



JESUITS

USA MIDWEST PROVINCE

SUMMER 2017



Celebrating

13 New Priests
and a New Province

Also in This Issue:

- Honoring Jesuit Jubilarians
- A Messenger of the Good News
- What Is Ignatian Spirituality?



Dear Friends,

Those of you who closely follow the Midwest Jesuits' website, social media, magazine, and other publications know how long we have been anticipating the joining of the Chicago-Detroit and Wisconsin Provinces. After years of preparation, prayer, and careful planning by countless Jesuits and lay collaborators, I am pleased to announce that our two provinces officially became the USA Midwest Province on June 5.

I am humbled to serve as the first provincial of this new province, and I am grateful to Fr. Thomas Lawler, SJ, who served as provincial of the Wisconsin Province and who has done so much to ensure that our new province will begin on strong footing.

In the days leading up to June 5, I joined hundreds of Jesuits from all over our 12-state region to express gratitude for our collective history, honor Jesuit jubilarians marking anniversaries in the Society of Jesus, and celebrate the ordination of 13 Midwest Jesuits to the priesthood this summer! After more than a decade of Jesuit formation, these new priests' dedication is already bearing fruit as they begin ministering in Jesuit parishes, schools, and other apostolates.

As we embark on this journey as a new province, we wanted to try something new for the summer issue of our magazine. We thought photos would best tell the story of the many graces and joys we have experienced in these recent months. Within these pages, you will find a beautiful visual presentation of our ordination Masses as well a preview of our jubilarians alongside the *A Heart on Fire*, *A Jesuit's Journey*, and spiritual reflections our readers are accustomed to seeing. For additional news about our ministries and work throughout the Midwest and around the world, please visit our website at www.jesuitsmidwest.org or social media profiles listed in the table of contents. Our website also features more information about our ordinands and jubilarians and how they came to their vocations in the Society of Jesus. This fall, we will be back with a full issue of *Jesuits* magazine.

In the midst of these many exciting changes and developments, it is important to remember that what matters most remains. While you might be receiving mail from a new address or sharing resources with a new province, you will be supporting the same Jesuit mission you know, love, and believe in. As we go forth as the USA Midwest Province, the Jesuits will do what we have always done, serving where needed and where others do not and finding God in all places and bringing God's love to all people. We thank you for enabling and being part of this mission.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Brian G. Paulson, SJ
Provincial, USA Midwest Province

Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ (center), celebrates a Mass in honor of Jesuit jubilarians at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee. He is joined by Fr. Joseph Daoust, SJ (left), who is marking 60 years in the Society of Jesus, and Fr. Thomas Lawler, SJ (right), provincial of the former Wisconsin Province.





ON THE COVER

(From left) Jesuit Frs. Joseph Simmons, Brian Taber, Richard "RJ" Fichtinger, and Matthew Dunch go forth following their ordination to the priesthood at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee.

Photo: Jeff Zmania

Celebrating 13 New Priests



Meet the 13 Midwest Jesuits who were ordained to the priesthood this summer.

For additional content and more information, connect with us online: WWW.JESUITSMIDWEST.ORG



Search Midwest Jesuits on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, and Instagram

Visit our photo galleries at midwestjesuits.smugmug.com

JOIN THE JESUIT PRAYER COMMUNITY!



JesuitPrayer.org

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



Page 10

New Frontiers for a New Province

Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ, is the first provincial of the USA Midwest Province. He shares his vision for the new province and how God's grace is at work throughout the region.



Page 13

A Messenger of the Good News

David Inczauskis, SJ, fell in love with the Gospels in college, but he did not know how to pray in a personal way. Everything changed when he met a Jesuit at Oxford University.



Page 14

Honoring Jesuit Jubilarians

Ten Midwest Jesuits are celebrating 50 years in the Society of Jesus.



Page 15

Deciding Every Day

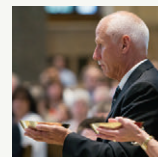
Fr. Wally Stohrer, SJ, was once told he must decide every day what kind of priest he will be. That is exactly what he has done.



Page 16

What Is Ignatian Spirituality?

Fr. Brian Lehane, SJ, describes how Ignatian spirituality holds the astonishing variety of Jesuit ministries together.



Page 17

Create a Legacy of Giving

Give a gift that will bring a lifetime of benefits with a Jesuit gift annuity.

ORDINATION



Celebrating

13 New Priests

By Brian Harper, *Communications Specialist*

The Catholic Church may be seeing fewer vocations to the priesthood worldwide, but it is receiving a major boost from the Midwest Jesuits. Twelve Jesuits were ordained priests by Cardinal Blase Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, on June 3, 2017, at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee. On June 24, Cyril Pinchak, SJ, was ordained in the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Parma, Ohio.

Throughout their formation, these Jesuits have received multiple master's degrees; taught in high schools and universities; served in parishes; worked in a number of countries and continents; and — to paraphrase St. Ignatius of Loyola — learned to find God in all things. As they begin their lives of priestly ministry, they look back with gratitude and forward with hope and joy.

Thirteen Midwest Jesuits were ordained priests this summer: 12 at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee on June 3, 2017, and Fr. Cyril Pinchak, SJ, at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Parma, Ohio, on June 24. (Front row, left to right) Jesuit Frs. Christian Wagner; Michael Rossmann; Joseph Simmons; Anthony Lusvardi; Stephen Wolfe; (second row, left to right) Brad Held; Christopher Staab; Jacob Boddicker; Richard "RJ" Fichtinger; Luke Hansen; Matthew Dunch; Brian Taber; (third row, left to right) the Most Rev. George Murry, SJ, bishop of Youngstown, Ohio; Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ, provincial of the USA Midwest Province; Cardinal Blase Cupich, archbishop of Chicago; Fr. Thomas Lawler, SJ, provincial of the former Wisconsin Province; and Fr. Pinchak

AS I CALL TO MIND THE "CLOUD OF WITNESSES" THAT HAVE SUPPORTED MY JESUIT VOCATION, IT'S DIFFICULT NOT TO BE ABUNDANTLY GRATEFUL.

— Fr. Michael A. Rossmann, SJ



FR. JACOB J. BODDICKER, SJ

“The generosity of God bewilders me. I have been places and done things I never thought possible in my lifetime and discovered abilities I never knew I had. God has truly given everything to me.”

Born: September 29, 1983, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; raised in Tipton, Iowa

Parents: Carla and Daniel Boddicker

Siblings: Michael, Matthew, Joshua, and Cheyanne Boddicker

As a Jesuit: Fr. Boddicker was chaplain to the trap shooting team at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee.

Assignment Following Ordination: Pastoral ministry on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota



FR. MATTHEW I. DUNCH, SJ

“When people ask me how I’m doing, my standard answer is: ‘Better than I deserve.’ This usually provokes a quizzical look. Yet it’s always true — not because I’ve been particularly bad but because God has been particularly good. The only fitting response to overwhelming goodness is deep gratitude.”

Born: October 4, 1983, in York, Pa.; raised outside Youngstown, Ohio

Parents: Joanne and David Dunch

Sibling: Jonathan Dunch

As a Jesuit: Fr. Dunch studied in Bolivia, Peru, Spain, Austria, Israel, and Canada and taught philosophy and ethics at Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Assignment Following Ordination: Master’s degree in theology and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology at Regis College at the University of Toronto



FR. RICHARD J. “RJ” FICHTINGER, SJ

“I embark on this next phase of my Jesuit journey strengthened by prayers and excited to serve as a Jesuit priest.”

Born: January 21, 1982, in St. Paul

Parents: The late Vicky Jo Fichtinger Karsikas and William Karsikas (stepfather)

As a Jesuit: Fr. Fichtinger, who studied social work, has served as an elementary and middle counselor on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and a counselor at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy, where he also coached football and taught theology.

Assignment Following Ordination: Pastoral ministry at Saint Thomas More Catholic Community in St. Paul



FR. BRAD A. HELD, SJ

“As I left each place to take the next step in formation, it was hard to go, but I knew I needed to go so that God could bring to completion my vocation to priesthood. That would not have been possible without the many people who support the Society of Jesus’ formation. To them I am most grateful.”

Born: May 22, 1984, in Slinger, Wis.

Parents: Denise and Charles Held

Siblings: Matthew, Luke, Ben, Andrea, and Emily Held

As a Jesuit: Fr. Held served as the US project director for MAGIS 2016, the Jesuit program preceding World Youth Day 2016 in Kraków, Poland.

Assignment Following Ordination: Campus ministry at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee



The ordinands lie prostrate in a biblical gesture of humility before God as Cardinal Cupich and the assembly pray the Litany of Saints.



Fr. Brad Held, SJ (right), is vested in stole and chasuble by Fr. Ronald Bieganski, SJ.



FR. LUKE J. HANSEN, SJ

“To our benefactors: Thank you for making this formation possible. It has deepened my faith, set my heart on fire, and prepared me for learned ministry in the Church.”

Born: January 28, 1982, in Appleton, Wis.; raised in Kaukauna, Wis.

Parents: Joyce and Glenn Hansen

Siblings: James, Adam, and Molly Hansen

As a Jesuit: Fr. Hansen was an associate editor for *America* magazine and filed reports from Honduras, El Salvador, the Vatican, and Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

Assignment Following Ordination: Licentiate in Sacred Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome



FR. ANTHONY R. LUSVARDI, SJ

“Words aren’t really adequate for the ‘thank you’ I feel. I hope that all those who have helped, loved, taught, corrected, and supported me thus far know that when, as a priest, I offer the Eucharist, they will always be there in the thanksgiving that I give.”

Born: January 30, 1980, in Sandstone, Minn.; raised in St. Anthony, Minn.

Parents: Gail and Anthony Lusvardi

Siblings: Christopher and Joseph Lusvardi

Before the Jesuits: Fr. Lusvardi taught English with the Peace Corps in Kazakhstan, led volunteer trips to Uganda, and worked as a campus minister at Saint John’s University in Collegeville, Minn.

Assignment Following Ordination: Licentiate in Sacred Theology at Pontifical Atheneum of St. Anselm in Rome



FR. CYRIL N. PINCHAK, SJ

“As I begin priestly ministry, so much still lies unfinished within me. How can I ever say thank you for the gift of such a life? Only by living it well.”

Born: May 19, 1984, in Mayfield Heights, Ohio; raised in Shaker Heights, Ohio

Parents: Mary and Alfred Pinchak

Siblings: Stephen, Stanley, and Daniel Pinchak, Dominic and Justin Kimery, Anna Lillis, Andrea Corvi, and Stephanie Souza

As a Jesuit: Fr. Pinchak is a bi-ritual priest, able to celebrate both the Roman Catholic Mass and the Byzantine Divine Liturgy.

Assignment Following Ordination: Licentiate in Byzantine Theology at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome



FR. MICHAEL A. ROSSMANN, SJ

“I often reflect on how St. Ignatius considered ingratitude to be the worst sin. Lord knows I am a sinner, and yet, as I look back on my path to priesthood in the Society of Jesus, it is hard not to be extremely grateful.”

Born: January 7, 1985, in Iowa City

Parents: Patricia and the late Alan Rossmann

Siblings: Peter and Patrick Rossmann

As a Jesuit: Fr. Rossmann taught at Loyola High School in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania for two years and also served as editor-in-chief of *The Jesuit Post*.

Assignment Following Ordination: Licentiate in Sacred Theology at Boston College and work promoting Jesuit vocations



FR. JOSEPH E. SIMMONS, SJ

“Looking back, I cherish the formational experiences that have brought me here. My final years of priestly formation offered privileged glimpses of all that priesthood brings: giving retreats, baptizing infants, preaching at Mass, hearing the joys and hopes of students, and accompanying generous souls in spiritual direction, to name but a few. I am blessed.”

Born: June 23, 1982, in Milwaukee

Parents: JoAnn and Edward Simmons

Siblings: Nathan, Alexandra, and Anna Simmons

As a Jesuit: Fr. Simmons taught at Jesuit high schools in Minneapolis and on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota as well as at Creighton University in Omaha.

Assignment Following Ordination:

Licentiate in Sacred Theology at Boston College



FR. CHRISTOPHER M. STAAB, SJ

“I am grateful to God for continuing to call me, walk with me, and show me great joy in being a friend and companion to so many.”

Born: March 9, 1977, in Cleveland

Parents: Maryellen and William Staab

Sibling: Shannon Staab

Before the Jesuits: Fr. Staab studied at John Carroll University in Ohio, worked for L’Arche in Ireland, earned a master’s degree in English at the University of Pittsburgh, served as an editor for a Cleveland publishing company, and worked for the Detroit Province.

Assignment Following Ordination:

Master’s degree in Ignatian spirituality and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology at Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid, Spain



FR. BRIAN J. TABER, SJ

“With the continued prayers and support of faithful companions, I look forward to joyfully serving the Lord all the days of my life.”

Born: December 23, 1982, in Davenport, Iowa

Parents: Patricia and James Taber

Siblings: Kevin Taber and James Malicki

As a Jesuit: Fr. Taber taught history, coached freshman football, and served as moderator of the student newspaper at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee.

Assignment Following Ordination:

Teacher, sports chaplain, and coach at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago and pastoral ministry at Saint Giles Catholic Parish in Oak Park, Ill.



FR. STEPHEN N. WOLFE, SJ

“I am grateful to St. Ignatius and all the people who have made such a rich and exciting life possible. I am most grateful to our Lord.”

Born: July 17, 1979, in Milwaukee

Parents: Anne and Christopher Wolfe

Siblings: Julia, Jared, Rebecca (Bailey), Thomas, Trevor, Patrice, Elena, Marisa, and Lance

As a Jesuit: Fr. Wolfe taught in the Theology Department at Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha.

Assignment Following Ordination:

Pastoral ministry at Gesu Catholic Church in Detroit



FR. CHRISTIAN WAGNER, SJ

"I am looking forward to becoming ever more a conduit for the greater glory of God."

Born: August 4, 1971, in Riedlingen, Germany

Parents: Christa and the late Albert Wagner

Sibling: Dorothee Wagner

Before the Jesuits: Fr. Wagner obtained degrees in chemical engineering, biotechnology, and microbiology at European universities before working for the pharmaceutical industry and teaching biology at Loyola University Chicago.

Assignment Following Ordination:

Licentiate in Sacred Theology at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley, Calif.

GOD HAS TRULY GIVEN EVERYTHING TO ME. MY HOPE IS THAT THROUGH MY PRIESTHOOD, I CAN GIVE EVERYTHING OF MYSELF IN RETURN.

— Fr. Jacob J. Boddicker, SJ



Cardinal Cupich and the newly ordained priests celebrate Mass with family and friends of the ordinands.

New Frontiers

for a New Province



(From left) Jesuit Frs. Anand Pereira, Thomas Lawler, and Brian Paulson at Fr. Paulson's installation as provincial of the USA Midwest Province. Fr. Arul Susaimanickam, SJ (not pictured), superior of the Kohima Region in Northeast India, and Fr. Pereira, formation assistant in the Kohima Region, presented Frs. Paulson and Lawler with traditional blankets of the Naga people in Northeast India. The Kohima Region has partnered with the Wisconsin Province since 2002 and the Chicago-Detroit Province since 2013. This partnership will continue between the Kohima Region and the USA Midwest Province, which consists of the former Wisconsin and Chicago-Detroit Provinces.

Fr. Paulson celebrates a Mass in honor of Jesuit jubilarians at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee.

Father Brian Paulson, SJ, is the first provincial of the USA Midwest Province and the former provincial of the Chicago-Detroit Province. He shared his hopes for the new province in an interview. A full version of the conversation is available at www.jesuitsmidwest.org.

HOW DID THE CHICAGO-DETROIT AND WISCONSIN PROVINCES COME TO FORM A NEW PROVINCE?

The decision flowed out of a national planning process completed by 10 USA provincials about eight years ago. They envisioned four large provinces by 2020. The main drivers of the decision were a desire to more effectively make apostolic planning decisions and personnel assignments; to better care for our sponsored works; and to better care for the Jesuits from the novitiate through formation, their years of active ministry, and their senior years.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE USA MIDWEST PROVINCE?

The most recent Jesuit General Congregation 36 (GC36), which took place last fall, described our mission as being “Companions of Jesus in a Mission of Reconciliation and Justice.” Reconciliation includes reconciliation with God, with others, and with creation.

To pursue this mission, we will continue to be involved in education at all levels and Native American ministry, in addition to sharing Ignatian spirituality in parishes, retreat houses, social apostolates, through digital and print media, and in all our sponsored apostolates. We will always look for “the signs of the times” so we can plan accordingly, looking for synergies so the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts.

One of the most important apostolic tools St. Ignatius taught us was discernment of spirits — prayerfully figuring out which thoughts and feelings come from God and which come from bad spirits that keep us from choosing the greater good. To do this well, we need to be people of prayer. Ideally, we share our prayer and discernment in dialogue with our brother Jesuits and lay colleagues.

WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF A PROVINCE?

The USA Midwest Province has approximately 530 members. There are about 80 men in formation from novitiate through theology studies in the first 11 years of Jesuit life. During many of these years, the formation of a Jesuit costs annually the same as sending a son or daughter to a private Catholic university. This is an enormous investment, for which we need both endowed funds as

well as annual fundraising. We have about 110 men in healthcare communities at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich., and St. Camillus Jesuit Community outside of Milwaukee in Wauwatosa, Wis. Once again, the costs for these men are the same as placing a family member in a quality nursing home — an enormous expense for any family. We need your help! We rely on the grace of God as well as annual donors for our senior Jesuits to keep our endowments strong.

In addition to caring for our men in formation and in senior healthcare communities, we also have significant partnerships with the Eastern Africa Province and with the Kohima Region in Northeast India. This involves assisting them with formation expenses and the costs of province administration in these young regions of the Society.

Jesuit high schools and universities have alumni which support them. The province does not have “alumni,” so the province needs to invite people who meet the Jesuits in our schools, parishes, and retreat houses to become benefactors of the province as well — people who are able to extend themselves to support the “invisible infrastructure” of the Jesuits. This invisible infrastructure is “behind” everything which bears the name Jesuit.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ABOUT THE USA MIDWEST PROVINCE TO FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS WHO ARE MORE FAMILIAR WITH ONE OF THE PROVINCES THAT ARE NOW PART OF THE NEW PROVINCE?

We want our friends and benefactors to know that we are striving for continuity in mission as we become the Midwest Province. The province office has a team of Jesuits who were originally from both the Wisconsin and Chicago-Detroit Provinces. Except for our administrative assistants and our “Number Two Man” — our socius/executive assistant — we have shared the entire team of provincial assistants for the past three years.

Our hope in this reorganization of governance is that we will avoid

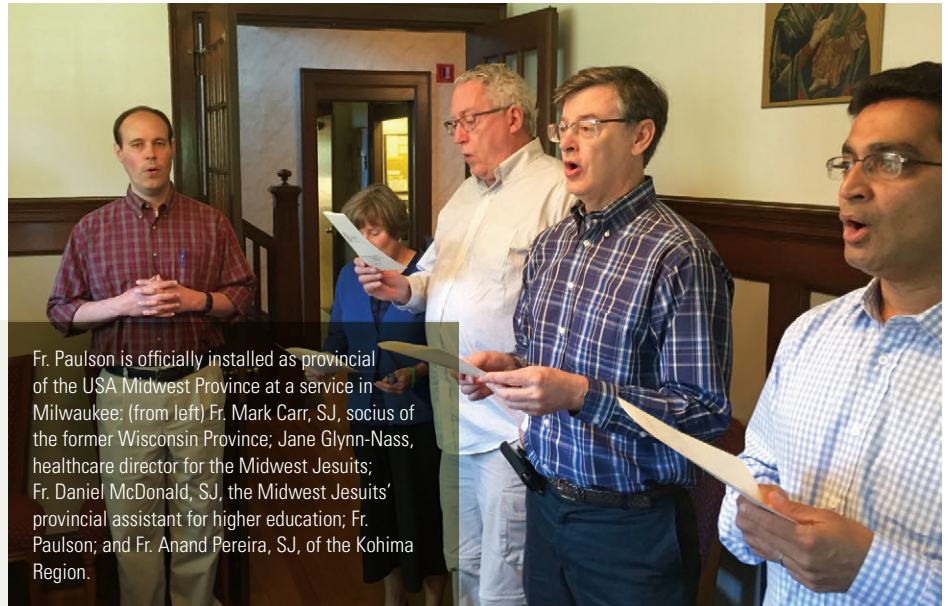


duplication of Jesuits in internal roles in multiple provinces and instead allow them to be “in the world” serving people. We also can combine our resources to employ professional lay colleagues and ministers who can assist us on a province level, sharing their wisdom and expertise across a larger province, always looking for the *magis* — the greater good that Ignatius urges us to seek.

HOW WILL THE USA MIDWEST PROVINCE CONTINUE TO SERVE AT THE FRONTIERS INTO THE FUTURE?

The Midwest Jesuits are known for innovation and reaching new frontiers. Examples in the past 20 years include founding four Cristo Rey high schools in the Midwest and three Nativity model schools, the Ignatian Spirituality Project, the Ignatian Volunteer Corps, our daily reflections and prayers offered through **JesuitPrayer.org**, the Pope Francis Center for those experiencing homelessness in Detroit, and Arrupe College at Loyola University Chicago, the first Jesuit community college.

We will continue our important mission of 130 years in South Dakota with the Lakota people on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations. I hope to encourage young Jesuits to find their



Fr. Paulson is officially installed as provincial of the USA Midwest Province at a service in Milwaukee: (from left) Fr. Mark Carr, SJ, socius of the former Wisconsin Province; Jane Glynn-Nass, healthcare director for the Midwest Jesuits; Fr. Daniel McDonald, SJ, the Midwest Jesuits’ provincial assistant for higher education; Fr. Paulson; and Fr. Anand Pereira, SJ, of the Kohima Region.

voice in the New Evangelization, which Pope Francis calls for in his apostolic exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, so that we can help the Gospel be heard in our noisy, busy, increasingly secular age in which people still hunger for God (whether they know it or not!) Part of this effort happens through *The Jesuit Post* (www.thejesuitpost.org), an online publication in which young Jesuits reflect on faith, pop culture, politics, and more.

WHAT WILL CHANGE AS THE USA MIDWEST PROVINCE BEGINS? WHAT WILL STAY THE SAME?

There will be continuity of mission with the Chicago-Detroit and Wisconsin Provinces as well as with the mission of the Society of Jesus that has continued since 1540. We will care for our traditional apostolates, and we will continue to look for new ways to serve people on the margins and venture to new frontiers.



Fr. Paulson (third from left) with Jesuit novices in the Kohima Region



(Left) David Inczauskis, SJ, pronouncing first vows in the Society of Jesus in 2016 and (right) with his parents at the Jesuit Novitiate of St. Alberto Hurtado in St. Paul the day he entered as a Jesuit novice in 2014

A Messenger

of the Good News

By David Inczauskis, SJ

I was adopted through Catholic Charities a few days after my birth. My biological mother had an unexpected teenage pregnancy and bravely decided to place me in the loving hands of my parents, Dale and Colleen, extraordinarily caring people. They taught me to value generosity and studies, and their support helped me obtain a full scholarship to Wake Forest University in North Carolina.

While my parents raised me in the Catholic faith, I came to a more committed relationship with Christ in college. I chose to major in religious studies. I found religion fascinating and wanted to know more. Soon, I was taking courses on Christianity and the Bible. I fell in love with the Gospels and St. Paul's letters. The topic enchanted me so much that I applied to spend a year abroad at Oxford University in England to take specialized courses on the early Church, the Reformation, and liberation theology in Latin America.

My knowledge of Catholicism grew exponentially at Oxford, but my prayer was lagging behind. I simply didn't know how to pray in a personal way. Everything changed when the Jesuits entered the picture. A friend invited me to dinner at the Jesuit-staffed Oxford

Catholic chaplaincy. Wanting a free meal, I agreed to go. Father Simon Bishop, SJ, sat next to me. With enthusiasm and warmth, he introduced himself and asked me about my life and studies. Never had I felt so loved and appreciated by a stranger. The meeting was so memorable that I sent him an email a few days later to ask if we could chat.

Inside, I was confused. How can this man be so joyful even though he has no money, no girlfriend, and no "job"? Through our conversations, it became clear that his personal relationship with Christ was the sole source of his joy. I wanted what he had. He taught me Ignatian prayer. We started with the Examen of Consciousness and moved to imaginative prayer on Gospel scenes. Through the Examen, I saw how God was working in my emotional life, and my love for Scripture deepened as I learned to engage with it contemplatively.

The more I prayed, the more I saw God was calling me to be a Jesuit. Through two silent retreats, God confirmed my discernment. I applied during my last year of college and entered the novitiate in St. Paul the following fall. Looking back, it all happened very quickly. God was compelling me with such great love that I couldn't help but say "yes." I wanted to

collaborate with God in the company of his Son. I wanted the biblical scenes I had imagined in prayer to come alive in my life. A year after my vows and three years after my entrance, these desires have only grown stronger, and many have borne rich fruit.

Today, I write from Loyola University Chicago, where I'm completing first studies. The provincial has missioned me to pursue master's degrees in Spanish and social philosophy. This will enable me to minister more effectively with and for Spanish speakers throughout the Americas. God has placed in my heart a desire to find the Spirit's movement in this population and to share the Ignatian tradition with a people that desperately craves spiritual food. I pray that I can be to others what Fr. Simon was to me — a messenger of the good news that God speaks lovingly to every one of us.



David Inczauskis, SJ, is a Jesuit scholastic in first studies at Loyola University Chicago. He writes for *The Jesuit Post* at www.thejesuitpost.org and on his blog at www.daveinchow.com.

JUBILARIANS



The Midwest Jesuits' 2017 Golden Jubilarians and provincials: (front row, from left) Frs. Brian Paulson, provincial of the USA Midwest Province; Richard McGurn; Harry Gensler; James McCann; William Leahy; and Thomas Lawler, provincial of the former Wisconsin Province; (second row, from left) Bradley Schaeffer; Gary Wright; J. Thomas McClain; Donald Serva; Robert O'Connor; and David Matzko

Honoring Jesuit Jubilarians

Please join us in honoring our Golden Jubilarians, who are celebrating 50 years in the Society of Jesus. The generous and faith-filled lives they have offered and continue to offer the Church and the world are an inspiration to all of us. Though each of these Jesuit's paths to and through the Society of Jesus has looked different, they share a common vocation of service for the greater glory of God. Our fall issue will include reflections by our Golden Jubilarians on the words that have defined their Jesuit journeys.

50 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

Fr. Harry J. Gensler, SJ	Fr. Richard H. McGurn, SJ
Fr. William P. Leahy, SJ	Fr. Robert F. O'Connor, SJ
Fr. David G. Matzko, SJ	Fr. Bradley M. Schaeffer, SJ
Fr. James M. McCann, SJ	Fr. Donald M. Serva, SJ
Fr. J. Thomas McClain, SJ	Fr. Gary R. Wright, SJ



Fr. Wally Stohrer, SJ, meets students and families at Marquette University's 2008 Family Weekend.
Photo: Courtesy of Marquette University

Deciding Every Day

By Amy Korpi, *Staff Writer*

When Fr. Walter “Wally” Stohrer, SJ, was ordained a priest in 1960, one of his professors — renowned Innsbruck theologian Fr. Karl Rahner, SJ — said, “You have just made the most important decision of your life. Now you must decide every day for the rest of your life what kind of priest you are going to be.”

That is exactly what he has done.

“It’s not enough to reach a goal,” he explains. “You must live with the implications of that goal every day.”

Father Stohrer realized an affinity for the Church at a young age, and his years at Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha confirmed the intuition.

“The Jesuits there were clearly very happy, and they were doing something that struck a lot of us kids as being worthwhile,” he says.

When he approached his parents about joining the Jesuits, his father said something he remembers to this day.

“I said I wanted to go to the novitiate to give it a fair trial. At the time, I still thought I might be coming back to ‘real life,’” he recalls. “And my dad said, ‘Wally, if you have a vocation,

we consider it a family mission.’” [Father Stohrer’s sister had joined the Dominicans three years before.]

Father Stohrer never did return to “real life,” and he continued to have his decision reinforced.

“With each year, each part of the program, each place I traveled, I’ve felt I was doing the right thing in the right place at the right time.”

There were some dry periods.

“As with any life, there are flat times. But St. Ignatius tells us there are so many teaching environments for knowing who Jesus of Nazareth not only was, but is, and you can find reinforcement for your commitment to share the joy of life in God in each task at hand.”

For Fr. Stohrer, this was most often teaching philosophy. For 40 years, he guided students at Marquette University in Milwaukee through life’s perennial questions. He served as assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, rector, chaplain for the College of Nursing (a role that continues to this day), and retreat director. Father Stohrer also taught at Marquette University High School and

Creighton University.

When he moved to the St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis., in May 2015, “it was quite a change,” he says. “I knew many of the Jesuits here but had never lived with most of them. And while it’s easy for Jesuits to feel at home with one another — we’re famous for ‘having a bunk wherever we go in the world’ — I still missed my old connections and activities. So I took it to prayer. And the divine shepherd said to me, ‘Feed my lambs.’ I recognized that I could serve these men by learning more of their rich stories and being present with them as we engage in what will be our last assignments on Earth.

“I ended up rediscovering myself in the experience,” he adds. “Ephesians 3:7–9 says, ‘Of this I became a minister by the gift of God’s grace that was granted me in accord with the exercise of his power. To me, the very least of all the holy ones, this grace was given, to preach ... the inscrutable riches of Christ. ...’

“I feel I’m still unpacking those riches.”

What Is Ignatian Spirituality?

By Fr. Brian Lehane, SJ



Fr. Brian Lehane, SJ, celebrates Mass with students at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy.

The Jesuits and their lay colleagues are involved in an astonishing variety of ministries throughout the world. What holds all these ministries together is a spirituality that inspires and undergirds all we set out to accomplish. That spirituality is first and foremost Christian. But it took particular form in the lived experience of Ignatius of Loyola, who gave his name to these spiritual practices: Ignatian.

The Church enjoys a variety of beautiful and effective “pathways to God.” Each is usually tied to the extraordinary effect of God’s grace in the life of a charismatic “originator,” like St. Francis of Assisi or Dorothy Day. Many of these founders left writings that capture their experience for the benefit of others who want to follow in their footsteps.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola’s writings include thousands of letters, an autobiographical account, and his seminal *Spiritual Exercises*, a work geared to help others discover the God Ignatius came to know through the ups and downs of his own spiritual journey. What he learned opened his eyes, “slowly,” he says, to a profound understanding of God’s graciousness and the Risen Lord’s invitation to become a companion in his mission.

His journey began during his recovery from a battle injury. His usual pleasures and distractions were unavailable, so he turned to religious books, which

surprisingly ignited his spiritual life and left him desiring to live as a humble pilgrim in imitation of the saints. Imitating the lives of saints is good in itself, but he was not yet in touch with his personal call. Eventually, at a small town named Manresa, he had a clarifying spiritual experience that he would later call the greatest grace of his life.

What this experience was exactly, he does not say. But its effects were momentous. Ignatius came to a realization that God was present and active in all of creation, including within his own soul. The holy desires he had experienced in recovery were God’s nudges, leading him to a more meaningful and holy life. God was not a judging God so much as a helping God. Ignatius would leave Manresa with peace and a sense of purpose to help others discover what he had learned.

Ignatius used his own life as the subject of his prayer. Years later he and some companions would found the Society of Jesus to be of help to people, but his original conversion and its deepening at Manresa happened long before.



Fr. Brian Lehane, SJ, teaches theology at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy.

HERE ARE SOME PRINCIPLES HIGHLIGHTED IN IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY:

- All of reality is a gift of a gracious creator. Our response is one of gratitude.
- God is not distant but present and active, nudging us toward the good.
- God deals directly with people by means of spiritual movements that can be discerned.
- We also learn to recognize unhelpful, destructive movements within us that must be acknowledged if we are to grow spiritually.
- Prayer can help us develop a “felt-knowledge” of the Lord, by which we know him intimately.
- Our knowing the Lord leads us to desire profoundly to be with him and share in his mission to help the world in an active way that fits our call.
- By practicing various spiritual exercises, we become adept at recognizing God’s desires for us.
- Our gratitude and love for God shows itself in action for the betterment of the world.



Create a Legacy of Giving

Give a gift that will bring a lifetime of benefits with a Jesuit gift annuity.

A Jesuit gift annuity involves making a gift of cash or assets to the Midwest Jesuits. In return, the Jesuits make lifetime payments to you or a loved one. Each payment is fixed with the amount depending on your age or the age of whoever receives the payments.

After all payments have been made, the Midwest Jesuits receive the remaining value of the gift to support causes that matter most to you. Your payments are fixed on the date of your gift, and your payments will never change with fluctuations in interest rates or the stock market. Depending on your gift, you may also receive the added benefit of primarily tax-free payments. In addition, you will receive a charitable deduction the year in which you establish the gift annuity.

Please contact Jeff Smart at **800-537-3736** or jsmart@jesuits.org for information on starting a charitable gift annuity today.

If you already have a planned gift with the Jesuits, consider informing your attorney or financial advisor of our new name and address, where we will continue to maintain our former corporate entities:

**USA Midwest Province
of the Society of Jesus
1010 N. Hooker St.
Chicago, IL 60642
(800) 537-3736**

Fr. Brian G. Paulson, SJ
PROVINCIAL

Jeremy Langford
PROVINCIAL ASSISTANT FOR COMMUNICATIONS
AND ADVANCEMENT

Brian Harper
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Quentin Maguire
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Kurt Metzler
DESIGNER

USA MIDWEST PROVINCE

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

Regional Directors of Advancement

Al Bill (Minneapolis/St. Paul)
abill@jesuits.org | (952) 715-0770

Nora Dabrowski (Detroit)
ndabrowski@jesuits.org | (773) 368-6399
Mail c/o Chicago Office

Jeff Meyrose (Cincinnati/IN/KY)
jmeyrose@jesuits.org | (513) 751-6688
10945 Reed Hartman Hwy., Ste. 119,
Cincinnati, OH 45242

Dan O'Brien (Milwaukee/Omaha)
dobrien@jesuits.org | (773) 975-5755

Jeff Smart (Chicago)
jsmart@jesuits.org | (773) 975-6920

Joe Sweeney (Chicago/Cleveland)
jsweeney@jesuits.org | (773) 975-6909

SPECIAL THANKS

Fr. Glen Chun, SJ; Ann Greene;
Dave McNulty; Br. John Moriconi, SJ;
John Sealey; Fr. James Stoeger, SJ

FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.JESUITSMIDWEST.ORG

Join Us for Events This Fall

Jesuit Connections: A Night with Ignatian Spirituality Project

Speakers:
Tom Drexler, Executive Director
Christine Curran, Director of Programs and Mission

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

6 to 8 p.m.
USA Midwest Province
of the Society of Jesus
1010 N. Hooker St.
Chicago, IL 60642

For more information, contact
Lauren Gaffey at (773) 234-5482 or
lgaffey@jesuits.org or
Dan O'Brien at (773) 975-5755 or
dobrien@jesuits.org.

Twin Cities "Meet, Greet, and Engage"

Speakers: Fr. William O'Brien, SJ,
Director of Novices, Jesuit Novitiate of
St. Alberto Hurtado
Fr. RJ Fichtinger, SJ, Associate
Pastor, Saint Thomas More Catholic
Community

Thursday, October 5, 2017

5 to 7 p.m.
Billy's on Grand
857 Grand Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105

For more information, contact Al Bill at
(952) 715-0770 or abill@jesuits.org.

Jesuit Alumni and Friends Mass and Reception

Saturday, October 21, 2017

5 p.m.
Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church
438 St. Antoine St.
Detroit, MI 48226

For more information, contact Nora
Dabrowski at (773) 368-6399 or
ndabrowski@jesuits.org.

Jesuit Connections Chicago Area Mass and Reception

Presider: Fr. Joseph Simmons, SJ

Sunday, October 22, 2017

5 p.m.
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Chapel of the Sacred Heart
1852 W. 22nd Pl.
Chicago, IL 60608

For more information, contact
Lauren Gaffey at (773) 234-5482 or
lgaffey@jesuits.org or
Dan O'Brien at (773) 975-5755 or
dobrien@jesuits.org.



Fr. Joseph Simmons, SJ



JESUITS
USA Midwest
Province

Introducing the USA Midwest Province

On June 5, 2017, the Chicago-Detroit and Wisconsin Provinces joined to form the new USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus. We thank all those who have supported our work and served in our ministries in the past, and we look forward to your continued friendship and support in the future. Our new mailing address is 1010 N. Hooker St., Chicago, IL 60642, and you can call us at (800) 537-3736. To learn about the more than 60 ministries of our province, please visit www.jesuitsmidwest.org/whatwedo.