



JESUITS

Central and Southern

Fall 2021



SPACE OF ENCOUNTER

Office of Ignatian Spirituality Finds a New Home

Formation Changes | The Gift of Sorrow | Jubilee Reflections



Dear Friends in the Lord,

The author of Revelation 2:4 rebukes the Church in Ephesus with the following words: “But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.” As it was for the Ephesians, so it is for us. The

author seems to have his finger on a reality we all face – how to maintain the love we first felt for someone or something.

I have heard these words voiced to each other by couples and by men and women in the so-called caring professions (doctors, nurses, etc.) in reference to their career. I have also witnessed it in religious vocations and, at times, felt it in my own. To be human means to feel the ebb and flow of love. Yet, therein lies the need for ongoing conversion – the call to reflect on the foundational events that engendered the love we once had when we entered a relationship, career or vocation – in order to strengthen our commitment.

The Ignatian Year with its theme of conversion provides each of us the opportunity to revisit “the love we had at first” in our faith life. If your faith life has never waned, count your blessings! For the rest of us, the task is to recapture the conversion experiences that are the root of our relationship with Jesus.

Perhaps it was a sacramental experience, the beauty of the liturgy, or a confession that brought healing. Perhaps it was a sense of awe and wonder at the birth of a child. Perhaps it was the accompaniment of a faith community following the death of a loved one. For me, it involves remembering the poor whose lives evangelized and converted me – those “women with the two coins” whose generosity with what little they had led me to see God at work in our world.

The good news is that the province and many of our works are offering Ignatian events throughout the year. These are talks and reflections designed to bring us back to those foundational experiences and to rekindle the love we have for God. I hope that you will take advantage of some of these offerings. Rest assured of my prayers and confidence in your ongoing conversion.

Gratefully in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas P. Greene, SJ". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas P. Greene, SJ
Provincial

Queridos hermanos en el Señor,

El autor de Apocalipsis 2:4 reprocha a la Iglesia de Éfeso con las siguientes palabras: “Pero tengo algo en contra tuya: y es que has perdido el amor del principio.” Como fue para los efesios, así es para nosotros. El autor parece haber puesto el dedo en una realidad a la que todos nos enfrentamos: cómo mantener el amor que sentimos al principio por alguien o por algo.

He oído estas palabras en parejas y en hombres y mujeres de las llamadas profesiones de asistencia (médicos, enfermeras, etc.) en referencia a su carrera. También lo he presenciado en las vocaciones religiosas y, a veces, lo he sentido en la mía. Ser humano significa sentir el flujo y el reflujo del amor. Sin embargo, ahí radica la necesidad de una conversión continua – la llamada a reflexionar sobre los acontecimientos fundacionales que engendraron el amor que una vez tuvimos cuando entramos en una relación, carrera o vocación – para fortalecer nuestro compromiso.

El Año Ignaciano, con su tema de la conversión, nos ofrece a cada uno de nosotros la oportunidad de revisar “el amor que tuvimos al principio” en nuestra vida de fe. Si tu vida de fe nunca ha decaído, ¡mira que eres afortunado! Para el resto de nosotros, la tarea es recuperar las experiencias de conversión que son la raíz de nuestra relación con Jesús.

Tal vez fue una experiencia sacramental, la belleza de la liturgia, o una confesión que trajo sanación. Tal vez fue un sentimiento de asombro y maravilla ante el nacimiento de un niño. Quizás fue el acompañamiento de una comunidad de fe tras la muerte de un ser querido. Para mí, supone recordar a los pobres cuyas vidas me evangelizaron y convirtieron, esas “mujeres con un par de monedas” cuya generosidad con lo poco que tenían me llevó a ver a Dios trabajando en nuestro mundo.

La buena noticia es que la provincia y muchas de nuestras obras ofrecen eventos ignacianos a lo largo del año. Se trata de charlas y reflexiones diseñadas para devolvernos a esas experiencias fundacionales y para reavivar el amor que tenemos por Dios. Espero que aprovechen algunas de estas propuestas. Tengan la seguridad de mis oraciones y mi confianza en su continua conversión.

Con gratitud en el Señor,

Thomas P. Greene, SJ
Provincial



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**Jesuits Central and Southern
Volume VIII • Number 3
Fall 2021**

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Jesuits is published and distributed by the Jesuits of the Central and Southern Province of the Society of Jesus.
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Cover: The province's new Office of Ignatian Spirituality has found a home at the Xavier Jesuit Center, near the campus of Regis University in Denver.



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Barry Neuburger Named Associate Provincial Assistant for Secondary and Presecondary Education

Barry Neuburger is the province's new associate provincial assistant

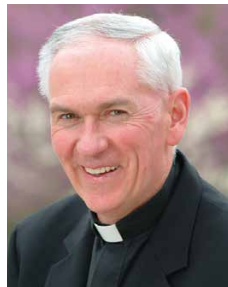
for secondary and presecondary education (PASE). Among his responsibilities are assisting with school visits, sponsorship reviews and programming for colleagues in the province's secondary and presecondary schools. He began this July, replacing Ken Luecke, who retired.

Neuburger retired in June as principal of Jesuit High School in Tampa, after a decade-long tenure. Prior to that, he was the founding principal of a regional Catholic high school in Texas and served as principal at Jesuit High School in New Orleans. In total, he has more than 40 years of experience as an educator.

"Every experience and every job in my life has taught me valuable lessons about what it means to be an educator," he said.

Father Curran Plans to Step Down at Rockhurst University

Father Thomas B. Curran, SJ, will conclude his service as president of Rockhurst University at the end of this academic year, June 30, 2022, after 16 years.



Under his leadership, Rockhurst has prioritized social justice and diversity, equity and inclusion as part of the university's core values. Father Curran established several social justice initiatives, including the Prosperity Center for Financial Opportunity, which provides career and financial services to the community, and the Chillicothe Companions program, which offers university courses to incarcerated women and staff at the Chillicothe Correctional Center. During his tenure, the university significantly expanded its health sciences programs through the acquisition of Saint Luke's College of Health Sciences and completed several transformational capital projects.



From left to right: Richard Joubert, Joseph Seiter, Manuel Luna Vega and Giovanni Diaz Jimenez.

Four Novices Pronounce First Vows

On Saturday, August 14, four novices of the Jesuits USA Central and Southern (UCS) Province pronounced perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in a Eucharistic celebration at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Grand Coteau, La.

Having completed two years at the novitiate of St. Stanislaus Kostka, Jesuits Giovanni Diaz Jimenez, Richard Joubert, Manuel Luna Vega and Joseph Seiter are now in first studies at Jesuit universities in the United States and Mexico.

Nine Men Enter the Society

On Saturday, Aug. 21, nine men entered the Society of Jesus at the Novitiate of St. Stanislaus Kostka in Grand Coteau, La. Please keep the following men in prayer:

- Joseph Benton, nSJ, 21
- Matthew Brazzolotto, nSJ, 27
- Michael Horn, nSJ, 32
- Joe Laughlin, nSJ, 22
- José Lopez, nSJ, 32
- Carlos Martinez-Vela, nSJ, 48
- Scott McKillip, nSJ, 28
- Christopher Ross, nSJ, 22
- Paolo Taffaro, nSJ, 23

In September, the novices and their directors relocated temporarily to the Jesuit Novitiate of the Three Companions in Culver City, Calif. Father Provincial Thomas P. Greene decided to move the novices because of the high COVID-19 rates in southern Louisiana. The relocation will provide the best formation experience for the novices, while protecting the senior Jesuits who reside in the same building as the novitiate.

The novices and staff are expected to return to Grand Coteau in May 2022.



Father Scott Hendrickson, SJ, pronounced his final vows on Sept. 17 at Loyola University Chicago. Father Provincial Thomas P. Greene received his vows on behalf of Father General Arturo Sosa.



Jesuits José R. Dueño Gorbea, David A. Kiblinger and Jonathon E. Polce were ordained deacons on Sept. 18, 2021, in the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, Chestnut Hill, Mass. Most Rev. Mark O’Connell, auxiliary bishop of Boston, was the ordaining prelate.

Support the Province While you Shop Online

The Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province is a charitable option at AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support the province every time you shop, at no cost to you. You simply enter Amazon’s site via the URL smile.amazon.com and shop as you normally would. Then AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases. The feature can also be activated in the Amazon Shopping app.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations. We hope you’ll choose the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province! Once you set it, you’re done. Then every eligible purchase you make through AmazonSmile will result in a donation to the province.



Hurricane Ida Roars through the Province

When Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana on Sunday, Aug. 29, Jesuits in New Orleans rode out the storm safely. It was the subsequent, extended power outage that eventually forced them – like so many other New Orleanians – to evacuate to other Jesuit communities.

Jesuit structures across the state received only minor damage, but the grounds at Manresa House of Retreats in Convent, La., were significantly damaged. The loss of electricity forced the facility to cancel retreats for the month of September.

Jesuit High School and Loyola University New Orleans were closed for in-person classes for more than two weeks. Loyola students were asked to evacuate campus, with about 150 finding temporary housing at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala.



Correction

In the summer issue of Jesuits magazine, we misidentified the Jesuit provincial accompanying Fr. Daniel Mora, SJ, at his ordination in Bogotá, Colombia, this summer. With Fr. Mora in this photo are Very Rev. Hermann Rodríguez, provincial of Colombia, and Archbishop Luis José Rueda.

*Đất Lành Chim Đậu*¹:

CREATING A SACRED SPACE OF ENCOUNTER

By Fr. Hung Pham, SJ

Creating or reordering a space is labor intensive and time consuming. Yet, there is grace in the process. The resulting sense of belonging and ownership outweighs the difficult and demanding journey.

Moving to Denver

Last summer, I was entrusted with the responsibility of rearranging and organizing part of the Xavier Jesuit Community in Denver into the home of the newly established Office of Ignatian Spirituality for the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province.

Six of us – my two brothers-in-law, my sister, my niece, Nick Blair, SJ, and I – set out from St. Louis and drove more than 800 miles to Denver. There we were to meet with Fr. Pepe Ruiz, SJ, who had arrived a week earlier, to chart our new venture. The twelve-hour journey along I-70 was plenty of time for my emotions to fluctuate between apprehension and excitement about this new initiative of the province.

In the space between those movements, Nick, who met my family members for the first time, was quickly drawn into lively exchanges about different American and

Vietnamese cultural behaviors, customs, and, of course, food. Not only did we enjoy each other's company during the trip, but we were surprised by the incredible hospitality of others. On our stop in Kansas City, Mo., for instance, we were treated to a fabulous dinner at Cafe Trio by the owner, who decided to open the upper room to host us when no other table was available on a packed Saturday night.

In all, candid conversations, lively exchanges and incredible kindness have marked the beginning of the Office of Ignatian Spirituality in Denver as a space where new friendships are cultivated, and old ones are renewed.

“Creating a Space for Sacred Encounter” has become what we are striving for in the heart of the Mile High City.



Father Hung Pham, SJ and Jesuit Scholastic Nick Blair position a tapestry to help create a sacred space of encounter at the Office of Ignatian Spirituality in Denver.

¹ A Vietnamese proverb which translates to, “Once the land is healed, the bird will land.”



Memories re-encountered

As with all conversions, the joy and excitement of creating a new space is often accompanied by heartaches and grieving over the reordering of the space – in this case, over what used to be the Xavier Jesuit Center.

The process of moving furniture, removing framed pictures and rearranging bedrooms is not simply dealing with material things or a physical configuration. Instead, it recollects those who had breathed their life into the space and instilled their memories into it.

Until this summer, Xavier Jesuit Center, adjacent to the campus of Regis University, had been a community of mostly semi-retired Jesuits and a few others working at Regis. Most of these men moved to other Jesuit communities to allow the building to become the new home of the Office of Ignatian Spirituality.

Walking into the house in Denver, the space, with its pictures and memorabilia, immediately called to mind fond memories of those Jesuits who shaped my human formation and inspired my Jesuit vocation while I was a student at Regis.

There was a picture of the late Fr. Jack Teeling, SJ – considered the founder of Xavier House – whose gentle and kind presence on the Regis campus always provided comfortable security and reassurance for confused freshmen like myself.

There were a couple of Erlenmeyer flasks, which could only belong to Fr. Bill Miller, SJ, my organic chemistry professor, whose dedication to teaching and commitment to researching a way to “transform water into wine” (as he jokingly responded to our curiosity



The late Fr. Bill Miller's chemistry flasks are put to sacramental use at the Xavier Jesuit Center.



of what he was doing with the distillation machine in the lab), instigated my love for chemistry.

And there were the beautiful chrysanthemum pictures hiding behind the Japanese screens that belonged to Fr. Jim Guyer, SJ, whose class on Asian History offered a safe refuge for a lost and scared immigrant like myself.

For a moment, their voices, their laughter and their passion came alive right before my eyes. Their presence will remain in my heart all my life.

That early morning, what appeared to be an old residence, with its crooked photos, old containers and dusty pictures became a space of reverence, of respect and of profound gratitude.

Honoring and treasuring my memories of these great Jesuit mentors and teachers has empowered me to keep experimenting with something new, even when it seems impossible at times, in order to build a sanctuary for all those who are spiritually lost and weary.

It was these Jesuits who taught me that it is precisely in the wrestling with joy and pain, with excitement and grief, that a new way of being is

envisioned. It is through this grappling that a living tradition continues, and a new way of life is born. These men helped me understand that grief and pain are part of the joy of birthing something new.

Indeed, reordering an old space and creating a new space remains at the heart of the Spiritual Exercises, the Ignatian way of life. For it is through a similar process of spiritual reordering that one rids oneself of inordinate attachments, to seek and find the Divine will for the salvation of one's soul.

New space emerging

Our experiment with the Office of Ignatian Spirituality (OIS) and the reordering of the Xavier Jesuit Center is proving fruitful. In just a few short months, the OIS has provided a spiritual home for a group of young professionals praying and pondering their life directions. After more than a year and a half praying together online, members of the Zoom family from all over the country united in person at the new physical office of the OIS. We have even welcomed a group of young men who gathered to discern their future life direction while praying together.

Contributions and donations of all kinds have been overwhelmingly generous. In all, the Office has become a healing ground open and waiting for all the birds to land.

A sense of home

Personally, the hard labor of moving and re-moving, of ordering and reordering, while difficult and challenging, has generated a sense of ownership and accountability I have never experienced before in the Society of Jesus.

Perhaps for most if not all homeowners, such a sentiment is common and ordinary. However, for a Vietnamese-American Jesuit like myself, the experience has been refreshing and energizing.

Throughout my Jesuit life, all the Jesuit residences I have stayed in have been very nice and comfortable. I have always been provided for and cared for. I am truly grateful for all. Yet, I haven't felt a sense of *home*. The spaces, furniture and pictures didn't connect with me. As a result, I tend to retreat into my room, building a cocoon of the familiar.

My involvement in the creation of the Office of Ignatian Spirituality has burst my cocoon wide open. The sweat and hard labor of moving furniture, of redesigning the building interior, of re-placing and re-forming have somehow fashioned a new sense of the homeowner in me. I've worried about what might happen to our home. I look forward to returning to the colors and patterns we have picked and arranged. It is a true sense of home.

I have been healed and made whole through the process of physical, emotional and spiritual reordering. I have prayed that my sense of home will not develop into a feeling of entitlement or self-absorption, but will continue to deepen in the spirit that invites and welcomes all people to our Office of Ignatian Spirituality. There, with the grace of God, all hearts will be healed and made whole again.



Father Hung Pham, SJ, is the provincial assistant for formation and the first director of the province's Office of Ignatian Spirituality.

He is also directing the province's activities related to the Ignatian Year.

Jesuits and Friends Observe Ignatian Year

The worldwide Society of Jesus is now six months into a 14-month-long commemoration of the Conversion of St. Ignatius. The Jesuits USA Central and Southern (UCS) Province began its own celebration of this “Ignatian Year” focusing on spirituality and community, recognizing the unique graces of this moment in history, with all its challenges.

Thanks to the creativity and planning of Jesuits and collaborators, the residents of several cities in the UCS Province will have opportunities to gather to find ways to “see all things new in Christ” – the theme Jesuit Superior General Arturo Sosa set for the Ignatian Year.

In New Orleans, for instance, colleagues and friends representing all five apostolic works in the city gathered to celebrate the Eucharist at Holy Name of Jesus Church on July 31, the Feast of St. Ignatius. It was followed by a reception in the newly renovated meeting rooms and garden of the parish center, offering friends an opportunity to catch up and celebrate together.

In addition, Fr. Provincial Thomas P. Greene has embarked on a “pilgrimage” across the province, enhancing his usual visitation schedule with gatherings that focus on communal celebration and spiritual conversations. He began in Grand Coteau, La., on Aug. 12. His next stops are in Denver on Nov. 3 and in Belize on Nov. 20.

Each pilgrimage stop will be livestreamed on both Zoom and YouTube, and the recording will be retained on the province YouTube channel.

Visit the province website at www.JesuitsCentralSouthern.org for updates on Ignatian Year events.



Ignatius



Colleagues Retreat Adapts to Pandemic

The annual Colleagues Retreat focused on the theme of the Ignatian Year as presenters emphasized conversion and transformation, often sharing from their own experiences. The retreat looked a bit different this year, because of the pandemic. Instead of 50 or so people gathering in one location, 10-15 people were welcomed at four different sites, including, for the first time, in Belize. Presentations and Mass were livestreamed so that Jesuit collaborators could be together virtually across the broad expanse of the province.

Mirtha Alice Peralta, president of St. John's College in Belize, prepares to present to colleagues across the province.

FINE TUNING FORMATION

By Therese Fink Meyerhoff

The notoriously long Jesuit formation program is undergoing a transformation. The entire 9-to-13-year period is being examined and reshaped, all with the goal of turning out men fully equipped to serve as pastors, educators, ministers and leaders in a contemporary context.

The man to oversee this makeover in Canada and the United States is Ronald A. Mercier, SJ, former provincial of the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province. In August, Fr. Mercier began his new assignment as the delegate for formation for the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States.

“I have *cura apostolica* – care over the Conference formation programs – similar to the care provincials have over Jesuit institutions, like a high school or college,” Fr. Mercier said. “I share oversight with the president of the Conference as his delegate.”

First Studies First

There are about 300 Jesuits in formation in Canada and the United States. The stages of formation include the novitiate, first studies, regency (ministerial experience), theology and tertianship. Each stage is being reviewed, but the initial changes are being made in first studies, when a Jesuit typically earns a bachelor’s or master’s degree, depending on his background.

The current initiatives will impact all aspects of a Jesuit’s life, integrating his academic, spiritual, community and apostolic experiences.

Academically, the changes include making first studies more inter-disciplinary, focusing on the humanities, social sciences and language.

“We are trying to give Jesuits a broader vision,” Fr. Mercier said. “Often, people come out of school with undergraduate degrees, and they have so specialized that they don’t have the breadth that Jesuits once did.

We want to look at the ways all the pieces fit together and especially with the Jesuit mission.”

Former Superior General Adolfo Nicolás began the discernment process in 2014. He called on Jesuits around the world to look closely at their formation programs and consider what changes could be made to train men in a contemporary context, with an eye to the future.

After more than two years of questionnaires, focus groups and careful analysis, the provincials of Canada and the United States released the *Initiative for the Future of Formation* (IFF). This guiding document outlined 12 characteristics that will shape the future of Jesuit formation.

The first fruits are a new pilot program at Fordham University called the Cizek Hall Jesuit Residential College and a series of enhancements at Bellarmine House of Studies in St. Louis.



Cizek Hall at Fordham University

Three Jesuit universities in the United States host a first studies program for Jesuits in formation: Fordham University, Loyola University Chicago and Saint Louis University. The house of studies at Fordham was suspended for two years to create a new program rooted in the IFF. This entailed the development of a new academic curriculum, a new service program and a complete renovation of the first studies community.

Father William Sheahan, SJ, of the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province, was appointed rector of the new community.

“Cizek is envisioned as a living-learning community,” Fr. Sheahan said. “The renovation included the addition of gathering spaces where Jesuits can gather and host others from our broader community.”

Father Sheahan said each stage of formation focuses on one of the “four Cs.” In the novitiate, Jesuits learn the Society’s *charism*. During regency, Jesuits become more *competent*. Theology studies focus on *content* for being a minister of the Church. The aim of first studies, he says, is *context*.



Jesuits in first studies at Fordham University listen intently as Vienchy Reyes shares information and insights about Ignatius School in the Bronx.

“Studying the humanities allows us to deepen and broaden our ability to analyze context,” he said. The typical course load of philosophy and theology has also evolved. “The theology courses are meant to be more pastoral, to have an immediate pastoral application,” Fr. Sheahan said.

Jesuits in first studies traditionally participate in apostolic ministry. The new program integrates academics

with apostolic service through praxis education: one day a week serving in the community under the guidance of local praxis educators.

A final component of the Ciszek pilot emphasizes discernment and developing team-based leadership skills as a foundation for communal apostolic discernment.

Bellarmino House of Studies – St. Louis

The leaders of the first studies program at Saint Louis University have also restructured their program in accord with the IFF, announcing a series of initiatives in 2018.

Like the Ciszek program, the Bellarmine House of Studies provides a living-learning environment that integrates academics with the spiritual, communal and apostolic dimensions of Jesuit formation.

A key component of the St. Louis first studies program is the “Ignatian Core,” consisting of four one-credit-hour courses in the humanities, natural sciences and fine arts.

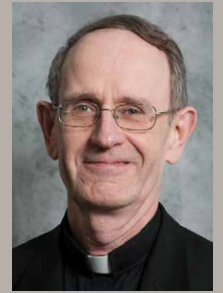
“The Ignatian Core is intended to supplement a Jesuit’s studies by providing cultural context for the material learned in philosophy, theology and social analysis courses,” said Fr. Steve Schoenig, SJ, rector of Bellarmine House. “The Core classes help to connect Jesuits’ academic work to their life and spirituality as Jesuits.”

Apostolic placements have become even more intentional. These assignments prioritize direct encounter with the poor, including Bellarmine’s low-income neighbors, and service with minorities and migrants.

Brian Engelhart, SJ, a member of the Jesuits USA East Province, is in the inaugural class of Jesuits under the new program. Now in his third year at Saint Louis University, he will graduate in May with a Master of Arts in philosophy and theology for ministry. He’s excited about the way the Bellarmine program brought together his academic life with his ministerial assignments.

“Father General Nicolás used to talk about intellectual depth,” Engelhart said. “But what does it mean to bring intellectual depth to our ministry? I get it now. I can examine a particular ministerial situation not only philosophically, but through an anthropology course or a psychology course. How do we as Jesuits bring in our spirituality? How can we be effective ministers?”

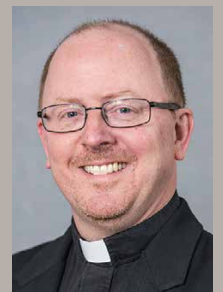
The next steps for Fr. Mercier and all those involved with Jesuit formation include an equally in-depth review of theology studies, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that all the elements of the formation program work together to produce discerning men with a depth and breadth of learning and experience.



Fr. Ronald A. Mercier, SJ



Fr. William Sheahan, SJ



Fr. Steve Schoenig, SJ



Bellarmino House of Studies Community



RACISM

and the Gift of Sorrow

By Becky Eldredge

Last year as I listened to people in spiritual direction, on virtual retreats, and in conversations with friends, colleagues and neighbors, I became acutely aware that many of us are holding a deep sorrow about the long suffering of our Black brothers and sisters. God broadened my awareness this past year as I

watched Black friends and colleagues' grief reach a depth that makes my heart ache as I write these words. One colleague shared with me, "George Floyd's death was the straw that broke the camel's back for me. I don't feel safe anymore." Another friend shared how afraid she was

for her children to be out playing in her neighborhood for fear of what people may assume about her kids.

I heard their words and pain, and I hear them now still. I am aware, too, that as a white mother this is a suffering that I will never experience. This *does not*, however, give me permission to ignore the pain of an entire community of people who are crying out. Their sorrow is real. The sorrow it provokes in me is real as well. I feel God urging me,

and all of us, to pay attention to the grace of sorrow rising within us.

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Elijah McClain, Ahmaud Arbery, Tamir Rice, and many other Black victims killed unjustly, brought racism back to our collective conscious and vividly remind us that racism never went away.

During the First Week of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, there is a kind of sadness that God allows us to feel as we pray about evil and sin in the world and ask for God's mercy. It is a sadness that wells up in us as we are awakened to sin in our lives and in the world. As it wells within us, it calls forth in us an urge to change. *This is the grace of sorrow.* Grace defined theologically is a gift from God that helps us come to new insights about ourselves, God and each other. Sorrow is a gift from God that can aid us in understanding suffering in ourselves and in others.

Sorrow as defined in Ignatius' rules of discernment can be spiritual consolation. It is the Holy Spirit awakening us to something that is keeping us individually or collectively from fully loving others and God.

What do we do when we feel the grace of sorrow?

We acknowledge the grace the moment we feel it. God is with us in a real, palpable way.

Grace defined theologically is a gift from God that helps us come to new insights about ourselves, God and each other. Sorrow is a gift from God that can aid us in understanding suffering in ourselves and in others.



When we are moved to tears because of our own sin or due to the suffering of others, we are sitting in a moment steeped with the Holy Spirit's presence.

Right now, I feel the Holy Spirit is begging us to acknowledge the sorrow we feel as we hear our Black brothers and sisters cry from the pain of racism in our world.

Aren't we being invited to notice how an entire race does not feel fully loved? Aren't we being challenged to ask ourselves – are we loving as Christ loves? Isn't the Holy Spirit inviting us to see the rippling effects of the sin of racism in our world?

I feel we are being challenged to notice our own biases, evaluate our behaviors that contribute to systemic racism and discern what our actions can be to bring about change.

Noticing and naming our sorrow can be painful. As humans we tend not to want to acknowledge our faults. Sometimes, too, it is hard for us to sit in the suffering of others. Sorrow can also bring a sense of helplessness as we realize how hard it is to change anything by ourselves. The grace of sorrow also brings to light our dependency on God, our need for God's mercy and help. We are not alone in naming our sorrow.

St. Ignatius offers us a prayer tool, the Triple Colloquy, to help us name our sin. This prayer tool invites us into a colloquy or conversation with Mary, Jesus and God to awaken us to where we contribute to sin in the world.

I offer us this Triple Colloquy to pray with our role in racism.

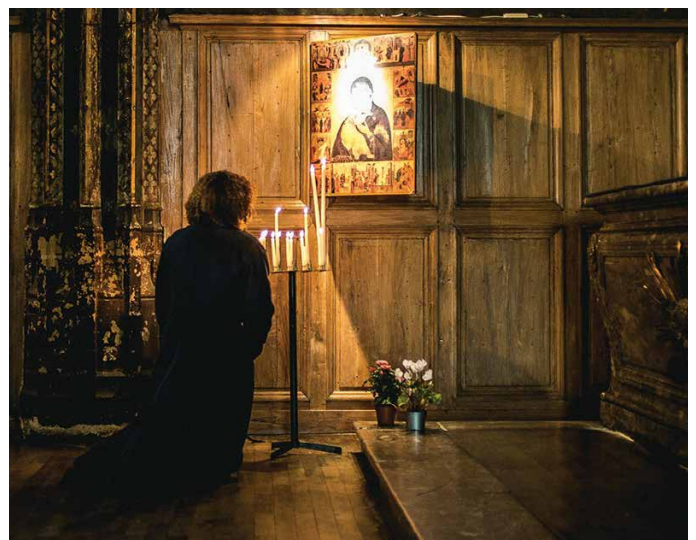
We go to Mary first and ask her to go to her son and ask for these graces for us:

- *To know deep down the sin of racism and the rootedness of this sin in my life and in the world*

- *To have a deeply felt understanding of how I contribute to the sin of racism*
- *To recognize any moments that have kept me from loving my Black brothers and sisters in the way God loves them*
- *To experience a deep desire to amend my life and my actions and turn away from all that contributes to the sin of racism.*

After we speak to Mary, we go to her son, Jesus, and ask him for these same three things. Then we go to God and ask for these three things from God.

I believe praying the Triple Colloquy will help us acknowledge our role in the sin of racism, confront our personal biases and behaviors, and grow our desire to be part of the solution to eradicate racism.



**Once we acknowledge our sorrow and sin,
what do we do with it then?**

St. Ignatius invites us to take our sorrow and sin directly to Christ in prayer. In prayer, we can honestly talk to God about what we are noticing and the sorrow we feel. As we bring our sorrow to Christ, God enters what we are feeling and brings mercy.

God longs to free us from our own sinfulness. God also longs to enter our hurt, brokenness and pain in order to heal us.

Some of our pain is due to our own sinful capacity as humans. Sometimes the brokenness we experience is not caused by us or our actions but is simply the result of life's journey and the risk of being in relationships. Sometimes what we feel is the ripple effect of another person's choices. Sometimes our sorrow is the result of our listening to the wrong voices and forgetting who we are.

Bringing our sorrow to God allows God to enter into what we are feeling; it also invites us to discern how we are being invited to call forth change in us and in the world. St. Ignatius offers us a prayer tool that helps us bring our sorrow to God and discern our response. This prayer tool is the Colloquy with Christ on the Cross.

Imagine Christ Our Lord suspended on the cross before you, and converse with him about what rose as you prayed the triple colloquy on your role in racism. Then ask him these three questions to help guide your discernment as to what you are being called to do:

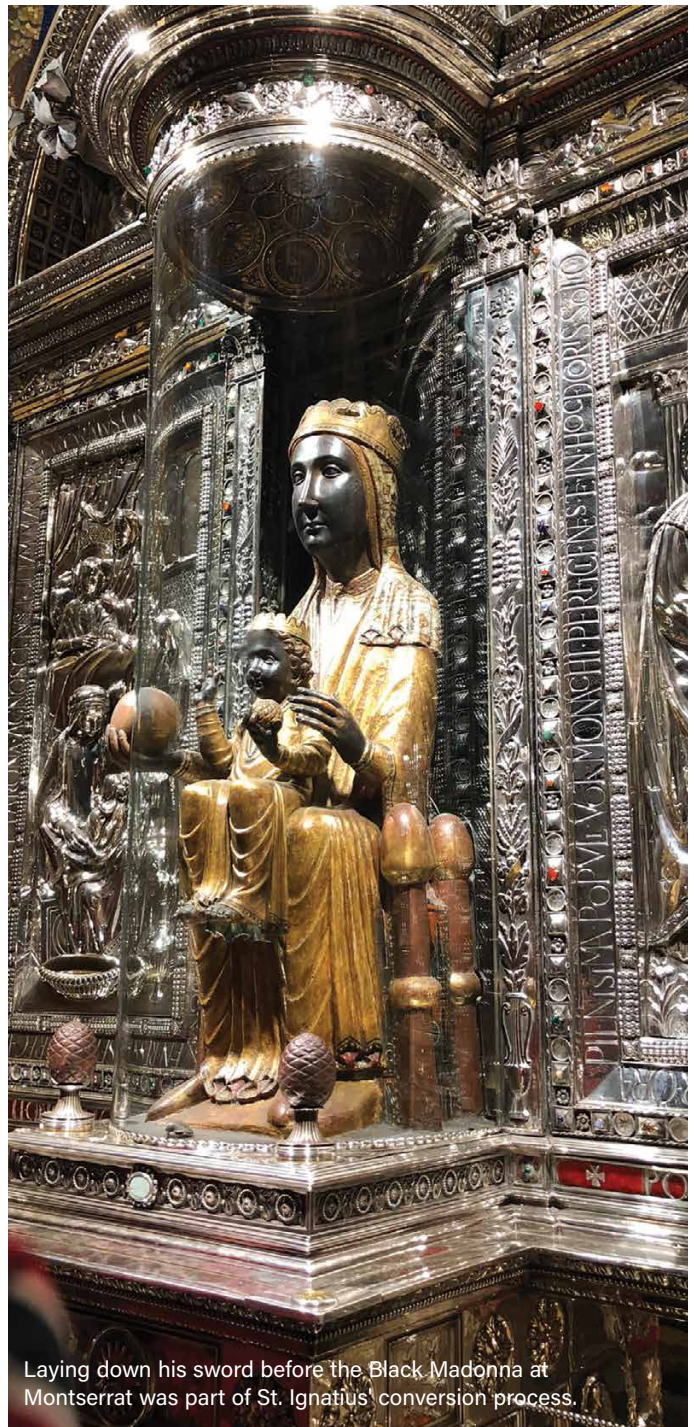
What have I done for Christ?

What am I doing for Christ?

What ought I do for Christ?

We go to Christ crucified and speak honestly to him with whatever comes to our mind and ask Christ to guide our steps and actions to change our biases and behaviors. We ask Christ to show us what our response might be right now to confront and help eradicate racism in our world.

I urge us not to ignore the sorrow we are hearing from our Black brothers and sisters and the sorrow we might be feeling in us, too. I invite us to go to our inner chapels and pray so we can listen and discern our response. May the gift of sorrow we feel be offered to God to eliminate the sin of racism in our world today.



Laying down his sword before the Black Madonna at Montserrat was part of St. Ignatius' conversion process.



Becky Eldredge is an Ignatian-trained spiritual director, retreat facilitator and author. She lives in Baton Rouge, La., and is the founder of Ignatian Ministries and author of *The Inner Chapel* and *Busy Lives & Restless Souls*.

MORE
RESOURCE

To listen to Guided audio reflections of the Triple Colloquy on Racism and the Colloquy with Christ on the Cross visit: <https://beckyeldredge.com/Faith-in-Action-Resources/>.



Faith & Action Resources:
Find audio reflections and
expanded printable pdfs.

Daily Prayers

We invite you to pray with us.

Prayer for the Ignatian Year

All things work together for good, O Lord,
for those called according to your purpose.
When the self-centered plans of Iñigo of Loyola
were disrupted by a cannonball,
you started him on a spiritual journey.
His eyes were slowly opened to your presence.
Placing his heart in Christ,
he followed where your Spirit led,
wisely ignorant,
emptying his will and embracing yours.

Gracious Lord, transform us,
the Ignatian family of the UCS Province,
as you transformed the one who
became St. Ignatius.
Disrupt our plans when they are not yours.
Cultivate in us the heart of Christ poor
to be neighbors to all, especially
those excluded by poverty and racism,
and to care for our common home,
ravaged by greed and over-consumption.
Unite us as friends in your Spirit
to journey together, young and mature,
toward a hope-filled future.

Our Lady of the Way, intercede for us,
that we may see all things new
in Christ Jesus, your son.

Amen.



JESUITS
USA Central and
Southern Province

Suscipe

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding,
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.

You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace,
that is enough for me.

 *St. Ignatius of Loyola*

A Prayer for Vocations

Father,
In the name of Jesus
Through the power of your Holy Spirit,
I pray that you inflame the hearts of many
With courage and trust
And the desire to labor for your kingdom
In the Society of Jesus.
I ask through the intercession of Mary our Mother,
St. Ignatius and all Your saints,
To bless the Society of Jesus and all
religious congregations
With bountiful vocations that they may continue
to serve your Church with passion and zeal.
May Your will be done. Amen

Prayer for the Grace to Age Well

When the signs of age begin to mark my body
(and still more when they touch my mind);
when the ill that is to diminish me or carry me off
strikes from without or is born within me;
when the painful moment comes
in which I suddenly awaken
to the fact that I am ill or growing old;
and above all at that last moment
when I feel I am losing hold of myself
and am absolutely passive within the hands
of the great unknown forces that have formed me;
in all those dark moments, O God,
grant that I may understand that it is you
(provided only my faith is strong enough)
who are painfully parting the fibers of my being
in order to penetrate to the very marrow
of my substance and bear me away within yourself.

 *Fr. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ*



A Prayer to the Creator

Lord, Father of our human family,
you created all human beings equal in dignity:
pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice and peace.
Move us to create healthier societies
and a more dignified world,
a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.
May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty
that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
and shared dreams. Amen.

✎ *Pope Francis*

Personal Prayer of Pedro Arrupe

Grant me, O Lord, to see everything now with new eyes,
to discern and test the spirits
that help me read the signs of the times,
to relish the things that are yours, and to communicate
them to others.
Give me the clarity of understanding that you gave Ignatius.

✎ *Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ*

Prayer of Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me. Nor do I really know myself.
And the fact that I think I am following your will
Does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you
Does in fact please you.

And I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road
Though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore, I will trust you always
Though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death
I will not fear for you are ever with me.

And you will never leave me to face my struggles alone.

What I Want and Desire

I ask the Father to give me an intimate knowledge
of the many gifts I have received
that filled with gratitude for all,
I may in all things love and serve the Divine Majesty.

✎ *Spiritual Exercises §233*

Soul of Christ

Jesus, may all that is you flow into me.
May your body and blood be my food and drink.
May your passion and death be my strength and life.
Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given.
May the shelter I seek
be the shadow of your cross.
Let me not run from the love which you offer,
But hold me safe from the forces of evil.
On each of my dyings
shed your light and your love.
Keep calling to me until that day comes,
When, with your saints,
I may praise you forever. Amen.

 Fr. David L. Fleming, SJ

Examen

St. Ignatius provided a simple
five-step routine for the
daily Examen:

1. Thanksgiving

For what things are you most grateful today?
Lord, I realize that all is a gift from you.

2. Intention/Petition

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in being honest with
yourself. Ask for what you want.
Lord, what do I really want for myself?

3. Review

Review your actions and the events of the day.
Where did you encounter God?
Lord, in what ways have I experienced your love?

4. Contrition

Acknowledge your failings and those choices/actions
that have been inadequate.
Lord, I am still learning to grow in your love.

5. Hope and Resolution

Look forward to tomorrow and ask God for help to
meet the day's challenges.
Lord, let my life reflect your love.



Find a new reflection and prayer every day of the year at www.JesuitPrayer.org.

Keep up with news of the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province or donate
online at www.JesuitsCentralSouthern.org.

Paula Parrish, CFRE, Aims to Advance the Mission of the Society of Jesus

By Jerry Duggan

After years of rewarding, yet demanding positions in the field of fundraising, Paula K. Parrish aimed to write a book with a friend and take some time off. She found she had too much energy to do that – she yearned to return to serving the Church. This summer, she joined the USA Central and Southern Province as chief advancement officer.

She has admired the Jesuits from afar for years.

“As a cradle Catholic in Texas, my high school debate team would always match up against Jesuit College Prep in Dallas – and Jesuit always won,” Parrish recalled, smiling. “It seemed like they were the best at everything that they did, and I admired that.”

Parrish started out as an educator, working at a Catholic high school for 23 years, toward the end of which she became involved in advancement-related projects at the school. From there, her career in fundraising blossomed.

A certified fundraising professional with more than 25 years of experience in the field, Parrish has worked for organizations such as Rotary Downton Fort Worth, Leadership Fort Worth, Cristo Rey Fort Worth Catholic High School, Fort Worth Opera, Loreto House Pregnancy Center and Children at Risk-North Texas. She previously served as executive director of the Advancement Foundation of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Throughout her career, there exists a common thread; many of her most



“TO FUNDRAISE SUCCESSFULLY, IT REALLY TAKES A VILLAGE. EVERYONE WHO WORKS FOR AN ORGANIZATION NEEDS TO PUT THEIR BEST FOOT FORWARD AT ALL TIMES TO SHOW THAT THIS ORGANIZATION IS ONE WORTH SUPPORTING.”

fulfilling positions have come at Catholic institutions.

A desire to return to such an environment is what drew her to the Jesuits.

“Starting and ending meetings with prayer and centering my work on Christ has been most meaningful for me in my career,” she said.

Such assignments have provided Parrish with a sense that her work is making a difference in the world.

“At one time, I worked in development at a facility for abused and abandoned children,” she said. “I was always in awe of the gifts that the psychologists and professionals who worked directly with the children had, but I don’t possess those gifts. What I was able to do, though, was help raise \$14 million, which resulted in seven new buildings for the children. That is how I have been able to make a difference.”

She acknowledges that any fundraising effort is a team endeavor.

“To fundraise successfully, it really takes a village,” she said. “Everyone who works for an organization needs to put their best foot forward at all times to show that this organization is one worth supporting.”

She is confident that the “village” surrounding her in the province will be up to the task.

“I look forward to growing closer to my colleagues and working together to advance the mission of the Society.”

Parrish lives in Fort Worth, Texas, with her husband, Larry, to whom she has been married for 44 years. She has two adult children and four grandchildren.



Golden Jubilarians Reflect on **50 YEARS AS A JESUIT**

Fr. David Andrus, SJ

In one of the presents I received at my high school graduation so many years ago was a holy card with the short, humble prayer: “God make me worthy of my friends.” I’ve said that prayer countless times during the past 50 years of companionship with the many “friends in the Lord” whom I have had the honor and privilege to know, love and serve with in the Lord’s mission. What a graced brotherhood!

One vivid scene from near the end of my long retreat in the novitiate has stayed with me all these years. Jesus and I are standing on a high elevation facing a vast forest stretching out unbroken to the far horizon. Jesus, like a tall elder brother, is holding my hand. A dirt path descends from where we are standing and enters the edge of the forest and disappears. No words were spoken – just a conviction that I need not fear the unknowns of the journey ahead.

For most of my Jesuit life since then, that vast jungle has been replaced by the vastness of the Pacific Ocean. During the past 34 years of my service in Micronesia, the Lord has not let go of his little brother’s hand, but has done so through the mentorship of the veteran missionaries of the Society who welcomed me so warmly, the lay people who tutored



I look forward to what the Lord has in mind for the rest of the journey ... hand in hand.

me in the local language and culture, the collaboration with the two communities of religious women in their educational work, and many others whom the Lord has provided for my guidance and encouragement.

I look forward to what the Lord has in mind for the rest of the journey ... hand in hand.

Fr. Thomas Clark, SJ

As I reflect upon my 50 years in the Society of Jesus, the words that come to me are, “Trust the journey and be grateful for it.” I entered the Society when I was 19 years old. So, I grew up in the order. Growing up is often confusing, painful and a series of stops and starts. As I learned to let go of my false self and embrace my true self, I am thankful to my brother Jesuits who have been patient, forgiving, and encouraging to me along the way.

I have been blessed with wonderful assignments: high school teacher, hospital chaplain, chaplain in an HIV/AIDS clinic and pastor of two

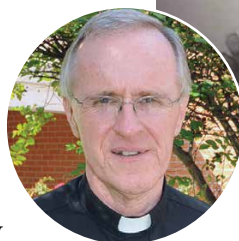


Photo by Felicia Brumfield Gathe

parishes. Thirty-five of my 40 years as a priest have been in ministry with and for the Black Catholic community in Boston and Baton Rouge, La. That has been an amazing grace in my life that has increased my faith and trust, grounded my hope and taught me how to love and be loved.

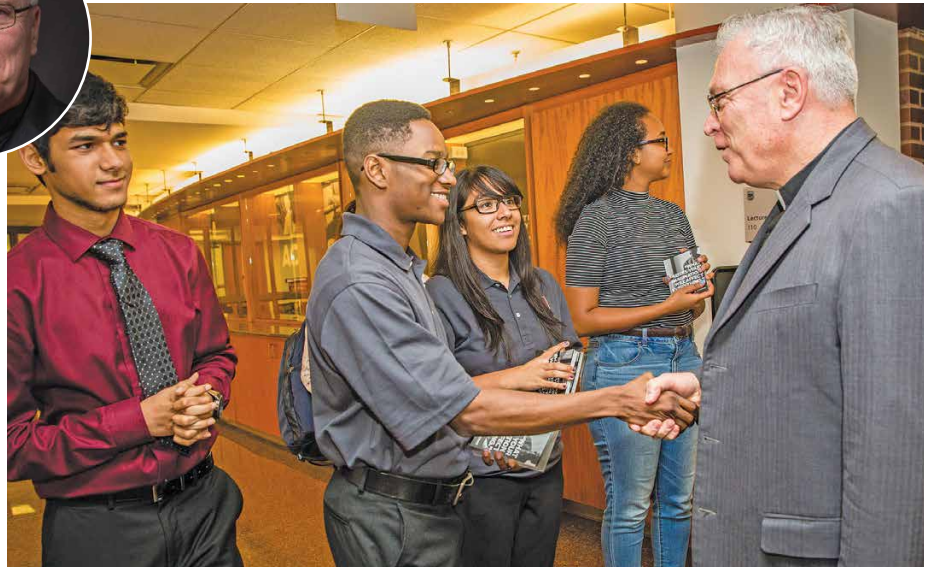
Above all, I am grateful for the gift of the legacy of Saint Ignatius that has taught me to find God in all things and to know that I am not lucky; I’m loved.

Fr. Michael Garanzini, SJ

I entered the Society of Jesus a half century ago and it continues to amaze me that God has been so generous. The people whose lives I am able to share remind me every day how blessed we are and how merciful is our God.

Students, colleagues, friends and family have filled these years with memories, experiences and challenges that keep me feeling grounded and loved. The Society of Jesus has opened the world to me, and I feel privileged to work with and for people around the globe through our apostolate of education. Looking back, it is easy to see how my home parish, St. Ambrose, my Marianist education at McBride and my Jesuit education at Saint Louis University prepared me for the opportunities to serve in the different roles that the Society of Jesus has asked of me.

I have many heroes from these places who have inspired me and who continue to inspire me. My prayer is simply one of gratitude.



Fr. Michael Garanzini, SJ, greets students at Loyola University Chicago, where he served as president.



Fr. Frank Reale, SJ, preaches at White House Retreat in St. Louis.

Fr. Frank Reale, SJ

2021 is a year full of “zeros” for me, insofar as it marks my 70th birthday, my 50th year as a Jesuit and my 40th as a priest. Mindful of the stereotypical advice of a mother to her children — “watch the company you keep” — I am very grateful that these years have not been empty but have been filled with a rich company consisting of family and friends, as well as of those who I have been privileged to live with and minister



to as a Jesuit. Collectively they have graced me with a satisfaction and peace, a sense of “rightness” about my life, which has enabled me to recognize God’s workings even in particularly difficult and challenging situations. I am reminded of the words of Dorothy Day, “What else do we want, each one of us, except to love and be loved, in our family, in our work, in our relationships.” Again, I am grateful.

Fr. Alfredo Enrique Guzmán, SJ,
also celebrates
50 years as a

Jesuit this year. Father Guzmán chose not to share a reflection, but we give thanks for his years of service to God and God’s people.





HAITI:

An Eternal Sorrow

By Jean Francky Guerrier, SJ



Fr. Kawas (center) in Durcisse with the pastor (right) of the parish of St. Pie X.

Haiti is struggling. Once known as the “Pearl of the Antilles,” the Caribbean nation has been hit by all manner of political and natural disasters over the past few years. This year alone, the former was evidenced by the assassination of the president, Jovenel Moïse, on July 7; the latter was manifested by the 7.2-magnitude earthquake of Aug. 14 that killed thousands of people.

Of course, an earthquake of about the same magnitude (7.0) hit the western part of the country on Jan. 12, 2010, with its epicenter in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. I was in Haiti when that terrible quake killed more than 300,000

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. (Rev. 21:4)

people, including many Catholic faithful and priests. The Cathedral of Port-au-Prince was destroyed, and the Archbishop of Port-au-Prince, His Eminence Joseph Serge Miot, was killed. The diocesan seminary of Port-au-Prince was devastated, killing and injuring seminarians. The national palace was destroyed, and schools, hospitals and shopping centers were damaged.

I recall this terrible event as if it were yesterday. I was a first-year Jesuit novice, in the midst of the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola with my fellow Jesuits and a few other religious.

I was preparing for a great spiritual journey and becoming aware of God's true and unconditional love for me. I was enjoying the realization that I was created to praise and worship God and thereby save my soul. It was a joy to realize that my life is sacred because God created me to give reverence to His divine majesty.

I was experiencing this joy and diving into spiritual bliss ... while about 300,000 of God's sons and daughters, my brothers and sisters, were killed by a devastating earthquake. It was hard to even begin to comprehend.

More than 10 years later, Haiti is still mourning and rebuilding what was destroyed by the earthquake of 2010, only to be hit once again this year by another devastating quake.

Haitian Resilience and the Challenge to Do More

As I was in 2010, I have been deeply consoled to see the same spirit of solidarity between the Haitians who want to save lives and the international community that has arrived in a hurry to help us. People have come from around the world to help a nation in distress.

I have been gratified to see Haitians doing everything they could to help people get out from under the rubble, others sharing water and food, and others donating blood to save lives. In the midst of the disaster, these beautiful images gave me much joy. They have allowed me to hope despite the destruction.



The Aug. 14, 2021, earthquake caused widespread damage to structures in the southwest part of Haiti.

Nevertheless, challenges remain. Some mistakes are repeated again and again.

Why must it take a major disaster to demonstrate our solidarity or to come to the rescue in a hurry? The August 14 earthquake is not the only disaster that should unite us to help Haiti. The country has been in a state of disaster for years.

Haiti is a devastated, abandoned, kneeling country.

For years, the people of Haiti have been victims of social insecurity. Gangs rule the country, openly showing off their ammunition on social media. They demonstrate their power through kidnappings. All sectors of Haitian society are victimized by this scourge, including religious people, priests, doctors, journalists, even the poor who have so little.

No one is being spared, and no one can stop the gangs.

Those who were elected to restore order and stability in the country have shown their incapacity in the face of such a situation. They seem to be concerned only with maintaining their political power.

The images of the August earthquake are heartbreaking. People were piled up, dead and wounded together under the rubble. These frightening images make me recall the night of Jan.12, 2010, when my fellow Jesuits and I walked the streets of Port-au-Prince to save lives and care for the injured.

The same kind of solidarity and selflessness is necessary now so that the Haitian people can build a new country, with solid structures and infrastructures that could withstand major damage in the case of natural disasters. These disasters are inevitable. The only thing we can do is be prepared for them.

In the words of Jesuit Superior General Arturo Sosa, “some problems cannot be solved, but we must learn not to be crushed by them. No situation is exactly the same if we learn from what has been experienced.” (*Walking with Ignatius*, pg. 180)

Haitians have a resilience that allows us to rise above chaos. However, this ability should not preclude us from preparing adequately to avoid the worst when natural disasters strike. This requires a common vision that would allow us to envision a new future for the country, one of hope rather than despair. This common vision includes identifying profitable projects for the country and finding consensus despite differences of opinion.



We Haitians need to practice our maxim: “*L’union Fait la Force*,” (Unity is strength) and put aside divisions so that Haiti can rise.

Many people are envisioning a new beginning for Haiti, a new creation in which all the sectors of society would come together to rebuild the institutions shattered by the earthquake. It would be a kind of “post apocalypse” – after destruction and death, there is hope for a new creation, a new beginning.

There is hope that we might find an end to the everlasting political hatred and conflicts, to combine the forces of good against the forces of evil that have prevented the development of the country.

This new creation requires a new vision of Haiti as a vibrant, independent, responsible and self-sufficient society based on the common good and including education, health, security and housing strategies.

We understand that the reason for Haiti’s sorrow is not only natural disasters like earthquakes, but the succession of political and socio-economic calamities that have impoverished the country and increased the social vulnerability of the population over several decades.



Jesuits in Haiti provide training and education for people in rural communities, while also helping them to network and work collaboratively.



Haitians begin again to restore their country.

We Haitians need a common perception that things will not be the same as they were in the past. Haiti must end this era and begin a new one. The most recent earthquake can be a shared trauma that obliges the Haitian people to rethink the future differently. It can be an opportunity to put Haiti back on track for development.

The Jesuit Mission in Haiti

The Jesuits in Haiti are actively participating in this precious project by laying solid foundations for the future of Haiti. Although they are currently responding to the emergency caused by the August earthquake, they focus much of their work on sustainable development plans. They are working on projects such as the construction of houses that can withstand natural disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes.

Several of the Jesuits in Haiti work at the Université Notre-Dame d'Haïti (UNDH), the Catholic university, including Fr. Jean Mary Louis, SJ, who serves as president. Jesuits also run the Faculty of Economics, Social and Political Sciences at UNDH.

Jesuits participate in the overall formation of the human person through the different schools of “*Fe y Alegria*,” which provide an education to the poorest members of society. They are sensitive to the protection of human dignity and accompany migrants and refugees through Jesuit Migrant Service (JMS).

Jesuits in Haiti also accompany the Catholic faithful through the Jesuit parishes of Ouanaminthe and Jérémie (one of the places devastated by the Aug. 14 earthquake).

In addition, Jesuits in Haiti offer the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola through the spirituality center they run in Port-au-Prince-Tabarre. We believe that the Spiritual Exercises can transform the whole human person, and this is vital to influence important sectors of society for a better future.

The Jesuits in Haiti are empowering the people so that they can have faith in Haiti's

destiny, a faith that has been weakened significantly over the past years. Through our ministries, we are creating new ways of living together by engaging energies that have been restrained for so long. It is ultimately about promoting the idea of an effective Haitian cultural revolution: believing in oneself and in a shared future.

Simply put, we believe that by helping the most vulnerable people of Haiti, we help create hope for the future.

Could the August earthquake be the event that gives rise to a new collective energy in Haiti? The example of other countries recently devastated by a major catastrophe inspires this hope. The latter is possible if we understand that the new creation of Haiti requires the alienation of the forces of evil so that we can restore hope.

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. (Psalm 37:4-5)

We must place our trust in God.



Jean Francky Guerrier, SJ, was ordained a priest this summer. He is currently studying theology at Regis College in Toronto and works at Salt + Light Media in Toronto. He has a podcast, *Talking with Francky*.



Orlando Portalatin, SJ, Finds Deeper Meaning in Jesuit Vocation

By Jerry Duggan

Throughout his youth, Orlando Portalatin, SJ, felt a call to religious life. As a young man, he joined a faith-based youth group in his native Puerto Rico, where he made lifelong friends and connected with Christ. He continued to put his faith first when he moved to the continental United States, where he attended the University of Central Florida.

“I remember feeling differently about my faith than many of my peers,” Portalatin explained. “I found myself wanting to take time for personal prayer and reflection and asked myself ‘What is wrong with me?’ I guess it didn’t quite feel ‘normal’ for someone my age.”

Portalatin knew there was something there, and so he applied for

and was accepted to seminary before deciding not to attend.

“In my early 20s, I felt I should experience life a little more,” he recounted. “I felt a desire to be a father and advance my career.”

After starting out in sales, Portalatin began working in human resources and was promoted time and time again, from recruiter to compensation analyst to senior analyst. Eventually, he managed human resources operations and systems for a county government. During this time, he also dated. When a particularly serious relationship did not work out, he fell away from the faith. He became more self-indulgent.

In time, he began to seek something more. He was astonished to find that, after all these years, God was still

there, still inviting him to pursue something deeper.

“God never gave up on me,” he said.

He started to listen to podcasts on spirituality and eventually began to see a spiritual director. He had heard of the Jesuits, but they were not part of his discernment until he was introduced to Ignatian Spirituality. He connected with St. Ignatius’ teachings, particularly the idea of freeing oneself of earthly possessions and material desires to follow God.

“I had professional success, and a ‘fun’ lifestyle, but at the end of the day, God was calling me to something more,” he said. “I felt that, after all these years of putting off God’s invitation, I, like Ignatius, should put all of that behind and follow God.”

He attended several discernment events and entered the Jesuit novitiate in 2015 at the age of 43.

After studying philosophy at Loyola University Chicago, Portalatin is back in Puerto Rico, teaching at *Colegio San Ignacio de Loyola* in San Juan.

This assignment, he says, is a dream come true.

“To be back where I grew up, surrounded by family is a tremendous opportunity,” he said. “In addition, to view Puerto Rico through a new lens after being gone all these years is eye opening. To be back in Puerto Rico as a Jesuit confirms my identity as a Jesuit and has strengthened my desire to serve.”

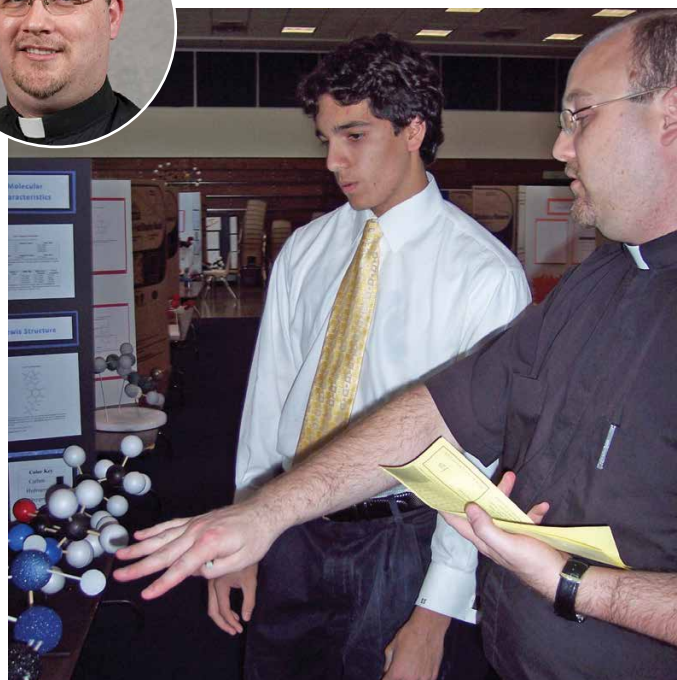
Portalatin teaches senior theology classes at *Colegio San Ignacio* and cannot wait for what comes next.

“Whatever God is inviting me to do in the future, I will continue to let go of all of my attachments and follow Him.”

Fr. John Nugent, SJ:

Formed as a Jesuit Educator by Jesuit Educators

By Jerry Duggan



As Fr. John Nugent, SJ, grew up in the Houston area, his grandmother was a Spanish teacher at the Catholic grade school he attended. At the time, he had no idea how her example would guide his own trajectory in life.

Fast forward to 1996. A 13-year-old Nugent walks into Strake Jesuit College Preparatory of Houston for a tour. It is his first time on campus. Knowing nothing about the Jesuits, he is initially struck not by the sprawling campus or impressive list of accolades, but rather the attitude of the (overwhelmingly lay) faculty members. It was difficult for Nugent to put his finger on what he found so appealing about them.

“They seemed like teachers who were concerned with much more than just teaching,” he said. “Sure, they had a rigorous curriculum, but I could tell right away that they cared about their students as people, too.”

The ideal that Fr. Nugent could not quite articulate at the time is the Jesuit concept of *cura personalis* – that is, to care for the whole person, an approach fundamental to Jesuit education.

Two decades later, Fr. Nugent is principal at Arrupe Jesuit High School in Denver and finds that the impressions left on him by his grandmother and the faculty at Strake all those years ago still guide his approach today.

“Seeing my grandmother dedicate herself to teaching for decades in Catholic schools made such an impression on me,” he said.

In addition, because of her fluency in Spanish, Nugent began to acquire mastery of a second language, which he uses every day at Arrupe Jesuit, a school that is part of the Cristo Rey network and serves a predominately Hispanic student body.

While a student at Texas A&M and active in the Catholic community there, Nugent had inklings of a Jesuit vocation coupled with a strong desire to teach. He recalled the example of his high school teachers and considered his own desire to give back.

“One of my science teachers at Strake was exactly the kind of teacher I wanted to be – she had high expectations for students but also developed them as people and helped them grow in faith,” he recalled.

Confident in his vocation to the Society of Jesus, Nugent entered the Jesuit novitiate in 2006. For his regency (ministerial experience), he was assigned to Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas as a chemistry teacher, and he found his

dual vocations – Jesuit and educator – affirmed.

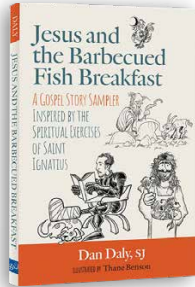
“At Jesuit Dallas, I was able to teach chemistry, a subject I still had great passion for, but more importantly, I was able to connect with my students and be a formative influence in their lives,” he said.

Father Nugent has worked at Arrupe Jesuit since 2016, first as assistant principal and now as principal. There, he is able to apply both the foundational lessons he learned from teachers at Strake and Jesuit Dallas and the Spanish language skills and dedication to the profession taught to him by his grandmother.

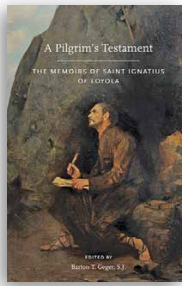
“At Arrupe Jesuit, I am able to utilize what I feel are my greatest gifts in service of those who deserve great opportunities but cannot always access them,” he said. “My Catholic and Jesuit education has taught me that where there is greater need, that is where I need to be.”

JESUITS SHARE PASSIONS IN NEW BOOKS

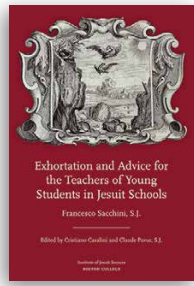
By Jerry Duggan



Jesus and the Barbecued Fish Breakfast
By Dan Daly, SJ



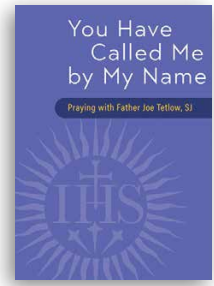
Pilgrim's Testament: The Memoirs of St. Ignatius of Loyola
Edited by Barton Geger, SJ



Exhortation and Advice for Teachers of Young Students in Jesuit Schools
Edited by Cristiano Casalini and Claude Pavur, SJ



Handing on the Fire: Making Spiritual Direction Ignatian
By Joseph Tetlow, SJ



You Have Called Me by My Name
By Joseph Tetlow, SJ

Four Jesuits of the USA Central and Southern (UCS) Province have recently published books, from a new edition of St. Ignatius' memoirs to a retelling of Gospel stories to advice for Jesuit educators and practitioners of Ignatian Spirituality.



Fr. Dan Daly, SJ, Connects Others to Christ

With a lifelong affinity for Gospel stories, Fr. Dan Daly, SJ, wanted to delve a little deeper into some of the characters. For his new book, entitled *Jesus and the Barbecued Fish Breakfast*, he chose 21 Gospel stories, including a personal favorite of his highlighted in the book's title – John Chapter 21, in which Jesus appears to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberius and barbecues fish they have caught for breakfast.

"Gospel stories are great for a few reasons," Fr. Daly said. "First, they help us get to know Jesus better, from his birth all the way to his death and resurrection. Additionally, they are relatable to our everyday lives."

The idea for the book was first put in Fr. Daly's head when a colleague encouraged him to collect his homilies in a book.

"The idea was totally new to me," he said. "I had never written a book before, or even thought about it." The idea grew on him, and he decided he had something to share. He had to make time to write a book, though. As the treasurer for the UCS Province, he already has a demanding, full-time job. He has found the effort rewarding.

"Each time I tweak the book I notice something new about these stories – a new way of looking at them or a detail I had not noticed before," he said.

He wants to share that joy of discovery with others. "No expertise in Scripture is necessary for my book," he said. "I wanted to make it understandable for anyone who is interested in learning more about the Gospel stories and relating them to their own life."

Jesus and the Barbecued Fish Breakfast is available on Amazon.



New Edition of *A Pilgrim's Testament* Receives High Praise

Father Barton Geger, SJ, has produced a new edition of *A Pilgrim's Testament: The Memoirs of St. Ignatius of Loyola*. He hopes this text will help clarify that Ignatius borrowed ideas from others to shape what is today known as "Ignatian discernment."

"I believe that we appreciate the real significance of Ignatius' contributions only when we first recognize what he had learned from everyone else," said Fr. Geger.

In his autobiography, St. Ignatius Loyola recounted the experiences leading to his conversion and described in detail the journey that led him to found the Society of Jesus with his companions.

The text moves in chronological order from 1521 to 1538, starting with Ignatius' conversion and ending with his arrival in Rome and becoming the first superior general of the Society that he helped form.

Father Geger's contribution to the autobiography is a new introduction and endnotes, which together make up about half the text.

The edition can be purchased through the publisher, the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies, at JesuitSources.bc.edu, or through other online book sellers.



Fr. Claude Pavur, SJ, Works with Colleague to Translate a Masterpiece

Father Claude Pavur, SJ, recently teamed up with lay colleague Cristiano Casalini to publish the first

annotated English translation of Jesuit Father Francesco Sacchini's *Exhortation and Advice for Teachers of Young Students in Jesuit Schools*.

Working in Rome as the official historian of the Society until his death in 1625, Fr. Sacchini left behind these two essays to inspire the teachers of the youngest classes and to give them the best practical advice that would help bring about apostolic success in the classroom.

Casalini composed most of the introduction and the notes, while Fr. Pavur translated the text from Latin.

"At its core, the text is really an encapsulation of the spirit of Jesuit education," Pavur said. "It is meant to put spirit in the hearts of young teachers, to encourage them to keep going in their work, realizing the high nobility of their calling and eagerly accepting its challenges."

The exhortation and advice portions of the book complement one another perfectly. "The exhortation is something like a very exalted 'pep talk'; the advice portion is the 'how to,'" Pavur said.

The book was intended as a companion volume to be re-read as needed. Fr. Pavur considers it most helpful for new teachers, but those of every level of experience can find it invaluable.

This work is available for purchase through the publisher, the Institute of Jesuit Sources at JesuitSources.bc.edu.



Fr. Joseph Tetlow, SJ, Releases Two New Books

Father Joseph Tetlow, SJ, is one of this province's most prolific authors. He has published two books this year, one a book of prayers, the other specifically for spiritual directors.

In his decades of giving workshops and seminars on Ignatian Spirituality, Fr. Tetlow has trained countless individuals. In *Handing on the Fire: Making Spiritual Direction Ignatian*, he addresses what he believes is often missing in the training of spiritual directors: attention to their own spiritual formation.

"If you're going to give spiritual direction to others, you have to have the fire of the love of Christ in your own heart," Fr. Tetlow explains. "It's that love that you want to hand on. That's something that no amount of technical expertise can bring about; it has to be done through extensive spiritual formation."

The objective of this book is to "hand on the fire" to current practitioners of Ignatian Spirituality, in the form of zeal for their work, so that they may pass that same fire on to those who come to them for spiritual companionship.

Handing on the Fire is now available at the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Sources at JesuitSources.bc.edu.

Father Tetlow's second book is a collection of prayers entitled *You Have Called Me by My Name*.

"The psalm-prayers move more or less along with the Four Weeks of Spiritual Exercises," Fr. Tetlow says. "Like the psalms, the prayers tell of my struggles with faith and hope and love, which have (so far!) come out pretty positive."

You Have Called Me by My Name is available at LoyolaPress.com.



New Music

Jesuit Scholastic Aric Serrano released a new collection of music, *Recollections*, in September. He described his inspiration in a brief piece for *The Jesuit Post*, an online blog by Jesuits in formation.

The forced solitude of the pandemic led me to write music as a way of processing my experience. I wanted to write personal soundscapes that were both uplifting and reflective. I remembered the ordinary pre-pandemic moments that I missed and realized how God had been present in those. Composing music helped me realize how God is present even in these pandemic moments. The tracks blend ordinary sounds with a reflective soundtrack, representing the divine at work behind the simple moments.

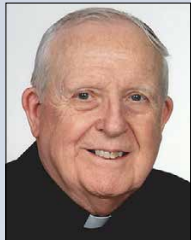


Serrano's tracks are available on Spotify and Apple Music.

IN MEMORIAM

*For those who believe in your love,
death is not the end ...*

Father Thomas J. Madden, SJ



Father Tom Madden, SJ, is remembered as a kind and holy man, cherished as a retreat director. His homilies were carefully prepared, skillfully delivered and spiritually nourishing. There is no question that he led many souls to God.

He taught or served in administration at Spring Hill College, Xavier University in New Orleans and Loyola University New Orleans. He also served at the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Grand Coteau, La., the Gesu Church in Miami and St. Charles Borromeo Church in Grand Coteau.

He died June 15, 2021, in Grand Coteau. He was 94 years old, a Jesuit for 76 years and a priest for 64 years.

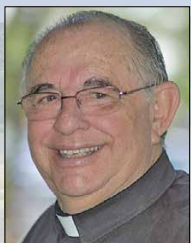
Father Norman B. O'Neal, SJ



Father Norman B. O'Neal, SJ, was beloved by generations of students at Jesuit High School New Orleans, arriving in 1960 and remaining for 57 years, teaching chemistry and later serving as alumni chaplain. He was a fine teacher and a hard worker. He was a true Companion, of Jesus and of his Jesuit brothers and colleagues.

He died June 20, 2021, in Grand Coteau, La. He was 95 years old, a Jesuit for 73 years and a priest for 62 years.

Father Donald M. Vega LaMendola, SJ



Father Donald M. Vega LaMendola, SJ, died July 13, 2021, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He was 86 years old, a Jesuit for 67 years and a priest for 56 years.

Father Vega spent nearly all of his active ministry in Puerto Rico. He supervised special education programs and worked with the Puerto Rican government to address drug addiction. He served as pastor of San Ignacio Parish in Rio Piedras and taught at the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, the Interamerican University and the San Juan Bautista Minor Seminary.

Father Vega was well-loved in San Juan. He was known for his passionate homilies exhorting the parish community to cultivate a deeper commitment to the poor.

Father Joseph E. Damhorst, SJ



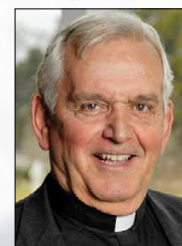
Father Joe Damhorst, SJ, is remembered for his wisdom, humor and deep love for Native peoples. He devoted himself to mission work at St. Stephen's Mission in

Wyoming, serving as pastor, 1981-87. He was later missioned to Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in South Dakota, where he worked in pastoral ministry at the Red Cloud Mission among the Lakota Sioux.

Father Damhorst served at parishes in the Diocese of Colorado Springs, then as pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish in Belize City. His final assignment was pastoral ministry in Denver, including serving as the chaplain to the Kateri Catholic Community.

Father Damhorst died July 18, 2021, in St. Louis. He was 84 years old, a Jesuit for 65 years and a priest for 53 years.

Father Gregory F. Lucey, SJ



Fr. Greg. Lucey, SJ, former president of Spring Hill College, the Jesuit Conference and the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), died Sept. 30, 2021. He was

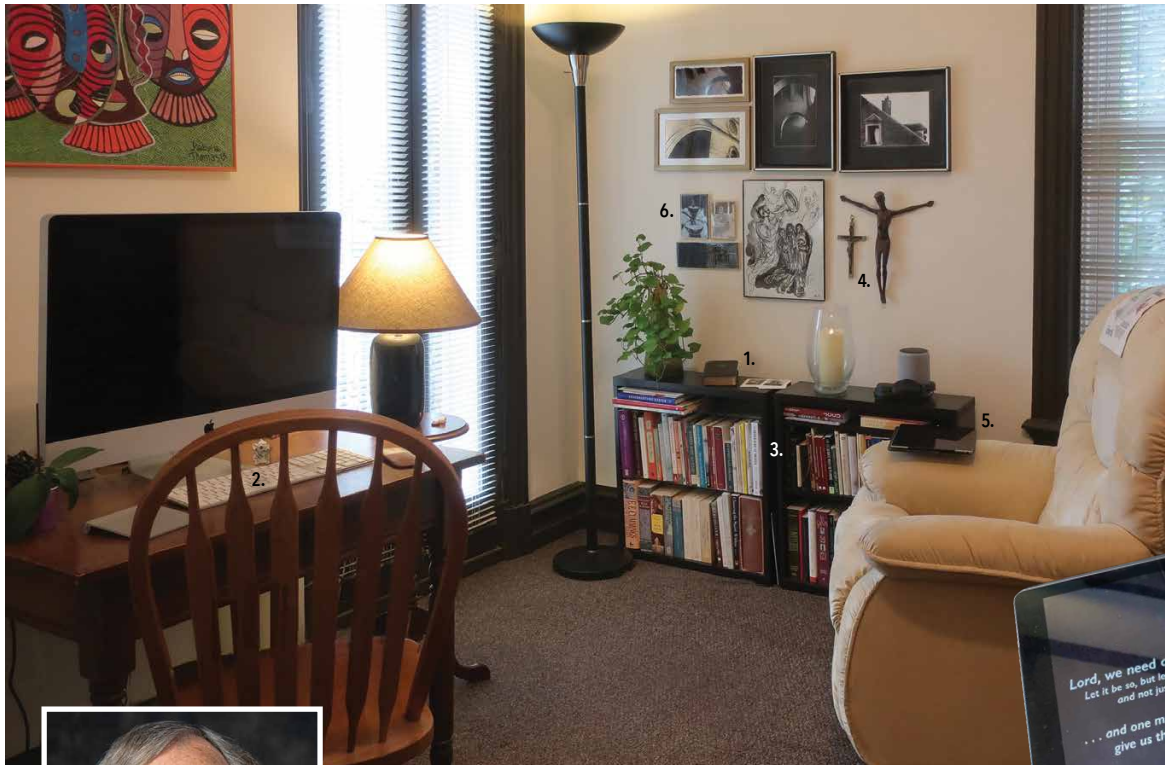
88 years old, a Jesuit for 70 years and a priest for 57 years.

After his term as Jesuit Conference president, Fr. Lucey served as president of Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala., from 1997 to 2009 and as president of the AJCU. He returned to Spring Hill to serve another term as president and then as chancellor.

Father Lucey is remembered for his devoted stewardship of Jesuit higher education, his sense of humor and resounding laugh.

MORE
ON THE WEB

For complete obituaries, visit the province website: www.jesuitscentralsouthern.org/in-memoriam.



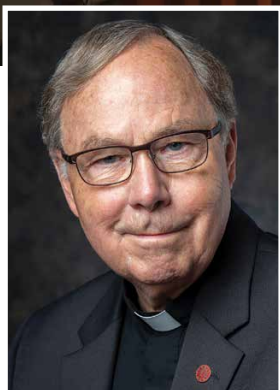
4. CRUCIFIX

My vow crucifix hangs next to a carved corpus of Christ from Kenya given to me by a mentor, Fr. Ed O'Brien.



5. iPad

I keep an iPad handy. It serves as another window into the world and a creative tool for journaling, composing homilies and drafts for poetry.

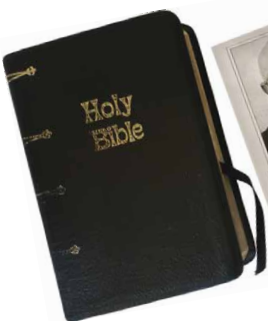


FATHER MICHAEL HARTER, SJ, has been a Jesuit for 60 years, and has served in a range of ministries, primarily in communications and the formation of Jesuits. Now based in St. Louis, he assists with the research into Jesuit slave-holding. The view from his chair provides a multi-faceted context for prayer: it overlooks the parking lot of a Mormon church, a burger shop, the Saint Louis University campus, the Jesuit Archives and Research Center and a busy fire station from which emergency vehicles rumble past at all hours of the day and night.



6. FRAMED ART

On my wall are framed images of favorite sacred spaces I have visited and photographed in Italy and France, sketches drawn by my sister TR when we visited the Frick Museum in New York City, and an original artwork created by Charlotte Lichtblau and published in *America Magazine*.



1. TOP OF BOOKCASE

On the bookcases are various gifts from dear friends: a Bible, an electric candle, a sweet potato plant that has flourished for months and memorial cards that remind me to pray for deceased Jesuit companions and other friends.



2. THE MOUSE

This little ceramic mouse was a gift from Mary Ann Foppe, when we worked together at Review for Religious.



3. BOOKS

The bookshelves keep books of poetry, novels and reflective essays within easy reach. Authors range from Rumi to Rilke; from Gerard Manley Hopkins to Denise Levertov; Robert Frost and Belden Lane are side-by-side with Annie Dillard, Maya Angelou, Mary Oliver and E. E. Cummings, among others.

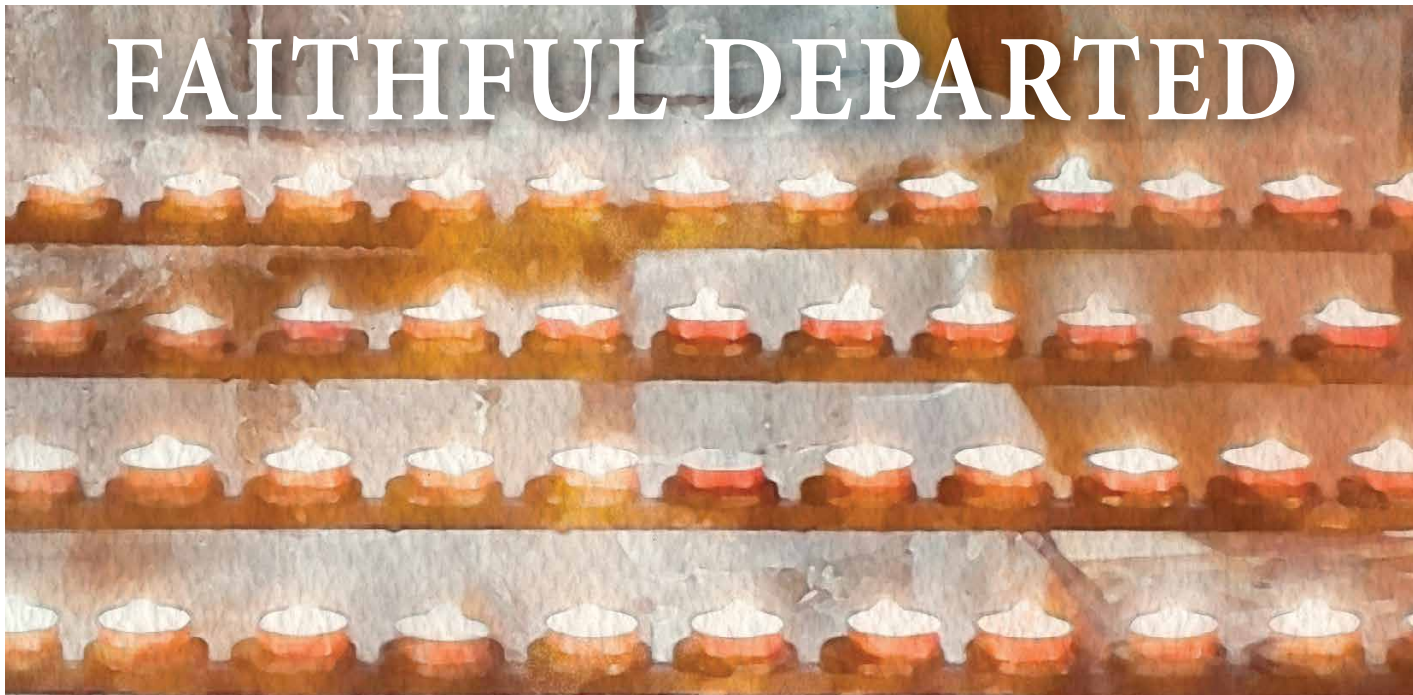
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Visit <https://connect.jesuitscentralsouthern.org/nomagazine> to update your contact preferences.



Nov. 2:

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE

FAITHFUL DEPARTED



The Jesuits of the USA Central and Southern Province invite you to send the names of your deceased loved ones so that we may pray for them.

If you missed our recent mailing, please feel free to write the names of your loved ones on any piece of paper and send it in the envelope found in the center of this magazine.

We thank you for all the prayers and support you send our way.
Please allow us to pray for your beloved family and friends who have gone before us.