A SPIRITUALITY OF Accompaniment
Dear Friends,

There are countless faith-based ministries and organizations that provide support for a myriad of humanitarian needs. It is good to see so many programs reaching out to those longing for physical and spiritual help. But what is it that stands out about Jesuit ministries among these many good efforts? What is it that makes our Jesuit schools, parishes and ministries so renowned for caring for those living on the margins? The answer can be explained in just one word—accompaniment. Jesuits and our lay colleagues go far beyond providing educational, pastoral and charitable aid to people on the peripheries. We make it our mission to accompany them on their journey, to literally meet them where they are, offering compassion, respect and companionship that transcend physical or spiritual needs.

In his book entitled The Name of God Is Mercy, Pope Francis writes, “Every time I go through the gates into a prison to celebrate Mass or for a visit, I always think: why them and not me? I should be here. I deserve to be here. Their fall could have been mine. I do not feel superior to the people who stand before me. And so I repeat and pray: why him and not me? It might seem shocking, but I derive consolation from Peter: he betrayed Jesus, and even so he was chosen.”

This is what accompaniment is all about—meeting our brothers and sisters wherever they are in their chaotic lives and giving them the hope and support that Christ calls us to share. The poor, the sick, the forgotten, the imprisoned; our spirituality speaks to anyone who longs for not only a helping hand but a compassionate shoulder as well.

In this summer issue of JESUITS magazine, we have compiled several stories devoted to ways in which the Maryland and USA Northeast Province Jesuits accompany those facing difficult struggles within our communities. As our greatest example, Jesus never hesitated to stop and spend time with society’s outcasts. He ate with them. He traveled with them. He healed them. He entered into the chaos of their lives—and of our lives—even unto death.

Sincerely in Christ,
ABOUT OUR COVER
A Georgetown Prep student paints a church on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, one of the poorest communities in the United States.

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FR. DENNIS BAKER, SJ, was named director of Xavier High School in Chuuk, Micronesia. A graduate of Canisius High School and Fordham University, Fr. Baker entered the Jesuits in 2004 and as a novice spent six months in Micronesia teaching freshman religion at Xavier. He holds a Master of Science degree in criminal justice administration from Niagara University, and received a Master of Arts in Philosophy from Fordham University before being missioned to New York’s Xavier High School, where he taught religion and coached basketball. Father Baker also received a M.Div. from Boston College’s School of Theology and Ministry and a master’s degree in education from Columbia University. He was ordained in 2015.

FR. KEVIN O’BRIEN, SJ, is the new dean of the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, a leading institution in Catholic theological studies and ministry, providing seven graduate-level degrees to over 170 students, ordained and lay, representing more than 40 countries. In his former role as Georgetown University’s Vice President of Mission and Ministry, Fr. O’Brien was responsible for promoting the university’s Catholic and Jesuit educational and spiritual tradition through seminars, retreats, immersions, and ministerial outreach, as well as through his leadership of the largest campus ministry program in the country. He was ordained in 2006.

CRISTO REY JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL IN BALTIMORE HAS APPOINTED WALTER REAP, SR., as its new principal. An award-winning and experienced leader, Reap comes to Cristo Rey Jesuit from Edward M. Felegy Elementary School in Hyattsville, Md., where he served as principal. He has overseen the construction of a multi-million-dollar campus and facilitated the implementation of a creative and performing arts instructional program. Mr. Reap also served as principal at Germantown Elementary School in Annapolis, where he facilitated the implementation of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program, the Kid’s at Hope Training for School Community, and construction of a new school building. He also established an arts integration partnership with Collegio San Carlo, a pre-K to 12th grade school in Milan, Italy.

FR. ROBERT VEREECKE, SJ, was named pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in New York City. Fr. VerEecke attended Regis High School in Manhattan, and entered the Society after graduation. He began working as a campus minister at Boston College after his ordination in 1978.
In 1989, he was appointed pastor of St. Ignatius Church in Chestnut Hill, Mass., adjacent to the Boston College campus, where he served as pastor for 27 years. He has created many dance works for stage and sanctuary including *For the Greater Glory of God*, a theatrical dance piece inspired by the *Spiritual Exercises*.

**FR. DENNIS YESALONIA, SJ**, was named pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in New York City. Father Yesalonia entered the Society of Jesus in Boston, Mass., in 1976 and was ordained a priest in 1985. He is a graduate of Xavier High School and holds a bachelor’s degree from the College of the Holy Cross. After entering the Society of Jesus, Father Yesalonia earned a master’s degree in philosophy from Fordham University, a bachelor of sacred theology degree from Regis College in Toronto, and a M.Div. from the University of Toronto. Father Yesalonia received a Juris Doctor degree from Notre Dame Law School. In 2002, Father Yesalonia was named treasurer of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus. After 11 years, he served as chief operating officer of the Health Sciences Division of Loyola University Chicago and later served on the provincial staff of the New England Province until the summer of 2015.

**THE FR. DANIEL J. BERRIGAN, SJ, Jesuit Peacemaking Fund**

On April 30, 2016, Fr. Daniel J. Berrigan, SJ, passed away at Murray-Weigel Hall in the Bronx at the age of 94. To honor Fr. Berrigan’s work and continue his quest for peace, the Maryland and USA Northeast Provinces established the Fr. Daniel J. Berrigan, SJ, Jesuit Peacemaking Fund. The Fund supports Jesuits and colleagues in the eastern U.S. working to bring peace to their communities, to encourage dialogue on contentious social issues and to help with organizing research, training, and in-person advocacy for issues related to peace.

“As a teacher, poet, spiritual director, mentor and peace activist, Fr. Berrigan constantly asked himself and others: ‘What does the Gospel demand of us?’” said Fr. James Keenan, SJ, director of donor relations for the USA Northeast Province. The Fund has had a number of donors contribute gifts ranging from $15 to $1,000 to remember Dan and to help our works to promote peace.”

More than $4,000 has been distributed to the Benincasa Community, supporting peace and justice programs, Brooklyn Jesuit Prep (the middle school near the site of the former Brooklyn Prep, which is where Dan had taught), the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, the Saint Peter’s University Center for Undocumented Students, and Fairfield University’s Center for Faith and Public Life.

Further gifts made at www.JesuitsEast.org/supportus will continue to support peacemaking efforts at the above organizations and elsewhere.
In June, the Society of Jesus celebrated the ordination of 20 new priests in the United States, Canada and Haiti, including two Jesuits, Christopher Ryan and Kevin Spinale, who are members of the USA Northeast Province.

The diverse group of Jesuits hails from the U.S., Canada, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Colombia and Costa Rica. Among them are a doctor, a nurse, a Navy serviceman and several teachers. The ordination Mass for Frs. Ryan and Spinale took place Saturday, June 11, at the Fordham University Church and was streamed live online. The Mass was presided by The Most Rev. Terrence Prendergast, SJ, Archbishop of Ottawa.

“This is a joyful time of year because we are celebrating the ordinations of so many fine men to Jesuit priesthood,” said Fr. Timothy Kesicki, SJ, president of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. “During the ordination ceremony, the bishop says, ‘May God, who has begun the good work in you, bring it to completion.’ There’s something special about seeing our newly ordained Jesuits as they begin their priestly work for the people of God.”

More than 100 Jesuits processed into the Fordham University Church to celebrate the ordination of Fr. Christopher J. Ryan, SJ, and Fr. Kevin C. Spinale, SJ, on June 11.
CHRISTOPHER RYAN, SJ, 33, is from Haddon Township, N.J. He first met the Jesuits at St. Joseph’s Preparatory School in Philadelphia and had a Jesuit spiritual director while at Dartmouth College. Ryan began discerning his vocation while spending his sophomore spring semester studying in Prague; he joined the Jesuits immediately after earning his bachelor’s degree in geography in 2004. He served in Brazil and also accompanied migrants along the Central American migration corridor as part of his Jesuit formation. In 2013, he was missioned to studies at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. Over the course of earning his Master of Divinity degree and finishing his Licentiate in Sacred Theology, he has taken on a number of leadership roles, serving Jesuit Connection and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Boston. After serving at St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church in Raleigh, N.C., this summer, he will complete his S.T.L. degree at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

KEVIN SPINALE, SJ, 37, is from Arlington, Mass. At the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., he played rugby. While there, he had a class with former Holy Cross president Fr. John Brooks, SJ, and Brooks became a major influence on Spinale’s decision to join the Society. After graduating in 2000 with a bachelor’s degree in classics, he joined the Peace Corps and served for two years in Romania. After receiving a master’s degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, in 2005, he joined the Jesuits. During the course of Jesuit studies, he returned to Boston, teaching at B.C. High and coaching rugby. After receiving a Master of Divinity degree from Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, he served parishes in South Boston as a deacon. He currently is on the associate trustee board of Nativity School of Worcester and serves at America magazine as moderator of the Catholic book club and as a writer. Fr. Spinale will work at his alma mater, the College of the Holy Cross, while completing his master’s degree in English from Boston College.

May God, who has begun the good work in you, bring it to completion.

—Ordination Liturgy

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Jesuit priests, brothers and scholastics from the Maryland and USA Northeast Provinces gathered at Fordham Prep in the Bronx on June 9–10 for formation gatherings and to celebrate Province Day. The events served as an opportunity for Jesuits to reflect on their ministries, gather for workshops, celebrate the Eucharist and attend presentations.

This year’s keynote speaker was Academy Award-winning director Martin Scorsese, who was interviewed by Fr. Jim Martin, SJ, editor-at-large of America magazine. Scorsese is nearing completion of the film adaptation of Shusako Endo’s novel Silence, which takes place in 1640s Japan. The film depicts the harrowing journey of two Jesuits sent to investigate reports that another Jesuit had renounced the Church amidst the persecution of Christians.

Mr. Scorsese spoke about the long process of creating the film, his childhood and his religious background—growing up in Little Italy in the shadows of Old St. Patrick’s Cathedral and, at one point, entering New York’s Cathedral Seminary.

During college, Scorsese realized his interest in the intersection of film and religion.

“I found, for me, that the thing that kept driving me was what I experienced growing up, which was the balance between what people have to do and what they should do,” Scorsese said. “Good people, sometimes—a lot of the time—do bad things. You can’t help it.”

Following Scorsese’s interview, Fr. Robert Hussey, SJ, provincial of the Maryland Province joined Fr. John Cecero, SJ, provincial of the USA Northeast Province, in a session that discussed this fall’s 36th General Congregation in Rome and outlined a paradigm of Jesuit communities to foster increased integration in neighborhoods. The new view of Jesuit communities as “apostolic centers” will inspire discernment by the local community in collaboration with the Church, with given works in conjunction with lay and religious colleagues.

“This paradigm emphasizes Jesuit communities not just as convenient locales for apostolates but as places where we discern how we want to serve in a given area, with whom, and for whom, as we continue our important work throughout our region and abroad,” Fr. Cecero said.
Jesuits are missioned throughout the world, including being missioned to go to those most in need—to accompany the most vulnerable.

One of the founders of the Society of Jesus, Jerome Nadal, wrote that Jesuit ministry does not expand from the Jesuit community; rather, community occurs where Jesuit ministry is: “Wherever there is need or greater utility for our ministries, there is our house.” Jesuits serve wherever those in need are. Nadal continues, “The principal and most characteristic dwelling for Jesuits is not in ... houses but in journeyings ...” Thus, from formation to active ministry and even through the last stages of a Jesuit’s life, accompaniment is a quintessential aspect of our worldview—we form communities and relationships in the heart of our mission; we live and walk beside those whom we serve.

Whether walking with middle school students, ministering to the sick and dying, counseling those in prison or helping a university community understand the experience of the poor, in as much as we go out to the whole world, today’s Jesuits remain called toward those who struggle to find a dwelling place in this world. Our perspective does not look at the world as solely the place where we live; rather it calls us to be more attentive to where and how others live, as we work to bring about God’s Kingdom, in the vision of St. Ignatius Loyola.
In my 10 months as a Jesuit novice, I’ve been across the country in settings I’d never dreamed of. Last fall, I worked as a chaplain intern at Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse. I spent the beginning of 2016 making the Spiritual Exercises at the retreat house in Guelph, Ontario, and then studying Spanish in San Antonio, Texas. After a few months on the road, I was excited to return to New York City, where I had lived for eight years, and to a hospital setting, an environment where I had found so much consolation in the fall.

I looked forward to working at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, as part of the “hospital experiment” portion of my Jesuit formation, expecting to draw on my rudimentary chaplaincy skills, though I knew, from listening to some intense stories from older Jesuits, that it would be a challenge. Our job would be to physically minister to patients, but I hoped that I’d also find the time to care for them spiritually. The physical labor felt somewhat less critical compared to the fruits of wisdom I thought we’d discover in conversation. Calvary’s...
self-identification as “the vestibule of heaven” heightened this expectation even more.

Early on, this presumption proved correct. While mornings were filled with physical tasks, afternoons tended to be free enough to visit patients. So, I started developing friendships. Many patients were lonely; others were naturally anxious about being at Calvary, knowing that they likely faced the end of their life. Some seemed to need constant attention, which manifested itself by regular use of the call button. I didn’t have very many medical skills, but I had lots of energy and a listening ear. For the understandably frightened patients,

I prayed with them.

In my own prayer, I thanked God for giving me the opportunity to meet the patients’ emotional needs. I felt comfortable falling into a role I had treasured in Syracuse last fall, but, to my great surprise, physical interactions with patients (often lacking any conversation at all) also played a rich role in my contemplation.

Some patients chose not to talk at all. Some slept. Others had lost the ability to speak. Though this was a new challenge for me, I found myself falling in love with them, too. My fellow novice Brendan Coffey and I ran up the stairs from breakfast every morning, eager to care for them.

Soon, physical encounters dominated my prayer. I held up the most meaningful moments: Brendan’s care while washing, a gentle smile from a freshly bathed patient, the joy of a family member over a frustrating problem solved. I asked Christ to walk with me as I watched some of them grow weaker each day. I had expected to mourn for patients I’d grown friendly with. But I didn’t predict the anguish I felt when patients I had simply spoon-fed died, too. I relished the opportunity to meet patients where they were. Some just appreciated a running banter while we cleaned. Others wanted photos. No serious conversations about the end of life; for some, just selfies.

The sacred nature of this contact became apparent during our third week. It was a particularly messy week on the floor, and Brendan and I were asked to assist with cleaning. In general, I wasn’t a huge fan of the smells of the hospital itself, but it was easy to rush in to clean up after the patients I loved. I took to prayer, discussing with God what might have given me this superhuman ability to turn off my olfactory glands. Then I remembered that Brendan and I had literally washed these people’s feet. Christ tells us to do this, I remembered! In prayer, Christ showed me that it wasn’t only a metaphor. By washing the disciples’ feet, Christ illustrated the bond that can be created through physical acts of love. Such great love, I saw, could mask even dirty diapers.

At the beginning of my time at Calvary, I sought tearful conversations with patients. By the third week, I knew I was most valuable if I brought them ice cream. So I brought them ice cream. As we passed the halfway point, I asked Christ to accompany me even with patients who had been extremely standoffish. Unusual for Calvary, some of the patients were discharged back home. I took Pope Francis’ example to heart and kissed them on the head. I blessed their journeys.

Other patients looked ahead to lengthy stays at Calvary. My friendships had formed under unusual circumstances, and God was deeply present in the bonds. For patients fast approaching their final days, my words failed, and I knew now that I lacked any wisdom to guide them through the looming tedium and apathy. But I trusted in the power of the hug more.

As our time at Calvary came to a close, a new appreciation for Jesus’ ministry grew in me. Jesus spent time in contemplation, prayed with others, and taught them in groups and individually. But Jesus also had very physical encounters with the sick, the lonely, and the outcast. God became human precisely so that He might live with us, be with us, and minister to the physical bodies that we are.

After six weeks at Calvary, I know just how necessary that touch is.
Walking with Nativity Students

By Mike Benigno

Washington Jesuit Academy teachers and staff looking on in admiration during this year’s eighth grade graduation.

Photo courtesy of Bridget Nalls Conley
Nativity middle schools begin with the end in mind. From the outset, when students and their families are immersed in what might be their first experience of Jesuit education, their eyes are fixed on the next steps, and what it takes to achieve goals.

This sense of momentum is palpable at each of the 17 Nativity schools in the U.S. and Canada that operate within the Jesuit Schools Network, providing a faith-based education to students from economically poor families. In the Maryland and USA Northeast Provinces, Graduate Support Programs that are integrated into six Nativity schools are providing a transformative experience that begins with enrollment and extends over the arc of a student’s life—long after he or she has moved onto high school and beyond.

EDUCATING THE WHOLE PERSON

Nativity schools are serving students who face tough odds. John Ciccone, president of St. Ignatius Loyola Academy in Baltimore, noted recently in The Baltimore Sun that the rate for males from low-income families in Baltimore City enrolling in college within a year after high school is just 42 percent. Nationally, just one in ten students from low-income families manages to earn a bachelor’s degree by age 25.

Lack of academic preparedness, difficulty navigating complex college systems, and financial constraints can all derail a student’s dream of earning a degree. Jesuit Nativity schools like St. Ignatius Loyola Academy are setting new standards in pre-secondary education, with school days that can sometimes last 12 hours, an 11-month school calendar, and a faculty of dedicated teachers.

While enrolled, students also benefit from a dedicated corps of tutors and teaching fellows that help develop test-taking and study skills, and provide personal mentoring that goes beyond the classroom. Sports teach teamwork, persistence, grit and grace, introducing students to interscholastic competition during this formative time. After-school programs also expose students to extracurricular activities that may spark lifelong passions or inspire careers.

The school community worships together with daily morning prayer and celebrates religious feasts and holidays together, striving to practice Gospel values together in the everyday life of the school. All of this combines to form a nurturing environment for young people—one that prepares them for success in high school, college and beyond, and changes trajectories—geared toward closing the achievement gap.

ACCOMPANIMENT BEYOND GRADUATION

The process of applying to selective high schools and choosing the right one takes considerable preparation and judgment, and graduate support programs headed by designated staff members provide students with the benefit of both.

Launched in 1995, the Graduate Support Office at Boston’s Nativity Preparatory School has served as a critical resource for graduates who are frequently the first in their families to attend college. Today, its Start-to-Finish Graduate Support Initiative encompasses a comprehensive suite of services that include high school guidance, college tours, test-prep assistance, college application and financial aid counseling, college transition workshops, scholarship advisement, and even internship and job networking.

“From the time they arrive as fourth graders, we teach our students to graduate—from middle school, from high school, from college, and beyond,” said Fr. John Wronski, SJ, president of Nativity Prep. “Through our extended family model, Nativity Prep teaches these first-generation college students the skills and spirit they need to persist and succeed in college and in their careers.”

The walls of Nativity Prep are decorated with lists of student goals and award certificates earned throughout the year. Inside the Graduate Support Office, a bulletin board displays alumni portraits taken by Fr. Wronski, an avid photographer.

This June, a video from a morning assembly shared on the Facebook channel of Nativity School of Worcester, near the College of the Holy Cross, showed one way that goals are embedded in Nativity culture.

In the video, first-year students leave their everyday morning seats and fill in the empty chairs of the students ahead of them, who had just advanced a grade. Faculty, staff and fellow classmates flood the room with applause, and the message is clear: you’re moving up in the world and making progress. Today, you made a great first step—many more will follow.

Students at Washington Jesuit Academy in Washington, D.C., are introduced to the high school selection process by the end of
grade six. By seventh and eighth grade, they are fully immersed in school placement. “If we are successful in accurately placing our students, we limit the number of transitions they make,” said Howard Blue, who has served as graduate support director since 2004. In the weeks prior to graduation, parents sign a school release form that gives Jesuit Academy staff permission to maintain communication with graduates in their new schools.

This is especially important during ninth grade, Blue said. “Ninth graders face going from an environment where they were the racial majority to, sometimes, being the minority. They are coming from the neighborhoods they came from and attending some of the most affluent schools in the region. The caring teachers here won’t be readily available to them in high school, and their time is no longer as structured as it was in the past.”

Once they enter high school, many Nativity students return to their middle schools to serve as volunteers, tutors and mentors; others return simply to find a peaceful, familiar place. Steady contact and an ongoing calendar of events, such as college bus tours, invite graduates to remain connected to Washington Jesuit through academic and personal transitions, even beyond high school. A recent college access symposium hosted by the school brought in representatives from 36 colleges and was even opened to the surrounding neighborhood.

THE FULL PICTURE OF SUCCESS

Staff from many Nativity graduate support programs begin working with alumni on the college selection and admission process when students are in the second half of high school. The graduate support directors help alumni find an institution where they are likely to thrive, and what follows is ongoing guidance about how to pay for college, choose the right major, stick with it, and graduate with a degree.

For generations, Catholic schools have committed themselves to offering educational opportunities and pathways to success to underserved students, but today’s Nativity faculty, staff and administrators are part of a school model that actually accompanies students through important life transitions and helps them achieve their goals.

At Jesuit Nativity schools on the East Coast, more than 93% of students are currently eligible for free or reduced lunch. Still, 97% of the Jesuit Nativity graduates who started high school four years ago graduated in 2016, with nearly all enrolling in either two- or four-year colleges or universities. These rates outshine those of middle-class and affluent families in the United States and truly will help bridge the achievement gap and transform lives.

“We consider our effort to support our students all the way to a college commencement day very much in the tradition of Catholic and Jesuit education,” said Fr. Wronski. “Our graduate support programs aren’t simply setting more low-income students on the path to college; they’re bettering the odds of them getting through college with a high-value degree. By striving for high college completion rates, our schools are truly transforming the quality of young people’s lives and the quality of their opportunities.”
Melissa Gomez graduated from Brooklyn Jesuit Prep in 2011, going on to attend Dominican Academy in the Upper East Side of Manhattan. She is currently studying mechanical engineering at the University of Rochester, and spends summers working at BJP’s summer camp, held annually at Fairfield University.

Making the decision to go to Dominican Academy was a tough one. I would be the first and only student from Brooklyn Jesuit Prep to attend the high school that year. I was a very shy student and I worried what my social life would be like in high school. The tuition would be too high for my family to afford all of it, but it was a great opportunity for me and I was eager to attend. Thankfully, BJP committed to paying part of my tuition, and to ease some of my doubts, I remember the principal of BJP at the time, Mr. Russo, pulling me aside and talking to me one-on-one to reassure me. I listened to him and ended up attending and succeeding.

In the beginning of my senior year there, I had almost no clue of what to do when it came to college. I wasn’t familiar with the college process and hadn’t visited many schools. Ms. Marie, the head of the BJP grad support program, helped me make a list of different colleges that I might be interested in. She then told me to list the things that were important to me and to narrow down the list. At the end of the process, I was interested in about eight schools. After receiving my acceptance letters, BJP helped me assess my financial aid packages and made sure I picked the one that worked for me and my family.

As a counselor at BJP’s summer camp at Fairfield University, I’ve had the chance to serve as a role model and a confidant to current students. This has been a great first job for me, and I’ve been able to encourage the students, mostly the older ones, to act as leaders and not followers. Great bonds have been formed among campers in our groups. I am happy to go back this year and work with them again.

As I’ve grown older, I’ve realized the importance of guidance and the value of mentors who have kept me on the right path. I think the services provided by BJP—specifically the graduate support services—are helpful because so many students come from low-income families, with parents who are busy working so hard to provide a better future, and who do not necessarily understand the college process.

I hope that one day I am successful enough to give back to BJP for the many things the school has done for me, whether it be by donating money or continuing to be a mentor for current students.
Blanca Daviau is the mother of Christopher Daviau, a member of Nativity School of Worcester’s Campion Class of 2012. Christopher is a recent graduate of Bancroft School who is set to attend the College of the Holy Cross this fall.

I brought my son Chris to Nativity School of Worcester with the hope that he would receive a great education in a safe environment, which would open doors for his future. While Nativity provided Chris with a great foundation for his educational career, what I didn’t realize is that it wasn’t just an education inside a classroom—it went beyond that.

Chris was accepted into the Campion graduating class of 2012 and became a part of a family and community. This school became home; teachers became mentors, protectors and role models—some even second mothers. The students weren’t just classmates or friends; they became his brothers, practically living with us. Nativity moms even became each other’s support system.

Outside of the classroom, Chris learned how to give back to the community, preparing meals for shelters, visiting the veterans, and volunteering at local charities, which opened his eyes to the less fortunate, a world outside of video games and sports.

His first year here, Chris begged to transfer out, but I made him see the year through. And by eighth grade, the little boy who did not want new friends and was too quiet in the classroom had grown into a young man who developed lifelong relationships and gained so much confidence.

With the guidance of everyone at Nativity, Chris was accepted to several great schools—among them, Bancroft, which he had his heart set on and worked very hard for. In addition, Christopher received the City Scholars Award.

All that he learned while he was a Nativity student is still within him. This is not just one story but the story of so many young boys who have walked through those school doors with their families.

They say it takes a village to raise a child. Our village is called Nativity!
How do I, in this small window of opportunity, encapsulate the impact St. Ignatius had on my life? It goes without saying St. Ignatius is located in a rough section of the South Bronx, notorious for its alarming rates of poverty and crime. Hunts Point is an unstable community devoid of much educational opportunity. Though these facts are hard to swallow, they should not dampen the mood. Rather, they should serve as reminders to just how important St. Ignatius is to its students and the Hunts Point community as a whole.

Like all of my fellow brothers in the class of 2005, I was raised in Hunts Point, and like all my fellow graduates, I was fascinated by St. Ignatius’ embrace, inviting and warm atmosphere. The teachers and administration didn’t just know your name—they knew your mother’s name, they knew each of your siblings’ names, and might even show up to your front door, as they also knew your address. In my eyes, these were individuals who introduced us to the world outside of Hunts Point. I felt special knowing there existed a group of people committed to my future, adults I barely knew, working to create more opportunities in my life. In seeing how invested others were in my life, the door opened for academic success.

Since 1996, St. Ignatius has fostered an affinity for learning and annually produces students equipped to succeed at the high school and college levels. St. Ignatius is not an experiment but an academic institution capable of transforming the neighborhood’s brightest residents into critical thinkers, dedicated scholars and men and women for others.

Upon graduating from St. Ignatius, I went on to complete four years at Xavier High School, but never did I lose the support of my family at St. Ignatius. Through the graduate support program, I was able to enroll in SAT courses, attend college visits, but, most importantly, I continued to strive for more.

In 2009, I graduated from Xavier and received the Posse Foundation’s award of a four-year, full tuition scholarship to attend DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. At DePauw, a liberal arts college with a population of 2,300 students, I thrived in the small classroom setting and remained steadfast in my commitment to graduate, which I did, in May 2013.

Luis joined the staff at St. Ignatius School this August. Coming full circle from student, to active alum, to staff member, Luis will work with the Graduate Support Program and Advancement Office.
Many may think that at a prestigious day and boarding school near Washington, D.C., immersing into the “gritty reality of the world” might not be high on a list of student priorities. At Georgetown Prep, however, nothing could be further from the truth. Over the last ten years, more than 700 high school seniors and faculty have participated in service immersion programs, addressing the needs of some of the poorest, most disadvantaged people across the country. From an Indian reservation where nearly 50% of the population lives below the poverty level, to a homeless shelter in D.C., to rebuilding efforts in New Orleans, to a summer camp for children with muscular dystrophy, Georgetown Prep is going where the needs are greatest—helping transform communities and becoming transformed themselves.

“I’ve seen students moved to tears on these trips,” said Fr. Scott Pilarz, SJ, president of Georgetown Prep. “It’s a sign that their hearts are being opened to a new reality, and with a lot of reflection, which is key to this experience; they really do begin to make meaning out of what they did. They recognize that this is a tremendously important, vital part of their Prep experience.”

Kurt Kaufmann, the Christian Service Director at Georgetown Prep, who is instrumental in coordinating the immersion programs, explained their impor-
students need to see life beyond their community. If we did not have these immersion trips, they would lose the ability to experience life in some of the most marginalized communities in the country.” A lot of the work is labor-intensive—building houses, fixing and painting churches, landscaping and excavation projects. But much of their assignment is simply to interact and form bonds with those they meet, to show them that there are people out there who know they exist and care about them.

The transformation goes both ways. These teenagers, who offer working hands and a kind heart for so many of the forgotten, are fundamentally changed themselves by the gratitude, love and hope they encounter amid such daily hardship. “You actually move beyond your comfort zone, and that’s where you learn so much more about yourself and about the community,” said Alex Kovalev, a student who worked in the Appalachian mountain town of Ivahoe, Va., one of many American towns struggling with hard times after much of its mining industry dried up.

“I had no idea the impact this would have on me,” admitted Kevin Cullen, who helped with landscaping and painting at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. “Although the grass will grow back and the paint will chip, the relationships we formed will never leave us or the people there.”

Fellow student, Zach Hartranft, who teamed with Habitat for Humanity building houses, agreed: “It bonds us with our Prep brothers and is a great way to put into action the teaching that Prep taught us.”

These Immersion Programs at Georgetown Prep continue to expand. In the last five years they have grown from serving three distressed communities to eight, and are now extending their reach outside the U.S. Just this summer, Fr. Pilarz took a group of students to Nicaragua to partner with Fabretto, a foundation working to improve the livelihoods of families living in that impoverished nation. “They did everything from digging latrines to helping build a new library,” said Fr. Pilarz. “But again, the real takeaway is the bond these young men make with the locals—interacting with them, going to Mass with them. It’s an experience that will stay with them forever and shape who they are.”

Perhaps Sean Clark summed it up best when he spoke of his experience at the McKenna Center serving the poor and homeless in Washington, D.C. “To truly understand an issue, you need to put yourself in the person’s shoes. And that’s exactly what we did at the Fr. McKenna Center. We put ourselves in the shoes of the homeless.”

Fr. Pilarz hopes Georgetown Prep will soon include an immersion program planting trees in Senegal, Africa, responding to Pope Francis’ call to care for the environment.

Students partner with Habitat for Humanity to build and rebuild houses on the eastern shore of Virginia and in New Orleans.
They committed crimes—and they are paying the price. More than two million Americans, mostly men, and disproportionately men of color, are serving time behind bars—many for decades. Regardless of their offenses, these are people whom God does not want to lose. But, unfortunately, as they sit idle in their cells, their minds tend to focus on their confinement, their transgressions, their hopelessness, and the awful sense that God and society couldn’t possibly forgive them or want them back.

This is where the devil wishes to keep them, and why we, as brothers and sisters for others, should be compassionate and present to them on their journey toward rehabilitation. The Jesuits of the Maryland and USA Northeast Provinces have a long history of providing spiritual direction and educational services to the imprisoned. Many Jesuits begin as early as their formation, while studying at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley, Calif., serving at one of the biggest, most infamous prisons in the country—San Quentin.

Fr. George Williams, SJ, has been...
“This Year of Mercy resonates very deeply with these men ... since the inmates are unable to make the pilgrimage to the local Holy Door of Mercy to gain the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence, they asked to have the door to their meeting room blessed (as is prescribed by the Pope). It is not uncommon to now see an inmate or volunteer kiss their hand and touch the door before entering.”

Fr. Patrick Rogers, SJ, who spent many years as director of campus ministry for the main campus of Georgetown University and is now working on his doctoral thesis, also provides chaplain support for a prison ministry program at Dorsey Run Correctional Facility in Maryland. His brother and sister-in-law began the ministry from their parish in Millersville, Md. Fr. Rogers gained an interest in prison ministry while a scholastic at Berkeley, taking U.C. Berkeley students up to San Quentin to play basketball with inmates. Now he fights the Washington, D.C., traffic on Tuesday afternoons to meet with inmates at Dorsey Run (part of Jessup Penitentiary), celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, or walking them through the Examen or other catechetical teachings relevant to the day. “This Year of Mercy resonates very deeply with these men, as you can imagine,” said Fr. Rogers. He goes on to say that since the inmates are unable to make the pilgrimage to the local Holy Door of Mercy to gain the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence, they asked to have the door to their meeting room blessed (as is prescribed by the Pope). “It is not uncommon to now see an inmate or volunteer kiss their hand and touch the door before entering.”

“The corporal work of mercy tells us to visit the imprisoned,” pointed out Fr. Timothy Brown, SJ, who leads the office of mission integration at Loyola University Maryland and who also does work at Jessup. “I am part of the Prison Scholars Program, offering non-credit college-level instruction to inmates. It’s very rewarding. Aside from a sabbatical I took while serving as provincial for the Maryland Province, I’ve been teaching at Jessup since 1995.”

The New York metropolitan area has six prisons, including Rikers Island, that benefit from a program called...
THRIVE, founded by Jesuit scholastic Zach Presutti, SJ, who is assistant executive director of Centro Altagracia de Fe y Justice, a Jesuit social apostolate in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan. THRIVE is a bridge of collaborations between several Jesuit parishes in the New York City area, comprised of two main components—contemplation and action. The contemplation program is much like any retreat setting, teaching participants Ignatian reflection based on the Examen. “The inmates enjoy acting out the parables of Jesus,” said Zach. “In fact, one guy who had been on Rikers for 12 years, wrote a one-act play that is now being performed off-Broadway.”

The action part of THRIVE provides life-skills for both incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals. A new computer lab will give inmates hands-on training, further helping them in their rehabilitation. The program also provides assistance and guidance for the families of those in jail, such as helping mothers and wives with transportation to visit their sons and husbands and providing the family with spiritual counseling.

Zach has also sparked interest in his prison ministry at Regis High School, just over the East River from Rikers. Students there wanted to participate in the program somehow, so they collected clothes to donate to the juvenile detention center inmates. Zach actually chaperoned some of them to deliver the donations and to meet a few of the inmates. The students first arrived on Rikers with quite a bit of apprehension, fully aware that Catholic school teens donning khakis and collared shirts might not present as the most relatable group to their prisoner counterparts. After being greeted with smiling faces and warm handshakes, however, jitters were set at ease and meaningful conversations ensued. Zach was very impressed with how the students interacted with the boys serving time. “These young inmates got to see and experience other teens who are not involved in gangs and drugs, and who actually want to be educated. You can see it rubbing off. They want to change and do the same.”

Whether juveniles serving a few months, or adults serving several years to life, Zach hopes all these inmates open their hearts to the message that God loves them for who they are, not for what they have done. “It takes some time,” he said, “but many of them soon realize that even though they are in jail, they are not abandoned. They are not stuck. They can change.”

Fr. Williams at San Quentin admits that the feeling he gets seeing an inmate find hope in Christ and begin the process of forgiving himself is unlike any other. “When I receive a note from an inmate saying that I have helped him find himself and make peace with God, it’s more rewarding than any other honors or accolades I can imagine.”

An image from the 1609 Illustrated Biography of St. Ignatius Loyola depicts the founder of the Jesuits visiting the imprisoned.
In last summer’s issue of JESUITS magazine, we covered a story of hope and perseverance that didn’t seem to have much of a light at the end of its tunnel. The article, “Fighting for their Homes,” chronicled an immigrant community in Richmond, Va., struggling to save their trailer park homes and the guidance and support they received from Sacred Heart Church, their Jesuit parish. At the time, neither the city nor the park’s ownership were willing to budge, and many, if not most, of the trailers were marked to be condemned by the fall of last year. The fear of mass evictions loomed.

Putting the situation in God’s hands, however, and staying focused on every opportunity available, the tide has actually begun to turn. The charge has been collaborative as always, with members of the Sacred Heart Center and parish committee coordinating efforts. Parishioner Jay Brown, a member of the Sacred Heart Center Board of Directors who works with the housing division of Commonwealth Catholic Charities, was able to secure funding through Catholic Charities to help eleven of the residents, whose trailers were in the worst shape, relocate adequately. The Legal Aid Justice Center then filed a lawsuit against the city of Richmond and a Fair Housing Complaint with HUD. It worked. The city has agreed to earmark funds to upgrade the trailers and is now providing regular communications with the residents in Spanish. A new owner of the trailer park is also cooperating with some much-needed repairs.

The mobile home park coalition, initially organized by Sacred Heart Center executive director, Mary Wickham, will continue helping this struggling community through the gauntlet of decisions that need to be made regarding affordability and cost of repairs. Sacred Heart Church will be there as well, the trusted parish these Latinos have relied on for spiritual and emotional guidance through this long, arduous ordeal. “These good people are not completely out of the woods yet,” said Fr. Shay Auerbach, SJ, pastor at Sacred Heart, “but things are looking much better for them. There does seem to be a future there.”
Excitement builds for GC-36

The first General Congregation for the Society of Jesus took place in 1558, when Fr. Diego Laynez was elected Superior General following the death of St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society. This coming October, the 36th General Congregation will take place in Rome (GC-36). Jesuit delegates from all over the world will again gather to choose a new successor to St. Ignatius, as Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, SJ, who has served as Father General since 2008, is set to retire.

Above and beyond the important task of electing a new Father General for the order, there are many timely postulates and calls that the congregation must address, relating mostly to apostolic priorities, governance in the Society and the renewal of Jesuit life and mission. GC-36 is the first congregation where delegates will have had the opportunity to review the topics up for discussion before actually attending the congregation. This has enabled them to begin a lot of preliminary groundwork and discernment, but has also kept them very busy over the past year.

We wish the very best for all of our Maryland and USA Northeast Province delegates heading to Rome in October and pray that Christ’s wisdom and guidance is with them. Look for full coverage of GC-36 in our Fall/Winter issue of JESUITS, due out in December.
Fr. Robert M. Hussey, SJ, is provincial of the Maryland Province Jesuits. Prior to his position as provincial, he served for six years as pastor of St. Raphael the Archangel Church, a diverse parish in Raleigh, N.C. Fr. Hussey, who entered the Jesuits in 1989 and was ordained a priest in 2000, has a Ph.D. in economics from Duke University in Durham, N.C., and is fluent in Spanish. He served on the faculty of ILADES/Georgetown University Graduate Program in Economics in Santiago, Chile, and was on the economics faculty at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. While at Georgetown, Fr. Hussey was also involved in pastoral work on campus and Hispanic ministry at a local jail.

Fr. David J. Collins, SJ, is an associate professor of history at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and a vocation promoter for the province. A native of Washington, D.C., Fr. Collins’ Jesuit training and doctoral studies took him to Philadelphia, Boston, Munich and Chicago, among other places. He received a Ph.D. in History from Northwestern University. He returned in 2004 to join the history department at Georgetown University.

Br. Guy J. Consolmagno, SJ, is an astronomer at the Vatican Observatory and president of the Vatican Observatory Foundation. He obtained his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his Ph.D. in planetary science from the University of Arizona in 1978. He entered the Jesuits in 1989 and took vows as a Jesuit brother in 1991. He studied philosophy and theology at Loyola University Chicago and physics at the University of Chicago before his assignment to the Vatican Observatory in 1993. He has coauthored a number of books, including Turn Left at Orion and Would You Baptize an Extraterrestrial? He is also curator of the Vatican meteorite collection.

Fr. Herbert B. Keller, SJ, served as president of Scranton Preparatory School in Pennsylvania from 1997 to 2015, making him the school’s longest-serving president. He also served as principal of Scranton Prep and of Saint Joseph’s Preparatory School in Philadelphia. He holds a bachelor’s degree in English and philosophy from Fordham University in New York and a Master of Divinity degree from Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass. (now the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry).

Fr. David S. Ciancimino, SJ, serves as the president of Canisius High School in Buffalo, N.Y. Prior to this role, he served as the provincial of the New York Province Jesuits from 2008 to 2014. He is a graduate of Fordham University in the Bronx, New York, and the Weston School of Theology (now the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry), with master’s degrees in theology and divinity. He also holds a New York State certification in secondary education administration from Canisius College. He taught religion, Spanish and French at Canisius High School from 1989 to 1995, served as director of admissions from 1989 to 1992, and was principal from 1992 to 1997. Fr. Ciancimino then served as headmaster of Xavier High School in New York City from 1997 to 2004. He was appointed assistant to the New York Jesuit provincial from 2004 to 2008 before being named provincial.

Fr. Michael C. McFarland, SJ, is treasurer for the Northeast Province. Previously, he was president of the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., from 2000 to 2012. Prior to that he served as the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wa., where he was also a professor of computer science. He earned a bachelor’s degree in physics at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., and a master’s degree and Ph.D. in electrical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Fr. Joseph M. O’Keefe, SJ, was recently named rector of Ciszek Hall in the Bronx. He previously served as the director of the Center of Ignatian Spirituality and a professor at Boston College. He holds a doctoral degree in administration, planning and social policy from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Mass. Fr. O’Keefe earned his bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., a master’s degree in French literature from Fordham University in the Bronx, N.Y., and a Master of Divinity from the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.
From May 17–28, the USA Northeast Province led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with 15 Jesuits and friends of the Society. The trip was coordinated by Joe Naylor, assistant for advancement and communications at the USA Northeast Province, and included Provincial, Fr. John Cecero, SJ, Fr. David Marcotte, SJ, and Dan Corrou, SJ, a Jesuit scholastic, who guided participants through reflections and provided Ignatian insights along the journey. The trip spanned Petra, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Jericho and Nazareth, and also included a visit to the Jesuit Center in Amman, Jordan, a work of the USA Northeast Province that serves refugees.

Come join the USA Northeast Province on an 11-day Ignatian Pilgrimage in Oct. 2017 to visit the birthplaces of Loyola and Xavier, and the historic sites in Manresa, Montserrat and Barcelona, Spain, with an additional two days in Lourdes. This once-in-a-lifetime trip will be under the spiritual supervision of Fr. George Witt, SJ, assistant for spirituality ministries for the Maryland and USA Northeast Provinces. For more information, please contact Joe Naylor at jnaylor@jesuits.org or 212-774-5529.
I am a recent Catholic in the linear scheme of life. In 2011, I embraced the Mother Church at Easter in my twilight years, a decision that has given new meaning to my life and a new understanding of commitment and obedience.

The Holy Land is a long way, geographically and culturally, from the Deep South, the land of my birth and where I have spent my life. During the pilgrimage, I kept wondering, “How could I, an outsider with two degrees from the University of Mississippi and one from the University of Colorado, be so blessed to travel with Jesuit scholars, learn from them, eat and drink with them, and partake of the Holy Eucharist with them at every holy site? And to do so in the company of fellow pilgrims who showed me the love of Jesus?”

The answer would become clear with the passage of time.

We travelled from Amman, Jordan, to Jerusalem with stops all along the way. We even had time to spend a day at Petra and go for a float in the Dead Sea. Our singular focus, however, was ever present: we were there to experience Jesus. We walked the streets and dusty paths, related to the people, ate the food; and I often wondered if Jesus’s genetic heritage in his humanness from his mother’s side still flowed through any of those I saw. We went to Mount Nebo, where God allowed Moses to view the Promised Land, and visited a baptismal site on the Jordan River, where John the Baptist may have preached and baptized Jesus.

We went to Nazareth and visited three churches dedicated to times and events in the lives of the Holy Family. At Cana, we remembered Christ’s first miracle at the wedding feast, and our married couples renewed their wedding vows. In Capernaum, we relived the three-year...
ministry of Jesus that spanned a mere seven to eight miles on and near the Sea of Galilee. We sailed on that sea and envisioned the disciples with nets full of fish. From nearby Mount Tabor, we went to a church dedicated to the transfiguration. From atop that mount, we looked down on the Valley of Armageddon, and I thought of the face of God looking down on the valley of evil.

Our last days were in Jerusalem. We experienced Shepherd’s Field, Church of the Nativity, Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Kidron Valley, Mount Zion, the Upper Room commemorating the Last Supper, and the courtyard that could have been the place where the high priest interrogated Jesus, and another where the Roman governor Pilate agreed to his crucifixion. All of the places led to the Way of the Cross and Calvary.

It matters not that the exact locations, for most of the sites are not known precisely. Legend and oral history, often supported by archeological findings, give credibility to the general locale of the places visited and, in many instances, the evidence is so compelling that it serves to deepen and strengthen faith. It also matters not that the experiences occurred in a fast-moving, multi-tasking environment. It will take time and reflection to process the people we met and places we experienced as well as those we studied in Biblical and historical context. The essence will sift through the haze, and the memorable lessons will surface.

Before the journey began, I had hoped God would reveal to me His purpose for the fourth quarter, the final chapter of my life. I have not heard a profound answer, but I have felt a quiet confirmation. More significantly, perhaps, are my thoughts that keep returning to obedience. We walked in the footsteps of three people who said “yes” to God. Moses said yes, but ever so reluctantly. He asked God questions and expressed doubts that he was the right person to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land. He was looking at the situation with human eyes and not the eyes of faith. Nevertheless, he obeyed God. Mary said yes, but asked how it could be that she was with child. She, with childlike faith, wanted to please her Heavenly Father; and, with her faith as her guidepost, she gave no resistance. She merely could not understand.

Jesus said yes to the cross with full knowledge and understanding of what his answer meant: the suffering he would endure to bear our sins. In his humanity, he asked that the cup be removed if it be the Father’s will; but, above all, he wanted his Father’s will and not his own.

In these three lives, it seems there was a developmental evolution of “yes,” from a reluctant obedience to a selfless embrace of God’s will. The lesson for me is to try to do God’s will with the “yes” of Jesus.

I do not doubt that more lessons will surface. Until then, I will treasure every blessing I received from this pilgrimage and bask in the memories of the people and places.

By the end of the trip, the answer to my question, “How could I be so blessed?” was evident. It was part of God’s providential plan. Because he allowed me to go, I will never experience my faith as before. The words of the Bible, the sites, and the lives of those depicted in sacred scripture have taken form and become real. They are now a deep and meaningful part of who I am.
It was an evening that celebrated lay collaboration and the Ignatian spirit of \textit{magis}—alive at every Jesuit work and in the lives of the 900 people gathered at the 2016 Jesuit GALA.

This year’s GALA took place on April 28, raising more than $1.2 million to provide vital support for Jesuit ministries and the work of the USA Northeast Province. The evening provided a special opportunity to highlight \textit{magis}—choosing the greater good in all we do—and to recognize Gloria and Chuck Clough, who were presented with the \textit{Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam} Award.

Gloria and Chuck have devoted decades of their lives to serving others. As an ordained deacon at Holy Family Parish in Concord, Mass., Chuck was inspired by the Jesuits he encountered at Boston College and has served as a trustee of the college since 1993. Gloria, a graduate of Weston Jesuit School of Theology, started her career as a pediatric nurse and went on to establish the first chaplaincy program at Emerson Hospital.

“Gloria and Chuck embody the core Jesuit value of \textit{magis}—which means, greater—striving always to give greater service, greater thanks and greater love,” said Fr. John J. Cecero, SJ, provincial of the USA Northeast Province.

Three highlight speakers shared reflections on their lives as Jesuits living in service of others. Jesuit Fathers Bill Russell, SJ, and Joseph O’Keefe, SJ, along with Pat Nolan, SJ, spoke about three stages of Jesuit life. Nolan reflected on his call to the Society and shared wonderful details about his two years serving at Yap Catholic High School in Micronesia; Fr. Russell offered a vignette about the pride he felt when his father finally viewed him as a fully formed priest; and Fr. O’Keefe spoke about his ongoing journey as a Jesuit, including teaching for nearly three decades at Boston College.

Additional highlights included remarks by GALA chairs Cathy and Sean O’Neil, and Darlene Jordan, and recognition of Fr. Louis Grenier, SJ, who, this year, marked 80 years of service as a Jesuit.

“If Ignatius could see how the small company he founded nearly 500 years ago—this \textit{minima compania}—and its efforts to respond to the call of Christ would flourish through the work of so many Jesuits and lay partners, he would very likely be overwhelmed with gratitude,” said Fr. Cecero.

To view this year’s GALA video, which explains the concept of \textit{magis} and honors the Cloughs, visit www.JesuitsEast.org/Gala2016.
These thoughtful remarks from Dr. Linda LeMura, president of Le Moyne College, were presented at the Loyola Club Luncheon last year in Washington, D.C. Jesuit-educated alums and friends came to hear from the first woman lay president of a Jesuit institution of higher education in the world. They were treated to a first-rate talk and the opportunity for lively discussion with others who share a common bond of Jesuit education and Ignatian spirituality.

For the past three years, the Loyola Club of Washington, D.C., has been bringing together the professional community of Jesuit colleagues and alumni for food, fellowship and inspiration drawn from St. Ignatius. Speakers include Jesuits from a variety of ministries as well as lay leaders. While there are Loyola Clubs in cities across the United States, it was Jeff Paravano, a graduate of John Carroll University in Cleveland, who jump-started the D.C. Club when he moved to our nation’s capital. As managing partner of Baker Hostetler, he has utilized his network to make each luncheon a full house and a sure success.

Led by a committee of volunteers, and now chaired by Tracey Primrose of the Jesuit Conference, the gatherings are held three times a year. Each lunch offers ways for attendees to apply Jesuit Spirituality in their everyday lives and to use it as a means to strengthen communities. Recent topics have included: Ignatian Leadership in the Modern World, How Will You Measure Your Life? and The Pope Francis Effect on Jesuit Education.

Featured Speakers of the Loyola Club Luncheon Series have included:

- **CHRIS LOWNey**, Writer, public speaker and leadership consultant
- **WILLIAM WHITAKER**, Founding President of Washington Jesuit Academy
- **FR. PAT CONROY, SJ**, Chaplain to the US House of Representatives
- **DR. JOHN BORELLI**, Professor, Georgetown University
- **RICHARD KELLY, JR.,** Chairman of the Board, Jesuit Refugee Service
- **FR. TIMOTHY KESICKI, SJ**, President, Jesuit Conference
- **FR. JOSEPH LINGAN, SJ**, Rector, Georgetown University
- **FR. STEVEN PLANNING, SJ**, President, Gonzaga College High School
- **DR. LINDA LEMURA**, President, LeMoyne College
- **FR. KEVIN O’BRIEN, SJ**, Former VP of Campus Ministry, Georgetown University
- **FR. SCOTT PILARZ, SJ**, President, Georgetown Prep
- **FR. ROBERT M. HUSSEY, SJ**, Provincial, Maryland Province Jesuits (Jan. 2017)

Unsurprisingly, Washington, D.C., is home to graduates from each of the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States and many of the 70 Jesuit high schools and middle schools.

For more information about attending a luncheon, visit www.LoyolaDC.org

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Ite, inflammate omnia.

“Go, set the world on fire.”

St. Ignatius often ended his letters to Jesuits going to the missions with this phrase.

Come join us and be a part of Our Mission!

Fr. Thomas McMurray, SJ, distributes communion at a student Mass at the Nativity School of Worcester.