



# JESUITS

MARYLAND • NEW ENGLAND • NEW YORK PROVINCES

SUMMER 2011

**Jesuits Serve  
the Church**

# SOCIETY OF JESUS

## *Our Mission to the Church*

We seek to respond to the ever-present invitation of the Society and our tradition to keep the goal of our Society before our eyes and to look for the best instruments that will allow us to discern the will of God and respond generously and effectively to Christ's call to serve with Him in our world of today. The Holy Father has repeatedly reaffirmed that the Church continues to count on us in the important work of evangelization, which he hopes we will carry out with the depth of reflection and spirituality that the Society has always offered.

This is our mission: It is our great joy to be able to contribute, even if in a very small way, to God's redeeming work, and it is our desire to continue to be able to be and do more as servants of Christ's mission.

— Very Rev. Adolfo Nicolás, SJ  
Superior General of the  
Society of Jesus  
February 25, 2011



**V. Rev. James M. Shea, SJ**  
*Provincial of Maryland*



**V. Rev. Myles N. Sheehan, SJ**  
*Provincial of New England*



**V. Rev. David S. Cincimino, SJ**  
*Provincial of New York*

## Deepening our Commitment

We were honored to have the Very Rev. Adolfo Nicolás, our Jesuit Superior General, attend the meeting of the Jesuit provincials of the United States this February in Kingston, Jamaica. The provincials had gathered for their meeting of the U.S. Jesuit Conference Board, which occurs three times a year. Also in attendance was the provincial of English-speaking Canada, Fr. Jim Webb, SJ. Fr. General took part in the plenary meetings and met individually with each provincial. He then spent the rest of his time in Kingston visiting the Jesuit communities and works of Jamaica, a dependent region of the New England Province.

Fr. General encouraged the provincials to move forward with the work of the 35th General Congregation. He spoke eloquently about a favorite theme of his — the depth that should pervade our Jesuit ministry, our theology, our work in education, anywhere a Jesuit is missioned. He contrasts this to superficiality and the danger of being pulled away by distractions from what is most urgent. Issues of real significance fully engage the Society in service to the Church. When we allow secondary issues to become primary, superficiality can fill our time and sap our energy. Superficiality is not just a danger in religious life or in the Church; it can be found throughout contemporary society where multiple voices confuse us by polemics and trivial desires that have the ability to keep us from a deep experience of creativity, solidarity and our authentic desires to be fully human.

Looking to our mission on the East Coast of the United States, the three provinces of Maryland, New England and New York are working together to deepen our own commitment to Christ, the Church and the Society of Jesus in the 21st century. We are doing this in our increasing collaboration among our three provinces and in our emphasis on shared work with our colleagues in ministry; in the work of The Jesuit Collaborative bringing Ignatian spirituality and the ministry of the *Spiritual Exercises* to new groups; in our work in pre-secondary, secondary and higher education as we educate future leaders to have the depth and creativity to respond to Christ's call in new ways and in new times; and in our parish ministries, encouraging and guiding those who call these parishes home in their own faith journey. And, as Jesuits, we are deepening our own commitment to the call of Christ in the Society through our work, our prayer and our lives.

Thank you for being part of our mission and for all your support.



MARYLAND  
NEW ENGLAND  
NEW YORK  
PROVINCES

#### About Our Cover

Fr. George Witt, SJ, pastor  
of St. Ignatius Loyola Church,  
New York City, greets  
young parishioners.



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**Jesuits** is published three times per  
year by the Maryland, New England  
and New York Provinces of the Society  
of Jesus. The opinions expressed are  
those of the individual writers and do  
not necessarily constitute the official  
policy of the Society of Jesus.

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Printed in the USA.

 Printed on recycled paper.



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NEW YORK: [www.nysj.org](http://www.nysj.org)

## Seventy-Five Years of Educational Leadership

Seventy-five years of educational leadership was celebrated at the New England Province's 11th annual Jesuit GALA on April 12 when Provincial Fr. Myles Sheehan, SJ, presented the *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* Award, For the Greater Glory of God, to Fr. J. Donald Monan, SJ, president of Boston College from 1972–1996, Fr. John Brooks, SJ, president of the College of the Holy Cross from 1970–1994, and Fr. Aloysius Kelley, SJ, president of Fairfield University from 1979–2004.



*A video featuring the honorees speaking about the value of Catholic education and Jesuit ideals is available at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/JesuitsOfNewEngland>*



Left to right: Fr. J. Donald Monan, SJ, Fr. John Brooks, SJ, Fr. Aloysius Kelley, SJ, Fr. Provincial Myles Sheehan, SJ



Fr. Christopher Devron, SJ

## Fr. Devron Professes Final Vows

Fr. Christopher Devron, SJ, a New York Province Jesuit and president of Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School in Chicago, was called by the Society of Jesus to the profession of final vows on March 4. Fr. Devron and his family, friends, students and community members celebrated a Eucharistic liturgy in the school's St. Ignatius Chapel. They were joined by Jesuit priests from around the country, including Bishop George Murry, SJ, Youngstown, Ohio, and Fr. Timothy Kesicki, SJ, provincial of the Chicago-Detroit Province.



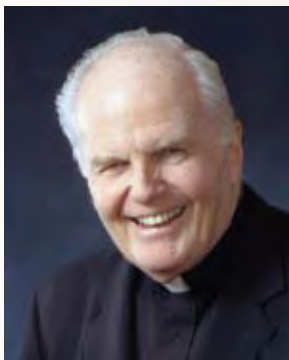
# Honorary Degrees Awarded at 2011 Commencements



**Fr. Francis Clooney, SJ,** received an honorary Doctor of Ministry degree from the College of the Holy Cross. Fr. Clooney is the Parkman professor of divinity and professor of theology and the director of the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard Divinity School.



**Fr. James Martin, SJ,** received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Le Moyne College. Fr. Martin is the cultural editor at *America* magazine.



**Fr. Charles Currie, SJ,** received honorary doctoral degrees from Saint Joseph's University, John Carroll University and Santa Clara University. Fr. Currie recently retired after 14 years as president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.



**Fr. Michael McFarland, SJ,** received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania. Fr. McFarland is the president of the College of the Holy Cross.

## New Presidents *for Gonzaga College High School & Nativity School*



Fr. Stephen Planning, SJ, has been named the 36th president of Gonzaga College High School in Washington D.C., succeeding Fr. Joseph Ligan, SJ. Fr. Ligan, the first Gonzaga alumnus to serve as president of the school, assumed the presidency on an interim basis following the untimely death of Fr. Allen Novotny, SJ, last

October. Fr. Planning has a long history with Jesuit high schools. Most recently, he served eight years as the founding president of Arrupe Jesuit High School in Denver, Colorado. Previously, Fr. Planning was assistant principal of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago. He also taught English and religious studies in Jesuit high schools in the United States and in Chile.



Alex Zequeira, an experienced educator, administrator and coach, has been named president of Nativity School of Worcester, Massachusetts. Zequeira, who served as the school's founding principal from 2003–04, will return in his new role this July. A 1994 graduate of the College of the Holy Cross, Zequeira is currently the dean of the Upper

School at Wooster School in Danbury, Connecticut, where he has also taught Spanish and history and coached several athletic teams since 2008. From 2004–08, he served as the executive director of the alumni association, as well as a teacher, advisor and coach at Belen Jesuit Preparatory in Miami, where he completed his own middle and high school education.


# Saint John's Bible Volumes Donated to Loyola/Notre Dame Library

With chant and hymns sung by the choirs of the College of Notre Dame and Loyola University Maryland, the two schools celebrated the arrival of the first volumes of the Heritage Edition of The Saint John's Bible, donated to the Loyola/Notre Dame Library.

Fr. Timothy Brown, SJ, associate professor of law and social responsibility at Loyola, blessed the books during an April 5th service held at the Basilica of the Assumption in downtown Baltimore.

The red leather-bound volumes are part of a Heritage Edition of The Saint John's Bible, a fine art reproduction of an extraordinary handwritten, hand-illuminated text and will be part of the library's permanent collection.

The completed volumes of the Bible will go on display in the library in the fall of 2011. The original manuscript is not yet complete with scribes and artists still at work on the final pages of Revelation.

 To read the text of the reflections, "Lectio Divina," offered at the April 5th service by Robert Miola, professor at Loyola, go to [www.mdsj.org](http://www.mdsj.org).



Photographs by Piper Watson

Fr. Brian Linnane, SJ, president of Loyola University Maryland, speaks at a service to bless the Heritage Edition of The Saint John's Bible. The combined choirs of Loyola and the College of Notre Dame of Maryland stand behind the altar.

## Della Strada Award Honors Work for Justice

The New York Regional Council of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps presented its annual Della Strada Award in April to Fr. Mark Hallinan, SJ, and volunteer Barbara Lee for lives that "reflect the Ignatian values of direct service to the poor, and of working and educating for a more just society."

Fr. Hallinan is the New York Province assistant to the provincial for social ministries. He is also chairman of the board of Habitat New York.

Lee, a retired judge, has taught English as a second language for the past 11 years. She currently teaches each week at Cabrini Immigrant Center in New York City. The event also marked the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. (See related story on pages 18–19).

## • SAVE THE DATE! •

### *Friends of the Jesuits Golf Outing*

**Monday, September 26, 2011**



The Friends of the Jesuits 2nd Annual Golf Outing to be held at the Meadow Brook Club, Jericho, New York, will benefit the many Jesuit ministries of the New York Province and support the care of aging and infirm Jesuits. The very successful event will once again be organized by a committee headed by Pete Dagher, Brian Devaney and Gary Goodenough. For information on sponsorships, journal ads and registration, please contact Debra Ryan at 212-774-5544 or [ryan@nysj.org](mailto:ryan@nysj.org).



## New Province Has Historical Echoes

By William Bole



Fr. Andrew White, SJ, the first Jesuit in Maryland, on St. Clement's Island in 1634.

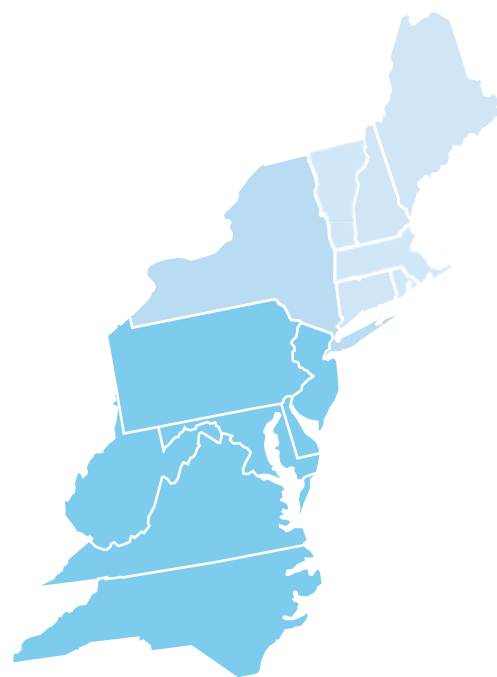
At their 34th General Congregation held in 1995, leaders of the Society of Jesus from around the world proclaimed, “Jesuits are never content with the status quo. We are constantly driven to discover, redefine and reach for the *magis* (the more).” The congregation added, “Ours is a holy boldness.”

Among Jesuits in the United States, under intense review at the moment is the composition of their provinces, the 10 jurisdictions that send them forth into ministry. In the coming years there will be newly configured provinces, a response to growing unity among Jesuits and all who participate in their works.

On the East Coast, the three Jesuit provinces (Maryland, New England and New York) will become one, as they were until the 1920s.

“Jesuit provinces” are a bit obscure in the eyes of many. “Most people don’t think of the provinces. They think of the Jesuit institutions that they are familiar with, like schools, parishes and retreat centers,” says Fr. Gerald Fogarty, SJ, a noted Catholic historian at the University of Virginia. And yet, the provinces are where Jesuits begin their journeys in the Society of Jesus, where they are nurtured through their years of spiritual, educational and ministerial formation. The provinces also assign Jesuits to their worldwide ministries, and provide care for those members who become frail.

The province is a constant in the life of a Jesuit, but the boundaries of



these jurisdictions have never been static. To begin with, for two centuries Jesuits ministered in America's eastern colonies under the auspices of provinces based in other countries, including England and France. In a manner of speaking, this was the Wild West phase that began in the early 1600s when Jesuits explored frontiers of faith, preaching the Good News — to Native Americans, for example — and establishing missions and other outposts. It was also a time of martyrdom, suppression and persecution.

Still, some enduring Jesuit institutions were established during this epoch, including St. Ignatius Church in Charles County, Maryland, founded in 1641 and one of the oldest continuous Catholic parishes in the United States, and Georgetown University, founded in 1789.

Jesuits did not get their own province in the United States until 1833, when the Maryland jurisdiction was created. Well-known Jesuit universities, as far from Maryland as the College of the Holy Cross

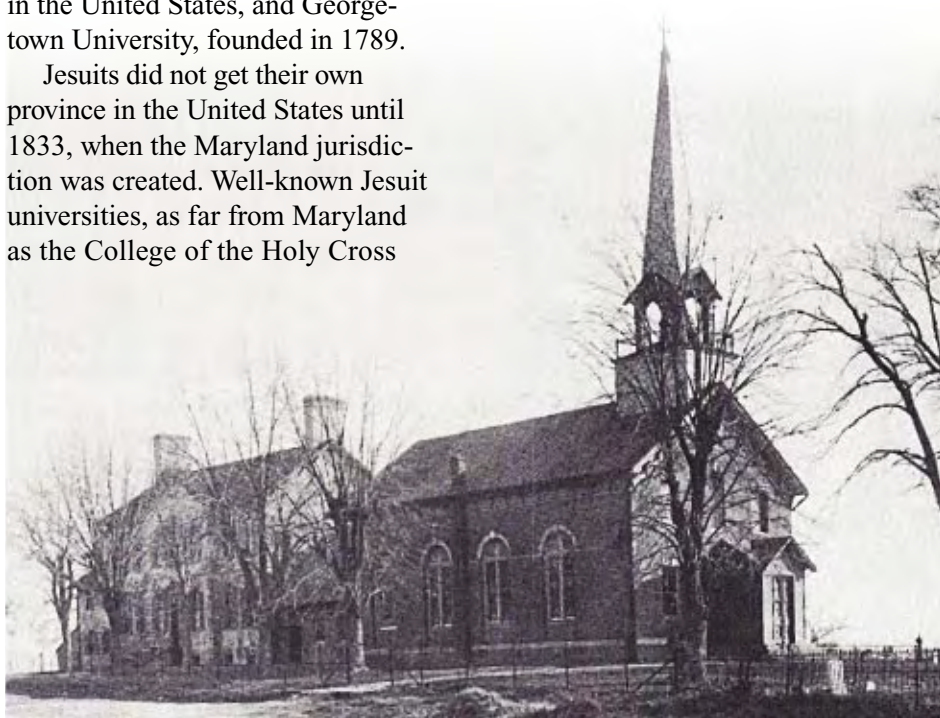


Fr. John Bapst, SJ, tarred and feathered by an anti-Catholic mob, persevered to become the first president of Boston College.

(founded in 1843) and Boston College (1863), were originally and for many decades part of this province headquartered hundreds of miles away. Some of the standout figures of American Jesuit history rose during these early provincial years, people such as the Swiss-born Fr. John Bapst, SJ, who was brutally tarred and feathered by an anti-Catholic mob in Ellsworth, Maine, in 1851, and then persevered to become the first president of Boston College; and Fr. John McElroy, SJ, who served as the first Catholic army chaplain in the United States (during the Mexican-American War), and who, decades later, after turning 80, founded Boston College.

In 1879, Jesuits who had been ministering in New York (as part of the Society's New York-Canada mission) were united with their Maryland brothers into an expanded Maryland-New York Province. It remained the only Jesuit province along the Atlantic until 1926, when New England, 492 Jesuits strong, became its own province. This was a flourishing time for American Catholicism as well as Jesuit vocations, and so, provinces multiplied across the country. On the East Coast, Jesuits in New York came into their own province in 1943, with responsibilities for the Empire State and northern New Jersey. For a brief period Buffalo, too, had its own Jesuit jurisdiction in western New York.

But the separation did not end the interchange among the Jesuits, notes Fr. Joseph Appleyard, SJ, who is the executive assistant to New England Provincial Fr. Myles Sheehan, SJ. He points, for example, to institutions like Woodstock College, the Jesuit seminary founded in



St. Ignatius Church, Charles County, Maryland

1634

*Jesuits land in Maryland and establish a mission there as part of the English Province.*

1833

*Maryland becomes the first Jesuit province in the United States.*

1879

*Jesuits from the New York/Canada Mission join with Maryland to form the Maryland/New York Province.*

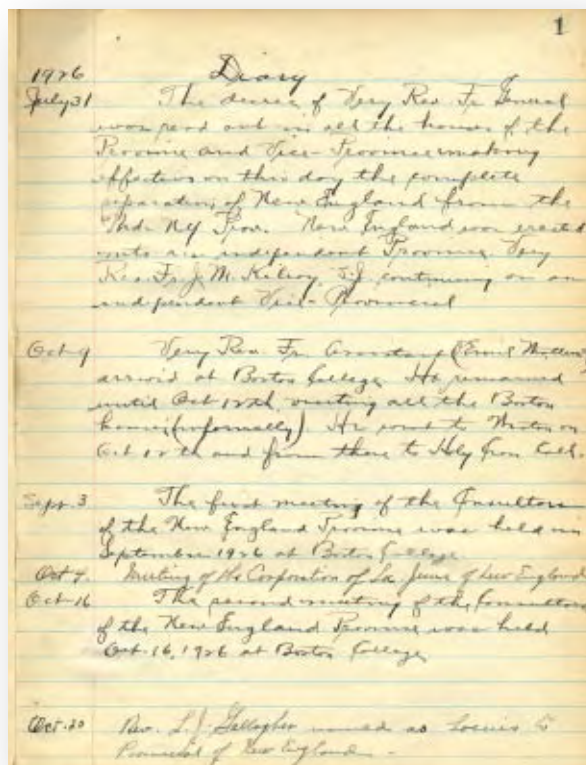
1926

*New England Jesuits form their own province.*



rural Maryland in 1869, which drew Jesuits from different provinces; the college moved to New York City 100 years later, before closing its doors in 1974. “We really have a shared history,” says Fr. Appleyard, who previously served as vice president of university mission and ministry at Boston College.

In recent years the collaborations have multiplied among Jesuits and between them and lay people. There is now, for example, one vocation director for all three of the East Coast provinces, one director of Jesuit formation and a common novitiate in Syracuse, New York. In addition, one of the more bustling spiritual ministries, The Jesuit Collaborative, is a three-province initiative that brings the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius to those in search of tools for reflection and discernment. This magazine itself is a collaboration of the Maryland,



A page from the diary of the newly founded New England Province.

*The Jesuit mission will remain as it has for 400 years — bringing people and cultures closer to the living God.*



Fr. John McElroy, SJ, first Catholic Army chaplain, served during the Mexican-American War.

New England and New York Provinces.

“The [Province] boundaries don’t make as much sense as they used to,” says Fr. William Byron, SJ, professor of business and society at Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. “As Jesuits, we can move around easily. It’s just a matter of getting a ticket for a plane and shipping your books.”

Fr. Fogarty points out that until around the mid-20th century, the provinces generally assigned their members to ministries within those jurisdictions. Today, leaders of Jesuit institutions such as Boston College and Georgetown University are just as likely to come from provinces in other regions or from the laity’s ranks.

Unification is one answer to these and other new realities. According to Jesuit representatives, provincial boundaries may be fading, but the Jesuit mission will remain as it has for 400 years — bringing people and cultures closer to the living God.

*William Bole is a journalist in the Boston area. His writing has appeared in The Washington Post, The New York Times, America magazine, Commonweal magazine and other outlets.*

**Sources:** *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, official Province web pages, Fr. Joseph Appleyard, SJ, Fr. Gerald Fogarty, SJ, *The Encyclopedia of American Catholic History*, and *American Jesuits: A History*, by Raymond A. Schroth, SJ (New York University Press, 2007).

1943

*New York Province is established.*

1960

*Buffalo Province is carved out of New York.*

1969

*Buffalo reenters New York Province.*

Present

*The three East Coast Jesuit Provinces (Maryland, New England and New York) lay groundwork for the unification of all three provinces.*

## Novices Live Out the *Spiritual Exercises*

By Fr. John Garvey, SJ



Vincent Marchionni, SJ, assists a client at the McKenna Center in Washington, D.C.

Jesuit novices take part in many “experiments” over the course of their two years of formation before vows, from teaching grade school children to working as a hospital orderly, usually on a weekly or monthly basis. None of these experiments matches the intensity of the Long Experiment that is five months of full-time apostolic work while living in a Jesuit community. It allows a novice time to understand Jesuit life more fully so as to make a better discernment about pronouncing vows in the Society of Jesus.

### God’s love shines through simple work

Vincent Marchionni’s Long Experiment was at the Father McKenna Center, named after Fr. Horace McKenna, SJ, who labored for the destitute in Washington, D.C., for many years. The center is located in the St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church basement, consisting of a kitchen, showers, a few multi-purpose rooms and a food pantry. Much good emanates from a small place: meals for homeless men, groceries

for local residents and assistance for those facing eviction and utility cutoff. “This Long Experiment has taught me that simple acts of compassion and generosity profoundly and positively affect people’s lives, making God’s presence real and tangible,” Marchionni reflected.

God graced his work when he realized that he was not doing this for himself, but for the men who needed the center to survive. “I kept the refrigerators and oven clean for them. I bleached the floor for them. I chopped onions for them,” he said.

“The men show tremendous gratitude for their meals, and it is God’s way of showing me that such grunt work truly does manifest His presence to those in dire circumstances.”

Marchionni also led 12-Step meetings that focused on drugs and alcohol. At first, this caused him anxiety. “How could I, a young white man of affluent background, talk to homeless, middle-aged black men about addiction and God? Would I not be patronizing?” But as the men saw him every day at meals, they got to know him and they realized that he was preaching the Gospel with his actions before he talked to them about their relationship with God. They respected that.

The group used the *Spiritual Exercises* of Saint Ignatius Loyola to supplement 12-Step spirituality. The meetings allowed the men to be silent, to pray, and to reflect on their lives, their addictions and their relationship with God, their Higher Power. Marchionni realized that it was a grace for him to see how God was present and consoling in each man’s life. “I have grown to love the *Spiritual Exercises* more as it is evident that it is a wonderful tool to make manifest God’s love and presence. The 12 Steps have also aided my prayer, and I have grown much these past few months by understanding better the addictions in my own life and allowing God to rid me of them.”



Marchionni concluded from his experience of serving D.C.'s poorest that "Jesus Christ is always laboring, always desiring to bring his brothers and sisters closer to him. He does hear the cry of the poor, and he answers them with gifts of hope and gratitude. The McKenna Center is privileged to bring people closer to God through simple corporal works of mercy and the Lord who hears the cry of the poor blesses our efforts to draw all closer to Him. This is the reason I get up every morning, and this is the reason I entered the Society of Jesus."

### Seeing with a Jesuit lens

Keith Maczkiewicz wanted to do something during his Long Experiment that he had not done before. He had worked in high school campus ministry, but when he was missioned to Georgetown University to assist in campus ministry there, his novice director simply said, "You may have done this job before, but you never did it as a Jesuit."

He was soon involved in Sunday liturgies, Catholic chaplaincy programs and retreats, and ministry as a chaplain-in-residence in a freshman dorm. Additionally, he was a teaching assistant

in a class entitled "The Church in the 21st Century," taught by Fr. Kevin O'Brien, SJ, and he joined the Jesuit community at daily Mass and meals. As he grew into his role at Georgetown, he realized that his novice director was exactly right: Life as a Jesuit had changed the way he approached campus ministry.

The role of the *Spiritual Exercises* in his life and his work, for example, had changed radically. Maczkiewicz was very conscious that the seminal experience of the novitiate, the 30-day experience of the *Spiritual Exercises*, was affecting all of his life and ministry. "I realized that the *Exercises* had become not only important to me, but had become my heritage, in a way, had become an inherent part of my life."

Working with the *Exercises* as an instrument of prayer, and helping to lead others in prayer and discernment, helped him to solidify his own relationship with God. "The Long Experiment has helped me," he said, "to fall in love with Christ all over again in the midst of my ministry, in the context of my Jesuit community, and with the lenses of poverty, chastity and obedience focusing, broadening and enriching my life."



Early edition of the *Spiritual Exercises*

Vincent Marchionni, SJ, and Keith Maczkiewicz, SJ, are in *First Studies*.

Fr. John Garvey, SJ, is assistant for publications for the New York Province.



Keith Maczkiewicz, SJ (back row, second from right), with Georgetown students on retreat

*"I realized that the Exercises had become not only important to me, but had become my heritage, in a way, had become an inherent part of my life."*

— Keith Maczkiewicz, SJ

## Something Completely Different

By Fr. John Garvey, SJ, and Mary K. Tilghman

Regency is a time in Jesuit formation that occurs after First Studies and just prior to the formal study of theology and that affords each Jesuit an opportunity to work in an apostolic area.

### Good, holy work

Dennis Baker, SJ, teaches global studies to freshmen and United States history to juniors at Xavier High School in New York City. He is also the assistant coach of the varsity basketball team and the head coach of the freshman baseball team. “Xavier High School,” he says, “is, quite literally, changing my life. The students provide a context for me to work out what my own particular vocation means for me and to the world. They constantly teach me about what it means to be a Jesuit and, in ways they cannot fathom, they instruct me on what kind of priest they want to see me become one day.”

The lay people with whom Baker works are also an inspiration, and they motivate him to hone his craft as a teacher. He finds that working alongside so many talented, caring and fun-filled people dedicated to Jesuit education is nothing short of humbling. He taught at a Jesuit high school before he entered the Society, but doing this work as a Jesuit scholastic is something completely different. “For reasons that often make me shake my head in utter disbelief, this work — and doing it in this particular way as a Jesuit — suits me better than I ever could have imagined.

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*“For reasons that often make me shake my head in utter disbelief, this work — and doing it in this particular way as a Jesuit — suits me better than I ever could have imagined.”*

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— Dennis Baker, SJ



Dennis Baker, SJ, at Xavier High School, New York City

“This is good, holy work,” Baker reflects, “that brings me closer to God and brings me tremendous joy. And when it is going well, it brings the young men with whom I am entrusted, as well as my colleagues, closer to God, too.”

### My love must pour forth

Ben Brenkert, SJ, is at St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City, teaching sophomores about Christian literature (e.g., the New Testament), and working as a guidance counselor and school social worker. His classes begin with a time of silent prayer and journaling, when students are asked to let God meet them in their everyday ordinary lives. Students struggle with this material, but their wrestling with the mystery of the Incarnation is a very important part of their prayer.



As a guidance counselor Brenkert instructs two sections of a freshman group guidance class. He also meets with students to discuss their adjustment and transition to high school, just how they communicate with and to their parents, and how to communicate in a world where there is real pain and suffering. “As the school social worker,” he notes, “I adapt specifically to my students’ environment, to the people, time and places of Jersey City and its surrounding cities, towns and villages. I make home visits when necessary, and counsel students whose parents are divorced or who cannot process the ‘big stressor’ such as being cut from the basketball team.”

For Brenkert, the *magis* takes on a new meaning in regency to include the search for the quality, excellence and mastery of a craft and the freer and more personal service of others. “To be a successful regent,” he says, “I believe that my love for my students must pour forth, flowing from my prayer and from my participation in the sacraments.”

## I said yes

Bill Noe, SJ, remembers pondering the meditation of the *Spiritual Exercises* on the call of Christ during his 30-day retreat as a novice. He remembers hearing Jesus say, “You are going to live as I live.” That meant, Noe explained, times of suffering, discouragement, difficulty, as well as times of comfort, good food and success. “In the 30-day retreat, I said yes to all those things.”

That call came to life in Bolivia, where Noe recently spent two and a half years teaching in a technical college as a regent. Sometimes he ate badly, slept badly and found himself tired after work or discouraged by the slow progress. “In Bolivia I had a chance to live at least a little bit of what I discovered in the *Spiritual Exercises*,” he said.

In July 2008, Noe was sent to Oruro, a city of 250,000, high in the Bolivian altiplano, to teach electronics at the



Ben Brenkert, SJ (in back row with sweater), with students from St. Peter's Prep, Jersey City

Instituto de Aprendizaje Industrial, a three-year technical institute founded and operated by the Bolivian Jesuits.

In Bolivia Noe was both a teacher and a student. While he used his training as an engineer in the classroom, he learned to integrate his work with his life in a Jesuit community and with his prayer life. “That’s a hard balance to strike.”

Although he was warmly welcomed into the community, he soon learned what it was like to be an immigrant. “Jesus was outside of his culture,” Noe said, recalling Jesus’s life in Egypt. “He was a migrant.”

Returning home in December, he noticed all the Latino faces on the streets around him. “I didn’t notice them before,” he said. “My time in Bolivia gave me a lot to think about in how I relate to people from other cultures.”

It has made him ask himself, “Who else don’t I notice? Who else don’t I include?” Like the Good Samaritan, he said, he wants to learn to become a neighbor to all he meets. “It could be the growing edge for the rest of my life.”

Fr. John Garvey, SJ, is assistant for publications for the New York Province. Mary K. Tilghman is acting director of communications for the Maryland Province.



To read more about Bill Noe, SJ, and his experiences in Bolivia, go to [www.mdsj.org/BillNoe](http://www.mdsj.org/BillNoe)



Fr. Edgar Dávalos, SJ (on left), then rector of I.A.I. and Bill Noe, SJ, then instructor of Electronics in I.A.I.’s Department of Industrial Automation in Oruro, Bolivia

# Seeing the World in a New Way:

## *Solidarity and the Preferential Option for the Poor*

By Grace Cotter Regan

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*“The process made each of us step back and see the world in a different way.”*

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— Grace Cotter Regan



On site with Teresita's family and Hand in Hand Ministries

I was blessed to participate in the Boston College Arrupe International Program this academic year and, along with my classmate and colleague Ellen Modica from campus ministry, to accompany a group of 12 students to Belize, Central America. The experience had significant meaning for me as I had been a Boston College Jesuit International Volunteer in Belize from 1982–1983 and had always desired to return to the country; this was a perfect opportunity to return in a service-oriented, faith-based Ignatian program.

The international immersion program empowers students, primarily through student leaders, with support from staff and other mentors, to build intentional faith-sharing communities through which students open themselves to:

- Learn about the complex reality of people of another country who struggle in poverty;
- Humbly encounter and hear the stories of people from this country in their own words;
- Develop a sense of compassion and responsibility for those who suffer, both in the country visited and throughout the world;
- Deepen their faith by tapping the wisdom of Catholic social teaching and Ignatian spirituality;
- Translate their learning into action by giving their passions, talents and abilities to a world in need.

The Belize experience is a very significant commitment for the students,



student leaders and adult mentors. The students must commit to a yearlong experience of Ignatian discernment and educational programs. The program is led by campus minister Kelly Sardon-Garrity and begins and ends with powerful retreat experiences. Each service trip commits to creative fundraising to help raise awareness. Some of that awareness can lead to change on campus such as introducing fair trade coffee in the dining halls. The program requires an intentional commitment to deep learning about the respective country, which is accompanied by weekly readings, conversations, reflection, discernment and prayer.

Our Belize experience was powerful. We arrived on a Sunday to meet our in-country guide from Hand in Hand Ministries who had just dropped a group from Fordham University at the airport. We settled in at Starfish House and joined the community for Mass at the Jesuit parish of St. Martin de Porres where Fr. Joe Damhorst, SJ, the Jesuit International Volunteers and the parish community welcomed us. Belize is a mission of the Missouri Province so there is a committed Jesuit presence throughout the country.

Our mission was to begin on Monday building a home for a graceful, prayer-filled woman named Teresita. Hand in Hand Ministries provided the supervision, but the miracle for me was watching the transformation of unskilled laborers come together. They realized their limits and capabilities and became a true team to make this dream a reality for Teresita and her family. The structure we built was modest, designed with an opportunity for later expansion to introduce electricity and plumbing. The process made each of us step back and see the world in a different way. This structure was going to be Teresita's home, and her pride, gratitude, faith and love permeated the group.

Each night, we heard a speaker from the Belizean community followed by prayer, discernment and reflection.



Working on site

Immersion is an opportunity for transformation, but it is short-lived. The power of the Arrupe program is that it challenges the students to think about how they keep this experience close to their hearts as they make future choices and develop an authentic commitment to justice, Catholic social teaching and a preferential option for the poor.

The experience of accompanying the students, the student leaders and classmate Ellen Modica was life-giving for me. Twenty-seven years later, I

struggle with the same questions and challenges I did as a 21-year-old volunteer in Belize. How do I live my life? Am I committed to justice and do I have a preferential option for the poor? I am once again challenged to discern my choices and decisions and to ask how do I live out my faith. We are reminded to give thanks for what we have and to reflect and discern our vocation with a new lens!

*Grace Cotter Regan is the executive director of advancement for the New England Province of Jesuits.*



Arrupe leaders, Grace Cotter Regan, Ellen Modica, Rachel Buckley and Bryan Cardillo

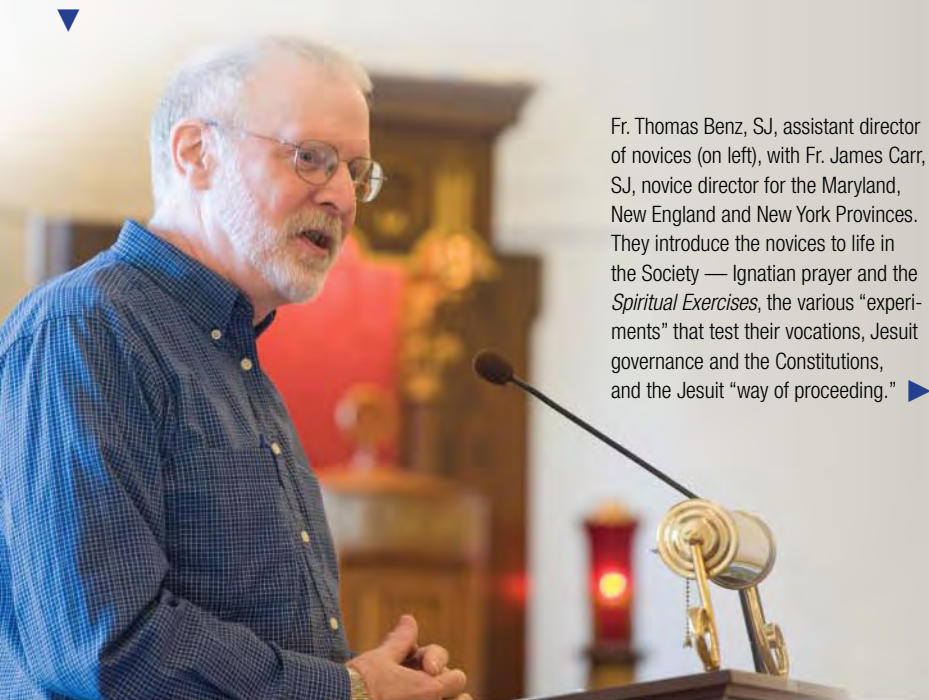


## formation

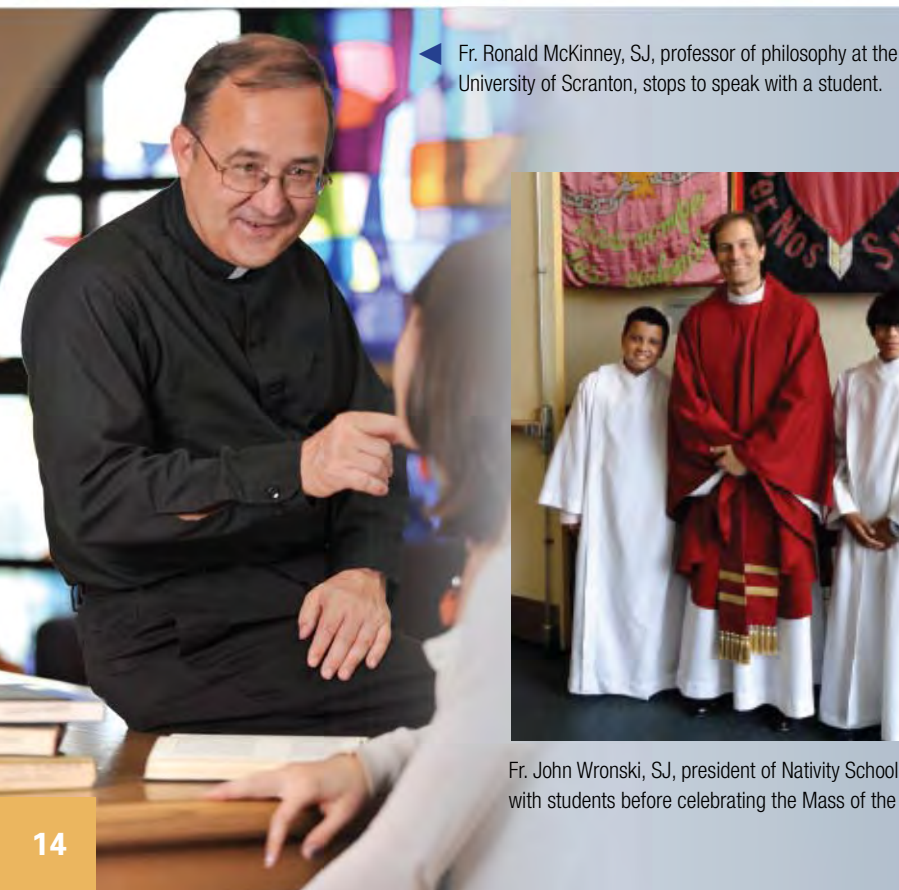
### INSPIRING OUR YOUNG MEN

Fr. Thomas Feely, SJ, is the assistant for formation for the Maryland, New England and New York Provinces. Jesuits are in formation from their entrance into the novitiate until their ordination and final vows. The assistant for formation, in consultation with provincials, helps Jesuits identify their gifts and talents and guides them through the process that leads from First Studies, to Regency and Theology, and approval for ordination.

During the second year of novitiate, each novice is assigned to a Jesuit ministry for five months to help him and his Jesuit superiors discern his suitability for Jesuit life. It is one of many opportunities offered through the period of formation to learn, to mature and to grow into the vocation as a Jesuit. Two reflections on this experience are found on pages 8–9.



Fr. Thomas Benz, SJ, assistant director of novices (on left), with Fr. James Carr, SJ, novice director for the Maryland, New England and New York Provinces. They introduce the novices to life in the Society — Ignatian prayer and the *Spiritual Exercises*, the various “experiments” that test their vocations, Jesuit governance and the Constitutions, and the Jesuit “way of proceeding.”



Fr. Ronald McKinney, SJ, professor of philosophy at the University of Scranton, stops to speak with a student.



Fr. John Wronski, SJ, president of Nativity School, Boston, with students before celebrating the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

## education

### MISSIONING JESUITS

As early as 1560, a letter from the Jesuit offices in Rome described education as a focus of the Society’s work. During the three years called Regency, scholastics typically teach in one of our schools as part of their formation. Three stories about Regency are featured on pages 10–11.



# spirituality

## SERVING OTHERS

Ignatian spirituality helps men and women “to find God in all things” — and at all times. Members of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (featured on pages 18–19) consider Ignatian spirituality to be an important component of their program and of their daily lives. They demonstrate through daily living and giving how Jesuit values influence them and those whom they serve.

Fr. William Barry, SJ, and Sr. Catherine (Kay) Hannigan, PBVM, teach and offer spiritual direction.



Fr. Francis O'Connor, SJ, shares a laugh with Stephen Kennedy after Mass at St. Ignatius Church in Baltimore. Mr. Kennedy attends midday Mass almost every weekday.



Photo by Brendan Cavanaugh

# health care

## SUPPORTING SENIOR JESUITS

One of the provincial's principal responsibilities is the “care of the men,” with the health care of the elderly and infirm being a major concern. Now in the twilight of their ministry, senior Jesuits often need specialized attention and the Society generously provides for them in every aspect of their lives: physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially.



Fr. Joseph Casey, SJ, pastoral minister (on left), with Fr. James Mattaliano, SJ, retreat director, in the recently renovated Chapel of the Holy Spirit at Campion Center, Weston, Massachusetts.

Fr. John Devane, SJ, prays for the Church and the Society of Jesus.



## Jesuits on Mission in Rome

An important part of the universal mission entrusted to the whole Society of Jesus is carried out by the Jesuits of the Roman Houses immediately dependent on Father General: The Curia of the Society, those of the Interprovincial Roman Houses, and those individually assigned by Father General. We asked three Jesuits from our Maryland, New England and New York provinces to reflect on their experience.



Michael Rogers, SJ



This chapel was the room in which St. Ignatius Loyola died.

### On the Shoulders of Giants

By Michael Rogers, SJ

It is 10 a.m. on Tuesday. In the past, this would be the time that I was teaching freshmen at Boston College High School about who Christ is. Instead, I sit at a desk at the Pontifical Gregorian University, listening to a lecture in Italian by a Jesuit from New Orleans talking about who the Greek Church fathers thought that Jesus was. Later, rather than coaching the varsity tennis team, I will sit at my desk reading *Models of Revelation* by the late Cardinal Avery Dulles, SJ. At this point in just about every day I wonder what I am doing here in Rome, so far removed from what seemed so exciting and useful just 12 months ago.

Then 7 p.m. rolls around, and I walk downstairs to the smallest chapel in my community. The whitewashed walls are relatively empty and rudimentary, the wooden beams are bare, exposed and hand-hewn. This room, now a chapel, is where St. Ignatius died. In a room close by, Ignatius did the simple work of his later years, writing letters and studying the rules of other orders to write our Constitutions. In that moment it all comes back into perspective — when we are called to it, simple work done in quiet can be the most important.

In our community at the International

College of the Gesù we have 44 men from 23 different provinces who speak 14 different languages. Every day we are faced with the reality of globalization, and we are aware that our preparation for priesthood here in Rome calls us to the service of the universal Church that General Congregation 34 called for in a way that few other places could.

However, it is not simply about to whom we are connected in the present here in Rome, but also about the real sense of the history of the Church that surrounds us. When we study St. Paul's letter to the Romans in the morning, we can visit his tomb in the afternoon. When we study the *Spiritual Exercises* of Ignatius, we can touch the desk where he wrote the final copy.

This is the great challenge and the great richness of Rome for someone studying theology in preparation for priesthood. I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants as I become aware of the needs of the universal Church in a way that is profoundly connected to our heritage as Jesuits. This growing consciousness instills in me the desire to go set the world aflame with love for Christ even as I sit here studying, preparing and praying that that flame be kindled into a burning fire.

Michael Rogers, SJ, is a first-year theologian at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.



Read his blog at:  
<http://mikerogerssj.blogspot.com>



## 25 Years of Support and Friendship

By Fr. Michael Hilbert, SJ



Fr. Brendan Hurley, SJ

### Hearts Eager to Serve

By Fr. Brendan Hurley, SJ

Work as a spiritual director at the North American College in Rome is both very rewarding and inspiring. With 230 seminarians, the NAC is the largest of the U.S. seminaries in Rome, drawing its students from dioceses throughout the United States and Canada with a dozen Australians added to the mix.

The nearby dome of St. Peter's Basilica reminds us of the direction of all we do here: to form men to be good shepherds of God's people. The nearby Jesuit Curia reminds me of the direction of the Society of Jesus: to be of service to the universal Church.

It has been an adjustment to move from a small parish in Baltimore into a large seminary in Rome. At St. Ignatius Parish, the 7:25 a.m. morning Mass seems relaxed compared to the daily 6:15 a.m. Mass here at NAC. The familiar faces of parishioners in the intimate Chapel of Grace have been replaced by 50 concelebrants before a congregation of 200 seminarians. Still, the Eucharist, there and here, draws all of us into the one Body of Christ.

The spiritual director carries an important role in seminarian formation. I meet with those assigned to me every two weeks to examine how each one recognizes God's work of grace in his life. Discernment of vocation is also a part of our conversation. Their trust and transparency reveal hearts eager and generous to serve. I am humbled through this privileged insight into God's work in souls and confident of the future of the U.S. Church.

The Jesuits here in Rome are an especially welcoming and encouraging group. The shared joys and sacrifices of living in Rome affirm that call of availability to serve the universal Church as companions of Jesus.

Fr. Brendan Hurley, SJ, was previously associate pastor of St. Ignatius Church in downtown Baltimore.

Twenty-four Jesuits from the Maryland, New England and New York Provinces are currently assigned to Rome, living in nine different communities. We are here in administration, for studies, as professors and researchers, superiors and spiritual directors, all in response to the declaration of General Congregation 35 that the interprovincial institutions in Rome are among the five global apostolic preferences of the Society of Jesus as "a special mission received directly from the Holy Father."

For the last 25 years, we have enjoyed and been supported by a prayer group that meets every two weeks during the academic year. In 1986 the New York Province was going through a process of apostolic discernment and the entire province was invited to pray the *Spiritual Exercises* according to the 19th Annotation. The New Yorkers in Rome joined in the province discernment by meeting before the weekly Mass in English for Jesuits every Saturday. That experience was for all of us a powerful expression of being friends in the Lord called to a common mission. We formed strong bonds of prayer and support during that year, and we continued the New York prayer group, welcoming many newcomers to Rome and saying good-bye to many whose mission was accomplished. We made it a point to invite New Yorkers who were visiting Rome, and on special occasions such as the visit of the provincial we would celebrate



Jesuits Joseph Riordan, Matthew Monnig, Michael Hilbert, Scott Brodeur, Paul Rourke, Michael Woods and Michael Rogers visit Assisi.

the Eucharist together in the rooms of St. Ignatius. When the Maryland and New York Provinces started a common novitiate, we asked the Maryland Jesuits if they would like to join the prayer group. We continued to flourish, adding new members and new activities: Christmas and Easter dinners, a weekend in Assisi in January and a weekend at the beach in May. Finally, two years ago the logical next step was to bring in the New England contingent, and in our own small way we are preparing for the new tri-province reality with common prayer and faith-sharing. Not everyone can make every meeting, but we try to be faithful and we continue to find the support and friendship that started us off 25 years ago.

Fr. Michael Hilbert, SJ, is the dean of canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University and vice-president of the Gregorian Foundation.

## Ignatian Volunteers Discover New Horizons

IVC offers opportunity for older adults to serve others as they seek God.

By Mary Geraldine Harrington



Bernie Small and Fr. Si Smith, SJ

*“My conceptual knowledge of the poor was vague and unclear. I would liken this new experience to that of mourning the death of a loved one, including shock, anger, acceptance and a new sense of reality.”*

— Bernie Small

When she retired, former elementary principal Bernie Small had every reason to be content. She had been successful. She was passionate about reading and writing and teaching. “There wasn’t a day I didn’t love it,” says the petite 65-year-old.

She felt very blessed in life as well. “I had a very busy job, I worked hard, but when I retired, I knew I had to have a focus and a purpose.” To that end, she attended a symposium on retirement and spirituality at Boston College. After stopping by the New England Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) information table and talking with the regional director, a vision of what she could do for the rest of her life began to take shape. And it included IVC.

Small became a volunteer for Catholic Charities in Worcester, Massachusetts, teaching English as a second language one morning each week, working in the food pantry, doing case management and administrative work. “They’ve used my skill set beautifully,” she said.

### Changing her view of poverty

Fr. Si Smith, SJ, 80, is her spiritual reflector. Among other things, they talked about Small’s perceptions about poverty.

“My conceptual knowledge of the poor was vague and unclear. I would liken this new experience to that of mourning the death of a loved one, including shock, anger, acceptance and a new sense of reality and clarity that blossomed during my reflector sessions with Fr. Si. Paramount to that growth was truthfulness regarding what I was feeling intellectually and emotionally over time,” she said.

“My understanding of the poor and what they face every day has changed profoundly. I no longer judge them. My compassion for them has grown in leaps and bounds.”

Fr. Si, who has worked extensively in Kenya, Iraq and Jordan, said he can understand “almost anyone’s fresh encounter with poor people or those from other cultures.” A reflector’s attentive and astute listening, he added, can show a volunteer how they have grown spiritually and point out their increased awareness of God in their lives and service work.



## What does a reflector do?

Fr. James Martin, SJ, has been Barbara Lee's spiritual reflector for the last 11 years. He recalled how he laughed when he was asked to be her reflector. He pictured the little plastic reflecting red devices on the back of a car or bicycle "which reflects light and prevents people from bumping into you."

"These days, though, I wonder if perhaps 'reflector' isn't the perfect word for what we do," he said. "Reflectors



Fr. James Martin, SJ, and Barbara Lee

do 'reflect' back people's experiences of God, to help them see God's presence more clearly. We warn them of possible pitfalls in the spiritual life (something that happens less as the volunteer grows in his or her own understanding of prayer). Most of all, we are happy to reflect their joy in their service to the people of God."

For her part, Lee, 73, a former U.S. magistrate judge, lawyer and law professor who lives in Manhattan, wondered if "someone so young could relate to the spiritual life and the life experience of a person old enough to be his mother.

"God, of course, chooses the instruments of his grace, in ways that have nothing to do with our expectations," she added. Fr. Martin has proven to be a faithful and generous companion, she said.

## No time to collect dust

There was "no way I was going to sit around collecting dust," said Ed Sommerfeldt, 73, a retired physics, math and computer science professor.

He has worked for three years at Baltimore's Our Daily Bread Employment Center with formerly homeless men. One of the most interesting parts of his work is motivating the men he meets to help them discard "a prison mentality" of being told what to do.

His spiritual reflector is Sr. Catherine Gugerty, SSND, director of Loyola University Maryland's community service programs for students. She is the one pushing Sommerfeldt to reflect on his recent surgery and radiation treatments for a brain tumor. They have talked through his illness, she said, and she wants him to reflect on how his views on service have evolved as the result of his cancer.

Sommerfeldt, who returned to Our Daily Bread the day after he got the go-ahead from his doctor, has agreed to do this although he says, while it has heightened his understanding of his mortality, "half the time I have to



Ed Sommerfeldt and Sr. Catherine Gugerty, SSND

remind myself I have cancer. I don't brood on it because it doesn't do any good."


Sr. Gugerty is impressed with how important reflection is in the IVC volunteer experience. "There are a lot of volunteer programs out there that ensure their volunteers are equipped to do the work," she said. "But it is so critical to do the reflecting — for everyone."

*Mary Geraldine Harrington is a freelance writer and a member of the IVC New England regional council. She is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and a former Jesuit Volunteer.*



Founded in 1995 by Fr. Jim Conroy, SJ, and the late Fr. Charles Costello, SJ, the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) differs from other volunteer organizations in that it combines direct service with a structured reflection process based on the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius Loyola. IVC offers mature adult men and women the opportunity to share their skills, professional and life experiences with organizations that assist people who are materially poor or address issues related to poverty. Each volunteer is matched with a spiritual guide with whom they meet monthly to reflect on the deeper meaning of their service.

IVC is headquartered in Baltimore, with 16 regional offices.

 For information on how to become an IVC volunteer or reflector, contact IVC at 410-752-4686 or 888-831-4686 or visit [www.ivcusa.org](http://www.ivcusa.org).

# Wisdom of Years

## *Celebrating* 50 Years



Fr. Bert Akers, SJ (fourth from left) processes into ordination in Innsbruck, Austria, July 1961.

Each year, the provinces honor Jesuits marking anniversaries of their entrance into the Society of Jesus and of their ordinations with celebrations. This year, there are 35 Jesuits celebrating 50 years in the priesthood in the Maryland, New England and New York Provinces. We bring you three stories below.

**Fr. Bert Akers, SJ**, will mark his 50th year as a Jesuit priest in July. “They’ve been 50 blessed years,” he says, “filled with a wide range of ministries in many different places.” Since becoming a Jesuit, Fr. Akers has been a student in Austria, a radio/TV producer in St. Louis, Missouri, a teacher at Georgetown Preparatory School, the Universities of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Loyola, Chicago, and a charter-member of national Catholic and Jesuit communications associations. In later years, his priestly ministry led to parishes in Ocean City, Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Towson, Maryland.

Asked which phase of his priestly life was most significant, he said that while humanly speaking each ministry has its own challenges and rewards, when it comes to God’s work and God’s will, so much is hidden from our eyes.

“Most times you have no way of knowing how significant you might have been in someone’s life. Every now and then there’s a thank you note from someone for a visit,

a sacrament, a homily, sometimes from decades before — ‘For your help.’ For God’s help, of course, through the priestly ministry,” Fr. Akers said.

“What has become more vivid in our time,” he said, “is that priestly ministry belongs to the entire Church and its members, and that each priest is an expression of the universal ‘vocation.’

“For as the First Letter of Peter states: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people of God. (1 Pet 2:5)

“This extraordinary revelation, too long neglected, once again helps us to realize that the priesthood is not an occupation that separates from the faithful, but rather an expression of our universal and shared calling,” he said.

“As ‘a servant of the servants of God,’ the priest responds with and for the people of God to that ‘call to come’ and that ‘mission to go forth’ from Christ our Eternal High Priest,” he said.

*Fr. Bert Akers, SJ, lives in Wernersville, Pennsylvania, where he ministers to the people of God in nursing homes and a prison in the Allentown Diocese.*

**Fr. James C. O’Brien, SJ**, has a warm smile and an obvious love for being a Jesuit and a priest. Known as J.C. since his days in the novitiate, he has served in many ministries during his 50 years in the priesthood.

For more than 30 years he ministered at Xavier High, Boston College High and Bishop Connolly High Schools (all in Massachusetts), teaching at all three and serving as principal at the latter two. He also served in the provincial office, first as socius, and later as assistant for secondary education. “I worked happily in that job for a few years. I visited all the schools in the province, and the two in Jamaica every winter!”

During his 10 years at the Jesuit community at Boston College, he organized concerts and liturgy as prefect of Saint Mary’s Chapel. “In addition to five Masses every school day, on weekends there were Filipino Masses, French Masses and even Indonesian Masses. St. Mary’s Chapel is a wonderful place for chamber music, too. We had a lot of concerts and even a series of faith-sharing evenings there. People from all over the city attended,





Ethan Anthony and Greg Flynn visit with Fr. O'Brien, SJ (center) after a Lenten liturgy at Campion. Both men were students of Fr. O'Brien at Xavier High School.

from Catholic and Episcopal bishops, to Buddhists and Muslims,” he recalls.

Today, at 80 years young, Fr. O'Brien continues his pastoral ministry at the Jesuit community at Campion Center. Not one to slow down, he orchestrated a series of Sunday afternoon Lenten liturgies for friends and benefactors of the province in the recently renovated Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

When asked which ministry he enjoyed most, Fr. O'Brien reflects, “As I look back, what I think about with gratitude is not the jobs that I’ve had, but the people that I’ve met. I’ve worked with marvelous lay colleagues in ministry; I have had some of the most wonderful friendships with Jesuits, who have served me as spiritual directors, confessors and friends.”

*In November 2009, Fr. O'Brien participated in the Jesuit Oral History project, from which much of this interview was adapted.*



To learn more about the fascinating stories of Jesuits visit: [www.jesuitoralhistory.org](http://www.jesuitoralhistory.org).

Last November, Fordham University partnered with the Opus Foundation to honor two little-known humanitarians: **Fr. John Halligan, SJ**, founding director of the Working Boys' Center in Quito, Ecuador, and Sr. Beatrice Chipeta, a Rosarian nun who established and directs the Lusubilo Orphan Care Project in Malawi. Fr. Halligan and Sr. Chipeta were named as co-recipients of the \$1.1 million Opus Prize, which is designed to provide a single significant infusion of resources to advance humanitarians' work and bring greater visibility to causes and stories that have gone untold.

Fr. Halligan, now celebrating 50 years as a priest, began the Working Boys Center (WBC) in 1964 in the attic of the centuries-old La Compañía Church in the center of Quito. His simple aim was to provide lunch and spiritual inspiration to a few dozen “shoeshine boys” who worked in the streets to support their families. “We discovered that the kids were all working kids,” Fr. Halligan said. “Night and day they were out there trying to make money to help their families survive. We started thinking we would give these poor little kids some catechism, a little bit of food, and then maybe some medical

attention and technical training for jobs. That was their big need.” Eleven shoeshine boys showed up the first day. Within just a few weeks, more than 250 boys were lining up each day.

Forty-six years later, the WBC operates out of three buildings spread throughout Quito and serves more than 2,000 members annually, including whole families. The center offers day care, primary education, vocational training, special needs services and adult literacy programs to help families be self-sustaining. It enlists approximately 200 employees and 1,000 volunteers annually. It has twice been named the best technical school in the nation for its classes in carpentry, metal crafts and other trades.

The center also relies on a steady stream of volunteers. “The volunteers are really the most important part of the whole thing,” said Fr. Halligan, “because they are role models for the poor people, especially for the kids. The volunteers make all the difference in our work, and they return home with a life-changing experience in the process.” They commit to one year of service and are involved in all aspects of the center's work.

Fr. Halligan, a native of the Bronx and graduate of Fordham Preparatory School, believes that the Jesuit ideal of always “keeping the door open for the lower classes” helped shape the path of his own life.

*The article on Fr. Halligan, SJ, is written by Janet Sassi, senior staff writer for Inside Fordham.*



For more information about Fr. Halligan and the center, visit [www.workingboyscenter.org](http://www.workingboyscenter.org).



Fr. John Halligan, SJ, presides at Mass.

## Insights From a New Catholic

By James Rutenbeck



The author with his son Anthony

Sixteen years ago my wife Marianne and I sat before a psychologist in a grim, fluorescent-lit office. Our son Anthony was five years old, and though he had once spoken a bit, he hadn't uttered a word in three years, and the clinician offered little hope. She told us that Anthony had pervasive development disorder (autism) and the mental age of an 18-month-old. She said she could predict nothing about his future progress.

Marianne is the most optimistic person I know, but, like me, she was devastated. It felt as though our son's very humanity had been stripped from him; that his potential and future had been negated. I was not a religious person, but I railed at God in anger. Why would a supposedly loving creator allow an innocent child to be so disabled? (Anthony wasn't the world's first disabled person, but in my narrow vision, it felt that way).

### Lord, You are near

My tortured nights took an inexplicable turn that I would later understand when I read Psalm 145:18: "You, Lord, are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you in truth."

Vaguely aware of a Catholic mystical tradition, I called parishes in Newton, Massachusetts, where we lived. When I reached St. Ignatius of Loyola parish, a Jesuit parish on the Boston College campus, I talked with pastor Fr. Bob VerEecke, SJ, who invited me to visit their Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) group.

Raised a Protestant in a small Iowa town, I faltered as I climbed the church steps, recalling childhood stories about exotic Catholic practice. Before long though, I started attending Mass and began to experience unexpectedly deep feelings, a desire to kneel and pray, to engage with the liturgy, even fighting the urge to lie prostrate before the altar.

### Dubbed Doubting Thomas

My heart was headed in one direction; my head in another. I was dubbed "Doubting Thomas" by the RCIA group but stayed with it for two years. Fr. Bob was there every week, speaking in a personal way about Catholic teachings of compassion and regard for the dignity of each person and many other things, but the idea of the value of every life was what resonated for me.

At confirmation rehearsal before the Easter Vigil, I darted between the row of catechumens and the empty pews on the other side of the aisle, still uncertain about my commitment. As I was leaving that night, Fr. Bob took me aside and whispered firmly, "Stop resisting." Fr. Bob knew what I was desperate to



## Poem for Liza and Matt ~

*How does love grow among cold winds and leaden hearts?  
How does love soar among faceless crowds that cringe at life?  
How can love sing in a world so weak and cowardly?*

*I know how love can climb inside one's bones because I can feel it.  
I know how love can heal a soul because I've seen icy stares go warm.  
I know how love can cure what's yearned for with faith and abandon.*

*Mysteries are solved when all the clues connect.  
In love, give your smiling eyes to another and he will sing back to you.*

— Anthony Rutenbeck

hear — permission to stop over-thinking and simply follow my instincts.

### First steps

I had spent two years watching others participate in liturgy. On Good Friday, I was finally able to make my own way to the altar during the Veneration of the Cross. As I knelt and kissed the cross, the symbolic act caught me in its grip, inexplicably stirring my heart. I marveled at how a physical object could transport me in such a profound way. But when later on I tried to explain it to my RCIA group, I was tongue-tied.

Anthony graduated from high school and just celebrated his 21st birthday. He “speaks” with an iPad. The first non-verbal student to pass the state’s rigorous mandatory math exam, he aced honors physics and had poems published in the school’s literary magazine. He’s a part-time college student and wants to be a writer. Anthony’s writing is terse and insightful, sometimes beautiful to the point of painful.

Our daughter Liza was married in October. She asked her brother to write a poem for the ceremony. In few words

Anthony describes a spiritual journey, one that he’s taken with courage on his own terms.

There were times when I felt almost unbearable pain when I walked Anthony into his elementary school, imagining how difficult his life must be. But then I glanced over and saw a person who was dealing with a serious disability as best as he could, as any human being would, who took what fate had handed him and moved on. He was happy with his life. My grief for Anthony was real, but it was my grief — not his. I had prayed for Anthony to be healed, but as Fr. Bob once told me, the person who prays for healing of another is often the one who is healed.

*James Rutenbeck's films have been screened internationally. His editing credits include the Emmy-award winning Siamese Twins for NOVA and God in America for Frontline. His film Scenes from a Parish is now available as a Faith-Sharing Edition DVD with study guide for parish ministries. [www.scenesfromaparish.com](http://www.scenesfromaparish.com). He is an active member of St. Ignatius parish in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.*



For a list of Jesuit parishes in the U.S., visit: [www.jesuit.org](http://www.jesuit.org)

## Jesuits in Canada Celebrate 400 Years



Jesuits in Canada are commemorating 400 years of service with special events in Jesuit communities and apostolates throughout the year. The anniversary year began with an inaugural celebration at Port Royal National Historical Site in Nova Scotia, on May 22, 2011.

Four centuries ago, French Jesuit Fathers Ennemond Massé and Pierre Biard landed at the small trading post of Port Royal, Nova Scotia. They mapped territory and rivers and reached out to the indigenous peoples across Canada, setting out, as St. Ignatius had written about the Society, “to travel to various places and to live in any part of the world where there is hope of God’s greater service and the help of souls.”

They established schools — the first in 1635, a boys’ school where Jesuits taught for 140 years. By 1940, the Jesuits in Canada had started seven French-speaking, five English-speaking and two bilingual colleges as well as six English high schools. The Jesuits’ *Ratio Studiorum* (the Jesuit Plan and Method of Studies) eventually became the model for 12 Jesuit colleges and 15 Jesuit high schools spread across Canada — from St. John’s to Edmonton.

Over the past 400 years Jesuit parishes, spiritual centers and retreat houses have also been established throughout Canada.



For more information go to [www.jesuits.ca](http://www.jesuits.ca).

## Stay Connected with Jesuit News

This issue of *Jesuits* magazine is only one way to keep connected with the good news about Jesuits and our lay colleagues in the three provinces. For more frequent updates, we encourage you to visit our websites, stay connected on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and read our blogs.

Become a fan of Maryland Province Jesuits, New England Jesuits, the Jesuit Connection and the Jesuit Conference USA on **Facebook**. Follow Maryland Jesuits, Jesuit New England and Jesuit News on **Twitter**. Watch Jesuits New England, National Jesuit News and Jesuits Revealed channels on **YouTube**. Visit the National Jesuit News **blog** for stories, videos and a list of Jesuit bloggers. Sign up to receive periodical **e-news** from the provinces and the National Jesuit e-news.

**Please send your suggestions, comments and ideas to the communications team:**

Mary K. Tilghman, Maryland Province, [mtilghman@mdsj.org](mailto:mtilghman@mdsj.org); Alice Poltorick, New England Province, [Apoltorick@sjnen.org](mailto:Apoltorick@sjnen.org); Fr. John Garvey, SJ, New York Province, [garvey@nysj.org](mailto:garvey@nysj.org). Look for the next issue of *Jesuits* magazine in November.





# Japan Will Take Years to Recover

By Yasunori Yamauchi, SJ

After the earthquake off the coast of Miyagi, Japan, and the huge tsunami that followed, I volunteered to join the relief efforts. I stayed at the Catholic church in Ishinomaki to respond to the requests from the town's volunteer center and those of parishioners. A major task was clearing the mud and mess from houses flooded by the wave. Unlike the 1995 earthquake, which I experienced in Kobe, there was little damage from the shock waves but much from the sea. So much land was flooded, that even after several weeks, there is no prospect yet for reconstruction; a large number of bodies have yet to be recovered. One village I passed had not a single house standing among the sea of rubble — a sad sight, indeed. Where houses remain, much work is needed to make them habitable. I remember the relief when, after

struggling with the muck filling one house, we finally caught a glimpse of the floor. As we cleared the flotsam, we could see hope returning to the faces of the victims. Our efforts are tiny next to the massive destruction left by the awesome power of nature, yet our labor with these people is a vital experience. The only way to begin again is like this, one little step at a time. As the destruction is stretched out over a strip of land about 500 km (300 miles) long, it will take years to recover. The problems at the nuclear power plant add to the plight of many. The poor people in this area will need our help for a long while to get back on their feet.

*Fr. Yamauchi, SJ, ordained to the priesthood last September, is doing graduate work in secondary education in the Japanese Province. He did his Regency at Xavier High School in Chuuk, Micronesia, from 2005–2007.*



One small area of the devastation in Japan



*The Jesuit Conference of the United States recommends that people who wish to support the emergency response donate to Catholic Relief Services at [www.crs.org/japan](http://www.crs.org/japan).*



*“Our efforts are tiny next to the massive destruction left by the awesome power of nature, yet our labor with these people is a vital experience.”*

— Fr. Yasunori Yamauchi, SJ

After hours at work, Fr. Yasunori Yamauchi, SJ, stands outside the Caritas Japan office.

# Advancing Our Mission

## One Mission... *Many Ministries*

*"In every mission that we carry out, we seek only to be where Christ sends us. The grace we receive as Jesuits is to be and to go with him, looking on the world with his eyes, loving it with his heart, and entering into its depths with his unlimited compassion."*

General Congregation 35, Decree 2, #15



Matthew Prochilo, SJ, begins Regency this fall at Saint Peter's Prep, Jersey City, New Jersey.



Fr. John Carriero, SJ, with students at McQuaid Jesuit School, Rochester, New York

## Ways to Give ~ *Supporting Jesuits and Our Ministries*

**Whether your support takes the form of an outright gift or a planned gift, there are a number of flexible options for your specific financial goals and circumstances.**

**Cash Gifts.** If you itemize your tax returns, you can receive a full charitable income tax deduction.

**Credit Cards** are a quick and easy way to make your contribution. You may make a gift online using a major credit card.

**Matching Gifts.** Many employers match gifts made by their employees. You can double or triple your gift when matched by your employer's gift program.

**Gifts of Appreciated Stock** often provide you with substantial tax savings. Please contact us for information about the transfer of stock.





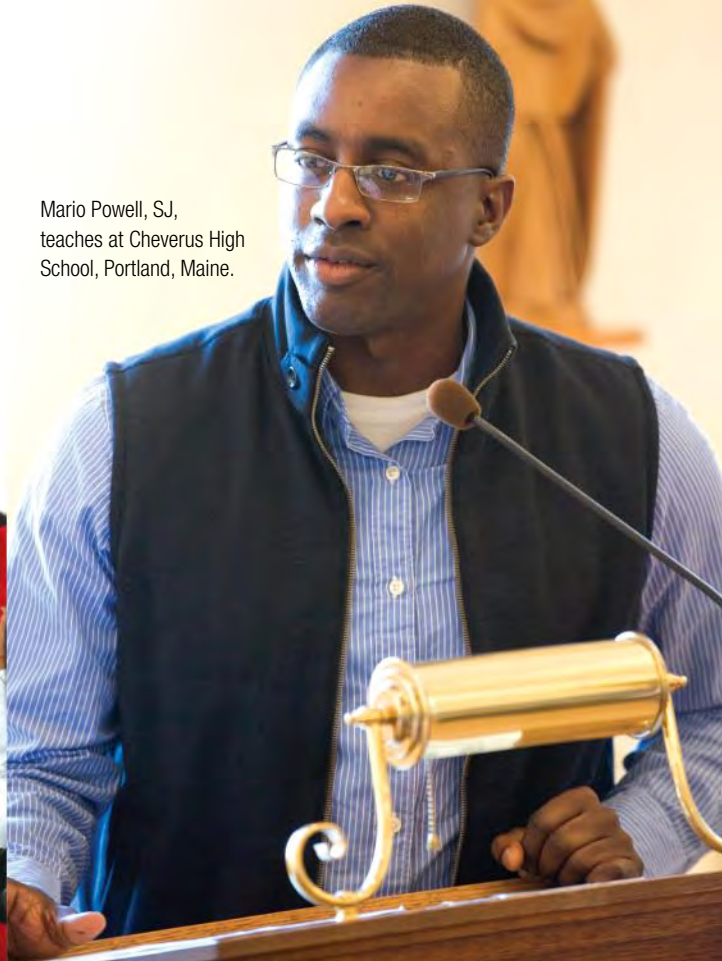
## How do we Jesuits and our colleagues accomplish this mission?

- Education • Care for our elderly and infirm
- Parishes • Formation of Jesuits
- Retreat Work • Chaplaincies
- International and Social Ministries

Mario Powell, SJ,  
teaches at Cheverus High  
School, Portland, Maine.



Fr. Bruce Bavinger, SJ, baptizes an  
infant at St. Raphael the Archangel  
Church in Raleigh, North Carolina,  
where he is parochial vicar.



A **Planned Gift** helps ensure the future of our many works through gifts of cash or securities. They include gifts stipulated in a will, charitable gift annuities, charitable trusts and beneficiary designations of life insurance policies or other assets such as IRAs. ***The Tax Relief Act once again includes an extension for the Charitable IRA rollover provision through the end of 2011.*** A planned gift allows you to arrange your assets to benefit you, your loved ones and our various ministries now and in the future.

An **Honor or Memorial Gift** can mark a special occasion or be given to remember or honor a beloved family member or friend. The honoree or a family member will be notified of your gift.

A variety of **Mass and Enrollment Cards** are available. Donations support the works of the Jesuits and also assist in providing care for our elderly and infirm Jesuits.

### Will you help us accomplish our mission?

Use the enclosed envelope, visit our websites to make a secure online donation or contact:

#### Maryland Province

Edward Plocha • 443-921-1332  
eplocha@mdsj.org

#### New England Province

Grace Cotter Regan • 617-607-2890  
gregan@sjnen.org

#### New York Province

Fr. James Keenan, SJ • 212-774-5500  
Keenan@nysj.org



# A Tradition of Giving

JOHN & ROSE MAHONEY



In 2008, the Jesuits' General Congregation stated, "We Jesuits find our identity not alone but in companionship; in companionship with the Lord, who calls, and in companionship with others who share this call." John and Rose Mahoney are a couple who share our call.

Formed at the College of the Holy Cross and now the CFO at Staples, Inc., John has been the inspiration for "Principle Centered Leadership and Ignatian Conversations," a monthly faith-sharing experience for business executives. He explained, "Watching the Jesuit Connection play a role in the lives of young people looking to maintain their connection with Ignatian spirituality, I wondered how we could accomplish the same thing with busy businesspeople like me. We developed the idea of meeting regularly to explore issues we encountered in the course of our daily lives."

His wife, Rose, is an active participant in the province's "Ignatian Conversations for Women," an equally successful group of women committed to faith formation in the Jesuit tradition.

Together with their children, Michael, Alison and Elizabeth, they never miss the annual Jesuit GALA. In 2002, John and Rose chaired the event. John continues to serve as chair of the New England Province Advancement Committee.

BARBARA LEE



Hundreds of women and men give of their time and talent to assist in the ministries of the Jesuits. Among them is Barbara Lee, who received the Ignatian Volunteer Corps Della Strada Award this March. A graduate of Boston University and Harvard Law School, Barbara practiced law in New York City and served as a U.S. magistrate judge from 1988 to 1996. She joined the IVC in 2000 and is in her 11th year as an English teacher at Cabrini Immigrant Services. Her other volunteer activities have included reading for the blind, visiting nursing home patients and participating in a wide variety of parish activities.

IVC works to build stronger communities by enabling faith-filled, experienced men and women to live out their Gospel call, giving their skills, knowledge and time to community and grassroots organizations. Through their caring service and the relationships they build, volunteers like Barbara are creating a more just society.

LEROY KLINE



Mr. Kline began his journey into Ignatian spirituality in a Barnes and Noble bookstore. It was spurred by a book by Fr. Thomas Green, SJ, *When the Well Runs Dry*. He read that and several others by Fr. Green. Hungry for more, Mr. Kline contacted the author in the Philippines and asked him to recommend a spiritual director. He suggested Fr. George Aschenbrenner, SJ, who advised Mr. Kline to see Fr. William Sneek, SJ, at the Jesuit Center.

One retreat led to others. "My eyes were opened a little," Mr. Kline said. The father of two teenagers, he was introduced to the life of Ignatius Loyola, the *Spiritual Exercises* and contemplative prayer here.

He grew to appreciate Wernersville's quiet spaces and rolling landscape — a place far different from the fast pace of life as president of the Delta Development Group in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he employs 80 in real estate development, community planning and information technology consulting. "When you go through the gates of Wernersville, you know you're in a very special place," he said.

Trouble with the center's audio system led Mr. Kline to become a benefactor. A week after struggling to hear the talk on the Examen, Mr. Kline offered to buy a new sound system. Then during a 100-degree summer, he offered to air-condition some rooms. And recognizing that some can't afford even the small tuition for the Jesuit Center's programs, he offered to help out.

"Wernersville is where I really found my prayer life, my spirituality," he said, explaining how he became a benefactor there. "How do you express your appreciation for that?"

Is there a Jesuit who has influenced or shaped your life or the life of someone you know? After you consider your personal circumstances and the needs of your loved ones, please consider remembering the Jesuits in your gift planning.



For more information, contact the province advancement director and visit the province websites, [www.mdsj.org](http://www.mdsj.org), [www.sjnen.org](http://www.sjnen.org), [www.nysj.org](http://www.nysj.org).



# Jesuit GALA

*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* 2011



On April 11, an amazing 1,400 religious and lay Jesuit colleagues from all over New England and New York assembled to honor Fathers John Brooks, Aloysius Kelley and J. Donald Monan, SJ, for 75 years of Jesuit educational leadership.

Gifts to the New England Province of Jesuits through the annual Jesuit GALA directly support the daily lives of the Jesuits in their ministries, sustains the 40 men in Formation studies, and care for the men in the twilight years of their ministry.

**Have you thought about making the Jesuits part of your gift planning?**

**SAVE the DATE for next year's Jesuit GALA • April 11, 2012**



For more information, visit [www.sjnen.org](http://www.sjnen.org) or call 617-607-2890



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places where others do not  
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*Pope Benedict XVI, address to  
the Society of Jesus, General  
Congregation 35, February 21, 2008*

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