





"It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards one's progress, nor the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken.

-St. Francis Xavier, SJ



#### FROM OUR PROVINCIAL

Very Rev. Joseph M. O'Keefe, SJ

Dear Friends,

When Father General Sosa visited our province from Rome last summer, one of the key petitions he asked Jesuits and colleagues to pray for is vocations to religious life, especially to the Society of Jesus. Our East Coast province has been blessed of late with steady, consistent numbers of men entering our novitiate, but the numbers do not outweigh those Jesuits called home to God each year. However, the eagerness and spiritual energy I see in our men in formation gives me great hope that the future of the Society of Jesus is bright.

This issue of *JESUITS* features an article on the discernment and application process a man journeys through on his call to join the Jesuits. There isn't a Jesuit around who doesn't remember the joy of learning when he was accepted to become a novice in the Society. We also highlight the Jesuits ordained to the priesthood on June 10, as well as one of our scholastic's work in Africa focused on environmental issues that face communities in Kenya. On a similar front, you'll enjoy reading about how one of our Jesuit universities is pioneering the way to be an environmentally friendly *Laudato Si'* institution. You'll also find an update on our Apostolic Planning Process and where we are as we begin creating the plan for our province.

Keeping a large province thriving like this requires many resources. Whether it is our Jesuits in formation preparing to be servants of the Church and those on the margins, our men in mission making an impact throughout the province and around the world, or our elderly brother Jesuits who are now called to a vocation of prayer, our work is dependent on you, our partners in mission.

Please keep Jesuits USA East in your prayers and know that we are so very grateful for your continued support of our work. Blessings to you, and I pray that God's grace and peace be with you and your families.

Sincerely in Christ,

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



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# New Appointments **ELEADERSHIP**

# JCCU Provincials Meet in Rome and the Holy Land

Earlier this spring, the provincials and president of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States (JCCU) attended their annual meeting at the Jesuit Curia in Rome, followed by a retreat in the Holy Land. Pictured here with Jerusalem as a backdrop are Jesuit Fathers Sean Carroll (West), Joseph O'Keefe (USA East), Tom Greene (Central and Southern), Karl Kiser (Midwest), Erik Oland (Canada), and Brian Paulson (President JCCU).



# Socii from Around the Globe Meet at the Curia in Rome

In November 2022, Fr. Jack Hanwell, SJ, socius for Jesuits USA East, attended a meeting at the Curia in Rome with fellow socii from other provinces and Father General Sosa to address the mission-identity of Jesuits serving as socius. Pictured here are Jesuit Fathers Jesse Rodriquez (Regional Secretary for Canada and the USA), Billy Huete (Central and Southern), Mike Gilson (West), Gilles Mongeau (Canada), Shane Daly (Ireland), Sean Michaelson (JCCU), Fr. General Sosa, Jack Hanwell (USA East), Guy Savi (West Africa), Virgilio Costa (Southern Africa), Grégoire LeBel (French Speaking Western Europe), and Paul Pace (Euro-Mediterranean).





Fr. Christopher Fronk, SJ, has been named the 12th president of Walsh Jesuit High School, which is just north of Akron, Ohio. Fr. Fronk is currently the Vice-President for Mission and Identity at Walsh Jesuit. He previously served as president of Jesuit High School in New Orleans and as a chaplain in the United States Navy. He started in his new role as president on July 1, 2023.



Boston College High School has announced the appointment of **Dennis R. Hill II, EdD**, as its new director of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Dr. Hill joins BC High after his tenure at Southern New Hampshire University, where he spent ten years serving the university in multiple capacities, including adjunct professor, lecturer, and, most recently, Associate Director of Office Diversity Programs.



The Board of Trustees at Brooklyn Jesuit Prep has appointed James Kennedy as the next president. Mr. Kennedy comes to Brooklyn Jesuit Prep after 16 years at Regis High School, having served in various capacities, including as a member of the English faculty and an administrator for the REACH program. Most recently, James served as vice president for development at Regis. Mr. Kennedy will succeed Fr. Mario Powell, SJ, who has started in his new role at the USA East Province as provincial assistant for secondary and pre-secondary education.



On March 10, 2023, Saint Joseph's University announced that Cheryl A. McConnell would become the 29th, and first female, president in the University's 172-year history, effective immediately. Dr. McConnell had been serving as interim president since the departure of Mark Reed last summer. She came to SJU in 2019 as provost and chief academic officer and is a 35-year veteran of Jesuit higher education. She recently led the historic acquisition of the University of the Sciences, as well as finalizing the merger with the Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences.



Fr. Mario Powell, SJ, has been appointed to serve as provincial assistant for pre-secondary and secondary education (PASE), effective July 1, 2023. Fr. Powell was previously President of Brooklyn Jesuit Prep and has also served as director of the REACH Program at Regis High School in New York City and as a teacher at Cheverus High School in Portland, Maine, as well as serving on a number of high school and college boards. Fr. Powell succeeds Fr. Joe Parkes, SJ, who has served as provincial assistant of PASE for the last five years.



Following a national search, **Don**C. Sawyer III, PhD, joined Fairfield
University as the new vice president
of diversity, inclusion, and belonging,
beginning July 1, 2023. Dr. Sawyer
is a visionary academic leader
with more than 20 years of higher
education experience leading university/community partnerships and
diversity and inclusion programs.
Dr. Sawyer will also join the faculty
as an associate professor in the
Department of Sociology and
Anthropology.

# LETTING GS and letting fod

A Discerner's Journey to the Society of Jesus



here are no two ways about it— it is a call of the Holy Spirit.

When someone feels that desire, that call to enter religious life,
if it is a true ambition, an honest yearning to serve God and the
Church, it can be nothing less than a movement of the Holy Spirit.

So what is it exactly that moves a man to discern a life as a Jesuit, and what does the journey look like that he must make on his way to acceptance into the Society of Jesus?

Although many Jesuits first encountered and became familiar with the Jesuits in schools and parishes, 60% of those now seeking to enter the Society of Jesus have never met a Jesuit. Thanks to vocational insights on BeAJesuit.org and other similar resources, many men heeding a call to religious life are drawn to the Society of Jesus because they are drawn to mission—a worldwide mission. They see the opportunity of a life of service that is flexible to go where the need is greatest. Those who have known Jesuits or attended a Jesuit school or university are intrigued by the history of the Society of Jesus, the mission and tenets of St. Ignatius Loyola, the prospect of being formed as spiritual and intellectual apostles of Christ, and living in community with other Jesuits. In fact, the tento twelve-year formation program for Jesuits is remarkably a plus to most inquirers rather than a drawback. They see the importance of being well educated and prepared to encounter anything, to go anywhere.

The discernment process itself is usually a two-year journey before applications are submitted for entrance into the novitiate. After an initial inquiry, a man discerning a call to the Society of Jesus is assigned a spiritual director, a Jesuit priest or brother from the province. The spiritual director meets monthly with his inquirer to help guide his discernment and seek where the Holy Spirit is calling him. As Fr. Philip Florio, SJ, director of vocations for the USA East Province puts it, "The spiritual director is there to help the discerner unpack his prayer. Prayer is at the heart of everything we do as Jesuits and as Christians. For someone discerning a sacred vocation, he must truly be reliant on hearing and recognizing God's voice—God's movement in his heart—or his discernment will go nowhere."

Fr. William Campbell, SJ, director of the Gonzaga Eastern Point Retreat House, serves as a spiritual director to men in discernment. "As St. Ignatius came to appreciate by lived experience, his sense of God's invitation sometimes lacked focus until he engaged another in dialogue," says Fr. Campbell. "I recently heard someone quote a proverb,

'If you want to go quickly, go alone; if you want to go far, go with a companion.' Clearly, a man discerning a call to religious life as a Jesuit is playing the long game. I hope my candor gives him interior freedom and helps him pay less attention to me and more attention to the Spirit at work in his life."

Br. Chris Derby, SJ, is also a spiritual director for men discerning a call to the Society and serves as provincial assistant for spirituality ministries for Jesuits USA East. He agrees that the spiritual director acts as a companion for the discerner. "We pay special attention to the desires of the discerner's heart and to the challenges he may be facing too. What gets your mind and heart going? What excites you and fills you with energy and hope? What saps your spirit? What obstacles are you encountering as you look at your life and your future? And do you have a relationship, specifically a friendship, with Jesus?" Br. Derby finds that spiritual direction is a very rewarding and nourishing experience. "Noticing God in the lives of others, listening to their stories and insights, brings me closer to Jesus in my own life."

"Offering spiritual direction to those in vocational discernment is humbling, challenging, and gratifying," adds Fr. David Collins, SJ, a spiritual director who is also a professor of History at Georgetown University. "As I see it, my responsibility is to accompany young people who are opening themselves to a truly momentous kind of personal decision and to help them as they grapple with the most fundamental questions that Jesus poses to anyone who would be his follower, for example, What do you seek? (John 1: 35-38)."

Other companions available to those discerning a call are vocation mentors, men in formation not far removed from the discernment process themselves. These companions are not simply helpful for spiritual guidance, but for anything. "As a mentor, I find I'm able to share a lot of the practicalities of a sometimes endless and opaque ordeal,' says Jake Braithwaite, SJ, a third-year regent teaching math at Brooklyn Jesuit Prep. "How long will this next phase in the process be? What did your parents say? What should I bring with me to the novitiate? In discussing more quotidian concerns, I find I can help guys bring down to earth what otherwise might be a very heady, deep discernment."

Brendan Gottschall, SJ, a second-year theologian studying at Boston College, admits that community and belonging is a key factor that often comes up in discussions with discerners. "The reality is that our culture, and even the Church, can be divided along ideological lines. Men want to know how that plays out within the Jesuits, and I reassure them from my own experience that Jesuits strive to transcend ideological divisions and be united in our focus on serving Jesus Christ and the Church. God calls Jesuits from a diverse range of backgrounds, and the Society of Jesus can be home to many different kinds of men."

The discernment journey is facilitated with many events that bring these young men into close community with Jesuits living the call, and a new program even allows them to spend time volunteering at a Jesuit school or work of the province. In addition to spiritual direction and mentorship, discerners also undergo a rigorous and thorough application process. One that involves an extensive



"We, thankfully, have roughly 50 men in discernment right now," says Fr. Florio, "and while some will not choose the Jesuits, one of my favorite days of the year is calling to tell a candidate that, after a significant time in discernment with us and an arduous five-month application process, the provincial has accepted him to the novitiate. Most get emotional when I share the news with them; some cry in absolute joy, and I cry with them, though I never let them know that! Suffice it to say, that is incredibly rewarding."

Angelo Canta, SJ (left), who took his perpetual vows last year, shares a laugh with Jake Braithwaite, SJ, his brother Jesuit in formation who mentored him through the discernment process.

# 'If you want to go quickly, go alone; if you want to go far, go with a companion'.



interview with the director of vocations, with a panel that includes Jesuits and a laywoman, There are also psychological assessments, reference and background checks, and a written spiritual autobiography, all to help ensure that the right fits are made for entry into religious life.

Fr. Sean Hagerty, SJ, who himself was ordained a priest last year following the long journey of discernment and formation, now serves as assistant director and promoter of vocations for the province. "Often, young men are seeking a sign from God as to their vocation; they pray that a neon sign will drop from the heavens and direct them on a path," he says. "To discern a vocation means to engage with mystery, to engage with unknown, to engage with uncertainty. Discerning a vocation requires not only openness, but a tremendous amount of courage."



The Vocations Team for Jesuits USA East: Wendell Laurent, team coordinator; Fr. Philip Florio, SJ, provincial assistant for vocation ministry; Fr. Sean Hagerty, SJ, assistant director; Fr. Daniel Gustafson, SJ, regional vocation promoter, north; Fr. Harry Geib, SJ, regional vocation promoter, south; and Fr. William Noe, SJ, regional vocation promoter, far south.





In the summer of 2022, Fr. Joseph Marina, SJ, President of the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania, and Dr. Michelle Maldonado, Provost of the University, attended a conference that the International Association of Jesuit Universities held at Boston College.

One presentation focused on the ecological initiatives that Jesuit schools were taking to care for creation, including working toward becoming a *Laudato Si'* University. After that session, Dr. Maldonado and Fr. Marina both came to the same realization: the University of Scranton was primed to become the next *Laudato Si'* University.

Named after Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment, a *Laudato Si'* University commits to a seven-year process of meeting seven goals. These goals are: Respond to the Cry of the Earth, Respond to the Cry of the Poor, Foster Ecological Economics, Adopt a Sustainable Lifestyle, Offer Ecological Education, Develop Ecological Spirituality, and Support Local Communities.

While becoming a *Laudato Si'* University is not exclusive to Jesuit or even Catholic institutions, a number of Jesuit colleges and universities in



Fr. Joseph Marina, SJ, (purple) and members of the President's Cabinet during Scranton's 2022 commencement ceremony. Dr. Michelle Maldonado (on Fr. Marina's right) is provost and co-chair of the Laudato Si' Committee. Dr. Dan Cosacchi (on Dr. Madlonado's right) is Vice President for Mission and Ministry at Scranton and the other co-chair of the Laudato Si' Committee.

the USA East Province have committed to this journey. Canisius University in Buffalo, Fairfield University in Connecticut, Fordham University in New York City, Le Moyne College in Syracuse, Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore, and St. Peter's University in Jersey City are all in the process of becoming Laudato Si' universities.

When Fr. Marina and Dr. Maldonado returned to Scranton, they started work on becoming a *Laudato Si'* University by sharing what they learned with the president's cabinet. "As it happened, three other cabinet members had also placed environmental justice and sustainability as one of their priorities for the year," said Dr. Madonado.

With the cabinet members on board, the Laudato Si' Committee was created with Dr. Madonado and Dr. Dan Cosacchi, Vice President for Mission and Ministry at Scranton, as co-chairs. The Laudato Si' Committee has seven subcommittees, one for each of the seven goals. The people who comprise the subcommittees are a mixture of faculty, staff, administrators, and students. "If we're talking about ecological spirituality, we'll have one of our campus ministers on the subcommittee, somebody whose job fits in nicely with

the subcommittee itself and in a way has already been working toward that goal," said Dr. Cosacchi.

Beyond the seven goals that an institution needs to meet in seven years, there is no one path to becoming a Laudato Si' University. No two institutions are the same and often



Scranton University's DeNaples Center is the first LEED Certified building in Lackawanna County, Pa. LEED Certified buildings meet several criteria for energy efficiency and environmental standards.

vary in terms of size, demographics, location, endowment, etc. "We looked at what other Jesuit sister schools had done in the past in their efforts, and it was clear that many of them conducted town halls to get the community involved," explained Dr. Cosacchi.

Scranton held two well-attended

town halls where the whole school community was given an opportunity to voice what they would like to see Scranton do in this process. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. "It's not just the students who are behind this; it's the community at large, including the faculty and staff," said Fr. Marina. "Bishop Joseph Bambera of Scranton has applauded our efforts as well."

So what are some of the changes that Scranton is looking to make? On an academic level, the administration is investigating how Laudato Si' can be brought into the classrooms at Scranton. "We have an environmental studies concentration that we've had for many years; this year the faculty chose to rename it to environmental studies and sustainability," said Dr. Maldonado. "And something we'll be looking at in the next academic year is 'Can we grow that to a minor? Can we grow that to a major?"

Scranton is also looking into the ways that waste and resources are used on campus. "One of the things we're proposing is to have more water fountains that can be used to refill water bottles, and we're also going to propose that we should give every student a refillable water bottle in their first year," said Dr. Maldonado. Though

disposable plastic water bottles may not seem like such a waste, they can add up quickly. Even though they can be recycled, that process can still be wasteful and is much less efficient than using a reusable bottle. "Reduce is the highest priority; we want to focus not just on the recycling but the reducing and the reusing," continued Dr. Maldonado.

While seven years is not that much time for universities, it is a lot of time for the students at Scranton. Those students helping with the initial planning of Scranton becoming a *Laudato* Si' University will be alumni in their late 20s when their alma mater has finished this seven-year journey.

Rising senior Karla Schaffer, the incoming Student Government President at The University of Scranton, hopes that during her final year she can contribute to larger environmental improvements at the university. "Although these kinds of changes can't happen overnight, I think that changes that happen behind the scenes are the most important ones," said Schaffer. "Specifically, looking at where our money is invested and the types of organizations that are funding us."

Karla is also a member of the Cry of the Poor working group. The city of Scranton was originally a coal mining town. While it has been decades since coal was actively mined, the environmental effects still linger, especially for poor and marginalized people in the area. "I believe that by addressing the issues facing marginalized communities, we'll also be addressing issues that are most pressing to our planet,"

While current students at Scranton are still at the very beginning of this process, future students will take advantage of work being done at Scranton. And, for some, it will be an incentive to come to Scranton. "Something mentioned at one of our town halls was that being a *Laudato* Si' University will be a great attraction to prospective students, because all the survey material says that people 18-25 are really onboard with care for our common home," said Dr. Cosacchi. "So we're hoping this is going to be a real selling point, in addition to all the other amazing things the university does."

Beyond being an incentive for future students, Dr. Cosacchi believes that this distinction has an even greater significance that ties into the school's very identity. "Sometimes people will cynically say, 'Is such and such a university really Catholic?' and part of my job as the VP for Mission and Ministry is to show that we are Catholic," he explained. "Pope Francis has written so eloquently about the care for our common home with Laudato Si', and by us living out that Care for Creations, we are not only more in line with the Pope's vision for the Church, but also strengthening our identity as a Catholic institution."■





Respond to the Cry of the Earth



Respond to the Cry of the Poor



**Foster Ecological Economics** 



Adopt a Sustainable Lifestyle



Offer Ecological Education



**Develop Ecological Spirituality** 



**Support Local Communities** 

Students moving out from Scranton are encouraged to donate rather than discard items so as to benefit local families. This also reduces landfill waste and helps the university care for creation.

YOU

# eet our 2023 Jesuits Crdained to The Priesthood

were ordained to the priesthood at the Fordham University Church— 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. These men entered the Society of Jesus (Justin in 2014, Josué in 2010, and Alcidio in 2011) and have completed a formation process that began as a discernment and a call of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for them as they embark on their vocations as Jesuit priests, serving the Church and the people of God.



NEW JESUIT FATHERS ALCIDIO TEMBE, JUSTIN GROSNICK, AND JOSUÉ SALGUERO



FR. JUSTIN GROSNICK, SJ, (USA East Province) was born in Hershey, Pa., and attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he studied physics/astronomy, as well as international relations and history. After reading the Gospels during his senior year of college, he spent the subsequent year considering the priesthood while teaching at a Catholic middle school in Charlotte, N.C. For the next four years, he studied theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and worked in a number of apostolates, the most formative of which were St. Rita's

Senior Center and the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania. He left the seminary before ordination and went on to pursue his earlier love of international relations, first studying at Johns Hopkins SAIS and then embarking on a short career at the State Department. He feels most blessed to have spent some time serving in both Russia and Ukraine, and he continues to be interested in the culture and history of those places. At some point during that time, Justin returned to the spirituality he was first introduced to while in seminary and embarked upon a version of the

Spiritual Exercises in daily life. This ultimately led to his decision to enter the Society of Jesus. As a novice, Justin worked at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx and the L'Arche community in Syracuse, both of which informed his understanding of mission and ultimately consoled him in taking vows. He spent six months at Georgetown University, helping in the classroom and campus ministry. At Georgetown, Justin also discovered his love for interreligious dialogue and Hinduism in particular. Subsequently, he studied theology at Loyola Chicago while also supporting the Hindu students there and helping at Arrupe College. For regency, Justin lived in Tomsk, Russia, where he worked in support of the parish, taught high school, and helped with a L'Arche-inspired interreligious group for disabled people. He currently studies comparative religion and theology at the Graduate Theological Union and will return to Berkeley to complete his studies toward a PhD. Justin will also continue to work in campus ministry at the University of San Francisco.



FR. JOSUÉ SALGUERO, SJ, (Central America Province) was born in Santa Barbara, Honduras. He is the oldest of five siblings. His closest family has been living in Goldsboro, N.C., for many years. He grew up in a Catholic family in Honduras. His grandfather, Vivian Cortez, and many uncles and aunts belonged to the Minister of the World's Movement and to the Ecclesial Base Communities, both a concrete

realization of Vatican II in Honduras from the 6os. The pastoral ministry in parishes was the origin of his vocation to the priesthood. Josué met the Jesuits through the Sisters' Oblates of Heart of Jesus; they invited him to a Jesuit mission in Guatemala, followed by the Spiritual Exercises for youth in Honduras. He was particularly inspired by St. Romero and Rutilio Grande's lives. The diversity of the Jesuit mission and the way of being with the poor people of God was a great motivation in his discernment to enter the Society. He began the process while working at Loyola's School and living

in La Merced Jesuit residence in Guatemala. He was admitted to the novitiate in Panama in 2010. His formation as a Jesuit has been marked by the context of a diverse, challenging, and intercultural Jesuit mission. Josué completed his studies in philosophy and humanities at the Central American University UCA in Nicaragua. During this time, he organized migrants and their families and wrote his dissertation by analyzing migration philosophically through the ethical and political thinking of Ignacio Ellacuría. Later, he was sent to the Liceo Javier school in Guatemala for regency. There, he worked as a social studies teacher, helping the psycho-historicalspiritual formation of the educational community, and joined the school board team. During regency, Josué completed a master's degree in Education and Learning with a specialization in psychopedagogy. In 2018, Josué was sent to Chile for theological studies. In 2019, he had to pause his studies, so he returned to Nicaragua and joined the Mission of the University in the midst of a political crisis. He assisted the Rector, Fr. Alberto Idiaquez, SI, in accompanying the mothers of murdered youths and peasants. In 2020, Josué returned to complete his theology studies at Saint Peter Faber Theologate in Boston. Over the years, he has collaborated on different programs at Sacred Heart Parish in Richmond, Va., and at St. Mary of the Angels Parish in Jamaica Plain, Mass. Josué now returns to Boston College to pursue an STL in



ALCIDIO TEMBE, SJ, (Southern Africa Province) was born and raised in Beira, Mozambique. He is the firstborn in a family of six: one girl and five boys. His parents used to attend Mass at the Parish of Saint John of Baptist of Matacuane, a Jesuit parish. He was an altar boy and involved in various youth activities. His vocation journey to the Society of Jesus began at this parish. After a retreat of eight days to pray and discern his vocation, he was accepted as a candidate for the Society of Jesus. He entered the Novitiate of the Society of Jesus on May 24, 2011, before the suppression of the region of Mozambique. After two years of novitiate, he was called to confirm his calling to serve the Lord in the Society of Jesus by pronouncing his first vows. He was then missioned to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for philosophy studies at the Loyola University of Congo, where he lived for three years. Afterward, he returned to Mozambique to do his regency at Ignatius of Loyola Secondary School, where he served as a French teacher, assistant boarding master, and minister of the community. After a good experience in regency, he was missioned to Nairobi, Kenya, to do his first cycle of theology at Hekima University College. He was ordained a deacon on February 22, 2022, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Nairobi. Currently, he is doing a second cycle of theology (STL) on moral theology, focusing on social ethics, at the Boston College School of Theology & Ministry.

Base Communities, both a concrete systematic theology.

# An Update

# on USA East Apostolic Planning

By Fr. John Swope, SJ

Provincial Assistant for Apostolic Planning

In a 2000 interview, Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, retraced the journey of conversion of St. Ignatius. It was a path that St. Ignatius never would have imagined for himself. "We start with a wounded man in a war, and we finish with a person who was able to guide a small body extended all over the world," said Fr. Sosa. "It was a path that was possible because Ignatius was led; he was taken care of by the Spirit. That is what we want, to grow as a body that can be really open to be led by the Spirit." Fr. Sosa is calling

the Society of Jesus us back to our original charism.

Being led by the Spirit is not some sort of improvisation. Today, "being led by the Spirit" is intimately connected to following the call of Christ and making a commitment to the mission of Jesus received through the Church, and in our days through the Universal Apostolic Preferences.

The Jesuits and lay colleagues of the USA East Province have been engaged in a spiritual journey, asking for that same grace—to become "a body that can be really open to be led by the Spirit." In the fall of last year, Iesuit communities and men in formation held meetings, while colleagues and Jesuits also met in English and Spanish-language regional gatherings. Provincial Fr. Joseph O'Keefe, SJ, and his Advisory Board for Apostolic Planning reviewed reports from these gatherings and together discerned four emerging apostolic priorities. These priorities do not signify all that we do as a Province but will be used by the Provincial and his staff to allocate the resources of the Province in service of the mission of the Society on the east coast and in Micronesia.



The apostolic plan will consist of several apostolic priorities.



## Foster transformative Jesuit communities

We Jesuits of the USA East Province commit to fostering within our communities a transformative shift toward a more authentic living of the Jesuit vocation. We envision cultivating a prayerful, supportive, welcoming, and prophetic environment that enriches our shared faith and strengthens our commitment to justice. To achieve this, we envision the restructuring of the Jesuit life-mission to walk with Christ poor and humble.

### Reimagine apostolic and institutional commitments

With the number of apostolically active Jesuits declining and the simple reality of scarcity of time and resources, reducing the number of institutions to which Jesuits are missioned and reimagining our apostolic engagement are imperative. Focusing on the quality of Jesuit presence more than quantity of works is more reflective of the magis. We thus recognize the need for greater intentionality in the missioning of Jesuits to Province-sponsored works.

## Strengthen Ignatian spiritual formation for mission

The Advisory Board has articulated four goals: (1) Form leaders of USA East Province-sponsored Jesuit works, in Ignatian Spirituality and the Jesuit way of proceeding, so that they can more authentically incorporate the Ignatian Mission into their institutions/ programs. (2) Re-imagine programs for Ignatian Spirituality for partners in mission, including mission directors, members of boards and leaders of other companion works. (3) Creatively share the charism of Spiritual Exercises with the young, the marginalized, and those we encounter in our institutions, the local church and in the world. (4) Achieve widespread accessibility to Ignatian Spiritual Formation for Mission throughout the USA East Province anytime or anywhere within 36 months.

### Embrace with greater freedom being sent to missions of reconciliation and justice

The USA East Province will commit intellectual talents, pastoral efforts, and organizational strengths to creating pathways that advance dialogue, belonging, inclusivity and reconciliation in our Church and world. In particular, we will address the challenges of racial injustice and environmental degradation and respond to the needs of the Latino church with greater apostolic freedom and creativity.

The Advisory Board is currently writing a draft of an apostolic plan for the Province to present to Fr. O'Keefe. The four priorities will be further specified with goals, outcomes and accountabilities.

In the fall, a draft will be shared with Jesuit communities and those who participated in the regional gatherings, as well as presidents and leaders of Jesuit-sponsored institutions. In addition, Fr. O'Keefe will invite some Jesuits and lay colleagues to join the soon-to-be-established Commission on Ministries. This group will oversee the plan's implementation, give input into our communication strategies, and provide guidance for leading and managing the changes that are coming.

Early next year, Fr. O'Keefe will present the plan to the provincials of Canada and the United States, before submitting it to Father General for his review and approval.

We look forward to sharing with you the fruits of our Apostolic Plan in the near future. ■

# UR UNIVERSAL **APOSTOLIC PREFERENCES**



Showing the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment



Walking with the excluded in the mission of reconciliation and justice



Journeying with youth toward a hope-filled future



Caring for our common home



# Tesuit Vocation Story

By Eric A. Clayton

Bryan Galligan, SJ, grew up near the ocean. "Our property line was the high-tide line," he recalls of his childhood in Rhode Island. He'd spend hours playing on the shore, investigating tide pools and gazing out into the watery depths. "I would never have called them experiences of prayer at the time," he says. "But there was something about the horizon, about the vastness of the place, that called me out of myself."

He now knows that it was the kind of experience a theologian might call transcendental. "But as a seven-year-old, it was just cool."

More than 20 years have passed, but on a different coastline, on a different continent,

gazing into an entirely different ocean, Bryan still finds God in the vastness of the sea. And that encounter has helped Bryan discover his own unique vocation as a Jesuit—and how that vocation invites him, in the words of Pope





Community leaders in the Kenyan coastal town, Malindi, meet at the local Caritas office to dialogue about climate-related threats to the local fishing industry and their livelihoods. Bryan used the insights gathered from these dialogues to inform his research and advocacy at the United Nations.

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-Bryan Galligan, SJ

Francis, to respond to both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

For the past two years, Bryan has been living in a Jesuit community in Nairobi, Kenya. He was missioned there for his regency, the stage of Jesuit formation where men gain hands-on ministry experience. Bryan has been serving as a research and policy analyst for the Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network Africa (JENA), a network consisting of the 22 social and ecology centers run by Jesuits and their lay colleagues throughout the continent. JENA is part of the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM).

In his role, Bryan works closely with network members on ecosystems and climate-related issues. "I try to learn from our network members' experiences on the ground and turn that experience into advocacy messages to fight for the communities that we serve at the global level," he says.

Bryan has brought those messages to United Nations meetings on water, climate, and sustainable development.

"A large part of what I do is research, and the research is intended to inform the advocacy," Bryan says. Much of his research focuses on fisheries and food insecurity along the coral reefs of East Africa. "The communities that these fisheries are taking place in are often food insecure; they are malnourished, and this is despite the fact that the fisheries adjacent to their shores are producing more than enough nutrients to meet their needs."

In this role, Bryan has traveled throughout Africa, including to South Sudan, Zambia, and South Africa, as well as to United Nations climate meetings in Europe and beyond. But one of the most important places to Bryan is the Kenyan coast.

"The entire coast of Kenya, but particularly from Malindi up to the border with Somalia, is a place that really exemplifies the way that marine ecology and social justice are just totally inseparable," he says. This part of the country has been historically marginalized, victim to conflict and colonialism. Communities living along the coast are completely reliant upon the coral reef ecosystem that is being over-fished and heavily exploited.

"There's a lot of work to be done to make things sustainable," Bryan says. Together with local partners, Bryan hopes to help people increase both their income and their food supply. "The stakes are so much higher here. Managing fisheries well has a lot to do with food security and people's lives. So, lives are on the line. It's not that they're never on the line in the global north, but it's just much more pronounced."

This desire to be connected to the margins is one of the reasons Bryan wanted to be missioned to Africa—a unique regency experience for an American Jesuit. "The availability that Jesuits have to go serve at the margins, to go be with people, and the way that our charism brings us to see the connection—for me, that is what a Jesuit vocation is."

Growing up in Rhode Island, Bryan knew of Jesuits only by what his grandmother told him. "Jesuits were basically smart priests or the 'good ones," he recalls with a smile. But after the sexual abuse crisis came to light, Bryan's family stopped attending church. Years passed, and Bryan found himself accepted to the Jesuit college located in his grandmother's childhood backyard: Fordham University. He wanted to study science, thought he would be a doctor, and so entered pre-med.

"I came back to the Church really on my own," he remembers. It was freshman year. "It felt like I was converting, coming to a totally new experience of faith and of God, which was Catholic but also Jesuit." It was the Jesuits who accompanied Bryan in his rediscovery of faith. "That spiritual journey naturally grew into questions about vocation."

At the same time, he was questioning his decision to be a doctor. While he enjoyed the competition and got good grades, he slowly realized that being motivated by competition alone wasn't enough. His grades faltered, and he took the matter to prayer. Bryan soon realized that he never really had a desire to be a doctor. "It's not that hospitals weren't interesting to me, and human physiology is certainly animating, but all I really wanted to do was love God and love people," he remembers. "For me, that meant being a Jesuit."

Now, as Bryan prepares to leave Nairobi and return to the United States for the next stage of Jesuit formation, he finds himself struck by how God has worked throughout



Bryan Galligan, SJ, prays in the chapel at Africama House, home to the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar.

are very high."

Bryan is also left reflecting on how his regency experience—the relationships, the lessons learned, the stories and faces and fears and joys—can best be integrated into his life and work. "I'm in a very privileged position as a Jesuit, as a researcher, as somebody who's from the global north but based in the global south,



Bryan presents at the integral ecology dialogue in Malindi, Kenya.

his vocational journey. "God drew these threads out of my life history and brought them together to a point where I can do the science; I can work on marine ecology and fisheries, do it in a context where the social justice implications and the stakes where I can have an impact," he says. "My goal is simply to have that impact. At the end of the day, I bring that to God and ask, 'What are you inviting me to? What are you up to here? How can I work with you? How can I be a part of this?'"

# Looking Back, Sending Forward:

Contemplative Leaders on Retreat

By Joe Williams

As a spiritual and contemplative people in the Ignatian tradition, it's easy to grasp the many reasons for going on retreat. Time away from the ordinary allows room for the extraordinary to break in.

Stepping out of routine lets us examine where we find God in our day to day and notice what's happening in our lives. The silence of a silent retreat provides intentional time for prayer and the quiet needed for those insightful little thoughts, pushed down by the busyness and noise of everyday life, to finally have a little room to breathe and make themselves known to us.

That's retreat.

Understanding the value and importance of taking time away to step back, Contemplative Leaders in Action (CLA) purposefully bookends their 18-month Ignatian Leadership program experience with an

opening and closing retreat. There are also three Days of Reflection interspersed throughout the curriculum.

This past spring, nine CLA cohorts gathered for their closing retreats at various retreat houses in locations throughout the East Coast and beyond. It was a time to spend in community, a chance to reflect on their experience together, and ultimately a moment to look toward the future as thoughtful leaders of tomorrow.

"We consider the closing retreat to be a look back on their leadership journey," says Elise Gower, Associate Director for CLA. "It's not a look back at the program, but an opportunity to prayerfully









reflect on the personal and shared experience of the last 18 months. It's time to notice God's movements in their individual and shared growth and development, spiritually and as leaders."

"I was very appreciative of the time we had to reflect and discuss with others about how we have each changed and grown over the course of the program, how we have accompanied each other during times of discernment," says Amanda McCulloch, CLA-Baltimore. "What a blessing it is to now have each other as part of our stories!"

"The closing retreat was probably my most meaningful and sacred part of the two-year experience," says Helen Brosnan, CLA-Washington, D.C. "That kind of time away spent in prayer, away from our day to day, is necessary. And it was transformative for me."

The CLA retreat incorporates art and creativity, beginning, just as they begin each monthly cohort session, by creating a sacred altar at the center of their gathering, prayer, and conversation. Each member brings an item based on a theme to place on the altar in a moment of personal sharing. Personal and group collages reflect elements of individual identity, spirituality, and vocation as participants reflect on their call beyond CLA. There's also communal mealtime, small and large group sharing sessions, and the opportunity to attend Mass as a cohort.

"To me, retreats help bring a kind of a reinvigoration of spirit and force me to reckon with some of my own interior movements," Helen goes on to say. "This retreat really cemented for me that I need to have this kind of spiritual community as a part of my life, or I will wither. It showed me that a constant, trusting, and loving spiritual community is important for me. That needs to be a part of my spiritual journey to be able

Just as a key component of the daily Examen includes looking toward tomorrow, so does the CLA closing retreat. It's not just a look back; it's a sending forward. As Elise puts it, "In CLA, we say that leadership is a spiritual practice; it's something linked to a person's spiritual identity and journey. As a developed spiritual leader, how am I now going out into the world to enact the practices that I've learned?"

The commissioning ceremony, in which CLA participants are called to go forth as leaders who center Ignatian values and principles, was framed around the Gospel story of the washing of the feet. "The foot washing in the Gospel is really a moment in Scripture of a call to service, a call to discipleship," observes Elise. "Like Jesus says, as I am doing for you, you do for others. And it interweaves a commitment to justice and servant leadership."

"One of the movements of spirit I had on retreat was a sense of clearness, understanding, and self-assuredness about both my call to leadership and my ability to lead," reflects Amanda. "I feel prepared to move forward with newly developed skills on my journey to fulfill God's plans and desires for me."

Pictured above: Top—Washington, D.C., retreatants at Loyola on the Potomac Retreat House. Center—The Boston CLA cohort. Bottom—Gathering to reflect at the Baltimore retreat



Learn more about Ignatian leadership and CLA's program for those in their 20s or 30s at contemplativeleaders.org.

Interested in making an Ignatian retreat? Check out East Coast retreat houses, opportunities, and resources at jesuitseastois.org/retreats.

# <sup>2</sup>Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

# A CELEBRATION OF NURSES AND STAFF



n Thursday, May 11, the USA East Province held the 2023 Jesuit Dinner in honor of the nurses and staff of our Jesuit senior care communities. Jesuits, supporters, and nurses and staff from these communities gathered at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore for this special celebration.









The USA East Province is home to four Jesuit health communities: Campion Center in Weston, Mass.; Murray-Weigel in the Bronx, N.Y.; Manresa Hall in Philadelphia, Pa.; and Colombière Jesuit Community in Baltimore, Md. These communities are home to nearly 200 Jesuits who are selflessly cared for by these dedicated men and women—care that was especially apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following dinner, Father Provincial Joseph O'Keefe, SJ, presented the Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam Award to representatives from the four communities. During his remarks, he recounted an anecdote from last year.

"Last summer, Father General Sosa visited our province from Rome and was fortunate enough to tour two of our health centers—Campion just outside Boston and Colombière just around the corner from here on Roland Avenue. He was amazed and consoled at how well our senior Jesuits are treated with care, compassion, and dignity."

The evening included a special visit from Archbishop William Lori of the Baltimore Archdiocese, who gave the closing prayer for the night.



Dear Friends and Benefactors:

Thank you for giving hope to the Jesuits of the USA East Province and their many missions of service, education, and spiritual guidance.

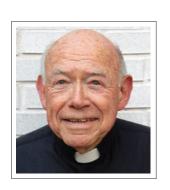
Your prayers and gifts help support the local and international works of the province, educate our men in formation, and care for our elder and infirm Jesuits. With nearly 600 Jesuits and more than 50 works of the province, Jesuits USA East is the largest province in the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. Your continued support is needed and appreciated beyond measure.

Please continue to remember us in prayer and be assured that we will do the same for you.



Timothy of meteral

Tim Olmstead
Interim Provincial Assistant for Advancement



Jomes F. Keenan. S.J.

**Fr. James F. Keenan, SJ**Director of Donor Relations









During Lent this year, Jesuits USA East hosted two events in Florida, re-connecting with friends and alumni now in the sunshine state. On Thursday, March 2, a prayer reflection and brunch was held at the Breakers West Country Club in West Palm Beach, and on Saturday, March 4, a luncheon and Mass was celebrated at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club in Naples. Our Provincial Fr. Joseph O'Keefe, SJ, Socius Fr. Jack Hanwell, SJ, and Director of Donor Relations Fr. James Keenan, SJ, hosted both events. Carlos Aedo, executive director of the Office of Ignatian Spirituality, gave presentations on engaging programs for young adults. It was wonderful to see everyone and provide updates on all that Jesuits USA East is doing for the greater glory of God.

# The Jesuit Good Samaritan Club

The Jesuit Good Samaritan Club is a program which enables the USA East Province to care for senior priests and brothers in our healthcare facilities and helps educate the men in formation—the next generation of Jesuits who will be assigned to our ministries. By signing up for a monthly or quarterly gift, you are not only helping those who have given their lives in service to the Church, but are also helping to strengthen our apostolates. If you would like to become a member of the Jesuit Good Samaritan Club, or if you would like more information, please contact Timothy Olmstead, Interim Provincial Assistant for Advancement, at (212) 774-5558 or by email at tolmstead@jesuits.org.

# **Estate Planning**

Do you have questions about estate planning? The USA East Province is here to help. We are pleased to offer *Planning Your Legacy*, a guide to estate planning, along with informational videos by Winthrop Rutherfurd, Jr., a longtime friend of the Jesuits. Visit our website at JesuitsEast.org to learn more about changing tax laws, donating from your IRA or 401(k), and more. If you have already included the USA East Province in your estate plans, or if you would like a copy of *Planning Your Legacy*, please contact Antoinette McCormick at (212) 774-5551 or by email at amccormick@jesuits.org.





Check **JesuitsEast.org** for More Details

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Ministries in Micronesia and around the USA East Province with Provincial Joseph M. O'Keefe, SJ Jesuit Center, 53 E. 83rd St., New York, N.Y.

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

15th Annual Friends of the Jesuits Golf Outing Quaker Ridge Golf Club, Scarsdale, N.Y.

Thursday, October 26, 2023

JFAN of Washington, D.C., Luncheon Speaker Series with Provincial Joseph M. O'Keefe, SJ The University Club, 1135 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C.

Sunday, November 5, 2023

Jesuit Friends and Alumni Sunday
Visit JesuitsEast.org for a list of locations

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Christmas at the Jesuit Center
Jesuit Center, 53 E. 83rd St., New York, N.Y.
•••

Saturday, January 27, 2024

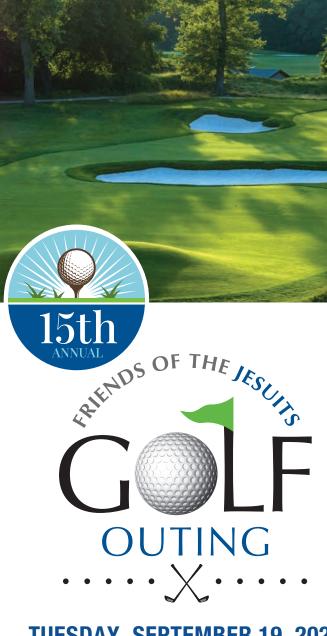
Jesuit Friends and Alumni Gathering with Provincial Joseph M. O'Keefe, SJ Naples Sailing and Yacht Club, Naples, Fla.

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Jesuit Friends and Alumni Gathering with Provincial Joseph M. O'Keefe, SJ Breakers West Country Club, West Palm Beach, Fla.

Spring 2024

Jesuit GALA in Boston, Mass. Stay tuned for details!



# **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

## QUAKER RIDGE GOLF CLUB

146 GRIFFEN AVENUE • SCARSDALE, N.Y.

- ► To support our Jesuits in formation
- ► To support the care of senior and infirm Jesuits

## Dear Friends,

Please join us this year for the 15th annual *Friends of the Jesuits Golf Outing*.

Register Now!

Each year, friends and benefactors of Jesuits USA East gather for a day of golf, food, and fellowship at the beautiful Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Scarsdale, N.Y. In addition to having a great day of golf, attendees bid on exciting silent auction items and take a chance on winning our 50/50 raffle that supports our Jesuits through the Fund a Need for Formation.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this much-beloved event has raised well over \$3 million in support of Jesuit ministries. Let us return to the beautiful course at Quaker Ridge! Join us for a great day on the green and support our Jesuits and their lay partners in "going where the need is greatest." This year promises to be better than ever.

We hope to see you on the course!



For more information, visit **www.JesuitsEast.org/Golf2023** or contact Ann Marie Houston at ahouston@Jesuits.org, 617.607.2814.

### Fr. Mario Powell, SJ

Provincial Assistant for Pre-Secondary and Secondary Education

#### You started this position on July 1, 2023. How has being the president of Brooklyn Jesuit Prep helped you prepare for this new mission?

I have been president of a low resourced school in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, for the past four years. My professional outlook has been formed and influenced by this experience. We did not waste resources at BIP. We stretched every penny that our donors gave us. When we moved buildings in Brooklyn, there were a lot of things that required creativity. This was a resource that I did not think I had been given. Most importantly, I saw my job as supporting and encouraging the adults and students in the building. People respond to being loved and encouraged.

As a former director of the REACH **Program at Regis High School,** vou also worked with students in middle school prepare themselves for high school. Why is it so imperative to start forming these students at a young age?

The results of many studies tend to back up the idea that the more money invested earlier in education, the better. The REACH Program is an investment in the five boroughs that helps young students at an early age reach their full potential. At its core, the REACH Program seeks to use the transformative power of a Jesuit education to fundamentally change the trajectory of a young man's life. It is not enough for our high schools to strive for diversity. We have to make sure that these young students have been prepared for the rigors of a Jesuit high school education. The beauty of the REACH Program is that we have tracked out students' long-term progress. Let's just say it is more than worth the investment. The earlier we can educate, the better.

#### One thing that unites all Jesuit schools is a mission to live out a faith that does justice. Why is this principle so important in today's world?

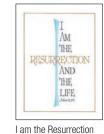
I think most people of good will can agree that we want to live in a society free of discrimination and injustice. We desire a society that awards merit and hard work. We have not quite built that society. In the meantime, we strive and seek such a world. Jesuit education affirms the radical goodness of the world 'charged with the grandeur of God,' and it regards every element of creation as worthy of study and contemplation, capable of endless exploration. Our hearts are restless. That's why we run schools. We seek to inform and form those restless hearts so that they may someday build a more just society.

# Mass Cards from the USA East Province



Mass cards are an expression of your faith as a Christian, as well as a token of your love for a particular person. When you send a Mass card to a family member or friend, you are initiating a process that will culminate in the prayerful remembrance of your intentions in the Masses and prayers of the Jesuits of the USA East Province. Below is a selection of the variety of Mass cards available though the province.

#### **Mass Cards for the Deceased**

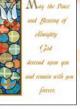






**Mass Cards for the Living** 



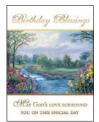


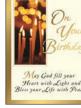
Cup of Salvation

Special Occasion Blessing of Almighty God

#### **One-Year Enrollments**

Those enrolled in the Jesuit Association will share in the special Masses and all other prayers offered for members.





Birthday Greetings











Birthday Blessings

No Eye Has Seen

Light of Life (Deceased) New Baby

A Healing Prayer

Thinking of You (Living)

#### **Perpetual Enrollments**

Those perpetually enrolled share forever in the prayers and good works of the Jesuits. Perpetual Enrollments are available for the living and the deceased.



for the Deceased



If you wish to order cards, please contact us at UEAAdvancement@Jesuits.org or 212-774-5500. Card orders can also be made online at JesuitsEast.org. Your card(s) will be shipped to you for your personalization.



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**

39 East 83rd Street | New York, NY 10028-0810 Tim Olmstead | tolmstead@Jesuits.org | 212-774-5558

www.JesuitsEast.org





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The Society of Jesus for the help of souls and God's greater glory since 1540 AMDG

