



JESUITS

USA MIDWEST PROVINCE | SPRING 2019

On the Frontiers

MAGIS 2019 in Panama Celebrates
the International Ignatian Family

Also in This Issue:

- Midwest Jesuits Evangelize Through the Arts
- Brebeuf Freshman Creates Non-Profit to Care for the Elderly
- Helping Others to Find God in All Things



Dear Friends,

From the very beginning, Jesuits have been sent to the frontiers to serve where the needs are greatest and to spread the Gospel near and far. As a result, we as a worldwide Society of Jesus celebrate our diversity in ministry, both at home in our Midwest Province and all around the world. This past January, young adults from all corners of the globe congregated in Panama for MAGIS, a celebration of Jesuit connections and unity leading up to World Youth Day. I am heartened to continue to see “the beautiful diversity in the Ignatian family,” as Fr. Michael Rossmann, SJ, puts it (pages 10-11) and I know the future of the Society is in good hands.

In this issue, we celebrate the ways our Midwest Jesuits are sent to the margins. On page 16, Fr. Tim Howe, SJ, reflects on how his history in ministering to immigrant families and leading St. Xavier High School prepared him to serve as president of Colegio San Ignacio de Loyola in Puerto Rico. On page 13, Fr. Tom Shanahan, SJ, writes how he helps to balance sports with spirituality as chaplain of the Creighton University basketball teams and the men’s soccer team. From ministering to those on death row, to serving as a translator for Pope Francis, our Jesuits’ vocations are as unique as the individuals who are called to carry them out.

You will also read how our lay partners in ministry are serving the world as men and women for others. A Brebeuf Preparatory School freshman, Lance Williams, has created a non-profit to help the elderly and those facing homelessness in Indiana (page 12). Rita Carfagna has used her spiritual journey to introduce others in the Cleveland area to Ignatian spirituality (page 20). Though unique in practice, every ministry highlighted in this magazine is undertaken with the same guiding principle: to serve for the greater glory of God.

It is with that same mindset that we approach the future of the Society. Earlier this year, Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, announced the four new Universal Apostolic Preferences for Jesuits around the world. They include promoting discernment and the Spiritual Exercises; walking with the excluded; caring for our common home; and journeying with youth. These guiding principles were crafted after nearly two years of discernment and dialogue and will guide us over the next 10 years and beyond. I invite you to learn more about these new horizons for our ministries at JesuitsMidwest.org/UAP2019.

We could not achieve any of these missions without the help of you—our generous companions. From the bottom of my heart—thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. As we approach the season of Easter and new life, please know that you remain in our prayers, and I humbly ask that we remain in yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brian Paulson, SJ'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brian G. Paulson, SJ
Provincial, USA Midwest Province

Young adults at MAGIS 2019 take a selfie with Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus (second from right), and Fr. Michael Rossmann, SJ (right).





ON THE COVER

Fr. Michael Rossman, SJ, a vocations promoter for the Midwest Jesuits, witnessed the "beautiful diversity of the Ignatian family" in Panama during MAGIS 2019.

Lights, Camera, Contemplatives in Action!

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It's not often that a Jesuit seeks the spotlight, but sometimes finding themselves center stage is a realization of their vocation.

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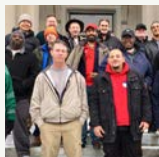
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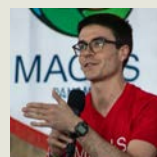
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Healing Souls

The Ignatian Spirituality Project addresses the opioid crisis by serving men and women coming out of homelessness and addiction.



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Many Parts, One Body

With 900 pilgrims from 35 countries, along with 100 Jesuits, MAGIS 2019 was a celebration of the Ignatian family.



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Playing with Soul

Father Tom Shanahan, SJ, finds joy in his "work" as chaplain for Creighton University basketball and soccer teams.



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A Light Shines in the Darkness

Matthew Spotts, SJ's, "professors in blue" at San Quentin State Prison have taught him what it means to be a minister.

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John Carroll University Receives \$20 Million Gift from Anonymous Graduate

The anonymous donor underscored a deep gratitude to the Jesuits and academic leaders who made a significant impact on the college experience. JesuitsMidwest.org/JCUDonation2019

Welsh Academy to Open in Fall 2019

The new academy for 7th and 8th graders on the campus of Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland will open its doors in August. JesuitsMidwest.org/WelshAcademy2019

New Books Capture Spirit of Jesuits Past and Present

Audacious Ignatius, a children's book, and *Sharing the Wisdom of Time*, a collection of stories from elders around the world, including Pope Francis, are now on sale. JesuitsMidwest.org/BooksSpring2019

St. John's Jesuit in Toledo, Ohio, Helps Buy Family A New House

The Jesuit school partnered with local alums and businesses to provide a new house for a large extended family in need. JesuitsMidwest.org/SJJHouse2019

Red Cloud Indian School Names Dr. Raymond Nadolny President

Former college president brings extensive experience and commitment to innovative education models. JesuitsMidwest.org/RayNadolny2019

Society of Jesus Ordains New Deacons

Four Midwest Jesuits were among those ordained: Bryan Norton, SJ; Greg Ostdiek, SJ; James Sand, SJ; and Matthew Spotts, SJ. JesuitsMidwest.org/MidwestDeacons2019



Mikayla Lofton

Hometown:

Saint Paul, MN (currently resides in Chicago)

Schools Attended:

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Profession:

Grants Program Manager, Cristo Rey Network

How did you get involved with the Jesuits?

You could argue I have been involved with the Jesuits since birth. My dad was working in student affairs and residence life after completing his master's at Marquette University when I was born. Shortly thereafter, I was baptized at the Chapel of the Holy Family. Growing up in Saint Paul, my family attended the Jesuit parish of the Twin Cities, IHM-St. Luke's Parish, now St. Thomas More. I was an active participant in the parish starting at a young age, first as an altar server, then as a Eucharistic minister. After completing my undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I entered into a year of service through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, where I was placed at Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School for the year. This past June, after three years at Cristo Rey Atlanta—one as a JV and two as a full-time staff member—I relocated to Chicago to work for the Cristo Rey Network, the national office that oversees and supports all 35 Cristo Rey schools throughout the country.

How has a specific Jesuit impacted your life?

Last year, I had the privilege of making the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius through the 19th Annotation—an opportunity to engage daily in prayer, reading, and meditation. Father Todd Kenny, SJ, vice president for mission and identity at Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit, generously provided this opportunity to all who were willing to commit to the several-month experience. I wanted to challenge myself and signed up to participate. The experience was exceptionally rewarding and taught me several very important lessons. It was through Fr. Todd's guidance and support that I was able to have such a fruitful experience with the Exercises.

How do you bring Jesuit values into the workplace?

I aspire to be a woman for and with others each day through my work at the Cristo Rey Network. Whether interacting with coworkers or meeting with donors, I treat everyone with respect and great care. The Cristo Rey Network embodies countless Jesuit values, namely putting the needs of the vulnerable first and providing students with a rigorous Catholic education that forever changes the trajectory of their lives.

Read the full interview with Mikayla at JesuitsMidwest.org/Lofton2019

A Christmas of Encounter at the El Paso Border

By Fr. Tom Florek, SJ

Sister Erin McDonald, CSJ, and I recently accompanied 10 University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) students to the U.S.-Mexico border at El Paso, Texas, as part of UDM's immersion trip experiences.

Taking a week from their Christmas break, the diverse student group joined the recently organized Encuentro Project—a collaborative work whose mission is to offer an El Paso-Ciudad Juárez border experience among immigrant asylum seekers.

Within less than 24 hours of landing in El Paso we were invited to prepare the Sunday evening meal for arriving asylum-seeking families at the Loretto-Nazareth shelter. It's one of 16 multi-denominational facilities in the El Paso Annunciation House Network, serving the 2,000 to 3,000 immigrants who are arriving weekly.

Arriving at 3:30 p.m. on a government bus were the first dozen Central American families who had just been released from an ICE detention facility. They spent three to five days in a windowless and bed-less cement cell with an aluminum mylar cover for warmth, water, and a daily meal of a frozen burrito or other packaged food items.

No one carried luggage or backpacks, only their children. The shelter's volunteers, including the UDM students, provided a warm welcome, assuring the young, exhausted, cold, and hungry families with hospitality and human care. The fathers and mothers were oriented to the movement of the next 12 to 24 hours, which included volunteers contacting their families in the U.S. who would purchase their bus or plane tickets; the evening meal prepared and served by volunteers; room assignments; showers; a visit to the clothing dispensary; and an evening rec room for children and

parents. Most leave the following day.

The UDM students immersed themselves in this critical historical event of people on the move. Some students sat and talked with the young families. Others helped distribute fresh clothes in the dispensary. Some were responsible for the laundry while others made beds and cleaned showers. This incredible two-day, hands-on encounter with asylum seekers filled our souls, launching us into an encounter with the sacred other.

Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso welcomed and edified the UDM students with his personal story of transformation while pastoring to the needs of the immigrants. His recent pastoral letter, *Sorrow and Mourning Flee Away* from Isaiah 35 referencing Israel's return from exile, helps to situate the border reality within a sacred historical narrative. Instead of seeing the migration as one of chaos and violence which results in the militarization of the border and the demonization of the immigrants, Bishop Seitz names the reality as one which is blessed. Historically, El Paso-Ciudad Juárez is not a boundary, rather a joyful place of people coming together. "We are united in family, fiesta, and faith," says Seitz in his pastoral letter. He reminds the students that El Paso has historically been a place of both North-South migration and East-West migration.

Because we were in El Paso during the pre-Christmas season when border communities celebrate the migration of the Holy Family from Nazareth to Bethlehem with the popular religious Posadas, a deeper understanding of the asylum seekers was presented. The two-thousand-year-old Christian narrative of a young and expecting family who had journeyed dangerous terrain seeking a place of safety to rest and give birth to their child, illuminated the experience



University of Detroit Mercy senior Vania Noguez (left) was one of ten UDM students who immersed themselves in the lives and struggles of asylum-seeking immigrants at the El Paso-Ciudad Juárez border.

of the arriving immigrants to the shelter. The same hope of a previous age continues to journey with today's immigrants. In the midst of the fear, rejections, and the threats, a renewed understanding of God-with-us awakens an effable joy. Christmas will never be the same.

The gift of the asylum-seeking immigrant families became real during my return flight from El Paso to Detroit. Being one of the last to board the Dallas-bound flight, I found one remaining seat next to a Guatemalan dad, Zunun, and his young son, Yori. After a brief introduction in which we found out that our paths crossed at the border shelter, Zunun opened up his one and only carry-on plastic bag and gifted me with a large fruit cup. He took out the other smaller food container to share with his son. In our conversation I learned that he left his Guatemalan village 23 days earlier, arriving at the border with nothing but his son. He was then put in the asylum detention center for five days, during which he and his son only had water and gelatin to eat. His gift continues to fill me up. ✠



Fr. Tom Florek, SJ, is a religious in residence at the University of Detroit Mercy and a consultant to the USCCB Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network.

Healing Souls

Amid Opioid Addiction and Homelessness

By Amy Korpi, staff writer

What does it cost to help a person facing homelessness and recovering from addiction better understand he or she is a child of God?

As little as \$85.

It's an extremely simplified answer to a tremendously complex question, but it's a start.

THE CRISES

Whether they make the news every day doesn't matter; homelessness and addiction are very much with us. Consider this:

- According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, on any single night in 2018, more than 550,000 people were homeless in the U.S.
- Opioid abuse—of both prescribed and illegal substances—has taken on crisis proportion in recent years. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate the number of overdose deaths involving opioids in 2017 was six times higher than in 1999 (the Midwest saw an increase of 70 percent from July 2016 through September 2017).
- The roots of and solutions for the opioid crisis are deeper than the drug itself. As a 2018 *American Journal of Public Health* article put it, “Although drug supply is a key factor...the crisis is fundamentally fueled by economic and social upheaval,” with opioids being “a refuge from physical and psychological trauma, concentrated disadvantage, isolation, and hopelessness.” The authors’ conclusion: “A broad focus on suffering should guide both patient- and community-level interventions.”

ENTER JESUIT MINISTRIES AND IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

Twenty years before this conclusion was written, Fr. Bill Creed, SJ, and Ed Shurna co-founded one such intervention: the Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP).

The ISP provides retreats, days of reflection, and ongoing spiritual companionship to men and women facing homelessness and in recovery from addiction. Blending elements of Ignatian spirituality and the 12-Step recovery program, ISP retreats are an effective resource in laying a foundation of hope, community, and healing for those living on the margins.

ISP executive director Tom Drexler reminds us, “Being homeless does not preclude a spiritual life. When we see someone living on the street, we must remember this person is on a spiritual journey. We’re all on similar paths, even if we’re in different places.”

INNOVATIVE PROGRAM RELIES ON BEST PRACTICES

Over the years, ISP has developed an infrastructure, created a reproducible format, and codified policies, materials, training, and formation procedures that have made possible expansion to 30 cities across the U.S. and in Canada (retreats in Ireland are planned for later this year).

And it works. A DePaul University pilot study, coauthored by Drexler and published in *Psychology* in 2015, found that over time, ISP retreat participants reported significant decreases in loneliness, a critical factor in addiction recovery. Drexler indicates plans for additional research, but anecdotal evidence is also powerful.

For example, one woman recalls



Ignatian Spirituality Project retreats have spread all over the nation, including this one for women, which took place in New Orleans.

her story: “I grew up in a great neighborhood...I went from a Catholic schoolgirl involved in Girl Scouts, sports, cheerleading, drama, and book clubs to a teenager on the honor roll. I lacked for nothing physical. My pain was more emotional.” She salved that pain with drugs and alcohol.

After years of substance abuse, three related heart attacks, and several stints in jail, she sought recovery in a shelter environment and then participated in an ISP retreat. Today she says, “I can definitely give a lot of credit for my continued sobriety to my ISP connections...The fact that I even feel comfortable in reaching out now is truly a miracle.”

In nearly six years as the ISP men’s coordinator in Cincinnati, Tim Boyle has seen many such stories take shape.

“It is heartrending to know some of the horrific struggles our retreatants have experienced,” he explains. “Violence, abuse, and neglect fuel the desire for the temporary comfort of drugs and alcohol. Once addicted, the force of the person’s illness is so strong that many have done heinous things to support it. And if they become part of the network of selling, they can feed their habit, make a great deal of money, and feel powerful. But eventually, it must come crashing down, either through overdose, violence, or incarceration.”

The situation in Cincinnati is daunting. “Some of the first ‘pill mills’ in America

were in southern Ohio, and there is despair in communities that have lost numerous jobs,” says Boyle. “Many people would be surprised by how easy it is for individuals in the mainstream population to buy heroin.”

“People’s motivations for coming to the retreats vary,” he adds. “Some realize this might be their last chance. Some think it’s a way to get a respite from transitional housing. Sobriety is hard—and an addicted dealer might be making thousands of dollars a day, being a ‘big deal’ in his community, and supporting his habit. To stay in transitional housing—often court-ordered—he has to take a low-paying job, stay sober, and follow the house rules. Not everyone makes it.”

But one thing is clear: Once retreatants are ready to change their lives and realize they are in a safe place with people who have similar hopes and fears, they can reap great rewards from sharing their stories.

COST-EFFECTIVE TRANSFORMATION

Today, the ISP network serves more than 2,000 retreatants through more than 200 retreats a year. How is this possible with a paid leadership staff of only six persons?

“We’re a lean but effective team, thanks to our protocols and the dedication of over 800 active volunteers who serve as coordinators, retreat facilitators, and fundraisers. Many have transformed their lives through retreats and expressed a desire to give back,” says Drexler. He estimates that from July 2017 to June 2018, volunteers put in \$800,000 worth of time.

Of course, even a cost-effective system needs resources. “The need is so great,” says Boyle. “We could host a retreat every weekend if we had the money. Even at \$85 a person for a weekend retreat, our capacity has limits. But that \$85 does go a long way.”

The goals for future cost-effective growth continue, with a strategic plan calling for establishing more institutional affiliates among Catholic parishes, retreat houses, and similar organizations. ✠

Pope Francis Center Addresses Rise in Need

ISP is not the only Jesuit ministry addressing the opioid crisis. Another is the Pope Francis Center in Detroit.

On average, the center welcomes more than 170 guests daily, with nutritious meals, hot showers, laundry facilities, and access to doctors, dentists, lawyers, and housing providers through free clinics. Plans for a housing project are in the works.

As indicated on the center’s website, staff and volunteers interacting with guests “see the humanity and goodness in each person who arrives. . . and treat them with the dignity God intends for all His Children.”

A recent annual report describes the story of Mike, who became addicted to heroin as a teen. For nearly 15 years on the streets, he was a regular guest of the center. Believing his life was destined for doom, he recalls, “Life was just going to be misery, and then I was going to hell. It’s what I deserved.”

The center helped keep Mike alive, though, and eventually some caring people led him to enter a methadone clinic to get clean. Mike was able to turn his life around. He works, he’s married, and he and his wife volunteer at a rehabilitation center where he counsels others with addictions.

As the report concludes, “This same man, who once believed he was destined for hell, now believes in the power of angels and a miraculous Father who dearly loves him.”

‘A lot of guys I knew didn’t make it. It’s a miracle I’m still here,’” Mike says.

ISP’s Four-Fold Approach

- Offering retreats and spiritual companionship inspired by Ignatian spirituality to those who are homeless and seeking recovery.
- Building a network of volunteer teams to respond to the spiritual needs of those who are homeless and seeking recovery.
- Including on our teams men and women who have themselves experienced homelessness.
- Collaborating with individuals and agencies working to end the injustice of homelessness.



Tom Drexler (left), executive director of ISP, with participants at a Bay Area ISP retreat. ISP now offers retreats in more than 30 cities

How You Can Help

To invest in the Ignatian Spirituality Project, please visit www.ISPRetreats.org. At the ISP website, you can also learn more about volunteering at one of the ministry’s locations.

To invest in the Pope Francis Center, visit: www.PopeFrancisCenter.org.



Lights, Camera, Contemplatives in Action!

Br. Joseph Hoover, SJ, (right) performs *Amends*, a play he wrote about different characters attempting to atone for past transgressions. He and his brother, Bill, (left) played all eight characters.

By Ben Gartland, *communications specialist*

It's not often that a Jesuit seeks the spotlight. But for some whose mission is to preach through the arts, finding themselves center stage is a realization of their vocation.

Across the country, Midwest Jesuits carry on the centuries-old tradition of using the arts—acting, writing, and directing—to share their God-given talents as ministry.

“We have to remember that in the classical ancient theater, the first actors were priests,” said Fr. George Drance, SJ. “The early tradition of the Jesuit theater was steeped in the morality tales of the classics, the Scriptures, and the theatrical tradition. Those plays by the early Jesuits were formative of their contemporaries and really shaped the theater of the world.”

Father Drance has been acting and directing for more than two decades. In New York, he teaches acting at Fordham University and is the founder

and artistic director of the Magis Theatre Company. He also works with the La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, an organization that celebrates works that push the boundaries of language and culture. It was through La MaMa that he starred in **mark*, a one-man show that relays the stories of the Gospel of Mark in a contemporary setting.

“Living in the words of the Gospel is a profound experience,” said Fr. Drance. “Going through it on stage and sharing it with others, it gets back into the oral tradition of the early Church.”

“There is a feeling of being a connection between the audience and the spirit of the play. The way in which the message of the playwrights is transmitted to these particular people is through my work.”

Father Drance has also served as a model and spiritual director for those interested in the arts—but who also feel a call to religious life. Brother Joseph

Hoover, SJ, is one of those Jesuits. He found success in various acting roles in his hometown, Omaha, and then again when he moved to New York. It was there he met Jesuits, such as Fr. Drance, who showed him he could be both an actor and playwright, as well as a vowed religious.

“The successes I had were great, but they weren’t enough in some way,” said Br. Hoover. “I wanted to serve Christ in some more public way. This wasn’t about Joe Hoover being a writer or an actor but about Joe Hoover being a Jesuit, galvanizing his craft in service of Christ.”

Brother Hoover has acted in many roles and written several plays in his career. He completed a successful run as a member of the ensemble of *King Lear* in the Shakespeare in the Park series in Central Park, and he starred in one of his latest plays he wrote, *Amends*, alongside his brother, Bill Hoover. They portrayed all eight characters who were attempting to atone for past transgressions. He also



Above: Fr. Jim McDermott, SJ, has written for the AMC show *Preacher* and publishes a weekly e-newsletter called "Pop Culture Spirit Wow" (TinyLetter.com/jimcd).

Top left: Fr. George Drance, SJ, (second from right) teaches acting at Fordham University in New York.

Bottom left: Fr. George Drance, SJ, translated and directed Calderon's *Two Dreams: Life is a Dream 1677* for the La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club in 2017.

played twin brothers in an off-Broadway show, *Monster*, and Smirnov in Anton Chekhov's comedy, *The Bear*.

Brother Hoover is also the poetry editor for *America Magazine* and founded Xavier Theatre and Film, a Brooklyn-based company creating new works in the Catholic arts tradition.

"As a Jesuit, you use what you've got to serve the greater glory of God," said Br. Hoover. "The brothers especially have been craftsmen or sculptors so, by being a brother, you have the freedom to make your ministry your work."

That line of thinking is also what led Fr. Jim McDermott, SJ, into ministry as a screenwriter.

Father McDermott entered the Society thinking perhaps he would be a teacher and spent a number of years of his formation teaching English and drama at the Jesuit-sponsored Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. But throughout his

formation, even on his yearly retreats, he found himself imagining scenes, plots and stories. That led him to pursue media work a year after his ordination.

"I went to *America* magazine trying to find a way of doing communications and also to explore these persistent thoughts of filmmaking," he said. "'Was there something to them, or what?' With the encouragement of my provincial and other Jesuits I eventually decided, 'Okay, I'm going to take that risk.'"

He applied to film schools across the country, ending up at UCLA. He also landed an internship with AMC, where he spent three years providing feedback on scripts while working on his own ideas, eventually selling a script to the network and later writing for its show *Preacher*.

Father McDermott said working with AMC was the best experience he's had in Hollywood. "They were so interested in story and in character at a deep level," he said. "It was such a great and creative

community of people."

In addition to screenwriting, Fr. McDermott works as a California correspondent for *America*, and writes television and movie reviews. He also publishes a weekly e-newsletter, "Pop Culture Spirit Wow," that focuses on the ways that pop culture and spirituality intertwine.

While some may dismiss pop culture as meaningless, Fr. McDermott considers it often modern-day sacramental. "It's a way that God is able to speak to us and we are open to being spoken to," he said.

Through both current pop culture and classics from centuries ago, Jesuits continue to keep the arts alive within the Society and the Church as a whole.

"The Catholic arts tradition is one of our greatest treasures," said Br. Hoover. "The arts are a massive way to evangelize and I would love to see more people in the Church involved in that." ✠



Erin Kast, SJ, receives his vow cross—a symbolic reminder of his commitment to the Society of Jesus—from Fr. Gregory Hyde, SJ, at the first vows Mass in August 2017.

God Has Been Good

By Erin Kast, SJ

“If it weren’t for Fr. Filella, I would never have come to the United States.”

I grew up in Northern Wisconsin but my mom is from India and Fr. Filella was a Jesuit who taught her psychology at Xavier’s College in Mumbai. After my mom had finished her degree, Fr. Filella encouraged her to get her PhD in psychology at Fordham University in New York. She said she couldn’t afford it, but he insisted and did whatever it took to turn her dream into a reality. Many years later, and shortly before he died, I got to meet Fr. Filella in an infirmary in Spain. By that time I was almost finished with my degree in biology and religious studies from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, and the time was fast approaching when I would have to make the big decision of what I wanted to do after I graduated.

Ever since middle school I had loved science, but I also remembered many of the stories my mom told of the Jesuits she knew in India. So in high school when I first thought of a religious vocation, the Jesuits came to mind immediately, even though I’d never met one! Before I left for college I got in contact with the vocation director for the Midwest

Province and told him I wanted to learn more about the Jesuits. My discernment in college took all four years and most of the time I was pretty unsure about taking vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. But the more time I spent in prayer, the more time I learned about

I SAW A RICHNESS AND BEAUTY TO MY FAITH THAT I HAD NEVER BEFORE SEEN...

Jesuit spirituality. And the more Jesuits I met, I began to see something more than sacrifice in a religious vocation: I saw an opportunity to discover answers to questions I always wanted to ask but never knew how to; I saw a richness and beauty to my faith that I had never before seen nor ever so much desired to understand. By my senior year I knew I couldn’t be honest with myself without taking the leap and entering the novitiate in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

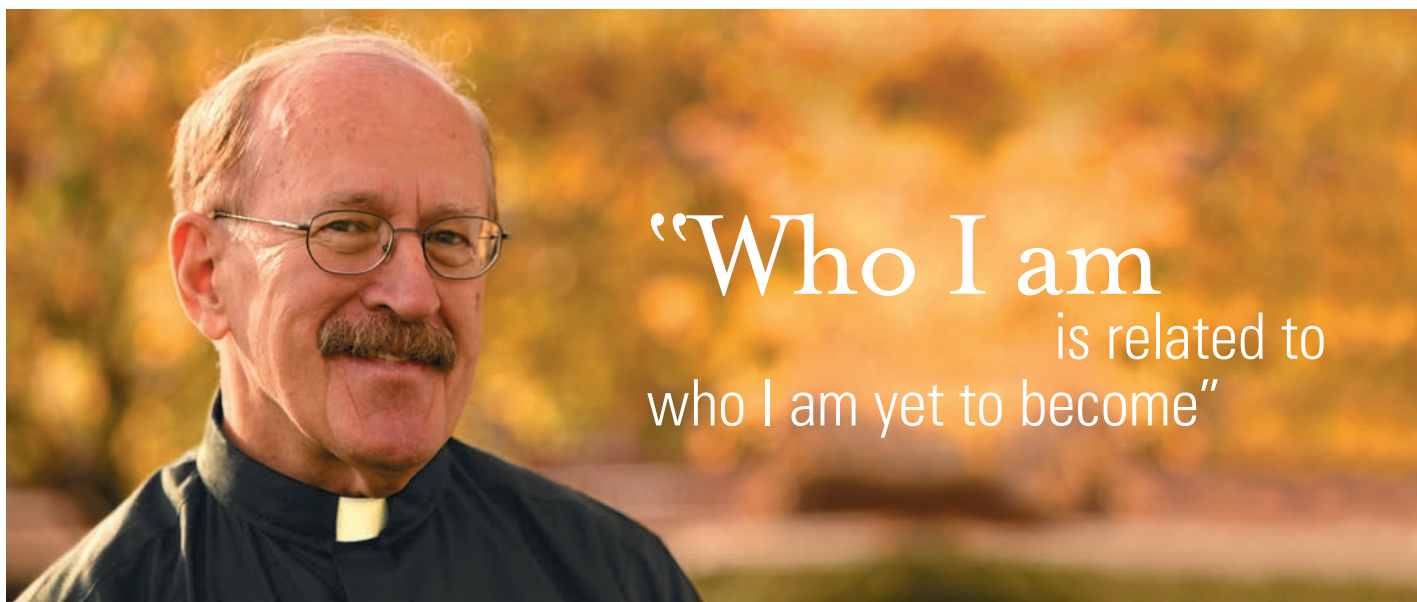
Now I’m studying philosophy at Loyola University Chicago and I can say with confidence that I didn’t make a mistake, God has been good. How

many people get to share faith and companionship with incarcerated young men every week *and look forward to it* because every face looks like Jesus? How many Americans get to spend a summer in the mountains of Northeast India teaching and doing pastoral work with Jesuit missionaries? How many pilgrims get to walk 54 miles from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, with nothing but a fifty-cent bedsheet, a harmonica, the New Testament, and a rosary, content in doing nothing more than following in the footsteps of the saints who walked before them? Not many, but those who have will know that to follow Jesus as a Jesuit isn’t just a transition in lifestyle, it’s a transformation in heart-style:

“Take my heart, Jesus, and make it like yours.” ✠



Erin Kast, SJ, is a Jesuit in formation completing first studies at Loyola University Chicago. He entered the Society of Jesus in 2015.



“Who I am
is related to
who I am yet to become”

By Amy Korpi, staff writer

It was a homecoming 50 years in the making.

In 2016, Fr. Casey Bukala, SJ, moved to the Colombiere Center near Detroit, where elder Jesuits live in community, receive the healthcare they need, and pray for the Church and the Society.

It was not Fr. Bukala's first time at Colombiere, however.

From 1959 until the 1990s, the Center served as a Jesuit facility called Colombiere College, and it is where Fr. Bukala studied as a novice and was ordained.

Today, “Colombiere is a place to gather to support one another,” Fr. Bukala says. “It’s a community of love. While we may not be in the fields anymore, we still do what we can, and we share our common experiences.”

For Fr. Bukala, those experiences took place largely at John Carroll University (JCU)—where he earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees and then returned in 1970 to teach philosophy, serve as chaplain to campus groups, and more. His homecoming to JCU began a journey that impacted generations of students and alumni—through learning as well as lifelong friendships.

While teaching, he says the best part about his job was “getting to meet and know students, who became alumni ... I’ve taught sons and daughters of former students, celebrated many weddings, and baptized many of their children.”

FORGIVENESS IS ULTIMATELY ALWAYS FOR THE FORGIVER. IF WE ARE INTERESTED IN OUR OWN HAPPINESS, WE FORGIVE OVER AND OVER AGAIN, AS JESUS TAUGHT US, IN ALL SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

Excerpt from the Bukala Forgiveness Initiative

Those students valued getting to meet and know Fr. Bukala as well. In a jovial, caring style, he challenged those in his classes to take what philosophers had to say and develop personal responses, learning about themselves in the process. He also encouraged them to learn from each other by sharing common experiences—much like he does today with his Jesuit brothers.

As such, he continues to live out his trademark phrase: “Who I am is related to who I am yet to become.”

Father Bukala is also known for his passion on the topic of forgiveness. He created an “Ethics of Forgiveness” class and the Bukala Forgiveness Initiative at JCU.edu. “As we live our lives, it’s necessary to let go of many things, especially the bad,” he explains. “We’re all pretty much the same in being vulnerable. And hurts can impact us in a way that changes our lives forever. Yet with understanding and support, we can also come to understand that we don’t have to let these hurts fester within us, that we can let them go.”

Emphasizing that forgiveness is a gift the forgiver offers to him or herself, at least as much as it is to the forgiven person, Fr. Bukala also believes that sharing one’s stories is instrumental in healing. “Hopefully, everyone can find comfort and relief from the negative baggage they carry in life by sharing their stories,” he says. “A part of us dies when we hurt someone or are hurt by someone, as well as when we don’t forgive ourselves or others. There is no future without forgiveness.” ✠



Many Parts, One Body

Young adults from all around the world gathered in Central America in January to celebrate, pray, and serve with other Jesuit-connected pilgrims ahead of World Youth Day.

By Fr. Michael Rossmann, SJ

It is fitting that the Jesuit “pope from the periphery” would choose Panama as the host of World Youth Day and that this diverse nation would also be the site of the MAGIS program.

Since the 2005 World Youth Day in Germany, the Jesuits have organized MAGIS, which is a gathering of young adults from the Ignatian family that precedes World Youth Day. These pilgrims, who come from Jesuit universities and young adult ministries, participate in a program of spiritual, cultural, and pastoral activities.

The Jesuits minister all over the world, so it was only appropriate that this celebration of the Ignatian family brought together young adults from nearly all the continents. (Sorry, Antarctica.)

Roughly 900 pilgrims from 35 countries—along with 100 Jesuits—

participated in this year’s MAGIS, which occurred from January 10-22.

Panama is known as the “Bridge of the World” because of its canal that connects the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. It was an appropriate host for a program that facilitates deep connections between young adults from different places.

This was my third time participating in MAGIS. I led a group of students from Marquette University to MAGIS in Spain in 2011 and helped with communications for MAGIS in Poland in 2016. In addition to media work, I served as a presenter and translator at the large events of this year’s MAGIS in Panama.

One of the key differences this year was that this MAGIS took place in five different countries. As was fitting for the Central American Province of the Society of Jesus that goes beyond borders, they

hosted the initial MAGIS activities in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama, before all the pilgrims came together at Colegio Javier in Panama City.

The central part of the MAGIS program is the “experiments.” These experiences, like the “experiments” that a Jesuit novice partakes in, are meant to push pilgrims out of their comfort zones and facilitate a deep encounter with God, self, and others. Groups of pilgrims went to many different locations across Central America for their experiments. Some worked with the elderly or children with disabilities. Some participated in pilgrimages or ecological initiatives. One group shared life with an indigenous community that is only accessible by boat.

In addition to the work that they do during these experiences, pilgrims come

Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, celebrated Mass with the help of many Jesuit priests from almost every continent, a symbol of the universal Church.



together each day for Mass, spiritual reflection, cooking, and oftentimes much singing and dancing. These groups were typically composed of pilgrims from four different continents and at least that many languages.

Many pilgrims commented on how well they understood each other without actually speaking the same language. Many pilgrims spoke Spanish, but those coming from Africa, Asia, and Europe typically did not. Most understood English, but few were native speakers. It was common to hear French, Portuguese, and many other languages. Smiles, thumbs up, and hugs were common forms of communication that seemed to break down linguistic barriers.



Even with language barriers, the MAGIS 2019 pilgrims were able to communicate through smiles, thumbs up, and hugs.

Cross-cultural encounters abounded. It was not uncommon to see a pilgrim who initially did not even know where Mauritius was located later become close friends with someone from that island nation. Zimbabweans learned to

THE CENTRAL PART OF THE MAGIS PROGRAM IS THE “EXPERIMENTS” ...MEANT TO PUSH PILGRIMS OUT OF THEIR COMFORT ZONES AND FACILITATE A DEEP ENCOUNTER WITH GOD, SELF, AND OTHERS.

savor *tereré*, the *yerba mate* drink from Paraguay, and South Koreans learned how to make *pupusas*, a traditional dish from El Salvador.

After the week of experiments, all 900 pilgrims descended on Panama City, where there were cultural celebrations, activities that facilitated reflection on all that they had experienced, and an address from Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus. MAGIS formally concluded with a Mass celebrated by Father General and 55 other Jesuits from around the world.

One of my most memorable experiences was when Jesuits from Taiwan and Poland were both planning on using the same chapel to celebrate Mass for their respective delegations. Discovering this, they decided to have Mass together, and they invited me and

the delegation from Hong Kong to join them. The readings, homily, music, and Eucharistic Prayer were a mix of Mandarin, Polish, Cantonese, and English. Many of us could not help but smile at the beautiful absurdity of this combination. It was an “only at MAGIS” experience.

MAGIS concluded on the day that World Youth Day began so that participants could join the hundreds of thousands of other pilgrims in this larger ecclesial celebration.

On the Sunday Pope Francis celebrated Mass at the end of World Youth Day, the second reading was from 1 Corinthians in which Paul talks about how “there are many parts, yet one body.” It was a perfect description of MAGIS.

Jesuits have gone to the frontiers. There is a beautiful diversity in the Ignatian family. And MAGIS both demonstrates and deepens the fact that there is also unity in this one body. ✠



Fr. Michael Rossmann, SJ, is a vocations promoter for the Midwest Jesuits. He was ordained in 2017.

A Gift to His Community

Lance Williams (left) created a non-profit focused on helping those facing homeless in Indiana, as well as purchasing gifts for the elderly, such as these residents at the Nora Commons Senior Citizen Community.

By Becky Sindelar, staff writer

Lance Williams, a freshman at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis, was a “man for others” even before he arrived at Brebeuf this past fall.

As an eighth grader at St. Monica School, Lance was assigned a project to identify something he was passionate about. “I’ve always wanted to help people and make them happy, so I researched ways that I could do that,” he says.

During his research, he found out that many senior citizens live on fixed incomes, and some can barely afford normal household items after they take care of bills each month. So, he decided to establish Lance’s Gift, an organization

focused on helping the elderly and homeless in Indiana. With the help of volunteers and donors, Lance and his mother, Carolyn Mosby, raise funds to provide items for the elderly during the holiday season.

In 2017, Lance’s Gift raised almost \$3,000 and bought gifts for the elderly living at the Carolyn Mosby Senior High Rise, named after Lance’s late grandmother. This past Christmas, he expanded the program, raising about \$3,700 and purchasing gifts for 400 people. In December, Lance hosted a party at the Nora Commons Senior Community, where Lance’s late grandmother, Ruby Smith, was a resident. He also sent gifts to residents at the Carolyn Mosby Senior High Rise, where he hosted last year’s party.

The seniors received presents that included blankets, scarves, food items, journals, word search books, pens, calendars, hats, and gloves.

“Our view of service always has a focus on opportunities to engage in relationships with those we are serving,” says Nick Klingler, director of community service at Brebeuf. “Lance’s program is so great because the gifts he delivers to the elderly are an entryway into lifting up their dignity and getting to know them. Lance’s own growth through

his work on the project is a wonderful example of how our mission statement is lived out by our students ‘cultivating their God given talents as a responsibility and as an act of worship.’”

Lance brings joy to the seniors he serves through his program, but he receives it as well. “The thing that brings me the most joy is how the seniors seem so happy that I am buying gifts for them. Many of them thank me and give me hugs,” Lance says.

The larger Brebeuf school community also became involved in Lance’s Gift. Lance is part of Ignatian Scholars—a leadership, service, and academic program at Brebeuf—and his fellow Scholars helped him wrap the presents.

“It’s humbling to meet a freshman like Lance who arrived at Brebeuf with a passion for helping others,” says Klingler. “Through his work with Lance’s Gift, he’s proven to be not only a leader within his freshman class, but for everyone in our community.”

Lance plans to continue Lance’s Gift in 2019, with the hopes of establishing it as a 501(c)(3) charity and increasing the amount of donations.

He says the motto of Brebeuf to be men and women for others inspires him. “It means being a role model for others and to always help when you can.” ✠



Williams (right) has purchased gifts for more than 400 seniors, including Olympic boxer “Sugar” Ray Seales, who is holding the gold medal he won in 1972.

Fr. Tom Shanahan, SJ, has been a continual presence on the bench at Creighton University athletic events for more than two decades.

Playing with Soul

By Fr. Tom Shanahan, SJ

"Go Jays!"

How often do I hear that cheer during an academic year? "A ton" as they say. For the past 20 some years I have been chaplain for three sports at Creighton University: men's and women's basketball and men's soccer. It's been a long and fun ride with the Creighton student-athletes, and I look forward to each year with anticipation. And each year has its ups and downs as all athletic competitions do.

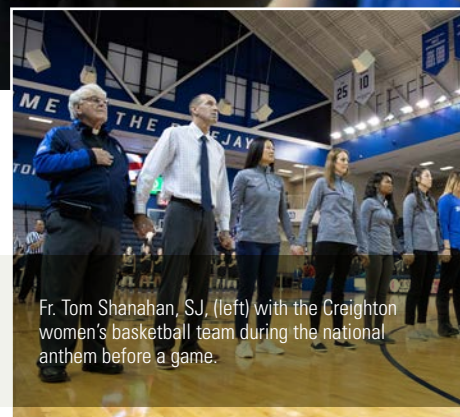
I witness practices and games and come away proud of the teams' hustle, determination, and goodwill throughout the seasons. It always amazes me how quickly a player's time at Creighton shoots by. I miss the ones who leave and pray silently for them, as well as for the season's upcoming athletes.

I am amazed what fine students our athletes are—all graduate and do it with style. The cumulative grade point average for all our athletic teams is in the B to B+ range. Some of our graduates attain a full A average at the conclusion of their years here at Creighton. With their hard work (especially during

their sport months) they seem to be the very definition of "student"-athletes. Our coaching staffs hold their players' academic lives to a strict standard.

I find the "work" as a chaplain to be a joy. Duties are simple: be present for all home games and some away games; lead a prayer before a contest; be present to the teams, coaches, and staffs. I consider the presence of a Jesuit very important for our athletic teams, a presence that has led to some sacramental and personal encounters outside the confines of sporting events.

Often over the years our fans, especially our graduates, remark that they value the presence of a Jesuit on the bench. The Jesuit presence clearly enhances their support of the Jesuit/Catholic factors of their Creighton University experience. This says loads about the values of our fan base. I am honored to assist in that wonderful aspect of their overall support of Creighton. I am also convinced that the presence of chaplains at our Big East Conference centers of higher education—including



Fr. Tom Shanahan, SJ, (left) with the Creighton women's basketball team during the national anthem before a game.

Photos: Creighton University

another Jesuit, a Vincentian, an Augustinian, and a Dominican—is an important aspect of their athletic and academic programs.

The seasons move by quickly. I am confident that the future athletes here at Creighton will be as impressive as the current and earlier players have been. Their competence and hard work on and off the court is a given. They quickly absorb a culture that inspires their best efforts as student-athletes.

"GO JAYS!" ✠



Fr. Tom Shanahan, SJ, is a chaplain for the Creighton University men's and women's basketball teams and men's soccer team.

The Gift of Time

By Ben Gartland, *communications specialist*

Deon Taylor was a fourth grader attending a public elementary school on Chicago's West Side when he saw a flyer advertising the new Chicago Jesuit Academy (CJA)—a full scholarship middle school for young men from modest economic backgrounds on the West Side. He applied and was accepted into the fifth-grade class the following year.

It was a completely different atmosphere.

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE SO MANY POSSIBILITIES IN THIS DIGITAL AGE WHICH UNITES THEM AS NEVER BEFORE. WE WANT TO WALK WITH THEM, DISCERNING THESE POSSIBILITIES AND FINDING GOD IN THE DEPTHS OF REALITY.

Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, in the new *Universal Apostolic Preferences*

"The teachers actually cared about you and what was going on at home," Taylor said. "I felt a lot safer. I felt like the teachers were invested in me. I just felt like I could be myself and could grow up to be who I wanted to be."

The small class sizes, extended school days, and 11-month academic year helped prepare Taylor for high school. He was accepted at Loyola Academy, a Jesuit preparatory school in Wilmette, Illinois. Wilmette, 16 miles from his home, is a long physical distance but a

longer economic distance. Because of this, he was introduced to Christine and Matt Botica. The Boticas were founding benefactors and volunteers at CJA, and their home was near Loyola Academy.

According to Taylor, that connection quickly went to "whatever you need, I'm here to help. I just want to see you succeed." The Boticas became "like second parents" to Taylor. They mentored him at Loyola Academy and provided a place to stay on weekends for him and his classmates. That way, they wouldn't have to travel back to the West Side on late nights following school dances or sports practices.

"It's amazing how people who don't even know you that well, people who have no interest in getting anything from you can be so kind and invested in your life," Taylor said. "They were just one of God's angels sent to me to help me out at a young age."

When the Boticas first started connecting with these Loyola students from CJA, they never could have imagined the relationships that would form. Christine and Matt had been angels sent to the boys, but the boys had also been angels sent to Christine and Matt.

"It was a very enjoyable period those few years when the boys were at Loyola," Matt Botica said. "We were very close and did a lot of great things."

Soon enough, the Boticas were spending time attending sporting events at the high school, taking the boys out to eat and talking about life, and getting to know the boys' families personally. It was through forming these relationships

with the boys that the Boticas' eyes were opened to new perspectives about obstacles the kids from CJA faced.

"We were just happy doing what we were doing—living on the North Shore—and we really weren't touched by anything," Christine Botica said. "Then when the boys actually started coming to the house, it brought it to a totally different level of clarity and understanding." The Boticas' work at CJA had truly come home with them.

By the time Taylor and his classmates went to college, both they and the Boticas had been profoundly impacted by this connection, this beautiful gift of time.

"That relationship blossomed into something you wouldn't normally see from people coming from two different backgrounds," Taylor said. "There is no amount of words that I can say or things that I can do to express my gratitude for them."

Both Taylor and the Boticas acknowledged bumpy roads along the way, including the usual issues of adolescence, societal obstacles, and the absence of a mentoring roadmap. Still, Taylor went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and now works in business development in Chicago. And his "second parents" are grateful too.

"You can't imagine what you can do for the young man or young woman you mentor," Matt said. "This may sound trite, but ultimately you'll get as much or more out of it as they do." ❖



Deon Taylor (left) was guided by many mentors growing up, including Matt and Christine Botica (right).

A Call From a Friend Leads to an Answer From Pope Francis

By Becky Sindelar, staff writer



Fr. Lukas Laniauskas, SJ, (left) greets Pope Francis during the pope's visit to Lithuania in 2018. Fr. Laniauskas served as a translator and media liaison.

It's a powerful thing to find oneself 10 feet from the pope—to be in the presence of someone charged with the spiritual and religious experience of 1.2 billion people. Yet, there Fr. Lukas Laniauskas, SJ, was, nervous in a moment of silence with Francis.

The pope took a few deep breaths and then looked up. “Are there any other questions?” After a deep breath of his own, Fr. Laniauskas stood.

...

Last year, Fr. Laniauskas received a call from a friend to help with a project. But this was no ordinary call; his friend Bishop Kęstutis Kėvalas asked if he would be interested in helping with the media when Pope Francis visited Lithuania in September 2018.

Fr. Laniauskas' background put him in a unique position to help. A Lithuanian-American, Fr. Laniauskas was born and raised in Cleveland, and, after accepting the call to the priesthood, entered the Society of Jesus in Lithuania in 2004. After two years in the novitiate there, Fr. Laniauskas transcribed to the then Detroit Province (now Midwest Province) to complete his formation closer to home.

The Lithuanian bishop's conference was looking for people who could help in representing Lithuania to the international media during the pope's visit. Father Laniauskas, who has dual citizenship and speaks both English and Lithuanian, was invited to work in the media center.

Arriving in Lithuania a few days before the pope's visit, Fr. Laniauskas worked on drumming up participation, including writing stories and going on radio

programs and other outlets.

“I'd especially highlight the pilgrimage aspect—leaving the comfort of one's home to line the streets where the pope would pass. I felt tremendous grace in the presence of so many faith-filled believers,” he explains.

During some of Pope Francis' two-day visit to the country, Fr. Laniauskas was stationed in a hotel banquet hall where the media was based, answering questions about the visit and about topics the pope brought up. He also got the chance to help the media explore and enjoy Lithuanian culture.

Father Laniauskas also celebrated Mass for the international media in English and served as a liaison to help with any other assistance the media or other guests needed in English.

All the work paid off, with thousands of people turning out to see Pope Francis.

“As a Jesuit, to have a Jesuit pope visit the land of my ancestors and where I entered the Jesuits, was an amazing experience! It was truly moving to see how important this visit was to the Lithuanian people—the streets were packed with people who were excited to simply catch a glimpse of the Holy Father,” says Fr. Laniauskas.

After all that busyness, Father Laniauskas found himself in a room with the pope and about 20 other Jesuits. Father Laniauskas recalls looking around at the faces of the others, some who had been tortured, persecuted, or deported during the Soviet occupation of Lithuania. Many of them are heroes of the Lithuanian Church.

The pope shared that he was tired, but that he hoped that it was all for the good of the Church. He then proceeded to take questions from Jesuits on many topics.

Near the end of the meeting, Fr. Laniauskas stood and spoke. He asked the pope—who has described the Church as a field hospital and has invited priests and people to go out into the chaos of the streets—how he, as a young priest, can keep himself from being overtaken and crippled by the fear of the chaos and brokenness that we see in our world.

The pope looked at Fr. Laniauskas with compassion and reminded him of the meditation of The Two Standards from the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, a meditation of the epic battle between good and evil, Jesus and Satan.

“The Holy Father reminded me that if I am alone in battle, I will die. We must not be alone, we are on this battlefield with others. To this end we must never forget the voice of the one who calls us, or we will get lost in the chaos of the battle.”

Finally, Fr. Laniauskas recalls, “He encouraged us to remember our vow of obedience, which calls us to work, toil, and especially love in the little corner of the vineyard that we're called to serve.”

“Since this amazing visit, in my heart I have returned to the many moments, experiences, and especially the Holy Father's words to us as Jesuits in thinking about the ways that I am called to serve the people of God and the Church at this unique time.” ✠

God Writes Straight with Crooked Lines

By Fr. Tim Howe, SJ

As I've gotten to know so many wonderful people in Puerto Rico over the past few months, usually somewhere in the conversation comes the question, "So how did you get here?" If—after the Eucharist—the central prayer of Jesuits is the Examen, then each time I'm asked that question is another graced opportunity for me to look back and examine what God has been up to in and through my life over the years.

As a Jesuit novice, I first began to feel a desire to serve the Latino community in the U.S. and abroad. A long experiment working in Holy Name Parish in Camden, NJ—serving mostly Puerto Ricans and Dominicans—plus a summer with my classmates studying Spanish in the Dominican Republic just confirmed that desire. So when the formation director asked me to go to Loyola University Chicago and get a master's degree in something, I said, "How about Spanish?" And he agreed.

For my regency, I taught Spanish at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati and led students on mission trips to the Dominican Republic each summer. Then I did my theology studies in Granada, Spain. As I was coming to the end of my time in Spain, I asked the formation director what the Society had in mind for me in the future. At the top of the list was secondary education, so I obtained a master's in educational administration while finishing up my licentiate in Scripture. Expecting to be assigned to

a high school, the province needed a pastor for St. Procopius Parish serving the Mexican community in Chicago. The good people of St. Procopius taught me a lot all at once: how to be a priest, how to be a pastor, and how to live and thrive in the rich Mexican culture.

JESUITS LIVE OUR LIVES "WITH ONE FOOT RAISED," ALWAYS READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP FORWARD IN THE JOURNEY.

Ten years later, I was sent back to St. Xavier High School as president. I remember telling myself that my goal was to just not screw it up! Working alongside an outstanding faculty and staff for nine happy years, I hope I can say we accomplished that goal. Jesuits live our lives "with one foot raised," always ready to take the next step forward in the journey. So here I am, excited to be starting a new job as president of Colegio San Ignacio in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

In a way, it's utterly surprising and not surprising at all that I'm here. It's a new school and a new province and a new culture. While people speak Spanish in Spain and Mexico and Puerto Rico, the cultures of these places are all quite different. At the same time, being here represents a kind of convergence of all of the other things I've done in my Jesuit life, during formation and after. As I look back, I see the fabric of my Jesuit life as knit from two main threads: my privileged immersion in various Latino cultures and

my experience in secondary education. So my goal now is to continue that process: to take all that I learned at St. Xavier and knit it together with what I am learning and have yet to learn about the warm Puerto Rican culture and how it is lived out in Colegio San Ignacio. The students, families, faculty, staff and alumni all know that this is a special place.

After Hurricanes Irma and María and with the current economic crisis on the island, that work is more important than ever. Though I was still in Cincinnati when the hurricanes hit, I was so impressed by the resilience of the San Ignacio community. Father Flavio Bravo, SJ, the superior in Puerto Rico, and his team restarted classes—even if they had to meet in hallways or common rooms in the Jesuit residence—a mere two weeks later. And 97 percent of the students returned! So many people have reached out to help us over the past year and a half, I'm overwhelmed with gratitude. We are rebuilding, but rebuilding on the solid foundation of decades of good work by so many—Jesuits and lay—so I'm very confident about our future. May God who has begun the good work in us bring it to completion! (Phil 1.6) ✠



Fr. Tim Howe, SJ, has served as president of Colegio San Ignacio in Puerto Rico since 2018. He was previously president of St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati.

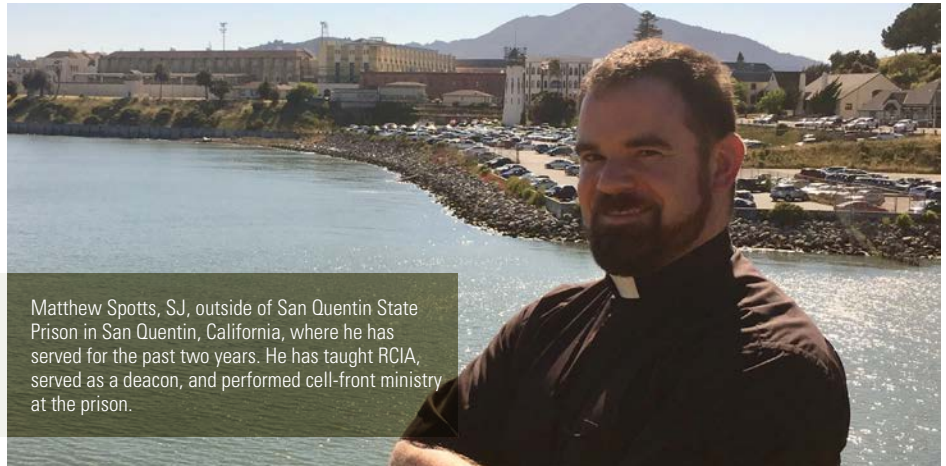


Fr. Tim Howe, SJ, speaks at an event at Colegio San Ignacio in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where he has served as president since July 2018.

Photo: Colegio San Ignacio

A Light Shines in the Darkness

By Matthew Spotts, SJ



Matthew Spotts, SJ, outside of San Quentin State Prison in San Quentin, California, where he has served for the past two years. He has taught RCIA, served as a deacon, and performed cell-front ministry at the prison.

The day before Passion Sunday in 2018, I was in charge of the Catholic communion service on California's "condemned row." I strapped on a security vest, picked up our large Mass and communion service kit, and followed my escort to East Block, which houses the largest segment of California's prisoners who have been sentenced to death. I walked back to death row's "chapel." For services, I stand in one cage and the prisoners in an adjoining cage, separated by a sturdy steel barrier.

On that particular day I was joined by only one other prisoner. The prisoners take turns coming to services, and ordinarily this group would have many more attendees at service. However, security concerns and other variables make it difficult to predict attendance at religious services, both on death row as well as with "mainline" prisoners. So, I and my congregation of one prayed together and then, ahead of the beginning of Holy Week the next day, we read the Passion together. The significance was not lost on me. Here, surrounded by people made in God's image who were imprisoned and awaiting execution, we read the story of God who became human and was also arrested, imprisoned, and taken to be executed.

As we concluded, the man was visibly moved, wiping tears from his eyes. "I'm sorry," he said. "It's just...there's no place in my life I get to be like this. And hearing the story of Jesus in the same

place was just..." A lot was left unsaid there, which is probably for the better. He and Jesus had shared something together in a way that I probably could not have even understood even if the man had been inclined to discuss it further. We waited, and when the time was right, we prayed the Our Father and he received communion through a small hole in the steel wall that separated us. God's gifts for God's people. A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

I have spent more than two years in the Catholic chaplaincy at San Quentin, alongside the Catholic chaplain, Fr. George Williams, SJ. During that time, my tasks have varied widely. I have done a lot of work with the "mainline" prisoners, who are usually prisoners serving long sentences for a variety of offenses. I have taught RCIA, served as deacon at the lively Sunday Masses, and done cell-front ministry. In the midst of all these ministries, time and again I have rediscovered the truth that was on display at the beginning of Holy Week on death row: God is already at work in extraordinary ways with the prisoners. My work usually is nothing more (but also nothing less) than cooperating with what God is already doing. We Jesuits often talk, rightly, about going to the margins, of serving those places, as Pope Benedict put it, "particularly to reach those physical and spiritual places which others do not reach or have difficulty in

reaching." However, as has so often been the case in my life as a Jesuit, when I arrived at those "hard to reach" places at San Quentin, I found God already present and at work.

In that sense, the chaplaincy at San Quentin has been the perfect school of the heart for me and for many other young Jesuits over the years. For my part, San Quentin has been a perfect place to be formed as I approach ordination to the priesthood. The prisoners with whom I work often carry tremendous pain and brokenness, both from their lives before prison as well as from the traumas experienced in the prison system. They also carry a deep hunger for Good News that can speak to that pain and have often had profound experiences of God in the midst of brokenness that have given them great spiritual resources. My "professors in blue" have allowed me onto the holy ground of their lives and experiences and in turn have taught me what it means to be a minister, a servant of God who can bring light and healing in the midst of the greatest brokenness. ✠



Matthew Spotts, SJ, is a Jesuit in formation studying theology in Berkeley, California. He will be ordained a priest in June 2019.

Assignments

In Memoriam

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



Fr. Michael Class, SJ, is the new chaplain for the Grand Traverse-area Catholic schools in Michigan. He was previously at the Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House Community in Indianapolis.



Fr. John J. Foley, SJ, will pray for the Church and Society at a senior Jesuit healthcare community. He was previously serving as a pastoral minister at Loyola University Chicago.



Pierce Gibson, SJ, has begun his regency at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago. He was previously in first studies at Fordham University in New York.



Fr. Eric Sundrup, SJ, has been appointed pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Chapel in Cincinnati. He was previously an associate editor and director of audience development at America Media in New York.

Fr. Timothy J. Shepard, SJ

January 27, 1946 to
January 25, 2019

"Tim's wry sense of humor—often accompanied by a slight smile—caught many people off guard, thus allowing his wise sayings and thoughts to be more easily accepted. He was a dedicated priest with innate pastoral sensibilities and tendencies."

English and social studies teacher and spiritual director for parents and alumni at Walsh Jesuit High School; librarian at Loyola University New Orleans; rector of the Saint Ignatius High School Jesuit Community in Cleveland; pastoral assistant, formation director, and socius for the former Detroit Province.

Fr. Francis A. Prokes, SJ

February 3, 1923 to
January 22, 2019

"Frank was a gifted Jesuit, a leader in his field. He is perhaps less well-known to many Jesuits because he worked for so many years with other religious congregations. He will, however, be remembered by the many, many people he helped over the years."

Teacher at Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota; minister at Creighton University in Omaha; associate pastor at the Church of the Gesù in Milwaukee; professor of architecture at the University of Detroit (Mercy).

Fr. Eugene F. Merz, SJ

April 19, 1931 to
January 16, 2019

"Gene's ministry touched the minds, hearts, and spirits of priests, religious, and lay women and men throughout the world with Ignatian spirituality through retreats and his writings."

Theology teacher at Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin; director of pastoral renewal for the Archdiocese of Des Moines; director of the Emmaus Center Jesuit Community; associate director of the Marquette University Center for Ignatian Spirituality; director of pastoral, retreat, and Native American ministries for the former Wisconsin Province.

Fr. John R. Crocker, SJ

April 3, 1930 to
January 8, 2019

"Jack's gracious way of engaging people allowed him to reconcile differences and develop a working solution to most problems with a school or department in a most skillful manner and even in a foreign language."

History and speech teacher at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland; assistant professor of medicine, associate professor of psychology, and director of the Speech Pathology Center at the Loyola University Chicago Medical Center; consultant for international education at the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.

Fr. Thomas H. Radloff, SJ

February 11, 1930 to
December 15, 2018

"Tom was a wonderful high school teacher who loved engaging students both inside and outside of the classroom. He preferred talking with the students and allowing them to come to their own conclusions rather than giving the 'correct' answer. He also was an excellent and well-sought student counselor, marriage counselor, and spiritual director."

Latin, religion, and English teacher, student counselor, campus minister, and president at University of Detroit Jesuit High School; retreat director at Jesuit Retreat Center in Cleveland; director of spiritual formation at the North American College in Rome; superior of the St. John's Jesuit High School Jesuit Community.

Fr. John E. Dister, SJ

March 18, 1931 to
December 12, 2018

"Some may say that Jack was irascible and gruff. Au contraire mon fraire! He had a heart of gold and loved to engage others in friendly, though committed, debate. He had a deep pastoral sense, strong commitment to social justice, and a special love for the poor."

Latin and speech teacher at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati; professor of philosophy and assistant to the president for university mission at John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio; religious studies teacher at Case Western Reserve; professor of philosophy at University of Detroit (Mercy).

Fr. Robert K. McIntosh, SJ

July 11, 1940 to
November 24, 2018

"Bob was a true missionary—always willing to go where needed and do what was necessary to help bring about the Kingdom of God! He was a very highly esteemed member of the Korean Province and will be sincerely mourned by his province."

Campus minister and professor of general education English at Sogang University in Seoul, South Korea; director of formation for the Korea Region; socius to the regional superior/provincial; superior of Arrupe Apostolic Jesuit Community in Seoul; province archivist and tertian instructor.

Fr. Matthew E. Creighton, SJ

February 8, 1927 to
November 23, 2018

"Matt was always a gracious man with a smile on his face. He had a deep love of Christ and was very serious about his faith. He loved movies and shared his love and knowledge of movies with others."

Greek and Latin teacher at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago; Greek and Latin teacher, associate dean of the graduate school, assistant vice president for development, and executive assistant chancellor at Loyola University Chicago; president of Creighton University.

Fr. John H. Kleinhenz, SJ

July 16, 1921 to
November 22, 2018

"Jack was an excellent math teacher and, after finishing his formal teaching career, continued tutoring students. He seemed to know everyone in his hometown of Cleveland."

Latin, math, and theology teacher at University of Detroit High School; math teacher and assistant principal at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland; math teacher at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis.

Fr. Philip C. Rule, SJ

February 4, 1931 to
November 14, 2018

"Phil was an excellent scholar, fine teacher, and a good community man. He loved teaching at the University of Detroit (where he taught young Jesuits) and later at Holy Cross."

English and Greek teacher at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati; literary editor of *America* magazine; English professor at the University of Detroit; English professor and professor emeritus at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Fr. Victor-Luke Odhiambo, SJ

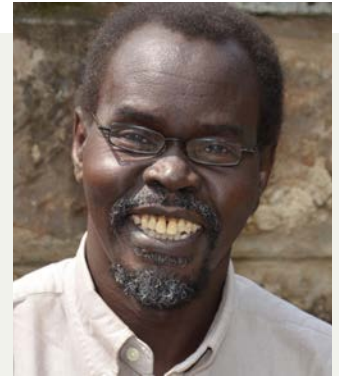
1956-2018

The Midwest Jesuits mourn the loss of Kenyan Jesuit Fr. **Victor-Luke Odhiambo**, 62, who was murdered on Nov. 15, 2018, when unknown assailants attacked the Daniel Comboni Jesuit Residence in Cueibet, South Sudan.

Father Odhiambo was known as a talented teacher and administrator and a dedicated Jesuit priest. At the time of his death, Fr. Odhiambo was the principal of Mazzolari Teachers College in Cueibet. He had worked in South Sudan for approximately 10 years.

"Father Victor-Luke Odhiambo leaves a name, not only in South Sudan as the first Jesuit to die at the service of its people, but in the whole of Eastern Africa as a teacher of thousands of students in the Starehe Boys Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, and in Loyola High School in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania," said Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus. "He was a very courageous man, intelligent, caring, creative administrator, and, above all, a believer in the value of education. He was not afraid of venturing into the unknown, even into the most dangerous of places once he was convinced it was the Lord's mission."

Father Odhiambo was born on January 20, 1956, entered the Society of Jesus on July 4, 1978, and was ordained a priest on August 22, 1987. He pronounced his final vows in the Society on May 30, 1993. He was a friend to many Jesuits in the Midwest Province through the relationship between the Midwest Jesuits and the Eastern Africa Province. May he rest in peace.



Fr. George W. Traub, SJ

January 30, 1936 to
October 27, 2018

"George was a faithful and caring friend, a compassionate listener. He cared passionately for his ministries, especially his work in mission and identity at Xavier University."

Latin, Greek, and English teacher at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois; English and theology teacher, coordinator, director, and executive director of Ignatian Programs at Xavier University; provincial assistant for formation and continuing education programs for the former Chicago Province.

Fr. Robert E. Brodzeller, SJ

June 6, 1930 to
October 24, 2018

"Bob was a pastor in any setting in which he found himself. He ministered well to people in need in both hospitals and parishes. He also ministered well to the Jesuits with whom he lived."

Ministry at Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota; French teacher at Campion High School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin; retreat director at Emmaus in Des Moines; hospital chaplain and parish priest.

What Do You Want Me to Do, Lord?

By Rita Carfagna

For several years now, Ignatian spirituality has formed the framework within which I have lived out my vocation as wife, mother, grandmother, and spiritual director.

My first encounter with the Jesuits, and the Spiritual Exercises in particular, was through my husband's and sons' alma mater, Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland. It was while our sons were there that I first made an eight-week adaptation of the Spiritual Exercises through their spirituality program for adults. In this program, parents are given a general introduction to Ignatian spirituality, including the retreat experience. This was a real spiritual awakening for me. I began to make praying with Scripture a part of my daily routine. I noticed how journaling my reflections on that prayer, and then sharing them with others in the group, deepened the experience for me. All this left me wanting more.

So, I proceeded to make the 19th Annotation (a version of the Spiritual Exercises designed for people who cannot be away for 30 days to do the Exercises as they were practiced originally) and the fruits of that year-long retreat were abundant. Probably for the first time in my life—even though I am a lifelong Catholic—I entered into a personal friendship with Jesus Christ, a friendship that continues to this day. Praying the Examen once or twice a day helped me to come to know God as imminent and actively engaged in my

life. I learned the tools of discernment and noticed how God does indeed guide me, even when I am making the smallest of decisions. I came to know myself as being continually created and loved by God who wants nothing more than my love in return. And finally, it left me with a great desire to share my experience with others.

TO ME, THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES ARE ONE OF THE GREAT GIFTS THE SOCIETY OF JESUS HAS TO OFFER THE WORLD.

I went on to receive training and spiritual direction through the Ignatian Spirituality Institute at John Carroll University. At the completion of this two-year certification program, during the closing liturgy, each of the participants is asked to share a desire they have as they look ahead. When it was my turn to speak, I found myself saying something that really surprised me: I wanted to evangelize. I wanted to help others come to know the Good News of Jesus Christ through the good news of the Spiritual Exercises.

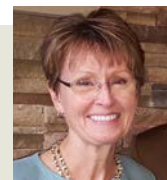
Since that time, I've had the great privilege of introducing many others to the Spiritual Exercises through programs offered at Saint Ignatius and the Jesuit Retreat Center in Cleveland. I have witnessed individuals find real joy as they learned to pray with Scripture—some for the first time—as they come to experience God's personal love for them

in a way they hadn't before. Their hearts are set on fire and they are often most eager to spread that flame by serving others, either in their home parishes or in other service opportunities. I've seen these simple retreats change lives, as in many cases their Catholic faith comes alive. Liturgies mean more as they listen to the Scripture readings differently now and as they can imagine Jesus walking among them. And even in these earliest experiences of the Exercises, they begin to practice discernment as they ask, "What do you want me to do, Lord?"

To me, the Spiritual Exercises are one of the great gifts the Society of Jesus has to offer the world. I feel so blessed to have been given this gift and to share it with others. I am also grateful that Saint Ignatius High School, the Jesuit Retreat Center, and the Ignatian Spirituality Institute will continue to be life-giving resources for me and my family along the journey. And that I am blessed to travel with so many inspiring lay colleagues also energized to the witness the presence of God in their lives. My prayer is that, together, we can continue to share this encounter with Christ with all that we meet. ✠



Rita Carfagna (left) learned about Ignatian spirituality through her husband Peter's (right), and their sons' alma mater, Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland. She now spends time introducing the Spiritual Exercises to others.



Rita Carfagna shares the Spiritual Exercises with others in the Cleveland area through the Ignatian Spirituality Collaborative and programs offered through Saint Ignatius High School.

Who are the Midwest Jesuits?

Founded by St. Ignatius in 1540, the Jesuits are the world's largest religious order of priests and brothers. The more than 500 Midwest Jesuits, led by our provincial, Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ, serve in the U.S. in more than 66 ministries throughout 12 states, from the Great Lakes to the Great Plains.

These ministries include

elementary, middle and high schools, universities, the first Jesuit community college, a publishing house, parishes, retreat centers, social justice ministries, Native American missions, a novitiate, two healthcare communities, a first studies program for Jesuit brothers and Jesuits studying for the priesthood, and partnerships with Jesuit

provinces around the world.

Each of these ministries serves different people and different purposes. They are all united by the Jesuit mission of forming women and men for others; finding God in all things; *cura personalis*, or care for the whole person; and directing all of our efforts toward the greater glory of God.

The Midwest Jesuits are pleased to welcome **Kristine "Kris" Mackey**, who serves as vice president for advancement and communications & provincial assistant.

Having served in numerous leadership roles, including vice president at Charles River Associates, COO of Chicago Partners, and associate dean of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, she brings to the role advanced experience in business development, management, and operations. Mackey is known for building organizational cultures and achieving strategic growth goals through a collaborative and servant-leader mindset in a variety of settings.

With an avocational life committed to the education of young people in underserved communities, "Kris is uniquely prepared to share the good news of our mission today and help us to elicit the financial support which will allow us to thrive in the future," said Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ, provincial of the Midwest Jesuits.



The Midwest Jesuits are pleased to announce **Diane "Dede" Crowley** as the new regional advancement director for the Omaha region.

Dede has been involved with the Jesuits almost her entire career, first for more than 25 years in various positions at Creighton University and most recently as principal gifts officer for Creighton Preparatory School.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to further engage those in the Omaha area with the many great works of the Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus and to broaden and deepen the support for the Jesuits going forward," she said.



JESUITS
USA MIDWEST PROVINCE

Fr. Brian G. Paulson, SJ

PROVINCIAL

Kristine Mackey

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT AND
COMMUNICATIONS & PROVINCIAL ASSISTANT

Quentin Maguire

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Ben Gartland

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Kurt Metzler

DESIGNER

USA MIDWEST PROVINCE

1010 N. Hooker St., Chicago, IL 60642
(800) 537-3736

Regional Advancement Directors

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dcrowley@jesuits.org | (402) 298-2592

Nora Dabrowski (Detroit/Cleveland)

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Dan O'Brien (Milwaukee)

dobrien@jesuits.org | (773) 975-5755

SPECIAL THANKS

Fr. Glen Chun, SJ; Nora Dabrowski;
Ann Greene; Nancy Hrdlicka; Amy Korpi;
Dave McNulty; Br. John Moriconi, SJ;
Dan O'Brien; Fr. Michael Rossmann, SJ;
John Sealey; Becky Sindelar

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW.JESUITSMIDWEST.ORG

MEET THE 2019 ORDINANDS



Bryan Norton, SJ



Gregory Ostdiek, SJ



James Sand, SJ



Matthew Spotts, SJ

Midwest Jesuits Ordination

June 8, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53233

You are Invited to Visit the New Senior Jesuit Healthcare Community

We invite you to join us for an open house at the St. Camillus senior Jesuit health care community as we say thank you to our generous friends and benefactors who have made phase one of the ***With Others. For Others.*** campaign possible. Naming opportunities are still available.

Sunday, June 2, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.

St. Camillus Jesuit Community

10201 W. Wisconsin Ave. Wauwatosa, WI 53226

RSVP online at JesuitsMidwest.org/OpenHouse2019
or call **800-537-3736**



**WITH OTHERS.
FOR OTHERS.**

