

# Province Office Welcomes Sisters Kay and Ellen

Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Kay Hannigan, and Sister of Notre Dame, Ellen Keane moved into the offices at 85 School Street this fall, bringing with them warmth, spirituality and joy. The sisters moved from the Cambridge office of Center for Religious Development (CRD) which came to a close in May 2009. Sisters Kay and Ellen continue to offer spiritual direction, training and a practicum for those giving spiritual direction as part of The Jesuit Collaborative's New England outreach.

## Sr. Kay Hannigan reflects on the history of CRD.

The New England Province established the Center for Religious Development 38 years ago. Its basic aim was to assist people who wanted to let God develop a unique relationship with them and thought they would benefit from talking about it. In 1972, a nine-month associate program began. Its purpose was to help participants become more capable spiritual directors. The program included the actual practice of spiritual direction, supervision of this learning experience, and theological, psychological and historical reflection on the experience of spiritual direction. Spiritual direction is the assistance by one person to another, which enables that person to pay attention to God's communication to him or her, to respond to God, to grow in intimacy with God and to live out the consequences of the relationship. As Fr. Bill Barry, SJ, one of CRD's founding directors says, "We help people talk about their experience of God."

Since 1972, 265 men and women from five different continents have graduated from the center and spread the ministry of spiritual direction and supervision to many parts of the world.

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*You continue to send forth your Spirit,  
and the earth, though not without  
turmoil, is renewed. ~Psalm 104*



Virve Tynnmærk (2007 graduate of CRD) and Valfrid Botnen (2001 graduate of CRD), from the Norwegian Association of Clergy and the School of Theology in Oslo, returned this fall for two weeks to share their experiences and increase their learnings about training spiritual directors in Norway. (L-r) Sr. Ellen Keane, Virve Tynnmærk, Valfrid Botnen and Sr. Kay Hannigan.

In the fall of 1998, the Center for Religious Development and Weston Jesuit School of Theology began a new venture, an MA degree in spiritual direction. This continued with the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry (BCSTM) during this past year. This two-year program included a year of academics taken at BCSTM and a year of practicum taken at CRD in the associate program. In the fall of 1999, the center began a beginner's practicum in the ministry of spiritual direction in collaboration with Weston Jesuit School of Theology. This now continues with BCSTM and is open to all students in the Boston Theological Institute.

The heart and soul of both programs has been found in the supervision component. Both individual and group supervision have been a fruitful source of learning and assistance to both new and experienced directors. Graduates of both programs continue to return to the center each month for group supervision. This ongoing supervision assists all in the awareness of the many ways God acts in the lives of all of us.

In recent years, over 50 people came weekly seeking spiritual direction. We have deep gratitude and appreciation for the New England Province of the Society

of Jesus whose vision and prayerful discernment made the CRD possible. And we pray that God will continue to bless the work of The Jesuit Collaborative as it serves the Church by providing for the spiritual development and care of persons, forming leaders and nurturing a faith that does justice.

*Sr. Kay Hannigan, PBVM, is a 1987 graduate of CRD and past major superior of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She has been involved in the ministry of spiritual direction and retreats for many years.*

## *James R. Conroy, SJ, appointed Executive Director of The Jesuit Collaborative*



Fr. James R. Conroy, SJ, became the new executive director of The Jesuit Collaborative on August 1, 2009. Fr. Conroy succeeded Fr. Ron Mercier, SJ, who led The Jesuit Collaborative during its first three years.

Fr. Conroy is a native of Pittsburgh and a member of the Maryland Province

of the Society of Jesus. He has extensive experience directing the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius and witnessing their transformative impact. "The Exercises allow a person to recognize that very deep experience they have with God and know that it is authentic. Then comes the confidence and freedom to speak and act out of that truth," says Fr. Conroy. "The Jesuit Collaborative mission is to support and promote this gift of Ignatius and to grow the impact of the Exercises throughout the Church, the country and the world today."



For more information, please visit:  
[www.jesuit-collaborative.org](http://www.jesuit-collaborative.org)

# JESUIT CONNECTION

spiritual · social · service

The Jesuit Connection begins its fourth full year this fall with great energy and momentum. The Jesuit Connection is a group of young adults who have either graduated from Jesuit institutions or have had other experiences with Jesuit teachings and values. The group offers spiritual, service and social events that link to Jesuit values. At every event, there are new faces in the crowd and new members are always welcome.

### SAVE THESE DATES:

#### **Jesuit Connection Fundraiser**

Saturday, January 23, 2010

Tennis and Racket Club, 939 Boylston St., Boston

#### **Calling All Hockey Fans! Connection Gathering**

BC vs. UNH Hockey Game

Saturday, March 6, 2010, 7:00 pm

Pre game gathering; Conte Forum for game

#### **Pizza and a Pint and Ignatian Conversations**

Thursdays, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Loyola House, 300 Newbury St., Boston

February 4, 2010

March 4, 2010

May 6, 2010

#### **Jesuit Connection Service Day at Nativity Schools**

Choose to provide some needed service at either

The Nativity Preparatory School in Boston

or Nativity School of Worcester

Sunday, March 28, 2010

#### **Jesuit Connection Retreat Weekend**

April, 2010



For more information please visit:  
[www.sjnen.org/jesuitconnection](http://www.sjnen.org/jesuitconnection)