



JESUITS

USA EAST PROVINCE | WINTER 2024

LIVING OUR
Vocations
*of service and
accompaniment*





“The Church must initiate everyone—priests, religious, and laity—into an ‘art of accompaniment’ which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other.”

— Pope Francis



FROM OUR PROVINCIAL

Very Rev. Joseph M. O’Keefe, SJ

Dear Friends,

The Society of Jesus has always been guided by the spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola and dedicated to the pursuit of justice, reconciliation, and peace. The need for peace has never been more urgent, as we find ourselves in a world marked by turmoil, conflict, and violence. Our Jesuit mission compels us to engage with the world’s challenges. This is why it is so important for our educational institutions, parishes, and social ministries to serve as beacons of hope and catalysts for positive change here and abroad.

We have several Jesuits of the USA East Province missioned in the Mideast, including Fr. Michael Bellafore, SJ, who serves in Israel and offers some reflections in this issue of *JESUITS* magazine. Please pray for him and all those serving to help transform our world—accompanying refugees, promoting interfaith dialogue, or simply advocating for social justice.

We also highlight in this issue the new Fairfield Bellarmine campus, a two-year college in Bridgeport, Conn., that is giving students from underserved communities the opportunity of a Jesuit college education. We showcase how Georgetown Prep’s resident program reaches across states and around the globe, bringing a true multicultural experience to high school students. You’ll also read how the Ignatian Spirituality Project is offering spiritual retreats to those recovering from addiction or homelessness.

As always, caring for the Jesuits who have served in so many ministries—our men in formation and those in the later years of life—relies on your support. It is essential that we, as individuals and as a collective body, continue to work toward a more just and peaceful world.

May the Grace of God and the intercession of St. Ignatius keep you and your loved ones healthy and safe throughout the new year.

Sincerely in Christ,

Very Rev. Joseph M. O’Keefe, SJ
Provincial, USA East Province



ABOUT OUR COVER

The leadership of Fairfield Bellarmine. Pictured from left to right: PeJay Lucky, assistant dean for student success; Wendy Mendes, director of student health and well-being; Nakia Létang, director of admission; Pamela Tolbert-Bynum Rivers, associate dean for academic affairs; and Fr. Kevin O’Brien, SJ, vice provost and executive director.

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Learn about Fairfield Bellarmine, a two-year associate’s degree program grounded in the Jesuit tradition, which opened in summer 2023 to serve students in the greater Bridgeport, Conn., area. Below: PeJay Lucky, assistant dean for student success at Fairfield Bellarmine, accompanies the first class of students on campus.

Editors

Michael Gabriele
PJ Williams

Advancement

Loual Pullafito
Provincial Assistant
for Advancement

Design

Capers Design

Please address all
correspondence to
JESUITS magazine:
JesuitsMagazine@jesuits.org

USA East Province
39 East 83rd Street
New York, NY 10028-0810
212-774-5500

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New Appointments and LEADERSHIP

LOUAL PULIAFITO

New Provincial Assistant for Advancement

On Dec. 5, 2023, **Mr. Loual Puliafito** began his role as provincial assistant for advancement for the USA East Province. Loual came to Jesuits USA East with significant experience in fundraising and development and an even more extensive history with the Jesuits. Raised as a parishioner of St. Ignatius Church in New York City, he attended both the St. Ignatius Loyola School and Xavier High School in Manhattan and is a graduate of Fordham University.

Loual began his career in development at his high school *alma mater* as director of emerging constituent groups. He later served as director of institutional advancement at Monsignor Farrell High School on Staten Island before becoming director of development at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. He also worked closely with the Archdiocese of New York to restore the Cathedral during its \$200 million capital campaign. Most recently, Loual was the chief advancement officer at St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City.

His experience advancing the missions of multiple Jesuit and Catholic institutions, coupled with his deep faith and love of the Jesuit Charism, made him an ideal fit to lead the fundraising efforts of the province.

Fr. Stephen Katsouros, SJ, president of the Come to Believe Foundation, who spearheads fundraising across the country for new two-year colleges accessible to students from underserved communities,



was part of the search committee for the new province advancement position. "Loual's commitment to the Jesuit mission is palpable," said Fr. Katsouros. "He will represent our province effectively, and our supporters will respond positively and generously to Loual's enthusiasm for the Society."

Mary K. Rutherford, who served on the board of directors at America Media for 20 years and co-chaired a capital campaign for St. Ignatius Church in Manhattan, was also on the search committee. "Loual was the ideal candidate because he is truly dedicated to the Jesuits and has spent his entire professional life in fundraising and advancement for Catholic organizations," she said. "He demonstrated his ability to build personal relationships, think creatively and strategically, and, most importantly, find generous new supporters. His outreach will inspire new believers in the Jesuit mission and new donors to support the province's financial goals."



On Jan. 1, 2024, **Fr. Dennis Baker, SJ**, began his new role as president of Loyola Blakefield High School in Baltimore. Fr. Baker spent five years as president of Xavier High School in Chuuk, Micronesia, where he oversaw considerable growth at the school, as well as leading it through the global pandemic. He has most recently served as director of engagement and planned giving at Xavier High School in Manhattan.



CANISIUS
UNIVERSITY

In 2023, **Canisius College** successfully petitioned the New York State Education Department Board of Regents for university designation. On Aug. 1, the day after the feast of St. Ignatius, Canisius College became Canisius University. Canisius celebrated both the founder of the Society and its university status on Aug. 1 with Mass celebrated with the Jesuit Community in the Christ the King chapel. The celebrant was Canisius' new chaplain, Fr. Fred Betti, SJ. In August, ahead of the start of the fall semester, Canisius unveiled a refreshed branding initiative to introduce the school's new identity.



Christopher Carter Lee has been appointed executive director of Loyola Jesuit Center in Morristown, N.J., succeeding Fr. Paul Campbell, SJ. Christopher was most recently the Boston Area Hospitaller of the Sovereign Order of Malta, establishing homeless outreach ministries in Boston and Providence. He also envisioned, founded, and directed Malta Camp USA, serving intellectually and physically disabled adults with supportive community between those with and without disabilities.



Alex Zequeira has been selected as the next president of St. Ignatius Loyola Academy in Baltimore, Md. Zequeira attended Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in Miami, Fla., and the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. He has been the head of school at Saint John's High School in Shrewsbury, Mass. since 2016. Prior to that role, he was president of the Nativity School of Worcester for five years and earlier in his educational career was the founding principal of that school. Zequeira will officially start in his new role on July 1, 2024.





Fairfield
UNIVERSITY

BELLARMINE:

Making a Jesuit Education

ACCESSIBLE

By PJ Williams

A JESUIT EDUCATION has long been the gold standard for forming compassionate, intelligent, and well-rounded men and women for others. Many who do not know the Society of Jesus are at least familiar with the alumni of their schools. However, for some college-bound students, Jesuit higher education is not an affordable option. Fairfield Bellarmine is working to change that.

Bellarmino is a two-year associate's degree program grounded in the Jesuit tradition, serving the needs of students in the greater Bridgeport, Conn., area. Part of Fairfield University, Bellarmine opened in the summer of 2023 to an inaugural class of 44 students.

"We offer the same core curriculum program that any Fairfield University student would take," explained Fr. Kevin O'Brien, SJ, vice provost, and executive director of Fairfield Bellarmine. "That includes philosophy and theology, math and English, science and humanities. The curriculum fosters critical thinking and communication skills." In their second year, students focus on one of four tracks: business, computer science, health studies, or liberal studies.

Bellarmino is located in the former St. Ambrose parish in the East End of Bridgeport, about seven miles from Fairfield University's main campus. St. Ambrose was opened in the 1920s but was closed a decade ago. "We've repurposed the parish property to become a college campus, and the students have really lived in the place and made it their own," says Fr. O'Brien.

Fairfield Bellarmine is not the first Jesuit community college

“We are building a robust internship and career counseling program to help students discern their future path.”

— Fr. Kevin O'Brien, SJ



program. That distinction goes to Arrupe College. Located on the downtown campus of Loyola University Chicago, Arrupe College opened in 2015. Fairfield University President Mark Nemec previously worked at the University of Chicago and was inspired by what Loyola University Chicago did with Arrupe College. When Nemec came to Fairfield, he wanted to explore what it would look like for the university to offer a similar program.

“At the same time, Bishop Frank Caggiano of Bridgeport was looking to develop a community college program to provide more avenues to higher education for Catholic high school graduates, particularly those from low-income backgrounds,” explained Fr. O’Brien. To help meet this need in Bridgeport, no student attending Fairfield Bellarmine pays more than \$1,000 a year. The remainder of the \$15,000-per-year tuition cost comes from federal and state grants and philanthropy.

While students at Fairfield Bellarmine share similar economic backgrounds, there is much more to them than that. “They’re resilient. They’re willing to do whatever it takes,” said Nakia Letang, director of admissions at Fairfield Bellarmine. In her role, Letang has become

deeply familiar with the inaugural class. “Some of them worked 30-plus hours a week in high school while also supporting their family,” she said. Nearly all the students at Bellarmine are the first in their families to go to college. “These are some amazing, smart, incredible students. They have so much potential.”

Because the program is part of Fairfield University, students from the Bellarmine campus enjoy all the privileges of any Fairfield student. They can take advantage of the university’s clubs, athletics, performing arts, and academic support resources. There is also a shuttle that runs between the two campuses to help Bellarmine students access these resources.

Bellarmino is designed to be just for commuter students. “All of our students are local and all of them intentionally wanted to stay local,” said Letang. For these students, being close to loved ones is an important consideration when looking at colleges. “Many of the students said, ‘I need to stay close to my family. I need to be present for younger siblings or to help out.’”

As with any associate’s degree program, students have the option to

continue their education at a four-year institution like Fairfield or begin their career after two years. “We are building a robust internship and career counseling program to help students discern their future path,” explained Fr. O’Brien. To help make the path to a four-year degree more accessible for those who want it, Fairfield University has committed to enrolling 35 Bellarmine graduates per year with full-tuition scholarships.

Kayanna Mills, a member of Bellarmine’s inaugural class, hopes to be one of those students. During high school she had considered going to a state community college but enrolled at Bellarmine because of the opportunities it presented. “It has been wonderful, and it is starting to feel like home,” she said. “I hope to continue my education on the big campus at Fairfield University to earn my bachelor’s degree in nursing.”

For some students, graduating after two years and starting their career is more prudent than completing their four-year degree. This can be due to a need to support their family or the fact that the field they have chosen does

not require a four-year degree. Bellarmine expects that many of their computer science students will want to begin their career once they graduate.

No matter what students plan to do after graduation, Bellarmine faculty and staff are there to support them. They accompany these talented young men and women and help them become the person God calls them to be. “We create a culture of care, I call it ‘authentic care,’ a care that isn’t based on ‘what I want for you’ but ‘what do you want and how can we get you there,’” said Dr. Pamela Tolbert-Bynum Rivers, associate dean for academic affairs at Bellarmine. “I hope that those who never felt that they were college material—or even if they felt it, never thought that they would be here because of structural barriers—are able to thrive.”

To help students thrive and overcome any barriers in their way, PeJay Lucky, assistant dean for student success, created a “first-year experience” course. This required course helps Bellarmine students transition to college life. “We’re talking about mental health. We’re talking about academic advising. We’re talking through social identities

and socialization. And we talk about financial literacy, among other things,” explained Lucky. In addition, Lucky partners with Campus Ministry to provide spiritual care for the students.

When it comes to the future of Bellarmine, the hope is to expand the campus by renovating more buildings. The administration also plans to expand the current class size, but there are limitations. While the campus does have room for more students, Bellarmine does not plan to exceed 100 students per year. This is to ensure that faculty and staff are able to provide *cura personalis*, or care for each student in their uniqueness in mind, body, and spirit. Class sizes will not exceed 20 students. “We believe that 200 is as far as we will go, to ensure that we are able to provide that close one-on-one care for students,” said Letang.

Making sure that students know that they are cared about is one of the most important things Bellarmine is doing. “Using a Jesuit term—radical hospitality—we’ve been able to create a place where students feel welcome and have a sense of belonging,” said Lucky. “It’s a place where students want to be.” ■





BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Cura Personalis at Georgetown Prep’s Residential Life Program

By Mike Gabriele

New residence hall
and campus center,
completed fall 2022.

Cura Personalis is a uniquely Jesuit Latin phrase meaning “care for the person”—the whole person—mind, body, and spirit. This particular idiom also accurately captures a Jesuit high school experience that is uniquely Georgetown Prep—residential life.

Georgetown Prep is the only Jesuit high school—and one of the few Catholic high schools—in the United States offering students the option to board. In fact, until 1960, most of Georgetown Prep’s student body lived on campus in Boland Hall. Today, a quarter of its students live on campus in a new campus center and residence hall that opened in 2022 for 120 students, with 16 apartments for dorm parents.

“The residential life program here at Georgetown Prep offers all

students, both day and resident, all the benefits of an international boarding program. We are indeed a global campus,” said Georgetown Prep President Fr. James Van Dyke, SJ. “And this new facility has made it a place where these resident students, some who come from more than 8,000 miles away, can truly call home.” Students from 15 states and 20 countries call Georgetown Prep home during the school year.

“The kids who live here are amazing,” said Residential Dean Joseph

Harkins, ’96. “The bravery it takes to leave home at 14, sometimes from thousands of miles away, is unfathomable to me. I’m awed by how strong these boys are and how quick they are to welcome, accept, and help one another become a part of what we have here.”

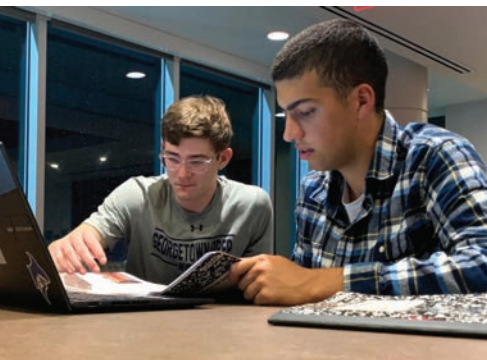
What Georgetown Prep has nurtured on campus over the years is a diverse student community that builds on one another. Zhendong “Dino” Yu is a senior from Shanghai, China. “My on-campus living experience at



State-of-the-art living spaces foster engagement between students, helping to build lasting bonds between boys from many varied backgrounds.



Mandarin teacher Wei Kelley works with students in the kitchen of the new residence hall's student center to help them learn about food from other cultures.



Fellow students and dorm parents assist with academic growth, emotional well-being, and the physical health of student residents.

“Being familiar with this environment provides me with confidence that I’ll be able to express myself when interacting with new people in college and beyond.”

— Malachi Streeter, junior resident

Georgetown Prep has enhanced my ability to communicate effectively with friends and peers,” he said. “My daily interactions have allowed me to refine my interpersonal skills, enabling a more adept and nuanced approach to communication with those in my immediate surroundings.”

Resident life at Georgetown Prep is a learning experience that indeed goes beyond the classroom. “Living with students from all around the world, I have learned about many other rules and values from different countries, cultures, and even religions. Understanding the diverse principles of life, I am able to reflect and adapt my own set of values. I have become more open and thoughtful about my faith and the ultimate purpose of life,” explained Juneho Yeo from South Korea, who is also graduating this spring.

A robust dorm parenting team, consisting of faculty who reside with

their families in apartments within the residence hall, is a key factor to this successful program. The modern, spacious living quarters, coupled with a true desire to make students feel at home, is a testament to why 16 teachers have dedicated themselves, and their own families, to life at Prep. In addition to serving as residential dean, Joe Harkins is a dorm parent, living on campus with his wife and daughter. “Our dorm parents are dedicated to this on-campus community, and they believe in our common mission. They want to help these boys grow into good men, and they show them how to do that not only with their words but through the way they live their lives every day. The boys see everything. Nothing gets past them. They know they are loved and cared for by their dorm parents. These men and women go out of their way to get boys to doctor’s appointments, make cookies for their birthdays, and share their homes

and families with them.”

“The positive atmosphere dorm parents bring into the program made me feel like I was part of the family,” said Masamune Enomoto, a recent graduate from Tokyo, Japan. “I had the best night at Prep when some dorm parents joined our nightly resident soccer matches.” Luis Barrenechea, a junior from Bilbao, Spain, agreed. “Prep’s boarding program offers a variety of activities during the weekends that help each student feel like part of a family and form a brotherhood with fellow students.”

Students who reside at Georgetown Prep from the United States also feel that closeness and benefit as well from an experience that prepares them for the future. “To be a part of this program is truly a blessing,” said Malachi Streeter, a junior resident from Southern Maryland. “Being familiar with this environment provides me with confidence that I’ll be able to express myself when interacting with new people in college and beyond.”

Another aspect of the residential life program that exemplifies distinct Jesuit values is how it enables students

from area Jesuit middle schools in lower-income neighborhoods to continue a Jesuit education at Georgetown Prep. “The resident life program here offers students from Washington Jesuit Academy and Saint Ignatius Academy in Baltimore an opportunity they normally wouldn’t have,” said Harkins. “It places them with other boys who may be very different from them, but after living with each other for a while, going to class together, playing sports together, joining clubs together, those differences move aside, and they become more like brothers than friends. It’s a beautiful thing.”

“The residential program has helped me become a man for others,” said Eric Cruz, a junior from St. Ignatius Loyola Academy. “I consider my roommate one of my brothers. I have known him since the first week of freshman year. We have grown together and share the same personalities, interests, and dedication. I am grateful to be part of this loving community.”

Akeem Clark, a junior from Washington Jesuit Academy (WJA), is grateful for Sunday Mass on campus. “Mass helps me continue to connect deeper with God. Being a resident always gives me the opportunity to

increase my faith and knowledge in God, taking another step further than what WJA had already done for me.”

“We put our new resident building in the center of campus so that our boarding students are at the center of it all and can interact daily with our day students beyond the classroom,” said Fr. Van Dyke. “Resident students from overseas often spend Thanksgiving with one of our day student families, and during the pandemic, one of our local families took in a resident student for more than a year.”

Fr. David Sauter, SJ, an English literature teacher who has been at Georgetown Prep since 2010 and served there more than 25 years throughout his Jesuit career, said, “I have known students who moved away from a life of privilege, students who devoted their lives to the service of the poor, students who experienced a community of love and support which they would not have experienced had they not attended Georgetown Prep. This has been a place of physical safety for some, a place without fear for others, a stable home environment for still others, and, I hope, a place of respect and security for all.”

While the new building and facility has certainly given the resident program a much-needed facelift and more living space, Harkins notes that the culture and love that permeates the program was there when they all lived in the 100-year-old Boland Hall. “The feeling I get when I see the boys working and playing together, watch a dorm parent helping someone with homework, or see my daughter riding her scooter down the hall and being treated like a little sister by the boys ... that great spirit of family lives strong.” ■



Residential Dean Joseph Harkins, '96, and President Fr. James Van Dyke, SJ, pause after a school liturgy for a picture with resident students (from left to right) Qiuyan David Xiong, San Diego, Calif.; Zihao Richard Li, Shanghai, China; Goap Kodi, Woodbridge, Va.; and Changze Zeno Song, Beijing, China.

New Jesuit Priests

On June 10, 2023, the USA East Province ordained three Jesuits to the priesthood at the Fordham University Church, which was quite the international celebration. Ordained were Justin Grosnick, SJ, from the USA East Province; Josué Salguero, SJ, from the Central America Province; and Alcidio Tembe, SJ, from the Southern Africa Province. They were among 17 Jesuits in the United States and Haiti ordained last summer. Friends, family, and fellow Jesuits gathered to celebrate these men completing their formation journey to the priesthood.

Pictured left to right are Fr. Antonio Virgílio Oliveira e Costa, SJ, Socius of the Southern Africa Province; The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport, Conn., (ordaining prelate); Fr. Alcidio Tembe, SJ; Fr. Josué Salguero, SJ; Fr. Justin Grosnick, SJ; and Fr. Joseph O’Keefe, SJ, Provincial of Jesuits USA East.



Newly ordained Fr. Justin Grosnick, SJ, gives a first blessing to his provincial, Fr. Joseph O’Keefe, SJ.

FIRST VOWS *for Jesuit Novices*



Three Jesuit novices of the USA East Province pronounced first vows on Aug. 12, 2023, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse, N.Y. Pictured are Niko Lignore, SJ, Fr. Nick Colalella, SJ, and Luke Olsen, SJ. They now continue their Jesuit formation as brothers in Christ, companions in the Society of Jesus.

2023–2024

Jesuits in Formation

in the USA East Province

FIRST-YEAR NOVICES



Garrett Ahlers Michael Audet Xavier Callahan Rajae Clarke



Brian Craft Monglé Destiné Jack Erlanger Scott Kelly

SECOND-YEAR NOVICES



Mark Dushel Alexander Harb Eric Panico



Mitchell Tu François Venne

FIRST STUDIES



Angelo Canta Nicholas Colalella Alec Hufford RJ Jacobs Luke Lapean



Nicholas Leeper Nicholas Lignore Robert Lorenz Luke Olsen 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 work 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 America (the School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College, the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley, Calif., or Regis University in Toronto) or at the Gregorian University in Rome.

Recently Ordained includes men who completed theology studies and who 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.



www.BeAJesuit.org

REGENCY



Matthew Briand Brian Engelhart Trevor Kelly Andrew Milewski



Michael Petro David Said Christopher Smith

THEOLOGY



Jake Braithwaite Brendan Coffey Thomas Elitz Brendan Gottschall Kieran Halloran



Bryan Galligan Christopher Holownia Douglas Jones C-Y Kao Joseph Lorenz



Jonathan Pennacchia John Pignone Melvin Rayappa Dickson Tiwelfil Christian Verghese

RECENTLY ORDAINED PRIESTS



Justin Grosnick Sean Hagerty Ricardo Perkins Marco Rodriguez Jonathan Stott

BROTHERS

APOSTOLIC PLANNING PROCESS

Culminates in Rome

■ By Fr. John Swope, SJ | Provincial Assistant for Apostolic Planning



Apostolic planners from provinces around the world gathered in Rome for an international conference.

As we opened the international Conference on Apostolic Planning in Rome on December 5, 2023, we began with prayer to embrace our total reliance on the Holy Spirit.

The invitation from Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General, drew together 120 presenters and apostolic planning officials from Jesuit provinces all over the world to share best practices and learn together.

In his keynote address, Fr. Sosa recalled that [as the Society of Jesus] “we want to be instruments of God’s action in history in the same way the Holy Spirit inspired Ignatius of Loyola and the first companions.



In his keynote, Fr. Sosa addressed the topic of “Pathways to Hope and Renewal: Orientations for Province Planning.”

This is the charism we have received, and we need to renew it in our life-mission also through discerned apostolic planning.” Dismissed at every turn throughout the conference was the idea of an apostolic plan as a set of narrowly focused actions that would be executed through our current institutional commitments. We sensed that Fr. Sosa was calling us to something greater and more ambitious. Our planning here in the USA East Province with lay partners and Jesuits has endeavored to set a pathway of renewal of our Jesuit life and to pursue new apostolic pathways to bring the Jesuit mission to life.

As this issue of *JESUITS* magazine went to press, we are making the final preparations of the Apostolic Plan for the USA East Province. We expect to send the plan to Fr. Sosa in mid-February for his review and approval.

Many challenging decisions about our shared apostolic future await us. Fr. Sosa encouraged us to be bold and steady in making future apostolic choices. “Ignatius transmitted a

charism and an experience that leads us to choose, to make decisions aiming at the *magis*, at the best service, at the greatest good. However, we resist ... only with the help of the Lord’s grace will we be able to face the discerned choices by which the Society can best contribute to the *greater glory of God*.”

We anticipate that by the time our summer issue of *JESUITS* comes out later this year, our USA East Apostolic Plan will have been approved by Fr.

“We want to be instruments of God’s action in history in the same way the Holy Spirit inspired Ignatius of Loyola and the first companions.”

— Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General

Sosa and that a Commission on Ministries will be ready to begin implementation of certain aspects of the plan. We look forward to sharing the key elements of the plan both in print and online. Please pray for the Jesuits, lay colleagues, and the works of our province as we move toward the approval of our apostolic plan—one that will guide us to better serve others and bring people closer to Christ. AMDG. ■



Fr. John Swope, SJ, USA East provincial assistant for apostolic planning, engages between sessions with Fr. Joseph Arun, SJ, from the Chennai Province in Southeastern India.



IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY PROJECT

Finding God on the Road to Recovery

BY MICHAEL O'LOUGHLIN



As the United States continues to confront twin crises of homelessness and substance use addiction, the Ignatian Spirituality Project, a national Jesuit ministry, accompanies individuals facing both challenges, leveraging the gift of Ignatian spirituality to help light the path of recovery.

In Washington, D.C., Susan S. volunteers for the Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) women's team, helping to lead overnight retreats and spiritual reflection circles for women in recovery who are striving to rebuild their lives.

Susan said that even though she is not Catholic, she was drawn to Ignatian Spirituality because friends had mentioned how the Spiritual Exercises had helped them navigate life's challenges. This led Susan to seek a spiritual director at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, a Jesuit parish in Georgetown, and to attend an Ignatian retreat.

When she stepped back from practicing tax law a few years ago, Susan searched for volunteer opportunities. She was ultimately drawn to ISP because she knew firsthand how important a strong spiritual foundation was for recovery.

"My spiritual experience has been primarily through 12 Step spirituality, and now with doing the Exercises, it has been enhanced," she said.

There are a litany of churches, nonprofits, and governmental programs aimed at addressing material needs for people facing addiction and homelessness. But when it

comes to the spiritual component, "it's one need that doesn't get fulfilled," Susan said. "And it's critical to any kind of recovery process."

Research seems to bear that out. A study from the American Psychological Association found "that higher religious faith and spirituality are associated with increased positive coping, greater resilience to stress, an optimistic life orientation, greater perceived social support, and lower levels of anxiety."

Through her volunteering with ISP, Susan accompanies others who are eager to incorporate spiritual practices into their lives in the midst of significant challenges. As a professional, middle-class woman, when Susan decided she needed help getting sober, there were individuals and networks available to her, she said. Many of the women she has met at ISP retreats, however, have lacked access to those kinds of resources, and, in addition to addiction and homelessness, many of them also grapple with wounds stemming from abuse, racism, and poverty.

"It's clear that things are happening for these women, that seeds are planted,"

“

It's clear that things are happening for these women, that seeds are planted.

During the retreats, I can tell that it's a very important experience for them."

— Susan S., Volunteer

As part of an ISP retreat, participants pray together around a bonfire.



“

For those of us familiar with Ignatian Spirituality or the 12 Steps, we know the importance of our own story. Because it's in our life experiences where God meets us—and it's from this place that we're invited to grow and change.”

— Christine Curran, Executive Director

Susan said. “During the retreats, I can tell that it's a very important experience for them.”

Founded 25 years ago by Fr. Bill Creed, SJ, and his friend Ed Shurna, ISP began offering overnight retreats to homeless men in Chicago. Within a few years, this grew to include a women's program and then over the years expanded to more than two dozen cities across the United States, Canada, and Ireland. In the USA East Province, ISP currently has active teams in Boston, Mass., Providence, R.I., Ridgewood, N.J., and Atlanta, Ga.

Today, in addition to retreats, ISP volunteer teams provide thousands of spiritual reflection circles at partner homeless service agencies and recovery homes. These one-hour sessions are supported by the ISP Journey mobile app, a platform connecting more than 600 volunteers, including formerly homeless ISP alumni who have stepped up to become facilitators and leaders in the organization.

The mission of ISP is to invite people

recovering from addiction and homelessness “to encounter God's love, hope, and healing through spiritual companionship that transforms lives.” Overnight retreats and spiritual reflection circles offer an opportunity for participants to share their stories in a safe, supportive environment.

“At ISP, we say that everyone has a sacred story,” said Christine Curran, the group's executive director. “For those of us familiar with Ignatian Spirituality or the 12 Steps, we know the importance of our own story. Because it's in our life experiences where God meets us—and it's from this place that we're invited to grow and change.”

She added, “It's by sharing our own struggles and joys around the circle that we can begin to heal, find new meaning, and reframe the narrative.” In doing their own personal work, ISP team members “become people who learn how to walk with others.”

Prioritizing the lived experience of alumni volunteers who can relate to the commu-



Women gather with their prayer shawls at the end of an ISP overnight retreat.

nities they serve, and advocating for an end to homelessness more broadly, has fueled ISP's growth over the last 25 years. This year, the ministry will serve more than 5,000 individuals, and it counts more than 20,000 people as alums.

Among them is Joe C., an ISP alum who today volunteers to lead retreats and spiritual reflection circles in Boston. When Joe C. first met ISP, he was newly sober, overcoming an addiction to heroin that had challenged him most of his adult life. He was living in a Boston shelter and was confident that he was on the road to recovery. But his journey didn't feel complete.

“There was a piece of the puzzle missing, and I had no clue what it was,” he recalled in a recent interview.

During a stint in a detox program, desperate for it to take, Joe broke down and tried something he hadn't previously thought would help.

Joe hadn't been connected to religion in a long time, and he wasn't necessarily looking for God. He wasn't even sure he believed. But he had heard others say how prayer and a belief in a higher power had

helped them on their road to recovery, so he figured he had nothing to lose.

“I got down on my knees and I prayed to God to remove the desire and release the compulsion and obsession to use [drugs],” he said.

Shortly after, his curiosity was piqued when a local ISP team member visited the home where he was living and extended an invitation. “Come check us out,” Joe remembers hearing. “We have people who understand where you have been and can accompany you on your journey.”

Joe, along with another man living at the shelter, accepted the invitation. They attended a “spiritual tune-up,” an ISP spiritual reflection circle. After that, Joe made a retreat, where he was able to connect with others who had faced similar challenges in life.

“It just opened my eyes, and I just felt the presence of God like I had never felt before,” he said.

Joe is now a Boston team leader and an ISP Ambassador of Hope, a national alumni leadership program launched in 2018. When he encounters someone who might benefit from the resources offered by ISP, he first lets them know the programming is not religious.

There's no preaching or evangelizing or moralizing.

“Religion can scare people, myself included, especially if you're newly sober,” he said.

Instead, he talks about spirituality, which many people haven't considered could be an important part of recovery.

“You know, I didn't want any part of God, or any religion,” Joe said of his early involvement with ISP.

But by focusing on his spiritual life, by being connected to others who have been there before and having the space to ask questions and go at his own pace, Joe found a connection with God and to a community that has helped him stay sober. He's been paying it forward for more than a decade.

Michael J. O'Loughlin is the national correspondent for *America*, the author of *Hidden Mercy: AIDS, Catholics, and the Untold Stories of Compassion in the Face of Fear*, and a board member for ISP.



Fr. Bill Creed, SJ, leads a reflection at a men's shelter.

More
on the web

To learn more or for opportunities to get involved, contact Matt Meyers, ISP director of programs, at mmeyers@ispretreats.org. Gifts to support ISP's work can be made at www.ispretreats.org.



Members of the Ambassadors of Hope celebrate at their opening retreat.

SHARING THE GRACES OF MINISTERIO HISPANO IGNACIANO

By Joe Williams



The *Comunidades Hispanas Ignacianas* group in Brooklyn, N.Y.



The Office of Ignatian Spirituality's *Ministerio Hispano Ignaciano* (MHI) and its new website, MinisterioHispanoIgnaciano.org, aim to make Ignatian spirituality and the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius available to those who feel more comfortable speaking in Spanish; offer practical resources to participants not geographically close to Jesuit retreat houses; and, most importantly, form leaders at the community level.

The programs include an Intro to the Spiritual Exercises (*Ejercicios Espirituales de Iniciación*), the School of Ignatian Spirituality (*Escuela de Espiritualidad Ignaciana*), Spiritual Conversation

Groups (*Grupos de Conversación Espiritual*), and Ignatian Communities (*Comunidades Hispanas Ignacianas*).

"Ultimately, the goal is to form those who can help others develop a relationship with God and get closer to the Exercises," explains Carlos Aedo, executive director of the Office of Ignatian Spirituality (OIS). "The Spiritual Conversations Groups are a way to share with people the process of having a spiritual conversation. We want people to learn about and enjoy this way of talking about God and their faith, which is very Ignatian. Overall, 99% of our leaders are lay folks. It's what the Church needs now."

The Spiritual Conversation Groups (*Grupos de Conversación Espiritual*) meet monthly for online discussions after reading a chapter of a book. One member facilitates based on methodologies and prayer suggestions presented at previous gatherings. This shared Ignatian spiritual pilgrimage is important to participants.

"Being part of a group helped me understand Ignatian spirituality and learn to really discern in a group setting," describes Alicia Ángeles from St. Aedan Church in Jersey City, N.J., and a participant in multiple programs. "We learn from each other. Hearing about different views and experiences allows you to see an outside perspective, which opens your mind and heart."

The Intro to the Spiritual Exercises (*Ejercicios Espirituales de Iniciación*) offers a virtual first experience of the Exercises. Participants receive weekly accompaniment in Spanish with volunteer lay companions from all over the world who are trained and supervised by Casa Kino, a center for Ignatian Spirituality located in San Diego, Calif. Partnering with the center has been key, and participants have been grateful for the opportunity.

"I'd heard of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises before, but I didn't know what it entailed," says Nathaly Reyes, a current participant from St. Anthony Oceanside in New York. "When I was told that I needed to pray for an hour a day, I thought to myself that I would try to pray for a half hour. To my surprise, I went over the hour! I was shocked. I felt happy, energized, and excited to see what I would feel in the days to come. This is something that I have never experienced before."

The School of Ignatian Spirituality (a.k.a., the *Escuela*) goes a little bit deeper. It consists of five in-person sessions throughout the year, along with regular individual check-ins and support available online.

"I am learning so much more about what I always believed is true: acting on good works and caring for our Earth and each other," says Alicia. "And I am learning to have better conversations with Jesus."

Sindy Collazo, associate director of Hispanic Ministries for OIS, has witnessed the effect the graces of Ignatian spirituality have had on participants. "Of course, we have the saying 'finding God in all things.' But literally, participants in the programs have expanded their vision of where God is and how God works in their lives. These are cradle Catholics, practicing all their lives, and yet



The *Comunidades Hispanas Ignacianas* group at San Aedan in Jersey City, N.J.

this aspect that Christ is with me, side by side, on my journey and I'm helping with His mission is new for them. It's a treasure for them. It gives me real joy to see this change in them. And it makes me wonder how many more people need to hear this message."

In describing the new programing, Zandra Schiemann, program coordinator for Hispanic Ministries at OIS, says, "Sometimes when people start talking about these concepts, it's like something far away, or beyond them. We have made it simpler, a bridge for people to enter into Ignatian spirituality. Simple steps. They *can* do it. They can learn."

Ministerio Hispano Ignaciano isn't just introducing Ignatian spirituality to participants but mentoring them as well.

"My dream is for the program to be sustainable, that the participants will ultimately not depend on us," continues Zandra. "Our participants don't necessarily stay in the same place. There are deportations, people get sick, you never know if they are okay or not. But in any place that they are, they can continue this spirituality that we have brought to them."

"Participants like Alicia. She always says, 'Teach me to be a better person. Teach me how I can speak in public.'" Zandra tears up as she continues, "This is the reality of what our programs are doing. More than just helping someone learn the Exercises or spirituality. It's to be a better person who is able to share with other people."

Alicia, in kind, expresses gratitude for what she has received. "I am thankful for the full support I have. I don't know what I would do without it. I wanted to make sure I could tell others about these concepts through my experiences. Ignatius said, if the other saints could do it, he could do it better. Well, I figured I better try it for myself, so I could tell others what they were missing out on."

"We learn from each other. Hearing about different views and experiences allows you to see an outside perspective, which opens your mind and heart."

—Alicia Ángeles

More
on the web

To learn more about the *Escuela*, the Spiritual Conversation Groups, and other events offered by *Ministerio Hispano Ignaciano* and the Office of Ignatian Spirituality's Hispanic Ministries, visit MinisterioHispanoIgnaciano.org.



*None of us lives
as his own master
and none of us dies
as his own master.
While we live,
we are responsible
to the Lord, and
when we die, we
die as his servants.*

Romans 14, 1-9, 11-12

IN MEMORIAM

Deceased Jesuits of the USA East Province — November 1, 2022, to October 31, 2023

Rev. John J. Halligan, SJ
September 23, 1930 - December 16, 2022

Rev. Paul W. Brant, SJ
July 21, 1940 - April 7, 2023

Rev. James F. Joyce, SJ
August 22, 1945 - July 21, 2023

Rev. Joseph J. Feeney, SJ
October 8, 1934 - January 12, 2023

Rev. Anthony J. Azzarto, SJ
September 15, 1938 - April 15, 2023

Rev. James F. Keenan, SJ
January 9, 1937 - August 13, 2023

Rev. Vincent P. McDonough, SJ
September 18, 1929 - January 18, 2023

Rev. Daniel J. Mulhauser, SJ
January 28, 1927 - May 7, 2023

Rev. William J. Bosch, SJ
September 28, 1928 - August 26, 2023

Rev. James A. Gillon, SJ
October 17, 1942 - February 16, 2023

Rev. John R. Keating, SJ
February 16, 1930 - May 31, 2023

Rev. David G. Allen, SJ
April 6, 1936 - August 31, 2023

Br. Edward L. Niziolek, SJ
October 1, 1938 - February 23, 2023

Rev. James N. Gelson, SJ
March 29, 1929 - June 5, 2023

Rev. John J. Begley, SJ
January 14, 1931 - October 9, 2023



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 you will be directed to the In Memoriam section of our website.



Another BANNER DAY on the Links

THE 2023 FRIENDS OF THE JESUITS GOLF OUTING

On Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023, nearly 100 golfers and supporters attended the Fifteenth Annual Friends of the Jesuits Golf Outing at the beautiful Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Scarsdale, N.Y.

For the past 15 years, the Friends of the Jesuits Golf Outing has raised funds to support men in formation and the care of our senior Jesuits. This year the Formation Appeal raised more than \$42,000. These events have collectively raised more than \$3 million.

After a day of great golf and even better weather, participants gathered for a reception to catch up with each other,

Jesuits, and representatives from the province. Guests had the chance to bid on a silent auction for golfing opportunities at some of the best courses in the country.

The beautiful weather and outstanding renovations at Quaker Ridge Golf Club added to the success of the day. We are grateful to 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 to benefit the ministries of the province.

However, there was a notable absence at

this year's outing: Fr. James F. Keenan, SJ, who passed a month before. "Fr. Keenan was a staple of this golf outing each year. His broad smile and thoughtful determination to see and speak with everyone made us all feel welcome and appreciated," said Provincial Fr. Joseph O'Keefe, SJ, during his remarks. "He had built so many lasting relationships with everyone he met, and that was so evident at this event each year."

During his remarks, Fr. O'Keefe announced that beginning next year, the outing will be known as "The James F. Keenan, SJ, Memorial Golf Outing."

The James F. Keenan, SJ, Memorial Golf Outing

Next year, the USA East Province will hold the inaugural James F. Keenan, SJ, Memorial Golf Outing to commemorate the life and work of its namesake.

"Naming the Golf Outing after Jim Keenan was a no-brainer," said Bill Miller, Golf Outing chair. "These outings are all about bringing people together to socialize and to celebrate the gift of life that we've been given. And that's what Fr. Keenan was all about."

For more than 65 years as a Jesuit, Fr. Keenan touched the lives of thousands of students, alumni, parents, and friends. His many years as a teacher and school president meant that he was often called on to marry former students and baptize their children and even their grandchildren.

Over the last 15 years, Fr. Keenan supported his province first as the assistant

for advancement and eventually director of donor relations. In these roles, he helped raise millions of dollars for the Jesuits of the New York, North-east, and USA East Provinces. He would personally call hundreds of benefactors on their birthdays each year, sending thousands of handwritten thank you notes, and hosting countless fundraising events. Fr. Keenan was the face of the Jesuits for so many on the East Coast. More often than not, his weekends were spent celebrating weddings and baptizing newborns, whether he was needed around the corner or across the country.

Fr. Keenan continued to faithfully serve his province and the people of God until the day he passed —August 13, 2023, at the age of 86.



"To gather with other Jesuit grads and friends of the Society in memory of Jim—now without his physical presence but certainly with his spiritual presence—is going to be a gift to me and to so many for years to come." — Bill Miller



SAVE THE DATE!

JESUIT GALA 2024

AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

MARRIOTT COPLEY PLACE | BOSTON



Join with Jesuits USA East to celebrate its ministries and present the *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* award to Jack and Eileen Connors, who have broadened the landscape of community-based philanthropy in Boston, enhancing the lives of many and providing a hope-filled future for us all.

Contact Ann Marie Houston for details ahouston@jesuits.org or 617-607-2814.

What is your role as a USA East Jesuit missioned in Jerusalem?

I am a member of the Jesuit community at the Pontifical Biblical Institute (PBI) in Jerusalem. Not far from Jaffa Gate, the principal entrance to the Old City, the PBI is the Jerusalem campus of the Biblicum. It is the Jesuit-run Roman university that is devoted to the study of the Bible. I help to welcome the people who come here for various programs, such as the students of Biblicum, people from around the world making retreats, and Jesuit-affiliated pilgrims. Most of my time, though, is spent teaching English at

Fr. Michael Bellafiore, SJ

Pontifical Biblical Institute – Jerusalem

Bethlehem University and here at the PBI in the Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) program.

What has it been like being so close to the suffering and unrest in Israel?

It is particularly distressing to hear stories of the Hamas invasion and of the tribulations of the people in Gaza. It is also a little strange to live in an oasis of relative quiet and safety while the killings, controversies, and suffering take place not so far from us. The Jesuits know Israelis, Palestinians, and migrants who have been touched directly by the conflict. JWL colleagues

of mine in Tel Aviv have had some close calls with missile attacks. I have heard a few missiles headed in our direction from Gaza being intercepted by the Iron Dome. But these missiles explode above Bethlehem. Practically speaking, the conflict has disrupted the semester at Bethlehem University. I have had to conduct my class of 42 students online. I hear of the toll that the conflict takes on them and of their uncertainty about the future. The Jesuits here pray and ponder how we can be of help. I am heartened by the bravery—physical, moral, and spiritual—of heroes who have risen to the occasion. Israelis, Jews, and Palestinians, as well as migrants, risked their lives for one another during the first days of the invasion. It is impressive to hear how Israeli advocates of peace who lost loved ones in the invasion are persevering in their belief in peaceful solutions. The local Catholic church under the leadership of Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa has been a strong and urgent advocate for reconciliation and peace. Pope Francis' frequent phone calls to Holy Family parish in Gaza and his other interventions have been a powerful source of support to many people here.

What are your prayers for peace and reconciliation in the Middle East?

My prayers are that there is healing for all who have suffered; the aggrieved parties may not have their hearts consumed by revenge; Israeli society might be able to work toward a new, productive unity; people in Palestine and Israel come to the realization that things cannot go on as they have; Christians play an effective role as agents of reconciliation and peace; the small, still voices for peace may not be discouraged but still speak and be heard; the global community assist in the situation in a harmonious and productive way; the Holy Spirit might hasten the process of a long-term solution to the political situation; and Christians, Jews, and Muslims make common cause in this process.



Fr. Michael Bellafiore, SJ, in En Kerem, the home of St. John the Baptist and his family in Jerusalem.



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 supporting 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 can contact Tim Olmstead, at tolmstead@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

Loual Puliafito
lpuliafito@Jesuits.org
212-774-5564

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

www.JesuitsEast.org

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Pictured left to right: The USA East Province 2023 vow profession class: Mr. Nicholas Lignore, SJ, Fr. Nicholas Colalella, SJ, and Mr. Luke Olsen, SJ; Fr. Thomas Roach, SJ, imposes hands on his brother Jesuit, Fr. Justin Grosnick, SJ, during the Rite of Ordination to the Priesthood; Jesuit friends Fr. Daniel Gustafson, SJ, and Fr. Harry Geib, SJ, at a province event.