

# My Pilgrimage at Campion

by Mr. Keith Maczkiewicz, nSJ

For six weeks last February and March I was missioned to the province health care facility—Campion Center in Weston—for my pilgrimage experiment. As a novice, I will have five principal trials: the Long Retreat, pilgrimage, a hospital experiment, performing low and humble works, and a Long Experiment. My pilgrimage was designed as a journey to broaden my experiences of Jesuit life and of apostolic work. At Campion, I learned much about the history of the New England Province!

As an intern in the chaplaincy department, I visited with the men and listened to their great personal stories. I heard stories of Baghdad College from Fr. Joe Fennell, SJ, and Bro. Italo Parnoff, SJ; of life in Kingston, Jamaica, from Frs. Don Larkin, SJ, and Dudley Adams, SJ, and, much closer to home, tales of Fairfield, Holy Cross and BC from various men who had served with distinction. Almost universally these men spoke of some difficulty they had faced, personally or professionally, and how they had persevered by relying on the relationship they formed with Jesus in the *Spiritual Exercises*. As a first-year novice fresh from my own experience of the Exercises, I took great comfort in this.



After a few weeks of asking about the experiences of Shadowbrook (the province novitiate until the late 1960s) and of life as a philosopher or theologian, I asked one of my Jesuit brothers about his experience of prayer, “When did you learn to pray, Father?” At 92 years, this beautiful priest with his piercing blue eyes looked back at me and said simply, “I’m still learning!” Here was truly a lifelong learner!

As I continue my journey in this Jesuit life, I hope to be like men I encountered at Campion Center—faith-filled, trusting, spiritual—and yet still men of this world. Loved sinners, all.

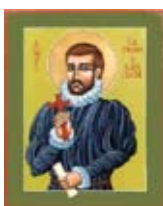


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## St. Edmund Campion, SJ (1540–1581)

Edmund Campion was born in 1540 in London. He attended St. John’s College, Oxford, and in 1571, he left England to attend the English College in Belgium. Campion finished his degree in 1573. He was accepted into the Society of Jesus and was assigned to the Austrian province.

When the Superior General in Rome opened a mission in England, Fr. Campion was one of the first to be assigned



to it. In London, he wrote a description of his new mission in which he explained that his work was religious, not political; it became known as Campion’s Brag. Widely distributed, it encouraged Catholics to remain loyal to their faith. It led to Campion’s martyrdom on December 1, 1581, at age 41. Campion was beatified by Pope Leo XIII in 1886 and was canonized in 1970 by Pope Paul VI.



For more about Jesuit saints, visit [www.sjweb.info](http://www.sjweb.info)