



JESUITS

USA MIDWEST PROVINCE | SUMMER 2019

Ordination 2019

Meet the Four New
Midwest Jesuit Priests

Also in This Issue:

- Jesuit Jubilarians Reflect on 50 Years in the Society
- Celebrating Nearly a Century of the Special Connection Between Hawaii and Creighton University
- Finding Innovative Ways to Contemplate Our Relationship with God



Dear Friends,

As you might recall, in my letter introducing the Spring 2019 magazine, I briefly highlighted the four “Universal Apostolic Preferences” (UAPs) designed to guide the Jesuits over the next 10 years and beyond.

Announced by Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, and approved by Pope Francis, the UAPs are:

- Universal, because they’re designed to guide all Jesuits worldwide in common mission, and because all Jesuits were invited to take part in developing them.
- Apostolic, because the overarching goal of our educational and pastoral institutions—indeed, of every ministry and all our work—is to further the faith-spreading activity of the Church that flows out of the first apostles.
- Preferences, because they are not ministries or directives, per se. They are guides to orient our actions toward four areas that are vital for our world today.

You’ll find a bit more information about the UAPs on page 2 of this magazine, or visit JesuitsMidwest.org/UAPs2019 for complete details.

Throughout this issue you’ll find stories about the many ways we, our institutions, and our lay collaborators are living out the UAPs already. Here are a few examples.

- Hannah Coley discerned her path in life through interactions with Jesuits like Fr. Steve Mitten, SJ, and today walks with young people herself (page 19).
- While you might not think of people from Hawaii as “outcasts,” there were times when people of Asian descent from the islands were excluded from some universities on the mainland. Creighton University welcomed them and helped them create a hope-filled future (page 16).
- Father Tom Kennealy, SJ, has long been helping young people find their way to God (page 9).
- Father Joseph Mulligan, SJ, offers us a thought-provoking reflection about walking in solidarity with the poor (page 20).

As in every summer issue, you’ll find insights from our ordinands and jubilarians—Jesuits who will continue to use their energies and gifts to share and embody the Gospel, as informed and guided by the UAPs.

Ultimately, the Universal Apostolic Preferences are a way to help us prioritize. Like every individual, family, and organization, we must determine how to use our limited resources wisely and well. The UAPs provide reference points to focus those resources.

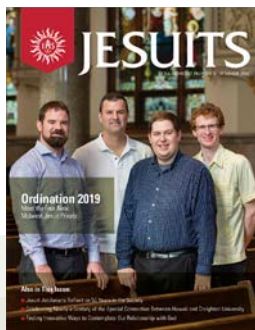
With your help, we can do even more—some might say the *magis*—For the Greater Glory of God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Brian G. Paulson, SJ
Provincial, USA Midwest Province

Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ (standing, right), conferred a blessing on Fr. James Sand, SJ, and the other ordinands at the Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee on June 8, 2019.





ON THE COVER

(From left) Jesuit Frs. Matthew Spotts, Greg Ostdiek, James Sand, and Bryan Norton were ordained priests on June 8, 2019, at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee.

Photo: Steve Donisch

Jubilarians



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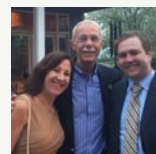
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Ordination 2019

Four men celebrate their ordination to the priesthood after over a decade of formation. Now, as Jesuit priests, they will serve the Catholic Church and all God's people who are in need of his care and mercy.



Page 14

The Gift of Time

Father John Schlegel, SJ (1943–2015), changed countless lives and institutions in significant ways by providing his compassion, mentorship, and time—the most valuable of all gifts.



Page 16

Calabash Cousins

The aloha spirit thrives at Creighton University, which has had a special connection with Hawaii for almost 100 years.



Page 20

Option for the Poor

Father Joseph Mulligan, SJ, who works with small grassroots communities in Nicaragua, stresses the importance of solidarity with the poor and oppressed.

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Inaugural Class of Arrupe College Receive Four-Year Degrees



Brandon Williams graduates with his bachelor's degree from Loyola University Chicago.

In May, Arrupe College of Loyola University Chicago celebrated the success of its first graduating class completing their bachelor's degrees at universities and colleges across the nation. Launched in 2015, Arrupe College is a two-year associate's degree program that provides a rigorous liberal arts education to motivated students with limited financial resources with an interest in attending a four-year institution.

This spring, 47 percent of Arrupe's first class of graduates earned their bachelor's degree in four years—two years after they received their associate's at the inaugural commencement and two years ahead of the national average. By the end of the calendar year, 84 percent of Arrupe's first graduating class will have bachelor's degrees.

Alumni received their bachelor's degrees from a variety of institutions this spring, including the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Regis University, DePaul University, Columbia College Chicago, and Dominican University.

"I am in awe of what our students have accomplished and am so proud to see them participating in graduations around the country wearing our Arrupe College stoles. We are blessed to already have a network of alumni who are setting an inspiring pace for our current students," said Fr. Stephen Katsouras, SJ, dean and executive director of Arrupe College.

Read the full article online at JesuitsMidwest.org/ArrupeGrads19

Christ the King Graduate Mya Peters Receives Fulbright Grant



Mya Peters at Christ the King's 2019 King of Hearts Gala

Chicago resident and Christ the King Jesuit College Prep alumna Mya Peters was recently awarded a prestigious Fulbright Grant by the U.S. Department of State, as part of the English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program. This program places Fulbrighters in classrooms abroad to provide assistance to local teachers. ETAs teach English as a second language while serving as cultural ambassadors for the United States.

After undergoing a rigorous and selective six-month application process, Peters was selected to teach in Thailand starting this fall, as part of a 12-month assignment. She will be part of an ETA cohort of 15 there.

Peters, the first in her family to attend college, graduated from Trinity College in 2018 with her bachelor's in psychology. While at Trinity, Peters spent her junior year studying abroad: in Argentina her fall semester and in India, South Africa, and Brazil during the spring. Those experiences helped trigger her interest in living and working in a foreign country and applying for the Fulbright Grant.

"I am excited for the opportunity to teach, coach, and empower people from other backgrounds. I believe the ETA experience in Thailand will help prepare me for an eventual career in international consulting, with an emphasis on inclusion and diversity in the workplace," said Peters.

Learn more about Mya's story at JesuitsMidwest.org/MyaFulbright19

Society of Jesus Announces New Apostolic Preferences



Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus

After nearly two years of discernment by Jesuits all over the world and receiving approval and confirmation from Pope Francis, Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, announced this February that the Society has chosen four new "Universal Apostolic Preferences" (UAPs) to guide the lives, missions, and ministries of Jesuits over the next decade. The worldwide discernment process leading to the update focused on three main questions: "Where do we hear the call of Jesus today as He carries His cross in the world?", "What is the Church asking of us?", and "Where are we most needed?"

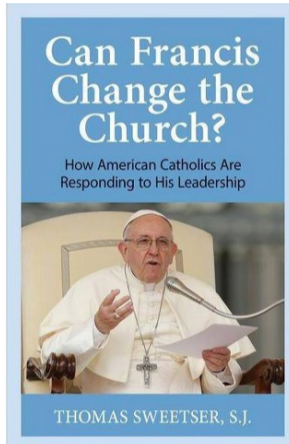
The UAPs are titled as such because they are not simply "goals," but rather preferences for discernment. When deciding between good options, all other things being equal, we should "prefer" to do to one thing over another. Aiming to address four areas that are vital in our world today, the preferences are: promoting discernment and the Spiritual Exercises; walking with the excluded; caring for our common home; and journeying with youth.

The Society is committing to engaging in reflection and studying these issues, which will allow Jesuits to strengthen their identity as a part of a Church that is called to go beyond itself. Moreover, every Jesuit and Jesuit community must determine how to apply these themes in practical and concrete ways across their areas of work.

Learn more about the UAPs at JesuitsMidwest.org/UAPs2019

New Book on Catholics' Response to Pope Francis' Leadership

In his new book, *Can Francis Change the Church?: How American Catholics Are Responding to His Leadership*, Fr. Thomas P. Sweetser, SJ, details how he spent seven years interviewing Catholics of all ages across the country—both practicing and non-practicing—about their relationship with the Church, talking to the same people before and after Pope Francis was elected. Touching on various hot button issues, Fr. Sweetser's before and after interviews provide insight into how attitudes have evolved with the new papacy, offering new perspectives on how the laity is experiencing the Catholic Church at this moment in time and their desire for authentic spirituality.



Father Sweetser is the founder and current director of the Parish Evaluation Project. He has taught at the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University Chicago, the University of Dayton in Ohio, Boston College, University of Seattle, Retreats International, and Loyola University New Orleans. He is the author of numerous books, and his articles have appeared in *America*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *Commonweal*, *Chicago Studies*, *Today's Parish*, *Human Development*, *Review of Ignatian Spirituality*, and *Church*.

For more information on how to purchase this book, visit JesuitsMidwest.org/SweetserBook19.



Bernadette Therese Gillick

Hometown: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Schools Attended: Marquette University, Chicago Medical School, University of Minnesota
Profession: Neuroscientist, Physical Therapist

How did you get involved with the Jesuits?

My father was in the Jesuits, and my uncle is a Jesuit. I grew up surrounded by the Ignatian spirit, thinking that everyone had Jesuits visiting their home and sharing meals on a near-weekly basis! And when I found out I couldn't go to Marquette University High School because I was a girl (hrrumph!), I made sure I went to Marquette University as had my parents, my grandparents, and many generations before.

How has a specific Jesuit impacted your life?

My uncle, Fr. Larry Gillick, SJ, taught me something when I was very young that has remained with me throughout my life. I had a few bumps along the way growing up into adulthood, and he would say that "When one door closes, another opens. You just have to be willing to acknowledge that opportunity, and that can be the hardest part." After sharing his "List of 100 Books a Young Irish Girl Should Read"(!), he taught me about St. Ignatius of Loyola and how to

honor the "instrument" that I am and the manner in which I care for the gifts I have been given as a means to give to others. As a young girl I often thought "Who can work that hard, to think that much, about simply being?" Turns out that his lessons became a large part of my journey growing up and are still with me. I have been fortunate to have such a Jesuit/teacher/uncle/friend in my life through times of both challenge and celebration.

How do you bring Jesuit values into the workplace?

The Magis philosophy of incorporating "finding God in all things" has been a guiding Jesuit value for me, and I have prayed for the grace and humility to recognize that it may very well be that someone else may need to look hard at me, during challenging times, to find God as well. Additionally, as faculty at the University of Minnesota now, I've had the honor of being the graduation speaker, and I included an inspirational Ignatian quote: "Go forth and set the world on fire." Now heading into my sixth decade of life I maintain that there is no age limit on what we do if we set out to do it, just get out and do it and let Christ be your light!

Read the full interview with Bernadette at JesuitsMidwest.org/Gillick2019

Ordination 2019

Celebrating the Four New Midwest Jesuit Priests

Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

— 1 Peter 2:5

Four Midwest Jesuits were ordained priests at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee on June 8, 2019.
(Left to right) Jesuit Frs. Timothy Lannon, Provincial Assistant for Formation; Brian Paulson, Provincial of the Midwest Province; Bryan Norton; James Sand; Matthew Spotts; and Gregory Ostdiek and Most Rev. Robert Gruss, Bishop of Rapid City, South Dakota.

Fr. Bryan Y. Norton, SJ

- **Born:** February 1, 1984
- **Entered Society:** August 23, 2008
- **As a Jesuit:** Fr. Norton has taught classical languages and literature at Xavier University in Cincinnati and served as a deacon at St. Ignatius Church in Paris and at St. Peter's Church in Saint-Denis, France.
- **Assignment Following Ordination:** Centre Sèvres in Paris to complete a Licentiate in Sacred Theology.

How can I repay the LORD for all the good that he has done for me (Ps. 116:12)? That is a great question! Indeed, it's one that resonates deeply in my heart as I look back on 11 years of Jesuit formation—and as I look forward to the great adventure of love and service that lies ahead as a priest of Jesus Christ. Truth be told, this adventure began long ago: in my mother's womb and in my family's arms, which have always nurtured me with such tender devotion. I am forever grateful for their love and friendship. Along the way, countless others have tended this vine, caring for me as one of their own: at St. Basil's, my home parish in Brecksville, Ohio; at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland; at Williams College in Massachusetts; and throughout my years of Jesuit formation—in Detroit, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Paris.

These years of formation would not be possible without the spiritual and financial support of so many. To all of our partners in mission—fearless “prayer warriors” and generous province benefactors—thank you for your confidence, encouragement, and commitment. Finally, I turn to my brother Jesuits, who have walked so closely with me on this path of discipleship. To beloved provincials and formation assistants, superiors and community members, wisdom figures and boon companions: you have formed me into the Jesuit I am today. Your example will always inspire my priestly ministry.

Yes, how in the world can I repay the LORD for all the good that he has done for me (Ps. 116:12)? Like so many Jesuits before me, I will now lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD (Ps. 116:13). As I do so, I will remember you in my heart: with great gratitude for your support and in humble prayer for your intentions. May the Lord Jesus, Shepherd and Guardian of our souls (1 Pt 2:25), bless and keep you all in his love. Amen. Alleluia!



Fr. Bryan Y. Norton, SJ, with his mother, Barbara A. Norton



Fr. Gregory J. Ostdiek, SJ

■ **Born:** July 19, 1969

■ **Entered Society:** August 29, 2009

■ **As a Jesuit:** Fr. Ostdiek taught high school physics at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill., and has been a transitional deacon at St. Peter's Parish in Cambridge, Mass.

■ **Assignment Following Ordination:** Harvard University Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Mass. to complete a master's degree in educational administration.

As I reflect upon my ordination to the priesthood and on the past ten years of my Jesuit formation, I am grateful to God for the gift of my vocation; grateful to my family for supporting me in this vocation choice; grateful to my friends, especially the ones I have made while a Jesuit, for sustaining me during my vocation training; and grateful to the benefactors of the Society of Jesus for making all of my formation financially possible. As I look forward to starting this new phase of my life as a priest, I thank everyone with whom I have served in ministry for the example that they have given to me of their own faith and vocation, and I look forward to contributing to the work that they have already begun.



Fr. Gregory Ostdiek, SJ, celebrated his ordination surrounded by family and friends.

Fr. James R. Sand, SJ

■ **Born:** November 21, 1984

■ **Entered Society:** August 23, 2008

■ **As a Jesuit:** Fr. Sand has worked as a chaplain at St. Barnabas Hospital in New York City, taught Latin and history at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy, and played the role of a support person for a community of Jesuit Volunteers in Canada.

■ **Assignment Following Ordination:** Fr. Sand will teach religion at St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo, Ohio.

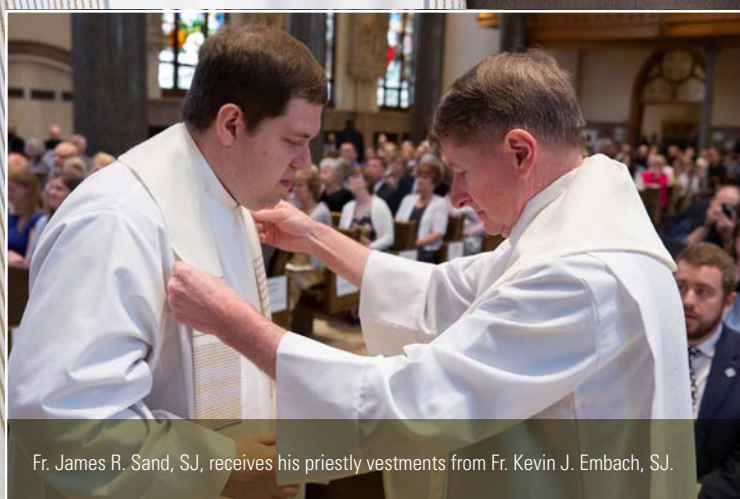
On the occasion of my first vows in the Society of Jesus, I was called upon to express gratitude to my family, friends, and other benefactors. This task came easily, for it was apparent to me even then that life in the Society is impossible without the love, prayers, and support of others. Yet, I also asked the people assembled that day to continue to pray for me, for first vows were only the beginning of a long journey. Again, I am asked to express my gratitude, this time on the occasion of my ordination to the priesthood. Thank you all so very much for your prayers and support these past few years.

I now ask again for your continued prayers and support, for the ordination to the priesthood is perhaps only the end of the beginning. The years ahead will hopefully be full of joys and pains, triumphs and defeats—as a life richly led always is—and in the end that will be too much for me alone. Your prayers and support will be needed as much tomorrow as they were yesterday.

Any thought of the many-faceted gifts of life, friends, and family reminds me to give thanks to God, our heavenly Father, for all the gifts he has already given and those he will give to me in the future. My whole life is simply a returning to him, and it is a joy to know that in that great return he has called upon me to perform some particular service to his greater glory as a priest in conformity with his beloved Son.



Fr. James R. Sand, SJ, with his mother, Sally Sand



Fr. James R. Sand, SJ, receives his priestly vestments from Fr. Kevin J. Embach, SJ.

Fr. Matthew C. Spotts, SJ

- **Born:** September 19, 1985
- **Entered Society:** August 23, 2008
- **As a Jesuit:** Fr. Spotts has taught history, theology, and philosophy classes at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis, ministered at San Quentin State Prison, and served as a deacon at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Oakland, Calif.
- **Assignment Following Ordination:** Administration and pastoral ministry at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill.

While my vocation is first and last God's gift to me, God's grace was mediated to me through many people along the line. After thanks to God, my first thanks go to my family. My parents have been models of how to grow and live a Christian life for as long as I can remember and gave me the gift of raising me in the faith. My siblings are, at once, my greatest supporters, friends, and role models, as my siblings-in-law have become as well. Grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins are all part of a bigger family that raised me. God also has given me the immeasurable treasure of friends who have become like family, who have been there over the years. Words cannot suffice to express my gratitude for these people.

Many other people participated in forming me. My thanks go to those who formed me in Catholic parish life and schools at St. Andrew-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Milford, Ohio. Both the Jesuits and the lay faculty and staff at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati introduced me to Ignatian spirituality, without which I doubt I would be here today. The Jesuits and others at Fordham University fanned those spiritual gifts into flame. From the novitiate to these last years in theology, too many Jesuits to name have formed me, but I hold all of them in deep gratitude.

Last, but not least, I am aware that my call to serve as a priest also comes from God's people. God's people have been the most important teachers of what it means for me to be a priest. Among the many stops I've made in formation (and the people who have changed my life along the way), I'd like to single out my students and colleagues from Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis, the people of Our Lady of Lourdes in Oakland, Calif., and my "professors in blue" at San Quentin State Prison in California. Thank you for teaching me how to be a priest for you.



Fr. Matthew C. Spotts, SJ, and family.



Journeying with Youth

By Amy Korpi, Staff Writer

In February, Pope Francis approved four “Universal Apostolic Preferences” to guide the life and work of the Society of Jesus over the next 10 years.

One of these, “journeying with youth,” calls on Jesuits and their institutions to walk with young people, listen to them, encourage them in their faith development, and to be open to their creativity.

According to Noah Schrader, Xavier University class of 2021, anyone seeking guidance in this area need look no further than Fr. Tom Kennealy, SJ.

Father Kennealy, who recently celebrated 70 years as a Jesuit, has spent the last 50 years accompanying Xavier students on their journeys through college life—as a professor of French and linguistics, as associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and as university archivist.

He’s also served as faculty advisor for a student group called Life After Sunday (LAS).

LIVING A TRULY AUTHENTIC CATHOLIC LIFE

In 2005, some Xavier undergrads founded the LAS club to provide students with a practical means for integrating their faith into everyday life by praying the Rosary, studying the Bible, and more. The founders called it Life After Sunday to reflect the belief that living a truly authentic Catholic life goes far beyond just going to Mass once a week.

Today the club—of which Schrader is

the 2019-20 president—has more than 100 registered members, and about 20 students regularly attend bi-weekly meetings.

“Father Kennealy has been a constant amid the continuous cycle of students who have participated in LAS during their four years at Xavier,” says Mallory Smarto, class of 2016 and former LAS president. “A caring, available, and humble person, he has maintained the club’s vision and overall direction. He is such a gift!”

“In addition to doing all he can to ensure the club thrives, he offers the invaluable service of helping us as individuals to develop our faith through his teaching and mentorship,” adds Schrader.

Father Kennealy responds, “The students who put this club together did me a favor. Over the years, they’ve inspired me and enriched my life by their deep faith.”

Students and alumni celebrated that connection at an LAS reunion honoring Fr. Kennealy in May. Recalling the event—and the many years preceding it—he says, “My prevailing feeling is one of great gratitude to the students, to God for my vocation, to the Society for all the graces I’ve experienced throughout my years as a Jesuit. I’ve been very blessed.”

CREATING INTER-GENERATIONAL CONTINUITY IN THE SOCIETY

Father Kennealy has also accompanied youth on the road to a Jesuit vocation.

For example, he recently participated in the ordination to the diaconate of Julio Minsal-Ruiz, SJ, of the Antilles Province, one of the first members of LAS and “a good friend.”

Another friend, Fr. Bryan Norton, SJ, declares, “Fr. Kennealy is one of my Jesuit heroes. I saw in him the joy and peace of Jesuit life, and it influenced me greatly. For me, he is at once a father and a brother, a friend, and a companion in Christ. His priestly vocation has inspired mine in countless ways.”

Such relationships are vital for the future of the Society, says Fr. Kennealy: “If our work is to go on, it is the younger people who will do it. We need to pass the torch—trusting in the generations that come after us to continue the spirit, ideals, goals, and means to achieve them. In turn, our interactions with younger people are energizing. It is one thing to age; we have no choice in that. But getting old is something else. Our involvement with younger people can help us remain youthful for a lifetime.”

In the spirit of remaining youthful, Fr. Kennealy is going to continue working. In all his time at Xavier, he hasn’t taken a sabbatical. So, for the next six months, he plans to work at Xavier on a biography of Fr. Francis Finn, SJ—“one of the great American Jesuits and everything a holy, committed Jesuit should be.”

There are many people who would say to Fr. Kennealy that it takes one to know one. ✠



Thomas O'Donnell, SJ, (in white) felt a calling to the priesthood after reading *Confessions* by St. Augustine.

A Seed of Faith

Grown into a Vocation

By Thomas O'Donnell IV, SJ

While at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, I embraced many of the freedoms college offers, but I failed to develop my spiritual life in any way beyond an occasional prayer to God for a date to go well or for an A on an exam. After graduating, I moved to Chicago to work for a financial firm. I was achieving my goals, yet I felt deeply unfulfilled by life. I found myself asking, “How can I claim to believe in Jesus Christ if I don’t really even have a relationship with him?”

I continued to work during the week and party with friends on weekends, but in my free time, I would read anything I could in the hope of freeing myself from this question. Eventually, I came across *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis, and it opened the door to a new world in which to explore my faith.

Soon my head was filled with tough questions about spirituality, and I realized that answers would come not just from reading books, but from a lifestyle change. I started to pray on my own, began to attend daily Mass, and started noticing the ways I was turning toward God and turning away from God in my actions.

The idea of priesthood popped into my head, and, at first, I was horrified. I had always assumed that I would eventually get married and have a family. Suddenly my desire to know Christ had snowballed into potentially destroying the future I had envisioned. On a deeper level, I felt unworthy of God’s call. I thought, “God could not be calling me to become a priest...that’s a life for people who are truly spiritual.”

Despite my reservations, I began exploring the idea of priesthood. In my discernment, I also felt called to be an ally to those without as much privilege as I had in my life. I found an immense sense of peace when I learned about the Society of Jesus, which offered a synthesis of these two vocations.

But I needed a final push. One day, I was at a library in Chicago when a bright blue book with nothing written on the binding caught my eye. I felt compelled to open it and found it was *Confessions* by St. Augustine. Reading it, I was blown away by the similarities between Augustine’s path to God and my own. He too made countless mistakes and needed constant nudging from God! He also felt “unworthy,” and yet was called by God to

become a doctor of the Church! As I read his story, I felt I could no longer resist moving forward in my discernment of religious life.

I entered the Jesuit novitiate in August 2014. Since then, I have met so many people and have had so many experiences to further my sense of worthiness before God. Indeed, I have come to trust that God has called me to live as a Jesuit. I’ve been blessed to live alongside the homeless on the streets of Camden, New Jersey, provide spiritual guidance for adolescents in detention, collaborate with gang-involved youth to process trauma, and work as a student therapist in a mental health clinic.

I’ve had a wonderful journey as a Jesuit so far, and I trust God, who began this vocation journey in me, will continue to carry it forward. ✠



Thomas O'Donnell IV, SJ, is a Jesuit in formation who recently attained a Master of Arts in social work at the University of Chicago. In the coming months, he will begin his next assignment as a social worker at Arrupe College of Loyola University Chicago.

Finding Innovative Ways

to Contemplate Our Relationship with God

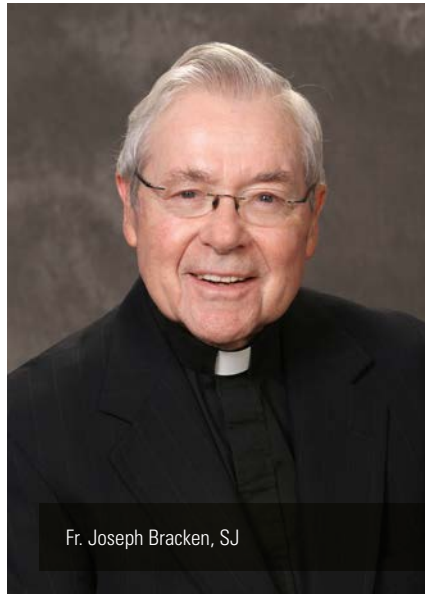
By Amy Korpi, Staff Writer

Ask someone who has benefited from a Jesuit education or ministry about the Society of Jesus' contribution to the world, and you'll often hear answers like "Jesuits form men and women for others," "they help people discern God's presence in their lives," and "they serve God by caring for and seeking justice for people on the margins."

But we don't always give thought to how the Jesuits themselves benefit from being in the Society. We think of them as servants rather than people who are served. However, as Fr. Joseph "Joe" Bracken, SJ, contends, "Being a Jesuit has been such a blessing in my life. It has allowed me to pursue an occupation that isn't immediately profitable, but one which I believe has value through advancing knowledge as well as faith."

When he refers to his occupation's lack of profitability, Fr. Bracken is not talking about the 50-plus years he taught philosophical theology at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary (Illinois), Marquette University, and Xavier University; the positions he's held as the Beckman Family Chair in Roman Catholic Theology, director of the Brueggeman Center for Interreligious Dialogue, and rector at Xavier; or his semesters as a visiting professor and scholar at Claremont School of Theology (California), Hekima College (Nairobi), Milltown Institute of Theology and Philosophy (Dublin), and Sophia University (Tokyo).

But rather, Fr. Bracken is referencing his opportunity to study and ponder some of the most perplexing questions of the ages, and then share his reflections through 11 books, 150-plus articles, and presentations at numerous conferences.



Fr. Joseph Bracken, SJ

"Teaching and celebrating Mass have certainly been a wonderful part of my life as a Jesuit," he explains. "But I think my avocation, my principal gift, has been my ability to engage in speculative thought and academic scholarship."

SPIRITUALITY FOR A CHANGING WORLD

Fr. Bracken's scholarship has sought to integrate the sometimes conflicting views of traditional Christian doctrines and the modern scientific world through a system of thought called process theology.

"Process theology advances the idea that we and our world are continuously changing, and that God is involved with humans and other creatures in an ongoing, evolving relationship and is even affected by it," he explains.

Along these lines, Fr. Bracken's latest book, *Church as Dynamic Life-System*, explores how the Church is not just

an institution; it is a living, changing organism that, throughout history, has been continuously created by the actions and relationships of the people within it. "That's why, as Pope Francis tells us, it takes the involvement of all the faithful to make up the Church," Fr. Bracken says. "This view invites human response in prayer, worship, study, sacrifice of self-interest for the higher good, and the pursuit of truth and social justice."

Today, Fr. Bracken continues his scholarship at St. Camillus Jesuit Community outside Milwaukee. He is grateful to those who support the Jesuits not only for the many years he was able to do his "not-immediately-profitable" work, but to be able to continue doing it in "such high-quality accommodations."

As far as aging well, this 89-year-old's advice is to have a reason to get up in the morning.

"When you go from full-time work to modest part-time activity, it's important to keep busy. For me, I sit behind the computer and think great thoughts until at least lunchtime," he says with a laugh. "But seriously, we need to stay intellectually alive even as our bodies inevitably slow down. If we're lucky, we can overcome the temptation to say, 'what's the difference anymore,' and make our days worthwhile."

"According to the process system of thought, we can't say we've reached this or that static point at any time," he adds. "We are always changing, ideally for the good, no matter what the calendar says." ✠

Read more about Fr. Bracken's scholarship and find some thought-provoking spiritual insights from his work at JesuitsMidwest.org/FrBracken2019.

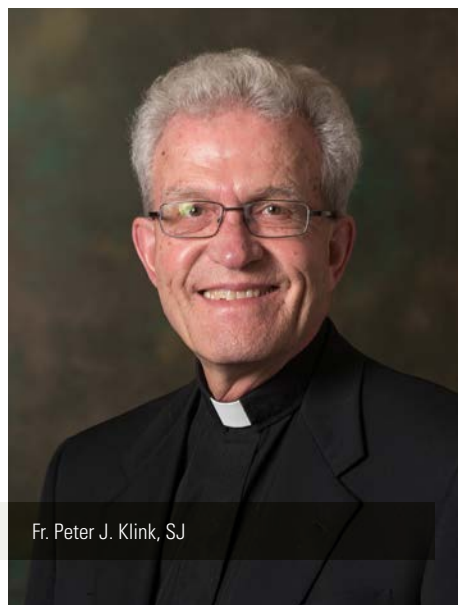


Celebrating 60 years in the Society of Jesus with Provincial Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ, (center), are Jesuits (left to right) Br. Michael R. Wilmot and Frs. James E. Hug, Gregory I. Carlson, Patrick M. Casey, Karl J. Voelker, Bernard J. Owens, Ronald Bieganowski, and Kevin F. Kersten.

Honoring the 2019 Jubilarians

Reflections on 50 Years in the Society

Gratitude



Fr. Peter J. Klink, SJ

“The first point is to give thanks to God our Lord for the benefits I have received” are the words of the first point of St. Ignatius of Loyola in the *Method of Making the General Examination of Conscience* in The Spiritual Exercises.

In my life and vocation, I have increasingly come to believe that gratitude is my most basic and most critical posture in faith. All is a gift! Gratitude invites me to acknowledge and recognize that fact. Flowing from a regular prayerful surveying of my life and my experience in our communal vocation, I look for the ways God has blessed me and invited me—sometimes in life’s challenges and struggles as well.

This giving “thanks to God our Lord” invites me to recognize the different

ways in which the always faithful love of God has blessed me and is there for me. That faithful and loving presence of God in our companionship and in our ministry invites me to ever-greater trust. It really opens the door to the availability in obedience that we Jesuits hope to always live. Due to his faithfulness, God will be there!

God invites me in the Society to walk in the footsteps of his Son, to know the companionship of Jesus in our brotherhood, and therefore to trust in this graced, blessed, and loving companionship. Gratitude heightens my awareness of a blessed and faithful companionship that allows us to live the YES that brings us the promise of eternal life!

Companions of the Lord



Fr. Gerald J. Sabo, SJ

As I reflect on my 50 years as a Jesuit, I feel greatly blessed and thankful to be in a society of companions of the Lord, very much *socii Iesu* as St. Ignatius of Loyola wanted. While many brother Jesuits have affected my life, some have had a special impact on who I have become and, I hope, continue to become.

In my first year of novitiate, Tom O'Malley, then of Boston College, gave the New England novices a retreat in which he greatly expanded my appreciation of the Lucan narrative of the disciples on the road to Emmaus that I loved so much it would be the Gospel for my first public Mass as a priest. And when I came to John Carroll University (JCU) where Tom was president, he provided support for me as the youngest Jesuit in that community who was also not a member of the Detroit Province.

As JCU community rector, Ed Miller

was the model of a great human being whose Jesuit fraternal sensitivity and commitment made a lasting impression on me. He was to me truly a brother companion of the Lord.

Casey Bukala, now at Colombiere, welcomed me to John Carroll and taught me so much as a young priest. From my first confession with him until the time he went to Colombiere, I deepened my priestly understanding of sacramental reconciliation that has affected my own pastoral approach to this sacrament. For some 26 years, he and I celebrated a Sunday morning student Mass where we shared preaching and grew as celebrants.

The Spiritual Exercises and Jesuit spirituality have certainly shaped my life, but also the above Jesuits, without whose presence in my life I would be a poorer companion of the Lord.



A Jubilarian Mass at the Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee on June 7, 2019, honored 56 Jesuits who are celebrating anniversaries within the Society of Jesus.





Fr. John Schlegel, SJ, on Creighton University's campus, where he taught political science and served as academic vice president. Fr. Schlegel went on to be president of the university for 11 years.

Inset: Fr. Schlegel with Bill Kunkel



A Life-changing Mentor

and a Loyal Friend: Fr. John Schlegel, SJ

By Grace Rice, Assistant Director of Communications

Because Jesuits take a vow of poverty, the gifts they give others are not often material. Father John Schlegel, SJ, gave out a token here and there, like the statue of St. Ignatius he gave his former student and lifelong friend Bill Kunkel. While the statue is meaningful to Kunkel, Fr. Schlegel's greatest gift to him—and many others—was his time, mentorship, and companionship.

Kunkel was an undergraduate at Creighton University when he first met Fr. Schlegel after enrolling in one of Fr. Schlegel's political science classes as a pre-law student. When Kunkel realized being engaged was key to success in the

class, he and Fr. Schlegel began to form a bond, one that would transform from mentor and mentee into a lifetime of friendship. The statue Fr. Schlegel gave him remains a source of inspiration, but the gift of Fr. Schlegel's time had an even greater impact on Kunkel's life.

"John just pushed me at a time when I was probably reluctant to be pushed," says Kunkel. "Or maybe I thought I had all the answers and didn't need to be pushed. I think that's what good mentors do." Kunkel went on to attend Harvard Law School (crediting Fr. Schlegel as one of the reasons he went there) and today serves as General Counsel for the

Archdiocese of Chicago.

Kunkel is just one of many students whose lives' trajectories were shaped by Fr. Schlegel during his tenure in higher education. Another mentee-turned-friend, Steve Bruckner, also credits Fr. Schlegel as a reason he went to law school at Georgetown University. Bruckner and many other students came to know Fr. Schlegel as "Padre."

Richard Doyle's parents had intended for him to go to medical school when he came to Creighton. He ended up meeting Fr. Schlegel, as the two happened to live in the same residence hall. Doyle says, "Padre helped those of us who simply

needed direction.” Seeing that Doyle wasn’t excelling in his science classes, Fr. Schlegel suggested he take some of his political science classes to broaden his education. After seeing him struggle in a physical chemistry class, Fr. Schlegel decided to call Doyle’s father. They discussed Doyle’s future and decided medical school was unlikely. After the call, Fr. Schlegel came to Doyle’s room and told him he would be starting law school the following Monday. In a single moment, Fr. Schlegel had entirely pivoted Doyle’s plans to go to medical school to a future in law. “His role in my life was unique and irreplaceable,” Doyle says.

Peter Longo, a professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and editor for Great Plains Research, also found Fr. Schlegel’s mentorship instrumental. With Fr. Schlegel’s guidance, Longo chose to pursue political science instead of medicine, which had been the expectation for him in a family of doctors and nurses. Longo says, “After a few conversations with Father, I was on a path of study that fit my spirit and intellect. His love, confidence, and strategic directives saved me in 1977 and still guide me today.”

Such stories abound from over the course of Fr. Schlegel’s many years in Jesuit higher education (as teacher of political science and assistant academic vice president at Creighton, 1978-1982;



A young Fr. Schlegel poses with his mentees-turned-friends (from left to right) Kevin Casey, Lee Graves, and Rich Doyle.

academic dean of Rockhurst College, 1982-1984; dean of arts and sciences at Marquette University, 1984-1989; executive and academic vice president at John Carroll University, 1989-1991; president of University of San Francisco, 1991-2000; and president of Creighton University, 2000-2011).

Another example comes from Trisha Sciortino Hagemeyer, for whom Fr. Schlegel served as freshman advisor at Creighton. Although she missed him when he left for his assignment at Rockhurst, she kept in touch. And, when she was applying to physical therapy programs, she wrote to Fr. Schlegel. Before she knew it, she had an interview

and was on the alternate list at Rockhurst. Hagemeyer, who went on to graduate with honors, says, “Becoming a physical therapist was and still is a vocation for me. I truly believe that if not for Fr. Schlegel and divine intervention I would not have been able to fulfill that vocation.”

In February of 2015, Fr. Schlegel was diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer. He calmly accepted his fate and chose not to undergo chemotherapy or radiation treatment. He chose to hold “living wakes” across the country to say goodbye to those he loved. It was at the end of his life that he began to realize how many lives he’d changed for the better.

In an interview with the Midwest Jesuits magazine in 2015, Fr. Schlegel spoke of being approached by a former advisee from Marquette whom he had encouraged to study economics. The man could not stop telling his kids, “This is the guy who put me into economics, and now I’m a financial analyst. Without that advice, we wouldn’t be here, and you wouldn’t be here. We wouldn’t have this life we have.” While Fr. Schlegel had known he was a good advisor, these incidents were when he began to see, in his words, “the little things you did that you don’t realize touched people.” ✠



Fr. Schlegel with Steve and Anne Bruckner and their children John Bruckner and Andrea Bruckner Sorgeloos at one of his “living wakes” in Omaha

Celebrating Nearly 100 Years of the Special Connection Between Hawaii and Creighton University

By Amy Korpi, Staff Writer

We've all heard of first cousins, second cousins, even third cousins once removed. But "calabash cousins" might be a new phrase to readers in the Midwest.

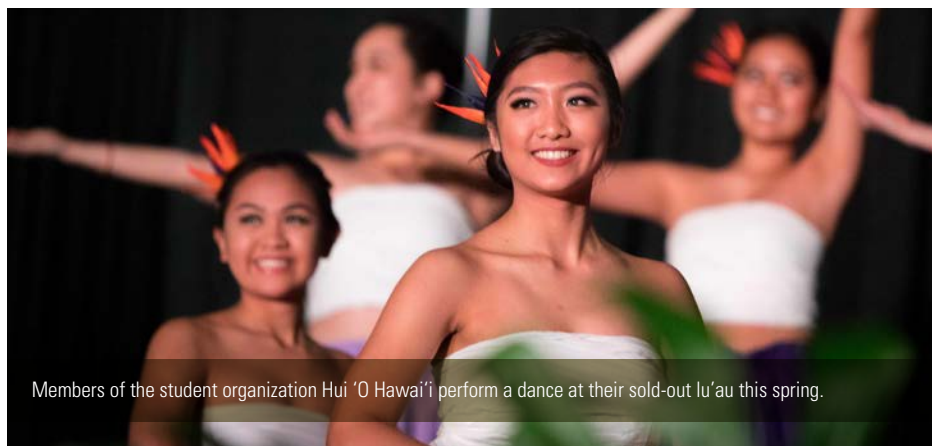
What's a calabash, you ask? In some definitions, it's an evergreen tropical gourd tree or the gourd that comes from it. But in Hawaii, it is a large serving bowl, used on a buffet or in the middle of a dining table, as an attractive container or as a vessel for giving a gift—the way a basket might be used.

Informally, however, the phrase can evoke a close-knit community: People who are calabash cousins are like extended family, even though they're not technically related. They might have grown up together, shared many meals, or been the children of close family friends. They might just be people from the same village, because the idea is that they come from the same calabash—the same pot. (Islanders also refer to such a connection as "ohana," which can include distant relatives, neighbors, and even the new person in town.)

For several decades, Nebraska's Creighton University (CU) has been home to many calabash cousins from Hawaii.

SHOWING HOSPITALITY

It all started early in the 20th century—when Americans of Asian descent faced discrimination because of their ethnic background, resulting in many universities not being open to them. But that didn't stop Wai Sinn Char, who was looking to start his dental education at a Catholic school in 1922. Creighton offered a welcoming environment, and word spread.



Members of the student organization Hui 'O Hawai'i perform a dance at their sold-out lu'au this spring.

Then, following the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and lasting for the duration of World War II, US-born Americans of Japanese ancestry were banned from attending colleges and universities in areas on the West Coast called "exclusion zones." This meant they could only seek post-secondary education further east, and even then, they were not always considered for admission.

Creighton once again intentionally rejected riding the wave of popular discrimination. "We've always followed the Jesuit value of being accepting and treating everyone with dignity and respect, and we kept our doors open when some others didn't," explains Associate Director of Admissions Joe Bezousek.

But rejecting discrimination and showing hospitality are not the same thing. Over the years, Creighton has also become known for its culture of inclusiveness and welcoming support for native and non-indigenous Hawaiians alike to continue engaging with their culture thousands of miles from home.

You could say that Creighton's reputation has spread throughout the islands through the many calabash cousins who have attended.

RECONNECTING TO ROOTS

The strong connection between CU and Hawaii came as something of a surprise to Fr. Kyle Shinseki, SJ. The realization began early in his formation as a Midwest Jesuit, when he was sent to teach at Creighton Prep. Within a month of arriving in Omaha, the Honolulu-born and Kauai-raised novice began to meet people from the islands.

A few years later, he was missioned to CU to serve as coordinator for Asian/Pacific Islander initiatives in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, chaplain and adjunct lecturer in the College of Business, and chaplain for a residence hall.

Lo and behold, sitting in the front row of his first marketing class was a calabash cousin—a fellow alumnus of his high school in Kauai. "I never expected to reconnect to my roots in Omaha, Nebraska," Fr. Shinseki recalls, "but I certainly did so in more ways than this one remarkable coincidence."

In his Multicultural Affairs role, he helped organize workshops, events, and liturgies that incorporated aspects of Asian American and Pacific Islander cultures. "Helping students express their cultural and religious heritage and feel

at home at Creighton was a profound experience and one which helped to affirm my Jesuit vocation,” says Fr. Shinseki, who has since written a thesis about how Catholic lay associations in college can help foster and sustain students’ ethnoreligious identity.

SEEING SIMILARITIES WHERE OTHERS SEE DIFFERENCES

Some might say, “fine, Creighton offers a welcoming atmosphere, but what about the multiple time zones and obvious topographical and climate differences?”

Father Shinseki notes interesting similarities that overcome these contrasts. “When I was in high school in Hawaii, Future Farmers of America was our largest student group,” he explains. “The landscapes, and we, might look a little different, but Hawaii and Nebraskan cultures were largely built on an agrarian system, where there is a close relationship to the land.”

Social values are also similar, he adds, with people typically being straightforward: “What you see is what you get.”

REACHING OUT LEADS TO RECORD NUMBERS

By the 1990s, Creighton enrolled around 20 new students from Hawaii each year. That number more than tripled in the next 10-plus years, however, as admissions representatives began visiting the islands more.

“We pride ourselves on our personal

connections to our students, and this is especially important in Hawaii,” says Bezousek. To this end, CU hosts an orientation for incoming freshmen in Hawaii each summer, as well as a welcome event on campus in the fall.

As a result, in recent years, Hawaii has ranked in the top eight among the states with the largest enrollment at Creighton. In CU’s largest college, Arts & Sciences, Hawaii is the fifth largest state from which students originate—ranking it behind only Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and Colorado.

Harkening back to Wai Sinn Char, professional schools also remain a big draw. And many undergraduates attend to study health sciences, for which CU’s reputation is strong on the islands.

Calabash cousins also continue to be a strong influence. Through the Creighton ‘Ohana Connection, a group of current-student parents support incoming students’ families with their transition to CU. And each October, upper-class students from Hawaii take freshmen to shop for winter coats (which are much less expensive in Nebraska than they are in Hawaii!).

As Fr. Glen Chun, SJ, Midwest Province socius, puts it, “The way the Creighton-Hawaii connection has been nurtured so vibrantly for so many generations is a great example of how we seek to foster development of the whole person in Jesuit education. Students from Hawaii can appreciate

their heritage anew by leaving the islands and journeying together to a noticeably different place while fostering traditions and experiencing interculturality and diversity. It’s like they get to take an adventure within a community.” ❖

Aloha spirit

Since 1948, CU students from Hawaii have come together as members of Hui ‘O Hawai‘i, an on-campus organization that serves as a support system for young people so far from home, as well as a means to spread the “aloha spirit” and culture to friends at CU and its wider environs.

Like the distinction between Native Americans and non-indigenous American people born and raised in the US, there is a cultural difference between Native Hawaiians and people who are simply from Hawaii; Hui ‘O Hawai‘i is inclusive of both groups and currently comprises 206 members.

The group’s signature event is an annual lu‘au—which had a sold-out crowd of some 1,000 community members this past April. Fr. Glen Chun, SJ, says of the 2019 gathering, “It was one of best lu‘aus I’ve ever attended. Although I grew up in Hawaii, I did not learn the traditions like these students obviously did. Through the food, welcoming atmosphere, dress, and music, they have brought Hawaii to Omaha, and I have no doubt they take Omaha back with them as well.”

Ma nā helu*

- 225: undergraduate students from Hawaii at Creighton during the 2018-19 academic year (6% of the student population)
- 350: total students from Hawaii at CU in 2018-19 (including those in graduate and professional schools)
- 84: record number of students from Hawaii in a freshman class (enrolled in 2010 and 2015)

*“By the numbers” in Hawaiian



Frs. Glen Chun, SJ, (left) and Kyle Shinseki, SJ, (right) are both from Hawaii.

JESUIT COMMUNITY

- Fr. Benjamin Urmston, SJ, has been missioned to pray for the Church and the Society at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich.



INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

- Fr. Thomas Chillikulam, SJ, has been named vice-superior of Gonzaga House in Chicago.
- Fr. Mark Henninger, SJ, has been named vice-superior of Oak Park Jesuit Residence in Illinois.
- Fr. Lawrence Ober, SJ, has been named acting superior of the Jesuit Novitiate of St. Alberto Hurtado in St. Paul, Minn.
- Fr. Mark Scalese, SJ, has been named vice-superior of Arrupe House in Chicago.

APOSTOLIC ASSIGNMENT

- Fr. James Bretzke, SJ, will serve as a professor of theology at John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio.
- Fr. Phillip Cooke, SJ, has been named pastor of Gesu Catholic Church in Detroit.
- Fr. Peter Etzel, SJ, has been named associate pastor of Gesu Catholic Church in Detroit.
- Fr. Robert Flack, SJ, will offer spiritual direction at Manresa Jesuit Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
- Fr. Gregory Hyde, SJ, has been named associate pastor of Church of the Gesu in University Heights, Ohio.
- Fr. Stephen Krupa, SJ, will serve as co-director for Seminars in Ignatian Formation.
- Fr. Thomas Lawler, SJ, has been named retreat director at Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Elmo, Minn.
- Fr. Ross Pribyl, SJ, will serve as associate director of campus ministry and teach at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee.
- Fr. Ed Schmidt, SJ, has been named associate pastor of Bellarmine Chapel in Cincinnati.

In Memoriam

To read the full obituaries of Jesuits who have gone home to God, visit us at www.JesuitsMidwest.org/Memoriam

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

Fr. M. Joseph Casey, SJ

July 6, 1936 – March 8, 2019

"Joe had three great loves in his life: Jesus (and the Society of Jesus), teaching French, and playing bridge. His jovial attitude, wide smile, and care for others helped him to make friends easily."

French and Latin teacher and chaplain of the Sodality at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago; French teacher, director of religious activities, rector of the Jesuit community, and president at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis; associate pastor of St. Xavier Church in Cincinnati.



Fr. Daniel L. Flaherty, SJ

July 29, 1929 – February 13, 2019

"Dan's energy, vision, and love of the Gospel were marvelous to behold. Dan was often moved to tears when he celebrated the Eucharist with great devotion. He and Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, had a special relationship during Dan's provincialate, and, when Don Pedro died in 1991, Dan travelled to Rome to attend his funeral."

Provincial and treasurer of the former Chicago Province; Latin and Greek teacher at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago; book editor, executive editor, and business manager at *America* magazine; executive editor of Loyola Press; chairman of the Catholic Book Club board.



Fr. Philip J. Grib, SJ

April 27, 1938 – February 8, 2019

"Phil was a kind and empathetic man and a very devoted friend. These qualities helped him to be beloved by the parishioners he ministered to (especially at St. Eugene's Parish) and by the priests and staff he worked with."

US history and English teacher at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill.; law and moral theology professor and campus minister at Loyola University Chicago; associate pastor at St. Constance Parish in Chicago and at St. Eugene Parish in Chicago.



Fr. Theodore Hottinger, SJ

March 3, 1932 – April 22, 2019

"Ted will be remembered by thousands of parishioners, many of them poor, for his kindness and pastoral zeal. He had a booming voice, worked hard and enthusiastically, but was a gentle pastor and a faithful Jesuit priest and companion."

Teacher at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee; teacher at Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, Wis.; associate pastor and pastor at St. Benedict's Church in Omaha; minister to Native Americans at Our Lady of Sorrows in Kyle, S.D., and St. Isaac Jogues in Rapid City, South Dakota; associate pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Mankato, Minn.



Choosing the Jesuits

Hannah Coley (center) poses with the altar servers from St. Peter Claver Parish in Belize.

By Ben Gartland

Hannah Coley had a choice to make. About to graduate from college, she attended a retreat to discern whether to accept a placement with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) as a pastoral assistant and retreat minister in Punta Gorda, Belize. Walking with a trusted spiritual advisor, Fr. Steve Mitten, SJ, he told her to close her eyes and listen closely to the nature surrounding them.

“Well, I definitely hear birds,” she told him.

Father Mitten, an expert birdwatcher, told her there were numerous species of birds calling out at that moment. “And I think they’re telling you to be in Belize,” he said.

...

Coley’s Jesuit education started at Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, where she began to understand the concepts of Ignatian spirituality and Catholic social teaching during her junior and senior years.

Drawn to these concepts, Coley chose to study philosophy at Loyola University Chicago. She grew close to several of the Jesuit scholastics who were her classmates and who would later become both spiritual advisors and friends. They and the surrounding campus ministry community allowed her to have conversations about faith and larger philosophical questions about social justice and ethics.

“I wanted to craft questions for myself and about my identity as a woman who is spiritual and religious,” she said.

“Being part of a Jesuit network in a Jesuit university is exactly where I wanted to be.”

Coley had been fully immersed in the Jesuit experience, and as she began to think about life after graduation, applying for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps appealed to her. Like many applicants to JVC, she was hesitant, but she was unique in

THE JESUITS, OTHER THAN FAMILY, HAVE BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT AND INCREDIBLY CONSISTENT SOURCE OF SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE IN MY LIFE.

that she was worried JVC might be too comfortable given her Jesuit history.

“I knew it would be a challenge no matter what, but I thought maybe I should explore another service organization or another opportunity for that kind of work after graduation,” she said. “It was something I had been wanting but I wasn’t sure if I should be doing exactly what I wanted.”

Still undecided, she applied and received the offer from JVC to be placed in Punta Gorda. She remained undecided as she went on the retreat and walked with Fr. Mitten and realized, as she listened to the birds, that joining JVC was, in fact, God’s call for her.

The day after the retreat ended, she accepted the placement and five weeks later moved to Punta Gorda.

...

As a Jesuit Volunteer, she continued

to develop her spiritual life through relationships formed with both Jesuits and other people in the communities. She learned the most about God and spirituality while in the villages because of the long journeys it took to get to some of these places, saying each trip was “like a pilgrimage.”

She continued to ask questions and receive answers about her identity as a woman in the Church, forming relationships with the “extraordinary” female leaders in the community’s churches and learning to recognize the ways women in the Bible were called to be disciples and leaders.

...

Following her two years in Belize, she heard another call and moved to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota to become a spiritual formation teacher. Again, the Jesuits were there to guide her through her transition as she intentionally chose to work where the Jesuits are.

Now, as a teacher at Red Cloud Indian School, she engages with kids whose faith journeys don’t always mirror her own in a community that has faced many hardships. She continues to examine her role as a disciple and woman for others through prayer and conversations with others, which she knows how to approach thanks, in part, to her life with the Jesuits.

“The Jesuits, other than family, have been the most important and incredibly consistent source of support and guidance in my life thus far,” she said. ✠

Option for the Poor

Fr. Joseph E. Mulligan, SJ

I have been working in Nicaragua since 1986 with Christian Base Communities—relatively small grassroots communities in the barrios of Managua. Celebrating the sacraments, visiting people in their homes and hospitals, helping those with disabilities, supporting those who are struggling for justice—this is my pastoral work for which I am so grateful.

The Church today emphasizes its “option for the poor,” sometimes with the qualifier “preferential.” For Gustavo Gutiérrez, “The option for the poor is the option for the God of Jesus.”

WE SOON FIND THAT OUR NEIGHBORS ARE “GOOD PEOPLE, NICE PEOPLE.”

The poor and oppressed, like any other group that is hurting, can use the kind of help from the outside that is better called solidarity, support, or accompaniment; they do not need arrogant know-it-alls who come in to tell them what they need and how to get it. The job of true organizers is to facilitate a process in which the people analyze their social reality, decide what to do, and organize themselves for effective action.

We may start out making an “option for the poor,” deliberately choosing to live and work among the needy, but this is gradually transformed into an “option for my friends.” The initial option may be to settle in a poverty-stricken area of the United States or a developing nation rather than in a higher-class locale or to devote one’s professional skills to the poor who need them rather than to those who could pay more handsomely for them.

Having taken the plunge into a new social and economic realm, we soon find that our neighbors are “good people, nice

people,” folks with the joys, sorrows, virtues, and faults common to the rest of humanity; we experience acceptance by them and perhaps forgiveness of our complicity in the sinful social structures which oppress them. Then, as we live and work together, we find that we are becoming their friends and they are becoming ours. No “option” is now required to spend time together; we like to be with each other.

Now we know what Paul meant: “When one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. When one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.” That’s how it is in a loving family or community. “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually” (1 Corinthians 12:26-27). The compassion which Jesus felt and showed and which he asks of us is precisely this—“suffering with,” feeling the pain of others as my own, as we also experience joy together.

Direct personal contact with those in need certainly helps us to open our hearts. But our capacity for compassion is not entirely dependent on our physical proximity to those who are suffering; through reading, watching films, or listening to talks we can come to know peoples and cultures in other continents and want to respond to their suffering through service or social/political solidarity. Many peace activists, for instance, never went to Vietnam or even met a Vietnamese person before taking action on their behalf.

Somehow the pain of the victims of injustice must be brought close to us. Then we are bitten by the bug that causes a fever for justice in us. This blessed bug will buzz around our head and heart relentlessly; though we may shoo it away at times, we will come to the point where we not only accept it but are grateful for it as a gift of the Spirit of Love. ✠



Fr. Mulligan's videos on social and religious themes can be seen at:
<https://www.youtube.com/josephmulligan1>

Additionally, he has a **Fund for the Sick** and a **Fund for the Disabled** to help low-income people in Nicaragua. Those interested in supporting this work can contact Fr. Mulligan at joemullj@gmail.com



With Heartfelt Gratitude

Dear Benefactors of the Society of Jesus, *Glory to Jesus Christ!*

My name is Fr. Andrij M. Hlabse, SJ; I was ordained a priest of the Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus in July 2018. As my formation for the priesthood has come to a close and I have had the chance to review the many opportunities offered to me in over a decade of formation, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for what your generosity has made possible. My hope is that all this does not remain merely “with me,” but through my future work and ministry reaches many in the household of God and beyond.

The cost to educate a Jesuit through formation can exceed \$450,000, and in some cases, includes loan forgiveness. For many religious congregations in the US, a candidate must clear his debt before even entering the community, but the generosity of the Society’s benefactors made it possible for me to start my formation when I felt called—not years later.

Since entering the Society, I have completed two advanced degrees and plan to complete two more, including a doctorate in theology. You make all the richness of these studies possible. During my formation I spent many summers immersed in linguistic and cultural studies all over the world; in all, I had assignments in 10 different countries during my 11 years of formation! This cultural and linguistic enrichment is already enhancing my ministry immeasurably and will continue to do so in the future.

I would also like to express a particular note of gratitude as a Jesuit who belongs to an Eastern Catholic Church, specifically the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. These Eastern Catholic Churches have often been persecuted in their home regions, making it more difficult to share their great spiritual riches. The opportunities presented during my formation will greatly assist in advancing these traditions, making them better known, and allowing them to bear fruit in the Body of Christ worldwide.

As I look toward the future of my Jesuit life, which will be based in Rome for the next two years, I realize that I will always be dependent on God first to provide for my needs wherever I may go. I thank you for being His instruments in the ways your generosity has provided for me.

As he wrote in our Constitutions, St. Ignatius of Loyola wanted us Jesuits to treat the money we used “as the property of our Lord Jesus Christ and as the patrimony of Christ’s poor.” Please keep me in your prayers, that I may use all the benefits that have come to me through your generosity to serve only these two ends: Jesus Christ in His Church and in His littlest ones!

Yours, gratefully in Christ,

Fr. Andrij M. Hlabse, SJ



Fr. Brian G. Paulson, SJ

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Grace Rice

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Kurt Metzler

DESIGNER

USA MIDWEST PROVINCE

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

Regional Advancement Directors

Dede Crowley (Omaha)

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

Nora Dabrowski (Detroit/Cleveland)

ndabrowski@jesuits.org | (773) 368-6399

Patrick Kennedy (Chicago)

pkennedy@jesuits.org | (773) 975-6920

Dan O’Brien (Milwaukee)

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

SPECIAL THANKS

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW.JESUITSMIDWEST.ORG

JULY 30 at 7:00 PM

Feast of St. Ignatius Celebration with Cleveland-area Jesuits at the Lake County Captains Baseball Game

Location:

Classic Park, 35300 Vine St., Eastlake, OH 44095

For more information on ordering tickets by July 23, contact Nora Dabrowski at (773) 368-6399 or ndabrowski@jesuits.org or purchase online at:

JesuitsMidwest.org/StIgnatiusFeastCelebration



AUGUST 25

Jesuit Friends and Alumni Network Grand Traverse: "Who Is Going to Save Our Church?"

Speaker:

Fr. Norm Dickson, SJ, *former teacher and president of Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, pastor of Gesu Catholic Church in Detroit, and missionary in South Sudan and Kenya, and current pastor of Saint Mary of the Woods Church in Kalkaska, Mich., and St. Aloysius in Fife Lake, Mich.*

Location:

Villa Marquette
4504 N West Bay Shore Dr.
Omena, MI 49674

For more information, contact
Cathy Schmitt at (248) 540-8157
or cdschmitt@mac.com

SEPTEMBER 29

St. Louis Jesuits – Coming Home

The final concert of the influential musical group performing many of their most beloved songs and hymns of prayer and worship. Proceeds to benefit the Ignatian Spirituality Project.

Location:

Powell Hall
718 N Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63103

Tickets:

\$15–\$65

For more information, visit
StLouisJesuits.com

OCTOBER 10

2019 Omaha Ignatian Dinner

Hosts:

An evening celebrating the Lay-Jesuit Partnership with **Fr. Timothy Lannon, SJ**, *former Creighton University president and current USA Midwest Provincial Assistant for Formation*

Location:

Creighton Preparatory School
7400 Western Ave.
Omaha, NE 68114

Tickets:

\$150 per person
\$1350 for table of 10
\$75 per person 35 or younger
\$150 support a Jesuit at dinner

For more information, contact
Diane Dougherty Crowley
at (402) 298-2592 or
dcrowley@jesuits.org

NOVEMBER 6

Jesuit Friends and Alumni Network Detroit: "Pope Francis, the Planet, and Our Future"

Speaker:

Fr. Gerald F. Cavanagh, SJ, *professor at the University of Detroit Mercy and nationally recognized expert of business ethics and social responsibility*

Location:

Detroit Athletic Club
241 Madison St.
Detroit, MI 48226

For more information, contact
Rachel Brennan at rbrennan41@att.net