-educated attorneys, and one attorney in training, through the ethics of the law practice

By Garan Santicola

In the spring of 2018, **Darrell Kelly** received two advanced degrees on the same day: a juris doctorate from the University of Cincinnati, and an MBA from Xavier University. In graduating from Xavier, Kelly followed in the footsteps of his grandmother, who earned a bachelor's degree from Xavier at the age of 73.

Today, Kelly works for Paramount Pictures as Counsel in Business and Legal Affairs, negotiating and drafting contracts for several shows, including *Lioness*. He is one of many Jesuit-educated attorneys navigating the sometimes-fraught world of law with an Ignatian sensibility as his compass.

He graduated from high school at 16 and received his undergraduate degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C., before returning to Cincinnati to live at home while pursuing his MBA and law degree. All the while, he worked two part-time jobs, as a graduate assistant at Xavier and an extern at a local law firm.

Two new advanced degrees in hand, Kelly moved to Hollywood with just one interview lined up. Before landing at Paramount, he found work with Creative Artists Agency and then moved on to MGM, where he

**THE PIECE FOCUSED ON THE DUTY TO BE ETHICAL NO MATTER THE SITUATION, AND IT STILL HANGS ON THE WALL IN THE WILLIAMS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS.**

was one of two attorneys reviewing contestant applications and establishing rules for *The Voice*. Today, the Xavier ethos continues to resonate in his life as he engages in mentorship of newcomers to the entertainment business.

"The Jesuit way of teaching impressed upon me the importance of ethics," Kelly says. "Xavier instilled in us the value of

being attentive and reflective, which are two factors that allow room for the development of discernment."

As a Cintas Ethics Fellow at Xavier, Kelly created an art piece reflecting this Jesuit way. "The piece focused on the duty to be ethical no matter the situation," he says, "and it still hangs on the wall in the Williams College of Business. In my artwork, you see the words, 'See the truth, hear the truth, say the truth,' which stays with me until this day."

**Patrick Harrington** was in high school when he began to consider following in the footsteps of his father to become a lawyer. But first he followed his three brothers (he also has two sisters) to John Carroll University for his undergraduate degree. Later, when it was time to decide what kind of lawyer he would become after graduating from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 1985, Harrington followed his father's lead again, choosing to represent injured railroad workers under the Federal



Patrick Harrington

Employers' Liability Act (FELA).

"I had a special relationship with my dad," he says. "I saw in him the compassion to do whatever he could to help workers and their families in extremely difficult situations."

As a newly minted attorney, Harrington joined the family firm to practice alongside his father, and eight years later, his father lost a long fight with cancer, having worked right up to the end of his life. Today, as a partner at Petro & Harrington LLC in Chicago, Harrington carries on his father's legacy of representing railroad workers in compensation cases where survival often hangs in the balance.

"You spend a lot of time just listening and talking, and being a counselor in addition to a lawyer," he says of the approach he learned from his father.

Harrington's Jesuit education has had a lasting impact on both his work and his life. He met his wife, the former Marigayle Watts, as a volunteer during law school at Old Saint Patrick's Church. She was from the Chicago area and went to Marquette University for her undergrad and her MBA degrees. Now they have five children. Two daughters attended Marquette, and a son went to Creighton University.

"There is a big service component to my work," Harrington says. "I don't get paid by the hour, and you've got to take the time and listen to folks and be compassionate. I

honestly think I learned those tremendous life lessons in college through community service with the Jesuits."

Throughout a distinguished career in the justice system, retired **Judge Douglas F. Johnson** placed the dignity of the person above all else. This approach came not only from his time in the Society of Jesus,



Judge Douglas F. Johnson

discerning a call to the priesthood, but later, as a lay person studying at Creighton University School of Law.

Johnson presided over the Separate Juvenile Court of Nebraska for 26 years,

**I VIEW MY TEACHING AS AN EXTENSION OF MY OWN JESUIT EDUCATION. IT'S ABOUT PLANTING SEEDS FOR OTHERS TO GET OUT THERE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR OWN WAY.**

and taught at Creighton for 25. Today, he offers workshops around the country on best practices in the juvenile justice field through the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). In 1994, he implemented the first Court Appointed Special Advocate Program for Douglas County, Neb., which enlists community members to help safeguard the rights of juveniles in the justice

system. In 2005, he started the state's first Family Drug Treatment Court to streamline care and establish stability for young children and their families, and in 2010, he was honored with the Creighton School of Law Alumni Merit Award.

"I think my Jesuit training was pivotal," he says, citing the retreats and spiritual direction. "I'm still grateful for that to this day. And when I went to Creighton, it felt good to be at a Jesuit law school, where we would continue to talk about and work on that sense of mission. I view my teaching as an extension of my own Jesuit education. It's about planting seeds for others to get out there and make a difference in their own way."

During law school, Johnson met his wife, Mary Boatwright, a Creighton graduate who was working at a domestic violence shelter. They met in St. John's Parish on the Creighton campus and got married there in August of 1987. Today, Mary works as a therapist, and Johnson credits her with inspiring their two daughters to work in a similar Ignatian capacity. "They want to raise hearts and minds in service one way or another," Johnson says.

Detroit Police Officer **Zahara Madahah** just might be a judge in the making. An officer since 2019, her interest in the legal profession was piqued simply by visiting the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. In the spring of 2023, she completed her first year there as a student.

"That school chose me," she says. "The first time I walked in there, I saw Judge Denise Langford's portrait, and I thought, 'That can be me.' So, I saw myself. And there was a prayer room, and prayer is really important to me as a spiritual woman, and I picked up A Lawyer's Prayer to St. Thomas More, and now I say that before my exams."

As part of her role as a police officer, Madahah was part of a pilot program with the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network in which she worked on the front lines to deescalate crisis situations involving people

on the margins of society. She still gets calls to the Google voice number she gave out while part of the program. "I'll have people call and say, 'You helped my brother out, and you were able to calm him down. Can you talk to him?' When you have this connection to people, it's not something you turn off—not for me, anyway."

**I'LL HAVE PEOPLE CALL AND SAY, "YOU HELPED MY BROTHER OUT, AND YOU WERE ABLE TO CALM HIM DOWN. CAN YOU TALK TO HIM?" WHEN YOU HAVE THIS CONNECTION TO PEOPLE, IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU TURN OFF—NOT FOR ME, ANYWAY.**

Madahah's honors are many, from the Detroit Police Department's Woman of the Year to the Henry H. Torrent Award for Black Student Excellence at Detroit Mercy. She also partnered with another first-year student to win the Transnational Law Moot competition, and she plans on defending the title.

"I love litigation," she says. "It's really important to me. I also see myself consulting and, within the next six months, I will be establishing my own private investigation firm. So, I don't want to put myself in a box, and I don't know what opportunities will come, but I know that eventually I do want to sit on the bench. That is one-hundred-percent a goal."

For **Fr. Nate Romano, SJ**, becoming a lawyer helped him become a Jesuit. After graduating from Marquette University, he went on to receive a law degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. But in his first year practicing, he felt called to join the Society of Jesus. After being ordained in 2018, he returned to Marquette, where for the past year he has served as Assistant Director of Campus Ministry for Liturgical Programs and Adjunct Professor of Law.

"My focus has been teaching as a ministry," Fr. Romano says. "In teaching at



Zahara Madahah

the law school, the question becomes, 'How do I form my students to be healthy and holy lawyers, whatever their religious, spiritual or cultural backgrounds may be? In the context of legal ethics, it's about not only teaching what the rules are, but teaching how to do discernment. You give them the tools that are appropriate in a professional setting to help them think through, 'What is the good to which I am being called?'"

While Fr. Romano's campus ministry audience consists primarily of undergraduates,

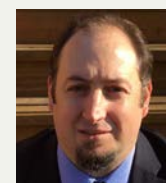


Fr. Nate Romano, SJ

law school students also reach out to him. "I've had some come to me and say, 'I'm encountering various ethical and moral dilemmas, and how do I reconcile being Christian, being Catholic, with this situation that I see in the law?'"

The similarities between the priesthood and the legal profession are what drew him to law in the first place. "There is a sort of secular priesthood around the law in that we work to improve people's lives in structural, systemic ways." And then practicing law made him want to become a priest. His memories of Marquette convinced him he was making the right choice.

"It really was that ministry of the Society manifested for me at Marquette that came back to me, and I was able to say, 'That's the kind of person I want to be. That's the life I want to live—the life I saw those guys living at Marquette.'" ✠



Garan Santicola is an award-winning writer who lives in the Catskills mountains of upstate New York. He can be reached at garansanticola@gmail.com.

# To the Holy Land and Beyond

Midwest Provincial Fr. Karl J. Kiser, SJ, finds new lessons and insights during his most recent visit to Israel

Left to Right: Jesuit Provincial Frs. Sean O. Carroll (West), Joseph M. O'Keefe (East), Thomas P. Greene (Central and Southern), Karl J. Kiser (Midwest), Erik D. Oland (Canada), and Fr. Brian Paulson, (President of the Jesuit Conference of the United States and Canada).

By Quentin Maguire

Midwest Provincial Fr. Karl J. Kiser, SJ, might be excused if he is somewhat blasé about his extensive travel schedule. In the first four months of 2023, in addition to his domestic travel, he's visited men and Jesuit works in Belize, Paris, Rome, Beirut, and Kohima (India). These should not be confused with sightseeing trips; his travel days are tightly scheduled meetings with Jesuits in service overseas or in their formation studies. Any observations of sites outside of Jesuit works are, due to the nature of his schedule, cursory at best.

So it was a blessing to Fr. Kiser that the meetings of the Jesuit Provincials of the United States and Canada were held in Israel just after Easter, and that the schedule included time to visit important sites in the Holy Land.

Fr. Kiser had visited the Holy Land twice before this trip, with church and school groups during his service in Detroit and Cleveland. But something about this trip was different. "In a way, it was more powerful to travel with non-Jesuit students and lay people, because they had never been to the Holy Land," he says. "They were visibly moved by the experience, you could see it in their faces."

Most of the Jesuits on this trip had been to the Holy Land before, "but far from being

unmoved by the experience, we reveled in the opportunity for contemplation and prayer together at these sacred places," Fr. Kiser says. "Despite the desire to see as much as possible, we tried to take 20 minutes to a half hour at each site to just be quiet. As we contemplated Jerusalem, for example, we silently stood where Jesus looked over the city. That was a unifying experience to be praying—just praying—but not talking to each other.

"It's interesting. When you're there, you get a real sense of the words that we know so well from the Scriptures. It all makes more sense and takes on a special meaning. We actually walked through Psalm 23—'Though I walk through the shadow of the valley of death, I fear no evil, for he is at my side....' It's quite a desolate place in the wilderness, and it's hard not to appreciate its meaning then, and even today."

The location of the Sermon on the Mount also made more sense to Fr. Kiser when he stood there himself. "You can see why they would have gone there," he says. "It was away from the city, and it's just a beautiful place. You can easily imagine people sitting there. It really helps your prayer as it all comes to life."

Even so, the experience raised questions. "I'm still intrigued by Mount Tabor," he says.

"Why did they go there? We only have a skeleton of information from all these things. Obviously, no one was taking notes. But you wonder about their movements, because in being there you get a sense of the entire area. And it took time to travel between places during all the time Jesus and the disciples spent together. What did they talk about?"

Asked to name the best part of the visit, he says, "One day we were able to have an early morning Mass at Calvary, when there was almost no one there. That almost never happens in the Holy Land because of the crowds. It was truly a grace. I had time just to pray in silence in that chapel. It was so moving. I think I'll always want to go back there."

It may be some time before he's able to visit the Holy Land again. By the time this magazine goes to press, Fr. Kiser will be visiting Jesuits and our works in several areas in the Eastern Africa Province. ✠



Quentin Maguire is the editor of Jesuits magazine and director of communications for the Midwest Province.

# Celebrating the 2023 Jubilarians

In 2023, 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.

## Trust through many schools

By Fr. Terrence A. Baum, SJ

When I speak of the Church's sacraments on retreats, I tell the students that I think sacraments are an occasion to trust – to trust in God's grace for what is to come.

I had no clue what priesthood was going to mean when I was ordained in 1981, but I was given the grace to trust that God's desires for me would unfold in his time, not mine.

I think I can say the same for every new venture that came my way during my fifty years as a Jesuit, from entrance through to the present day.

School administration has been my major ministry for most of my priestly life. I was missioned to become headmaster at Xavier High School, NYC, in 1991. Not knowing a soul, I trusted and fell in love with the faculty, students, and rich legacy of that school. In 1997, I was missioned to become headmaster

at Loyola Academy, Wilmette, the nation's largest Jesuit high school. I had never worked in a co-ed school, but was called to trust that I could do the Lord's work there. In

2003, I was missioned to become president at Rockhurst High School, Kansas City. Trusting, I fell in love with yet another school.

And now I am in Cincinnati at St. Xavier High School – not in charge of much of anything but still called to trust in God that I can continue to serve him and his people.

## Silence and the Lakota people

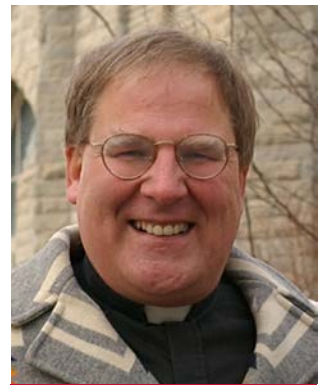
By Fr. Ray Bucko, SJ

When I think of one word or phrase that best describes my life as a Jesuit, it's silence. That might seem surprising, because Jesuits can be known for talking – and it's a big part of many of our assignments. Certainly, I wasn't silent when I was teaching at universities like Creighton, and I hope I influenced students to have a sense of social justice and be sensitive to other cultures, to appreciate them, and to see what's really there.

In my work at Holy Rosary Mission and Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, however, I believe my greatest contribution was to be silent so the Lakota people could speak for themselves, so others could know them firsthand. They have the final voice.

It's been a great gift to be able to combine the social apostolate with the intellectual apostolate these past 50 years. Early on, I was able to use the internet and work in the area of computer-assisted instruction, cooperative and distance learning models. And I felt of great use when I was supporting efforts to address AIDS, by helping people get tested, and delivering meals.

Yet I'm most grateful to the province for sending me to the reservation and trusting me to be part of that apostolate. It is in fact why I entered the Society – and why I entered as a Midwest Jesuit even though my background is on the East Coast. I wanted to serve the Lakota people. In return, I felt a strong family connection, that I truly belonged there.



Fr. Ray Bucko, SJ

## Surprising!

By Fr. John Fitzgibbons, SJ

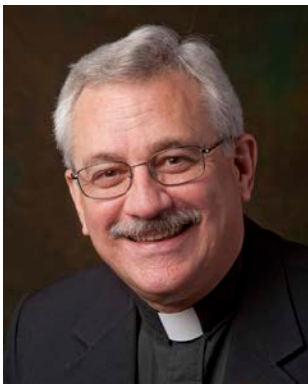
Or should I say, "Wonderfully Surprising," or "Graciously Surprising"? It was early in the morning on a very cold January day in 1973 when I mentioned to my parents that I wanted to apply to the Society of Jesus. They were, truth to tell, surprised. It was the first they heard of my desire, as I was happily getting ready for college.

I entered on August 15, 1973, and life became a welcome, gracious school of prayer and ministry. Teaching catechism to elementary students while taking college courses, being immersed in the Spiritual Exercises and accompanying farm workers in rural Wisconsin challenged and delighted me.

First studies at Saint Louis University



Fr. Terrence A. Baum, SJ



Fr. John Fitzgibbons, SJ

nurtured and strengthened my heart and my intellect. The first year of regency at the University of Chicago taught me how to study at a new level, and that the intellectual life

was worthy. While not a Regency “widow,” I took to studies again at the Weston School of Theology with passion and a desire to learn to serve as a Jesuit priest. Our faculty was the best I have ever encountered: Fathers John O’Malley, Howard Gray, Brian McDermott, Brian Daley, Daniel Harrington, Richard Clifford, and many others including Sister Katarina Schuth, OSF, and Dr. Francine Cardman. The gift of priestly ordination brought me to a new place, a place of intense desire to be of “use” and not be deaf to the Lord’s call.

Assigned to Marquette University’s McCormick Hall for freshman men, I was privileged to listen to and counsel many young men and women; also many marriages and a string of vocations of young men to the Society of Jesus began in this time. Teaching English literature to undergraduates and regularly concelebrating at Mass with Fr. John Naus, SJ, taught me more about priestly ministry than my beloved four years of academic theology.

When my provincial asked me to consider going on to do a doctorate in moral theology, I was surprised. I was even more surprised by the response I offered. I replied that I loved studying moral theology but that I believed I would get more Christian values, more moral thought across to undergraduates if I taught English literature. He replied by saying, “John, that’s the most Jesuit thing I’ve ever heard you say!” He sent me to doctoral studies in English.

Now, I serve as chancellor and chief mission officer at the University of San Francisco after 10 years of ministry as president of Regis University in Denver. How did this high school English teacher become a professor and administrator? The only answer is surprising grace.

My life has been deeply blessed. The Lord has found me by the side of the road repeatedly and I am always surprised by His gracious invitations.

## Men for Others

By Fr. Richie Salmi, SJ

It was the day after Easter in 1973 that Father General Pedro Arrupe appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine. It was also the day that I received my acceptance letter from the Detroit Province. I felt connected to Fr. Arrupe from the very beginning of my Jesuit life. It was Arrupe who coined the phrase “men (and women) for others.” Looking back at fifty years as a Jesuit, I like to think that I’ve done my best to be man for others.

Most of my time as a Jesuit has been spent in higher education, and I am grateful for the colleagues with whom I have worked and for so many who have become friends. It truly has been a blessing to be among so many wonderful people at John Carroll University, Boston College, Loyola University Chicago, Spring Hill College and Fordham University. Oh, the stories we could all tell!

It was in Cleveland that I began playing softball. I am so very thankful for the many men and women I had the pleasure to play with in more than 30 years of playing in Cleveland, Boston, Chicago



Fr. Richie Salmi, SJ

and London (yes, they play softball in the UK). I’ve presided at more than a few softball weddings! It’s been a blessing to be able to minister to my teammates and their families.

## The Gift of Availability

By Fr. Bill Verbryke, SJ

“Are you sitting down?” These are the words of my formation director in a phone call informing me of my regency assignment. As we conversed, I recalled the promise I made to myself several years before as I knelt on the Colombiere Chapel floor awaiting my turn to pronounce my first vows, that I would always be generously available for whatever I was asked by the Society. Being assigned to “my” third choice gave me the opportunity to test that promise. In reward, the gifts I received in this assignment were immeasurable, life-long and God-given. And this has been consistent in all my assignments. I am truly blessed, truly grateful!

I am a high school person at heart, though I describe myself as a utility player. I have been blessed to serve in positions in the high school apostolate as well as in service of the province. Through all, I identify myself as “pastoral,” trying to bring to others what I have received from God, a sense of being loved and cared for, a sense of being forgiven, a sense of hope and peace. I am truly blessed, truly grateful!

In my fifty years in the Society of Jesus I have had wonderful Jesuit companions as friends, community members, colleagues and mentors; lay colleagues in ministry and shared leadership; students, directees, and



Fr. Bill Verbryke, SJ

parishioners with whom to live my Jesuit and priestly vocation; and family and friends to support me along the way. I am truly blessed, truly grateful!

## Thank you, Lord!

By Fr. Michael A. Vincent, SJ

A sentiment that might be common to all of us who are celebrating our 50th Anniversary of entrance to the Society is: “Where did all that time go?” Certainly, that’s the case for me.

God’s call to the Society for me was the example of my teachers at University of Detroit. Jesuit High School and Georgetown University. I admired the dedication and



Fr. Michael A. Vincent, S. J.

enthusiasm of Jesuits I knew, and I wanted to be part of that energy.

For years, that meant being a high school teacher, and I did that in three schools over the course of 29 years – U. of D. Jesuit, St. John’s Jesuit

in Toledo, and Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland. In those schools I taught Latin, German, Theology, and English. I also had the opportunity to work with young people in the areas of Model United Nations, Student Government, Quiz Bowl, and – most often – yearbooks.

Just before my 60th birthday, I was offered the chance to become associate pastor at Church of the Gesu in University Heights. There was just a move across town from Saint Ignatius. This has been my second “career,” as it were, in the Society. The last almost 13 years have been a time of great joy and hope, working with people at both ordinary and very important moments of their lives with God

and Christ. Thank you, Lord, for all of these experiences and joys!

## Principle and Foundation, and My Brothers

By Fr. Robert Ytsen, SJ

Anyone who has spent any time with me knows that it doesn’t take long to make a connection to British literature or history and whatever topic that may have caught our attention. That certainly is the case with this reflection on fifty years in the Society. What else is new? I recently finished a fascinating nonfiction account, *The Wager*, of a squadron of British warships in the 18th century attempting to make its way around Cape Horn, a perilous undertaking. The surprise was how engrossed I was in the story, since this hasn’t been an area in British literature or history that has ever attracted me. I was pleasantly surprised. The result is, my reflection relies on a number of maritime metaphors that have shaped my response; thank you, David Grann.

My journey in the Society has relied on two sources of guidance: The Principle and Foundation, and my Jesuit brothers who “shipped out” with me at different ports of call. Of course, the anticipation, shared commitment, and camaraderie were palpable and supportive. The “seas” were familiar and navigable, even when a little rough. Naturally, we proceeded in different directions as we navigated to different destinations. And just like 18th century sailors, some of us had to navigate unfamiliar, rough, and potentially perilous seas.

During those times I was guided by the two sources of guidance identified above. Over the decades different Jesuit companions provided a “lighthouse” of support, challenge, courage, and safety to help me maneuver dangerous waters. When that “lighthouse” was not apparent, like the sailors, I looked to the “heavens.” I found spiritual support, challenge, courage, and safety. Like the sailors, I count on both.

Seemingly unnavigable seas reveal

waterways that come into sight; it takes courage and faith to steer into the opening. The smooth sailing after the tumult allows me to be more keenly aware of upcoming life — navigating challenges.



Fr. Robert Ytsen, SJ

What I have experienced and am genuinely grateful for are all the opportunities, insights, and parables of my life. I hope to continue to share my journey with whomever the Lord places in my path. Spiritual and human support are inseparable; one reveals the other. My desire is to be a source of both.

### Also celebrating anniversaries in the Society of Jesus:

#### 60 Years in the Society

Rev. Richard P. Abert, SJ  
 Rev. Burnell B. Bisbee, SJ  
 Rev. Eugene J. Carmichael, SJ  
 Rev. William E. Creed, SJ  
 Rev. Paul B. Macke, SJ  
 Rev. Frank A. Majka, SJ  
 Rev. Dennis L. McNamara, SJ  
 Rev. Joseph E. Mulligan, SJ  
 Rev. Ernesto F. Travieso, SJ  
 Rev. George E. Winzenburg, SJ

#### 70 Years in the Society

Rev. Patrick J. Connolly, SJ  
 Rev. Theodore M. Kalamaja, SJ  
 Rev. Robert T. Sears, SJ  
 Br. Michael P. Zimmerman, SJ

#### 75 Years in the Society

Rev. Thaddeus J. Burch, SJ  
 Rev. John L. McCarthy, SJ  
 Rev. G. Paul Peterson, SJ  
 Rev. M. John Wymelenberg, SJ

#### 80 Years in the Society

Rev. Thomas A. Caldwell, SJ



# Jesuit Constitutions Revisited

A Jesuit reflects on a decade's worth of eight-day silent retreats

By Fr. Richard Baumann, SJ

How could a document that uses the word “amor” 58 times, the word “caridad” 56 times, and the phrase “gloria de Dios” 289 times be experienced simply as a “book of law?” How could such a volume be summed up as merely a book of regulations rather than an apostolic spirituality? How can this classic become more than a hidden recipe, but rather, actual food and nutrition for the soul? And, if it can, how can it be continually and happily appropriated by Jesuits beyond the novitiate during the course of their formation? Such were the questions that led us to create and develop an eight-day silent retreat focused upon the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus—a wisdom document—for Jesuits during their initial formation beyond the novitiate.

The first retreat occurred in 2013, arranged with the help of Fr. Raymond Guiao, SJ, who at the time was the Midwest provincial assistant for formation. Now, at the beginning of its second decade, the retreat has continued with the assistance of Frs. Timothy Lannon, SJ, and Charles Rodrigues, SJ, the previous and current provincial assistants for formation.

The purpose of the retreat is to help men in formation become even more acquainted with Ignatian and Jesuit spirituality by means of prayer—coupled with daily input, discussion, and examples—about the Constitutions, which, as the late scholar Fr. Michael Buckley, SJ, stated, “defines the Jesuit, and specifies what a Jesuit is and what a Jesuit life is,

insofar as that can be done by a classic document.” Men from all four United States provinces and beyond have enjoyed the retreat, optimally 15 at a time.

Besides Jesuits, more and more lay leaders and colleagues in our apostolates are discovering the Constitutions and asking about them. This year in Dallas, Carol Ackels, director of the Ignatian Spirituality Institute, and Fr. Joseph Tetlow, SJ, organized a workshop related to the Constitutions. In recent years, Matthew Couture and Fr. Joseph Parkes, SJ, provincial assistants for pre-secondary and secondary education for the Midwest and East provinces, respectively, have arranged for presentations to high school faculty and leaders on the values and themes of the Constitutions related to the apostolate of secondary education.

The retreat itself is meant to be a time between the beginning of formation (novitiate) and the end of initial formation (tertianship) when a man can integrate his ongoing personal experiences within the framework of the Jesuit spirit and apostolic identity. Since 2016, the retreat has also been offered to older Jesuits, most of whom did not have access to an English translation of the Constitutions until 1970. Besides the bulk of the retreat covering the 10 Parts of the Constitutions, there are also preliminary sessions on The Autobiography of St. Ignatius, the Spiritual Exercises, the Rules for the Discernment of Spirits, and the Formula of the Institute.

Though the retreatants are encouraged to pray about any area of their lives, the retreat offers a prime opportunity to pray about the words and thoughts of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Such prayer about the Constitutions—the institutionalization of a charism, when Ignatian spirituality became Jesuit spirituality—opens a person to the depth and richness of our vocation. As one man in formation expressed, engaging the Jesuit religious heritage in a prayerful way allowed him to experience once again a confirmation of his initial calling to the Society. It was something like a homecoming for him.

I am very grateful for those who have made and benefitted from this retreat—as I have—especially since it’s unclear how many more years I’ll be offering this experience. The overall wish and goal is to assist all of us Jesuits to become not only men of the Spiritual Exercises—which is prized so enthusiastically—but also men of the Constitutions, appreciating the founding inspiration and the articulation of our corporate Jesuit life and mission, and cooperating with it unto the glory of God. ✠



Fr. Richard Baumann, SJ is the regional vocation director for the Midwest Province, and a presenter of topics related to Ignatian and Jesuit spirituality.

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

## **Fr. Michael R. Kolb, SJ**

April 20, 1952 – March 8, 2023

*“Mike was both bright and creative. He was an excellent writer and used his skills well, especially when writing about other cultures or his travel experiences.”*



English professor at Sogang University in Seoul, South Korea; teacher (theology and drama), student

counselor and dean of students at Marquette University High School; author of the book *Praying with Jesuit Saints and Blessed*, which was published by the Kohima Region and later republished by the Midwest Province for the Ignatian Year in 2022; missioned to St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis.

## **Fr. Thomas D. Stegman, SJ**

January 7, 1963 – April 8, 2023

*“Tom Stegman was a truly wonderful man and friend. He was an admirable Jesuit, priest and scholar. He had a great capacity for friendship and a transparent faith in God.”*



English and religion teacher at Creighton Preparatory School; professor of New Testament at Weston School of Theology; professor of New Testament at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry (BCSTM), and later dean of the school; missioned to Campion Center in Weston, Mass., to care for his health. Respected Scripture scholar; elected to represent the Wisconsin Province at the 2012 Procurators Congregation in Nairobi and the 36th General Congregation in Rome in 2016.

## **Fr. Francis E. Canfield, SJ**

February 1, 1936 – May 6, 2023

*“Frank was a devoted Jesuit and priest. He always had an easy smile and offered words of encouragement to everyone he encountered.”*



Teacher (Latin, psychology, theology), student counselor and principal at University of Detroit

Jesuit High School and Academy; student counselor and teacher at St. John’s Jesuit High School in Toledo, Ohio; superior of the Toledo Jesuit community; chaplain at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland; missioned to Colombiere Center Jesuit Community in Clarkston, Mich.

## **Fr. Keith J. Esenther, SJ**

November 18, 1940 – June 3, 2023

*“Keith was a man of prayer whose homilies reflected his relationship with Jesus. He loved celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation and was a skilled confessor.”*



English teacher at St. Xavier High School, Xavier University in Cincinnati, Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill., the Jesuit philosophate in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and Arrupe College in Harare, Zimbabwe; principal of Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago; coordinator of secondary education for then-Chicago Province; chaplain of at Loyola University Chicago (LUC) School of Law School and Water Tower campus; director of LUC Jesuit Collegian Program; assistant director of LUC university ministry; minister of LUC Jesuit community; treasurer of LUC Jesuit community; ESL instructor at LUC St. Joseph Seminary; staff member of the Jesuit Mission Office in Wimbledon, United Kingdom; dean and teacher of philosophy and theology at St. Paul’s Major Seminary in Bussere, Sudan (now South Sudan); staff member of Loyola House Jesuit Novitiate in Berkley, Mich.; socius to Chicago Provincial Fr. Bob Wild, SJ, and Detroit Provincial Fr. John Libens, SJ; assistant to Midwest Province socius; missioned to Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich., to care for his health.

*Lord, we entrust to your mercy,  
those who have died:*

*welcome them into your presence.*

*You loved them greatly in this life,  
now give them happiness and peace  
for ever.*

*Eternal rest grant unto them,  
O Lord.*

*And let perpetual light shine upon  
them.*

*May they rest in peace. Amen.*

—Excerpt from the Funeral Liturgy





Xavier University President Colleen Hanycz

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## Xavier University Establishing Medical School

A new medical school is coming to Ohio, and it will be the nation's first Jesuit college of osteopathic medicine.

Xavier University's board of trustees unanimously approved plans to establish the school, and to construct a new complex on its main campus in Cincinnati. Construction of the College of Osteopathic Medicine's facilities will generate approximately \$125.5 million in economic impact, support more than 740 jobs, and produce \$3.2 million in state and local taxes.

Perhaps more importantly, the doctors of osteopathy that Xavier produces will make an immediate impact in Ohio, which must add nearly 700 primary-care physicians to its workforce by 2030 to catch up with demand, according to forecasts from the Robert Graham Center, a Washington-based organization that conducts policy research in family medicine and primary care.

By 2033, the college could directly and indirectly support 351 jobs in the region while generating \$48.5 million in total economic impact per year, and \$1.7 million in state and local taxes, according to the feasibility study. Based on the proposed class size of 150 students annually, the study estimates that an additional \$198 million could be added to

the state economy every year, if at least 60 percent of students complete residencies and practice in Ohio.

The medical college's focus on osteopathy — a holistic, patient-centered approach to medicine that focuses, primarily, on preventive health care — aligns well with Xavier's identity and its Jesuit Catholic mission, says Xavier University President Colleen Hanycz. One of the core commitments of a Jesuit education is *cura personalis*, an emphasis on care for the entire person with an all-encompassing focus on mind, body and spirit.

Xavier is known for its strength in health sciences, as seen in the growth and success of programs such as biology, biomedical sciences, pre-professional health and health services administration. Statistically, a Xavier pre-med student is more than twice as likely to be accepted into medical school than the average student. Across the past several years, more than 85 percent of Xavier graduates who applied to medical school were accepted, compared to the national average of 40 percent.

When the new college opens, Xavier will become only the second osteopathic medicine school in Ohio and the 40th in the country. ✠

## THE CIRCLE OF COMPANIONS

The Midwest Jesuits are immensely grateful for the continued generosity of our friends and benefactors, and we appreciate all types of gifts. One group of donors we would like to give special recognition to is our recurring gift donors called our **Circle of Companions (COC)**. **COC donors** make regular, ongoing donations supporting Jesuit vocations, formation, and education; care for the health and wellness of our senior Jesuits; and Jesuit works both local and international. **COC donors** can also earmark their gifts to be used for the greatest need.



*"We are deeply grateful to our friends who remember us through recurring giving," says our provincial, Fr. Karl J. Kiser, SJ. "Financial needs sometimes arise for which we are unable to plan, and for which it is not possible to ask for help in a timely manner. The reliable gifts of these generous benefactors allow our work to continue uninterrupted."*

Nick and Kristin (Probst) Nalbach, both graduates of the Creighton University Heider College of Business, joined the Circle of Companions program in 2021.

*"We started donating monthly a few years ago, and now that monthly donation is simply a part of our everyday life, just like a Netflix or Amazon subscription," Nick says. "The difference is, with this payment, we get a letter from the Province at the end of the year showing how much we've donated. We feel proud of what we're supporting, and realize these incremental payments add up to a number that truly has an impact. We also love how easy it is to participate, how simple and flexible the program is. The Jesuits have continually added value to our emotional and spiritual well-being."*

**COC donors** play an essential role in furthering the Jesuit mission. The collective support—monthly, quarterly, or semi-annually—from longtime donors and new members like Nick and Kristin Nalbach, will continue to uphold the mission and works of the Jesuits for years to come.

We invite you to enroll as a **Circle of Companions (COC) member** by visiting [www.jesuitsmidwest.org](http://www.jesuitsmidwest.org) and clicking on "Support Us." You may also contact Margie O'Neill at [moneill@jesuits.org](mailto:moneill@jesuits.org) or 773-975-6911.