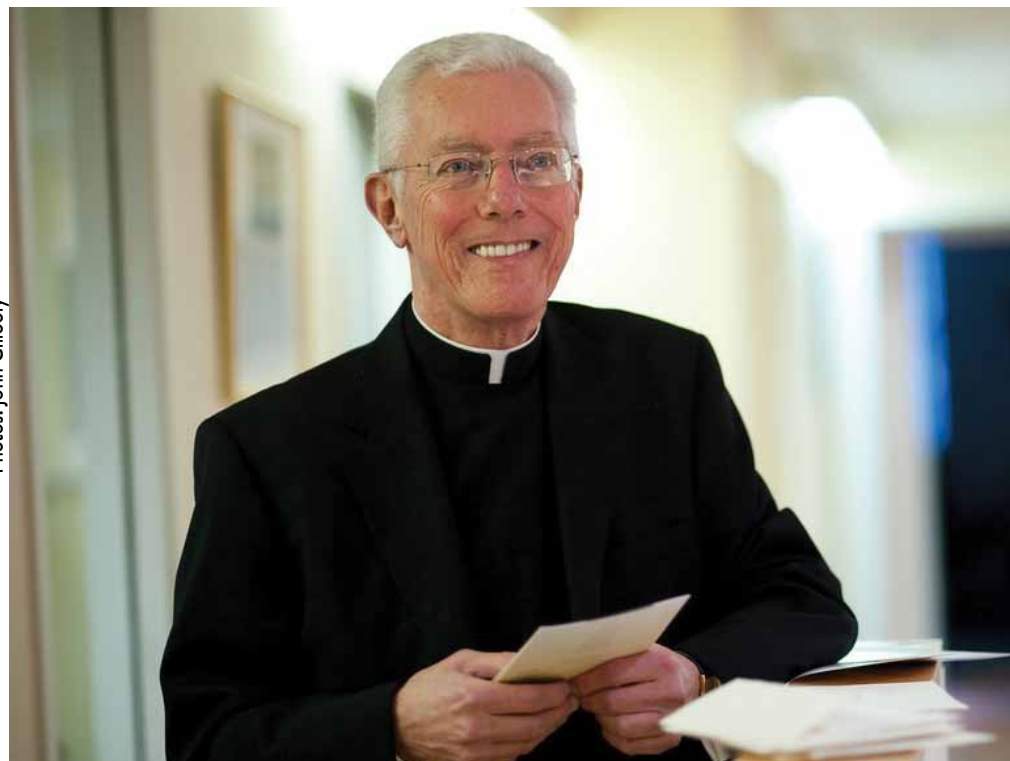


Men Behind the Mail

22 Photos: John Gillooly



Fr. Charles B. Connolly, SJ

Fr. Connolly is the author of these “thank you letters,” and as each new month approaches, he knows that it is time to compose another letter. He struggles, sometimes for days, to come up with a fresh idea, a novel approach, and he usually succeeds. Very often he finds inspiration in the Scriptures; at other times, there is a seasonal theme or a particular snippet of Jesuit tradition to include in the letter.

Judging from the comments we received, your favorite letter was the one that included this prayer:

“Dear God: So far today, I’ve done alright. I haven’t gossiped, haven’t lost my temper, haven’t been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or over-indulgent. I’m very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, I’m going to get out of bed, and from then on, I’m going to need a lot more help. Amen!”

However, processing the mail entails more than writing letters. The route that the mail takes—from your house to our office and back to you—is a circuitous one, and Fr. Connolly works very closely with another Jesuit of our office staff, Br. Donald J. Murray, SJ.

Each morning, mail is delivered to the Treasurer’s Office, where it is opened and the checks and cash are copied and deposited. Depending on the season and the recent mailings we have sent out, there could be anywhere from 20 to 100 pieces of mail each day.

Once the mail reaches the Advancement Office, Br. Murray goes through each piece of mail to make sure that it is coded correctly (see sidebar): a Mass stipend, an enrollment offering, a monthly or quarterly donor, an annual fund gift, etc. He sees that names and addresses

If you have made a donation to the New England Province of Jesuits in the past few years, you have certainly received a “thank you letter” signed with the Palmer-method penmanship of Fr. Charles B. Connolly, SJ. And if you are a regular contributor, you know that these letters change each month.

are correct, and he merges all the information into the monthly letter, which is then printed with your name, address, salutation and gift amount.

Fr. Connolly signs each letter personally and individually, and he often adds a handwritten note. Br. Murray completes the process by stuffing the envelopes and, if you have used a Mass card or enrollment, he will include a replacement card for your future use.

It is inspiring to see Fr. Connolly and Br. Murray at work: This is their ministry, and they take it very seriously. They have great concern and affection for our benefactors, and they want to make sure that you and your intentions are remembered regularly in the grateful prayers of their brother Jesuits. When they say that the Jesuits are praying for you, they mean it!



Br. Donald J. Murray, SJ

Fr. Charles B. Connolly, SJ, entered the Jesuits in 1963 and was ordained a priest in 1974. He has served primarily in administrative positions in the community and at Cheverus and Boston College High Schools, at the College of the Holy Cross, and at the Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, California.

Br. Donald J. Murray, SJ, began his Jesuit formation in 1956 and, after various community assignments, he spent 38 years at Boston College High School. For 32 of those years, he served as registrar. He was also involved with the athletic programs transporting the students all over Massachusetts.

Mass Cards and Enrollments

In today’s language, people seem to use the phrase “Mass card” for any religious remembrance that they send. It can be confusing at times, so the following is the common practice for cards at the New England Province of Jesuits: A Mass card, for the deceased or



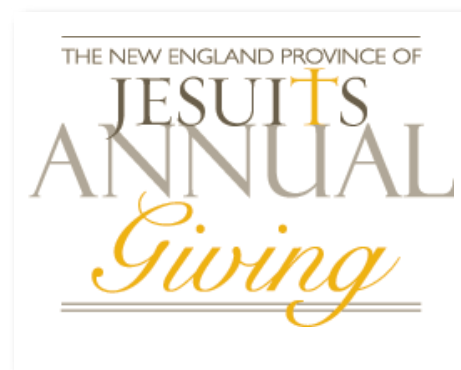
living, states that “the Eucharist will be celebrated” for a particular person or intention. It means that a Mass will be said by one of the Jesuits for that person (or intention), for that person alone, and for no one else. We

send that name to one of the Jesuits each month, and he will celebrate the Mass for that person.

An Enrollment (or Memorial), for the deceased or living, states that “a gift has been made to the Jesuits” in the name of a particular person. That person, together with the names of all the others sent to us, will be remembered in the prayers of the New England Jesuits. Our cards no longer designate “one year, five years, ten years.”



Cards can be ordered online at: www.sjnen.org/Cards. If you have questions about this, you may contact Fr. Connolly by email: cconnolly@sjnen.org or by phone: 617-607-2897.



As we closed the fiscal year on June 30, the Annual Fund reached a new level with total giving of over \$300,000, and for that we are very grateful to you, our loyal and generous friends. With your help, we are able to help with the support of the 300 members of the New England Province. Whether the Jesuits are in the early stages of their formation, the twilight years of their vocation, or the active lives as priests and brothers, we depend on your goodness for the ordinary expenses of everyday living. The Annual Fund is our bread and butter, our heat and lights, and for our part, we promise a daily remembrance in our Masses and prayers for you and for all of your special intentions. Thank you very much for allowing us to do God’s work!