

What Makes Nativity School of Worcester Special

The Society of Jesus is well-known for its commitment to education. In the Jesuit tradition, Jesuit schools promote “academic, spiritual, social and athletic growth of students to inspire a love of learning and awareness of their own interests and gifts and an abiding sense of responsibility to their community.”

In 1971, the first Nativity School, following a faith-based model, opened in New York City. Today, there are over 40 Nativity schools across the country. New England Jesuits sponsors two Nativity Schools in Mass., Nativity Preparatory in Boston, and its newest endeavor, Nativity School of Worcester, a middle school for boys, in its fifth year, preparing for its second graduation class in June 2007.

The mission of Nativity School of Worcester is to provide a quality, tuition-free education to boys from low-income families residing in inner city neighborhoods. The extended day and demanding academic program are designed to prepare the boys for success in high school and in college. The Nativity School’s annual budget is dependent entirely on gifts and donations.

As with all things Jesuit, Nativity School is one of the spokes on a large wheel of inter-relationships and partnerships with Society of Jesus members and lay partnerships.

We recently met with Executive Director, **Matthew Brunell, Esq.**, Jesuit educated, about the school, its faculty, students and its community. “With the graduation of our first class of students in 2006, we have established our foundation. As the institution enters its next phase, we are looking at the challenges for growth and what resources we need to continue to provide for our students. Our first class of students graduated with 90% being accepted at private or parochial schools. We want to continue our success.

Our goal is to provide an education for at-risk youth, so they can start to envision possibilities for themselves. It is exciting to watch the transition of each student. Each boy arrives with a different background, reference point and level of either enthusiasm or trepidation. As each boy becomes part of our system, he becomes happy to be here, and then moves to a realization that he is fortunate to be here. The students begin the day together in morning assembly and prayers of the faithful led by Fr. Simon Smith, SJ. The discipline, structure and long school days are part of our model. With only 15



Matthew Brunell, Esq. and student.

students in a class, each teacher has the opportunity to provide the nurturing necessary so that when students leave, they are ready to light the world on fire.

My time and resources are spent reaching out to develop support and partnerships with members of the community of Worcester. We want to build on and expand the wonderful relationships we currently have. One of our key sponsors is The College of the Holy Cross.”

The College provides support - from administrative and financial resources, to printing and even facilities personnel - when needed. The College also refers Nativity fellows, recent Holy Cross graduates who spend from one-to-two years at the school teaching coaching and mentoring. Holy Cross students volunteer to tutor and many graduates return as teaching fellows.



Fr. Campbell, SJ

“Matt is the right man at the right time to take Nativity School of Worcester to the next level,” says **Fr. William R. Campbell, SJ**, principal. “With our dedicated teachers and staff, and our excellent Board, chaired by Chick Weiss, we have the team in place to win for our students.”

An excellent example of the Nativity model is **Claudio deBarros**, whose story we heard at the Nativity Spirit Service Award dinner held at B.C. High recently. Claudio graduated from Nativity Preparatory in Boston in 1998, went to St. John’s Prep, and last year graduated from Duke University. Prior to going to medical school, Claudio has chosen to teach at Nativity Prep in Boston, so he can help other boys gain what he did through his Jesuit education.

With fewer Jesuits available for all of the ministries we serve, the question is: How is Jesuit education meeting the challenge of an increasing need for Jesuit based educational facilities with a decreasing number of Jesuits? And we come full circle back to the Ignatian principle of developing men and women for others, and partnerships involving and inspired by Ignatian spirituality and principles. ✦

For more information visit: www.nativityworchester.org

Educating the Body, Mind and Spirit and internalizing Ignatian principles

The 5th and 6th grade classes went apple picking in October. The 7th and 8th grade classes made pies from scratch. The pies were hand-delivered to a local soup kitchen where the students served them to the homeless.

What Makes Nativity Special

“At Nativity, we are a community. To me, Nativity is like a second family. I say this because you can talk to your peers and your teachers about things that are going on in your life. They will give you advice and support you. Nativity is such a big part of my life.”

-7th grader, Student Essay



First graduation class at Nativity School of Worcester in June 2006

Did you know:

The first Jesuit school was founded in the city of Messina in 1547 when the Society of Jesus, realizing that young Jesuit students needed training, decided to offer the same opportunity to young people who were not Jesuits. That tradition has continued for over 500 years at colleges and secondary schools around the world.

“When I was in prison you visited me”

(Matthew 25:6)

Throughout his formation, God has led Fr. George Williams, SJ, to prison ministry. “During my month long retreat as a novice, what continued to challenge me was my inability to see the face of Jesus clearly. I conferred with my spiritual director who advised me to, ‘Ask Jesus to show you His face,’” says Fr. Williams. Over the next several days, he asked Jesus in his prayer and Jesus’ answer came clearly. “I will show you my face in the people I send you to.” At the time, Fr. Williams was working as a volunteer with

Sister Maureen Clark, a sister of St. Joseph, at MCI-Norfolk. As a Jesuit brother, during his work with inmates, Fr. Williams often heard, “Brother George, we need you to be our priest.” Fr. Williams states, “I found myself being called to the priesthood so that I could administer the sacraments to these men. I find the sacrament of Confession particularly consoling now. I have the opportunity to listen to the men, and through the sharing of their stories, help them experience profound healing.”

Jesuit Prison Ministries

Fr. Williams founded the Jesuit Prison Ministries (JPM) in 2005 to augment his work inside the walls of the prison. The mission of JPM is to “facilitate reconciliation of criminal offenders with God and society.” Fr. Williams says of his work, “As a prison chaplain I encounter daily the suffering of people whose lives are filled with extraordinary sadness and deprivation. Despite the pain, I also find powerful signs of hope and courage.”

Fr. Williams wants to help break the cycle of abuse that is often a key component of each man’s story. His aim is to help the men he works with to re-imagine possibilities in their lives and their relationship with God. Through a healthy relationship with God the men are also often aided in their recovery from substance abuse.

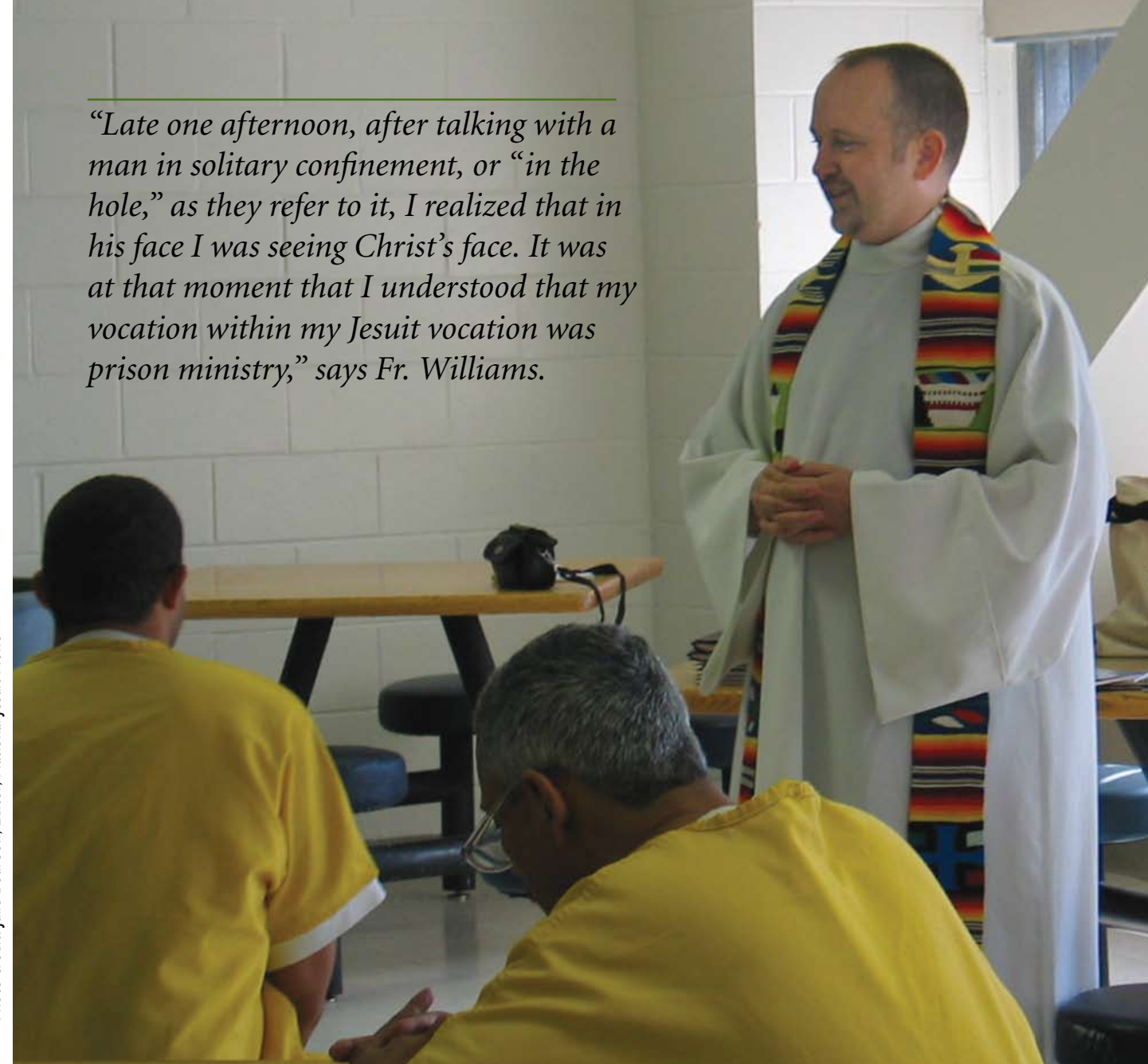
Working with Fr. Ron Mercier, SJ, and Sr. Clare Walsh, MSHS, at the Jesuit Collaborative, Fr. Williams will begin offering an Ignatian spirituality program, the 18th Annotation Retreat to a group of inmates. The inmates will be accompanied on their

spiritual journey by volunteers and coordinators who have gone through the Spiritual Exercises themselves.

Fr. Williams says, “The men speak about being in the ‘negativity’ that permeates prison life. Many have been told from childhood that they are worthless. This shame holds them in an ‘internal’ as well as physical prison. The beauty of the Spiritual Exercises is that through the process the men have the opportunity to experience God’s love and forgiveness.” ✠

“Late one afternoon, after talking with a man in solitary confinement, or “in the hole,” as they refer to it, I realized that in his face I was seeing Christ’s face. It was at that moment that I understood that my vocation within my Jesuit vocation was prison ministry,” says Fr. Williams.

Photo credit: Julie Bourbon, Editor, National Jesuit News



Fr. George Williams entered the Society of Jesus in 1987 and was ordained in June 2004. He received his degree in social work with an emphasis on prison ministry from Boston College. Fr. Williams, an alumnus of Weston Jesuit School of Theology, has co-taught a course, “Prison Chaplaincy in the 21st Century”. To learn more about Fr. Williams, visit his website which is linked to www.sjnen.org or go directly to www.jpminc.org/



Fr. Williams’ ordination card featured the illustration he now uses as the logo for Jesuit Prison Ministries. He had asked “Spider,” an inmate who was a talented tattoo artist, to draw a picture of Jesus in prison. What is interesting about the illustration is that Jesus appears to be behind the bars, and outside the bars, at the same time, which, for Fr. Williams represents how Jesus can be found and experienced in prison ministry.

Chaps, Padre, Father

There are 1.4 million Catholic men and women in the US military today. The need for chaplains is just as great as it was in the 1940s and Jesuits from the New England Province continue to respond.

We had the opportunity to talk with two chaplains, Fr. John C. Monahan, SJ, and Fr. Robert L. Keane, SJ, from the New England Province about their experiences serving the men and women in today's military.

Fr. John C. Monahan, SJ



Fr. John Monahan served in the Air Force for 17½ years before entering the Society of Jesus in 1991, but his vocation story began much earlier.

In 1988, Fr. John learned that "happiness and fulfillment would come out of service to others." His decision to join the Society

of Jesus came when the mother of his lifelong friend, Chuck, died. At her memorial Mass, John spoke with Chuck's uncle, Fr. Hubert Cunniff, SJ. Fr. Cunniff gave John's address to the vocation director at the time. When John received the letter accepting him into the novitiate, he requested and was granted a release from active duty.

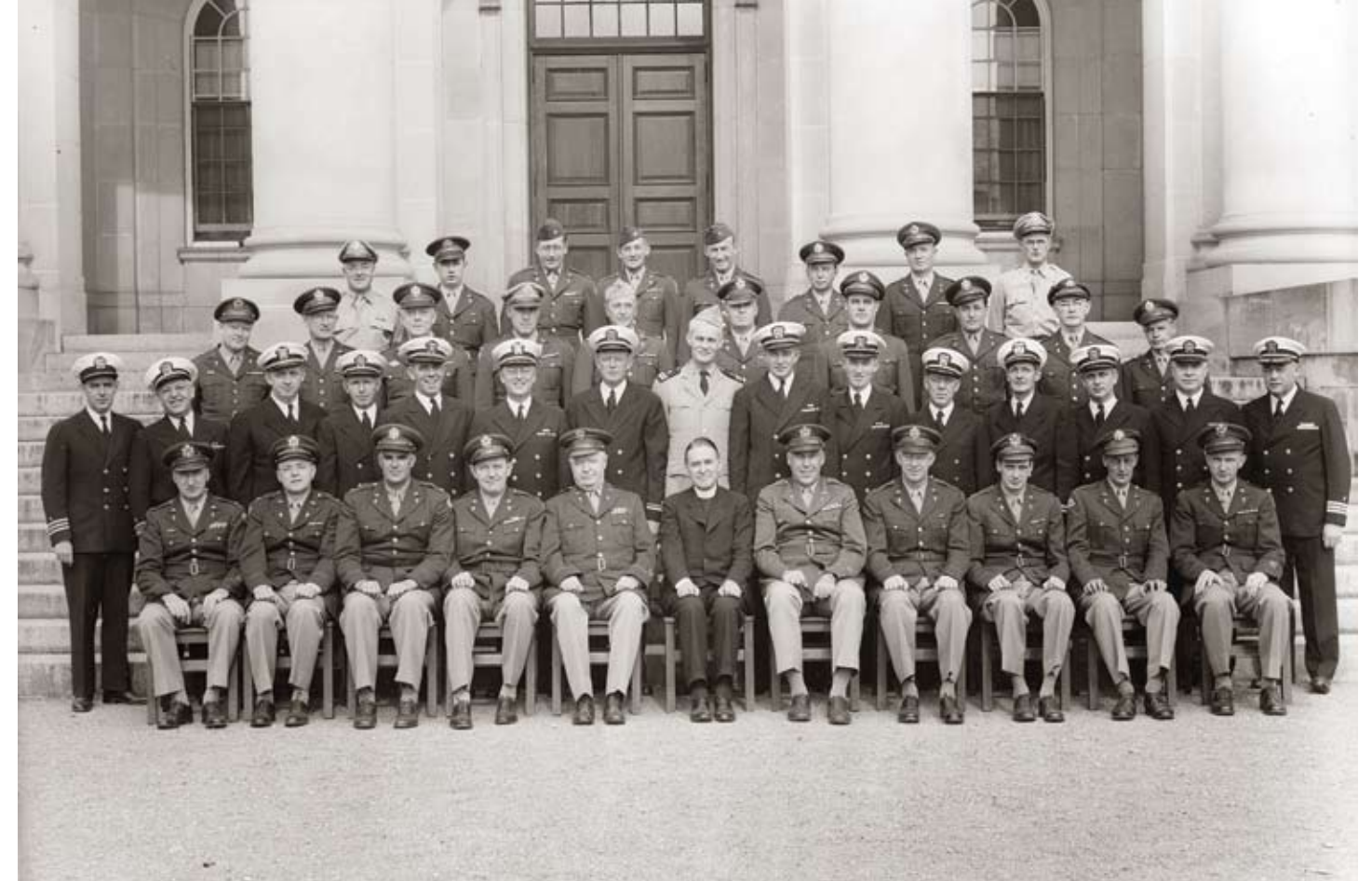
During an 8-day retreat at Eastern Point Retreat House, Fr. Monahan said "my heart was leaping and God seemed to be saying, 'I didn't bring you this far to let you go.'" From that moment, John's Jesuit career blossomed.

As the Iraq war began, Fr. John was drawn back to serving his brothers and sisters in the military. After discerning with the provincial, Fr. Regan missioned him to be a Navy Chaplain.

"There are so many opportunities to find God during our day-to-day activities. On board ship, the Ignatian principle of hospitality is tangible. We pay attention to each other, care for those who are having challenges at home, care for the safety and wellbeing of our brother and sister shipmates. It is while walking through their work spaces that sailors approach me with situations and concerns. I'm often greeted with "Hey Chaps" and pulled aside to chat by those who may not feel comfortable

Dear Lord, King of Peace, I, your priest who was ordained to bring peace to men's hearts, find myself in the armed service of my beloved country. Give me words of wisdom to make men grow strong to face danger, wounding and even death itself, because their hearts are right with Yours. Help me to help them to live clean and to die brave, with no hatred in their hearts but only a love of what is right and a will to defend it. O King of Peace, protect us while we fight—but grant us peace soon.

— Chaplain's Prayer published on June 29, 1942 in the Jesuit Seminary News.



Weston College played host for a homecoming ceremony to welcome some fifty Jesuit Chaplains recently returned from the service on August 21, 1946.

coming into my office. I've been blessed to be able to administer the sacraments as well as daily and Sunday liturgies on board ship." Fr. Monahan is serving as Navy Chaplain aboard the USS Enterprise.



The Jesuit Seminary News published in 1942 by the Maryland-New York Province.

Fr. Robert L. Keane, SJ



Commander Robert L. Keane entered the Jesuits 1965 and was ordained a priest on June 4, 1978. He enjoyed various assignments

both studying and teaching, but it was while he was working in campus ministry at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass. that he also served as chaplain to the naval ROTC unit on campus. Because of that experience, he entered the United States Navy in 1989.

Father Keane explains, "The most grace-filled dimension of these 18 years has been the relationships, professional and personal, that have

come my way. The young men and women of our armed forces are truly inspiring. Every day they challenge me to stay young and in fairly good physical shape (for an old guy)."

His assignments have included postings in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Desert Saber and more recently, Director of Training at the Naval Chaplains School in Newport, RI. Fr. Keane's decorations include among others: two Meritorious Service Medals, four Navy Commendation Medals and the Navy Achievement Medal.

"I am blessed to be able to minister to the military," he says. "Many of our men and women in the military do not know their Catholic faith very well, so there is an opportunity for evangelizing. The religious affiliation of those in the military reflects American society, with 25% of the population Catholic. Many in the ►



Papal medal, Bene Merenti, awarded in 1947 by Pope Pius XII to Fr. Thomas P. Fay, SJ who “rendered signal service over and above the line of duty in administration of duties, not only to the American personnel in his charge, but also to the needy population of the war torn countries and in particular to the numerous clergy of all faiths among the prisoners of war.



Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to Fr. Joseph T. O’Callahan, SJ, the first chaplain to receive the honor.



This photo of Liturgy in the field is from the photograph album of John Leo Barry, SJ (1911-1987) who served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army from 1945-1970 and was stationed in the U.S., Japan, North Korea, Germany and Vietnam. He received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. The snapshot was taken around 1966.

► military have never met a Catholic, so there is an opportunity to have a presence and build an understanding of our Catholic faith. I can reach out to and guide young people and help them develop character through their growing years.”

“In 1989 there were 260 priests in the Navy; today there are 110 of which 16 are Jesuits. When I was a chaplain at Holy Cross and working with the ROTC unit, the commanding officer suggested I become a Navy Chaplain. Eighteen years later, I still agree with his suggestion.” ✝

For further reading, see Fr. Joseph O’Callahan, SJ’s book, I was Chaplain on the Franklin

A special thank you to Alice Howe, Curator of Collections, New England Jesuit Archives at the College of the Holy Cross for providing the photos and images from the collection of the Archives of the Society of Jesus of New England. The images of Fr. Joseph T. O’Callahan’s Congressional Medal of Honor are used with special one time use permission by Mark Savolis, Head of Archives and Special Collections at the College of the Holy Cross. The medal is held by the Archives and Special Collections of the College of the Holy Cross.

The Hospital is My Parish



Members of the Interfaith Chaplaincy Services department at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, l-r, Imam Salih Yucel, Fr. George Winchester, SJ, Sr. Kathleen Gallivan, SND, Director, and Fr. Bob Dorin, SJ.

An inevitable part of life is a hospital experience – whether it is our own stay or the visit to a friend or loved one. Struggling with the meaning of illness, difficult health care options, or end-of-life issues are the challenges which can lead to a visit from one of the many New England Province Jesuits serving as hospital chaplains.

Perhaps you have met Fr. Joe Schad, SJ, at Mercy Hospital in Portland, Maine, or Fr. Herb Cleary, SJ, at Marian Manor, South Boston, or Fr. Jim Shaughnessy, SJ, at New England Medical Center in Boston. New England Jesuits serve in many capacities throughout the healthcare arena.

Among his regular chaplain’s responsibilities at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Fr. George Winchester, SJ, works with a team of surgeons, nurses and social workers caring for patients diagnosed with mesothelioma, asbestos lung disease, providing care and research from entrance to discharge, and a follow-up support group as well. “The Brigham and Women’s hospital has over 40,000 admissions annually, 41% of whom are Catholic, and a staff of over 12,000; it is my parish,” says Fr. Winchester.

Such work is not unique. You find Fr. Bill Mulligan, SJ, ministering at Boston Medical Center, and yet another Jesuit, Fr. Bob Dorin, SJ, also at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, while Fr. John Mullin, SJ, serves as chaplain at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire.

Many hospitals in the Boston area are teaching hospitals for health care professionals, and Brigham and Women’s adds teaching programs for ministers-in-training, people who want to become full-time hospital chaplains. Fr. Winchester enjoys his participation in the teaching programs for seminarians and other ordained ministers and especially in a program for those studying to be permanent, lay deacons in the Archdiocese of Boston. He finds the collaboration with the inter-faith team members rewarding.

Similarly, Fr. Jack Crabb, SJ, is one of the supervisors for Clinical Pastoral Education at Beverly Hospital, Beverly, Mass. while the experience may be different for Fr. Bill Raftery, SJ, at Jeanne Jugan Residence, Somerville, Mass., and for Fr. Bill Hamilton, SJ, at the VA and Elliott Hospitals in Manchester, NH.

Many chaplains serve on hospitals’ Ethics Committees, and virtually all of them are called upon by doctors, nurses and colleagues for consultation on end-of-life issues. Many people in crisis have faith issues, and chaplains are able to “meet them where they are” and to help facilitate spiritual growth and self-understanding. They have religious resources and can offer encouragement and support to the alienated.

It is difficult work spiritually, emotionally and physically, but as Jesuits have done for over 500 years since the time of Saint Ignatius, we “find God in all things.” ✝



Fr. Joe Schad, SJ, (second from right) at groundbreaking for new Mercy Hospital in Portland, Maine, with Bishop Richard Malone in the driver’s seat.