



MIDWEST

JESUITS

CHICAGO-DETROIT AND WISCONSIN PROVINCES

SPRING 2017

Finding God in a Digital Age

Ignatian Spirituality in an Era of
Smartphones and Social Media

Also in This Issue:

- Blogging the Gospel
- Lessons from Standing Rock
- Making Room for God



Dear Friends,

Though St. Ignatius is best known as the principle founder of the Society of Jesus, he was also a prolific letter writer, penning some 7,000 letters throughout his life. At that time, the speed of communication depended upon how fast a horse could carry the messenger, or how fast a sailboat could cross the sea. Saint Ignatius believed that regular communication is essential to service of the Church and its mission. Jesuits have always tried to use the latest tools to communicate.

Today, electronic communication has changed the way the Gospel reaches people. Whether it is an app on a cell phone, a website, or an ebook, Jesuits are finding innovative ways to bring Ignatian spirituality and other resources to people by the latest means. Technology is a tool and a gift that can provide new ways to make the Gospel known to a wider audience.

During the Society of Jesus' 36th General Congregation in Rome last fall — during which the Jesuits elected a new Superior General, Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ — we experimented with paperless meetings and electronic voting on tablets. The meeting might have been one of the most digital religious gatherings in history. Each day, updates were made available world-wide through email, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr, and YouTube.

Pope Francis has also demonstrated an eagerness to engage with the faithful online. He launched an Instagram account last year, Tweets spiritual insights, and shares his monthly prayer intentions through the Vatican's "Pope Video." "The Internet . . . offers immense possibilities for encounter and solidarity," said Pope Francis on World Communications Day in 2014. "This is something truly good, a gift from God." The pope warned, however, that we must use technology responsibly and avoid its potential pitfalls.

In this issue of *Jesuits* magazine, we explore how the Midwest Jesuits and our lay collaborators use technology in creative ways to invite people to deeper prayer and reflection. Our outreach through **Jesuit Prayer** (www.jesuitprayer.org) offers daily Scripture, Ignatian reflection, and prayer each day of the year (see page 4). *The Jesuit Post* (www.thejesuitpost.org) helps followers see God in pop culture, politics, and other unexpected places (see page 10). Jesuits such as Frs. Frank Majka (www.frankmajka.com) and Andy Alexander of the Collaborative Ministry Office at Creighton University (onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry) use blogs and websites to share reflections on the Gospel, offer resources for prayer and the liturgical seasons, and guide people through the Spiritual Exercises (see pages 12 and 20).

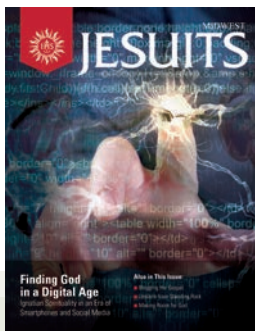
Looking ahead, the next issue of *Jesuits* magazine will be published after our new province is officially launched on June 5, 2017. We wish to thank everyone who has supported the Chicago, Detroit, and Wisconsin Provinces with your prayers, friendship, and assistance. To mark the birth of our new Midwest province, the Jesuits of the Midwest region will celebrate together in prayer and companionship in Milwaukee June 2–3, giving thanks for our rich history and asking God for future blessings. As always, you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Thomas A. Lawler, SJ
Provincial, Wisconsin Province

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





ON THE COVER

Saint Ignatius encouraged us to “find God in all things.” We ask, “Where is God in the digital age?” The cover image illustrates the intersection of God and humanity with technology.

Adobe Stock Photos
Illustration: Quentin Maquire

Silence: The True Story of the Jesuits in Japan



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A team of Jesuits helped Martin Scorsese and Academy Award-nominated actors bring *Silence* — the story of Portuguese Jesuit missionaries in Japan — to the big screen.

Photo: Kerry Brown, Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

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

WWW.JESUITSMIDWEST.ORG



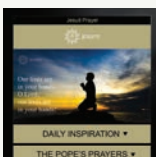
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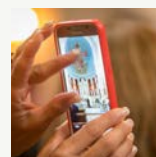
JesuitPrayer.org

- Daily Scripture, Ignatian reflection, and Ignatian prayer
- Free iPhone, iPad, and Android Apps
- Submit a prayer request
- Download prayer cards
- Free daily email



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Jesuit Prayer: Reaching People Where They Are
On July 1, 2012, the Midwest Jesuits launched **Jesuit Prayer**, a website, daily email, and app that helps spiritual seekers pray in the Ignatian tradition.



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Finding God in a Digital Age
In an era of smartphones, constant connection, and endless distraction, is it possible to make meaningful relationships and find God?



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Making Room for God
Becky Eldredge had just welcomed a new daughter and moved 600 miles from home when she decided to pray the Spiritual Exercises and connect Jesus' life with her own.



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The World Cathedral: Lessons from Standing Rock
A Sioux elder and water protectors at Standing Rock showed Dr. Michael Schuck of Loyola University Chicago how to be a contemplative in action.

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Twin Jesuits Help Install New Honor Society Chapter



(Left to right) Jesuit Frs. D. Scott and Daniel Hendrickson

Father Daniel Hendrickson, SJ, president of Creighton University in Omaha, traveled to Spain in October for the installation of the first European chapter of the century-old Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit honor society. During the ceremony, he assisted in the honorary induction of his twin brother, Fr. D. Scott Hendrickson, SJ, assistant professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Loyola University Chicago.

Father Daniel Hendrickson was invited to the ceremony at the Universidad Loyola Andalucía in Sevilla as the *Padrino de la primera promoción de Alpha Sigma Nu of Europa*. The honor was bestowed to signify his role as a founding member of the first Alpha Sigma Nu chapter in Europe.

Founded in 1915, Alpha Sigma Nu recognizes students who distinguish themselves in scholarship, loyalty, and service.

Father Daniel Hendrickson, who was inducted as an honorary member of Alpha Sigma Nu at Marquette University in Milwaukee in 2013, placed the medal on his brother, welcoming him into the society.

Father D. Scott Hendrickson said, "It's wonderful to receive the honorary induction and have it given to me by my twin brother. He has tremendous experience in Jesuit education, service, scholarship, and loyalty. ... To be inducted by him and to follow in his footsteps, it's a great honor for me."

Cristo Rey Students Lead Research Project



Cristo Rey – Twin Cities students

Ten Cristo Rey Jesuit High School – Twin Cities students worked on a youth research team that examined issues involving first-generation college students. Joining University of St. Thomas students who are also Cristo Rey – Twin Cities graduates, the students worked with two St. Thomas professors and four Cristo Rey faculty and staff members to develop a research project that improved college accessibility and success for first-generation students.

Backed by a \$30,000 grant from Youth Participatory Action Research, they collected 388 surveys, transcribed more than 132 pages of data, and conducted 25 in-depth interviews with current and potential first-generation students and their parents.

The students discovered many insights about the first-generation college experience. For example, many first-generation students do not feel ready when coming to college and need support. All the parents interviewed expressed fears about how to finance their children's college education.

The student researchers compiled their work into a 44-page report, a video for social media, and a website. They also presented their research at a conference in October.

"We're all on a similar journey," said Cristo Rey – Twin Cities senior Aja Walker. "Hearing that firsthand gave me a sense that we're all of the same mind."

Reprinted from www.stthomas.edu

Fr. Jack O'Callaghan, SJ, Honored with AMDG Award



Fr. O'Callaghan and Dr. Linda Brubaker

Jesuit Fr. Jack O'Callaghan was awarded the first AMDG Award by Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. The award recognizes someone whose life and work is unmistakably "for the greater glory of God." Father O'Callaghan, who joined Stritch in 1995, assists with spiritual direction, celebrates Mass, and collaborates with the Health Sciences Division University Ministry. Before coming to Loyola, he held Jesuit administrative posts in Chicago, Washington, DC, and Rome.

"Gratitude is what I feel — for my family and friends, for the Society of Jesus, which has been my second family for 67 years now, for Loyola ... and, of course, most of all for God, who has overseen everything all these years," said Fr. O'Callaghan.

Father O'Callaghan received his award at the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine 66th Annual Awards Dinner on November 19 at the Hilton in Chicago.

The longest-running black tie gala in Chicago, the event celebrates Stritch's commitment to educating the next generation of physicians and continues to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for medical student scholarships.

"Stritch Dinner supports the training of Stritch medical students — our future physicians," said Linda Brubaker, MD, MS, dean and chief diversity officer of Stritch.

Reprinted from ssom.luc.edu

Photo: Courtesy of John Reilly Photography

JVC Marks 60th Anniversary



A Jesuit Volunteer (left) with friends in Peru

In 2016, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) celebrated 60 years of inviting recent college graduates to “dare to change.”

JVC is the largest lay Catholic full-time volunteer program in the world. More than 11,000 young people have participated in JVC, living in community with other volunteers and serving throughout the United States and in Micronesia, Tanzania, Chile, Peru, Nicaragua, and Belize. Another 7,000 volunteers have served with Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, a separately incorporated organization that operates in Washington state, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, and Alaska. About 450 Jesuit Volunteers are currently serving.

Jesuit Volunteers commit to one year of service domestically or two years internationally. They embrace four core values — spirituality, simple living, community, and social justice, with ecological justice receiving increasing focus — and serve in ministries with emphases ranging from addiction recovery, care for creation, and housing development and advocacy to education, employment, hunger, and health care. Volunteers also participate in retreats grounded in Ignatian spirituality and the Jesuit practice of “finding God in all things.”

Together, these experiences lead to JVC’s stated goal of helping volunteers to become “ruined for life,” or challenged to see the world through a new lens.

For more information, visit www.jesuitvolunteers.org

Jesuit Schools’ Statement on Undocumented Students



Students at the Ignatian Family Teach-In Advocacy Day

Last November, 27 US Jesuit college and university presidents released a statement on undocumented students, in which they reaffirmed their commitment “to uphold the dignity of every person, to work for the common good of our nation, and to promote a living faith that works for justice.”

They wrote that they felt “spiritually and morally compelled to raise a collective voice confirming our values and commitments as Americans and educators.”

The presidents said they would work “to protect to the fullest extent of the law undocumented students on our campuses; to promote retention of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program; to support and stand with our students, faculty, and staff regardless of their faith traditions; and to preserve the religious freedoms on which our nation was founded.”

They hoped to “inspire members of our university communities . . . to promote efforts at welcome, dialogue, and reconciliation.”

They concluded by saying that they welcome further conversation and are committed to modeling “the kind of discourse and debate that are at the heart of our nation’s ideals. And we promise to bring the best resources of our institutions — of intellect, reflection, and service — to bear in the task of fostering understanding in the United States at this particular time in our history.”

For more information, visit www.ajcunet.edu

Students Travel to Rome for Cardinal Cupich Elevation



Rodriguez, Bell, Cardinal Cupich, Valdivia-Hernandez, and Duhe

Nakia Bell and Gladys Valdivia-Hernandez, students at Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School (CTK Jesuit) and Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago, joined Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s Vatican Delegation to Rome for Archbishop Blase Cupich’s elevation to the College of Cardinals on November 19, 2016. Also attending were Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner; US Senator Dick Durbin; Cristo Rey Chicago and CTK Jesuit staff members Jose Rodriguez and Mosie Duhe; and other public officials and private figures.

“It was an exciting trip!” said Bell. “It was my first time on a plane and first time traveling out of the country. I had the opportunity to meet so many people from Chicago and around the world!”

The students spent four days in Rome and attended Cardinal Cupich’s consistory ceremony and a reception. They were also among a crowd of 150,000 celebrating Mass for the Feast of Christ the King and the closing of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

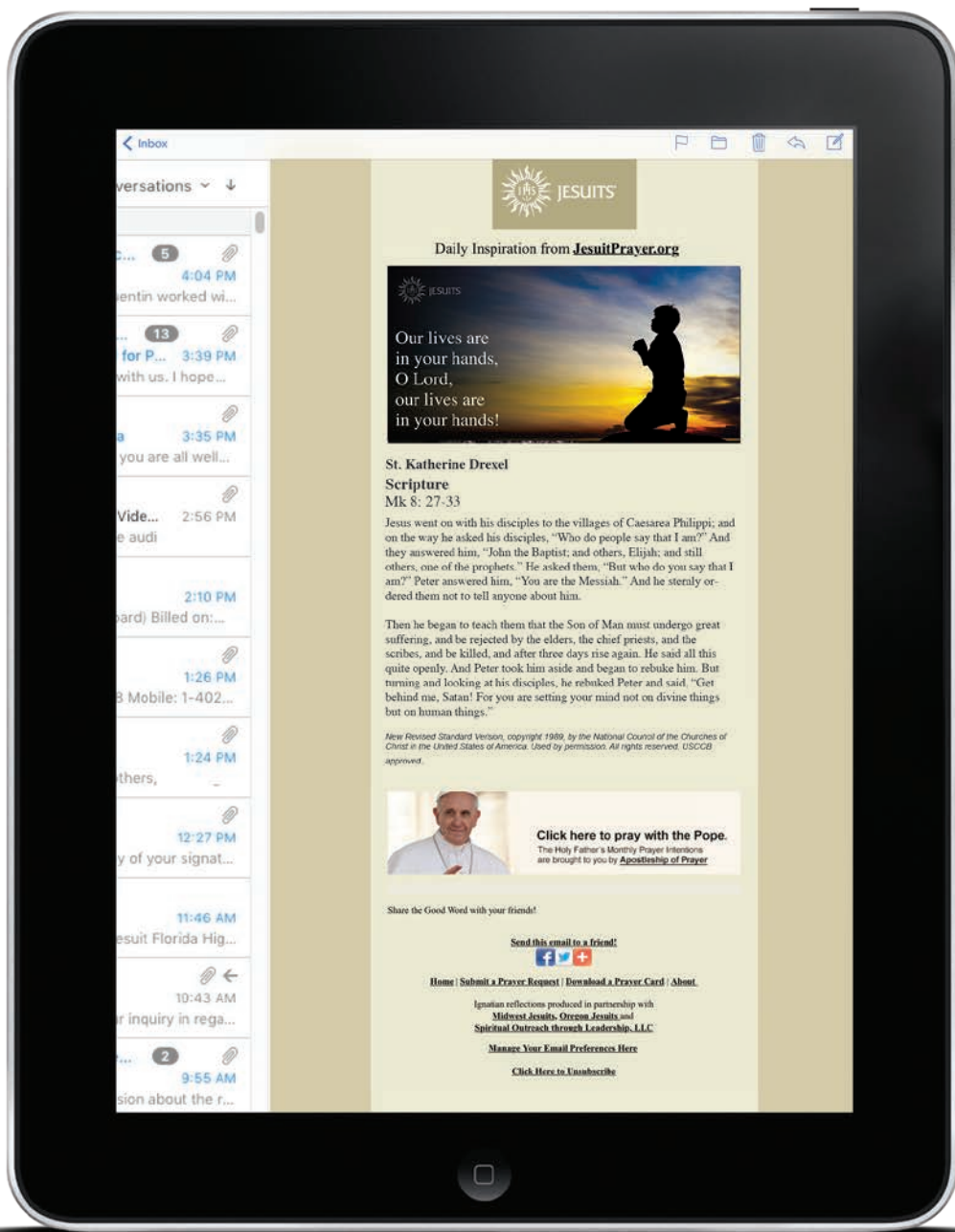
“My favorite memories are meeting Cardinal Cupich and the grand entrance of the pope, the cardinals, and the archbishops during the ceremony,” said Bell.

Bell and Valdivia-Hernandez work in Mayor Emanuel’s office as part of their schools’ Corporate Work Study Program. Their earnings and family tuition payments, scholarship support, and financial aid provide them and their classmates with a rigorous Jesuit education.

Jesuit Prayer Reaching People

Where They Are

By Jeremy Langford
Director of Communications and Founding Editor of Jesuit Prayer



We launched Jesuit Prayer on July 1, 2012, in response to a call from our audiences for a daily dose of Scripture, Ignatian spirituality, and Ignatian prayer. Our focus has always been to share free quality content by Jesuits and lay colleagues that reaches people where they are spiritually.

But that is not enough. We must reach people where they are — literally — by using their preferred channels of communication.

Building our website and daily email were fairly straightforward, but the mobile app proved challenging. As we wondered if the app was worth it, one of our Jesuit collaborators, Fr. Ted Munz, SJ, shared a revelation he had while riding a bus through Chicago one morning: “As I looked around, most of the passengers were glued to their phones. For a moment, I imagined how powerful it would be if at least some of them, particularly young adults, were starting their day with our Jesuit Prayer app.”

After launching all three platforms, we placed friendly bets as to which would perform best. Monitoring the dashboards we use to track audience activity, team members would call out, “More visitors to our website — this time from Milwaukee, New York, Missouri, California, Australia!” “Our mobile app is blowing up!” “Daily email subscriptions are growing by the hundreds.”

At the end of our first month, we celebrated St. Ignatius’s Feast Day (July 31) with a sense that the Jesuits’ founder would have marveled at the power of digital communications to share the Gospel so far and so fast.

Nearly five years later, Jesuit Prayer has grown into a global community.

We have shared spiritual reflections from more than 300 Jesuits and lay collaborators. We have tens of thousands of monthly website visitors; 10,112 daily email subscribers; and 63,978 app downloads. Our app has received 2,683 5-star reviews. To my delight, I lost the

office bet: app downloads have outpaced email subscriptions and web visits.

In addition to our daily content, we offer downloadable prayer cards, the Vatican’s monthly “Pope Video,” and a myriad of links to Jesuit works and spiritual resources. Many people love the app’s reminders for the daily inspiration and daily Examen. We also have branched out to social media, with daily images and excerpts from each day’s reflection becoming some of our most popular content.

But what would Jesuit Prayer be without real, tried-and-true prayer?

One of our core features allows people to submit a prayer request and/or share a prayer request with a friend or loved one. All requests receive a personal response from a member of our team within 24 hours. Every Friday, we send a summary of the week’s prayer intentions to Jesuits who live in our two senior Jesuit healthcare communities. And every week these wonderful Jesuits pray over the intentions and celebrate Mass for the senders and recipients.

To date, we have responded to and prayed for 20,198 prayer requests. As I write, we are receiving messages of thanksgiving; expressions of doubt; petitions for people suffering from depression, loss, or addiction; and parents praying for their kids.

When the workload overwhelms us or the technology stumbles, notes like the one below remind us that this mission matters:

I am most grateful for your kind and prompt response to my prayer request. I appreciate your encouragement and suggestions. ... I want to tell you that it gave me an enormous lift when I read this personal message on Sunday. It was just so affirming and Spirit-filled! This is an absolutely amazing service that you offer to people, and I thank you deeply and sincerely.

To expand our reach, Jesuit Prayer is collaborating with other Jesuit provinces to share cost, content, and outreach. And

because many people connect with the Jesuits through our schools, parishes, retreat centers, and ministries, Jesuit Prayer has grown into something of a franchise by offering these institutions the opportunity to serve their audiences directly with their own branded versions of the prayer site, app, and email. Our partner ministries are free to share our daily content or post their own, respond directly to prayer requests, and manage their own subscriber databases.

TO DATE, WE HAVE RESPONDED TO AND PRAYED FOR 20,198 PRAYER REQUESTS.

Partner organizations include Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill.; Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland; Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston; Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago; Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha; St. Louis University High School; and Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, Ill.

Today, we ask ourselves, What would Ignatius have us do next? For starters, he would encourage us to keep Jesuit Prayer free to all. And we have a hunch he would encourage us to find new ways to reach people where they are! ✠

Join the Jesuit Prayer Community!

- Check us out online at www.jesuitprayer.org, where you may also subscribe to our daily email, download prayer cards, submit prayer requests, and find links to related Jesuit resources.
- Download our Jesuit Prayer app in iTunes and Google Play stores.
- Enjoy daily prayer posts on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram by searching *Midwest Jesuits*.

Through your generosity, we are able to offer Jesuit Prayer free of charge to all. If you wish to make a donation, please visit: jesuitsmidwest.org/JesuitPrayerGift

Full of Grace

By José "Chuy" Camacho, SJ

I was born in Mexico, in a ranchería called El Zopial. My family and I lived near a small pueblo called San Francisco de Asís, about 45 minutes outside of Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

My parents emigrated to the United States in 1980. Initially, we came to Little Village in Chicago and lived there for about one year. Eventually, we moved to Streator, Ill., where I finished middle and high school before entering the US Navy. While I was in the navy, I studied at Southern Illinois University and finished my first undergrad degree. After active duty, I came back to Illinois to continue my naval career as a reservist and study chemistry and biochemistry at Illinois State University.

At age 39, after going through a retreat called *Cursillo de Cristiandad*, I embraced my faith and began to compare the life I was living to the life I desired, opening myself to discern how God was calling me to follow him. Soon, two Jesuits invited me to a discernment retreat at Puente Grande, Jalisco, Mexico. Listening to the two Mexican Jesuits speak of their experience working in Central America with *maras* (gangs) and ministering to people living on the riverbanks impacted me and helped me to continue my discernment process.

After a great deal of prayer, I applied to join the Society of Jesus and entered the Jesuit Novitiate of St. Alberto Hurtado in St. Paul. I spent two years as a Jesuit novice before pronouncing vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience last August. Both of my grandmothers, who planted the seeds of my faith, were with me that day, and the entire experience was a true blessing: I saw how much I am



José "Chuy" Camacho, SJ, pronounced first vows in St. Paul last summer.

loved by God, who has given me so much support through friends and family.

I now study philosophy and theology at Saint Louis University. I feel blessed to have this opportunity. In addition to studying, I work at a parish called Our Lady of Guadalupe in Ferguson, Mo. I also accompany a group of young adults involved in the *Movimiento de Jornadas de Vida Cristiana*.

This part of my formation is about the mind — shaping it and directing it toward the *magis*, the Latin word for "more," which Jesuits use to emphasize our mission. As René Descartes teaches, "It is not enough to have a good mind. The main thing is to use it well."

As an older Jesuit who left school nearly 20 years ago, I was impressed by the way my time in the novitiate prepared me for my vows and studies. Like first studies, the novitiate had a mix of time out and about in the world and in the classroom. As novices, we did experiments like the Spiritual Exercises (a 30-day retreat conducted in silence),

the hospital experiment (hands-on care to people with sickness, a mental disability, or old age), a month-long pilgrimage with nothing more than \$35 and a one-way bus ticket, and a long experiment, which involved time serving in a Jesuit apostolate. We also took classes on Jesuit history, Church history, Catholic social thought, and more.

Living in St. Louis at the Bellarmine House of Studies is another blessing. Time with my community is a highlight of each day. We celebrate Mass, socialize, and have dinner together. I have time to process each day and recalibrate for the next.

All these moments have served as a point of confirmation that led me to where I am today, and each moment has been full of grace. ✠

José "Chuy" Camacho, SJ, is a Jesuit scholastic who is currently studying philosophy and theology at Saint Louis University.



An Opportunity to Live Out Jesus' Words

Fr. Gene Carmichael, SJ, with students at Xavier University in Cincinnati

By Amy Korpi, Staff Writer

What do Xavier University and two state correctional institutions have in common? They have been graced by Jesuit Fr. Gene Carmichael's ministry.

A Chicago native, Fr. Carmichael studied at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill., then College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. A music lover, he paid for part of his education as a member of a Dixieland band. He entered the Society of Jesus in September 1963 and was ordained a Jesuit priest in June 1973.

Father Carmichael is most associated with Xavier University in Cincinnati, where he worked for 36 years in many roles, including associate vice president for mission and ministry, director and mentor for the Service Fellows Program, campus minister, associate dean of students, assistant director and staff counselor in the McGrath Health and Wellness Center, and acting vice president for the Division of Student Development.

Interspersed with his work at Xavier was time walking the halls of two

very different institutions: Lebanon Correctional Institution and Warren Correctional Institution in Lebanon, Ohio. At both prisons, Fr. Carmichael presided at Mass, offered the sacrament of reconciliation, provided pastoral counseling, and celebrated the initiation of dozens of incarcerated men into the Catholic Church.

Father Carmichael has called his ministry at the prisons "an opportunity to live out Jesus' words: 'When I was in prison, you visited me.' We meet Jesus in the prisoners as we experience his gentle personal presence in them. To minister in prison is to encourage the inmates to recognize God's love for them as well as his invitation to and challenge for them to share their God-given gifts with fellow inmates who are in need.

"It is Jesus who gifts the men with what they need in ways that only he is able to do," he adds. "Prison ministers just show up, let go of our expectations, accompany the men, and give thanks to God for

SPIRITUALITY

Gracious God, every day you continue to bless us with your marvelous gifts. There seems to be no end to your desire to give us even more. Out of your deep and faithful love you have lavished upon each of us life, wisdom, beauty, and hope for the future. You have given us the ability to love, to forgive, and to share the blessings given to us with others.

The words "thank you" seem so small compared with the grandeur of your love. Yet we cannot allow ourselves to take our blessings for granted, so we pause to reflect on our gifts and to express our gratitude — and we pray that the knowledge of your never-ending choice to love each of us would continue to sustain us in peace and thank-filled joy today and all the days of our lives.

— Edited excerpts from Fr. Carmichael's 1987 Honors Day invocation at Xavier University

God's eternal love for all."

That sounds like a good formula for most of life.

Today, Fr. Carmichael prays for the Church and the Society of Jesus at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich. ✠

Send a message of gratitude to Fr. Carmichael: email jesuitsmidwest@jesuits.org with his name in the subject.

Helping Others Hear the Call

By Fr. James Stoeger, SJ, and Br. Pat Douglas, SJ

Five Midwest Jesuits work full-time as vocation promoters and directors. This is a major investment of Jesuit manpower, and we believe our future effectiveness requires such commitment.

The Jesuit vocation team consists of Br. Pat Douglas, Fr. Bill Murphy, Br. Jim Boynton, Fr. Paul Coelho, and Fr. James Stoeger. Soon, Michael Rossmann will join us, and Fr. Coelho will return to the Kohima Region in Northeast India. Established by our current provincials, who are both former vocation directors, our team brings substantial expertise in Jesuit vocation ministry, Ignatian spirituality, counseling, and school leadership.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BEING A JESUIT? DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE A GOOD JESUIT?

The great majority of men interested in becoming Jesuits come to our attention through the national Jesuit website (www.jesuits.org), where seekers find easy access to the vocations website (www.beajesuit.org). Along with our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages (@beajesuit), this site offers excellent information and multimedia about the Society of Jesus.

From the vocations site, people can conveniently ask to be contacted, with each request forwarded to a promoter in



the United States or Canada. Inquiries from Cincinnati, for example, go to Fr. Murphy, who contacts those inquirers and considers how best to proceed. This next step involves offering personalized online materials, phone conversations, and traveling to meet with the person. The vocation promoter continues to support and accompany the inquirer until both are comfortable with the man moving toward the process of applying to the novitiate.

At that point, the promoter arranges for one of the vocation directors to begin working with this person. The director meets the candidate — perhaps repeatedly over a year or more — to hear, support, and guide his interest in becoming a Jesuit. At some point, the candidate may decide to apply, spend more time in discernment, or seek a different direction.

Almost all inquirers and candidates are interested in community life, Ignatian spirituality, a variety of ministries, service for justice, and being closely part of the Church. Jesuit spiritual directors assist candidates in developing their habits of prayer and Ignatian discernment. Promoters and other Jesuits provide programs for men to experience and learn more about Jesuit life, including visits to Jesuit communities or silent retreats. Brother Boynton hosts a stream of candidates who serve on Mackinac Island in Michigan each summer. Some candidates live in Jesuit communities and

Fr. Adam DeLeon, SJ, is featured in one of a series of posters promoting Jesuit vocations.

serve in Jesuit ministries to better know whether Jesuit life is a good fit for them.

Candidates who become applicants for the novitiate enter a months-long process of self-understanding and communication, managed by their vocation director and involving interviews with several Jesuits and others. Their application file includes a spiritual autobiography, multiple recommendations, interview reports (with an extensive psychological review), medical reports, and background checks — all designed to inform the provincial and the applicant himself about his readiness for vowed life in the Society.

Have you ever thought about being a Jesuit? Do you know someone who would be a good Jesuit? Let us know! ✠



Fr. James Stoeger, SJ, and Br. Pat Douglas, SJ, are part of the Midwest Jesuits' vocation team.



Hispanic Ministry in Milwaukee

100 Years of Jesuit Involvement on the Near South Side

By Fr. Timothy Manatt, SJ

Fr. Timothy Manatt, SJ, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Milwaukee. He serves as pastor of both Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Patrick's Parishes. Photo: Jeff Zmania

On the third Sunday of Advent, I led parishioners of St. Patrick's Parish in Milwaukee through the meditation on the Trinity and Jesus' Incarnation from the Spiritual Exercises. At its conclusion, I asked, "What difference does it make that this parish has been staffed by Jesuits since 1982? I hope the preaching and teaching of my predecessors — Frs. Cletus Pfab, the late Bill Pauly, Rick Abert, Jim Flaherty, Joe Spieler, and José Moreno — have inspired you to embrace a personal connection to Jesus, drawing on your memories, imaginations, and personalities." The cultivation of a uniquely personal relationship with Christ is a hallmark of Jesuit spirituality, which we Jesuits have shared with Hispanic Catholics in Milwaukee since the early 20th century.

The Midwest Jesuits have had a connection to St. Patrick's since the early 1980s. The parish hosted the first baccalaureate Mass and graduation ceremony of then-Nativity Jesuit Middle School, whose trailblazing eighth-graders I taught in 1995–96. Decades earlier, Fr. Louis Fusz, SJ, a pastor at Church of the Gesu, advocated for the "Spanish-speaking people" of Milwaukee and helped the first storefront church — "Guadalupe Mission" — get established in 1926.

Assigned as pastor of Gesu by Archbishop Sebastian Messmer in

1919, Fr. Fusz was also named vicar to Milwaukee's Hispanic population, which at the time numbered roughly 750 and mainly consisted of railroad and leather workers from Texas and the Mexican state of Michoacán. A Gesu council of the Knights of Columbus paid to bring a Spanish-speaking priest, Fr. Emanuel Sandoval, SJ, from Chicago. He preached evangelizing "missions" to Hispanics, sometimes in a Slovenian/Croatian parish a stone's throw from St. Patrick's. Subsequently, Fr. Fusz stepped aside in favor of priests of the Mercedarian Order, who staffed the mission (1926–46), followed in turn by Franciscan friars.

The first Spanish Mass at St. Patrick's was celebrated Thanksgiving 1969 after persistent lobbying by Puerto Rican parishioners. Eighteen months later, a diocesan pastor with missionary experience in Paraguay was appointed, and a weekly Spanish Sunday Mass started.

Eventually, the archbishop turned to the Jesuits. In 1982, Frs. Cletus Pfab and Bill Pauly assumed pastoral care of the parish. Both learned Spanish through a Creighton University-sponsored health care program in the Dominican Republic.

In 2006, Fr. José Moreno, pastor of St. Patrick's, assumed responsibility for a second parish — Our Lady of Guadalupe — after the sudden death of its diocesan pastor. It was in the parish school's

gymnasium that the first weekly Sunday Masses with Spanish homilies took place in 1926, prior to the fledgling parish's move to its nearby storefront location.

Many factors converged to involve the Jesuits in Hispanic ministry in Milwaukee, including facility with Spanish and availability to the needs of the local Church. To be sure, new forms of solidarity with immigrant families will emerge. Some parishioners are making the Spiritual Exercises in everyday life, bringing them into closer relationship with Christ. Our involvement with Nativity Jesuit Academy, Marquette University High School, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, and Marquette University provides both a kindergarten through college educational pipeline and encouragement for religious vocations.

As Guadalupe and St. Patrick's are now the only Jesuit-sponsored, majority Spanish-speaking parishes between Cleveland and Rapid City, one wonders what might constitute the next frontier for our work in Hispanic ministry. ✠

Fr. Timothy Manatt, SJ, was installed as the seventh Jesuit pastor of St. Patrick's Parish and the second of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish on March 26, 2017. He will be joined in ministry for the summer by the newly ordained Michael Rossmann, SJ.

A woman takes a photo at the Midwest Jesuits' 2015 first vows Mass at Saint Thomas More Catholic Church in St. Paul.

Photo: Fr. Don Doll, SJ

Finding God

in a Digital Age

Saint Ignatius never could have imagined the number of ways we distract ourselves with a device that fits in our pockets. According to one recent study, smartphone users check their phones an average of 85 times per day. Many of us have become so “connected” that we do not even notice the people immediately around us. Doctors have reported increasing numbers of people injured because of “distracted walking.”

And yet Ignatius surely would not have recommended that everyone ditch their phones and flee modern technology. This is where much of humanity now spends a great deal of its time. We cannot fail to be in these spaces. While our smartphones and tablets can be devices of distraction, they can also be tools for meaningful connections.

Nothing replaces one-on-one, in-person ministry, but why would we not also try to reach thousands more across the world by communicating online?

For the past five years, I have been part of *The Jesuit Post*, a project involving Jesuits in formation who use digital media to offer a Jesuit, Catholic perspective on our contemporary world. We and our fellow young adults — and a fair share of not-so-young adults — are going to be online anyway. We might as well do our best to offer something of substance.

Our effort is but one of many ways Jesuits and collaborators are innovating in the digital realm. America Media, known for its magazine for more than a century, has expanded to film and radio in recent years, in addition to completely revamping its website. Several Jesuit institutions use the web and various apps to offer the day’s Mass readings and a Gospel reflection. Loyola Press released an Examen app based on the book *Reimagining the Ignatian Examen*



by Fr. Mark Thibodeaux, SJ, which offers a fresh take on St. Ignatius’s classic prayer. The British Jesuits offer a daily podcast, *Pray as You Go*, that has now been replicated in five other languages.

Taking our ministry online allows us to cast a global net and get a sense of what does and does not connect with people. Previously, someone who wrote an article in a magazine might have heard some feedback from a few subscribers, but the number of people who read a particular piece was largely unknown. Today, we can see exactly how many people view and share an article or video online. People around the world are also able to encounter our work.

Still, there are limitations to digital ministry and online connections. Perhaps the most valuable gift we can offer each other is our full attention — something rarely given when there is a screen between us. If we think a notification might arise at any moment, we tend to keep our interactions on the surface. When I pray with my phone, I am just a click away from any number of possible distractions. I have often had the experience of wanting to “check something” online during prayer, only to journey down a rabbit hole of other “somethings.”

Many of us could benefit from a digital Sabbath, whether that means spending a screen-free Sunday or not using digital devices after a certain hour in the evening. We can also fight technology with technology by

using programs that hide our Facebook News Feed or prevent us from going to certain sites when we are supposed to be working.

It is easy to spot some digital weeds, but we also cannot miss the wheat. I have 4,795 “friends” on Facebook, most of whom I have never actually met. That is absurd. But Facebook is also where I initially met some of my best friends in the world — and not just “friends” in the social media sense. Nothing replaces one-on-one, in-person ministry, but why would we not also try to reach thousands more across the world by communicating online? Many of us get distracted when praying with apps, but such tools easily allow us to fill dead moments throughout the day with the living Word of God.

It has only been a decade since Apple released the first iPhone. We are still sorting through the weeds and the wheat of this new digital environment. We will inevitably make mistakes and will certainly get distracted. But these are the places where we need to be. In fact, they are the places where we already are. ✠



Michael Rossmann, SJ, is a Jesuit scholastic currently studying theology at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, in addition to serving as editor-in-chief of *The Jesuit Post* at

www.thejesuitpost.org. He will be ordained a priest on June 3, 2017, at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee.



Accessible Ignatian Spirituality

By Fr. Andy Alexander, SJ

Soon after we began our work together at Creighton University in 1997, Maureen McCann Waldron and I decided to use the Internet to offer Ignatian spiritual resources to help faculty and staff understand and contribute to the university's mission. It started with web-based daily reflections. Soon, people from around the world were reading reflections written by 60 faculty and staff members.

In our new employee orientations, people would ask where they could find a copy of the Spiritual Exercises. In response, Maureen and I spent eight months translating the movements of the Exercises into an online experience with which busy people could pray. The online retreat became a new adaptation, which we thought Ignatius would enjoy.

How does it work? For the 34 weeks of the retreat, we invite busy people to put a specific grace for that week into the background of their consciousness as they go about their daily lives. That movement starts to interact with ordinary things, which engage retreatants' minds and hearts. One week builds upon another.

This effort was collaborative. Father Larry Gillick, SJ, wrote weekly reflections

for the retreat, and Fr. Don Doll, SJ, gave us his powerful photos to use. The retreat is in five languages, including Chinese.

WE INVITE BUSY PEOPLE TO PUT A SPECIFIC GRACE FOR THAT WEEK INTO THE BACKGROUND OF THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS AS THEY GO ABOUT THEIR DAILY LIVES.

People have a variety of experiences on these retreats. Some experience being a loved sinner. Others have their first experience of being invited by Jesus to join him in his mission. Many learn to have a relationship with Jesus, to fall in love with him and desire to be with him and like him. Some people do the retreat alone. Others do it with a director, with a spouse, or in a sharing group. They often share posts on the website about the graces they are receiving.

Eventually, we created a Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer. It lays out the daily Mass readings and suggests how to stay focused during the week. We also collected preached audio retreats given by Jesuits. People listen to these MP3 files in their cars, on the way to work, or

while exercising. In addition, we have videos of mission talks we sponsored, parish missions with which we have participated, and other presentations at Creighton.

Our site has many available resources that correspond with the seasons of the year. Frequently, we share links to Pope Francis' homilies or writings.

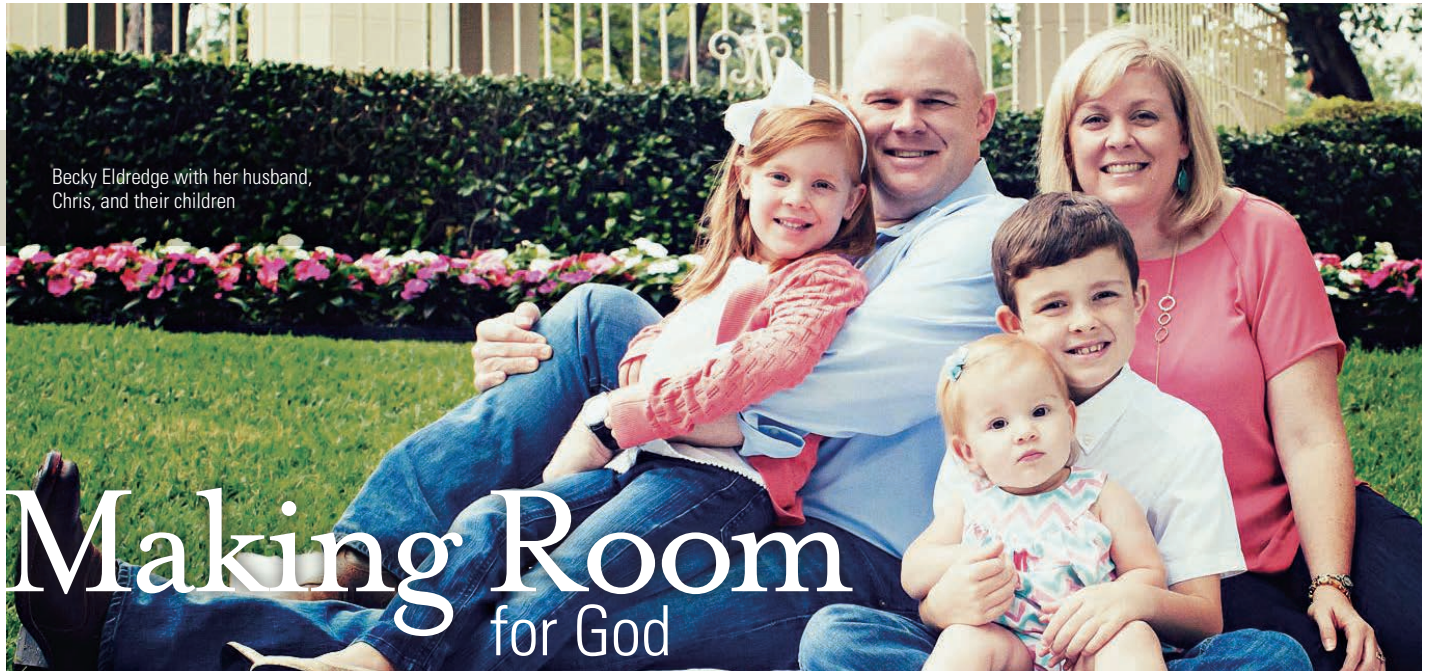
People tell us our site's many features are down-to-earth. Our ministry gives them a feel for a spirituality that helps them enter into an encounter with our Lord. Any one of us who writes a reflection hears from people expressing gratitude from around the world. One user wrote, "Air, coffee, and your site. What I need to begin every day."

Why not try it out? Google "Creighton's Online Ministries," and join us. ✠

To learn more about Creighton's web ministries, visit onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry

Fr. Andy Alexander, SJ, is director of the Collaborative Ministry Office at Creighton University. In 2016, Creighton's Online Ministries website received 65 million hits from all over the world, 25 million hits more than the year before.

Becky Eldredge with her husband, Chris, and their children



Making Room for God

By Becky Eldredge

I am not a monk. The walls of my home echo with children's voices and conversations with my husband. It was in this boisterous space, with a new baby in my arms, that I made the 19th Annotation of St. Ignatius's Spiritual Exercises almost eight years ago.

It still boggles my mind that my spiritual director didn't flinch when I asked him to walk me through the Exercises. Perhaps he heard my longing to grow deeper in my relationship with God. Most likely, he noticed the growing restlessness within me during a long season of transition to motherhood, adjusting to my husband being in graduate school, and settling our family 600 miles from our hometown.

I prayed most of the Exercises with a baby in my arms. I held and fed my newborn daughter in the early morning hours and prayed my daily meditation. As she fell into a more scheduled routine, I awoke before my family to savor the solitude, quiet, and prayer, with my daughter's stirring marking the end of my prayer time. This routine remains my foundational prayer time today.

Making the Exercises with the sights,

smells, and sounds of motherhood around me transformed my life and ministry. As I prayed with the incarnation and Gospels of Jesus' nativity, I rocked a six-month-old in my arms and wondered if Mary was ever covered with spit-up, exhausted from no sleep, or cleaning up another accident. It was there in the reality of my life and shared experiences with Mary that I understood what it meant for Jesus to be human. Mary, too, nursed a child, birthing a baby far from her home, watching and pondering the unfolding of God's creation in the form of a tiny human. Jesus lived all that I witnessed daily with my children. Just as he grew in wisdom and grace, my own children slowly discovered who they are.

I sometimes joke that I am a "Jesuitte" because of the profound way Ignatian spirituality permeates and guides my life. This spirituality taught me to pray within the busyness of daily life and to bring everything before God. It continues to teach me that stolen moments of quiet with Jesus change my interactions with my children and spouse, our decisions in our marriage and family, and my work.

That is the gift of Ignatian spirituality.

It teaches us to notice God encountering us in the middle of our restless lives, laboring to fill and make us whole.

Making the Spiritual Exercises the way I did altered the way I walk with people. My passion as a spiritual director, retreat facilitator, and author is to help people cultivate space for God in the middle of their lives, no matter the season. I believe with every bone in my being that the time for prayer is now. Prayer can be part of our day, whether we are raising children or empty nesting, working 18 hours a day or faced with hours of loneliness, young, old, single, married, religious, or ordained. God will meet us where we are and work in the reality of our lives, just like God met me in a new city with a new baby in my arms. ✠

Becky Eldredge is an Ignatian-trained spiritual director, retreat facilitator, and writer who helps others create space to connect faith and everyday life. Her new book, *Busy Lives and Restless Souls*, was released by Loyola Press in March 2017 and can be ordered at www.beckyeeldredge.com. She lives in Baton Rouge, La., with her husband and three children.

A Brother Abroad

Br. Matt Wooters, SJ, began working at Nativity Jesuit Academy in Milwaukee after living and working with migrants in Mexico last year. Photo: Jeff Zmania

By Br. Matt Wooters, SJ

Last year I attended a historic meeting with Jesuits from many countries. Not General Congregation 36 in Rome but a conference in Bogotá of all the Latin American Jesuit brothers in formation.

I was living and working with migrants in Mexico. The meeting — the first of its kind in the Americas — was particularly significant in the age of our first Latin American pope and shortly before the election of our first Latin American Superior General,

Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ. In fact, Fr. Sosa attributes his vocation to the hard work and holiness of Jesuit brothers.

In true Latin American style, I was welcomed with an *abrazote* — a big hug! It was a privilege to join 30 other young brothers from nine Latin American provinces to pray, honor the past, dream about the future, and discuss the graces, challenges, and uniqueness of being a 21st century Jesuit brother.

Brothers once made up nearly 30 percent of the Society of Jesus but now constitute less than 5 percent. We have been part of the Society since it began. To quote former Superior General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, the “religious brother embodies religious life in its

essence, and so is able to illustrate that life with particular clarity.”

Saint Ignatius intended that brothers do internal and humble tasks to facilitate priests’ work. With typical Ignatian fashion, he added that brothers “may be employed in more important matters in accordance with the talent God gave them.” Brother Jim Boynton, SJ,

frequently says the old model of being a brother included the “high and low-skilled craftsman,”

such as architects, painters, composers, and doctors as well as bakers, plumbers, woodworkers, and farmers. It is no overstatement to say that generations of brothers built the infrastructure that allowed the Society to prosper around the world.

Despite differences in cultures, languages, and work, I was moved by the multitude of commonalities discovered during the conference. We were asked to articulate what makes our vocations unique and prophetic in the modern era and shared nearly identical answers: closeness to the poor, indigenous, and people of other faiths; an emphasis on building community in and outside of the Society; simplicity in lifestyle; and a

certain *gozo para vivir*, or joy of living.

Brothers have a special closeness to people who may feel intimidated or far from the Church. This is especially true in Latin America, where priests are treated with a deference that sometimes puts them on a pedestal. Aldo, a Mexican brother, expressed beautifully what it means to be a Jesuit brother: “He is someone who recognizes that in the world there is a chronic pain that he identifies with his own pain. It is a pain that breaks with this model of love. In the world, there is a great thirst, and he not only desires to orient his life in function of this love but also to fully surrender his life to heal this pain of the world, to communicate this love to others, and to communicate to others this journey of love.”

I was honored to join my brothers from the Americas over cups of coffee and maté, speaking English, Spanish, Guarani, and Portuguese as we spent a week praying, laughing, and giving thanks for the gifts of our vocations and the gifts of each other. ✠

Br. Matt Wooters, SJ, is a Jesuit regent and social worker at Nativity Jesuit Academy in Milwaukee.

Silence

The True Story of the Jesuits in Japan

By Doris Yu

The Jesuits are at the center of Martin Scorsese's new film, *Silence*. Decades in the making, *Silence* is based on a novel by Japanese author Shūsaku Endō and tells the story of Portuguese Jesuit missionaries in 17th century Japan.

The film does not sugarcoat this brutal chapter of Jesuit history. Once welcome in Japan, missionaries were officially expelled from the country by the 1620s. A number of priests went underground to minister to the Christian community, including Fr. Cristóvão Ferreira, SJ, the Portuguese provincial superior of the Jesuit mission, who is played by Liam Neeson in the film.

"Ferreira's story is one of the most dramatic of Christianity and missionary history," says Fr. M. Antoni J. Ucerler, SJ, an expert in Japanese Christian history. "He was the great missionary, the superior of all Jesuit missionaries, and the first to renounce his faith under torture."

Father Ucerler's spiritual adviser for many years was Jesuit Fr. William Johnston, who translated Endō's book from Japanese into English.

"*Silence* asks some of the absolutely most difficult questions about human life, death, and faith," says Fr. Ucerler.

Jesuits like St. Francis Xavier planted the seeds of Christianity in Japan in 1549.

A steady stream of Jesuits continued to arrive through the 1570s. An estimated 300,000 to 500,000 Japanese were baptized Christians.

The mission grew until the martyrdom of St. Paul Miki, SJ, and his companions in 1597 — the 26 martyrs of Japan. In 1600, the *shogun* (military dictator) Tokugawa Ieyasu unified Japan. Beginning in 1614 he ordered all missionaries out of the country, issuing a decree forbidding the practice of Christianity. Suspected Christians were required to step on likenesses of the Virgin Mary or Christ, called *fumie*, to prove they were not believers. Those who resisted were tortured or executed.

The *Tokugawa shogunate* (military government) devised more and more painful ways of killing the Christians, including slow-burning at the stake and "the pit." This involved victims being bound and hung upside down in a deep hole, with their heads stuck in excrement. A small cut was made near the temple or forehead so blood could drip out, prolonging their suffering.

The *shogunate* soon felt that persecuting converts was not enough.

"They realized the Christians were emboldened by this example of people dying for their faith," says Fr. Ucerler.

Andrew Garfield as Fr. Sebastião Rodrigues, SJ, and Liam Neeson as Fr. Cristóvão Ferreira, SJ, in Martin Scorsese's *Silence*

Photo: Kerry Brown, Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Fr. James Martin, SJ, and Martin Scorsese after the world premiere of *Silence* before 300 Jesuits at the Jesuit-run Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, November 2016



"They thought, 'If we could get not only the Christians but also the Jesuits to renounce their own faith, then that would really demoralize the Christians.'"

Following Ferreira's torture and apostasy, two delegations of Jesuits were sent to Japan to find him and be executed as martyrs to atone for his apostasy. Instead, most apostatized themselves, broken by the same torture.

"Endō liked to scrutinize morally difficult issues," says Fr. Ucerler. "These two Jesuits (played by Andrew Garfield and Adam Driver) are going to redeem Ferreira and be glorious martyrs, but events unfold differently."

Scorsese recently met Pope Francis and screened *Silence* at the Vatican for 300 Jesuits with Fr. James Martin, SJ, editor-at-large of the Jesuit magazine *America*, who served as a spiritual adviser to the cast.

"*Silence* is like living inside a prayer," Fr. Martin says. "I hope every Catholic sees this film." ✠



Doris Yu is communications coordinator for the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States.

Championing Peace and Justice in Northeast India

By Judge Virginia Kendall

It's time for a coffee break at the First Regional Convention of North East Legal Fraternity (NELF) in Guwahati, a city in Assam in Northeast India. Young lawyers and law students wear the colorful dress of their tribe for this formal occasion. They rush to me with their cell phones: "Please, m'om, a selfie!" I'm a celebrity in Assam, where the Jesuits have asked me to speak about my area of legal expertise — human trafficking.

It is rare for a Westerner and judge to come to speak about the law. "Don't tell my husband you are doting on me," I joke, standing out like the foreigner I am. It is hot in Guwahati, and even the class is tired, so one young lawyer stands in front of the group announcing, "Up on your feet, let's sing." Everyone joins in a song about turning oneself to the Lord with true faith. We clearly are not in the United States, where separation of church and state would prevent such a display. But here in Assam, Catholics are the minority. Every greeting, discussion, and departure is marked by lawyers exchanging statements of faith.

Most Indians who live in Northeast India have never left, and those who live elsewhere rarely come. It is isolated, poor, lacking in education, and directly in the path of large human trafficking networks. Nepalese women separated from their families after the earthquake are sold into sex slavery, children are purposely maimed on the street to beg for organized traffickers or stolen from their families to work in traveling circuses, and individuals are drugged so their organs can be sold. It is located amidst places I have written and spoken about in treatises on the massive human rights violations plaguing the international community.



Judge Virginia Kendall takes a selfie with participants in the First Regional Convention of North East Legal Fraternity in Guwahati in Northeast India.

Now, I am surrounded by young Indian lawyers and students who want to learn about human trafficking and help eradicate it.

Father Ravi Sagar, SJ, director of the Legal Cell for Human Rights, Guwahati, has set the impressive agenda, with the theme of championing peace and justice. We start the program with the traditional lighting of an oil lamp, a prayer, and the ceremonial bestowing of a *jaapi*, a broad-rimmed hat made from bamboo cane, and a *gamosa*, a gesture of welcome uniting all of Assam's tribes. It is presented to this visitor to keep the hot sun off her face and wipe the sweat off her brow.

I explain the Palermo Protocol and the many international instruments that preserve the human dignity and rights of every person. The Indian students and lawyers may not yet know the instruments, but the concepts are clear. They are fascinated by the legal community's response and awed by the world's attention to cruelties they observe in their daily lives.

No one wants to stop the discussion or take the next coffee break. We talk through dinner. They are starving for information and change. They have seen the poverty and sadness. "Fraud, force, and coercion" keep returning to our

conversations, and they all agree there is much more to be done.

The day ends with a prayer and blessing. The morning will begin the same way. Soon I will make the grueling journey back to the states, where religion will be tucked in my pocket with my rosary. Meanwhile, I will bask in the fulfillment of speaking about human trafficking — both from a legal perspective and as the moral violation of human dignity it most certainly is. ✠



Judge Virginia Kendall

was appointed to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois by President George W. Bush in

January 2006. She is an expert on child exploitation and human trafficking and serves as an adjunct professor at the Loyola University Chicago School of Law, the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, and the University of Chicago Law School. Her book with T. Markus Funk, *Child Exploitation and Trafficking: Examining Global Enforcement and Supply Chain Challenges and U.S. Responses*, was recently published by Rowman & Littlefield.



The World Cathedral: Lessons from Standing Rock

Dr. Michael Schuck (right) with his son Franz at Oceti Sakowin Camp

By Dr. Michael Schuck

I remember an exquisite liturgy for the feast of St. Ignatius at Loyola University of Chicago's Madonna della Strada Chapel. The readings were rich; the celebrant's homily was well-crafted; the acolytes' gestures were graceful and dignified. The voices of the diverse congregation blended astonishingly well inside beautiful, evocative music. By the recessional, my cheek had a tear track.

Later, I told a Jesuit friend about the experience, adding that had I had a Coleman stove and sleeping bag, I would have taken up residence in a side altar and basked for days in the holy afterglow. My friend peered at me incredulously, then spoke with conviction: "Not me. When I'm in a church I can't wait to get out!" A Jesuit contemplative in action, indeed.

I felt that same holy comfort at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. Every morning the prayers and ceremony at Oceti Sakowin Camp were voiced in an enchanting blend of Lakota, Ojibwe, and English. Restored with sacred purpose, camp residents re-entered the mystic rhythm of daily work: wood chopping, donation sorting, guest orienting, legal counseling, food preparing, fire tending, camp cleaning, and action planning. Like the drone of a bagpipe, Native elders recurrently spoke lessons of profound

simplicity at the fire circle. Each day ended with spirit-infused drumming, chanting, and an offering to the night sky, which always appeared well pleased. Standing Rock was a daily liturgy for the feast of Mother Earth — a side altar in the cathedral of the universe.

But there was also discord. Shortly after celebrating the Obama administration's December 5 denial of easement for drilling under the Missouri River, one elder spoke a difficult message. With calm acumen, he asked that we guests of the Standing Rock Sioux now depart and take the message of *Mni Wiconi* — "Water is Life" — back to our homes.

My inclination was to stoke my Coleman stove, crawl in my sleeping bag, and reside at this site of sacred promise. But the latent power of my Jesuit friend's audacious remark came alive in the tranquil judgment of a Sioux elder. I sulkily packed my bags. The *agere contra* (an Ignatian concept of "acting against" behaviors that are not life-giving) is unsettling, even coming from an indigenous holy man.

Much has occurred at Standing Rock since then. I stay abreast of developments as best I can. I feel it is important that Oceti Sakowin Camp survives in

some form. Knowing that the flame of ceremony and prayer is alive at Standing Rock is matchless spiritual fuel for environmental activists everywhere.

Meanwhile, I share information about Standing Rock with everyone I can. I participate in the American Indian Center's #NODAPL marches and protests. I have had my embers of awareness from Standing Rock stoked further at a CROAR (Chicago Regional Organizing for AntiRacism) workshop. I am incorporating the message of *Mni Wiconi* into my courses.

Standing Rock changed me, not by replacing my old spirit with a new one but by bringing my old spirit to life. I still love the restorative power of Church liturgies, but I feel more deeply now the truth of what my Jesuit friend meant and a Sioux elder taught: the world is the proper cathedral for faiths that do justice. ✠

Dr. Michael Schuck is a professor of theology at Loyola University Chicago and co-director of the International Jesuit Ecology Project.

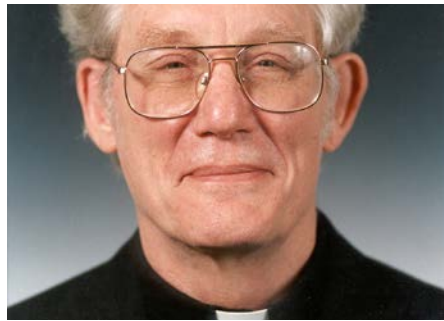
Visit www.jesuitsmidwest.org/dapl to read the Jesuits' statement on the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Assignments

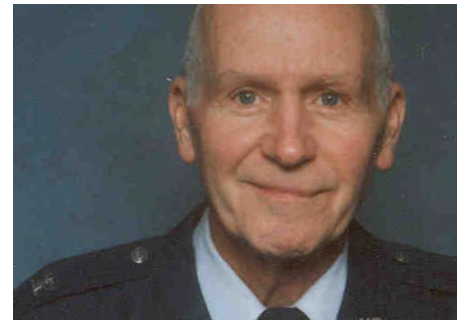
Jesuit Community



Fr. Richard Abert, SJ, will become superior of the Père Marquette Jesuit Community in Milwaukee on July 31, succeeding Fr. Mark Carr, SJ. He previously served as pastor of several parishes at Holy Rosary Mission on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.



Fr. Robert Bireley, SJ, has been missioned to pray for the Church and the Society at St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis. He previously served as professor emeritus of history at Loyola University Chicago.



Fr. Denis Dirscherl, SJ, has been missioned to pray for the Church and the Society at Colombiere Jesuit Community in Clarkston, Mich. He previously served as assistant chaplain at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Fairborn, Ohio.



Fr. Kevin Kersten, SJ, has been missioned to pray for the Church and the Society at St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis. He previously served as chaplain to the Creighton University School of Law and assistant pastor at St. John's Parish in Omaha.



Fr. Joseph Mueller, SJ, will become rector of the Marquette University Jesuit Community in Milwaukee on July 31, succeeding Fr. Jeffrey LaBelle, SJ, who will spend the fall semester on sabbatical before continuing his service at Marquette's College of Education.



Fr. Matthew Walsh, SJ, will become superior of the Arrupe House Jesuit Community in Milwaukee on July 31, succeeding Fr. Daniel McDonald, SJ. Fr. Walsh also serves as associate pastor at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee.

Jesuit Formation



Fr. William O'Brien, SJ, will become novice director for the USA Midwest Province effective August 14, 2017. He will succeed Fr. Tom Pipp, SJ.

Province Office



Fr. Glen Chun, SJ, will become the first socius for the USA Midwest Province effective June 5, 2017, the date of the creation of the new province. Fr. Chun, who is currently in the tertianship program in Dublin, Ireland, will also serve as admonitor and province consultant.

Universities



Fr. Justin Tirkey, SJ, of the Ranchi Province in India is beginning an interdisciplinary doctoral program at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

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



Fr. Daniel J. Gannon, SJ

April 16, 1931 – February 28, 2017

Dan loved people, and people loved Dan. He was a gentle man who was a source of strength to many. He made friends one person at a time, thousands of times over.

Math teacher at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee; pastoral work in Mankato, Minn., at St. Patrick's Parish in Milwaukee, among Native Americans of the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming, and at Holy Rosary Mission in South Dakota



Fr. Mark J. Link, SJ

April 21, 1924 – January 18, 2017

Mark wrote for both the young and the old. He authored books such as Path Through Scripture, The New Catholic Vision, and Praying the Way Jesus Prayed.

Author in residence at Loyola Press; founder of www.staygreat.com; teacher at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago; theology teacher and author in residence at Loyola University Chicago; retreat minister at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, Ill.; pastoral service at Rockhurst High School in Kansas City, Mo.; pastoral minister at the Catholic Community of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Plano, Texas



Fr. Eugene C. Kollasch, SJ

November 28, 1922 – January 14, 2017

During his 33 years in Korea, Gene was regularly given positions of significant responsibility as he watched the Society in Korea grow from a young mission, to an independent region, to a full province.

Theology professor at Kwangju Seminary and Sogang University, mission superior, and rector of the Sogang University Jesuit Community in Korea; retreat director at the Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago in Oshkosh, Wis.; pastoral minister in Minneapolis and Omaha



Fr. Henry T. Chamberlain, SJ

April 14, 1930 – January 12, 2017

Although he usually viewed the world through a financial lens, Hank cared for everyone he encountered. He was a consummate gentleman. His jovial nature helped to impress on people that they mattered to him.

Assistant treasurer general of the Society of Jesus; treasurer of the Jesuit Curia community in Rome, the Detroit Province, and Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago; assistant treasurer for the Chicago and Missouri Provinces; retreat director at Manresa Jesuit Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and the Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford in Ohio; teacher and swimming coach at University of Detroit Jesuit High School



Fr. J. Leo Klein, SJ

November 4, 1931 – January 10, 2017

Leo established an important kind of renewed parish life in Cincinnati as well as a way of Jesuit presence on the campus that has continued to this day. People quoted back to him homilies he preached years before!

Pastor of Bellarmine Chapel in Cincinnati; director of campus ministry, vice president for mission and ministry, chair of the Theology Department, and theology teacher at Xavier University in Cincinnati; provincial of the Chicago Province; delegate at General Congregation 33



Fr. John E. Bernbrock, SJ

November 25, 1926 – November 11, 2016

Just to prove that Jesuits do all things, John took time over the years to develop a set of special skills which made him a recognized expert in restoring old grandfather clocks.

Teacher at Sogang College in Korea; English teacher at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee; pastor at parishes in Mankato, Minn., Tampa, Fla., Charlotte, N.C., and Scottsdale, Ariz.



Br. John J. Sebian, SJ

September 27, 1926 – October 31, 2016

Whether he was working on boilers, landscaping, fishing, or visiting friends for dinner, John allowed his love and faith in Jesus to permeate his being, thoughts, and actions.

Gardener, horticulturist, mechanic, radio club moderator, boilerman, and electrician at St. John's Jesuit High School & Academy in Toledo, Ohio; gardener at Milford Novitiate in Ohio; gardener, groundskeeper, and mailman at West Baden College in Indiana; chauffeur and gardener at St. Stanislaus Tertianship in Parma, Ohio; gardener at John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio



Br. Bernard L. Polinak, SJ

April 19, 1922 – October 20, 2016

Bernie was always zealous and steadfast in his care for the power plants where he worked, but he remained completely devoted to Christ. When entering the chapel, he would genuflect before the altar — whether he was carrying a ladder or not!

Chief engineer of power plant, assistant to superintendent, and superintendent of building and grounds at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich.; assistant to superintendent of building and grounds at Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

Visit www.jesuitsmidwest.org for more information.

Fr. Frank Majka, SJ, at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee. Photo: Jeff Zmania

Blogging the Gospel

By Fr. Frank Majka, SJ

I think of myself as something of a technology hybrid. I maintain a blog via Wordpress, but I write out the entries using an old-fashioned fountain pen. This approach has stood me in good stead for nine years of writing my blog at www.frankmajka.com. Over that time I have been fortunate to put together a mailing list of several hundred recipients, and by being associated with Marquette University High School in Milwaukee, my posts are sent out on a server to reach several thousand parents, alumni, and friends of the school.

Most of these posts are three or four paragraphs long, and almost all of them originate from something I have overheard, read, or observed. I try to make them straightforward and accessible, suggesting a new twist for something that might otherwise be familiar or leaving the reader with a question to think about. My biggest sources are life itself and the Scriptures, while my guide to writing more effectively is a well-worn copy of *The Elements of Style*.

Maintaining a blog acts as a good discipline for me. When I hit the

“publish” button that sends out a new post, I feel a sense of satisfaction. Ultimately, I consider that keeping a blog is both a hobby and part of my ministry, associating me in my small way with the Jesuit tradition of striving to communicate faith and connect it with everyday living.

Here is an example of a blog post from January:

Role Call 2017

I’ve found that my New Year’s resolutions are often short-lived, especially those about food, drink, and exercise. Is there a more creative alternative to starting the year than the usual adopting of resolutions?

I got a hint that maybe there is from one of the characters in Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*, who says, “All the world’s a stage/ And all the men and women merely players/ ... And one man [or woman] in his [or her] time plays many parts.” So why not think about the role I’d like to play in the drama of 2017 rather than the resolutions I might make?

Maybe you’d want to try the same thing. For instance, would you like to

be the romantic lead in your personal drama, or would the role of courageous adventurer be more appealing? Maybe you think it might be fun to play the role of someone who brings joy and laughter to others. Or maybe your chosen part will be that of someone who overcomes adversity, acts as a reconciler and peacemaker, or becomes a trusted counselor from whom others seek encouragement and advice.

Then, as the year goes on, instead of focusing on those resolutions which you have or haven’t succeeded in keeping, you could look at the role you’ve chosen to play and see how you are doing with it. Maybe you’ll find that another role fits you better. But no matter what role you select, make it your aim and intention that it gives pleasure and satisfaction to God, in whose presence you are playing it out. ✠

Fr. Frank Majka, SJ, works in pastoral ministry at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee and writes at www.jesuitprayer.org. You can subscribe to Fr. Majka’s blog at www.frankmajka.com.

The Circle of Companions



Thank You for Helping Us Reach People Where They Are

The Midwest Jesuits are deeply grateful for your prayers and financial support of our mission. Our spirituality calls us to be contemplatives in action who share God's love by reaching people where they are. Today, we are called to use technology and new media to reach believers and seekers alike. We hope you enjoyed reading about the many ways we are embracing the "new frontiers" of the digital age while remaining grounded in our traditional educational, pastoral, social, and international ministries. Watch your mailbox for our spring mailing of *The Circle of Companions* to learn more about our Ignatian spiritual resources and how your support of our outreach helps others to find God in the digital age.



Jesuits like Fr. Doug Leonhardt, SJ (left), enjoy meeting friends and supporters of the Society of Jesus.

The Ignatian Heritage Society

With gratitude we invite you to become a member of the Midwest Jesuits' *Ignatian Heritage Society*. The Ignatian Heritage Society comprises friends and families of the Jesuits who — through thoughtful estate planning, deferred giving, and other forms of planned giving — ensure that resources will be available to support the good work of the Jesuits far into the future.

As a member of the Ignatian Heritage Society, you join others who want to create a legacy for their families by providing financial support for the formation and senior care of our Jesuits and by supporting the Midwest Jesuits' international missions through a planned gift.

For more information on becoming a member, please contact Jeff Smart at 800-537-3736 or jsmart@jesuits.org.

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James Stoeger, SJ

FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.JESUITSMIDWEST.ORG

Meet the 2017 Ordinands



Jacob Boddicker, SJ



Matthew Dunch, SJ



Richard Fichtinger, SJ



Luke Hansen, SJ



Brad Held, SJ

MIDWEST JESUITS ORDINATION

June 3, 2017 | 10:00 a.m.
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53233



Anthony Lusvardi, SJ



Cyril Pinchak, SJ*

* **June 24, 2017** | 10:00 a.m.
St. John the Baptist
Byzantine Catholic Cathedral
1900 Carlton Rd.
Parma, OH 44134



Michael Rossmann, SJ



Joseph Simmons, SJ



Christopher Staab, SJ



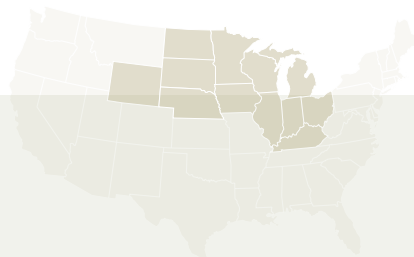
Brian Taber, SJ



Christian Wagner, SJ



Stephen Wolfe, SJ



Announcing the Midwest Jesuits

We are excited to announce that on June 5, 2017, the Chicago-Detroit and Wisconsin Provinces will join to form the new USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus.

With gratitude, we remember the countless Jesuits and lay companions who have supported our work and served in our ministries over the years. We look forward to continuing to work together with you for the greater glory of God!

