

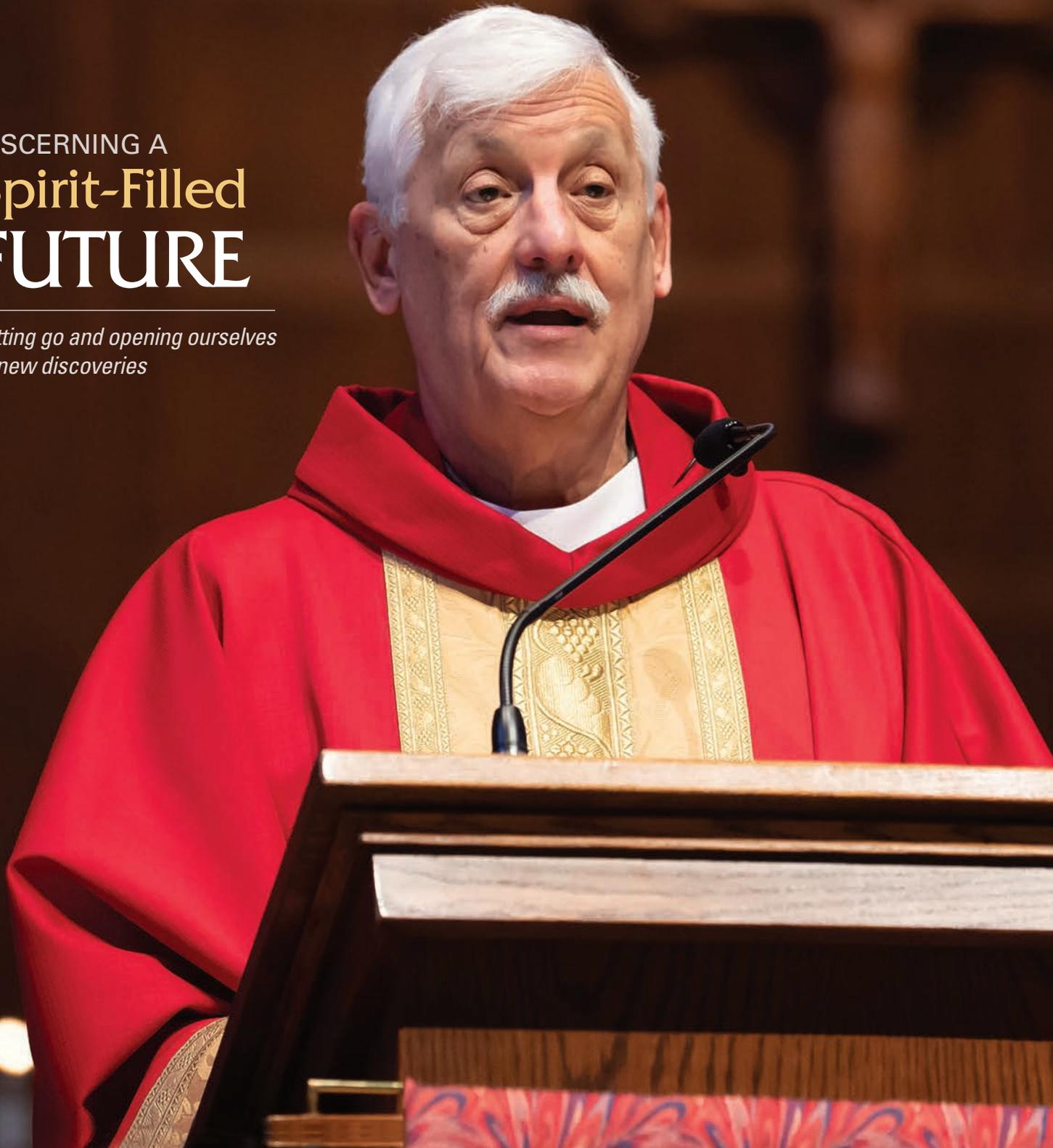


JESUITS

USA EAST PROVINCE | WINTER 2023

DISCERNING A
Spirit-Filled
FUTURE

*Letting go and opening ourselves
to new discoveries*





“Discernment is to go beyond what rationality can teach you and be open to the signs of the *Spirit* in life.”

—Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ



FROM OUR PROVINCIAL

Very Rev. Joseph M. O’Keefe, SJ

Dear Friends,

Nearly fifty years ago, on July 31, 1973, Jesuit Superior General Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, said:

Today our prime educational objective must be to form men (and women) for others; men (and women) who will live not for themselves but for God and his Christ—for the God-man who lived and died for all the world; men (and women) who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors; men (and women) completely convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for others is a farce.

As Jesuit priests and brothers, in all of our apostolates, this is our mission. We are called to walk with and serve those on the margins and to educate men and women to share in that call, regardless of their professions.

As many of you know, Jesuits USA East has been hard at work in an Apostolic Planning process that will position our province to better respond to the needs of the oppressed and to form our lay colleagues in mission so that we can all live out more fully the Universal Apostolic Preferences of the global Society of Jesus. We have already been gathering from Maine to Georgia in this endeavor, which you can read more about in this issue. We also share with you features on Father General Sosa’s visit to our province last August; a look into what novitiate life is like for a new Jesuit embarking on his call in the Society; how a Jesuit middle school, high school, and university have joined hands to help one another and the community they serve; and how our Office of Ignatian Spirituality is forming lay leaders at our Jesuit apostolates.

None of this could be done without your prayers and support. I am grateful for all you do to help our ministries thrive. I know I speak for all the Jesuits of the USA East Province as I wish you and your loved ones a very healthy and prosperous 2023. *Christ’s Peace.*

Sincerely in Christ,

Very Rev. Joseph M. O’Keefe, SJ

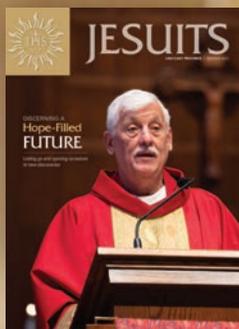
Provincial, USA East Province





ABOUT OUR COVER

On his first visit to the USA East Province, Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, traveled throughout the province, where he gained first-hand perspectives of Jesuits USA East, our apostolates, and institutions.



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A deeper look into the two-year journey of Jesuit novices as they navigate the start of their formation through prayer, service, and education. Pictured: Fr. Carr and novices in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in D.C. awaiting Pope Francis in 2015.



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JESUITS is published by the USA East Province of the Society of Jesus. The opinions expressed are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily constitute the official policy of the Society of Jesus.

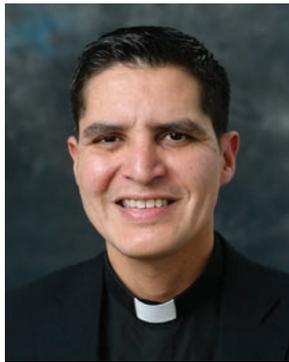
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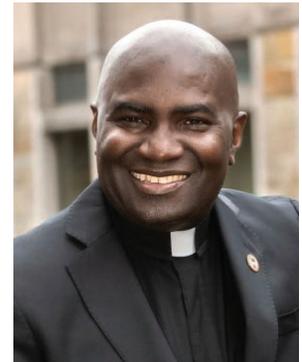
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New Appointments and LEADERSHIP



Boston College has named **Fr. Erick Berrelleza, SJ**, the founding dean of the university's new Messina College. Fr. Berrelleza is a member of the USA West Province and most recently worked as an assistant professor of sociology at Santa Clara University, in California. Messina College is a two-year residential division of Boston College. Offering an associate degree program for 100 students annually, beginning in the 2024-2025 academic year, its goal will be to prepare students for continued studies in a bachelor's degree program, or for professional careers.



Fr. Michael Davidson, SJ, is the new director of the Montserrat Coalition at Boston College. Founded in 2008, the Montserrat Coalition serves students with financial need by providing access to retreats, sporting and theater events, service programs, and independent study, while also aiding in their academic, social, and spiritual formation. Fr. Davidson previously served as the director of the Thea Bowman AHANA (African, Hispanic, Asian and Native American) and Intercultural Center since 2018.

Fordham Prep announced that **Anthony I. Day** will serve as the school's 37th president beginning on July 15, 2023. He has been serving as president of Loyola Blakefield in Baltimore for nine years, where he was principal prior to that. He also served as assistant principal at Regis High School in New York. This will be



a homecoming of sorts for Mr. Day, who began his career at Fordham Prep as a member of the English department in 1992.



Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, has appointed **Fr. Jason Downer, SJ**, to be a consultant for the USA East Province. Fr. Downer has been in the Society for 12 years and was ordained to the priesthood in 2020. He currently serves as Campus Minister for Ignatian Ministry at Le Moyne College, a position he has held since August 2021.



On July 1, 2022, **Fr. Sean Hagerty, SJ**, began his role as the assistant director of vocations for the USA

East Province. He replaced Fr. Adam Rosinski, SJ, who is currently serving as the socius to the director of novices at St. Andrew Hall in Syracuse, N.Y.



The Thea Bowman AHANA and Intercultural Center at Boston College has a new director, **Yvonne McBarnett**. The Thea Bowman AHANA and Intercultural Center provides support for the University's undergraduate community, with a particular focus on AHANA (African, Hispanic, Asian and Native American) students. The Center helps students navigate the challenges of college by offering programs that facilitate student identity formation and community building.



Cheryl A. McConnell was named interim president of Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia last summer, as Mark Reed stepped down to accept the position as president of Loyola University Chicago. Dr. McConnell had been serving as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at

SJU. Most recently, she led the historic integration of University of the Sciences into Saint Joseph's University, coordinating the acquisition of dozens of academic programs in health and science along with state-of-the-art campus facilities.



Fairfield University has announced that **Fr. Kevin O'Brien, SJ**, has been named dean and executive director of its new Bellarmine Campus, opening in the Fall of 2023. The Bellarmine Campus will offer strong professional preparation and enhanced academic support to the region's underserved students interested in earning an associate degree as a first step toward a bachelor's degree or meaningful career.



On Dec. 1, 2022, **Fr. Sam Sawyer, SJ**, assumed the role of editor-in-chief of America Media following the conclusion of Fr. Matt Malone, SJ's tenure. Fr. Sawyer had been a senior editor and the director of digital strategy at America Media.

Visit FROM FAT



Fr. Sosa stands with the Jesuits of Georgetown, Washington, D.C. To his left is Fr. Joseph O'Keefe, SJ, Provincial of Jesuits USA East, and to his right is Fr. Ron Anton, SJ, Superior of the Georgetown Jesuit Community.

Boston Weston, Mass. New York City Jersey

HER GENERAL SOSA



By Mike Gabriele

The day after celebrating Mass on July 31, 2022, in the Basilica of Loyola, Spain for the Feast of St. Ignatius and the conclusion of the Ignatian Year, Father General Arturo Sosa, superior of the Global Society of Jesus, was on a plane for the USA East Province, his first visit to the province since its creation in 2020.

As he had tasked the province with creating an Apostolic Plan that will position it to better serve the people of God through the Universal Apostolic Preferences, the trip served as a meaningful opportunity for Fr. Sosa to gain a first-hand perspective of Jesuits USA East, its apostolates, and institutions.

Father General's first order of business was to speak at the International Association of Jesuit Universities 2022 assembly at Boston College, entitled, "Discerning the Future of Jesuit Higher Education." In his remarks, Fr. Sosa spoke to the nearly 400 presidents and administrators from Jesuit colleges and universities throughout the world about what they can do to help pave the way to a more just society with fraternal relations among

City▶ Baltimore▶ Washington D.C.▶ Syracuse

“True discernment means letting go and opening oneself to discover something new.”

— Father General Sosa, SJ

persons, their cultures, peoples, and nations. Another theme he continued to highlight during his time in the USA East Province was that true discernment means letting go and opening oneself to discover something new.

Discernment and new discoveries are top of mind for Jesuits USA East, as the province has been busy conducting regional gatherings with Jesuits and lay colleagues to gain insights and ideas for a province-wide Apostolic Plan. It was inspiring to hear Father General liken our apostolic planning journey to that of Abraham’s “Yes” to the Lord despite

his uncertainty. Abraham committed to following the Lord—to letting go and following the Holy Spirit. Jesuits and their partners in mission are now doing the same—sharing ideas and experiences and letting go of personal egos in an attitude of freedom guided by the Holy Spirit.

Following his talk at Boston College, Fr. Sosa spent some time at Campion Center in Weston, Mass., one of our province health centers for senior and infirm Jesuits. Visiting these men and celebrating Mass in their chapel made for a memorable day for these men of faith now missioned to pray for the Church and the Society of Jesus.

It was then on to New York City and the headquarters of the USA East Province, where Fr. Sosa met with Jesuits and province staff at the Jesuit Center and celebrated Mass at the historic Church of Saint Ignatius Loyola. Father General also met with Cardinal Timothy Dolan before heading over to Newark, where he had lunch with Cardinal Joseph Tobin and celebrated Mass at St. Peter’s University in Jersey City.

Father General continued south to meet with the Archbishop of Baltimore,



▲ During his visit to Campion Center in Weston, Mass., Fr. Sosa met with the senior and infirm Jesuit residents. He is seen here with Fr. Frank Ryan, SJ, who was 96 when this photo was taken.



▶ Fr. Sosa distributes Communion during Mass at St. Aedan’s Church on the campus of St. Peter’s University in Jersey City.

William E. Lori. As with Cardinals Dolan and Tobin, it was uplifting to hear Archbishop Lori express his full support for the mission of the Jesuits. Fr. Sosa then toured St. Ignatius Church in Baltimore before concluding the day with Mass and dinner at Colombe, a community for older Jesuits who remain somewhat active in pastoral ministry.

While in Baltimore, Fr. Sosa attended a meeting at Loyola University Maryland to engage with directors of Jesuit works from both Baltimore and Philadelphia. As he is usually accustomed to learning about these apostolates from reports via the provincial, it was good for Fr. Sosa to hear and discuss successes and challenges directly from and with those working in our schools, organizations, and volunteer groups.

Father General then continued down the I-95 corridor to Washington, D.C., where he toured the Father McKenna Center, a homeless shelter next to Gonzaga College High School founded by Fr. Horace McKenna, SJ. He also met with Cardinal Wilton Gregory before visiting the Washington Jesuit

Academy, where he engaged with other Jesuit apostolates from the Washington area. He finished the day with the Jesuits of Georgetown University for Mass and dinner.

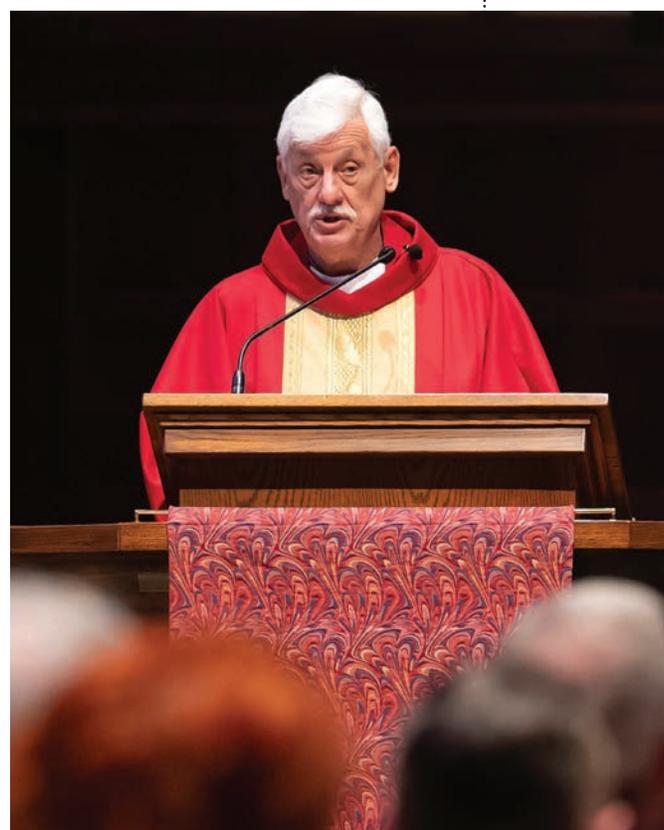
Throughout the week, Fr. Sosa stressed the need to pray and work for an increase in vocations to the Society of Jesus. It was therefore fitting for him to conclude the week by heading north to Syracuse to meet with men discerning a call to the Society at the St. Andrew Hall Novitiate and to preside at the Vow Day Mass for Jesuits professing their perpetual vows. He also met with the Bishop of Syracuse, Douglas J. Lucia.

The USA East Province is grateful for the time Father General spent visiting our apostolates and the Jesuits and staff who work tirelessly to serve the greater good in our regions. His discussions and homilies were both informative and inspiring. As the leader of the Global Society of Jesus, Fr. Sosa is fully committed to addressing the important issues of our day. In addition to his focus on the Universal Apostolic Preferences, he also created the Commission on the Role of

Responsibilities of Women in the Society of Jesus, an important step in the Society's efforts to more fully include and collaborate with women. And as part of his mission to minister to minorities, after leaving the USA East Province, he traveled to the Midwest Province—to the Red Cloud Indian School in South Dakota—where he expressed his desire to walk with Native Americans in solidarity and reconciliation for the Jesuits' role in part of the U.S. government's assimilation policies of the past. ■



▲ Fr. Sosa shares a laugh with Le Moyne President Linda LeMura during his time in Syracuse at the province's novitiate.

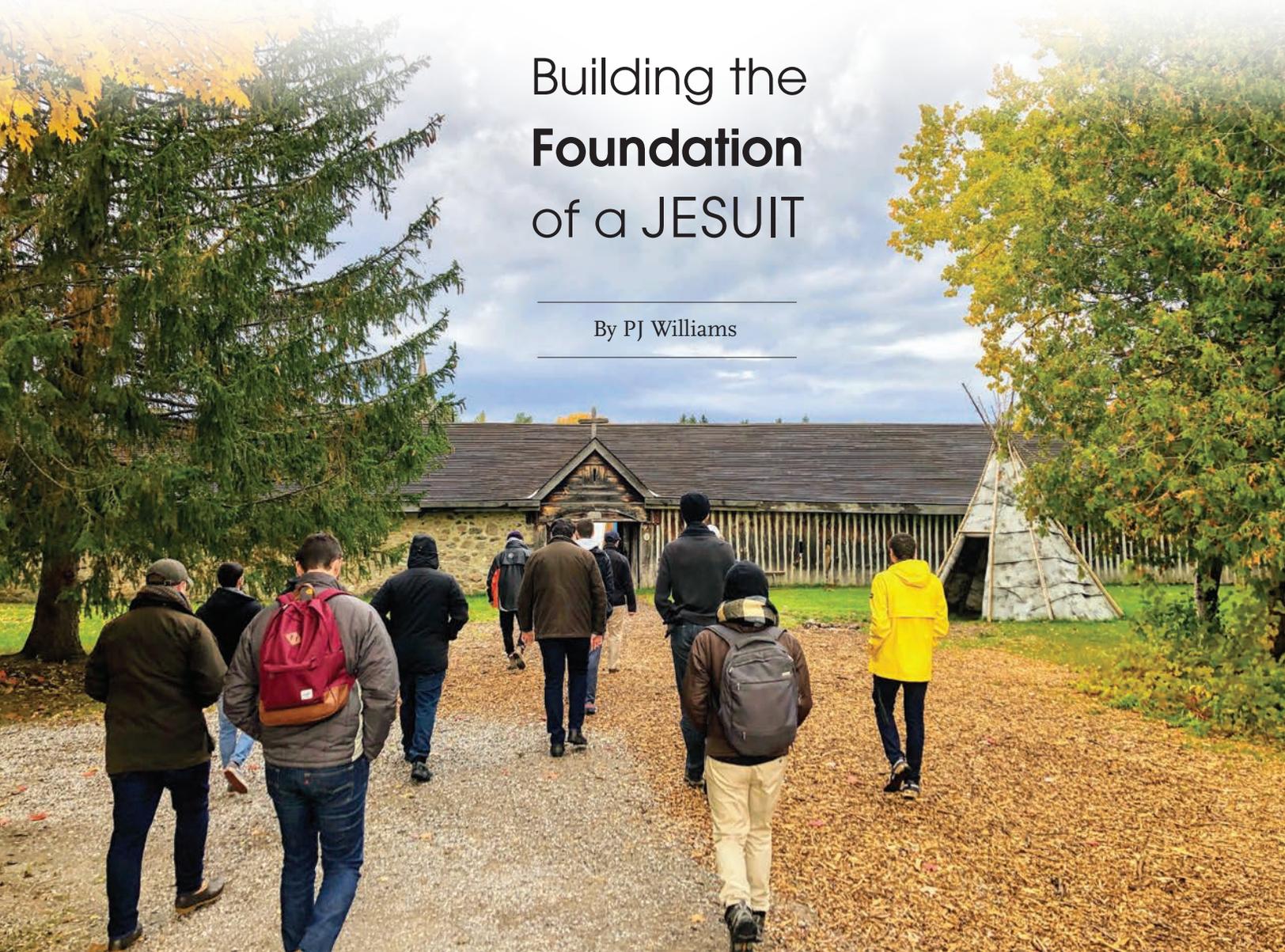


◀ Fr. Sosa celebrated Mass at Loyola University Maryland, where he also met with Jesuits and leaders of Jesuit works from Baltimore and Philadelphia.

The Novitiate:

Building the Foundation of a JESUIT

By PJ Williams



How are men transformed into Jesuits?

Those familiar with the Society of Jesus know that Jesuit formation is a long process that can take well over a decade to complete.

Broadly speaking, it requires a great deal of prayer and a rigorous education, but there are nuances to each stage of that journey. And perhaps the most important stage of Jesuit formation is the very first one, the novitiate.

Spread over the course of two years, the novitiate is where men interested in becoming Jesuits go after a period of candidacy and the initial interviews with the vocation office and admittance by the

- “A man may read every article, watch every video, talk to every Jesuit he can get in front of. But the only way he’ll know if Jesuit life is for him is to actually live it. That is what the novitiate is for.”

— Fr. George Witt, SJ

provincial. Future Jesuits of the USA East Province enter Saint Andrew Hall in Syracuse, N.Y., each August. While in the novitiate, Primi (novices in their first year) and Secundi (novices in their second year) complete a series of “experiments,” a word which comes from the Spanish meaning “experiences.”

“A person can only learn so much about the Society before entering,” says Fr. George Witt, SJ, director of novices for the USA East Province. “A man may read every article, watch every video, talk to every Jesuit he can get in front of. But the only way he’ll know if Jesuit life is for him is to actually live it. That is what the novitiate is for.”

The novitiate of today is more in line with St. Ignatius’ original vision of novice life than even the novitiate of the mid-20th century. “A key novitiate experiment is making the Spiritual Exercises, a retreat of thirty days. In the 1950s we’d have maybe forty novices in a room listening to a lecture and then go off to do their prayers,” said Fr. James Carr, SJ, former novice director at Saint Andrew Hall. After Vatican II, there was a push for all religious orders to see if they had drifted from their roots, and in the case of the Jesuits, individual spiritual direction at the novitiate was one of those areas. “When you have a lot of novices, it’s hard to offer individual spiritual direction, but Ignatius’ original method was for a retreatant to meet individually with a director to receive instructions for prayer, which we have gone back to doing.”

As in any religious order, prayer

is a key piece of a novice’s life. “That’s really at the center of it all, developing a loving, intimate friendship with Jesus through the Spiritual Exercises, through daily prayer, and through the experiments,” said Fr. John Wronski, SJ, provincial delegate for formation in the USA East Province. In their first year, the men make the long retreat, also known as the 30-day silent retreat. All novices participate in morning prayer, daily Mass, and evening prayer. They also have their own hour of individual prayer each day. And they pray an Examen twice a day, for ten minutes each time.

As to be expected, men who enter have different levels of familiarity with the Society, so learning more about the Jesuits is another component of their time at the novitiate.

Novices read important Jesuit documents, such as the *Constitutions of the Society of Jesus*, as well as the writings of Ignatius and other Jesuits. “This summer, novices from the U.S. and Canada will be learning about the history of the Society at Loyola University in Chicago,” explained Fr. Witt. “This course is offered every other year.” Jesuits at Saint Andrew Hall also study Spanish twice a week. Men are not expected to be fluent by the time they leave the novitiate, but will continue to learn Spanish throughout their formation. Novices take part in a Spanish immersion experiment during the summer that they are not studying Jesuit history.

Another key experiment of the novitiate is apostolic work. During the fall of each year, novices are



Fr. Tom Roach, SJ, celebrates Mass for novices.

“I think one of the most wonderful things a novice can say is ‘Wow, I never would have chosen that apostolic work, but I can do more than I ever thought possible in it.’”

— Fr. James Carr, SJ



Novices stand in front of the entrance of Gethsemani Abbey.



Fr. George Witt, SJ, provides personal spiritual direction to each novice.

out of the house two days a week working in a ministry. They work locally in Syracuse at a prison, nursing home, grammar school, hospice, or other apostolate. “I think one of the most wonderful things a novice can say is ‘Wow, I never would have chosen that apostolic work, but I can do more than I ever thought possible in it,’” explains Fr. Carr. “You want someone to see that, because as Jesuits, we’re frequently asked to do things that aren’t in our wheelhouse.”

After first-year novices complete the 30-day retreat in late winter, they begin their pilgrimage experiment. “The pilgrimage experience

was originally designed for people to go outside of the house and beg for their way for a certain amount of time,” said Fr. Witt. “This made great sense in 16th century Spain, but makes less sense in 21st century New York.” Today’s novices do go out to serve underserved communities.

The hospital experiment follows the pilgrimage experiment. For the past 60 years, Jesuit novices have spent time working at Calvary Hospital for cancer patients in the Bronx. “They get training and are sent onto the floors where they help feed patients, make beds, and offer other direct care,” said Fr. Witt. “They function as nurses aides.”

Novitiate Timeline at Saint Andrew Hall

1
YEAR

A man enters the Novitiate at Saint Andrew Hall in August as a Primi. He prays, learns about the Society, learns Spanish, and does service projects outside the novitiate.

In January, he completes the Spiritual Exercises, also known as the 30-day retreat.

After his retreat, he makes the pilgrimage experiment, serving for a month with people on the margins.

He returns to the novitiate for further study and prayer, and after another month, is off to work on his hospital experiment.

His first summer is spent either learning the history of the Society or doing a Spanish immersion experiment in a Spanish-speaking community. These alternate each year.





Seasons of change and growth at Saint Andrew's Hall.

In addition to the educational, spiritual and service components of the novitiate, there is a practical introduction to living in a religious community. "While novices are encouraged to remain in contact with family and friends, the primary relationships that they should be cultivating are the ones at the novitiate," said Fr. Witt. Men who move to the novitiate are not just moving to a new city, but often a new state. They have to live with people in a community setting, which can present challenges. They are required to do apostolic work, which can be something out of their comfort zone. They also have a superior to whom

they need to be obedient. While all this is happening, they are thoughtfully and prayerfully trying to discern what they are called to do in life. "It can be a really challenging time, but it can be wonderful," said Fr. Wronski. "You really bond with your classmates, and become friends in the Lord."

In January, the second-year novices leave the house and begin what is called the long experiment. They work in a Jesuit apostolate from January through May, and live in regular Jesuit community. "The training wheels are off," said Fr. Witt. "To complete the novitiate, a novice needs this substantial time living in a regular Jesuit community with men who have been in the

Society for a while." After they finish their long experiment, the secundi can move on in their formation and take First Vows in August.

But what about when a novice realizes he is not meant to be a Jesuit? "It could very well be that a man determines that 'this is not for me' and he leaves the novitiate. If he determines this with clarity and freedom, I say, 'Great! Successful novitiate!'" explained Fr. Witt. "And if he determines with clarity and freedom that this is the path that God is calling him to and he moves onto vows, also great! A successful novitiate!"

While the idea of a novice who could have made a very good Jesuit leaving the Society may sound disheartening, it is not. "Being a Jesuit has to feel like the best thing in the world for a guy," explains Fr. Carr. Those who are called to stay in formation very much want to be Jesuits and are living out their vocations. Those who are not called to be Jesuits live out their vocations as lay people. As Fr. Carr succinctly sums up, "I think God's going to call you to do the thing you're in love with; he's not going to call you to do something that you don't love." ■



Fr. Adam Rosinski, SJ, teaching Spanish to current novices.

2

YEAR

The man starts his Secundi year at the novitiate. He continues to pray, learn about the Society, learn Spanish, and participate in service projects outside the novitiate.



In January, second-year men leave and go on a long experiment. They work in a Jesuit apostolate from January to May, while they are out of the novitiate and living in a regular Jesuit community.



The man's second summer is spent either learning more about the Society or doing a Spanish immersion experiment in a Spanish speaking community. These alternate each year.



In August, the man pronounces First Vows.





CELEBRATING NEW JESUIT

On June 11, 2022, three Jesuits, two from the USA East Province and one from the Province of Canada, were ordained to the priesthood. The ordination was performed at the Fordham University Church by Most Rev. Edmund Whalen, Auxiliary Bishop of New York. The men were among 17 Jesuits in the United States and Haiti to be ordained last summer. Friends, family, and fellow Jesuits gathered to celebrate these men completing their formation journeys to the priesthood. From left to right in the photo are Fr. Joseph O'Keefe, SJ, Provincial of Jesuits USA East, Fr. Matthew Cortese, SJ, Fr. Sean Hagerty, SJ, Most Rev. Edmund Whalen, Fr. Sudzer Charélus, SJ (Province of Canada), and Fr. Jean Denis Saint-Félix, SJ, Superior for Haiti.



Newly ordained Fr. Sean Hagerty, SJ, gives a first blessing to his provincial, Fr. Joseph O'Keefe, SJ.



PRIESTS



FIRST VOWS

for Two Jesuit Novices



Two Jesuit novices of the USA East Province pronounced first vows on Aug. 13, 2022, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse, N.Y. Alec Hufford, SJ, and Angelo Jesus Canta, SJ, (pictured) pronounced their perpetual vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience at a very special Mass presided by Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior of the Global Society of Jesus, who was visiting from Rome. They now continue their Jesuit formation as brothers in Christ, companions in the Society of Jesus.

2022–2023

Jesuits in *F*ormation

in the USA East Province

FIRST-YEAR NOVICES



James Dooley



Mark Dushel



Lee Gray



Alexander Harb



Kyle McHugh



Eric Panico



Mitchell Tu



François Venne

SECOND-YEAR NOVICES



Nicholas Colalella



Nicholas Lignore



Luke Olsen

FIRST STUDIES



Angelo Canta



Alec Hufford



RJ Jacobs



Trevor Kelly



Luke Lapean



Nicholas Leeper



Robert Lorenz



Andrew Milewski



Michael Petro



David Said



Mario Verde



Christian Zombek

The Path of Formation

Jesuit novices from the USA East Province enter Saint Andrew Hall in Syracuse, N.Y., for the two-year **Novitiate** program, culminating in the profession of perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

In **First Studies** after the novitiate, most Jesuits study philosophy and theology for three years at Loyola University Chicago, Saint Louis University, or Fordham University.

In **Regency**, Jesuits work full time for two or three years at a Jesuit worksite or apostolate, such as an educational institution, or in pastoral ministry.

In **Theology**, Jesuits continue advanced studies for three years at one of three locations in North



REGENCY



Jake Braithwaite



Matthew Briand



Brian Engelhart



Bryan Galligan



Christopher Holownia



Paul Phillipino



John Pignone



Christopher Smith



Christian Verghese

America (the School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College, the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, located in Berkeley, Calif., or Regis University in Toronto) or at the Gregorian University in Rome.

The **Recently Ordained** group includes men who completed theology studies and were ordained as priests.

Jesuit Brothers undergo a slightly different but equally rigorous formation process of studies and apostolic work.

Tertianship is the final step in the formation process, and the period of preparation before making final vows in the Society of Jesus.

THEOLOGY



Brendan Coffey



Thomas Elitz



Brendan Gottschall



Justin Grosnick



Kieran Halloran



Douglas Jones



C-Y Kao



Joseph Lorenz



Jonathan Pennacchia



Melvin Rayappa



Dickson Tiwelfil

www.BeAJesuit.org

RECENTLY ORDAINED PRIESTS



Matthew Cortese



Sean Hagerty



Ricardo Perkins

BROTHERS



Marco Rodriguez



Jonathan Stott

Many Regions, **ONE** Province

Jesuits and lay colleagues from
Maine to Georgia join hands
for Apostolic Planning

By Fr. John Swope, SJ

Provincial Assistant for Apostolic Planning



D

uring the fall of 2022, Jesuit ministries hosted gatherings of the extended Ignatian family from Maine to Georgia as part of the Apostolic Planning Process of the USA East Province. Pictured here are just a few of the groups. Many are familiar with the Jesuit high schools, colleges and universities, parishes, and retreat houses in our region. But a wide range of Jesuit-affiliated organizations also participated actively: members and representatives of the Christian Life Communities

(CLC), the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC), the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC), the Jesuit Anti-Racism Sodality (JARS), and the Jesuit-sponsored Cristo Rey schools. These Ignatian “fellow travelers” began their journey of prayer and contemplation late last spring, and it culminated in a day of reflection about the future apostolic activity of the Society of Jesus and our partners.

The Regional Gatherings have captured the voices of lay colleagues and Jesuits, and they will be integrated into the Apostolic Planning Process of the USA East Province. In addition, every Jesuit community in the province has been engaged in a series of meetings as they all seek to understand



USA East Regional Gatherings By the Numbers



Facing page: Atlanta Regional Gathering
 This page, from top to bottom: Baltimore Regional Gathering, Buffalo-Rochester Regional Gathering, North Carolina Regional Gathering

and embrace where God is leading the province.

Every Jesuit Province throughout the world has engaged in a similar process of prayerful discernment focused on how best to live out the Jesuit mission, which over the next decade will be guided by the four Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus articulated in 2019: showing the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and the practice of discernment; walking with the poor, the outcasts of the world, and those whose dignity has been violated, in the mission of reconciliation and justice; walking together with young people, to build a hope-filled future; and working together to care for the earth, our common home.

Now the next step begins, as Provincial, Fr. Joseph O’Keefe, SJ, together with a group of advisors, will review the insights from the regional gatherings and the Jesuit communities, take stock of our human and financial resources and set the apostolic priorities for the USA East Province for the next decade. The Apostolic Plan will be sent to the Superior General of the Society of Jesus in early September for his review and approval. Then the pilgrim journey of the USA East Province will continue! ■



BRONX BRIDGES

By Fr. Vinny Marchionni, SJ



Instructor Rita Taryan from Fordham University's Institute of American Language and Culture teaches English at SIS to South Bronx families and neighbors.

What does it look like when Jesuit apostolates put their resources together in service to the Jesuit mission of reconciliation and the care of souls? It looks like the Jesuit presence in the Bronx, where bridges are being expanded between Rose Hill and Hunts Point, between Fordham University, Fordham Preparatory School, and Saint Ignatius School (SIS).

The Society of Jesus exists to go to the margins, and has had a presence in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx since the 1980s. In 1995, SIS sprang from that presence on the margins to ensure that youth could flourish and transform the neighborhood. Even with increased public and private-sector investment, Hunts Point continues to be a frontier within the Bronx, with one of the lowest median incomes in the Bronx and city at \$26,350. Residents still breathe dangerous air, experience housing insecurity due to rent and COVID, and fear violent crime in the subway and on the streets. Accordingly, SIS is partnering with Fordham Prep and Fordham University to create a community hub so that Hunts Point can have the full resources of the apostolates of the Jesuits at its disposal and for its growth.

The bridge between the apostolates is not a new one. Fordham Prep and SIS have a long relationship that began in the early 2000s with simple acts of afternoon tutoring. Prep religious studies teacher Mr. Paul Homer remembers the impact the interactions between students had. “SIS students came to realize that they could hold their own with Prep students and might really enjoy the camaraderie of a Jesuit high school. And Prep students grew to appreciate their role as friends and role models,” he notes. The relationship grew from there. The Mothers’ Club has gotten involved to assist with an annual toy drive for SIS families. Different clubs at the Prep have spent time with SIS students, whether it was watching the film *Coco* in appreciation of Hispanic Heritage Month or teaching SIS students to fly

“SIS students came to realize that they could hold their own with Prep students and might really enjoy the camaraderie of a Jesuit high school.”

— Paul Homer, religious studies teacher at Fordham Prep



SIS students and faculty with Fordham Prep senior retreat leaders in front of Fordham Prep.

“The students at SIS engage in exercises, voice training, and concentration games, following the Magis Theatre’s ‘three commandments’—be seen, be heard, believe.”

— Fr. George Drance, SJ,
Fordham University

planes on flight simulators. And with seven SIS alumni currently enrolled at the Prep, the bridge between the schools will continue to hold and strengthen.

Fordham University is also making its presence felt in Hunts Point, offering a well-rounded program of formation through SIS. Through Fordham University’s Institute of American Language and Culture, SIS families and neighbors are taking adult English classes during the school day. Women who have raised children and worked a variety of low-wage jobs can now learn English in a structured environment with high standards, and have the foundation to seek higher wages and different, more fulfilling work.

SIS’s afterschool program is flourishing with Fordham’s involvement in the sciences and arts. Fordham University Artist-in-Residence, Fr. George Drance, SJ, has brought Magis Theatre Company’s Odyssey Project to Hunts Point. “The students at SIS,” he says, “engage in exercises, voice training,

and concentration games following the Magis Theatre’s ‘three commandments’—be seen, be heard, believe.” The goal is forming the middle schoolers in ways to make healthy decisions and to find their true way home. Judging by the laughter from the classroom and activities, they are having fun finding home while in their home neighborhood.

While some SIS students battle the Cyclops with Odysseus and Fr. Drance, others are building their own air quality sensors in the STEM Club. This is done in partnership with Project FRESH Air, an initiative by Dr. Stephen Holler of the Department of Physics at Fordham University. Dr. Holler installed air quality sensors inside and outside of SIS at the start of the semester, and students began to learn about air quality issues in the Bronx and to learn how sensors work. Now, the onus is on SIS students to put their knowledge into practice for the common good as they continue to build



Dr. Raymond Gonzalez, Fordham Prep science teacher, shows an SIS student how to land a plane via a flight simulator.



SIS students with Fordham Prep senior retreat leaders by the statue of St. Ignatius at Fordham University.

their own sensors and can monitor air quality in their own blocks. With knowledge and formation comes a hope-filled future in which SIS students can lead a revitalized Bronx. “Saint Ignatius School allows us to expand our network into a Bronx neighborhood with significant commercial traffic whose emissions harm the community’s health,” says Dr. Holler. “At the same time, Fordham faculty and students live the mission of *cura personalis* and Educating for Justice through close work with the students to increase scientific literacy and promote STEM education.”

This last point from Dr. Holler is crucial. Hunts Point is not only a place to learn for SIS students, but also a vehicle of formation for its Rose Hill partners—Jesuit and lay alike. SIS is a praxis site for the new formation at the Ciszek Hall Residential College, a new approach to philosophy studies in Jesuit formation that seeks to place scholastics firmly in a local community to help the scholastics engage contemporary questions. For the last two years, scholastics have come to SIS from Fordham once a week to teach religion and test-prep for Catholic high school placement. As important as their contribution is to SIS, Jesuit scholastic Ryan Serfas, SJ, from the

Midwest Province, sees how he is being formed by his ministry. “I am seeing firsthand what the ‘preferential option for the poor’ looks like, through the accompaniment of my students amidst their challenging contexts, neighborhoods, and family lives.”

Fordham University has partnered with SIS this year in fellowship and service, particularly to address food insecurity in Hunts Point. Civic-minded sophomores from the West Wing Ignatian Integrated Learning Community have come to Hunts Point to understand at a deeper level the connection between studies and the local community. The vehicles for this formation vary from, “the one-on-one mentoring discussions, Ignatian reflections and engaged service partnerships, to unplanned agenda items where we learn and teach one another through simple conversation and daily human modeling,” notes Dr. Robert Parmach, director of Ignatian Mission at Fordham University.

Simple conversation. Meeting each other at the margins. Putting strengths together to meet common challenges. The Jesuit apostolates of the Bronx will continue to put this straightforward formula to work as leaven for a borough frequently bowed down. ■



Together in Mission:

By Henry Frank

OFFICE OF IGNATIAN

OIS

SPIRITUALITY

Jesuits and Lay People
Responding to the
Needs of the World





Vanessa Rotondo



Dr. Jeff Kamradt



Sarah Jones

In 1995, Jesuit leaders from around the world gathered in Rome to discern what the mission of the Society of Jesus would look like in the years that followed.

A consensus emerged that Jesuits and lay people should think of themselves as “co-laborers” in mission. Jesuits were to envision their ministries less as serving their lay brothers and sisters and more as serving alongside their lay colleagues in addressing the needs of the world.

The Office of Ignatian Spirituality (OIS), a ministry of the USA East Province, is dedicated to the Ignatian formation of lay people. It offers opportunities to learn to pray, to encounter the graces of the Spiritual Exercises, to learn about the Jesuit way of proceeding, and to grow as women and men for others. OIS makes these opportunities available and accessible to people with families, jobs, and all the normal joys and responsibilities of life as a lay person. And, in particular, OIS makes these opportunities possible for those people who work alongside Jesuits in Jesuit ministries.

Vanessa Rotondo serves as the associate director of Campus Engagement at Fordham University, as well as the senior advisor for Ignatian leadership in Fordham’s Center for Community Engaged Learning. She is a Fordham alumna and a doctoral candidate in religious education. Vanessa is also an alumna of OIS’s Contemplative Leaders in Action (CLA) program, an eighteen-month Ignatian spirituality and leadership program for young adults. “Ignatian spirituality informs all the work that I do,” Vanessa said in a recent conversation. “It was something I was familiar with in college, but it really stuck with me in CLA. It took the academic learning into the real world.”

“OIS’s Magis program introduced me to the world of Ignatian spirituality,” explained **Jeff Kamradt**, who is a medical oncologist by profession. In 2019, he completed the Magis program, which is an eighteen-month

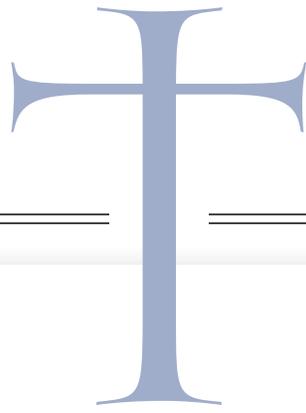
Ignatian spirituality formation program for adults of all ages, and then he joined OIS’s Cura community. Cura is a community of practice that brings people together from a variety of backgrounds around the Ignatian mission. While part of the Cura community, Jeff and another member discerned a call to work alongside Jesuits at Thrive for Life, training volunteers to lead Ignatian retreats in correctional facilities.

Though its primary focus is within the USA East Province, OIS’s impact continues to expand. **Sarah Jones** completed CLA in Philadelphia in 2014, while working in campus ministry at Saint Joseph’s University. She has since moved across the country, and now serves as director of the JV Program for JVC Northwest. CLA was an opportunity for Sarah to ask as a young professional, “How do I structure my life around these [Ignatian] values? How do we strive for the *magis*?”

Ignatian spirituality helps people find God’s love in their lives, and to accompany and care for one another. This inspiration and sense of purpose comes up again and again.

“The commitment to social justice is central to how [my students] are being educated,” said Vanessa. “I use Ignatian spirituality as a tool to help them make sense of all these things they are learning about and seeing in the world.” Jeff said, “I think a corollary arising from a deeper understanding of Ignatian spirituality is a desire to share it with the world.” “I think about Ignatian detachment,” said Sarah. “Anything is possible, and it will be what it is. The beauty of the Divine is that organic reality is a part of it.”

St. Ignatius Loyola understood well that the future is fickle. The invitation of the Spiritual Exercises is to learn to encounter God along the way. God alone knows what Jesuit ministries will look like a decade or a century from now, but if the Ignatian tradition is fundamentally about ministering to one another, then every person who wants to walk on this Ignatian journey, both Jesuit and lay, will find a warm welcome.



Brothers and sisters,
we do not want you to be
uninformed about those
who sleep in death,
so that you do not grieve
like the rest of mankind,
who have no hope.
For we believe that
Jesus died and rose again,
and so we believe that God
will bring with Jesus those who
have fallen asleep in him.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

IN MEMORIAM

Deceased Jesuits of the USA East Province — November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2022

Rev. John J. Mawhinney, SJ

November 30, 1932 – November 8, 2021

Rev. Charles J. Dunn, SJ

June 25, 1923 – November 18, 2021

Rev. James A. Woods, SJ

March 24, 1931 – November 20, 2021

Rev. John W. Elder, SJ

June 27, 1933 – November 21, 2021

Rev. George A. Aschenbrenner, SJ

November 22, 1932 – November 27, 2021

Rev. Edward J. Mally, SJ

June 10, 1929 – November 30, 2021

Rev. Robert F. Regan, SJ

June 6, 1927 – December 2, 2021

Rev. Robert G. McMillan, SJ

February 23, 1932 – December 9, 2021

Rev. Salvador R. Jordan, SJ

July 14, 1942 – December 11, 2021

Rev. William J. Rakowicz, SJ

August 6, 1948 – December 13, 2021

Rev. William J. Elliott, SJ

March 17, 1928 – December 17, 2021

Rev. Henry G. Heffernan, SJ

November 5, 1930 – January 3, 2022

Br. Juan S. Ngiraiabuuch, SJ

January 27, 1964 – January 18, 2022

Rev. Paul J. McCarthy, SJ

June 15, 1924 – January 18, 2022

Rev. William A. McKenna, SJ

December 19, 1933 – February 4, 2022

Br. Theodore C. Bender, SJ

January 8, 1935 – February 7, 2022

Rev. John Carty, SJ

May 6, 1926 – February 28, 2022

Rev. Frederick G. McLeod, SJ

February 22, 1932 – March 7, 2022

Rev. Thomas F.X. Wheeler, SJ

October 8, 1930 – March 17, 2022

Rev. Andrew J. Christiansen, SJ

February 20, 1945 – April 6, 2022

Rev. Francis J. Moy, SJ

November 14, 1938 - April 29, 2022

Rev. David F. White, SJ

January 28, 1937 – May 26, 2022

Rev. Alfred L. Fiorino, SJ

July 31, 1925 – May 30, 2022

Rev. Paul S. Naumann, SJ

November 16, 1929 – June 17, 2022

Rev. Gustaaf M. Keppens, SJ

August 12, 1929 – June 29, 2022

Rev. John J. Donohue, SJ

January 12, 1926 – July 6, 2022

Rev. Rodolfo Casals, SJ

November 16, 1974 – August 2, 2022

Rev. John J. Ryan, SJ

June 12, 1936 – August 5, 2022

Rev. Dominic W. Maruca, SJ

September 15, 1927 – August 27, 2022

Rev. Ronald J. Amiot, SJ

June 14, 1949 – September 3, 2022

Rev. Robert V. Paskey, SJ

May 29, 1935 – September 5, 2022

Rev. John W. O'Malley, SJ (UMI)

June 11, 1927 – September 11, 2022

Rev. William P. Walsh, SJ

November 13, 1932 – October 7, 2022

Rev. Michael F. Ford, SJ

February 14, 1943 – October 13, 2022

Rev. J. Allan Loftus, SJ

March 13, 1947 - October 24, 2022

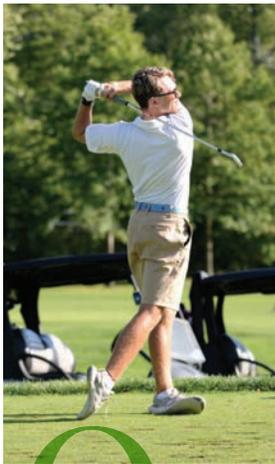


If you would like to read the obituaries of these and other Jesuits of the USA East Province, use the camera app on your smartphone to scan this QR code and get directed to the In Memoriam section of our website.

Another **WINNING DAY**...



...at the 2022 *Friends of the Jesuits Golf Outing*



O

n Tues., Sept. 20, 2022, nearly 100 golfers and supporters attended the 2022 *Friends of the Jesuits Golf Outing* at the beautiful Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Scarsdale, N.Y.

For fourteen years, the *Friends of the Jesuits Golf Outing* has raised funds to support men in formation as well as senior Jesuits. These events have collectively raised more than \$3 million.

Fr. James Keenan, SJ, director of donor relations for the USA East Province, was on hand not only to greet golfers but also to say the opening prayer at the start of the day.

When the golfers completed the course, they gathered for an outdoor reception, where they had the chance to catch up with one another and the Jesuits.

Guests were then treated to a silent auction where they could place bids for the chance to play on some of the best golf courses in the country.

At the close of the evening, Fr. Joseph O’Keefe, SJ, provincial of the USA East Province, thanked attendees and talked about what the province is able to do thanks to the support from the outing.

The beautiful weather and outstanding renovations at Quaker Ridge Golf Club added to the success of the day. We are grateful to our new Golf Chair, Bill Miller, for his leadership and all the sponsors and participants, especially our Jesuits, who helped us convey the importance of the funds raised for the ministries of the province.

Save the Date

Friends of the Jesuits Golf Outing

September 19, 2023

Quaker Ridge Golf Club

Details to come!



Mark your calendars for these important events!

Journey to EASTER with the Jesuits



The USA East Province of the Society of Jesus invites you to attend one of our two upcoming Florida events. On Thursday, March 2, 2023, there will be a Prayer Reflection and Brunch, with Provincial, Fr. Joseph O’Keefe, SJ, Socius, Fr. Jack Hanwell, SJ, and director of Donor Relations, Fr. James Keenan, SJ, at the Breakers West Country Club in Palm Beach, Fla. On Sat., March 4, 2023, Mass will be celebrated with Fathers O’Keefe, Hanwell, and Keenan following lunch at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club in Naples, Fla. Come reconnect with friends and alumni, and learn about exciting updates from Jesuits USA East.

Registration is now open!

Contact Ann Marie Houston at ahouston@jesuits.org or 617.607.2814 for more information.

Save the date for
The JESUIT DINNER
Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore



Join with Jesuits USA East to celebrate its ministries and present the *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* award to the nursing staffs of our health care communities, who show compassion and dignity to Jesuits who have impacted the lives of so many in their service to God.

Contact Ann Marie Houston for details ahouston@jesuits.org or 617.607.2814

Fr. James Casciotti, SJ

Provincial Assistant for Pastoral Ministries

What do Jesuits and their companions bring to parish ministry?

Jesuits bring “a way of proceeding” marked by collegiality and communal discernment rooted in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and the Constitutions of the Society. All of us in the Ignatian family are on life-long journeys of conversion, discernment, and being people for others. We believe we are called to discover, respect, protect, and enhance whatever is humane and graced in every person and in every culture.

We believe that diversity shared with love and respect enriches all of us and makes us more compassionate and creative. We seek to walk with others and invite them to walk with us. We encourage people to reflect on their experiences and to discern God’s presence in their lives. Our desire is to nurture lay leadership as well as personal faith, a “faith that does justice,” by way of solidarity with the poor and dedication to the greater good. We believe that working hard to cooperate with and share God’s generosity and compas-

sion is one of the privileges of being human—and that what we owe to God, to creation, to one another is gratitude, humility, reverence, and service.

You were most recently pastor at St. Ignatius Church in Baltimore. How has being a pastor prepared you for the role as a delegate for all Jesuit parishes in the USA East Province?

Most of my 53 years as a Jesuit have been spent in pastoral work and Jesuit governance. My role is to:

- build bonds and a shared vision between the province and our parishes
- mentor, learn from, and support pastors and their staff
- assist in the apostolic discernment now underway and in the implementation of the decisions that will be taken

With the pandemic less of a threat and people returning to Mass, what should Catholic churches focus on to attract people back to the pews?

The number and staffing of parishes need to be restructured to use resources for ministry rather than maintenance. Numbers needed for parishes to thrive will be there in communities that are and are seen to be:

- places of worship, welcome and companionship—especially for marginalized groups
- engaged in civic life as advocates for racial, social, and environmental justice
- organized to offer practical, direct service to the poor and the vulnerable





The Jesuit Good Samaritan Club

The members of the Jesuit Good Samaritan Club are among our most loyal donors. Knowing we can count on their monthly gifts not only helps us do the work we are called to do, but helps us better plan for the future.

Whether it is caring for our senior Jesuits, helping to educate our men in formation, or our international and spiritual ministries, the Jesuit Good Samaritan Club is key to our work.

Please consider becoming a monthly donor to the Jesuits of the USA East Province. If you have any questions, you may contact Fr. James Keenan, SJ, at jkeenan@jesuits.org or 212.774.5500. Thank you.



Will you consider a gift to the Jesuits?

To make a gift that supports the Jesuits and their apostolates, please contact:

USA East Province of the Society of Jesus

Timothy Olmstead
tolmstead@Jesuits.org
212-774-5558

39 East 83rd Street
New York, NY
10028-0810

www.JesuitsEast.org

The Society of Jesus



Friends in the Lord ~ United on Mission