



MIDWEST

JESUITS

CHICAGO-DETROIT AND WISCONSIN PROVINCES • FALL/WINTER 2016

“The Audacity to Seek the Impossible”

Jesuits Elect New Superior General and Embrace Future in Faith

Also in This Issue:

- Adventures of a Jesuit Brother
- MAGIS 2016: Pilgrims in Poland
- Political Healing: Hope Springs Eternal



Dear Friends,

What an extraordinary time it is to be part of the Jesuit mission! This October, we traveled to Rome with Jesuits from all over the world for the Society of Jesus' 36th General Congregation (GC36). This historic meeting was the 36th time the global Society has come together since the first General Congregation in 1558, nearly two years after St. Ignatius died. General Congregations are always summoned upon the death or resignation of the Jesuits' Superior General, and this year we came together to elect a Jesuit to succeed Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, SJ, who has faithfully served as Superior General since 2008. After prayerful consideration, we elected Fr. Arturo Sosa Abascal, SJ, a Jesuit priest from Venezuela.

Father Sosa is warm, friendly, and down-to-earth, with a great sense of humor that puts people at ease. He has offered his many gifts to intellectual, educational, and social apostolates at all levels in service to the Gospel and the universal Church. One of his most impressive achievements came during his time as rector of la Universidad Católica del Táchira, where he helped the student body grow from 4,000 to 8,000 students and gave the university a strong social orientation to study border issues in Venezuela. The Jesuits in Venezuela have deep love and respect for Fr. Sosa, and we are excited as we embark on this new journey under his leadership, while remaining ever mindful that our efforts only bear fruit by God's grace.

In addition to this important election, GC36 served as an opportunity to take the pulse of the Society's work in the world and discern new ways we might continue to serve the greatest need in the years ahead. Following his election, Fr. Sosa — who is the first Latin American Superior General — emphasized our Ignatian call to have the “audacity [to] ... seek not only the improbable, but the impossible, because *nothing is impossible for God* ...” He went on to say that our top priority must be to work for reconciliation in the world. “We have to strive for reconciliation between human beings, reconciliation with God, and reconciliation with the created world,” he explained (see pages 10–11).

A sense of new beginnings and exciting horizons is also evident at home. This August, 15 new novices entered the Jesuit Novitiate of St. Alberto Hurtado in St. Paul, joining 15 second-year novices (see pages 12–13). In addition, nine novices pronounced first vows and went on to first studies (see pages 8–9). Please join us in praying for all these Jesuits as they respond to God's call.

We hope you enjoy the many news items and articles featured throughout this issue. Thank you for your support and prayers. As always, know that you remain in our prayers as well.

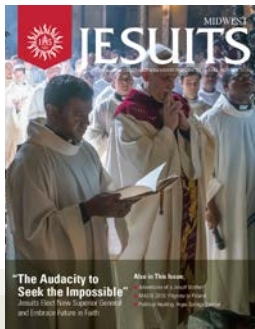
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Brian G. Paulson, SJ
Provincial, Chicago-Detroit Province

Thomas A. Lawler, SJ
Provincial, Wisconsin Province

(From left) Jesuit Frs. Brian Paulson, Arturo Sosa, and Thomas Lawler, in the garden of the Jesuit Curia in Rome following Fr. Sosa's election as 31st Superior General of the Society of Jesus (Photo by Fr. Don Doll, SJ)





ON THE COVER

Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, the new Superior General of the Society of Jesus, celebrates a Mass of thanksgiving at Church of the Gesu in Rome on October 15.

Photo: Fr. Don Doll, SJ

MAGIS 2016: Pilgrims in Poland



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Faith! Fellowship! Pope Francis! Brad Held, SJ, remembers MAGIS 2016, the two-week, life-changing Jesuit program leading up to World Youth Day in Poland.

Photo: Courtesy of MAGIS 2016

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Adventures of a Jesuit Brother
Br. Ken Homan, SJ, has always loved a good adventure. His journey as a Jesuit brother may be his greatest one yet.



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"The Audacity to Seek the Impossible"
With these words, newly elected Superior General Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, articulates the Jesuits' bold vision and mission.



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Hope Springs Eternal
A long and divisive election season is finally over. Now begins the tough work of building bridges and coming together. Kyle Shinseki, SJ, offers tips based on Ignatian spirituality.



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Determination in the Face of Darkness
Every day at Arrupe College, Eric Immel, SJ, encounters students who embody a hard-won perseverance and faith.

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New Presidents and Principals Begin at Midwest Jesuit Schools

Courtesy of Willi White/Red Cloud Indian School



Huerter, Taken Alive, and Mackey

Several Midwest Jesuit schools welcomed new presidents and principals in the 2016–2017 academic year. Father Michael Marco, SJ, became president of Marquette University High School in Milwaukee, while Fr. Theodore Munz, SJ, became president of the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy and Fr. Jeff Putthoff, SJ, became president of St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy in Toledo, Ohio.

New principals include Sylvia Beevas-Smith at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School – Twin Cities in Minneapolis; James Bopp at Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha; Clare Huerter at Red Cloud High School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota; Juliana (White Bull) Taken Alive at Red Cloud Elementary School; Alex Mackey, assistant principal at Red Cloud High School; John Meuler, director of the middle school at Nativity Jesuit Academy in Milwaukee; and Vanessa Solis, director of the elementary school at Nativity Jesuit Academy.

"The Midwest Jesuits are thrilled to welcome our newest presidents and principals," said Matthew Couture, the Midwest Jesuits' provincial assistant for pre-secondary and secondary education. "They bring a deep commitment to Catholic Jesuit mission, care for student growth, and a fresh vision for the future."

Jesuit Connections Hosts Inaugural Chicago Area Mass



Fr. Lukas Laniauskas, SJ

Jesuit Connections, a young professional speaker series sponsored by the Midwest Jesuits and Charis ministries, hosted its first-ever Chicago Area Mass on Sunday, October 23, at Holy Family Church. The Mass was part of a broader, nationwide celebration of Jesuit-affiliated individuals. Father Lukas Laniauskas, SJ, vice president of mission integration and implementation at Saint Ignatius College Prep, served as president.

"It was so exciting for Chicago to be a part of this national Jesuit celebration in October," said Anne Williams, executive director of Charis. "Whether a parent, grandparent, student, alumni, staff, or lover of Ignatian spirituality, we are all part of the Jesuit family."

Jesuit Connections launched earlier this year, bringing together young Jesuit alumni, staff, and volunteers. Previous events included a talk on balancing faith and work by Fr. Pat McGrath, SJ, president of Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill.; a presentation on the lives of migrants by Fr. Sean Carroll, SJ, executive director of the Kino Border Initiative on the US-Mexican border; and a talk on putting faith into action by Fr. Dave Mastrangelo, SJ, director of mission and identity at Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School in Chicago.

"So many of the young adults we talk to are looking for connection and a community to explore their faith," said Williams. "What better way than a community of those with shared Jesuit values."

Learn more at www.charis.org/jesuitconnections/.

IVC Regional Director Receives Leading with Faith Award



Kathleen Groh

Kathleen Groh, regional director of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) Minneapolis/St. Paul chapter, was presented with the Leading with Faith Award by *The Catholic Spirit*, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Kathleen was honored with six other recipients at an August 18 luncheon at St. Catherine University with the Most Rev. Bernard Hebda, archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

According to *The Catholic Spirit*, the Leading with Faith Award was established as a way to celebrate business and community leaders "who integrate their Catholic faith in their workplaces." Under Kathleen's leadership over the past five years, IVC has experienced significant growth in the Twin Cities.

"I was once told that volunteers will always be attracted to a 'warm fire,'" Kathleen told *The Catholic Spirit*. "That is what I have tried to provide as I lead IVC. Watching the steady growth of IVC from 10 volunteers to 25 and sending them into the nonprofits that serve those who are poor and vulnerable is most gratifying. We are called by St. Ignatius to 'set the world on fire,' and these men and women are lighting them all over the metro area."

IVC provides mature men and women the opportunity to serve the needs of people who are poor, to work for a more just society, and to grow deeper in Christian faith by reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition. To learn more, visit www.ivcusa.org or www.thecatholicspirit.com.

Photo: Dave Hhacek, *The Catholic Spirit*

Jesuit Schools Participate in Ignatian Carbon Challenge



Molly Brombach, a Loyola Academy student

Jesuit high schools throughout the country are participating in the Ignatian Carbon Challenge with the Ignatian Solidarity Network (ISN). The program began with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1, and will extend through the academic year.

The Ignatian Carbon Challenge provides resources for action and reflection to support a more sustainable lifestyle and campus environment. Individual challenges offer tools to educators and student club moderators, allowing them to incorporate Pope Francis' 2015 environmental encyclical, *Laudato Si*, into their curriculum. Institutional challenges invite school administrators to commit to making strides toward greater sustainability in their organizations. Progress is tracked by ISN staff and publicized on social media using #IggyCarbon.

Participating Midwest Jesuit schools include Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha, Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill., Marquette University High School in Milwaukee, and Cristo Rey Jesuit High School – Twin Cities in Minneapolis.

An ecumenical initiative, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation was followed by the Season of Creation, which extended through the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4.

To learn more about the Ignatian Carbon Challenge or the Season of Creation, visit www.ignatiansolidarity.net/ignatian-carbon-challenge, www.seasonofcreation.org, or www.catholicclimatemovement.global.

ISP Shares *Stories of Hope* in New Book



An ISP retreat group

Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) recently published *Stories of Hope*, a book featuring powerful, first-hand accounts of struggling individuals whose lives changed as a result of an ISP retreat.

Stephen Hopkins is one of these retreatants.

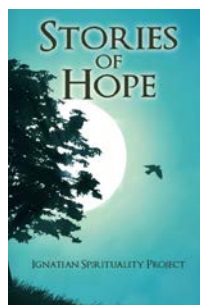
"My life was chaos," he wrote. "I've been shot three times, I've been stabbed, and that still didn't get my attention to stop using [drugs]." He made his first retreat with ISP when he was 56.

"The retreat experience was about serenity. The retreat opened my eyes up to show me that I was right where God wanted me to be." Stephen now works on ISP's Washington, DC, team.

"I want to give back," he explained. "I just ask for God to lead me."

ISP began offering retreats in 1998. Blending elements of Ignatian spirituality and the 12-step recovery program, ISP lays a foundation of hope, community, and healing. Retreatants come to see that they are not alone in their struggles and that they are loved both by God and those on retreat with them. There are currently teams of ISP volunteers offering retreats in almost 30 cities across the United States and Canada.

All book sales help cover production costs. To purchase a copy, search *Stories of Hope* at www.amazon.com.



Jesuit School Alums Compete in 2016 Rio Olympics



Jimmy Butler (right)

Photo: Courtesy of Marquette Athletics

Many athletes who competed in the 31st Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, have ties to Midwest Jesuit universities and high schools. From alumni to coaches, Jesuit-educated athletes could be found on the court, in the pool, and on the field.

Some of the athletes included Jimmy Butler, a basketball standout at Marquette University in Milwaukee, who now plays for the Chicago Bulls and won a gold medal this summer; Thomas Jaeschke, a former Loyola University Chicago volleyball player who won a bronze medal; Joshua Konieczny, a rower and graduate of St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy in Toledo, Ohio; Conor Dwyer, a graduate of Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill., who won gold and bronze medals on the US men's swimming team; and Gregory Echenique and David Cubillan, alums of Creighton University in Omaha and Marquette who played for the Venezuelan men's basketball team.

"A Jesuit education forms the whole student: mind, body, and spirit," said Deanna I. Howes, director of communications for the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. "Jesuit school graduates who competed in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio truly lived up to this ideal and represented our institutions well on a global scale. We are proud of our Jesuit alumni and congratulate them on their stellar performances in the Olympics!"

For more information, visit www.ajcunet.edu.

Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House
Lake Elmo, MN



Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House
Barrington, IL



Jesuit Retreat House on
Lake Winnebago
Oshkosh, WI



On Retreat with the Jesuits

By Jordan Skarr, Associate Pastoral Assistant, and Brian Harper, Communications Specialist

In a busy, noisy world, a retreat is a gift. For nearly 500 years, Jesuits have offered this gift, introducing retreatants to deep traditions and innovative expressions.

The Midwest Jesuits have retreat ministries in seven states. All but Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Elmo, Minn., serve both women and men, and some focus on specific populations, such as the Ignatian Spirituality Project's work with the homeless. Whether serving young adults, seasoned retreatants, or people experiencing addiction, Jesuits and lay colleagues respond to a variety of needs in a variety of settings.

Each ministry shares a commitment to Ignatian spirituality, the unique faith practice established by the Jesuits' founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola. Ignatian spirituality is rooted in the Spiritual Exercises, the practical retreat guide born from Ignatius's experiences.

A vital part of every Jesuit's formation,

the Spiritual Exercises take roughly 30 days and are mainly completed in silence. Because few laypeople could spend a month away, Ignatius encouraged Jesuits to be creative in making retreats available to as many people as possible.

God is working right in your experience. The goal is to discern how...

— Fr. Paul Macke, SJ

"Ignatius always talked about adapting the Exercises," says Fr. Paul Macke, SJ, director of Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, Ill. "There are many different formats. We have eight-day or five-day directed retreats, and the 19th Annotation, which people do at home over the course of 30 weeks. Bill W. developed Alcoholics Anonymous in

conversation with a Jesuit."

What sets Ignatian spirituality apart is its emphasis on individual experience.

"God is not out there somewhere," says Fr. Macke. "God is working right in your experience. The goal is to discern how, and that will lead you to conversion and a reorientation of your life, with God as your highest priority."

Silent prayer is part of many Jesuit retreats, but retreatants also typically meet one-on-one with a spiritual director.

"Retreats are very much between a person and God," says Fr. Chris Manahan, SJ, director of the Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago in Oshkosh, Wis. "Directors are only there to the extent that the person and God find them useful."

Retreat directors also often use presentations to help retreatants focus on important spiritual themes.

"Our attempt is to make time for retreatants to interiorize those presentations with the Lord," says Fr.



Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford
Milford, OH



Manresa Jesuit Retreat House
Bloomfield Hills, MI



Jesuit Retreat House of Cleveland
Parma, OH

Francis Daly, SJ, director of Manresa Jesuit Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. "Hopefully, they are not just coming for presentations but to grow in their relationship with God through personal prayer."

Despite the brevity of a weekend, retreatants travel "through the pattern and progression of the Spiritual Exercises," says Fr. Pat McCorkell, SJ, Demontreville's director. The Exercises, however, "aren't the retreat. They're just tools."

Ultimately, the Exercises are an invitation to encounter and experience a loving, merciful God, says Rick Krivanka, executive director of the Jesuit Retreat House of Cleveland.

"Meeting God in the deepest part of one's being," Krivanka explains. "We provide a place of peace and reflection where people can ponder the most important questions in their lives — and find God's love and guidance."

Preparing retreatants for this encounter often requires calming them first.

"The guys come frazzled for the most part, as 99 percent of people in the United States are," says Fr. McCorkell. "They come to a place of solitude. We tell them to shut off their phone: 'You're here. Nowhere else.' We try to provide a peaceful and beautiful physical environment."

In addition to tranquility, retreatants often find a simple but structured routine.

"Daily order's the same, the menu's the same," says Fr. McCorkell. "They can come to a place that doesn't demand a lot of choices, so their energy and attention is focused on the content and activity of the prayer. Over the course of time, that really does start to affect and shape the way you look at things."

Dean Hilgers, who has made retreats at Demontreville for 20 years, can attest to this:

"I could never imagine not coming," he says. "I'm beyond hooked. It's part of the fabric of who I've become." It is not uncommon for traditions like this to carry

across generations.

"In certain families, it's been going for three, four generations," says Fr. McCorkell. "We pass on the faith."

Whether the goal is spiritual growth or a quiet weekend away, Ignatian retreats offer a rare opportunity to find solitude and, as Ignatius wrote, "allow the creator to deal directly with the created."

After a retreat at the Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford in Ohio, Sr. Therese Gillman, OSF, the center's executive director, heard a participant sum up the experience using words any retreat director would long to hear: "I found God again." ✠

For more information on making a retreat with the Midwest Jesuits, visit www.jesuitsmidwest.org/retreats2016.

Br. Ken Homan, SJ, teaches a class at Marquette University High School.

Adventures

By Br. Ken Homan, SJ

of a Jesuit Brother

Winter clouds floated over the golden-brown flood plains of the Missouri River. I was hiking Indian Cave State Park on the Nebraska-Missouri border. As I enjoyed the silence, a red-tailed hawk glided over my left shoulder, and the Holy Spirit flooded my heart like the river below: “It’s time, Ken. Stop stalling. Ask for the application.”

I grew up in St. Louis, loving camping and hiking adventures with my family. In addition to time outside, I spent much of my childhood around the Jesuits and Franciscans, with whom my parents worked.

Despite growing up around these great individuals, my vocation developed from six Jesuits I did not know — the martyrs of El Salvador. At a Mass celebrating these and other Jesuit martyrs, I first felt the tug to join the Society. But as a junior in high school, I was not ready for that commitment.

Three years later, I was a sophomore at Creighton University in Omaha, and that little voice had grown into a call I could no longer put on hold. Despite developing tremendous friendships and loving my

studies, God made it clear that it was time for a new adventure.

I entered the Jesuit novitiate in 2010. Soon, I discerned that God was calling me to yet another adventure — to be a Jesuit brother.

Jesuit brothers and priests both have a vocation to consecrated religious life, but brothers do not feel called to ordained sacramental ministry. Historically, Jesuit brothers held hands-on jobs, working as carpenters, blacksmiths, farmers, electricians, and more. Recently, brothers have taken on broader ministries as college professors, social workers, astronomers, engineers, and high school teachers.

So what defines a brother? Discovering this has been one of my favorite adventures as a Jesuit. I am learning how to be a modern Jesuit brother and exploring why God called me to this particular vocation.

This adventure has taken me on journeys that are both deeply intellectual and hands-on. While most of my classmates in formation for the priesthood studied philosophy during first studies, I

completed a master’s degree in American history, focusing on Jesuits and the labor movement in St. Louis. Simultaneously, I spent my afternoons learning to be a maintenance man at a school in the South Bronx. With questions like “Which chemical and tool combination is best for stripping and re-waxing floors?” the maintenance job was often more intellectual than my studies!

My Jesuit adventure has brought me to regency as a teacher at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee. I teach theology, coach wrestling and powerlifting, and help with activities like retreats and dances. Sometimes, my students ask, “What exactly is a brother?” I respond, “Maybe you should be one and find out!” ✠



Br. Ken Homan, SJ, is a Jesuit regent of the Wisconsin Province. He completed his undergraduate studies and obtained a master’s degree in American history at

Fordham University in New York. In addition to teaching and coaching at Marquette University High School, he writes for *The Jesuit Post* at www.thejesuitpost.org.

In the Right Place

By Amy Korpi, Staff Writer

What do you do when you're running late but encounter someone who "really needs to talk?" Father Frank Canfield, SJ, tries to be "in the precious present."

It isn't easy.

"Responsible people keep their appointments, right?" says Fr. Canfield. "But here was someone hoping I could be of help. Looking back, I realize that when I ended up being late as a result of truly being 'in the moment' with someone, it was where God wanted me to be."

That conclusion reflects the changes Fr. Canfield has experienced throughout his Jesuit vocation.

"At 80, as I look in the rearview mirror of my life, I see that I've been pushed and pulled in ways I didn't plan. It's been a gift of age to realize that the Lord has led me along, asking me to cooperate with the gift of each moment. Many times, I didn't want to. But when I finally put my ego where it belongs, I find a feeling of 'Ah, this is right.'"

His Jesuit formation also helped, beginning when his father told him he should travel an hour and 15 minutes to

attend the University of Detroit Jesuit High School.

"Having gone there himself, he knew it was the right place for me. And through the example of the Jesuits, I became convinced this vocation was the right life for me."

Father Canfield's Jesuit assignments included teaching and serving as a student counselor and principal at his alma mater. Moving on to St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy in Toledo, Ohio, in 1989, Fr. Canfield served as a student counselor, teacher, and rector through the early 2000s.

Each time he moved, he felt that familiar initial anxiety, before realizing he was where he should be.

"Like many people, I cling to the comfortable and find change difficult. I was blessed to never be in a situation I didn't like, so I never asked to move."

After he was named chaplain at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland in 2006, he found himself overwhelmed, praying, "Lord, I'm in over my head." But once again, he eventually felt a sense of being in the right place.

(above) Fr. Frank Canfield, SJ, at an event at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland

(below) Fr. Canfield celebrating Mass at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School



"That began eight richly graced years at Saint Ignatius."

His acceptance served him well when he was treated for leukemia at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich. After that "break," he thought he would return to one of his past ministries.

"So when I was 'formally missioned' here, I was not at peace. I guess I'm slow to learn. When I finally realized the decision stood, I heard that quiet voice from God: 'Trust me, Frank; I'm taking you where you otherwise wouldn't go.' Once I 'let go,' I didn't feel loneliness, regret, or any of the emotions I expected. That was pure grace."

Father Canfield remains engaged, hearing confessions, providing retreats, and offering spiritual direction. For him, a quotation from Fr. Karl Rahner, SJ, epitomizes his experiences: "God is God; we are not; and all is grace." ✠



The Road to Vows

By Fr. Tom Pipp, SJ

Before pronouncing first vows, Jesuit novices make a triduum, a three-day period of prayer, in preparation for a lifelong commitment to God in the Society of Jesus. On this retreat, novices are asked to write out the vow formula they will pronounce. The formula, inspiring and prayerful words from the *Constitutions of the Society of Jesus*, must be written in three copies, in black ink, in cursive, and on special lined paper, with no cross-outs. Novices often laugh at themselves during this process. Some have not written in cursive since grade

school. Some forget instructions and write outside the margins. They make mistakes and have to start over — again and again.

Yet, for all the struggle, they complete the writing. And it is from one of those sheets of paper that the man reads his vows, giving his life and glorifying God in his self-donation as a Jesuit.

During the novitiate, the two-year program of formation prior to first vows, novices engage in experiments, or experiences, that were fundamental to St. Ignatius and the first Jesuits. Like the

And as you have freely given me the desire to make offering, so also may you give me the abundant grace to fulfill it.

— From the Jesuit first vows formula

vow formula, novices make mistakes and often must begin again. But there is great joy in experiencing the “firsts” in Jesuit life — living with fellow novices, giving homilies, putting on clerics, and serving



The nine Midwest Jesuits who pronounced first vows at Saint Thomas More Catholic Community in St. Paul: (left to right) James McGivney; Thomas O'Donnell, IV; Pierce Gibson, IV; James Kennedy; Jack McLinden; David Incauskis; Michael Bartlett; Christopher Williams; and José "Chuy" Camacho

in a school, hospital, or prison.

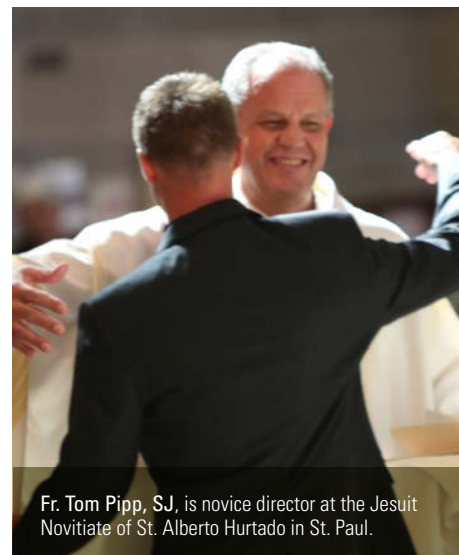
Of all of the novitiate experiments, making the Spiritual Exercises, a 30-day retreat, stands out. The novice learns silence and deepens his relationship with Jesus Christ. In discipleship, Jesuit life finds its focus, and in Jesus, the novice realizes he is loved, redeemed, and being transformed into a lover of all humankind.

Friendship with Jesus compels each novice's vow to live in **poverty**. Within complex Jesuit institutional commitments, he will own nothing, receiving all he has from the Society and serving Jesus, who lives in the poor. In vowing **chastity**, he offers his tremendous affective energy

to Christ for the service of humanity.

Through **obedience**, the novice will go wherever his superior, who represents Christ, sends him. The mission often involves making the best of difficult and unexpected situations.

By the time a novice kneels at the altar to pronounce vows, he is prepared. As he speaks the final words of the vow formula to God, he does so with complete trust: "And as you have freely given me the desire to make offering, so also may you give me the abundant grace to fulfill it." It is only in our loving God that this Jesuit life can be lived with authenticity and peace. ✠



Fr. Tom Pipp, SJ, is novice director at the Jesuit Novitiate of St. Alberto Hurtado in St. Paul.



“The Audacity to Seek the Impossible”

By Tracey Primrose

We too desire to contribute to that which today seems impossible: a humanity reconciled in justice, that dwells peacefully in a well-cared-for common home, where there is a place for all, since we recognize each other as brothers and sisters, as sons and daughters of the same and only Father.

— FR. ARTURO SOSA, SJ, 31ST SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

Outgoing Superior General Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, SJ (left), embraces the newly elected Superior General, Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ.

Photos: Fr. Don Doll, SJ

In the 476-year history of the Society of Jesus, there have been 30 Superiors General of the order better known as the Jesuits. That changed on October 14 in Rome, when the 212 delegates to General Congregation 36 elected their 31st leader, Fr. Arturo Sosa Abascal, SJ, the first Latin American to serve as Superior General.

The election was marked by the grace and civility that have long characterized the transfer of power in the Jesuit order. On October 3, the day after he opened the congregation, the previous Superior General, Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, SJ, appointed Fr. James Grummer, SJ, of the Wisconsin Province to serve as Vicar General until the new general was elected. The congregation then voted to accept the resignation of Fr. Nicolás and, several days later, began a centuries-old tradition called *murmuratio*. Four days of one-on-one conversation and information gathering, the *murmuratio* was established by St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, who instructed his companions to use the period to “seek enlightenment from those able to give good information” about any Jesuit suitable for the office. Importantly, and in sharp contrast to every other election, campaigning and politicking is strictly forbidden.

The day of the election began with a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit at Santo Spirito in Sassia, the 12th-century church across the street from the Jesuit Curia, headquarters of the Society of Jesus.

FR. ARTURO SOSA, SJ

- 31st Superior General of the Jesuits and the first from Latin America
- Born November 12, 1948, in Caracas, Venezuela
- Entered the Jesuits in 1966
- Ordained a priest in 1977
- Social Apostolate Coordinator of the Venezuelan Province and head of la Fundación Centro Gumilla, a Jesuit-run social and action research center (1978–96)
- Provincial of Venezuelan Province (1996–2004)
- Rector of la Universidad Católica del Táchira (2004–14)
- Delegate of the Superior General for the International Houses and Works of the Society of Jesus in Rome (2014–16)
- Speaks Spanish, Italian, and English; understands French



Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ (center), grants his first press conference after being elected 31st Superior General of the Society of Jesus. Fr. Patrick Mulemi, SJ, director of the Jesuits' Communication and Public Relations Office (left), and Fr. Federico Lombardi, SJ, former director of the Holy See Press Office (right), join him.

After Mass, the delegates returned to the Curia and silently assembled in the *aula*, the meeting hall that has been used for General Congregations since the Jesuits established their headquarters near the Vatican in 1927.

By noon, the name of the new general had spread around the world: Fr. Arturo Sosa, 67, a native of Venezuela. A man of deep spirituality and intelligence, Fr. Sosa most recently served as the delegate for the Jesuits' international houses in Rome. His wide range of experience also includes time as a provincial, leadership positions with the Jesuits' social apostolate in Venezuela, and experience as a university rector and professor.

The newly minted general was given little time to rest. Just four days after his election, he faced nearly 70 reporters and 12 camera crews in his first press conference. Several days later, the curia busily prepared for a visit from Pope Francis, who addressed the congregation.

After the election, the delegates turned

their attention to the work ahead: matters of mission, governance, and the state of the Society. A General Congregation is the supreme governing body of the Society of Jesus, and the delegates are aware of the historic significance of this 36th gathering. The days are long but gratifying, with at least one special perk: a private tour of the Sistine Chapel arranged by Pope Francis.

In his first Mass as general, Fr. Sosa called on the Jesuits to “think creatively about the ways in which our service to the mission of Christ Jesus can be more effective ... to think about ways of deeply understanding the unique moment of human history in which we are living and to contribute to the search for alternatives for overcoming poverty, inequality, and oppression.”

It is a tall order but one that is certain to energize and embolden the Society of Jesus for years to come. ✠

For more information, visit www.gc36.org.



Tracey Primrose is secretary for communications for the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. She served on the communications team reporting from Rome on the Society of Jesus' 36th General Congregation.



It is with great joy that the Midwest Jesuits introduce the 15 new novices of the Chicago-Detroit and Wisconsin Provinces of the Society of Jesus. The novices entered the Jesuit Novitiate of St. Alberto Hurtado in St. Paul on Saturday, August 20, 2016.

First-year Midwest Jesuit novices: (front row, left to right) Viktor Moberg, Mark Blancke, Christopher Meister, Robert Purgert, Joshua Utter, Josef Rodríguez, Alexander French, Christopher Alt; (back row, left to right) Mark Hakes, Matthew Waldoch, Adam Bryan, Alexander DeWitt, John Weinandy, Patrick Saint-Jean, Cody Sandschafer

Meet the New Novices

Christopher Alt, 30, earned a bachelor's degree in theological and religious studies from the University of San Diego and a master of divinity degree from Boston College. He served as a Jesuit *donné** at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland and also worked at a health care center and homeless shelter. Christopher enjoys music, art, fitness, and hanging out with family.

Mark Blancke, 30, grew up on a farm in southeast Michigan. He received bachelor's degrees in health science from Grand Valley State University in

Allendale, Mich., and nursing from Regis University in Denver. Mark practiced as a medical/surgical nurse for four years and has interests in organic gardening and green living. He enjoys running, cycling, sailing, skiing, and hiking.

Adam Bryan, 22, is a native of Lima, Ohio. He obtained a bachelor's degree in physics from Xavier University in Cincinnati, where he also became interested in liberal arts, particularly medieval philosophy and literature. Adam enjoys playing sports, listening to and playing bluegrass music, learning foreign

languages, and reading intellectually stimulating literature.

Alexander DeWitt, 23, was born and raised in Akron, Ohio. He has a bachelor's degree in classical studies from Rice University in Houston and spent a semester at the University of Edinburgh. Alexander was a Jesuit *donné* in Chicago, learning Spanish and working at St. Procopius Catholic Parish. He enjoys baking, reading, traveling, movies, and golf.

Alexander French, 28, studied at Northern Kentucky University for two years, before entering the seminary at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. He studied theology for two years at Saint Meinrad Seminary & School of Theology in Indiana. A country boy who enjoys the outdoors, hunting, and good music, he also lived and worked on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Mark Hakes, 28, earned a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Stetson University in DeLand, Fla., and a master's degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth. He made a pilgrimage to the Taizé Community in France in 2014, and has volunteered and served as a youth minister. He enjoys outdoor sports,

Robert Purgert, 22, met the Jesuits at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland. A childhood leukemia survivor, he is a spokesperson for cancer research and care-giving organizations. He graduated from Miami University of Ohio with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. Robert enjoys spending time with others, finding new favorite craft beers, and watching his beloved Cleveland sports teams.

Josef Rodriguez, 30, was born to Filipino parents in San Francisco and grew up in New Jersey. He entered the Legionaries of Christ after graduating from South Plainfield High School, earning degrees in liberal arts, religious studies, and philosophy; gaining experience in Gregorian chant and choir

Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He enjoys spending time with friends and family, hunting, sports, and philosophy.

Joshua Utter, 25, graduated from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and international studies. He served in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone, before working as a retreat leader at a Catholic youth camp. Joshua walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain and enjoys running, hiking, traveling, and visiting state parks.

Matthew Waldoch, 24, graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee with a bachelor's degree in economics and theology. He studied in Rome and was present for Pope Francis' election. Matthew served as a *donné* at Creighton

This fall, 47 new Jesuit novices joined the Society of Jesus in Canada, Haiti, and the United States, the largest group of novices in the last 10 years...

cooking, baking, gardening, and reading, especially *Harry Potter* books.

Christopher Meister, 29, is a University of Notre Dame graduate from Chicago. He worked in marketing, before receiving a master's degree in teaching from National Louis University in Chicago and teaching history and coaching swimming in Chicago Public Schools. Through Pope Francis, he became interested in the Jesuits. Christopher also loves to travel and learn languages.

Viktor Moberg, 24, was born and raised in San Diego. He was very active in the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program and youth ministry. Viktor graduated from Argosy University/The Art Institute of California – San Diego with a degree in culinary business management. He moved to South Haven, Mich., to pursue his goal of becoming a sous-chef. Viktor enjoys good company, beer, and food.

directing; and working in Texas and Georgia. Josef enjoys playing music, cooking, critiquing films, and being an armchair philosopher.

Patrick Saint-Jean, 33, is from Haiti and grew up in Montpellier, France. He received a license in clinical psychology from Bordeaux Segalen University and master's degrees in psychiatric anthropology from Universidad del Valle de México (UVM) and psychoanalysis from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). Patrick volunteered with L'Arche and loves exercising, writing, watching the news, listening to music, and spending time with friends.

Cody Sandschafer, 24, grew up in Effingham, Ill. He graduated from Marian University in Indianapolis and studied at Saint Meinrad Seminary & School of Theology in Indiana. Cody was a middle school math teacher and *donné* at Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge

Preparatory School in Omaha. He is interested in urban exploration, playing strategy games, trying new foods, and learning historical theology.

John Weinandy, 25, is one of seven siblings from Bowling Green, Ohio. He attended St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy in Toledo, Ohio, and John Carroll University in Cleveland, where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology. After working in medical research, he returned to St. John's as an alumni volunteer and staff member. John enjoys reading, cooking, playing games, and exploring God's creation.

**Prior to entering the Society, some men are Jesuit donnés and spend time living in a Jesuit community and working in a Jesuit ministry to get a sense of what life in the Society of Jesus entails.*



Pilgrims in Poland

“The crowd was pressing around him.”

LUKE 5:1

By Brad Held, SJ

This time, the crowd surrounded Pope Francis. And I was in that crowd gathered in Kraków, Poland, for World Youth Day 2016.

The crowds were everywhere. They filled Kraków’s historic streets. They pressed into the city’s buses, trams, and trains. They swarmed the restaurants and food courts. A crowd of more than two million people filled the Field of Mercy to keep vigil and celebrate a final Mass with Pope Francis.

Everywhere Pope Francis was, the crowd was in force. The streets were filled with chants of “Papa Francisco.” The moment the young people caught a glimpse of the Popemobile, they were off and running toward it. Papa Francisco

was coming, and they wanted to be as close to him as they could.

Yet before the crowds even began to form in Kraków, I was with a group of roughly 2,000 pilgrims and Jesuits from 52 countries, gathered for MAGIS 2016. MAGIS — the Latin word for “more” or “better,” which Jesuits often invoke to highlight our mission — is the Jesuit spiritual preparation which took place July 15–25, prior to World Youth Day.

We gathered in the city of Łódź to launch into our program, themed “to give and not to count the cost,” a line from St. Ignatius’s Prayer for Generosity. Participants put that theme into action immediately, as they stood in the pouring rain, waiting for their turn to register,

all the while laughing and greeting each other. These were days of high energy (how else do you fight off jet lag?), but also quiet contemplation. One moment, we were dancing and singing along to praise and worship music, and shortly after, we were invited to settle into some quiet for a guided meditation on the day’s Gospel. Months later, I still picture the hype and quiet flowing into each other.

I am also left with the image of our final gathering in Częstochowa. We gathered there after seven days of experiments, the heart of the MAGIS program. Much like St. Ignatius prescribed for Jesuit novices, MAGIS 2016 had 97 experiments ranging from art and theater, to sailing and hiking



The US delegation to MAGIS 2016



pilgrimages, to service projects and retreats. The experiment groups were a mixture of pilgrims from various countries who lived, worked, and prayed together. This unity made all the difference.

By the time we gathered in Częstochowa, we no longer simply hung out in our country groups, but instead mixed together with new friends from our experiments. In a very moving way, we were able to pilgrimage together to Jasna Góra Monastery, the shrine to the Black Madonna, where we prayed together at a place so near and dear to the Polish people.

Our daily commute showed us another, more somber part of Poland's history. Until Poland's communist government

fell in 1989, Polish Jesuits could not operate schools, which is where MAGIS pilgrims usually sleep.

As a result, we stayed quite a distance outside Kraków during World Youth Day. Each morning, we would ride the train into the city and do the reverse in the evening. Our train line's last stop was Oświęcim, the Polish name for Auschwitz, a poignant reminder of tremendous suffering others experienced at that very place.

I have thought much about the joys and challenges of MAGIS and World Youth Day since my return home. There was something about the pilgrimage that made the hardships less hard and that linked the hardships to the joys. Every day, we

crowded into hot trains, grimly aware of who had been on those trains before us. In spite of this tragic history and our minor discomforts, there was grace. Somehow, these moments were key to the grace of it all. ✝

For more information, visit www.magis2016.org.



Brad Held, SJ, is a Jesuit of the Wisconsin Province. He is studying theology at Boston College. Brad served as US project director for MAGIS 2016. Recently ordained to the diaconate, he will be ordained a priest in 2017.



Bridge to the Divine

Sacred artist Meltem Aktas in her studio

By Jeremy Langford, *Director of Communications*

When Meltem Aktas makes her way down the path from her northside Chicago home to the converted garage that serves as her studio, she is greeted by a sign that reads, *Sanctuario*. “My studio is my sanctuary,” she explains. “When I begin my work day creating religious icons and art, the sign reminds me that I am about to enter sacred space.”

In this space, Aktas has created a remarkable body of religious art that has earned her and her company, Imago Sacred Images, widespread recognition and commissions from churches and religious orders, most notably the Jesuits. “I have a very personal connection with St. Ignatius, whose faith journey and spiritual wisdom speak to people across time, cultures, and traditions,” she says.

Born in Turkey near the Syrian border, Aktas grew up in the shadow of mosques and Orthodox monasteries that left a profound impression on her. After earning undergraduate and graduate degrees from Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University in

Istanbul, she furthered her studies at the Art Institute of Chicago, where she fell in love with medieval and Flemish painting techniques. Eventually she focused her artistic talents and love of Eastern and Western spirituality into becoming one of the finest religious iconographers working in the medium today. While she employs ancient methods to create her icons, using



specially prepared wood, gesso, gold leaf, and up to 50 layers of transparent oils, Aktas favors softer, more human facial expressions over the severe look of traditional Byzantine icons.

In 2005, Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill., commissioned Aktas to create for its chapel a gallery of Jesuit saints and blessed, including St. Paul Miki, St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, St. Francis Xavier, St. Alberto Hurtado, Rutilio Grande, and, of course, St. Ignatius of Loyola (see next page). “I’m so grateful to Fr. Ted Munz for commissioning me and to Fr. Pat McGrath for working with me to complete the gallery,” says Aktas. “Both

of these Jesuits appreciate the power of sacred art to draw people into deeper relationship with God. That is the goal of everything I do.”

In early 2006, Loyola University Chicago asked Aktas to serve as chief artist for the renovation of the historic Madonna della Strada chapel. After extensive research, the school’s then president, Fr. Michael Garanzini, SJ, and the director of the Loyola University Museum of Art, Pamela Ambrose, independently determined that Aktas was the best choice for the job. “For me, it was a very special sign that I was meant to work on this project,” recalls Aktas. The project took five years to complete.

In addition to the daunting task of adding four angels to the intricate mural above the main altar that was completed in 1947, Aktas wanted to create something extra special for the renovation. After prayer and contemplation, she came up with the idea of creating Art Deco tabernacle doors featuring angels in the enamel style known as *Cloisonné* (see inset image). To execute her vision, Aktas traveled to the Beijing China Factory, which specializes in the medieval craft of *Cloisonné*,



whereby thin wire partitions are affixed to a tin or brass base and filled with enamel paste, before being baked, polished, and gold plated. After six arduous weeks of work in China, Aktas transported the doors back to Chicago. She then took another six months to create the casement.

Given that “writing” icons and creating sacred art takes Aktas months, even years, to complete, many people ask her how she lets her art go. “For me, the reward is the process of prayerfully creating the art,” she says. Deep beneath the layers of her creations, Aktas handwrites a relevant Scripture passage or prayer that flows through the work. Under the very floor of her studio is a poem by St. John of the Cross.

“Sharing my art with the world is a profound privilege,” says the artist. “Sometimes I go into churches where my work is displayed and sit in the pew anonymously to watch people pray, cry, give thanks, light a candle, leave a flower.

“My ultimate prayer is that people will connect with my art as a bridge to the divine, to the sacred.” ✠

See *Meltem Aktas's work at www.imagoicons.com.*

By Kyle Shinseki, SJ

After an incredibly contentious election season, what hope do we have to come together as a nation? Many may be frustrated with the results, while others may be content. In today’s political environment, there seems to be neither middle ground nor room for reconciliation. As people shaped by Ignatian spirituality, perhaps one way to find hope would be to do an Examen to prayerfully reflect on where we find ourselves after the final ballots have been tallied.

First, we call upon the Holy Spirit to help us recognize God’s steadfast mercy and love for us. We recall God’s faithfulness in our lives and find concrete reasons to be grateful. Instead of focusing on our own reaction to the election results, we consider how God might encourage us at this particular moment. One might pray with the words of St. Teresa of Ávila: “Let nothing disturb you, nothing distress you; everything passes, God never changes; patience overcomes everything; whoever has God lacks nothing, God alone suffices.”

Then, we ask where we find God after the polls have closed. We can grow quite attached to “our” candidates, so it may be difficult to let go if “our” candidates lose. In contrast, if “our” candidates win, we can be blinded by our elation and may unwittingly attribute divine qualities to human political figures. So, we turn to God to give us the freedom to keep things in proper perspective. Whether “our” candidates have won or lost, we place our hope in God’s hands and pray for those elected, as Pope Francis encourages us, “that they can govern well, that they can love their people, that they can serve their

people, that they can be humble.”

Next, we must humbly ask God to help us see where we ourselves have been lacking in faith, hope, and love during the campaigns. While we may have initially been motivated by faith, we may have let our worries, insecurities, or even anger take over. Were we afraid of losing our way of life or certain rights and freedoms? Have we felt threatened by another’s point of view? Is there a time where we could only see someone from an opposing party as the “enemy” and not as a person created in God’s image? Are we able to recognize how these moments distanced us from God, and then ask God to forgive and heal us?

In order to move forward, we need to recognize that God continues to work through our all-too-human nature. We ask for the grace to find God at work, even on “the other side of the aisle.” We can only do this if we define ourselves not by who or what we are against, but rather by who and what we are for. As Christians, our lives are to be oriented toward Christ and building God’s kingdom. When we define ourselves in this positive way, we open ourselves to finding common ground and are then able to move toward the future with hope. ✠



Kyle Shinseki, SJ, is a Jesuit of the Chicago-Detroit Province. He is currently studying theology at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in California. He previously was coordinator for Asian/Pacific Islander Initiatives in the

Division of Student Life at Creighton University in Omaha, where he also served as chaplain and adjunct lecturer in the Heider College of Business.

Hope Springs Eternal

Kyle Shinseki, SJ, speaking at the 2015 Jesuit Mass for Life in Washington, DC

Assignments

Jesuit Formation



Fr. Richard Baumann, SJ, is working in the USA Tertianship Program in Portland during the fall semester. He will work in the African Tertianship Program during the spring semester.

Jesuit Community



Fr. Kenneth Herian, SJ, has been missioned to pray for the Church and the Society at St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis.



Br. Michael O'Grady, SJ, has been assigned to assist the superior at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich.



Fr. Francis Prokes, SJ, has been missioned to pray for the Church and the Society at St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis.



Fr. Donald Rowe, SJ, has been missioned to pray for the Church and the Society at St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis.



Fr. William Verbryke, SJ, was named superior of the Brebeuf Jesuit Community in Indianapolis and vice president for mission and identity at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School.



Fr. Joseph Wagner, SJ, has been assigned to work in campus ministry at St. Mary Student Parish at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.



Fr. Karl Voelker, SJ, will serve as a retreat director at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, Ill.

Schools



Fr. Paul O'Connor, SJ, has been assigned to teach theology and offer adult faith formation at Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.



Fr. David Watson, SJ, has been assigned to serve in campus ministry and teach theology at St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy in Toledo, Ohio.

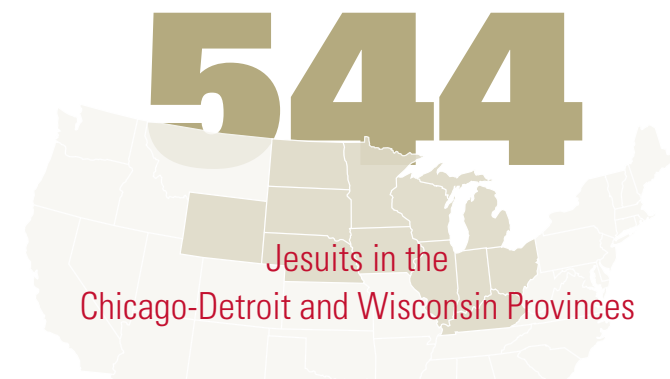
Spiritual



Fr. Paul Panaretos, SJ, will offer spiritual direction at Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph, Ontario.



Fr. Gerald Thomas (Tom) Krettek, SJ, was named vice president for mission and ministry at Marquette University in Milwaukee.



Universities



Fr. Joseph Weiss, SJ, will serve as a professor of liturgy at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, before taking a sabbatical.



Fr. Robert Wild, SJ, has been named chancellor at Marquette University in Milwaukee, where he previously served as president.

In Memoriam

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



Fr. Ralph H. Talkin, SJ

August 13, 1926, to October 10, 2016

Ralph was known for his enthusiasm, determination, love of Jesus, and devotion to Ignatian spirituality. He encouraged young men and women to seek out Christ's love — especially through the Spiritual Exercises.

Theology professor and chaplain at Loyola University Chicago; Latin and English teacher at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati; US Army chaplain at Fort Knox, Ky., and in Korea; pastor of St. Louis Catholic Church in Glenrock, Wyo.; theology professor at Saint Louis University's program in Madrid; chaplain at Saint Francis Hospital in Evanston, Ill.; chaplain to Little Sisters of the Poor in Denver, Colo.



Fr. James E. Von Tobel, SJ

March 31, 1936, to September 23, 2016

Jim was a wonderful Jesuit: available and easily mission-able. His care and concern for others was omnipresent and shown with great wisdom, humility, and humor.

Pastor of Church of the Gesu in University Heights, Ohio, and St. John the Baptist Parish in Marquette, Mich.; associate pastor at Gesu Catholic Church in Detroit; internal ministry for the Detroit Province; principal, director of religious formation, and teacher at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland; teacher at St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo, Ohio; superior, director, minister, and socius to the novice master at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich., and Berkeley, Mich.



Fr. John W. Wambach, SJ

September 21, 1933, to September 15, 2016

John was a wise and much-beloved Jesuit priest who helped thousands of his parishioners experience God's love for them. He will be remembered as a gift to God's people.

Pastoral ministry at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Mankato, Minn., St. Francis Mission in South Dakota, Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee, St. Gabriel Parish in Prairie du Chien, Wis., and St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis.; socius to the director of novices; teacher at Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, Wis.



Fr. Theodore W. Walters, SJ

July 28, 1926, to September 9, 2016

Ted lived his life as a Jesuit with great dedication and simplicity. During the last days of his life, he looked back with a great sense of fulfillment.

Dean of the University of Detroit Graduate School, the John Carroll University College of Arts and Sciences, and Studies at the Nyegezi Social Training Institute; deputy vice chancellor for academic affairs at Saint Augustine University of Tanzania; president of St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo, Ohio; Eastern Africa Province national secretary for the Apostleship of Prayer; professor and teacher at Jesuit schools in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, South Korea, and Tanzania



Fr. William T. Burke, SJ

January 2, 1935, to September 2, 2016

In addition to his love of Jesus and fishing, Bill adored poetry and had his own work published. He always greeted people with a smile and, at times, a poem.

Teacher at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis; pastoral ministry in Illinois, California, Alaska, and Montana; director of the Development Center and Senior Jesuit Programs for the Chicago Province; chaplain at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital in Alaska, St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, Mont., and St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings, Mont.; poet



Fr. Gene D. Phillips, SJ

March 3, 1935, to August 29, 2016

Gene wrote many books about film, some of which are available in numerous languages. Members of the filmmaking community often called on his historical memory and professional expertise.

English and film professor at Loyola University Chicago; author; English teacher at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland



Fr. Thomas E. Bannantine, SJ

July 14, 1934, to August 8, 2016

Tom will be remembered by the many patients and nursing staff to whom he ministered. The St. Louis Cardinals now have one of their biggest fans cheering them on from heaven.

Hospital chaplain in Pontiac, Mich., Green Bay, Wis., St. Louis, Omaha, and Washington, DC; teacher at Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation; teacher and counselor at Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha



Fr. Edward A. Flint, SJ

July 23, 1936, to July 5, 2016

Ed was a Jesuit available for mission. He had a penchant for working with underdogs and those most in need of help. He was a terrific teacher, tough but extremely capable.

English and theology teacher, counselor, and assistant treasurer at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland; counselor at Westside Community Health Center in Cleveland; substance abuse counselor and village services manager at Yukon Kuskokwim Correctional Center in Bethel, Alaska; business manager for Detroit Jesuit Province Office; pastoral ministry in Ohio, Alaska, and Michigan

Visit www.jesuitsmidwest.org for more information.

Eric Immel, SJ, with members of the student government at Arrupe College in Chicago.

Determination in the Face of Darkness

By Eric Immel, SJ

Jerome had tired eyes, yellowed with age and fragmented by red, angular veins. His rich mahogany irises reflected the harsh fluorescent light of the subway tunnel, and his pupils were miniscule, adjusting from the darkness of the street above. Tears sat gently in the corners of these eyes, and when he blinked, they ran down his stubbled cheeks. Still, these eyes met mine with brightness and warmth.

Our students' grit in facing the realities of a world often pitted against them shows relentless determination, perseverance, strength, and wisdom.

They energized me, tired after another long day at Arrupe College in Chicago, my full-time job for the next few years. He outstretched his clenched, trembling fist in a gesture of brotherhood, and as our knuckles collided, he began his sermon.

"I can see you're a man of God," he said. It was late, and I still had on my clerical shirt, white tab undone. He continued, "I want you to know something: Your gifts will carry you far, but your character will define you."

He went on, paraphrasing parables and

quoting Scripture. He told me he believed in me. He asked me to pray with him right there on the Blue Line. Then, we rode together in silence until my stop and said goodbye. I walked home across the college campus near where I live, and after trading my clerical shirt for an old Badgers tee, opened a new document and began typing a lesson plan for the next day, 10 hours before I would teach it.

Arrupe College is new for everyone. Part of Loyola University Chicago, it is the first Jesuit two-year college in the country, and it offers a liberal arts education to diverse students, many of whom are the first in their families to go to college. They face judgment about whether they are prepared or even "gifted" enough to succeed in higher education.

Through little fault of their own, our students face significant challenges in accessing and succeeding in a traditional four-year degree program. Their average high school GPA and ACT scores are lower than the typical Loyola student, and most of them qualify for state and federal financial aid. They commute from every corner of the city and return home each day, often facing the very worst Chicago has to offer — systemic racism, violence, and poverty. Some are undocumented immigrants seeking education in a

country deeply divided over whether they should be here at all. They stand at the foot of a mountain of injustice, and they continue to climb with us at Arrupe.

Our students are hungry to learn. Their grit in facing the realities of a world often pitted against them shows relentless determination, perseverance, strength, and wisdom. As one student said, "We aren't going anywhere." They are not defined by the adversity that often surrounds them but by how they respond to that adversity and sustain unwavering hope. Time and again, I am struck by how generously they lift one another up with a word of encouragement, a hug, or a prayer.

Jerome knew it on that train, my students know it at Arrupe, and I am learning: That which we are capable of means nothing if good character isn't in place. And so I stay up, soft light shining across my little desk, memories of Jerome and my students settling in my mind. My eyes are heavy but open and ready to face the night. ✠



Eric Immel, SJ, is a Jesuit regent of the Wisconsin Province. He works at Arrupe College in Chicago and writes for *The Jesuit Post* at www.thejesuitpost.org.

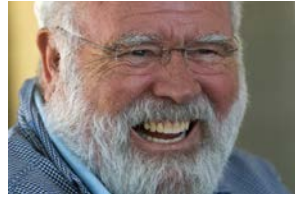
The Circle of Companions



Fr. Al Bischoff, SJ



Fr. Frank Canfield, SJ



Fr. Michael Morrison, SJ

Novice | Scholastic | Regent | Priest | Brother | President | Chaplain | Pastor | Professor | Doctor

What does it mean to be a Jesuit?

Follow us this year as we tell the stories of Jesuits in various stages of their lives and ministries. Watch your mailbox for the third edition of *The Circle of Companions* to read stories of Jesuit Frs. Al Bischoff, Frank Canfield, and Michael Morrison, and discover how your support enables them to go where God calls them.

Join the "Circle of Companions" recurring gift program to assist in the education of Jesuits in formation, enhance the quality of life for senior Jesuits, and continue to sustain and build the works of the Jesuits locally and internationally. Visit connect.jesuitsmidwest.org/RecurringGift to learn more.



Fr. Marty Connell, SJ, (front row, fourth from right) with staff at St. Peter Claver High School in Dodoma, Tanzania

Maji ni uhai

This Swahili saying means "Water is life." It also served as the theme of a fundraiser sponsored by Aghogho Edevebie, a lawyer and alumnus of University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy. The initiative raised money for a new well at St. Peter Claver High School, a Jesuit co-ed boarding school in Dodoma, Tanzania. In 2013, Aghogho volunteered at the school, where Fr. Marty Connell, a Jesuit of the Chicago-Detroit Province, served as the first headmaster.

Six years since its opening, the school has grown from 120 students to nearly 1,000. Thanks to the generosity of those who attended the fundraiser, as well as a gift from a friend of the Midwest Jesuits, the school successfully found clean water that will be of tremendous help to students!

Asanteni sana na Mungu uwabariki! A warm thanks to all who helped. God bless you!

Fr. Thomas A. Lawler, SJ
PROVINCIAL, WISCONSIN PROVINCE

Fr. Brian G. Paulson, SJ
PROVINCIAL, CHICAGO-DETROIT PROVINCE

Howard Craig
PROVINCIAL ASSISTANT FOR ADVANCEMENT,
CHICAGO-DETROIT AND WISCONSIN PROVINCES

Jeremy Langford
PROVINCIAL ASSISTANT FOR COMMUNICATIONS,
CHICAGO-DETROIT AND WISCONSIN PROVINCES

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SPECIAL THANKS

Fr. Patrick Burns, SJ; Fr. Mark Carr, SJ;
Fr. Walter Deye, SJ; Ann Greene;
Nancy Hrdlicka; Dave McNulty;
Br. John Moriconi, SJ; John Sealey

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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the companions

The Midwest Jesuits of the Chicago-Detroit and Wisconsin Provinces reflect upon the many accomplishments of our Jesuit ministries, missions, and institutions throughout the 12 states of the upper Midwest, Peru, Eastern Africa, and the Kohima Region of Northeast India. We acknowledge that we could not fulfill this calling without the support and prayers of you, our faithful companions. For a complete list of our generous benefactors, please visit jesuitsmidwest.org/2016-honor-roll.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date — Lenten Mornings of Reflection



Sunday, February 26
Minneapolis/St. Paul

Church of St. Patrick
The Mahon Center
6820 St. Patrick's Lane
Edina, MN
Speaker: Fr. James Kubicki, SJ

Sunday, February 26
Palm Beach Gardens

DoubleTree
4431 PGA Boulevard
Palm Beach Gardens, FL
Speaker: Fr. Eric Sundrup, SJ



Wednesday, March 1
Naples

The Ritz-Carlton
280 Vanderbilt Beach Road
Naples, FL
Speaker: Fr. Eric Sundrup, SJ



Sunday, March 5
Detroit

The Dearborn Inn
20301 Oakwood Boulevard
Dearborn, MI
Speaker: Fr. Timothy Hipskind, SJ



Sunday, March 5
Milwaukee

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
1215 South 45th Street
Milwaukee, WI
Speaker: Fr. Thomas Krettek, SJ



Sunday, March 12
Scottsdale

Scottsdale Marriott at
McDowell Mountains
16770 North Perimeter Drive
Scottsdale, AZ
Speaker: Fr. Mark Luedtke, SJ



Sunday, March 19
Cincinnati

St. Xavier High School
600 West North Bend Road
Cincinnati, OH
Speaker: Fr. David Meconi, SJ



Sunday, March 26
Cleveland

Saint Ignatius High School
1911 West 30th Street
Cleveland, OH
Speaker: Fr. Paul Shelton, SJ



Sunday, March 26
Omaha

Jesuit Academy
2311 North 22nd Street
Omaha, NE
Speaker: Fr. Kevin Schneider, SJ



Sunday, April 2
Chicago

Loyola Academy
1100 Laramie Avenue
Wilmette, IL
Speaker: Fr. Patrick Fairbanks, SJ

For more information, contact Margie O'Neill at
moneill@jesuits.org or (800) 537-3736.

We're Moving!

The Midwest Jesuits are heading to a new office! In the future, this magazine and other correspondence will come from our new address at **1010 N. Hooker Street, Chicago, IL 60642**. Please send your future mail to that address.