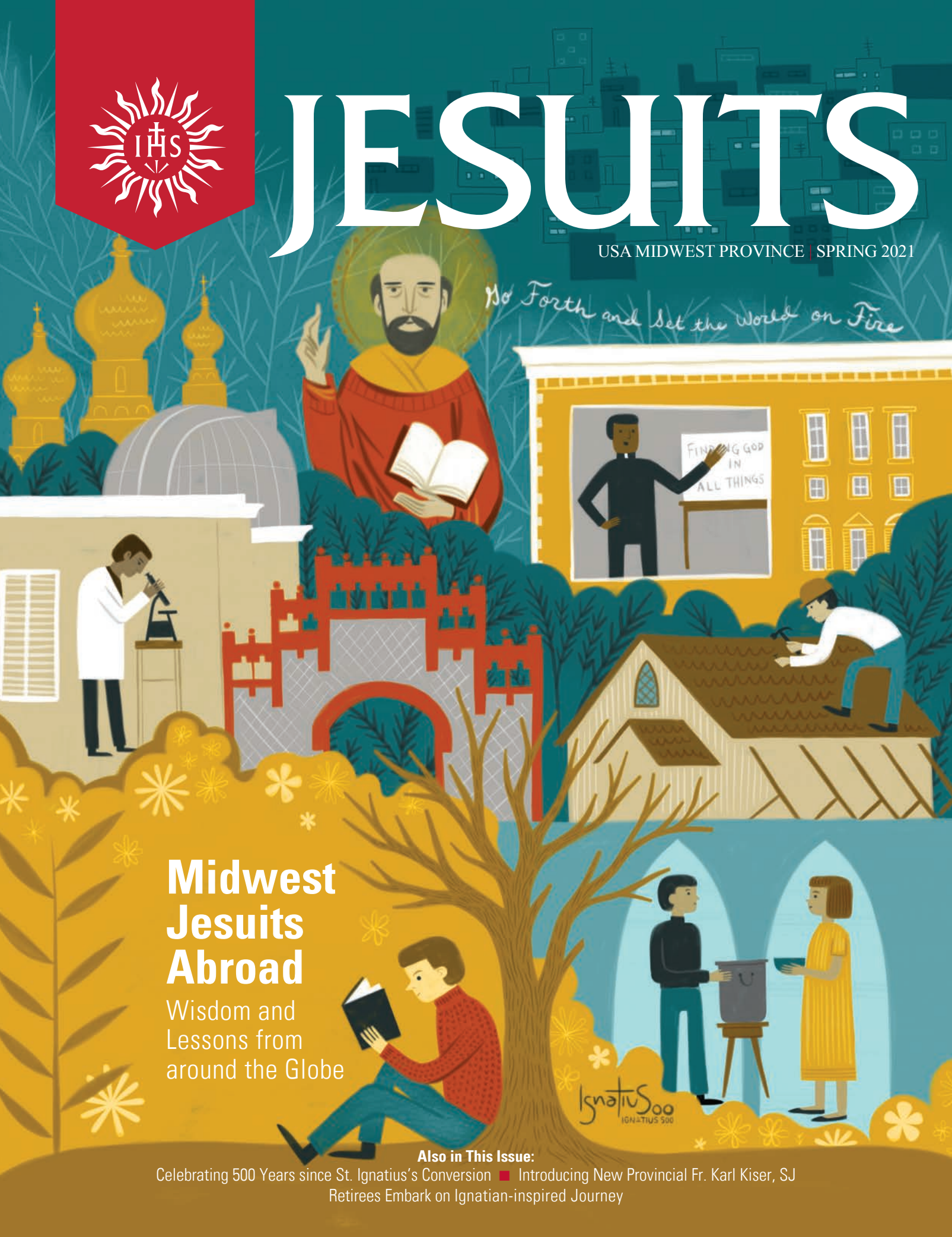




JESUITS

USA MIDWEST PROVINCE | SPRING 2021

No Forth and set the World on Fire



Midwest Jesuits Abroad

Wisdom and Lessons from around the Globe

Ignatius500
IGNATIUS 500

Also in This Issue:

Celebrating 500 Years since St. Ignace's Conversion ■ Introducing New Provincial Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ
Retirees Embark on Ignatian-inspired Journey



Dear Friends,

I am humbled.

These are the words I used when I wrote my first message in this magazine as the first provincial of the newly formed USA Midwest Province. And they are just as true today—in this, my last message to you as provincial in *Jesuits Magazine*. I have been humbled to work with my Jesuit brothers and our lay collaborators to pursue our mission, and I have been humbled to experience the fruits of your prayers and support in all that we do.

I am pleased that Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, has named Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ, as our next provincial (see page 12). A proven leader, Fr. Kiser brings considerable pastoral and administrative gifts, along with international experience, to his role of caring for the Jesuits and the ministries of our province. I am equally grateful for his deep and abiding love for the Society of Jesus and its service to the Church.

One such mutual goal involves the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation dialogue that has been taking place among the Society of Jesus, Georgetown University, and the Descendants of Jesuit Slaveholding (page 9). President of the Jesuit Conference, former Chicago-Detroit Provincial Timothy Kesicki, SJ, has been engaged in this vital work for several years; it is just now bearing fruit. The Descendants have invited us to partner with them on a common project—their vision of a new charitable foundation. While much work remains, this is an important moment as we embrace a partnership that seeks progress in healing racial divisions. If you are so moved, I invite you to join us in supporting this ambitious and important project which flows from the heart of the gospel.

Briefly, this magazine has much more good news to share: a new program called the Ignatian Legacy Fellows (page 6); our cover story (page 8), which provides perspectives from Midwest Jesuits who are serving abroad; an up-and-coming playwright (page 13); a student leader in activism and social justice (page 16); and several food industry professionals who have improvised during the pandemic (page 20).

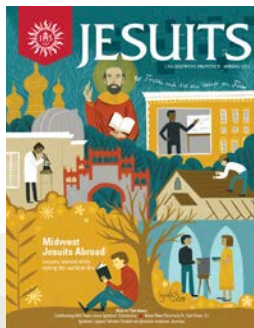
Finally, we are celebrating as we embark on the Ignatian Year (page 4), which begins on May 20—the 500th anniversary of the date a cannonball hit Iñigo de Loyola and forever changed his life. This jubilee will be an opportunity to rediscover our roots, while considering the “cannonball moments” in our own lives, through which we might hear God calling us to our own conversion, as we endeavor “to see all things new in Christ.”

It is my prayer that you might experience such transformation as you ever deepen your relationship with God. And it is my fervent prayer that you know how grateful we are for your support of and participation in our mission.

In Christ,

V. Rev. Brian G. Paulson, SJ
Provincial, USA Midwest Province





ON THE COVER

Midwest Jesuits are presently serving and studying in every corner of the world, as the Society of Jesus has done for centuries. Many of the locales mentioned in the story can be found on the cover. How many can you find?

Illustration: Jacqui Langeland

Evangelizing Through Drama



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Imanol Ruiz, graduate of Cristo Rey Jesuit High Milwaukee, emphasizes the importance of his Jesuit education in his success as a playwright.

Photo: Jeff Zmania

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Close Encounters of the Global Kind
Midwest Jesuits share lessons and reflections from their time abroad.



Page 12

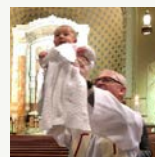
Passing the Torch to Set the World on Fire

As the V. Rev. Brian Paulson, SJ, takes on the role of president at the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States, the Midwest Jesuits welcome Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ, as the new provincial.



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From the Earliest Days of Jesuit Education
The Pontifical Gregorian University, established by St. Ignatius, turns 470 years old in 2021.



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A Pastoral Workhorse
Father Stan Czarnecki, SJ, spreads joy with his various forms of ministry.

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Loyola University Chicago's 3,100-square-foot greenhouse, the Ecodome

Loyola University Chicago Launches School of Environmental Sustainability

Loyola University Chicago has formally announced the launch of its new School of Environmental Sustainability (SES), the first school dedicated to environmental sustainability among Jesuit institutions worldwide.

The school will build on the foundation of the Institute of Environmental Sustainability (IES). IES has demonstrated success at the undergraduate level and, more recently, the graduate level, putting Loyola on the map as a leader in environmental sustainability. Other achievements of the Institute include the founding of an annual climate change conference, the establishment of the student-run farmers' market and greenhouse, and the development of hand sanitizer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The school's five-year plan advances Loyola's vision of amplifying and enhancing cross-school interdisciplinary collaborations, scholarship, and research. The plan includes the establishment of five new interdisciplinary areas of study; development of interdisciplinary research and scholarship across schools; the goal of nearly tripling SES undergraduate and graduate enrollments; expansion of graduate student research; increased research funding and publication; growth of professional seminar and conference offerings; and employment opportunities with hires in each department to increase diversity of faculty and staff and fortify interdisciplinary research teams.



The Jesuits celebrated 100 years of working in Patna, India, on March 3, 2021.

The Jesuits Celebrate 100 Years of Working in Patna

This year, the Society of Jesus is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Jesuits working in Patna, India. Many American Jesuits have left their mark over the century, such as Jesuit Frs. Ed Daly in catechetics formation, Bob Grib's teaching Hindi to young Jesuits, and Robert Stegman, who designed and constructed many landmark buildings in the Patna Province.

The first Jesuits actually came to Patna 400 years ago, in 1620, from neighboring Bengal. That mission didn't last, but in 1919, Pope Benedict XV created the Patna Diocese under the auspices of the Jesuits of the Missouri Province.

On March 16, 1921, Jesuit Frs. William Eline, Henry Milen, Patrick Troy, Thomas Kelley, and Edward Anderson arrived in Patna as the first American Jesuits and laid the foundation for the advances we see today. As decades passed, Jesuits in Patna focused on serving the poor, founding and nurturing numerous Christian faith communities, spreading education, promoting economic development, and feeding hungry mouths so that they could, in turn, feed their souls.

Today Patna serves 328 million people in the two least-developed states of North India. This great need offers both challenges and opportunities. The Patna Province faces a decline in resources and in Jesuit candidates while also staring down potential opposition and persecution from fundamentalist forces. The challenges are real and great, but so, too, is the vision for the future.

Watch Fr. Brian Paulson's message to Patna at JesuitsMidwest.org/Patna100



Colleen M. Hancz, PhD

Xavier University Names First Female, Lay President

Xavier University has announced that Colleen M. Hancz, PhD, will serve as the 35th president of Xavier University, starting July 1, 2021. Dr. Hancz's leadership, academic credentials, character, and commitment to Catholic higher education highlight her ability to serve as its next president and lead Xavier into the future. Dr. Hancz currently serves as president of La Salle University in Philadelphia, a Lasallian, Catholic university. Prior to that, she served for seven years as principal (president) of Brescia University College in London, Ontario, Canada, a Catholic women's university in the Ursuline tradition.

"Xavier's lived mission is deeply appealing to me," Dr. Hancz noted. "As a Jesuit, Catholic university committed to serving society by forming students intellectually, morally, and spiritually for lives of solidarity and service, Xavier's values strongly align with my own. Building on the tremendous legacy of Fr. Michael Graham, SJ, I am excited to partner with Xavier's community in writing the next chapter in its storied history."

Dr. Hancz will become the first lay and first female president in Xavier's 190-year history. Dr. Hancz has done this before, serving as both firsts for La Salle as well. A former associate professor of law, Dr. Hancz possesses an excellent teaching and academic background with a demonstrated passion for student-centered education.



Creighton president Fr. Daniel Hendrickson, SJ, (left) with board of trustees chair Mike McCarthy (right)

Creighton University Receives \$25 Million Gift to Establish Global Medical Program

Creighton University is set to become the largest Catholic health sciences educator in the United States. The university has received a transformational \$25 million gift from an anonymous foundation to establish the Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships Program.

Named for Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, 28th Superior General of the Society of Jesus and founder of the Jesuit Refugee Service, the program seeks to improve the health and well-being of the international poor and to educate future servant-leader physicians. The gift will support 10 cohorts of 12 students from Creighton's medical programs in both Omaha and Phoenix over 10 years beginning in 2022.

Arrupe Global Scholars will earn a medical degree while working alongside international health care workers and Creighton faculty on multiyear projects aimed at addressing significant health challenges in locations around the world.

"Creighton is known for producing physicians committed to the Jesuit value of caring for the whole patient—mind, body, and spirit. Our graduates then go on to careers in which service for and with others is central to their practices," said Michael Kavan, PhD, associate dean for student affairs at the Creighton University School of Medicine. "The Arrupe Global Scholars and Partnerships Program will build upon this foundation in forming future doctors who consciously and compassionately care for some of the world's most vulnerable populations."

Stephanie Ibemere, PhD, RN

Hometown: Tulsa, OK

School(s) Attended: Xavier University and University of Cincinnati

Profession: Postdoctoral Fellow-Nurse Scientist

How did you get involved with the Jesuits?

I first learned about the Jesuits during my college search. Once I was accepted to Xavier University, I remember seeing the course requirements for my degrees, and I thought, "This is going to be quite the experience." Getting to take philosophy, theology, and ethics-related courses as a science major produced an environment in which I could begin my process of addressing health inequities. The idea of living our lives as human beings in solidarity for and with others enlivened my spirit, as this is a paradigm I was familiar with from my Nigerian background and in the South African philosophy of Ubuntu. As I grew in my understanding of science, my involvement with the Jesuits increased my understanding of myself, my role in the greater community, and how my hopes for a more just world could be realized.

How have the Jesuits impacted your life?

The Jesuits and their teachings have really become part of my life "scaffolding." If I were to name one Jesuit in particular, it would be Fr. Al Bischoff, SJ. Seeing him on campus always meant I was going to have a good day. He really is an embodiment of how to show compassion and genuine interest in your fellow human being. From him, I learned what it means to ask the question, "How are you?" and to take the time to listen to the response. My experience as an undergraduate solidified my decision to return and complete a second-degree nursing program as a graduate student. It was in this program I learned more about



the value of *cura personalis* and *magis*, both values I had seen in Fr. B but hadn't truly understood.

How do you bring Jesuit values into the workplace?

While at Xavier, I was selected to be a student participant for the Guatemala interfaith medical service trip founded in the former Office of Interfaith and Community Engagement by Rabbi Abie Ingber. After a transformative experience in the western highlands of Guatemala, I was asked to join the medical team as its triage nurse. This opportunity galvanized my opportunity to engage in "service rooted in justice and love," through the value of *cura personalis*. My involvement in this work also rekindled my deepest desire of learning more about creating justice in global health so that I could return to West Africa and partner with local communities who wished to build healthcare capacity. Much of my research and activism is influenced by my time at Xavier and Jesuit values. My research focus is aimed at improving health inequities rooted in social injustices affecting our global family.



From Worldly Cavalier to Limping Pilgrim to Spiritual Leader

By Amy Korpi

Society of Jesus prepares to rediscover its founder's legacy and inspiration during "Ignatian Year"

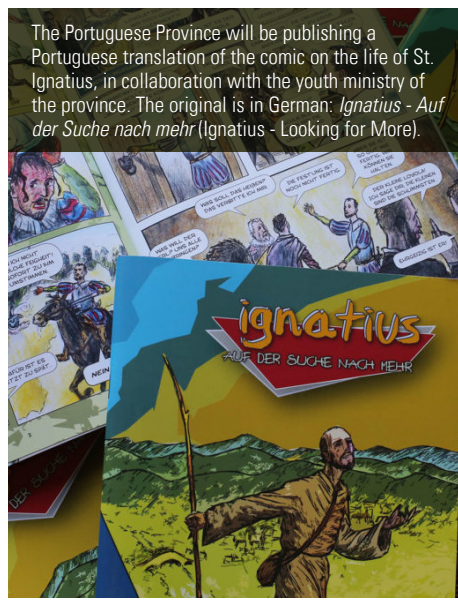
May 20, 2021—the 500th anniversary of the date a cannonball hit Iñigo de Loyola and forever changed his life—the Society of Jesus and the Ignatian family will start a worldwide celebration: the Ignatian Year. This jubilee will include March 12, 2022, (the 400th anniversary of the canonization of St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Francis Xavier), and end with St. Ignatius's feast day on July 31, 2022.

Father Arturo Sosa, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, has said, "It is my hope and desire that we can work together among the entire Ignatian family to celebrate this year, rediscover our roots, and thus renew ourselves and our outlook to the world."



He has called the Ignatian Year an opportunity for people today to have an experience of conversion—to consider the "cannonball moments" in our own lives, through which we might hear God calling us to transform our own mission.

The theme of the celebration is "to see all things new in Christ." Activities will aim to deepen the Ignatian family's understanding of and focus on the Universal Apostolic Preferences—the preferences that orient the Society of Jesus toward areas that are vital for our world today.



The Portuguese Province will be publishing a Portuguese translation of the comic on the life of St. Ignatius, in collaboration with the youth ministry of the province. The original is in German: *Ignatius - Auf der Suche nach mehr* (Ignatius - Looking for More).

WHAT IS A CANNONBALL MOMENT?

Sometimes epiphanies come from unexpected moments, and a perceived



Catholic Life Communities will organize a world meeting of youth entitled "Embrace the World in an Ignatian Way." The meeting will take place in Loyola, Spain, and will be broadcast completely online July 29–31. Details will be shared on our social media and website later this spring.

failure prompts a new way of life.

Such was the case for Ignatius. In what is now known as his "cannonball moment," Ignatius experienced a calamity that marked the beginning of a new purpose—a spiritual journey of conversion to follow Christ more closely, and, ultimately, a catalyst to establish the Society of Jesus.

THE STORY IN BRIEF

From the time he was young, Ignatius had been a vain courtier seeking military prowess, excitement, material wealth, and glory. While he was a practicing Catholic, he fashioned himself more as a soldier and a ladies' man—an ambitious knight on the move in sixteenth-century Europe.

That was until the Battle of Pamplona. While fighting for the Spanish against a French army, Ignatius—who was by then a captain of infantry—convinced some compatriots that they must hold out, even though the cause was hopeless and most others had given up. Then, after a six-hour bombardment, an event took place that would change Ignatius's life forever: a cannonball shattered one of his knees and severely wounded the other.

Fortunately, the French admired his courage. Instead of taking him to prison, they treated his injuries and carried him to the castle of Loyola. When doctors realized his leg was not healing properly, they broke it again and reset it. By this point, his strength began to fail, and he received last rites. Amazingly, he survived.

But all was still not well. Because of the way his bones settled, one protruded below the knee. He "could not bear this," according to his autobiography, "since he intended to live a life at court." So, he asked for the bone to be cut off.

Although the doctors warned Ignatius that "it would cause him more suffering than all that had preceded," vanity prevailed, and he endured the torture.

As Ignatius recovered, he became bored and restless and asked for some romance novels to pass the time. All that could be found were *The Life of Christ* and *Flowers of the Saints*. While these readings caused him to meditate more on holy things, he still returned to "what he should do in honor of an illustrious lady."

This doesn't sound like the St. Ignatius we know today, does it?

But God works patiently. Those readings about the life of Jesus and the saints began to make inroads into Ignatius's way of thinking.

As his autobiography tells us, eventually his "eyes were opened to the vanity of life and the reality of eternity compared with the worldliness of the life he had been leading..."

His transformation was underway, and the question was now how to live out his new purpose. He set off by himself, first as an ascetic in Spain and then as a pilgrim to the Holy Land. Forced to go home by the authorities in Jerusalem, however, his second career evaporated.

Ignatius was persistent, though. As he says in his autobiography, after learning "that it was God's will that he should not stay in Jerusalem, he pondered in his heart what he should do and finally decided to study for a time in order to be able to help souls."



He began with elementary grammar lessons and moved on to studies at the universities of Alcalá and Salamanca. Eventually, he came to study at the University of Paris, where he met fellow students, including Peter Faber and Francis Xavier, who would become the first members of the Society of Jesus.

"It took many setbacks, crises, and challenges to form St. Ignatius out of Iñigo de Loyola," Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ, provincial of the Midwest Jesuits, says. "But his cannonball moment had an impact with great significance, not only for Ignatius, or even the Jesuits, but for all who have drawn from Ignatian spirituality in their own faith journey, and for the Church at large. What perhaps is most important for us at this time, however, is the idea that we can all experience events which trigger a form of conversion, a desire to see things new in Christ. In short, anyone can be hit by a cannonball." ✠



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



The Ignatian Legacy Fellows with undergraduate students at Santa Clara University

What Do You Ask of Me Now, God?

By Patrick Kennedy

The retirement party has concluded, the new home office has been set up, but for what? So many retired or semi-retired people who have experienced rich careers, sticky problems to solve, people to care for, or businesses to build, find themselves asking the critical question—what now? One person spoke of calculating how many days are left on the earth for him (given the average age of death for a male) and how many subsequent hours. One person described the profound sense of loss of meaning and intention. Another spoke of flailing from one possible new business to another and yet feeling empty. But the critical question remained—how to best spend those days.

Ignatian Legacy Fellows is a new program that aims to help people find those answers. The first cohorts have come together six times over the course of a calendar year to explore the meaning of retirement and the opportunities that lie ahead. The program involves peer meetings, traveling to apostolates to

experience the global Jesuit mission, interacting with young people engaged in Jesuit-sponsored works, and making a pilgrimage to walk in the steps of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The meaningful journey begins with a turn inward, is strengthened by peer support, and establishes new relationships within the broader community. It is an Ignatian-inspired journey that invites people of all faiths. As co-founder Mariann Salisbury aptly describes it, “It’s not retiring, it’s rewiring.”

The program has demonstrated early success, forming people who have found new passions and reconnected to Ignatian spirituality. Participants describe feeling newly prepared for “doing” versus “being.” It inspires the next push to utilize one’s God-given talents and energies for good. Father Michael Garanzini, SJ, says, “It’s been a privilege for me to accompany the Ignatian Fellows on their journey—a true pilgrimage with friends and like-minded sojourners. We’ve become a supportive community

from almost day one. When we launched the program, we thought this might be something for people with a great deal yet to give. The program fellows will tell you that we’re meeting that need and goal.”

John Fontana, co-founder of the Ignatian Legacy Fellows, says that participants have found tremendous comfort in working toward what they see as their personal capstone project. He sums it up with yet another complex question, “Will I pass the final test?”

For more information about the Ignatian Legacy Fellows, visit their website at LUC.edu/ILF or contact co-directors Mariann Salisbury at msalisbury1@luc.edu or John Fontana at fontanjj3@gmail.com. ✠



Mariann Salisbury and Fr. Michael Garanzini, SJ



Patrick Kennedy, is a major gift officer for the Midwest Jesuits based in Chicago. He is a native of Kankakee, Illinois, and a graduate of Villanova University and the University of San Francisco.

Descendants of Jesuit Slaveholding and Jesuits of the United States Announce

Historic Partnership

In a landmark undertaking in the pursuit of racial healing and justice, Descendants of ancestors enslaved and sold by the Jesuits, together with the Jesuits of the United States, have announced a partnership to create the Descendants Truth & Reconciliation Foundation.

The Foundation is a first-of-its-kind partnership among the Descendants of the enslaved and the descendants of the enslavers. JPMorgan Chase is a supporter of this historic partnership.

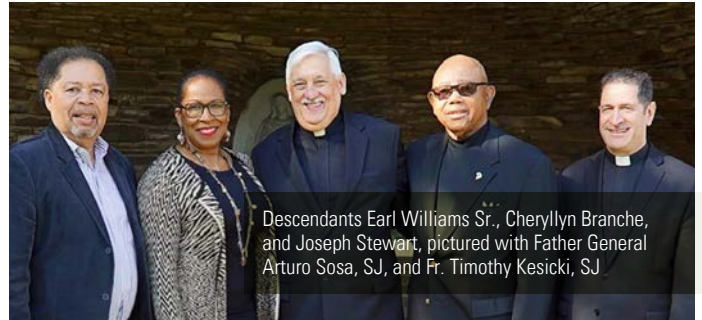
“For more than 400 years, our country has denied the persistent human destruction caused by slavery and the conscious and unconscious racism that divides our communities and nation,” said Joseph Stewart, acting president of the Descendants Truth & Reconciliation Foundation and one of more than 1,000 Descendants of Isaac Hawkins, an enslaved man who, along with many other enslaved men, women, and children, was sold to save Georgetown University from financial ruin. “After 182 years, Descendants and Jesuits have come together in the spirit of truth, racial healing, and reconciliation, uniquely positioning the Descendants Truth & Reconciliation Foundation to set an example and lead America through dismantling the remnants of slavery and mitigating the presence of racism. Our partnership will pursue and support the creation of a new and abiding reality of love and justice for all members of our one humanity.”

The Foundation is rooted in the events of 1838, when 272 enslaved

men, women and children were sold by the Jesuit owners of Georgetown University to plantation owners in Louisiana. “Our shameful history of Jesuit slaveholding in the United States has been taken off the dusty shelf, and it can never be put back,” said Fr. Tim Kesicki, SJ, president of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States and former provincial of the Chicago-Detroit Province Jesuits. “Racism will endure in America if we continue to turn our heads away from the truth of the past and how it affects us all today. The lasting effects of slavery call each of us to do the work of truth and reconciliation. Without this joining of hearts and hands in true unity, the cycle of hatred and inequality in America will never end.”

Citizens Bank of New Orleans, later acquired by JPMorgan Chase, used the 272 enslaved humans as collateral. The Foundation has set up a trust for which JPMorgan Chase will serve as a co-trustee and provide planning and advice as well as other services. “The institution of slavery and systemic racism are tragic parts of America’s history, and we have a responsibility to drive sustainable change for the people and communities who have been impacted by this bitter legacy,” said Brian Lamb, the global head of diversity and inclusion at JPMorgan Chase.

This announcement comes after several



Descendants Earl Williams Sr., Cheryllyn Branche, and Joseph Stewart, pictured with Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, and Fr. Timothy Kesicki, SJ

years of a powerful dialogue process. In April of 2017, Fr. Kesicki publicly apologized for Jesuit slaveholding at a Liturgy of Memory, Contrition and Hope at Georgetown University. In May of 2017, about a year after learning of their connection to this tragic and sinful past, Descendant leaders petitioned Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, to respond.

Father Sosa responded to the Descendants’ letter, writing, “Jesuit slaveholding in the United States, and in particular the sale of 272 enslaved persons from the Jesuits in southern Maryland to purchasers in Louisiana, was both a sin and a betrayal because the Society robbed your ancestors of their human dignity.” Father Sosa called the US provincials to dialogue with the Descendants. In the summer of 2018, soon after receiving the Superior General’s letter, Mr. Stewart called Fr. Kesicki, and the two met in person at Mr. Stewart’s home in Michigan.

A life-long partnership and a shared commitment to transformation and conversion emerged from this process. ✠

More information, including a video message from Midwest Jesuits Provincial V. Rev. Brian Paulson, is available at JesuitsMidwest.org/Descendants



Garrett Gundlach, SJ, participates in a fundraising walk for the Lebanon branch of Filipino Church initiative Couples for Christ (CFC) with the community from his local Jesuit parish's English-speaking Sunday Mass.

Close Encounters of the Global Kind

Lessons from Abroad

“The world is our home.”

— Fr. Jerónimo Nadal, SJ (1507-1580)

By Amy Korpi

According to José Casanova of Georgetown University’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, the Jesuits were the first organized group in history to think and act globally. As such, he writes that the Society “embodied what [Pope Francis] so frequently evokes as a ‘culture of encounter’ and a ‘culture of dialogue,’ within and between peoples as the only way to peace in our globalized world.”

Midwest Jesuits, continuing that tradition in other countries today, have some insights.

BUILDING BRIDGES IN ISRAEL

In his years as a Jesuit, Fr. John Paul, SJ, has engaged in various ministries that broadened his cultural horizons. He is currently missioned as rector at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute on the southern edge of East Jerusalem. Founded to build bridges through ecumenical dialogue and

respectful human conversation, Tantur’s setting is ideal for promoting a greater understanding of the richness of the religious, ethnic, and cultural traditions of

this land and its peoples.

Father Paul explains, “Here I am surrounded by sounds and spiritual practices of three Abrahamic traditions



El Agustino in Lima, Peru

that keep me conscious of being in the presence of the Holy One, and of how my mission is to provide an ‘oasis of encounter’ with holy sites, traditions, and people for participants in our programs offering personal renewal, continuing education, and scholarly writing or research.”

It enhances his own spiritual life as well. “Five times a day,” says Fr. Paul, “I become aware of the Islamic call to prayer, broadcast from minaret towers, and I am reminded of my own call to prayer. Each Friday evening and Saturday, I become aware of how Jerusalem becomes ‘silent’ in observance of keeping the Sabbath and am invited to find ways to ‘keep Shabbat.’ On Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings, I hear church bells from a nearby Greek Orthodox monastery as well as Greek Catholic, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox churches in Bethlehem and adjoining cities, and I am reminded of a risen Lord inviting me to encounter him in the breaking of the bread of fellowship.”

CULTURAL SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN ITALY

Father Kevin Flannery, SJ, is a consultor for the Holy See’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and a professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University, which hosts students from over 100 nations each year. “This means that my students invariably have cultural and educational backgrounds that are unlike my own, forcing me to be attentive to our differences,” he says. “Yet their spiritual struggles are common to all who are trying to live lives for others and for God. Cultural differences do enter in, but the spiritual issues are, in the end, the same for all.”

As Jesuit community superior and vice director at the Vatican Observatory, Fr. Paul Mueller, SJ, has found that living with Jesuits from ten different countries can present many opportunities for cross-cultural misunderstandings. “Daily life itself is teaching me to be patient with behaviors and practices that seem strange



Father Paul Mueller, SJ, currently serves as vice director of the Vatican Observatory in Castel Gandolfo, Italy.

Photo: CNS

to me, and to appreciate those differences as gifts,” he says. “In addition, interacting regularly with Vatican personnel, even occasionally with Pope Francis, I have come to appreciate more deeply that the Church is Christ’s mystical body, recapitulating his incarnation. At all levels, the Church is a very human institution.”

HUNGRY FOR GOD IN ENGLAND

While studying abroad, Fr. Joseph Simmons, SJ, has been reminded of how “the universal Church is always



Fr. Joseph Simmons, SJ

first encountered locally. Certain histories and needs where you are in the moment require both a deep knowledge of tradition and nimble adaptation to circumstances. The Church in England is hungry for God and open to discovering Christ’s call anew, but the religious sensibilities of Catholicism are radically different from those in the United States. To be Catholic here is to be in the minority, with a history of persecution and martyrdom looming large.” As a nod to this history, Fr. Simmons has celebrated Mass at the chapel of the family who protected St. Edmund Campion, SJ, before his capture and execution.

INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR JOURNEYS IN SPAIN AND PERU

Working on a doctorate at Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid, Fr. Christopher Staab, SJ, is studying St. Ignatius of Loyola’s Spiritual Diary—written by the Jesuits’ founder about his intimate experiences with God and God’s responses to his questions about the Society’s structure. “This was at a time when he was no longer traveling; his journey was interior,” says Fr. Staab. “As I write my thesis, my journey is also interior and, though it is not a spiritual diary, I hope my thesis can share the same

ITE, INFLAMMATE OMNIA

Roughly translated as “go forth and set the world on fire,” this phrase has often been attributed to St. Ignatius of Loyola upon sending his friend and fellow Jesuit Francis Xavier to the missions in India.

It’s also been said that St. Ignatius often ended his letters with the phrase.

Modern scholars tell us this isn’t quite the case—but no matter. One of the last surviving Jesuits to have known Ignatius credited the founder of the Society of Jesus with the saying and claimed that when St. Ignatius missioned a Jesuit somewhere to cultivate the Lord’s vineyard, he told them, “Go, ignite and inflame all things.”

As such, it’s become common tradition to accept that, regardless of the specific words Ignatius might have used, he wanted—as Jim Manney writes—“everyone to be set afire with passion and zeal for the Kingdom of God.”

Saint Ignatius went so far as to encode this in the *Constitutions*: “The aim and end of this Society is, by traveling through the various parts of the world...to preach, hear confessions, and use all the other means it can with the grace of God to help souls.”

But such preaching most definitely did not prevent engaging in dialogue and adapting to the cultures where the Jesuits visited.

For example, Alessandro Valignano, SJ (1539–1606), known as the architect of the missions in Asia, recognized that cross-cultural engagement and exchange was necessary for the Jesuits to be successful. They needed to fit into the local culture, and not the other way around, by learning native languages and customs and treating new converts with respect.

terrain as Ignatius’s text, as one seeking to make explicit the God who communicates deeply with the human person.”

There is certainly an exterior aspect to Fr. Staab’s current journey as well. He lives in a formation house, accompanying 12 young Jesuits from Malaysia, India, Europe, and the Americas, and says, “We are learning not just to pass through Madrid on our way to another mission, but to accompany the men and women of this city, who are so deeply affected by the pandemic. We are pilgrims, like Ignatius, and it is in this place that our interior and exterior journey to God with others continues to emerge.”

On March 15, 2020, after celebrating Mass in a poor area of Lima called “El Agustino,” Fr. Kevin Flaherty, SJ, told parishioners that liturgies would be suspended due to the pandemic. Since then, the area has been hit especially hard; many families have lost loved ones and been pushed deeper into poverty. “Yet, while the people are economically poor, they are rich in spirit,” says Fr. Flaherty. “Their faith and resilience remind me why I am in Peru, and how the

mission of the Church and the Jesuits is to build a more just society where all can live with the dignity of God’s children. The experience of the faith of the poor, and accompanying Jesuits in formation and men and women who dedicate their lives that others might have greater life, allow me to glimpse the Lord who lives in our midst.”

Father James M. O’Leary, SJ, also served in Peru for many years—largely in a popular education movement called *Fe y Alegría* (faith and joy)—until he was missioned to serve as chaplain,

campus minister, and theology professor at Saint Louis University’s Madrid campus. Reflecting on these experiences, he notes, “In Peru, it’s more common to talk about your faith. In Spain, people will certainly attend a procession, but fewer are going to church. Those who do practice are very committed to social justice. No matter where I am, though, I find that when we trust God, no matter what happens, we are held and loved. It helps me to be less fearful and preoccupied—and more generous and empathetic.”

Despite diverse backgrounds and interests, we have found common ground, especially in the desire to find God in all things. We live a unity that transcends language and culture.



Fr. O’Leary at SLU-Madrid’s 2020 Mass of the Holy Spirit

CONSOLATION AMIDST DESOLATION IN LEBANON

In addition to his daily Arabic studies, once a week Garrett Gundlach, SJ, heads to Beirut's Karantina neighborhood—which was heavily damaged by the city's port explosion in August—where he makes giant pots of soup for workers rebuilding. While doing so, he is “trying to find [his] feet in a new language, a new culture, and the unfolding reality of political instability, economic crisis, coronavirus, and explosion healing,” he says. “Even our community's daily Mass is new to me, with the language and the flow of the Byzantine (Greek Melkite) or Maronite rites; what I knew

primarily as a place of restful prayer has become a place to learn.”

“So, my daily Examens and our house's monthly faith sharing have become the graced places where I can prayerfully unpack all this newness, recalibrating for the next day or month,” Gundlach says. “I haven't always done this so well, pushing myself to learn faster and do more. But the simplicity, strength, and playful joy of our neighbors always remind me of a slower, better road—a marathon, not a sprint; together, not alone; small steps, not miracle solutions.”

Ryan Birjoo, SJ, is also missioned to Beirut, studying Arabic and working with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). “Arriving shortly after the blast, I witnessed the resilience of people confronting great challenges with real solidarity,” he recalls. “Consolation amidst desolation is a recurring theme—such as when I was clearing rubble with some university students, and they expressed their desires for a better future. Their excitement was tangible, and I understood why we have the apostolic



By Jacqui Langeland



Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Ontario, Canada

priority of working with youth. It is their energy that will help us to be more audacious in our hopes.”

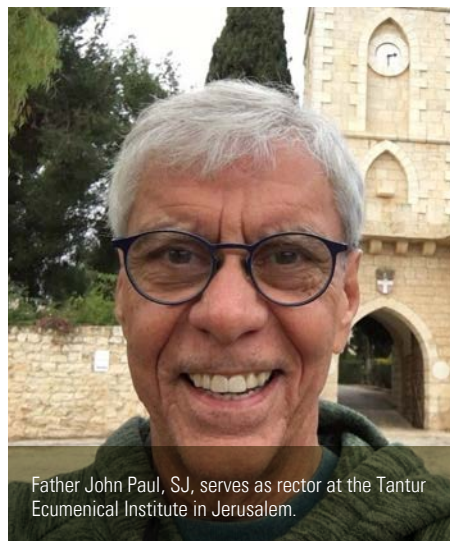
“I have also found consolation in my ministry with JRS,” he adds. “Many of my colleagues are refugees, and they have taught me the importance of accompaniment in ministry, that ministry is dynamic, that those being served always teach something to those who are serving, and that the ability to give something is itself a gift from God. Finally, my life in community here has made me marvel at this vocation. Despite diverse backgrounds and interests, we

have found common ground, especially in the desire to find God in all things. We live a unity that transcends language and culture.”

UNEXPECTED INVIGORATION IN CANADA

“Prior to the pandemic, the world came to Guelph, and people of other continents introduced me to different emphases of praying,” says Fr. Paul Panaretos, SJ, of the ministry at Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Ontario. Yet, even if COVID-19 has prompted physical isolation, it has not stopped the ministry nor the opportunity for profound insights.

“Electronic platforms help us stay connected with people seeking ongoing direction, and online retreats continually demonstrate St. Ignatius's conviction that God personally communicates with individuals seeking God,” explains Fr. Panaretos. “Further, within our community, our prayer, faith sharing, and daily care for one another have deepened our union and compassion. Learning to detect God's presence during the pandemic has been a source of spiritual aching and unexpected invigoration.” ✠



Father John Paul, SJ, serves as rector at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem.

Passing the Torch

to Set the World on Fire

Father Karl Kiser, SJ, served as president of University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy for 14 years prior to being named pastor of Gesu Parish in University Heights, Ohio.

By Grace Rice

Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ, to succeed V. Rev. Brian Paulson, SJ, as provincial of the Midwest Jesuits

Though he had been a Jesuit in the Chicago area for nearly 40 years and is a native of the suburb of Waukegan, Illinois, for the V. Rev. Brian Paulson, SJ, serving as provincial of the Midwest Jesuits was uncharted territory. The Midwest Province had only just been created in 2017 by combining the former Wisconsin and Chicago-Detroit Provinces. As its first provincial, Fr. Paulson was tasked with not only leading but also with unifying the men and works of the former provinces, which are spread across 12 states. Reflecting on this mission, Fr. Paulson says, “I am pleased with the sense of mutual trust and support Jesuits in the Midwest have across the territory regardless of the original province in which they entered.”

Father Paulson notes that Jesuits from the former Wisconsin Province, comprising the north and west sides of the new province, are now making a big, positive difference in cities on the eastern side of the province; he provides examples such as Jesuit Frs. Nathan Wendt, Paul Lickteig, and Tom Manahan, all working in Cincinnati. On the other

side of the province, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Jesuits Fr. Joe Daoust and Br. Mike Baranek, both originally from the former Chicago-Detroit Province, make their own meaningful contributions in ministry.

As Fr. Paulson comes to the end of his term as provincial, his leadership will span an even larger area, as he is to succeed Midwest Jesuit Fr. Tim Kesicki as president of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. The end of Fr. Paulson’s time as provincial is bittersweet, as he is excited to take on new responsibilities: “I will certainly miss the work and people here, but as provincial, I have taken great consolation in the times when I have been able to be part of successful international, inter-provincial cooperation, and I know that will continue on the Conference-president level. I look forward to getting involved in conversations about sharing men and resources.”

Father Paulson is guided by his faith and Ignatian principles in his leadership, as he says, “Ignatian governance is supposed to be rooted in the manifestation of conscience.”

Incoming provincial Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ, joins the province office from Cleveland, where he has served as pastor of Gesu Parish. Prior to his service as a pastor, Fr. Kiser was president at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy

for 14 years. There, Fr. Kiser developed his own leadership style, one that is deeply rooted in his faith: “I like inspiring people around a vision, and I like finding new ways of serving and thinking.”

Coming from a pastoral role, Fr. Kiser is prepared to incorporate the Gospel into his vision. “It’s very important to me that first and foremost, we’re centered around the Gospel, and we’re aiming to spread and preach the Gospel,” he says.

Father Kiser’s goals for the province stem from this, as he notes that the primary job of the provincial is to care for the Jesuits in the province through *cura personalis*—care of the whole person. Regarding specific goals, Fr. Kiser says, “I think that Jesuits, Ignatian spirituality, and the Jesuit vocation have particularly deep and powerful gifts, gifts that are deep and powerful in a way that the world needs today.” As we go forward, Fr. Kiser says, “My number one goal would be to ask, ‘How do we leverage our talents and our institutions to meet the needs of a Church that’s struggling today?’” ✠



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.

Imanol Ruiz finds the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee to be a source of inspiration. Ruiz says, "The Basilica was built by immigrants, so to me it is an example of what immigrants can accomplish and the limitless possibilities of what we can do with our lives. It also serves as a depiction of the beauty and magnitude, which is the Catholic Church."

Evangelizing Through Drama

By Kristine Mackey

Photo: Jeff Zmania

From the mid-16th century, through the suppression of the Society of Jesus in 1773 and beyond, Jesuit colleges in Europe led the way in the arts, turning out famous playwrights including Joseph Simeon, Pierre Corneille, and Molière. In 2021, theater and the inspiration it provides for students in Jesuit schools continue to thrive. Imanol Ruiz's story is a testament to the enduring legacy of these Jesuit contributions.

Ruiz, the son of a hardworking, faith-filled immigrant family and a '20 graduate of Cristo Rey Jesuit High Milwaukee, grew up in the city's historic Mitchell Street neighborhood. His parents, originally from Santiago Maravatio in Guanajuato, Mexico, immigrated to the U.S. in pursuit of a better life. He describes the life they gave him in Milwaukee and his education at St. Josaphat and Cristo Rey as "the greatest gifts."

Encouraged by his theater teacher at Cristo Rey, Catie O'Donnell, Ruiz submitted an original work to the Milwaukee Chamber Theater's Young Playwright's competition and won. Ruiz was especially enthusiastic about the subject of his play, Armando Llorente, SJ, a Spanish-born Cuban Jesuit who taught and mentored a teenage Fidel Castro at the Jesuit's El Colegio de Belen in Havana.

Ruiz exercises artistic license but for one micro-story. Castro, the revolutionary, is in hiding and is visited by Llorente,

disguised as a farmer. In a dramatic moment Llorente, who was a father figure to Castro for years, pleads with him to abandon the revolution. Castro, offended and enraged, sends him away, leaving Llorente to pray for Castro's soul. The relationship continues for decades, despite Castro's expulsion of the Society of Jesus from Cuba in 1961. Later in life, in many situations, Llorente, who has since emigrated to Miami, humanizes Castro even as the world demonizes him. This conflict, imagined and animated by Ruiz, becomes the heart and the soul of the play.

Ruiz did not always see himself as an artist nor as a strong self-advocate. During his senior year at Cristo Rey, he worked on a project for his Advanced Placement research class titled *Evangelizing Through Media*. Ruiz interviewed Fr. James Martin, SJ, for the essay and realized through their pivotal exchange that he could build his own opportunities. His parents had, of course, provided the platform, and Cristo Rey provided the skills and community. As Fr. Bill Johnson, SJ, says, "Imanol *sacar el jugo*—he took advantage of every opportunity of his Jesuit education—heart, mind, and soul."

While Ruiz enthusiastically credits every teacher and every mentor he has encountered on this journey, he credits his BMO Harris work-study mentors, Tricia

Fitzpatrick and Mary Ristow-Dey, with teaching him critical life skills. Ristow-Dey, herself a practicing Lutheran, helped him to understand and tap into his faith more deeply. His transition to college has been supported by the *All in Milwaukee* program and by his mentors there, Bill and Sandy Haack. The Haacks say, "Imanol is a self-starter, mature beyond his years. We are hoping to help him achieve his potential."

Currently a theater student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Ruiz is developing that potential. He hopes to widen his artistic repertoire by writing screenplays, working on films, and building his technical skills. Ruiz says that he is "elated by the thriving arts scene in Milwaukee," and sees the area as an up-and-coming hub for aspiring artists like himself. Perhaps, like the European Jesuit colleges of past centuries which yielded notable productions, methods, and people, the drama programs of the Jesuit institutions of the Midwest will continue to inspire. Imanol Ruiz believes so! ✠



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

Trevor Rainwater, SJ, (right) with his brother and fellow Jesuit, Conan Rainwater

Inset: Trevor and Conan as kids with their sister, Ellecia

Different Yet United

By Trevor Rainwater, SJ

I grew up in North Dakota and attended Creighton University, where I first encountered the Jesuits. I was delighted to meet this group of men who shared a deep love of Christ but, at the same time, were involved in a variety of professions—teaching, medicine, law, retreat work, and parish life. This variety of work attracted me to the Society of Jesus, as one could be a priest and a medical doctor, a brother working in astronomy, or a Jesuit scholastic working in a refugee center. My desire to enter the Society was confirmed during a silent retreat and has deepened through my time in formation.

Through my ten years of formation, Jesuits have continued to engage the world in a variety of ministries, with men serving on reservations in South Dakota, high school teachers navigating online classes, pastors returning to full parish life, and men working in outreach programs providing food, clothes, or identification to those who are

often overlooked by society. It is very consoling to return home and hear how members of my community adapt to serve those in need despite the current situation.

One adjustment occurred for me in May 2020, when I was ordained a transitional deacon. The most obvious change in the liturgy was when I turned around to see an empty church (due to COVID-19 restrictions). However, despite the physical emptiness, I was comforted by the “online Church” of family and friends who supported me through numerous emails, texts, and photos as they watched the ceremony.

Another adjustment grew out of my love for liturgy. After completing my first round of theology studies in Toronto, I moved back to the United States to pursue a graduate degree in liturgical studies from a non-Jesuit university. Through the liturgy, a Jesuit’s title (high school president, teacher, student, medical doctor) is dropped, as each person is equal at the Lord’s table. At the Eucharist

we unite after a day in the “vineyard of the Lord” to celebrate the Passion, death, and Resurrection of Christ once again.

In the midst of this academic program, God willing, I will be ordained to the priesthood in 2021 to further share in the Eucharistic celebration and unite all people, regardless of their background, to the heavenly banquet of the Lord’s Supper. Despite living in an apostolic community where members work at the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States, minister at a high school, or take part in graduate studies, we all come together to share in the gift of the Eucharist which Jesus left to us. ✠



Trevor Rainwater, SJ, is a Jesuit scholastic currently in theology studies. He will be ordained this June.

From the Earliest Days of Jesuit Education

ESTABLISHED IN 1551 BY ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY TURNS 470 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR

By Michael Austin

The storied tradition of Jesuit education had to begin somewhere, and this year one of its earliest schools—in Rome—turns 470 years old.

Established as the Collegio Romano by St. Ignatius of Loyola in 1551, the school of grammar, humanity, and Christian doctrine was expanded later that century by Pope Gregory XIII, who would become the university's namesake in 1873 by order of Pope Pius IX.

Today, the Pontifical Gregorian University, colloquially known as “the Greg,” has roughly 2,750 students from 120 countries. As an ecclesiastical institution, about 70 percent of its students are priests or seminarians. The remainder of the student body consists of laypeople and women religious.

“Working at the Gregorian is a fantastic opportunity for which I will always be grateful,” says Fr. James Grummer, SJ, superior of the university's 70 Jesuits, who hail from 25 countries. “The people I live with, work with, and serve are fantastic people with deeply felt desires to serve the Church. It is a joy to get up every day and be part of what happens here.”

Among the school's alumni are dozens of saints and blessed, including St. Aloysius Gonzaga, SJ, and St. Maximilian Kolbe; numerous popes, including Pope Pius XII and Pope John Paul I; and approximately 1,000 living bishops, including the Archdiocese of Chicago's Cardinal Blase Cupich, who

received both his bachelor's and master's degrees there between 1971 and 1975.

Cardinal Cupich recalls the first-class professors who led him through the rigors of Jesuit schooling and the profound experience he had living in Rome. “It introduced me to the wider world of the Church and society,” he says.

Father Vincent Strand, SJ, also cherished his student years at the Greg despite some of the challenges of living in the Eternal City.

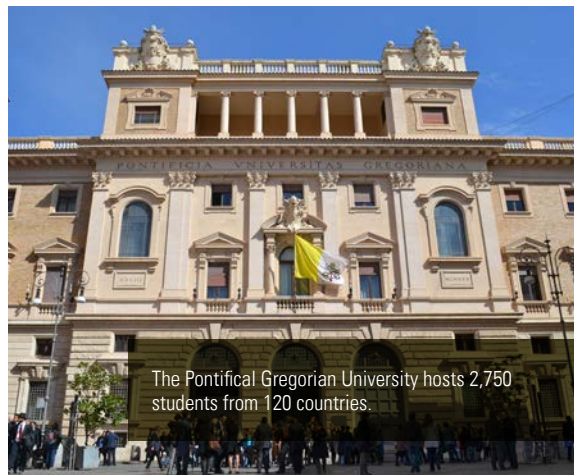
“Studying theology with students and professors from all over the world was rewarding, and doing so in a city as historically significant as Rome, near the tombs of the apostles and ancient martyrs, was inspiring and formative,” says Fr. Strand, who earned a Bachelor of Sacred Theology in 2016 and is now studying for a PhD at the University of Notre Dame. “The mission of the Greg is quintessentially Jesuit, combining education and intellectual depth with a global vision for the needs of the Church universal.”

Mary McAleese, the president of Ireland from 1997 to 2011, is an alumna, and Italian poet and librettist Andrea Salvadori, who served the Medici family in the 1600s, is an alumnus as well. At the school's establishment, St. Ignatius envisioned a “university of the nations, for the defense and propagation of the faith, and for the training of wise and qualified leaders of the Church and of society.” The Greg is currently in the

midst of integrating with the Pontifical Biblical Institute, founded in 1909 by Pope Pius X, and the Pontifical Oriental Institute, founded in 1917 by Pope Benedict XV. The goal, as Fr. Grummer sees it, is to consolidate the institutions' financial resources and personnel, promote collaboration, and facilitate interdisciplinary activity and networking.

“I am a great believer in the law of unintended consequences, which means that the future is never what we plan,” says Fr. Grummer, who is also the director of the Centro Ignaziano di Spiritualità, a constitutive part of the Greg's Institute of Spirituality. “I think we hope there will be more interaction among our various faculties and students so that we can better serve local churches and the universal Church.”

As a student, Fr. Strand took every opportunity he could to learn about and experience the history of St. Ignatius and the early Jesuits in Rome. “Living in the very building that houses the rooms of St. Ignatius was an incomparable experience,” he says. “I am a better Jesuit today because of my years at the Greg.” ✠



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*.

An Ignatian Education



Walsh Jesuit High School, in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, was founded in 1965, funded by a gift from and named after Cornelius and Jane Walsh.

By Lelah Byron

What distinguishes a high school as belonging to the Jesuit mission? Not sheer statistics, but heart. With roughly a thousand students and just two Jesuits on staff at Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, the priests may not be numerous, but Ignatian spirituality is abundant.

“How can we still be called a Jesuit school with two Jesuits?” Fr. Don Petkash, SJ, director of mission and identity at Walsh Jesuit, asks. “It’s because of the work that has been done with the teachers and staff.”

The lay faculty and staff at Walsh Jesuit have been entrusted with preserving Jesuit values—they are formed in Ignatian spirituality—and the students embody those values in a special way through service, Fr. Petkash says.

“I’m extremely proud of our students and the graduates we turn out,” he says. “They’re really fine people. They are really cognizant of wanting to be a man or woman for others.”

Guidance from both teachers and the broader community allowed Chloe Gunther—a Walsh Jesuit graduate who is now a sophomore at Seattle University—to discern a mission of her own, as she discovered her passion for activism and social justice.

We can’t live our faith without doing service work and meeting people on the margins. That is always, and was always, the best form of prayer for me.

“We can’t live our faith without doing service work and meeting people on the margins,” Gunther says. “That is always, and was always, the best form of prayer for me.”

Following in the footsteps of her two older brothers, both of whom were involved in service work, Gunther

enrolled at Walsh Jesuit. As a freshman, Gunther grew more attuned to global injustices, particularly the refugee crisis. It was on Instagram where Gunther scrolled past a photo of three-year-old Alan Kurdi who had drowned in the Mediterranean fleeing Syria.

“I was shocked into discomfort and disgusted that I didn’t know what was going on,” Gunther says.

Ardent in her desire to raise awareness about the refugee plight but uncertain of what direction to take, Gunther turned to campus ministers and then-assistant principal Sean Lynch for guidance. She was pleased to find that they immediately embraced the idea.

Walsh Jesuit takes pride in the administration’s accessibility, enabling students’ development both spiritually and academically. “We want students who are going to be open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, and committed to doing justice,” says Lynch, an alumnus of the class of

'94, who became principal in May.

Gunther founded a Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) team, an extracurricular organization on campus intended to educate about and advocate for refugees. Utilizing the JRS Walk a Mile program, Gunther and other club members crafted their own refugee camp simulation for Walsh Jesuit. The exercise allowed students to confront a representation of the hardships war-displaced peoples face.

"You know, how can you simulate being a refugee?" Karl Ertle, president of Walsh Jesuit, asks. "But [Chloe] did an amazing job."

At Seattle University, another Jesuit school, Gunther became one of nine students in her graduating class to receive the Sullivan Leadership Award, which covers tuition, housing, and meals for leaders in service. There she continued her advocacy, working to start a JRS team on campus. It was her biggest goal going into college, she says.

"I would not be there without Walsh and the way they cultivated the different aspects of my life," Gunther emphasizes.

Cultivating students' God-given talents to change the world remains integral to the mission of the school, Ertle says. Theology classes aid students in their academic and spiritual discernment, and Justice League, a club where students learn about faith and service matters



Walsh Jesuit High School alumna Chloe Gunther



Jesuits such as Fr. Don Petkash (right) and former counselor and teacher Fr. Jim King (left) play an important role in maintaining Walsh Jesuit's values.

significant to the Church, is the largest club on campus.

Edward P. Sloan, a '76 graduate, emergency medicine professor and medical director of physician assistant studies at Dominican University, says it was in a theology class where the class received an essay exam prompt with just one word: "Why?" The late Fr. Clement Metzger, SJ, and all of the Jesuits emphasized sound thinking as students considered God and one's role in the world.

"We were always being challenged to think critically," Sloan says. "The faculty and students were all motivated by the pursuit of excellence in thought and deed."

But outside of theology classes and extracurriculars is the heart of Walsh Jesuit: campus ministry, strategically located in the center of the school, serves as a conduit for faith, liturgy, service, and justice. "We're a one-stop shop here," Tim Dunn, campus minister, says. "We look at ourselves as the 'lab' to theology, if you will. We're where you sink your teeth into it, like you would in a biology lab."

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the offerings of campus ministry look slightly different right now. Immersion trips to Arizona and tutoring programs in Akron continue, albeit in virtual form. "Students couldn't be there

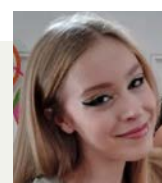
physically, but in every other way it was so impactful," Ertle says.

Walsh Jesuit was able to have two socially distanced Kairos retreats. Gavin Carr, a senior, was a leader on one. Even without the simple intimacy of a hug or unmasked smile, Carr says the retreat demonstrated what his school is all about: being with and for others.

"Kairos is a big part of Walsh," he says. "My experience was so amazing, and with how much it touched me, I wanted to help someone else with that."

With or without a sizable Jesuit presence, Lynch says he is proud that students, as they receive their diplomas at graduation, embody Catholic characteristics of compassion and servitude. Their care for others, he says, will stay with students long after they leave Walsh Jesuit.

Attending Walsh Jesuit "is not a four-year decision," Lynch says. "It's a lifelong decision." ✠



Lelah Byron is a junior at Marquette University studying journalism and political science and a former intern for the USA Midwest Province Jesuits.

A Brother's Vocation

By Lauren Gaffey



Left: Br. Heidrick (third row, right) with fellow tertian brothers at Colombiere College in 1970

Right: Br. Heidrick with his nephew and family during a summer 2020 visit

There are Jesuits working in a vast array of professions—teachers, doctors, lawyers, professors—but one unique job belongs to Br. Jim Heidrick, SJ, a locksmith at Creighton University. Nearly six decades ago, his first assignment as a Jesuit was to Creighton, where he’s been ever since. He began there working on telephone and electrical needs and repairing dental equipment and televisions but later received an assignment to help in the locksmith area. When he first saw the residence hall records, they were handwritten and disorganized. “I spent the first year going building to building and writing down all the doors and lock numbers. I wrote a computer program to keep track of the locks which I am still repairing and tracking 57 years later,” Br. Heidrick said.

From the age of ten, Br. Heidrick knew in his heart that he wanted to be a brother, though he was not sure which order was right for him. He lost his hearing as a young child and enrolled at St. Joseph’s Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis before returning home to Nebraska to attend a technical high school. Upon graduation, his father asked if he still wanted to be a brother and when Br. Heidrick said yes, his father arranged for him to go to Creighton University for an interview with Fr. Lawrence Flanagan, SJ.

“At that time, you were a postulant for six months, you went home for two weeks, and if you came back you started your novitiate at Florissant, Missouri,” Br. Heidrick recalls. After his two years in the novitiate, he moved to St. Bonifacius, Minnesota, to study with other brothers while simultaneously continuing to study electricity, as he had in high school. He was then assigned to Creighton.

From the age of ten, Br. Heidrick knew in his heart that he wanted to be a brother.

Being the keeper of the keys at the university is the specific manifestation of his vocation. “As a Jesuit brother, he sees his vocation as being of permanent service here at Creighton,” Terry Kult, nurse to Creighton’s Jesuit community, says. Like all Jesuits, brothers take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience and serve the Society of Jesus, but they do not preside at Mass or celebrate other sacraments. While St. Ignatius of Loyola and his original companions were all priests, it was only six years after the founding of the Society that St. Ignatius petitioned the pope to allow the order to admit lay co-adjutors, or helpers. Sometimes referred to as “lay religious,” they are not

preparing for the priesthood; rather, the brotherhood is a vocation of its own.

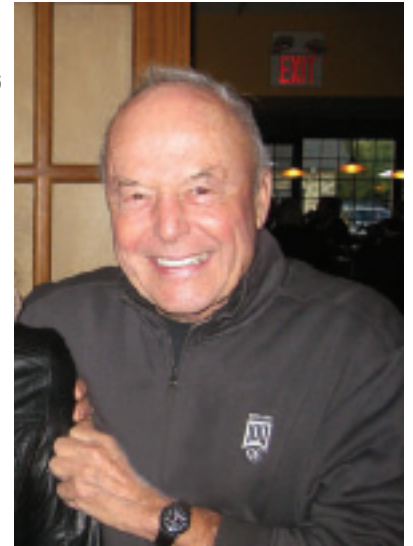
Brothers like Br. Heidrick are committed to serving God through the people of their time. “I love to do the work of the people, the fathers, the students, and the faculty,” he says. “That is my service to the Lord. A Jesuit brother helps maintain the mission so others can do the bigger work. Today brothers are teachers, administrators, and almost anything that is needed.”

While his parents and brothers have all passed away, Br. Heidrick is still able to connect with extended family. In the summer of 2020, his nephew—also named Jim Heidrick—came from California with his family to visit his uncle. “It made me so happy that they remember me. I wished they could have stayed longer because they all make me laugh,” Br. Heidrick remarks. “I love them, and I love my work here at Creighton University.” ❖



Lauren Gaffey, is the associate director of communications for the Midwest Jesuits and a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Loyola University Chicago. She manages the content for **JesuitPrayer.org**

Fr. James J. O'Leary, SJ, at a Jesuit event in 2016



Fr. James J. O'Leary's Ministry of Kindness

By Bhavana Purighalla

Father James J. O'Leary, SJ, grew up in a household where religion was very important. Every guest was expected to join in saying the family rosary. Some of his friends would come after dinner just to avoid it! As a young man, medicine was his plan. Father O'Leary's brother was a medical student, and his father was a doctor, so it seemed like a logical move for him. However, one day while dissecting a frog, he realized that something wasn't right. This wasn't his plan—he was meant to work for God.

Father O'Leary grew up learning about the Society of Jesus—his father donated every month—and he understood that he could give back and do what he loved at the same time. Just like medicine, a career with the Jesuits also ran in the family. Father O'Leary's brother ended up leaving medical school to join the Society, too. Their family was supportive of the brothers and understood their vocations.

Father O'Leary entered the Society when he was 21 and has since served in various ways, including teaching and offering spiritual direction. Teaching helped form his Jesuit identity, and this identity guided his daily life and activities. At one point early on in his formation, Fr. O'Leary questioned his

vocation. "I had the thought of leaving the Jesuits," he says. But after teaching during his regency, he found clarity. "I came back because I loved teaching, and I loved giving back."

Throughout his ministry Fr. O'Leary made an impact on the lives of many people, one of them being Fr. Al DiUlio,

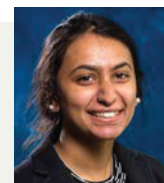
Father O'Leary is an extraordinarily generous man, and he's thoughtful and humorous. You can tell him anything, and he will just sit and listen. He is completely trustworthy and a wonderful character.

SJ. The two met when Fr. DiUlio was assistant principal at Campion High School, and Fr. O'Leary was the spiritual director for scholastics. They instantly connected, became great friends, and still speak frequently. The friends have been there for each other during hard times in life, such as the loss of family members. "Father O'Leary is an extraordinarily generous man, and he's thoughtful and humorous. You can tell him anything and he will just sit and listen. He is

completely trustworthy and a wonderful character," Fr. DiUlio says.

In his free time, Fr. O'Leary enjoys watching sports, especially cheering for the Green Bay Packers. He also loves to travel. "It's getting harder to travel now, but growing old is learning to let go of things," he says. The advice, the support, and the kindness Fr. O'Leary has given to so many people over the years has had a lasting impact. It is clear to those who know him that Fr. O'Leary is a great man who has contributed greatly to the communities where he's served.

Today he is missioned to St. Camillus Jesuit Community, where he prays for the Church and the Society. He says he is also glad to be able to reflect on his own life through prayer. And that reflection leads him to share the following advice: "Accept people as they are, and don't change people. Listen to them; listen to their heart and mind." ✠



Bhavana Purighalla is a senior at Creighton University and a former intern for the USA Midwest Province Jesuits. After graduation, she will be working at Cerner in Kansas City.



Loyola Academy and Regis University alumna Gabbie Littleton is general manager at EJ's Place in Skokie, Illinois.

Adaptation, with a Side of Compassion

Jesuit-educated food industry professionals improvise to keep their businesses, and their employees and customers, safe and healthy

By Michael Austin

No one in the Midwest could have predicted we'd one day dine outdoors in stocking caps and be grateful for the opportunity. If it seems otherworldly to you, imagine what it's like for people running the restaurants.

Jesuit-educated restaurateurs across the region, including Gabriella Lenzi Littleton, Bill Whitley, Bridget Thibeault, and Steve Lombardo III, have relied on their Ignatian backgrounds to cope with the most difficult and unpredictable year of their careers.

"Dining out requires a lot of trust, and we work very hard to ensure that we are good stewards of that trust," says Littleton, the general manager of EJ's Place in Skokie, Illinois, and a graduate of nearby Loyola Academy (2004) and Regis University in Denver (2008). "I want every customer to walk away feeling like our family showed them love. I really feel like there's so much Jesuit

ideology wrapped up in that, I wouldn't know where to start!"

Sharing that love has required some extra effort from Littleton and her father, EJ Lenzi, the restaurant's owner and



From left to right: Michael Lombardo, Elizabeth Lombardo Stark, Steve Lombardo Jr., Peggy Lombardo, and Steve Lombardo III

a fellow Loyola Academy alum. They installed a 2,400-square-foot carpeted, heated tent to allow for outside dining. They also ramped up their carryout program to meet demand. In the rare instance that a mistake has been made,

Littleton has driven the missing item to the customer's house herself. "I will do whatever it takes to make it right," she says.

She's most proud of having kept all of the restaurant's employees working through the pandemic. "They are like family to me, and I'm so proud that they still have jobs and can support their families," Littleton says.

Although Bill Whitley wasn't a great student—his words—he considers his Creighton University experience key to his success today. As an undergraduate, surrounded by the high-achieving students Creighton attracts, he learned from others.

"I observed how they prepared and how they organized their time, and it was all invaluable down the road," he says. "I learned more from being around those people than I ever could have learned from any textbook."

He graduated in 1977 and soon began working in local restaurants, eventually becoming a manager and owner. In 1993 and 1994, Whitley and business partner Mike Frank, another Creighton alum, opened two locations of Vincenzo's Italian Ristorante, in Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska.

Layoffs were unavoidable early in the shutdown, but Whitley and his staff did everything they could to help Vincenzo's employees navigate the state's unemployment system. As a result, only one of the 60 laid-off individuals took a pay cut. Whenever the Vincenzo's locations were able, they provided food to homeless shelters. They also upheld their tradition of offering free meals to veterans on Veterans Day.

Although Whitley understands the importance of wearing masks, he regrets that they hide faces, since interacting with people is a big part of his job. "When I see a guest from across the room, they can't see me smiling at them, acknowledging my appreciation that they have come to dine with us," he says. "In any event, we will all get through this and come out stronger, with a deeper appreciation for each other."

After Bridget Thibeault graduated from Marquette University in 1991, she worked for seven years in the Chicago advertising industry. She loved the work but needed a creative outlet. Cooking



Bill Whitley

became that outlet, and it eventually inspired her to leave her advertising career and enroll full-time in culinary school. At age 38, her post-graduation side hustle making cakes and pastries led her to open Luna Bakery & Cafe in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. The business



Bridget Thibeault at Luna Bakery & Cafe

grew, and she opened a second location in 2018, in nearby Moreland Hills.

"The Jesuits teach finding God in all things and caring for the whole person," says Thibeault, who has employed many John Carroll University students and alumni over the years. "I truly care about giving outstanding hospitality to our guests at Luna, and I think the Catholic and Jesuit teachings have given me the groundwork to know how to do that."

The original location has stayed open throughout the pandemic, even as the newer location closed briefly but continued to provide fresh food for Cleveland Clinic front-line workers. The company has also been supporting local organizations and schools through gift cards and small donations. "My favorite part of having a restaurant is when people come up to me and thank me for what we have created in our community," Thibeault says.

Steve Lombardo Jr. opened Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse in 1989, and today Chicago-based Gibsons Restaurant Group owns 14 properties across four states.

Jesuit education is a family tradition. All four of Steve Jr.'s children graduated from Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago before going on to Georgetown University and Georgetown University Law Center (Steve III), Marquette University (Michael), Boston College

(Elizabeth), and John Carroll University (Christina). Even Christina, who works outside the family business, designed the company website. The other three siblings work full-time with their father.

"The Jesuit education we received certainly prepared us for work and life in general, if not specifically for the restaurant business," says Steve Lombardo III, the company's chairman and general counsel. "Notably, it's the Jesuit tradition of seeking facts and rigorous analysis in decision-making. I can't say I do the Examen daily, but I do try to take time several times a week for self-reflection, prayer, and to think about others."

Those practices surely helped the Lombardos endure the ups and downs of the past year. To compensate for occupancy limits and limited revenue, Gibsons created an online steak store, built outdoor structures, and made its HVAC system hospital-grade. For the company to survive, some workers had to be laid off. Still, Gibsons paid everyone for 10 weeks, prepared boxed meals for them, and maintained their health insurance.

"We treat our customers and employees as family, and all decisions we made during the past year took that into account," Steve III says.

Over the past year, many of us have discovered how much we rely on restaurants as places to gather and commune with the people in our lives.

"Humans breaking bread is a fundamental part of our DNA," Steve III says. "We share stories, thoughts, ideas, feelings, and love when we eat together. Just like talking is better than texting, and in-person meetings are better than talking on the phone, sharing a meal is more intimate than meeting someone without eating."

In other words, everything is better with food.

"I believe a career in hospitality, in which we serve others to ultimately make them happy, is a noble calling," Steve III says. ✠

In Memoriam

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

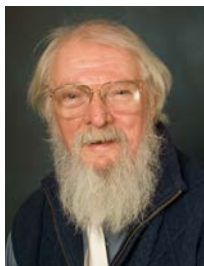


Fr. Mark W. Andrews, SJ

September 29, 1952 –
November 5, 2020

“Mark was a tremendous listener who had the ability to put people at ease which would allow them to share the ups and downs of their interior life and relationship with the Lord.”

Religious studies teacher at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill.; assistant novice director at Loyola House Jesuit Novitiate in Berkley, Mich.; retreat director, superior, and acting director at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, Ill.; spiritual father and vice-superior of Arrupe House at Loyola University Chicago; assistant to the superior of the first studies program at Loyola University Chicago.

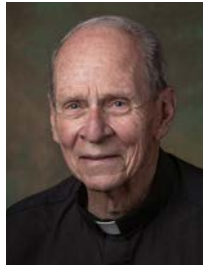


Br. Daniel J. McCullough, SJ

May 28, 1937 – November 11, 2020

“Dan accepted everyone he encountered and, through his understanding and care, helped them to encounter Christ.”

Assistant infirmarian and infirmarian at Colombiere College in Clarkson, Mich.; prefect of health for the former Detroit Province; student counselor and director of the pastoral team at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy; spiritual case manager and chaplain at Hospice of Southeast Michigan; chaplain and director of pastoral care at Cranbrook Hospice America Home Health Service in Farmington Hills, Mich.



Fr. Norman J. Dickson, SJ

December 4, 1936 – November 24,
2020

“Norm was a marvelous storyteller who loved to regale people with his stories.”

Classical language teacher at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland; director of student social services and president of Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; director of mission and superior of the Jesuit Community at Loyola Secondary School in Wau, South Sudan; assistant campus minister at the University of Detroit; assistant rector and minister at Hekima College in Nairobi, Kenya; vocation director, provincial assistant for international ministries, and treasurer for the former Detroit Province; pastor of Gesu Parish in Detroit; administrator of St. Mary of the Woods Parish and St. Aloysius Parish in Michigan.

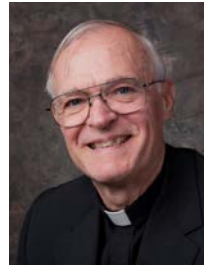


Br. Robert E. Smith, SJ

August 20, 1928 – November 24, 2020

“Bob was a quiet, steady man who liked to work with his hands—a good Jesuit and a good community member.”

Maintenance staff at Holy Rosary Mission on the Pine Ridge Reservation in S.Dak.; director of buildings and grounds at SCOLA in McClelland, Iowa.



Fr. Karl J. Voelker, SJ

August 10, 1941 – December 8, 2020

“No matter what role he played—pastor, student counselor, retreat director, or minister—Karl cared for a person’s body and soul.”

History and theology teacher and campus minister at Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha; teacher at Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, Wisc.; associate pastor and pastor at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Mankato, Minn.; retreat and spiritual director at Cenacle Retreat House in Wayzata, Minn.; pastor at the Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee; minister of the St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wisc.; retreat director at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, Ill.



Fr. Edward L. Pigott, SJ

August 28, 1937 – December 27, 2020

“Ed found joy playing bridge, celebrating weddings and baptisms for former students, and encouraging others.”

Latin teacher at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago; student counselor, religion teacher, and campus minister at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati.



Fr. Charles W. Niehaus, SJ

June 29, 1945 – January 10, 2021

“People felt privileged to have Chuck in their lives or to work alongside him as he was always loyal and dependable.”

French teacher and minister at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati; pastoral ministry at Holy Family Church, St. Ignatius Parish, and St. Procopius Parish in Chicago; pastoral ministry in the Quad Cities; co-director of Hispanic ministry in the Diocese of Gary, Ind.; pastoral ministry at St. Paul Church in Lexington, Ky.



Fr. James V. Lewis, SJ

December 22, 1935 – January 14, 2021

“Jim enjoyed life, almost always wore a smile on his face, and he frequently kidded people.”

English, theology, and math teacher, student counselor, faculty chaplain, and director of the Spirituality Program for Adults at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland; math and theology teacher at St. John’s Jesuit High School and Academy and rector of St. John’s Jesuit Community in Toledo, Ohio; associate pastor at Gesu Church in Toledo, Ohio; minister at Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, Ohio.

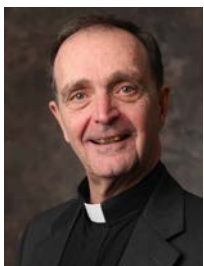


Fr. James F. Riley, SJ

July 17, 1945 – January 20, 2021

“Jim’s keen, analytical mind helped him to understand and express the “heart of the matter” or the core issue at hand.”

English and Latin teacher, director of admissions, treasurer, special assistant to the president, minister of the community, and superintendent of buildings and maintenance at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy; socius to the provincial, assistant for retreat ministry, and coordinator of secondary education for the former Detroit Province; vice president of the Jesuit Secondary Education Association; director of Manresa Jesuit Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.; assistant procurator general of the Society at the Jesuit Curia in Rome; director of Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, Ohio; assistant and consultor to the provincial regarding canonical matters in Chicago; special assistant to the president and superior of the community at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland.



Fr. Robert M. Doran, SJ

June 20, 1939 – January 21, 2021

“Always available, always interested in listening to the questions and needs of others, Bob was present in mind, spirit, and enthusiasm for others.”

Teacher at Creighton Prep in Omaha;

director of campus ministry, trustee of the Frederick Crowe literary estate, coordinator of the International Institute for Method in Theology, and theology professor at Marquette University in Milwaukee; theology professor at Creighton University in Omaha; theology professor, director of the Lonergan Research Institute, and trustee of the Bernard Lonergan literary estate at Regis College in Toronto.



Fr. Eugene M. Dutkiewicz, SJ

June 4, 1931 – January 24, 2021

“Dutch was not a man of many words, but he was a great companion to many because he truly cared about and listened to others.”

Chemistry and math teacher and assistant principal at Campion High School in Prairie du Chien, Wisc.; math teacher and principal at Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha; minister of the Weston Jesuit Community in Cambridge, Mass.; socius, treasurer, provincial assistant for finance, pastoral ministry, and retreat ministry for the former Wisconsin Province; superior and revisor of province houses and works at St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wisc.



Fr. Richard J. Murphy, SJ

December 30, 1929 – February 7, 2021

“Dick was humble, unpretentious,

and always ready to do anything that was needed or asked of him.”

History and English teacher at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland; associate pastor at Parroquia de Cristo Rey, Juliaca, Peru; psychology and Spanish teacher and student counselor at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago; marriage and family counselor at Catholic Family Consultation Service in Chicago; pastoral theology teacher at Jesuit School of Theology in Chicago; superior of the Holy Family Jesuit Community and the Miguel Pro Jesuit Community in Chicago and the Vatican Observatory Jesuit Community in Tucson, Ariz.; assistant rector of Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, Calif.; associate pastor at St. Procopius Church in Chicago; minister of the Taylor Street Jesuit Community in Chicago.



Fr. John D. Mace, SJ

May 1, 1937 – February 21, 2021

“John seemed to move easily between different cultures, although he actually worked very hard to adapt to whatever culture to which he was assigned.”

Philosophy and English teacher at Daegun Seminary in Kwangju, South Korea; assistant director of campus ministry at Marquette University in Milwaukee; master of novices and socius to the superior for the Korean Mission; president of Sogang University in Seoul, South Korea; rector of the Arrupe International Residence in Quezon City, Philippines; superior of the Timor-Leste Independent Region; secretary of the Delegate of the Korean Provincial to the Jesuit Mission in Cambodia, director of scholastics, mission secretary, subminister, and minister of Priebe So in Phnom Penh.



Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ, has been appointed as the next president of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States.



Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ, has been appointed as provincial of the Midwest Province.

Fr. Chris Collins, SJ, will become the next vice president for mission at University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Fr. Patrick Gilger, SJ, will serve as a professor of sociology at Loyola University Chicago.

Fr. Lukas Laniauskas, SJ, has been named pastor of Gesu Parish in University Heights, Ohio.

Fr. Tom Lawler, SJ, has been named director of Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Elmo, Minnesota.

Fr. Chris Manahan, SJ, has been appointed as the provincial assistant for senior Jesuits and pre-tertians for the Midwest Province.

Fr. Ben Osborne has been appointed as superior of the Arrupe House Jesuit Community in Milwaukee.

Fr. Joshua Peters, SJ, has been named director of mission and identity at Christ the King Jesuit College Prep in Chicago.

Fr. Jim Shea, SJ, has been named retreat director at Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Fr. Paul Shelton, SJ, will join the Midwest Province vocations team.

Br. Matt Wooters, SJ, will join the Midwest Province vocations team.

A Pastoral Workhorse

By Ann Power Greene



Fr. Stan Czarnecki, SJ, with students from the Polish Club at Loyola Academy

Born and raised in a Catholic family in Stalowa Wola, Poland, Fr. Stan Czarnecki, SJ, was the youngest of three siblings. He loved going to school and practicing sports and music and especially loved playing the guitar and accordion. As a young man, he was an altar server and was involved in a Catholic youth movement in Poland called “Light-Life.” His participation in this ministry helped him grow in his faith and deepen his relationship with Christ. Father Czarnecki entered the Jesuit novitiate right after high school in 1986 in the Southern Poland Province.

While studying in Warsaw, he obtained a master’s degree in theology. Just down the street was a prison where Fr. Czarnecki, then a scholastic, volunteered by engaging inmates in Bible study and reflecting on the stories. Most days after studying, he would put on his cassock, grab his guitar, and head over to the prison. The time he spent there was challenging, as Fr. Czarnecki recalls, but “the tough situations and conversations that I had were rewarding experiences during my formation.”

After his ordination in 1997 in Krakow, Fr. Czarnecki graduated from the University of Rome in 1999 with an STL degree in pastoral theology and became involved in the Italian Christian Life Community. He then spent two years back in Poland as a formation director

before being missioned to Chicago.

In 2001, he started as treasurer for the Polish Jesuit Community in Chicago. His pastoral ministry was dedicated to various organizations, including the Domestic Church movement and Polish scouting organizations, and he founded a Bible study group for the CLC. After his time in Chicago, he traveled to Boston to begin his tertianship, which included an assignment on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Returning to Chicago, Fr. Czarnecki served as superior of the Polish Jesuit Community there, as rector of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and as director of the Jesuit Millennium Center, celebrating Mass on weekends at parishes. One of his favorite activities was leading the Domestic Church movement for Polish families living in Chicago where a group of families would meet in one of their homes and pray together. Father Czarnecki saw an opportunity to serve in different ways—spiritual, pastoral, social, and cultural.

“In my Jesuit ministry, the guitar—playing and singing—is my faithful companion that I use everywhere I go to evangelize, to build the community, to bring the joy!” he says. Father Czarnecki is now in his sixth year doing pastoral work at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois. Mike Gregg, director of campus ministry at Loyola Academy, notes, “Stan

came to a deep personal relationship with God in high school, and his desire is to offer all people he encounters God’s kindness and an awareness of God’s presence with them in all things.” Unsurprisingly, Fr. Czarnecki gravitated toward leading the Polish Club, where he shares his heritage with the students through cultural activities.

Pastoral work is what Fr. Czarnecki loves best, and it does not go unnoticed; Midwest Jesuits Provincial Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ, quips that “he’s a pastoral workhorse!”

“I am so lucky to have Fr. Stan in my life,” says Terri Guercio, associate director of prospect research at Loyola Academy. “He brings out the joy in everything he does!”

What’s next for Fr. Czarnecki and his guitar? “My dream is to be involved with people as a social minister and to work with them to spread the joy of the Gospel,” he says. “Just like Pope Francis, I love to spread joy always with Jesus at the center.” ✠



Ann Power Greene serves as director of grants and special projects for the Midwest Jesuits in Chicago. Greene is a native of Cleveland and has over 13 years of service to the Jesuits.

For more on Fr. Czarnecki, watch the Jesuit Lunch Hour he was featured on in May 2020 at JesuitsMidwest.org/LunchHour



Ocer Campion Success Story

Ocer Campion Jesuit College, a coed boarding school in Gulu, Uganda, has been the recipient of over \$1.5 million in grants from USAID American Schools and Hospitals Abroad for construction and commodities for a kitchen and dining hall (2011), an advanced level girls' dorm (2017), and an advanced level science building (2018).

Celebrating its 11th year, the high school was founded by Fr. Tony Wach, SJ, an American Jesuit (originally from Omaha, Nebraska) and alumnus of the former Campion High School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. The school was built as a post-civil war recovery initiative, and it is now home to over 730 students from northern Uganda and will have room for up to 1,200 students once construction is complete. In celebration of International Women's Day on March 8, 2021, Ocer Campion and the USA Midwest Jesuits shared a success story video at USAID ASHA's annual partner meeting.

Watch the video at JesuitsMidwest.org/Ocer21



USA Midwest Province Jesuits Welcome Thomas Drexler

The USA Midwest Province Jesuits are pleased to welcome Thomas Drexler as the newest major gift officer. Drexler comes to the Jesuits from the Ignatian Spirituality Project, where he served as executive director. Additionally, Drexler has previously served as executive director of Jesuit Volunteer Corps International; assistant vice president at DePaul University; director of Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) semester abroad for Creighton University, and as a high school and university educator. Drexler is a graduate of Marquette University, Creighton University, and Washington Theological Union.



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SPECIAL THANKS

Fr. Glen Chun, SJ; Ann Greene;
Nancy Hrdlicka; Dave McNulty;
Br. John Moriconi, SJ;
Fr. Michael Rossmann, SJ; John Sealey;
Becky Sindelar

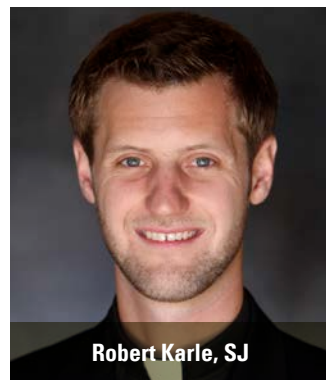
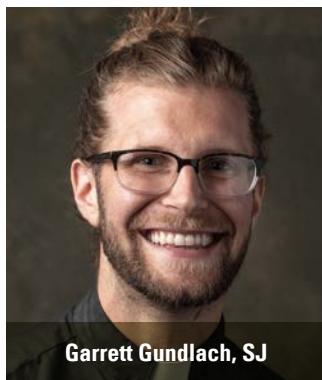
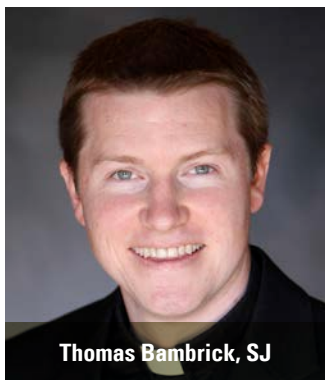
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Introducing the 2021 Ordinands



Learn more about the ordinands and livestreaming details as they become available at [JesuitsMidwest.org/Ordination21](https://www.JesuitsMidwest.org/Ordination21)