



Winter 2023

JESUITS WEST

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Dear Friends,

Do you sometimes feel as if time is flying by faster with each passing year? It is hard for me to believe that it has been almost six months since our cover photo was taken at a gathering of more than 200 Jesuits and partners in ministry at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in Los Angeles.

We came together as a province to talk and pray about everything we had heard and experienced since Jesuits West started our apostolic planning process in the summer of 2022. Those who attended our LMU meeting represented 1,000 other partners and Jesuits who had prayerfully considered two important questions: Where is the Spirit moving in your work or ministry? And where is the Spirit inviting us to go as a province?

For me, the Spirit is in the people of Jesuits West. People who see each other deeply, people who enter into meaningful relationships, people who commit themselves to show the face of Christ to our wounded brothers and sisters. Even when I asked our group to pose for a photo, they did so with laughter and smiles, which is saying a lot for a couple hundred people on their way to dinner. What I remember most about our gathering in June is how much joy I felt in our being together.

That joy is a powerful sign of the work of the Spirit in our province. Look no further than BJ and Bebe Cassin, who have been married for more than 60 years and are profiled on page 9. Both are passionate about education, and BJ tells the story of how his mother fought to attend high school rather than go to work in a textile mill like her four older sisters. Through the Cassin Educational Initiative Foundation, the couple has provided start-up funds for 25 Cristo Rey schools to level the playing field for students who would not otherwise be able to afford a college preparatory, Catholic education.

Frs. Chi and Chu Ngo are profiled on page 24. Jesuits refer to each other as "brothers," but in the case of the Ngos, they are blood brothers with a compelling story of how their faith helped them overcome early tragedy. You can find them working and living in community together at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos, California.

On page 2, you will find our annual jubilarian feature where we ask Jesuits celebrating significant anniversaries to write about the greatest grace of their Jesuit vocation. From 93 years young Fr. Jim Torrens, SJ, who has been a member of the Society of Jesus for 75 years, to a relative newcomer like Fr. Chris Weekly, SJ, who is celebrating the 25th anniversary of his ordination, we hear from a wide range of Jesuits. In reading their reflections, I can't help but think of the well-known line from the poem by Mary Oliver: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

I firmly believe that question is answered by the Spirit laboring through the people of Jesuits West.

I need to mention that none of our work would be possible without you, and I thank you for everything you do to sustain our mission. As we look forward to the celebration of Christ coming into the world poor and humble, please know of my prayers for each of you and my wish that you have a happy and holy Christmas season.

Gratefully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Carroll, SJ". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Sean Carroll, SJ
Provincial, Jesuits West

JESUITS WEST

Winter 2023

JESUITS WEST MAGAZINE

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CELEBRATING OUR JUBILARIANS

Congratulations to our Jesuits West jubilarians who are celebrating special anniversaries this year. We offer prayers of thanksgiving for their service, which has spanned not only across the western U.S., but across the country and the world.

The Jesuits are a missionary order, and even those jubilarians who reside at the province's health care/retirement community in Los Gatos, California, have one final mission: to pray. They pray for the Church, for the Society of Jesus, for our suffering brothers and sisters, and for our benefactors. Here, some of this year's jubilarians reflect on the greatest grace of their Jesuit vocation.



**Fr. James
TORRENS, SJ**
75 Years in the Society

Here am I, back to Los Gatos, California, 75 years after August 14, 1948, when the novice master, Francis Seeliger, SJ, received some 40 of us, either fresh from high

school, including me, or back from war.

After the grape harvest, our long retreat began, with several times of preaching a day for 30 days by Fr. Seeliger and prayer times for us. Bit by bit, the Spiritual Exercises became the grace of my life.

This workout of the spirit is in four stages, or weeks. The First Week is anchored in basics: What history of choices do we have before God? The Second Week is full. We hear the Call of the King to a role in shaping God's world. The Incarnation, a contemplative moment, awakens us to our Lord's humanity. The Two Standards exposes the tactics of our headlong enemy and invites a response.

Weeks Three and Four help us enter the Passion and death of Jesus; first, his human abasement and then with Jesus arising to console his holy mother and then arouse the apostles.

A finale, the Contemplation for Obtaining Love, sweeps up the whole of creation and draws us forcefully into the dynamics of the love of God.

So how could any workout, any time spent running the trails, have had a deeper role in my 75 Jesuit years?

Fr. Torrens prays for the Church and the Society at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos, California.



**Fr. Raymond
ALLENDER, SJ**
60 Years in the Society

The Society of Jesus has shaped who I am today and who I have been. As I look at my life as a Jesuit, there are two graces that really stand out.

One is that I have had a wonderful opportunity to get close to God through the Gospels, the Spiritual Exercises, community life, my Jesuit brothers and my instructors. They have shaped me and given me access to get closer to who God is.

The other grace, and it's just as equal, is that I have been able to serve the people of God. Thirty-two years in Jesuit secondary education and 14 years in Jesuit parish life have been tremendous blessings. I have been able to get to know people and enter into their lives, and it has been a priceless gift that God has given me.

So, my Jesuit life has meant being able to get close to God and close to others, and I thank God for that.

Fr. Allender prays for the Church and the Society at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos, California.

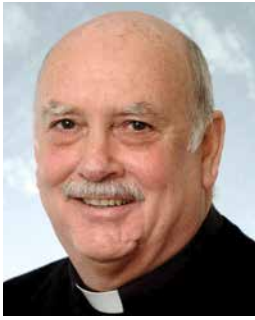


**Fr. Dick
CASE, SJ**
60 Years in the Society

As I entered the Society of Jesus some 60 years ago, I kept thinking about what it would mean to me to become a Jesuit. After so many years of ministry in the Society,

I keep thinking that the grace that I experienced was the many people that I have been privileged to know and work with and work for. God has been good to me over the years.

Fr. Case is assistant superior at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center, where he prays for the Church and the Society of Jesus.



**Fr. Kevin
CLARKE, SJ**

60 Years in the Society
50 Years in the Priesthood

Gratitude has always been my mantra. I am grateful for and abundantly blessed by my vocation, my family, my work and

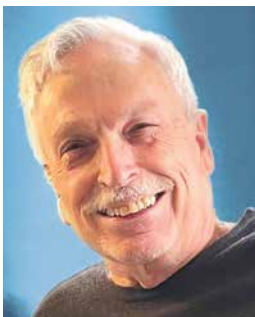
the people along the way who have enriched my life. With God as my companion, I have all I need.

When I entered the Jesuit novitiate in Sheridan, Oregon, after three years at Gonzaga, I wasn't sure I would stay. However, after the long retreat, I knew the Jesuits was where God wanted me. I have always been confirmed in this vocation even though there have been struggles and difficult times; I have grown from them and know this is where I belong.

I have been a biology teacher, a pastor and a hospital chaplain. In all these situations I found listening to another person to be life-giving. It is not a passive activity but one that requires active involvement. Questions lead to deeper understanding and the ability to help and really make a difference.

People who have entered my life are still with me even though I don't have contact with them. I pray for them and thank them for all they have given me—support, love and friendship. My life is full. I am grateful for my 60 years as a Jesuit.

Fr. Clarke is a pastoral minister at Providence Portland Medical Center.



**Fr. James
HARBAUGH, SJ**

60 Years in the Society

In my years as a Jesuit, I have lived and worked in different provinces, different states and different ministries. But what in the end was central to all of it was that

for two-thirds of those years, I was an active member of 12-step programs.

Fr. Harbaugh is a writer and a pastoral minister in the Diocese of Oakland, California.



**Fr. Allan
DECK, SJ**

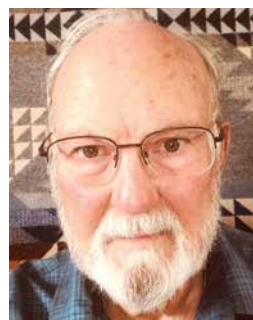
60 Years in the Society

The image that comes to mind when I consider the graces I've received as a Jesuit over these past 60 years is a firehose endlessly spewing out graces.

Sometimes I have to work against feeling guilty about the lasting and intense joy that being a Jesuit has meant for me all these years in a world where there is plenty of suffering, meaninglessness and toxicity. God gave me a loving family (for the most part gone ahead of me now), devoted and talented Jesuit brothers, and a culturally diverse group of loving friends, as well as purposeful and stimulating work assignments.

A special blessing for me has been my family's Spanish/English bilingualism and biculturalism. This prepared me for countless life-giving opportunities in ministry to plumb the depths of my humanity and that of others. I learned so much, especially from the Mexican working-class people. I am amazed by their deep faith, respect and love for me as a fellow human being and Jesuit priest. For me this is a never-ending source of gratitude.

Fr. Deck is a distinguished scholar of pastoral theology at Loyola Marymount University and provincial assistant for spiritual ministries for the Jesuits West Province.



**Fr. John
MORTON, SJ**

60 Years in the Society

Divine providence has opened door after door for me my whole life, right up to this present moment.

The biggest grace of my years in the Society has been the privilege

of living among the Native peoples of Alaska, Canada and the Northwest. They have consistently welcomed and mentored and challenged me.

I have been helped and inspired over the years by "older brother" Jesuits in this same calling, notably: Dominic Doyle, Jake Spills, Barney McMeel, Frank Fallert, Tom Connolly, Barney Mayhew and Pat Twohy.

Fr. Morton is pastor of several parishes on the Colville Reservation in north central Washington.



Fr. Thomas PROVINSAL, SJ

60 Years in the Society

The greatest grace of my Jesuit sojourn is to be a priest granted by Christ. Within that is the gift of discernment from Ignatius.

I have lived my life as a priest among the Yup'ik people by the Bering Sea 500 miles due west of Anchorage and 350 miles from the Kamchatka Peninsula of far east Russia.

They physically bordered no other culture west and the Athabascan people to the east. Their Aleut cousins were to the south and their Inupiaq brothers and sisters to the north. They are a rare and precious family hidden as treasure for many thousands of years.

I have spent my life as a priest expecting to be moved out as not being up to snuff; it has been a privilege not granted to many to be placed here.

I have learned the value of a name, which has helped me value the name of Jesus.

Fr. Provinsal is a pastoral minister in Tununak, Nightmute and Toksook Bay in Alaska.



Fr. Joseph SPIELER, SJ

60 Years in the Society

What could capture the grace and tremendous joy of my 60 years in this company called the Jesuits?

I so gratefully include the treasured friendships of fellow Jesuits in ministry at every stage. I also must mention the joy of pastoral service with lay men and women in our common call to labor in the service of faith and the promotion of justice. And now I am thankful for the chance to accompany migrant families at the Mexican border at the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Arizona/Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

But the greatest grace has been the presence of God in my heart all along the way. With gratitude and awe, I humbly identify with the words of Pedro Arrupe:

More than ever I find myself in the hands of God. This is what I have wanted all my life from my youth. But now there is a difference. The initiative is entirely with God.

It is indeed a profound spiritual experience to know and feel myself so totally in God's hands.

Fr. Spieler is a pastoral minister at the Kino Border Initiative.

OTHER JESUITS CELEBRATING JUBILEES THIS YEAR

75 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY

Fr. Augusto Berrio, SJ
Fr. Thomas G. Williams, SJ

70 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY

Fr. Gerard E. Chapdelaine, SJ
Br. Justin A. DeChance, SJ
Bishop Carlos A. Sevilla, SJ

60 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY

Fr. Thomas A. Colgan, SJ
Fr. Robert G. Dolan, SJ
Fr. Michael J. Fitzpatrick, SJ
Fr. Edwin B. Harris, SJ
Fr. Anastacio S. Rivera, SJ
Fr. William D. Vogel, SJ
Fr. George J. Max Oliva, SJ

50 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY

Fr. William M. Watson, SJ

25 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY

Fr. Sean T. Dempsey, SJ
Fr. Thao N. Nguyen, SJ

60 YEARS IN THE PRIESTHOOD

Fr. Augusto Berrio, SJ
Fr. L. Paul Fitterer, SJ

50 YEARS IN THE PRIESTHOOD

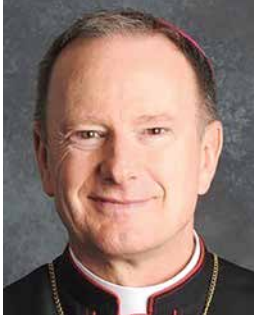
Fr. James H. Keene, SJ
Fr. John P. Mossi, SJ
Fr. Michael E. Moynahan, SJ
Fr. William H. Muller, SJ
Fr. Mario J. Prietto, SJ
Fr. Edward A. Reese, SJ
Fr. Patrick J. Reuse, SJ

25 YEARS IN THE PRIESTHOOD

Fr. Michael T. Castori, SJ
Fr. Gregory D. Vance, SJ

IN LOVING MEMORY

Fr. Patrick B. O'Leary, SJ
(75 Years in the Society)



Bishop Michael BARBER, SJ

50 Years in the Society
10 Years as Bishop of Oakland

I am deeply grateful to God for the honor and privilege to serve as a member of the same order as St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Francis

Xavier, an order founded “for the defense and spread of the Catholic faith.”

God has loved me through so many people I’ve met along the way. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of the priesthood, exercised in the Society of Jesus. With St. Paul I can say: “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.”

Bishop Barber serves as the bishop of the Diocese of Oakland, California.



Fr. Patrick CONROY, SJ

50 Years in the Society

As a young boy I wanted to become a lawyer, like my dad. An interest in politics emerged in high school. Soon my goal was to be a U.S. senator. After college that

interest led me to Gonzaga for law school.

There I met Jesuits who liberated my religious imagination. They were happy in their work, full of joy, and impressive in personality and abilities. If they could, so I could live a happy life as a Jesuit. I was particularly inspired by those working in campus ministry and Native ministry.

In 50 years, God, through the Jesuits, has remembered my bucket list. I have been a lawyer representing an Indian tribe and Salvadoran refugees in immigration courts. For five years I served on the Colville and Spokane Indian Reservations. I have been in Congress as chaplain of the House. I was a campus minister for 15 years at Georgetown, Seattle University and Gonzaga.

My Jesuit life has placed me in the lives of many people from multiple walks of life, cultures and religions. I’m amazed by the beauty of our world and the drama of the human condition. Great graces, indeed.

Fr. Conroy is the minister at the Della Strada Jesuit Community in Spokane, Washington.



Fr. Tim GODFREY, SJ

50 Years in the Society

After 50 years, it is difficult to identify the one outstanding grace of my vocation; there have been so many. The wonderful Jesuits I have come to know and love over

the years, the opportunities for education and ministry that I have been given, the people I have worked with and those I have been privileged to serve—all these have been wonderful gifts that have brought me so many different blessings. However, I would say that the one sustaining grace that underlies all the others, and continues to deepen as I grow older, is the awareness of how faithful and loving God has been to me through the years.

On this anniversary, then, I am most grateful to God for his ongoing invitation to draw closer to him and for the opportunity to serve as a companion of Jesus by ministering with—and to—so many wonderful people as a priest and nurse.

Fr. Godfrey is an associate professor of nursing at the University of San Francisco’s extension in Orange County, California.



Fr. Lawrence HERRERA, SJ

50 Years in the Society

Without question, the most important experience I have had has been the encounter with the whole legacy of St. Ignatius of Loyola, spiritually, historically and

psychologically. An especially helpful experience was that of spending nine months or so in Spain with a chance to profit from the patrimony we have from a long history of our Spanish brothers’ study and research. Assisting others with the Spiritual Exercises has been a great grace for me as well.

Fr. Herrera is a teacher and spiritual director for the program for priestly formation at St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo, California.



Fr. Charles TILLEY, SJ

50 Years in the Society

The greatest gift I've received is to be a Companion of Jesus. I am forever blessed by that day when Fr. Anton "Sam" Renna, SJ, knew of my dilemma of whether

I should enter the Jesuits now or wait until after college. After thinking about it for three days, he told me, "Apply. If it is the will of the Holy Spirit, you will be accepted. If not, you will be deferred until after you've completed college." I entered the novitiate that fall. Trusting the Holy Spirit continues to be my North Star.

The Spirit has led me to a variety of ministries these past 50 years. I have gained far more from the people I've worked with than I ever could have imagined. They embody God's daily presence in our world. I am humbled by their faith, their trust and their love.

One of my greatest joys is to witness God's presence through the sacraments. Encountering the Lord through the inspirational times and the stressful times of life has indeed been a privilege. Our sacraments truly are the doors to the sacred love of God. How blessed we all are to be loved so generously by God!

Fr. Tilley is associate pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Phoenix.



Br. Jeffrey ALLEN, SJ

25 Years in the Society

What has been my greatest grace to date in my vocation? This is a tough question to answer. As a Jesuit brother for 25 years, there have been many graces. Some of my

greatest graces have been the Jesuit brothers I have known.

Another great grace would be the people I have had the honor to work with, such as the faculty, staff and students of Verbum Dei Jesuit High School in Los Angeles. I could go on listing the many people I have worked with through the years, but the list would be too long. Verbum Dei stands out because it is a Cristo Rey school, and I think this is one of the greatest missions the Jesuits have started in the U.S. in recent years, as they provide students with limited resources a work-focused college prep education. I now have another opportunity to work in that mission again at the new Cristo Rey school in Seattle.

Br. Allen is director of information technology at Cristo Rey Jesuit Seattle High School.



Fr. Fernando ÁLVAREZ LARA, SJ

25 Years in the Society

Among the many graces received thus far, I can say that a crucial one is that of gratitude for this call to follow Christ in the Society, *la Mínima Compañía*. Without our

way of proceeding, that has given me the opportunity to undergo the 30-day Spiritual Exercises twice, a deep and intimate relationship with Jesus to live out my faith in today's world would not have been possible.

As I continue to strive to be a man of the Exercises, I am grateful for all the accompaniment that I have received and been invited into in the form of diverse classroom settings, peoples and communities all over the world. Even though 25 years ago I entered a province, I find myself being missioned to form *communitas ad dispersionem* (a community in dispersion), still faithful to the One who initiated in me this desire to *amar y servir en todas las cosas* (to love and serve in all things).

Fr. Álvarez Lara is a professor of theology and religious studies at Regis University in Denver.





**Fr. Frank
BUCKLEY, SJ**

25 Years in the Society

My greatest grace in my Jesuit vocation has been being given the opportunity to work as a Jesuit priest and clinical psychologist with people on the periphery.

As a result of the apostolic planning meeting at Loyola Marymount University, I took the opportunity to re-read *Ignatian Humanism* and was struck by how Ignatius saw his ministry as talking to people about God. This has been my great privilege: to stand on the shoulders of giants and get to do the same thing in a plethora of ways.

When I wrote my doctoral dissertation years ago, I titled it "Flourishing on a Jesuit Campus." At the time, I could not have imagined the Jesuit campus I would land on would be Homeboy Industries on Bruno Street. This work has given me a life more beautiful than anything I could have imagined.

Fr. Buckley is a clinical psychologist at Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles.



**Fr. Trung
PHAM, SJ**

25 Years in the Society

God is active and full of surprises. I found my Jesuit vocation because of the immigrant experience. I became a Jesuit artist because of the Spiritual

Exercises and the support of the formation director. My art teaching profession came during the height of Jesuit leadership and collaboration. My passion for Ignatian spirituality has led me to become a national assistant chaplain of the Eucharistic Youth Movement. I discovered my love of marathon running from a Jesuit's inspiration and recommendation.

These are some snapshots of my amazing Jesuit life so far, and I would not have become who I am and unlocked my potential, gifts and talents without the Jesuit formation and God's abundant graces. Twenty-five years in the Society are characterized by Jesuit care and God's patience. I am indebtedly grateful for everything God has given me, including chances to respond to his love with my whole heart.

Fr. Pham is an associate professor of visual arts at Seattle University.



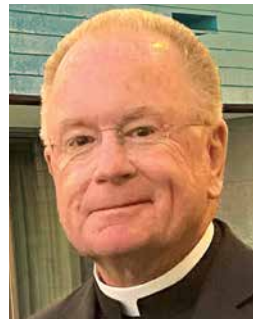
**Fr. Salvatore
TASSONE, SJ**

60 Years in the Priesthood

I'm not sure what the greatest grace is that I have received in my Jesuit life. But a long period of God's grace has been with me in various ways during my 47

years of teaching the New Testament here at Santa Clara University and in the years of my preparation for that. I am very grateful for my teachers in the Society in the various periods of my training and studies. I am also grateful for my brother Jesuits in those years, for my family, for colleagues and friends here at SCU, and also for those graces received with my students in my years of teaching.

Fr. Tassone is professor emeritus of religious studies at Santa Clara University.



**Fr. Stephen
BARBER, SJ**

25 Years in the Priesthood

"Believe what you read. Teach what you believe. Practice what you teach." This episcopal instruction is given to men in the Rite of Ordination to the Order of

Deacon, charging them with a particular responsibility. It is an invitation that reveals the essential reciprocity between Jesus and the deacon.

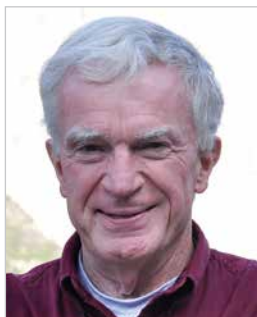
My priesthood reflects my desire to accept this invitation. Gratitude to God, in his son Jesus alone remains. Lifers at San Quentin State Prison guided my first steps. Some of those men remain there. Walking with six men to their execution haunts me to this day. Calvary. Indelible memories. Final prayerful conversations becoming eulogies. Sharing supper with the families of their murder victims.

"Believe the prayers of the liturgy. Proclaim the holy Gospel with clarity and compassion. Listen and walk." I spoke these words in a homily on the anniversary of my ordination. In our priesthood, we are invited to pray publicly on behalf of the faithful, and the essential connection between the priest and the faithful must be acknowledged and felt when the prayers of the liturgy are heard. Folks deserve to know you actually believe in the prayers they hear.

The exemplary companionship of my brother Jesuit priests sustains like oxygen. *Laus Deo, Semper!* Our Lady, Queen of the Society of Jesus, pray for us!

Fr. Barber is the parochial vicar of the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland, California.

Jubilarians



**Fr. George
GRIENER, SJ**
50 Years in the Priesthood

I entered the Society of Jesus in the summer of 1960, just as preparations were underway for the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

This epochal event in the life of the Church reframed our understanding of ourselves as the people of God; opened the door to full collaboration of lay, clerical and religious Christians in the call of the Gospel; asked religious communities to return to the sources to discern their contemporary mission and to renew their spirituality; reshaped training of ministers in the Church; renewed awareness of the centrality of sacred Scripture; and allowed for the appreciation of the diversity of the world's cultures and languages.

It was serendipitous that my life as a Jesuit was shaped from the very beginning by the unfolding of this Council.

Fr. Griener is professor emeritus of historical and systematic theology at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University.



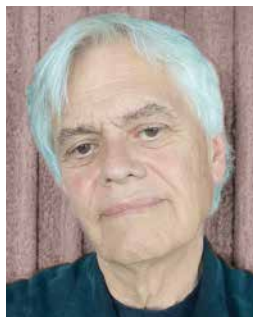
**Fr. Michael
BAYARD, SJ**
25 Years in the Priesthood

At the end of any day, I am filled with much gratitude for the opportunity to accompany and share the love, mercy, compassion and kindness of our companion, Jesus,

in a myriad of sacramental moments, especially with those whom I was missioned to serve over these last 25 years: Gesu Parish parishioners in Milwaukee; Seattle University students, alumni, faculty and staff; my own brothers in the Jesuits West Province; and most recently the many individuals and families at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vancouver, Washington.

It is also gratitude that has buoyed my spirit during difficult and challenging days, as well as the realization that I do not do this work alone. I am sent on mission with many generous, kind and talented men. How fortunate we are to work together to build God's kingdom! What a blessing!

Fr. Bayard is the parish priest at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vancouver, Washington.



**Fr. Mark
TORRES, SJ**
25 Years in the Priesthood

The greatest grace in my life as a Jesuit? I continue to be awed and surprised by this mysterious happening: my life as a Jesuit. And I join with so many other Jesuit

brothers who have shared with me their feeling of joy and gratitude for it all.

So many wonderful adventures during these years, so many graced awakenings. From entrance day at the novitiate accompanied by my parents until now—ministering at Homeboy Industries and living at Casa Luis Espinal—with everything in between.

I heard an older Jesuit once say about life, "It's all grace." I'm older now too and I believe that.

The meditation on God's love in the Fourth Week of the Exercises opens the heart to finding God in all things. God is always walking with us and laboring for us, the giving of God's self intimately to each of us, to me.

Thank you, Ignatius, and thank you to all Jesuits past and present for this greatest gift.

Fr. Torres is a counselor at Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles.



**Fr. Christopher
WEEKLY, SJ**
25 Years in the Priesthood

For most of my ordained Jesuit life, I have been lucky to serve in several of our parishes. In each of these communities, it has been a privilege to walk alongside

individuals and families in the unfurling seasons of their lives. I remember so many sacramental moments: baptisms and first Communions, marriages celebrated, graduation days marked, poignant anointings, healing reconciliations, and the bittersweet embrace of funerals and burials. For all the years of laughter and tears shared over kitchen tables and in parish halls, I am grateful.

All along the way I have felt so lucky to have found a vocational path that has never left me doubting or wondering if God was fooling with me. During challenging times, Christ has felt near and has given me good companions. And on the good days, I feel (in the words of the old hymn) "lost in wonder, love and praise."

Fr. Weekly is provincial assistant for pastoral ministries for the Jesuits West Province.

BEBE AND BJ CASSIN: HONORING THE PAST BY INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

By Tracey Primrose

Bebe and BJ Cassin have been married for 63 years. They are passionate about each other, about their children and grandchildren, and about one deeply shared conviction: Students from economically challenged communities deserve the same educational opportunities as children from privileged backgrounds. The Cassins have devoted decades to this mission, the seed of which was planted more than a century ago.

BJ (Brendan Joseph) Cassin was born 30 miles outside of Boston in Lowell, Massachusetts, an industrial city known for its textile mills and hardworking blue-collar families. In the early part of the 20th century, lowly paid teenage girls were the mills' secret weapon. The "mill girls" worked long, tedious hours operating loud, dangerous machines, and when BJ Cassin's mother, Irene, was only 13, she was about to join their ranks. But then something momentous happened, which would change not only Irene's life but the lives of generations of students to follow.

Irene's four older sisters, all mill girls, threatened to go on strike if their father did not allow Irene, the youngest daughter, to go to high school. The sisters prevailed, and Irene earned a high school degree. She later married Joe Cassin, who managed a local furniture store, and together they raised BJ and his older brother, Joseph, in Lowell.

Education was everything to the Cassin family. Both boys went to the local Xaverian Brothers Catholic high school. At 18, Joseph entered the Xaverians and went on to earn two master's degrees and a Ph.D. A high school teacher and college professor, he stayed in religious life for 22 years before leaving to marry and raise a family. BJ would attend Holy Cross, the Jesuit college about an hour away in Worcester. His yearly tuition, including room and board, was \$950, which was a stretch for his parents because there was no financial aid or grants.

The summer after his freshman year at Holy Cross, BJ had an experience that still brings a smile seven decades later. An accomplished piano player, he was selected to join a band that spent the summer of 1951 touring



BJ and Bebe Cassin

Europe, playing at Army posts in close proximity to Iron Curtain countries. "At that point, I had been to Boston twice and New York once. It was life changing," he says.

BJ entered the Marine Corps after graduating from Holy Cross in 1955. He went to "finishing school" at Quantico, served at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, and was deployed to Japan and Okinawa for two years. When he received his orders to report as security officer at Naval Air Station Alameda, he had no idea where that was. A fellow officer told him, "San Francisco. You're a lucky son of a gun."

BJ could not imagine how prescient that remark would be. Soon after arriving in the Bay Area, he met Bebe (Isabelle Beryl Shute), a United Airlines flight attendant living with two other friends in San Francisco's Marina District. She had been a teacher for a few years but got her wings to see the world. BJ became friends with the three roommates, but he was falling hard for Bebe and decided one Christmas to go for broke. "She was on a ladder hanging mistletoe, and I grabbed her leg and looked up at her and said, 'I want you to be the mother of my children.' It was now or never. I couldn't hold back anymore."

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Donor Profile *continues*



The Cassins on their wedding day in 1960

The gamble paid off, and the young couple were married six months later in 1960 at the Carmel Mission. In those days, flight attendants had to be single, so Bebe left United and resumed her teaching career while BJ worked in sales for an oil company. Before long, Bebe would give up teaching again as the family quickly expanded with the addition of Joe, Rob, Kelley, Jonathan and Cate.

BJ left the oil business and took a position with a paper company and then was hired as a vice president of market research and development for Memorex, which was IBM's first computer tape competitor. Nearly half of the computer tape was damaged in the manufacturing process, and one of BJ's first projects was to figure out what to do with the rejected tape. The answer: high quality audio tape. Baby boomers will remember Ella Fitzgerald's iconic, glass-shattering Memorex television commercials. "Is it live or is it Memorex?"

When BJ proposed that the company deploy a new technology to revolutionize data storage, higher ups at Memorex passed on the idea, so he and a few partners co-founded Xidex, which grew to be a Fortune 500 company.

BJ, though, "loves working on new stuff," so he left Xidex in 1979 to invest in venture capital start-ups. His timing was spot on. "I started being successful in venture capital when personal computers really started taking off. And because of my background with Xidex, I had a pretty

good idea where that industry was going." BJ went on to make key investments in a number of highly successful technology companies.

From the very beginning, the Cassins were committed to using their resources to focus on a shared commitment—leveling the playing field. They began by providing scholarships to local students in need at St. Francis High School, attended by four of their children, and at Santa Clara University, where daughter Cate, "the caboose," earned her degree.

Although giving individual scholarships was rewarding, BJ, true to form, wanted to find a way to leverage his dollars. So, in 2000, when he was asked to tour an innovative Catholic high school for economically disadvantaged students in Chicago, he and Cate jumped on a plane. Cristo Rey Jesuit High School's concept was simple but brilliant: combine rigorous academics and a corporate work study program to equip students with practical business skills and the means to fund their college preparatory educations. BJ says, "The experience blew my socks off. The cartoon light bulb went off over my head. This was something we could franchise."

In 2000, BJ and Bebe established the Cassin Educational Initiative Foundation with a \$22 million gift. The foundation has helped support and launch 25 Cristo Rey high schools and 34 NativityMiguel middle schools in underserved communities nationwide. Today, there are 40 Cristo Rey high schools and 60 NativityMiguel middle schools. The experience of going to the opening of a new school has never failed to give them goose bumps, BJ says.

Because of his background in venture capital, BJ knows how important early money is, and he is proud to say that following his foundation's investment in the Cristo Rey Network, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation made gifts totaling more than \$15 million.

Father Peter Pabst, SJ, chancellor and founding president of Cristo Rey San José Jesuit High School in East San Jose, California, is a close friend and collaborator of the Cassins. He says, "BJ is the type of person—and he'll say this himself—who doesn't really invest in projects; he invests in people. And so, he's investing in our students, investing in our staff, and investing in all of those who are part of boards of the schools and the families. That investment is really about people and people achieving their full potential. It has been marvelous to watch that kind of leadership."

In 2015, BJ and two partners saw an opportunity to replicate the success of the Cristo Rey Network in tax credit states, where vouchers can be used in private schools; they co-founded the Drexel Fund (named after St. Katharine Drexel) to do just that. The fund invests in the growth of high quality, financially sustainable networks of faith-based and other private schools in underserved communities. In the last eight years, the partners have raised \$50 million and opened 70 schools.

BJ and Bebe have been generous donors to both Jesuit works and to the Jesuits West Province, where BJ has served on the province's investment committee for many years.

BJ says that he and Bebe have been blessed. Theirs is a close family, where everyone looks out for each other. During the pandemic, many children and grandchildren camped out together at what BJ jokingly referred to as "Cassin Central," their Bay Area home. The oldest of their 11 grandchildren just got married, and all five children live nearby.

In conversation, BJ is quick to mention the work of the Holy Spirit. It came up when he talked about not being able to pinpoint Alameda on a map and how providential that posting would be because he would meet the beautiful young woman who would share his life. And he talked about the Holy Spirit again in terms of the life-giving work he and Bebe have been doing to create educational opportunities for students at the margins of society.



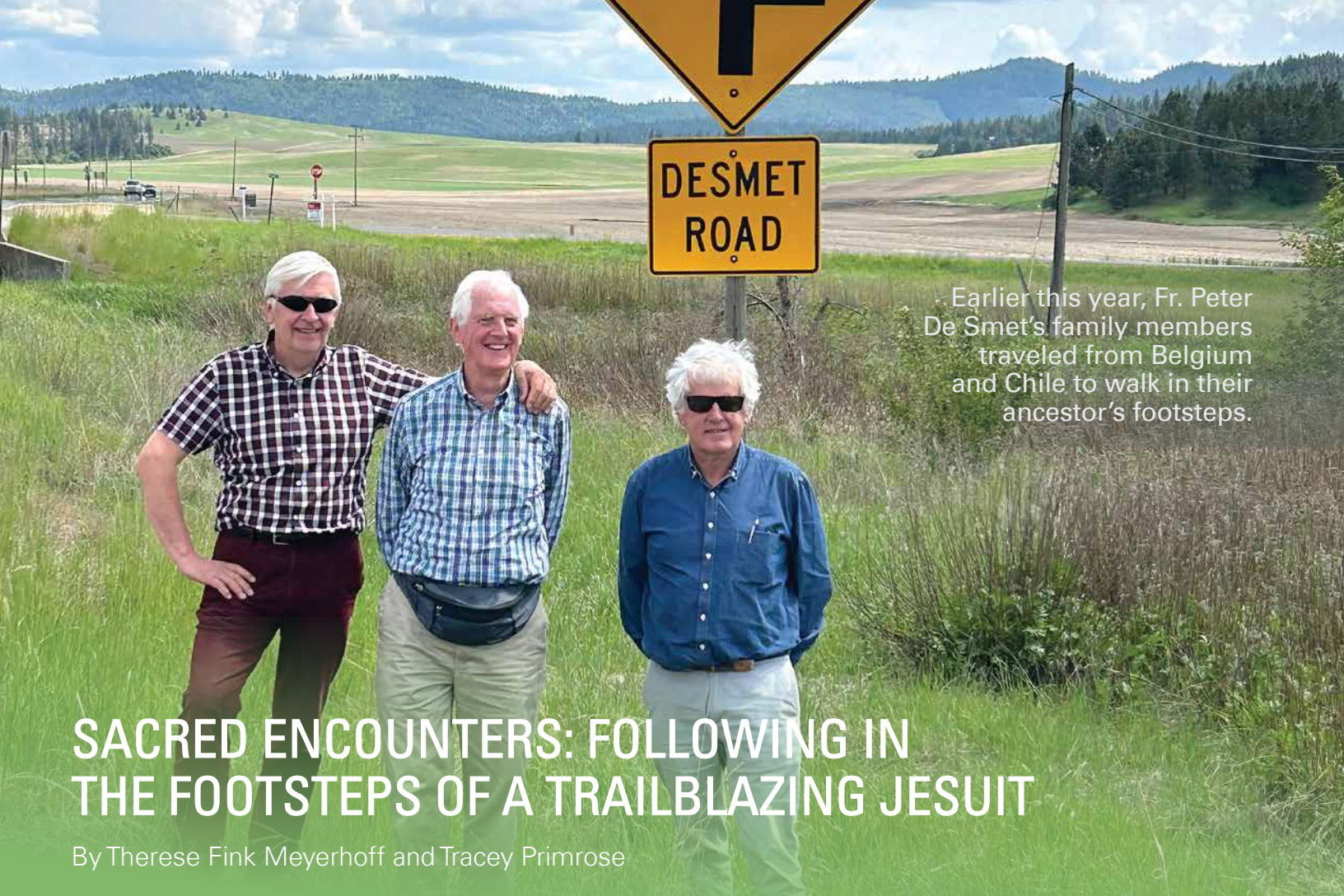
BJ Cassin and John A. Sobrato at a groundbreaking ceremony with Cristo Rey San José Jesuit High School students

"I know education changes lives. It changed the life of both my brother and me as we were the first in our family to graduate from college. If we could add up the number of lives that we have hopefully touched because of education, it's probably a pretty good number. And that's not a bad scorecard."

Somewhere in heaven, the mills girls are cheering. ■



A recent family photo



Earlier this year, Fr. Peter De Smet's family members traveled from Belgium and Chile to walk in their ancestor's footsteps.

SACRED ENCOUNTERS: FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF A TRAILBLAZING JESUIT

By Therese Fink Meyerhoff and Tracey Primrose

Henry Nolf grew up in Belgium hearing stories of Father Peter J. De Smet. Fr. De Smet was a renowned Jesuit missionary whose impact is still felt a century and a half after his death, but Henry's stories don't come from history books; they were family lore. Fr. De Smet is Henry's four-times great uncle.

Fr. De Smet was born in Flanders, now Belgium, on January 30, 1801. With the express intent of becoming a missionary, he immigrated to the United States at 19 and entered the Jesuit novitiate in Maryland. He was among the seven Jesuit novices who accompanied two priests, three brothers and six enslaved people to establish the Missouri Mission in St. Louis in 1823. He died May 23, 1873.

During the 50 years between his arrival in St. Louis and his death, Fr. De Smet traveled extensively throughout the American West, founding missions among Indigenous people. He gained a reputation as a peacemaker who sought to protect the rights of Indigenous people. When he was not journeying as a missionary, he was serving at St. Louis College, the Jesuit-run school that became Saint Louis University in 1832.

Between 1833 and 1872, Fr. De Smet traveled across the Atlantic numerous times, recruiting both Jesuits and donations to support his missions and Jesuit colleges from Ohio to the Pacific.

Despite this peripatetic life, Fr. De Smet managed to keep in close contact with his family in Belgium. The family has saved mementos, including letters and crucifixes, from their famous relative and has passed on his memory from generation to generation.

"From the day we were born, we heard about him," Henry said. "He is a prominent figure in the family, and my parents and grandparents told a lot of stories about him. So, my cousins and I always wanted to make this trip to understand a little bit about what he has done."

"This trip" Henry and his cousins wanted to make was to the United States, a pilgrimage of sorts timed to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Fr. De Smet's death. Henry and his wife, Claude, would visit St. Louis—Fr. De Smet's home base—before linking up with additional family members in Montana and Idaho.



Henry Nolf examines the original headstone from Fr. De Smet's grave.

About a year before his planned trip, Henry reached out to De Smet Jesuit High School in St. Louis County, which connected him with Dr. David Miros at the Jesuit Archives & Research Center (JARC). Dr. Miros helped to craft an all-things-De Smet itinerary for the Nolfs, recruiting a stellar escort, Father Frank Reale, SJ, former provincial of the Missouri Province.

First on the itinerary: Sunday Mass with Fr. Reale at the Shrine of St. Joseph in downtown St. Louis. Established by the Jesuits and dedicated in 1846, the church is a historic landmark, recognized by the Vatican as the site of one of the two miracles required for the canonization of Jesuit Peter Claver. Fr. De Smet is known to have celebrated Mass at St. Joseph's, including presiding at the dedication of the expanded Romanesque structure in 1866.

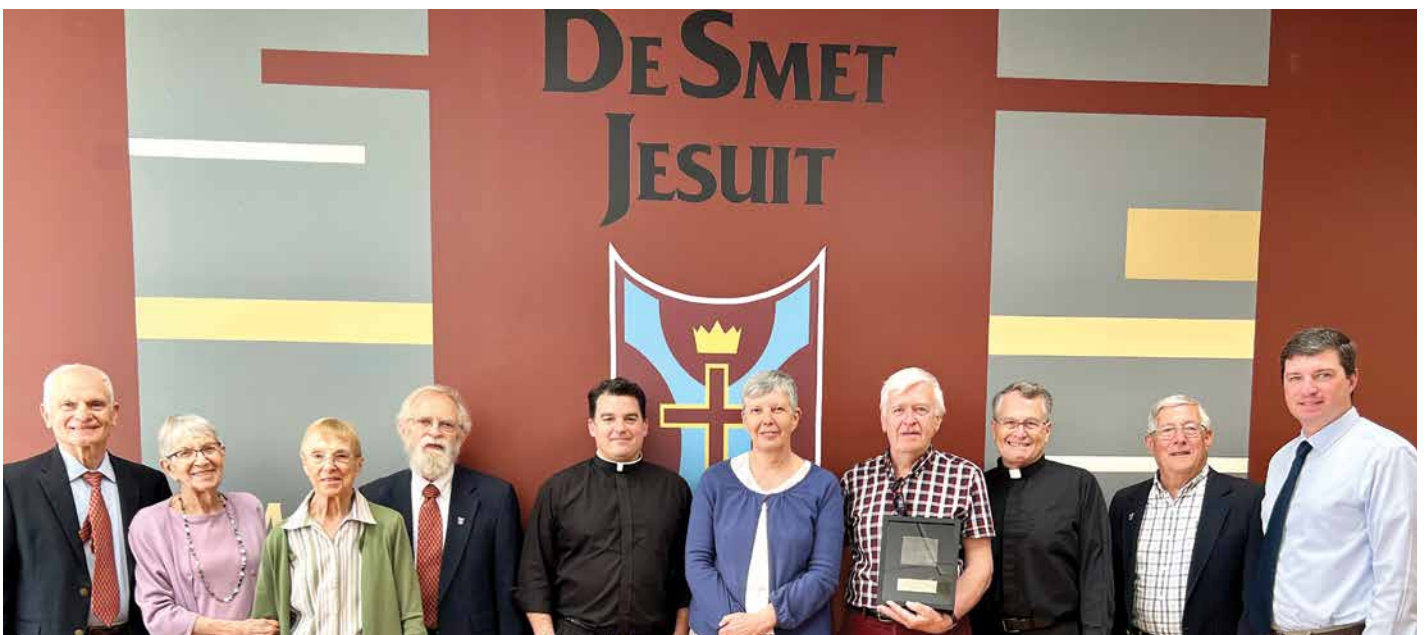
Following lunch, Fr. Reale and Dr. Miros brought the Nolfs to the Saint Louis University Museum of Art, where Father David Suwalsky, SJ, gave them a personal tour. Fr. Suwalsky, now the vice president for mission and identity at Saint Louis University, in 2003 oversaw the design of the museum, which includes a substantial section devoted to Fr. De Smet. He showed off memorabilia ranging from two priceless globes that Fr. De Smet acquired during one of his European trips to his original headstone.

The next day, Henry and Claude visited De Smet Jesuit High School, where President Father Ronnie O'Dwyer, SJ, presided at a Mass of Remembrance for the school's namesake. Fr. O'Dwyer presented Henry with framed floorboards from the Old St. Ferdinand Shrine in Florissant, Missouri, where Fr. De Smet lay prostrate when he was ordained a priest. After touring the high school, Henry and Claude were escorted to Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis, where Fr. De Smet's remains were transferred in 2003.

Henry and Claude later visited the Old St. Ferdinand Shrine, where they were able to see additional memorabilia and a room where Fr. De Smet stayed. Their final stop was at the JARC, where they viewed maps of the West that Fr. De Smet drew during his travels. As a gesture of appreciation, the Nolfs donated a letter that Fr. De Smet wrote to his family in 1845.

And then, just as Fr. De Smet had done, his family headed West.

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The Nolfs were honored at the high school named for Fr. De Smet in St. Louis.

Sacred Encounters *continues*

Against the backdrop of the breathtaking Bitterroot and Sapphire Mountains stands historic St. Mary's Mission in Stevensville, Montana, the first Western stop on the De Smet family's itinerary. Henry and Claude were joined by four other family members for a tour of the state's first church, established in 1841 by Fr. De Smet and his companions.

St. Mary's history actually began in 1831, when a delegation of Bitterroot Salish and neighboring Nez Perce tribes set out on a 1,600-mile journey from present-day Montana to St. Louis. They had heard about the "Great Mass" from Iroquois who had converted to Catholicism and were determined to find the men they called "Black Robes" and bring them back to their people. Three times their mission failed because members of the expedition fell ill or were massacred while passing through rival territory. On the fourth try, the Salish found their Black Robe, Fr. De Smet. And on May 24, 2023, 182 years after Fr. De Smet first came to this wild and rugged landscape, six family members stood before St. Mary's sun-dappled white clapboard mission church to learn more about their ancestor's life among Indigenous people.

The family members toured the mission's museum and grounds, including the well-tended country cemetery, a final resting place for both Jesuits and Indigenous people. Bishop Austin Vetter of the Diocese of Helena presided over a moving liturgy, while a Salish drummer plaintively sang traditional hymns. After Mass, Father Craig Hightower, SJ, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Missoula, Montana, delivered what has become a sort of TED Talk he developed about Fr. De Smet and the fascinating history of the early missions. It was a

memorable day, but the highlight was when the De Smet family presented a gift to the historic mission: a crucifix that had been given by Fr. De Smet to his nephew François in 1866 on the young man's wedding day. It was the first direct De Smet artifact the museum had ever received, and museum director Dora Bradt was emotional as she asked Bishop Vetter to bless the cherished family heirloom.



On day two of their Western leg, the relatives headed to St. Ignatius Mission, founded in 1854 by Fr. De Smet and fellow Jesuits to serve the Salish and Kootenai people. Father Victor Cancino, SJ, the associate pastor at St. Ignatius, was proud to show the family around as he traced the mission's history from one small log cabin to a burgeoning compound with a school, sawmill, printing press, flour mill and hospital. Today, most of those buildings are gone, but what remains at St. Ignatius is what has always mattered most: the mission church.



De Smet family members with Fr. Chris Weekly, SJ, Bishop Austin Vetter of the Diocese of Helena (center), Fr. Craig Hightower, SJ, and Fr. David Severson at St. Mary's Mission



The family with Fr. Peter Byrne, SJ, (fifth from left) and Dr. Ryan Booth at Coeur d'Alene's Old Mission State Park in Cataldo, Idaho

As impressive as the landmark 1891 Gothic Revival church is on the outside, its claim to fame is behind the mission's doors. Adorning the walls and vaulted ceiling are 58 stunning Renaissance-style dry frescoes and murals painted between 1904 and 1905 by Jesuit Brother Joseph Carignano, an artist who doubled as the mission's cook and handyman. Recently, the murals were painstakingly restored and are as magnificent as the day that Br. Carignano clambered up scaffolding 120 feet in the air with paint brush in hand.

When planning the family's trip, Henry said they hoped for two things: to walk in the footsteps of their ancestor and to grow in understanding of Indigenous people. Dr. Ryan Booth, a history professor at Washington State University and a member of the Upper Skagit Tribe, helped fulfill this latter wish as he joined the family for the rest of their visit. Dr. Booth has spent the last several years researching a complex chapter in Jesuit history: For decades, Jesuits and other religious orders contracted with the federal government to run boarding schools for Indigenous students. The schools often had the effect of stripping Indigenous people of their cultural identity by a process of assimilation and indoctrination.

It took the De Smet family about two hours to drive from St. Ignatius Mission in Montana to Coeur d'Alene's Old Mission State Park in Cataldo, Idaho, a journey that would have taken Fr. De Smet nearly four days by horse.

Within a decade of Fr. De Smet's arrival in 1842, Jesuits and Indigenous people were putting the finishing touches on an impressive mission church, which is today the oldest building in the state of Idaho. In the late 1870s, the Catholic mission was moved to what is today De Smet, Idaho, while the original mission complex is a state park and visitor center boasting an outstanding permanent exhibit, *Sacred Encounters: Father De Smet & the Indians of the*

Rocky Mountain West. Father Peter Byrne, SJ, pastor of the Sacred Heart Mission in De Smet, accompanied the family members as they toured the exhibit, which contains important Jesuit and Indigenous artifacts.

Henry Nolf says that being able to walk in Fr. De Smet's footsteps provided the family with its own sacred encounter and that he was humbled to see how much of his uncle's legacy has been preserved.

"Two hundred years ago, it was a kind of a multinational company," Henry said, referring to the Society of Jesus. "Fr. De Smet was a kind of business developer. His job was to establish missions, and he was surrounded by other very capable Jesuits, who ran them while he moved on to the next one. It's really astonishing when you look back." ■



Fr. Victor Cancino, SJ, showed the family the newly restored frescoes at St. Ignatius Mission in Montana.

A COMMUNAL EXPERIENCE OF “PRAYER FOR US”

A Jesuit Reflects on the Society of Jesus’ 71st Congregation of Procurators

By Victor Cancino, SJ

In May 2023, Jesuit Superior General Father Arturo Sosa, SJ, convened the 71st Congregation of Procurators (CP71) in Loyola, Spain. In its purest form, the Congregation acts as a barometer to capture the general health of the Society of Jesus globally. It has two main tasks: to vote on whether it is necessary to convene a “General Congregation” to elect a new Superior General and to create decrees that provide direction for the present mission.

The fact that CP71 took place in the old Basque country of our founder’s birthplace, and not in Rome near the Vatican, held symbolic value. After his studies in Paris, St. Ignatius returned to his home in Loyola, Spain, to confront his past life and test the spirits. Had he actually become a changed man—from soldier-politician to poor and humble follower of Christ? For those of us “procurators” elected to represent each Jesuit province around the world, CP71 had a similar symbolic value.



A selfie with my fellow procurators. I am in the foreground.

Is the Society of Jesus open to ongoing conversion?

This was the test and discernment we were not expecting to entertain, yet this became a focal point of our gathering. Fr. General designed our meeting to begin with an eight-day silent retreat, which was familiar ground for Jesuits who typically make a similar retreat annually. Our retreats are always a deeply personal time, intended for the Jesuit to see where life has taken him and to hear what God wishes to say.

Confusion, though, began to surface at the start of the silent retreat for CP71. Is this a time of personal prayer for myself? Or, rather, is it meant to address Fr. General’s desire to provide direction for the Society of Jesus around the world?

Here was the first major shift in the Congregation as we all moved from a “prayer for me” to a “prayer for us” to help Fr. General discern the Society’s present state and mission. As a group, we began to have a sense of the heaviness Fr. Sosa must carry due to the nature of his office. It felt good to help him bear this weight through discernment in common.



Santuario de Loyola in Loyola, Spain, where our meeting was held



Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus

Within our spiritual conversations and our individual and communal reflections, a key theme emerged early on: “Jesus, poor and humble.” If we talked about areas of crisis, such as victims of sexual abuse or struggling Jesuits, it was through the lens of Jesus, poor and humble. If we talked about exciting new ventures like Jesuit communities in Nepal or Vietnam, it was filtered through Jesus, poor and humble. In contemplating the wounded body of Christ within the Church, the world and especially among Jesuits, the phrase had the effect of a healing balm for the Congregation.

Many of us were challenged by this simple phrase and meditation. Perhaps this was due to a simple honest assessment: In the rush of enterprise, we can easily forget to reach out to Jesus, poor and humble, within our Jesuit mission.

Alongside this phrase was another meditation adapted from the Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner, SJ, who once

wrote, “The Christians of tomorrow will be mystics or nothing at all.” This phrase appeared at least three times, once during the retreat within small group discernment in common and twice during Masses held at the end of the day following plenary sessions. I understood these refrains as a call to greater depth in our spirituality and within our role as religious leaders. We changed Rahner’s maxim for our own purposes: “The Jesuits of tomorrow will be mystics or nothing at all.”

In the end, we voted not to call a General Congregation, and we did not come up with a concrete, strategic action plan. And there was a sense of freedom and joy in this result. For three weeks in May, our shared ground as procurators shifted toward discernment in common—a practice that required tremendous focus anchored in prayer, listening and speaking only when there was something worth saying. It was three weeks of contemplative listening and intentional speaking.

I left Loyola with a renewed sense of the Society of Jesus in the first quarter of the 21st century. CP71 was something to experience, much like the Synod which recently took place, where one is changed if there is enough faith and trust that the Spirit is indeed speaking. The catch, however, is that when the Spirit speaks to you, she does it through another person—this is what it means to discern in common. This gift is learning to listen again—this is conversion. ■

Father Victor Cancino, SJ, serves at St. Ignatius Mission in St. Ignatius, Montana, on the Flathead Indian Reservation and at St. Francis Xavier Church in Missoula, Montana. In June of 2022, he was elected to serve as the Jesuits West Province’s procurator to the 71st Congregation of Procurators.



An overhead view of the beautiful basilica where the opening Mass was held

Fr. Eddie Ngô, SJ; Fr. Simon Zachary, SJ; Fr. Sean Carroll, SJ;
Bishop Gerald Kicanas; Fr. Tony Sholander, SJ;
Fr. James Antonio, SJ; and Fr. Tim Breen, SJ



FOUR FROM JESUITS WEST ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD

By Becky Sindelar

Father Tim Breen, SJ, who was ordained in June 2023, said he has loved his first few months of priesthood—but he is still getting used to the new title. “When meeting new people, I have not infrequently forgotten to introduce myself as ‘Father!’” he said.

But he has embraced pastoral work. “Between parish work over the summer and now being at Gonzaga University, I’ve had a lot of wonderful opportunities to celebrate the sacraments with several different groups of people. After spending most of the summer working in Spanish, I think I have finally adjusted to doing the sacraments in English!”

Fr. Breen was ordained along with three other members of Jesuits West—Jesuit Fathers James Antonio, Eddie Ngô and Simon Zachary—on June 10, 2023, by the Most Reverend Gerald Kicanas, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Tucson, at Blessed Sacrament Church in Hollywood, California.

As the liturgy began, Bishop Kicanas asked the families of the four Jesuits being ordained to stand. “I know that there are people here who know these four men well but none more than their own families. I wish they would stand for just a moment that we might thank the parents and brothers and sisters for all they have done to inspire these four candidates,” he said.

With that, hundreds of Jesuits, extended family members, colleagues and friends who filled the church responded with a rousing ovation. It was the perfect way to begin the province’s heartfelt celebration of the ordination Mass.

When Fr. Ngô reflected recently on what he remembers from his ordination day, it was a moment with a family member that has stuck with him. “As I was receiving so much grace in giving Communion out to so many people, a moment of surprise caught me at the end. My oldest sister, Gigi, came forward to receive



Fr. Eddie Ngô, SJ, blesses a child during Communion.

a blessing. Her asking for a blessing was such a blessing for me.”

This was especially meaningful for Fr. Ngô because he was raised Buddhist and converted to Catholicism at age 24. The rest of his family remained Buddhists, and when he decided to join the Jesuits, it was a big adjustment for his family. So having three of his siblings at the ordination Mass was very special.

In his homily, Bishop Kicanas spoke directly to the four ordinands, saying, “James, Tim, Eddie and Simon, you have been called to bring glad tidings to the poor, to mend broken hearts. ... So be good listeners, attentive listeners ... learn about your people,

understand their struggles. Become familiar with their delights. If you walk with your people, your message, your words will matter. Preach well, preach from the heart. Preach knowing those to whom you speak. Be messengers of mercy, who mend the hearts of broken people.”

Fr. Breen says that in the months since his ordination, he has experienced that call from his ordination day to heal broken hearts through administering the sacraments. “I have been very moved and humbled to have people come for confession and anointing of the sick and share their struggles, but also their hopes, and I hope I have been able to be present and comforting to them.”

Moments of Grace

The Rite of Ordination has many deeply symbolic and beautiful moments. After the bishop questions the candidates on their willingness to undertake the tasks and obligations of the priesthood, they express their resolve in accord with “the mind of Christ and the Church.” The bishop then invites the assembly to pray for the candidates, who prostrate themselves in a biblical gesture of humility.

One of the most poignant moments follows next: the laying on of hands.



Fr. Tim Breen, SJ, distributes Communion.

The bishop and concelebrating priests confer on the candidates the gift of the Holy Spirit by placing their hands on top of the heads of the candidates and offering a prayer. Because it was only a few years ago that Covid restrictions severely limited the number of attendees to only a handful of people, there was palpable joy this year that more than 100 Jesuits could participate in this ancient ritual.

For Fr. Zachary, the moment when the newly ordained are vested by a fellow Jesuit with the liturgical garments worn for the celebration of the Mass is a highlight of the ordination liturgy. “I asked Father Tony Harris to vest me. I met Tony when I was a novice and he is just an incredible guy, just a really wise man, very spiritually insightful, and so down to earth, really just able to laugh.”

Fr. Ngô asked Father Mike Engh, SJ, chancellor of Loyola Marymount University, to vest him. “Mike is one of the smartest Jesuits I know, but he is also one of the most humble and pastoral ones. From the first time we met, I knew that this is someone I can always turn to and seek out if I need anything. And that’s been the truth.”

Reflecting on highlights from the day, Fr. Breen recalled: “I found it incredibly moving to concelebrate a Mass for the first time at our ordination. It was so moving to join all the other priests up there on the altar and do that together for the first time. It was also incredibly moving to distribute Communion to so many family and friends.”

After ordination, the four new priests headed in different directions. Fr. Ngô is currently serving at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Phoenix.

Fr. Zachary began his service at Seattle Preparatory School, where he is teaching theology and social studies and assisting in campus ministry and adult faith formation.

Fr. Breen is studying for a master’s in sports administration at Gonzaga University, while Fr. Antonio has returned to the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry for an advanced theology degree.

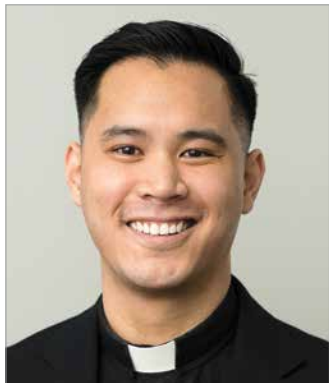
Before the Mass ended, Fr. Sean Carroll, SJ, provincial of Jesuits West, also took a moment to speak directly to his newly ordained brother Jesuits. “To Tim, James, Simon and Eddie, we’re just so grateful to you for saying yes to God, and we are very grateful to you for saying yes to walking along this path with us as Jesuits on this day. You’ve offered yourself as a gift to God, and God has poured God’s grace into you. So, thank you. And may God bless you.” ■



A fellow Jesuit blesses Fr. James Antonio, SJ.

MEET OUR NEW PRIESTS

Fr. James Antonio, SJ



Hometown: Seattle

Missioned to: Boston College School of Theology and Ministry for advanced theology studies

Fr. Antonio was born and raised in Seattle by his parents, Nemy and Ruby, alongside his two sisters, Joyce and Janice. He went to Catholic schools his entire childhood but encountered the Jesuits when he went to the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he studied mathematics. At Holy Cross, the seeds of a religious vocation started to germinate. After college, he worked for a year for the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. He next joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and volunteered for a year in Nashville, Tennessee, for a nonprofit working with formerly incarcerated people. He did a second year of service with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest in Portland, Oregon, for a nonprofit that worked with people experiencing homelessness. He then entered the Jesuit novitiate in Culver City, California, in 2012.

As a novice, he had experiences in rural Montana on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation and in the Philippines with Casa Bayanihan, a University of San Francisco study abroad program. He earned a master's degree in philosophy from Saint Louis University and taught math for two years at Seattle Preparatory School. He also spent six months in Guadalajara, Mexico, studying Spanish before the Covid-19 pandemic. He received a Master of Divinity degree at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry and ministered as a deacon at two parishes in Newton, Massachusetts.

Fr. Timothy Breen, SJ



Hometown: Redondo Beach, California

Missioned to: Gonzaga University for a master's degree in sports administration and pastoral work

Fr. Breen was born and raised in Redondo Beach, California, where he, his parents and his brother, John, were all involved in the local parish. He first got to know the Jesuits at Loyola High School of Los Angeles. He began college at Loyola University Chicago where he was a member of the Ignatian Leadership Learning Community. Sister Jean, chaplain of the men's basketball team at Loyola, recommended him for a job in campus ministry, but vocation questions were stirring. He left college after his freshman year to enter the Jesuit novitiate in Culver City, California.

After professing first vows, he returned to Loyola Chicago, graduating with a double major in philosophy and Spanish. He also served as chaplain to the Loyola Chicago men's soccer team and briefly was the goalkeeping coach for Loyola women's soccer, including for a trip to Italy. He spent his first two years of regency at Gonzaga Preparatory School in Spokane, Washington, where he taught Spanish, coached boys' and girls' soccer, and served as assistant athletic director. He then was missioned to Omaha, Nebraska, joining the coaching staff of Creighton University's men's and women's soccer teams. He completed Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry while serving as a deacon at St. Ignatius Church in Chestnut Hill and as chaplain for Boston College's baseball team.

Fr. Edward Ngô, SJ



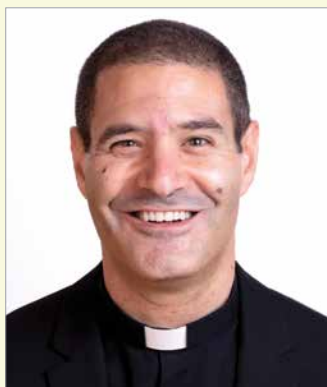
Hometown: Coppell, Texas

Missioned to: St. Francis Xavier Parish, Phoenix

Fr. Ngô was born in Arkansas to parents who had emigrated, with five older siblings, from Vietnam in 1975. He was raised in North Texas in a Buddhist household; he converted to Roman Catholicism after attending the University of Dallas, where he earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. He then completed his medical degree at UTHealth Houston McGovern Medical School. Concurrent with his training and work as a chemistry high school teacher and family physician, he taught Sunday school, served on medical missions and participated in Đồng Hành Christian Life Communities. After three years of practicing medicine, he entered the Jesuits in 2012.

As a novice, he taught English as a second language; interacted with the currently and formerly incarcerated; visited patients as a hospital chaplain; and established a clinic at the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. In first studies, he learned Spanish and studied philosophy at ITESO (Instituto Tecnológico y Estudios Superiores de Occidente) in Guadalajara, Mexico. For regency, he taught at Jesuit High School in Portland, Oregon; completed a writing project at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos, California; and worked as program director of immersions at Santa Clara University. He then earned his Master of Divinity, Master of Theology and Licentiate in Sacred Theology at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. He also served as a deacon at two parishes.

Fr. Simon Zachary, SJ



Hometown: Glendale, Arizona

Missioned to: Seattle Preparatory School

Fr. Zachary was born and raised in Glendale, Arizona, by his loving parents alongside his two sisters. He met the Jesuits as a high school student at Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix. As an undergrad, he attended Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, where he majored in business administration. After graduation, he worked in Microsoft's online advertising division for six years. Meanwhile, he felt God's gentle tug toward religious life and entered the Society of Jesus in 2013.

As a novice, he assisted at a juvenile hall facility, served as a hospital chaplain and accompanied high school students on retreats. He then studied international political economy and philosophy at Fordham University in the Bronx, New York. He did his regency at his high school alma mater, Brophy, where he helped develop and teach social studies courses while also assisting in service work and clubs. His mother passed away while he was a regent in Phoenix, and he is immensely grateful to have accompanied her in her last years. He earned his Master of Divinity at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley, California. During that time, he also completed a degree in Catholic educational leadership at the University of San Francisco and participated in a semester abroad program studying theology and French at Centre Sèvres in Paris. He served as a deacon at two parishes in San Francisco.

A JOURNEY WALKED TOGETHER

By Tracey Primrose

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, FILL THE
HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL
AND KINDLE IN THEM THE FIRE
OF YOUR LOVE.

SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT AND
THEY SHALL BE CREATED,
AND YOU SHALL RENEW THE
FACE OF THE EARTH.



Sharing the sign of peace at a liturgy during the apostolic planning meeting

Last fall, as groups of Jesuits and their partners in ministry across the Jesuits West Province were meeting to begin the province's apostolic planning process, each gathering began with a communal recitation of the well-known words above. It was as much a prayer as an ardent entreaty. If apostolic planning was to succeed, the Holy Spirit would have to lead the way.

In announcing apostolic planning, Father Sean Carroll, SJ, provincial of Jesuits West, said the province "must be intentional and deliberate in discerning how the Lord is calling us. If we fail to do this now, we will soon—too soon—find ourselves walking down paths where the Lord is no longer so evident to us, not because he is not there, but because we have forgotten how to recognize him and listen to him."

Recognizing and prayerfully listening to the Holy Spirit's invitation has been the cornerstone of the province's apostolic planning process. But how to make room for the Spirit given the noise and 24/7 distractions of everyday life?

In Jesuits West, the idea was simple: send a broad invitation across our 10-state province so that everyone—teachers, parishioners, retired Jesuits, students, board members, Jesuits in active ministry and all those in between—could come together for spiritual conversations to reflect on three questions posed by Fr. Carroll. Where and in what ways do I see the Spirit present and moving in my ministry? Where is the Spirit inviting us to go?

What obstacles might we face pursuing this future and how should we face them?

By December of 2022, 1,250 people in 40 ministries and 22 Jesuit communities had engaged those questions. And when the 11-person steering committee established by Fr. Carroll culled through the reports that had been submitted by each group, it was clear that when you bring people who care very deeply about their ministries together in prayer and conversation, the Spirit always shows up.

The steering committee found broad consensus across four themes that had emerged from the gatherings: grounding our experience of God in the Spiritual Exercises, Ignatian spirituality and Ignatian discernment; fostering the growth of community and the experience of belonging; promoting and supporting mutual collaboration; and exercising an apostolic preference for youth and the marginalized.

Two questions also emerged: What are the apostolic models for implementing the mission today? Is there a distinctive mission and role for Jesuits in this vision?

This spring, Jesuits and collaborators engaged in a second round of spiritual conversations, this time doing a deeper dive into the key themes and questions that had emerged during the fall. After the steering committee reflected on this additional input, the province held a two-day meeting in June at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in



Attendees met in smaller groups and in large plenary sessions.

Los Angeles. Every Jesuit in the province was invited along with two lay representatives from each apostolate. In total, 220 people came to LMU to dialogue on the fruits of untold hours of spiritual conversations.

And even though it had been many decades since some of the attendees had bunked in a dorm room, there was a spirit of energy and gratitude that permeated the meeting. In addition to meeting in both large and small groups, the program included a liturgy celebrated by Fr. Carroll as well as a beautiful dinner hosted by the LMU Jesuit community.

Quentin Orem, who recently served on a team that helped bring a new Cristo Rey school to Seattle, said, "It's been an amazing experience, and I am very grateful to have been invited into this discernment. It's been invigorating and there have been some ideas that have really caught

on in our group. I'm really glad that I'm here and that we were invited here."

Fr. Carroll said he was deeply moved that so many people in the province had come together for the LMU gathering. "There is a wonderful spirit of joy and love for one another and a real spirit and desire to reflect carefully on these areas that have emerged."

Over the summer, Fr. Carroll continued his discernment and recently sent a draft vision statement and apostolic plan to Jesuit Superior General Father Arturo Sosa, SJ, for his review.

The work, however, does not stop after Fr. Carroll receives input from Fr. General. In future months, the vision will need to become a reality as the province continues to discern elements of an implementation plan that would prioritize the apostolic directions that emerged in this process.



Loyola Marymount University's Jesuit community, on the bluff, hosted dinner for the attendees.

Most organizations, if they have an eye toward the future, will go through some sort of strategic planning. The difference here, though, is the recognition that a loving God has an opinion about the decisions we make, so we must not forget to invite the most important stakeholder.

Every time we recite the Apostles' Creed, we say: "I believe in the Holy Spirit." But how can you tell if it is the Holy Spirit or some fortunate convergence of like-minded thinkers?

For Fr. Carroll, you can always tell. "I found the Spirit powerfully present in the deep faith, hope and love of the people who came together at Loyola Marymount University. One of my favorite quotes from Pope Francis is where he said that the Church should be a field hospital dedicated to healing wounds. I look forward to serving in that field hospital with the people of Jesuits West, as we move into the future to fulfill our apostolic plan." ■



Fr. Sean Carroll, SJ, provincial of Jesuits West, celebrated Mass during the gathering.

JESUIT SIBLINGS FIND JOY IN SHARED MINISTRY

By Paul Totah



Chi and Chu Ngo

It took a war to separate two brothers. More than four decades later, it took a pandemic to bring them together.

You will find the siblings, Fathers Chi Ngo, SJ, and Chu Ngo, SJ, both working at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos, California, where Chi serves as executive director and Chu as a retreat director and a supervisor of various remodeling projects.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Chi invited his brother to join him in Los Altos. Chu, at the time, was working at the St. Francis Xavier Chapel Japanese Catholic Center in Los Angeles. When that center went into lockdown mode, Chu took his brother up on the offer.

“This is the first time in 30 years we have lived together,” said Chi. “It’s wonderful having my older brother, someone I’ve looked up to for years, in the same house helping with so many projects.”

For both men, their journey to the Jesuits was inspired by the hardships they suffered during and after the Vietnam War and by their faith—a faith later deepened thanks to retreats led by Father Julian Elizalde, SJ, a Basque Jesuit who served as a missionary in Vietnam before working with refugee communities in the U.S. after the war ended.

Chu was the seventh and Chi the youngest of 11 children born to Chuan Ngo and Ham Nguyen. After the war, their father, Chuan, because he had served as a police chief in several South Vietnamese cities, was imprisoned in a reeducation camp, where he died in 1979.

Before that, Chi had left Saigon in April 1975 with some family members in the care of an older sister and her husband, who had worked for the U.S. embassy. After some time in Guam, the group

moved to an Army relocation camp in Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, before living with a sponsor family in Wilmington, North Carolina. Four years later, when Chi turned 14, he and his relatives moved to Pasadena, California.

Chu’s journey was more treacherous than his brother’s. When the war ended and his father was arrested, the government forced Chu, his remaining siblings and their mother to work in a jungle encampment in the New Economic Zones program with the task of transforming it into farmland.

“There was no way for us to have a good life in the jungle,” said Chu. “Our future there was bleak, as we had to grow our own crops to survive, and there was no infrastructure.”

After learning of his father’s death, the family decided to escape from Vietnam. Chu and his siblings retrofitted a river boat, filled it with 25 of their extended family and made their way to the open ocean in search of a refugee camp in Malaysia. Their mother stayed behind in case her children were captured, believing that she somehow could arrange their rescue.

Shortly after their departure, Chu and the others on the boat were attacked by Thai pirates, who seized all their food, water and diesel fuel, leaving them adrift. Two days later, another small boat carrying refugees found them, shared some provisions and led them to Malaysia, where the group stayed for nine months before their family in the U.S. arranged for them to join them in Pasadena.



The Ngo family in 1966

In 1990, their mother became the last of the family to immigrate to the U.S., where she lived until her death in 1998.

While in college in the 1980s, Chi grew depressed the more his past and the death of his father caught up with him. "I was too busy in high school to think about all of that, but my façade

shattered as I grew older, and the memory of all that loss took a toll on me. I felt that life held no meaning with all the suffering in the world, and I wanted to find an escape."

Instead of an escape, he found a way forward thanks to a retreat led by Fr. Elizalde, who was traveling around the U.S. ministering to places where Vietnamese refugees had settled. "The experience of that retreat shook me to the core and changed my life," said Chi. That same priest also invited Chu to consider becoming a Jesuit, though Chu felt, at the time, that his lack of education would be a roadblock.

After graduating with his degree in civil engineering, Chi joined the Society of Jesus in 1989. In the meantime, Chu worked as a carpenter and studied at a community college

in Denver. In 1988, he worked with Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong and then in the Philippines, where, in 1992, he decided to enter a monastery as a Trappist monk.

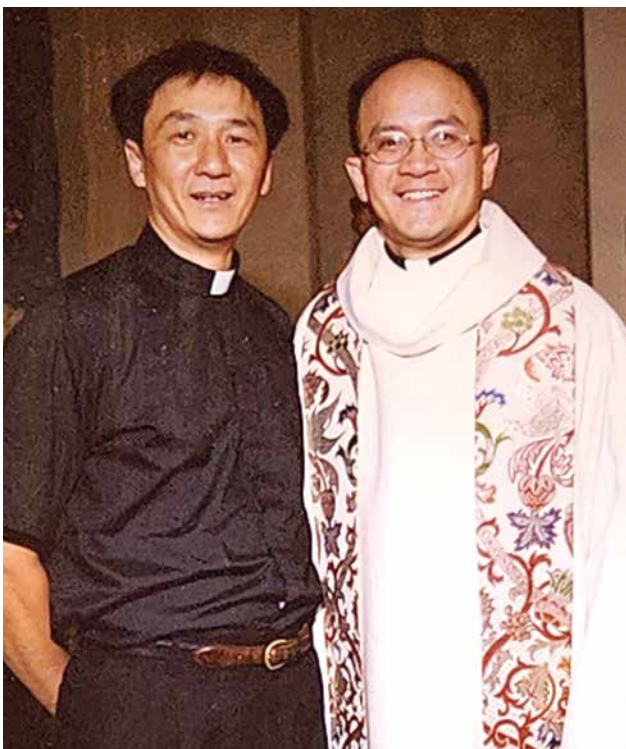
Chi, now a Jesuit scholastic, visited his brother in the Philippines. "We spent a few days together, and he eventually confided in me that while he loved the silence of contemplative life, he missed being in active ministry with the poor. That's when I told him that Jesuits do both, as we are contemplatives in action. We have a deep relationship with God but are also engaged in the world. That led, finally, to Chu joining the Society."

Over the years, Chi worked at St. Ignatius College Preparatory in San Francisco, at the Loyola Institute for Spirituality in Orange County and for the province in Los Gatos, where he served as the director of formation—the period of time between the novitiate and final vows. In 2013, he began working at the Jesuit Retreat Center before becoming its executive director five years later.

Chu, after entering the Society in 1993, first planned to become a Jesuit brother. "I still wasn't sure I could handle all the studies, but my superiors convinced me, finally, that I could succeed in college classes to prepare for the priesthood."

Chu returned to Vietnam for the first time in 1999. "I felt so joyful being there, as Vietnam will always be my home. I never really wanted to leave, and I try to return as often as I can to lead retreats."

In 2010, after serving as a retreat director in a suburb of Saigon for three years, Chu moved to San Jose, California, where he worked at Most



Chi's ordination in 2000

continued next page

Jesuit Profile - Jesuit Siblings *continues*

Holy Trinity Church, but he once again heeded the call to return to Vietnam and to the Philippines, where he lived for more than three years.

Still drawn by the call to active service to the poor, he later worked at Sacramento's Loaves and Fishes, which offers food and a host of services to the unhoused. "When I was a young man, I ran away from home twice, as I felt bullied by my older brothers," said Chu. "That experience led to my ministry with homeless people. When I see people suffering from any kind of poverty, I feel a kinship with them and am drawn to engage them in conversation. That nourishes my soul and tells me that's what I'm here for."

While leading a retreat near Santa Cruz recently, Chu took some time off to watch farm laborers pick strawberries. "They were working hard, bending down constantly. The more I watched them working in the cold morning and, later, suffering under the hot noon sun, the more love I felt for their humanity."

From his home base now at the Jesuit Retreat House, when he isn't supervising construction projects, Chu still travels around the U.S. and abroad, offering spiritual direction



Chu ministering in Indonesia

and leading retreats for Vietnamese Catholics and members of the Vietnamese American community.

"This nourishes my soul, too, as I learn so much and see myself in others who are on a spiritual journey."

Chi has also returned to Vietnam several times starting in 1995. "I visited my father's grave for the first time and toured the country. It was an exhilarating and eye-opening experience, and that journey allowed me to renew my connections and reconcile with my past."

For both men, the Society is now their home. "I'm grateful for my vocation

as a Jesuit," said Chi. "This has been such a fruitful experience for me. I wouldn't have it any other way."

His work directing a retreat center—one that will celebrate its centennial in 2025—can be daunting. "This place is big, expensive to run and old, with lots of deferred maintenance," added Chi. "That's where my brother's help has been invaluable. I worried often during the COVID years, but God has provided. We are in a good place, not because of what we do, but because of the generosity of so many. And I feel so gratified to work side-by-side now with my brother." ■



A family vacation houseboating on Lake Powell in Utah

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE

BLESSING AROUND AT JESUITS WEST'S NOVITIATE



Every August, Entrance Day is the moment when new novices are dropped off at the Novitiate of the Three Companions in Culver City, California, to begin their Jesuit journeys. In addition to celebrating a liturgy and sharing a meal together, there is always the requisite group photo. This year, the photo was a bit more crowded than usual because in addition to the three new novices and five second-year novices from Jesuits West, 12 novices from the Jesuits Central and Southern Province joined the picture.

In June, Jesuit Superior General Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, approved the relocation of the Central and Southern Province's St. Stanislaus Kostka Novitiate from Grand Coteau, Louisiana, to Culver City, California.

A few weeks after their arrival, the new novices from both provinces were officially welcomed during the Mass of Investiture. Investiture reflects an ancient custom in religious life when candidates take another step in their vocation and formally become novices with the letters "nSJ" after their names.

PIERRE VU THOMPSON PROFESSES FIRST VOWS



On August 12, after serving as a Jesuit novice for two years, Pierre Vu Thompson, SJ, professed first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in the Society of Jesus at Sacred Heart Chapel at Loyola

Marymount University in Los Angeles.

In his homily, Fr. Andrew Rodriguez, SJ, novice director, told a story of how Pierre helped distribute food to novices in isolation while they had Covid. He was generous with the portions he plated,

which resulted in large servings of food becoming known as "Pierre portions."

Fr. Rodriguez pointed out that God doesn't give rationed portions either. "It's not like you only get this much love or this much forgiveness. No, God gives in full measure, flowing over."

Before entering the Jesuits, Pierre earned a bachelor's in foreign service at Georgetown University and a master's in peace studies at Uppsala University in Sweden. He then spent a decade organizing and advocating for community development, immigration services and integral disarmament before joining the Jesuits in 2021. He is continuing his formation with studies at ITESO, the Jesuit university in Guadalajara, Mexico.

MEET OUR NEW NOVICES



Mike Mateo-Sebastian, nSJ, who hails from Mesa, Arizona, received a bachelor's in theology and political science from Benedictine University. After graduation, he worked

with people with special needs and for several law firms. He volunteered with the Mayan community in Mesa and with parishes—in youth ministry, music ministry and catechesis. Mike's interests include theology, track, nature and music.



Corey Trujillo, nSJ, is from Gardnerville, Nevada. He earned bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering and Spanish from the University of Portland, a master's in mechanical

engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno, and a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Corey has worked as a mechanical engineer, an instructor and a graduate researcher. He enjoys cooking, teaching and playing dominoes with his grandparents.



Andru Zodrow, nSJ, a native of Spokane, Washington, graduated from Gonzaga Preparatory School in Spokane and earned bachelor's degrees in political science and

theology from Seattle University. During college, he served as editor-in-chief of the student newspaper, was a member of the university's Ethics Bowl team and worked in Washington state politics. Attending Jesuit schools helped foster his call to join the Society.

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE *continues*

TWO MEMBERS OF JESUITS WEST ORDAINED AS DEACONS

This fall, two members of the Jesuits West Province were ordained to the diaconate.

Joseph Dickan, SJ, was ordained a deacon on October 11, 2023, by Most Reverend Gregory Mansour, Bishop of the Maronite Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn, New York, at the Church of Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. He is currently a student at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.



Joseph Dickan, SJ, with Bishop Gregory Mansour



Nine Jesuits were ordained to the diaconate on Oct. 21, 2023, in Oakland, California, by Bishop C. Barber, SJ, of Oakland, including Michael Tedone, SJ (second from left), from Jesuits West.

On October 21, 2023, Michael Tedone, SJ, was ordained a deacon, along with eight other Jesuits by the Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, SJ, Bishop of Oakland, at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland, California. He is currently studying theology at the Jesuit School

of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley, California.

Both Jesuits West deacons, along with Deacon Raymond Parcon, SJ, who was ordained to the diaconate in May 2023, will be ordained to the priesthood in June 2024.

NEW HIRES AT JESUITS WEST



Griselda Cervantez is the new advocacy coordinator for the Jesuits West Province. Ms. Cervantez has more than

two decades of experience working with survivors of sexual assault. For the last dozen years, she has served as the victim assistance coordinator and prevention advocate for the Diocese of San Jose, and she has also worked with several other religious congregations on safety and advocacy initiatives.



Barbara Harris recently began serving as the province's regional director of advancement for Northern California and Nevada. Ms. Harris was

previously director of advancement for Brandeis Marin, a private school in San Rafael, California. She has also served as director of development and alumni affairs for The Marin School in San Rafael, California, and as director of admissions, advancement and marketing for Saint Hilary School in Tiburon, California.



Robert King is the province's new safety coordinator, a role to which he brings three decades of experience. Mr. King has a long career in law

enforcement, including his most recent service as senior policy advisor on public safety to Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler. He was also commander of police in Portland's North Precinct, captain of police for the East Precinct and had many other peacekeeping roles with the Portland Police Department through the years.



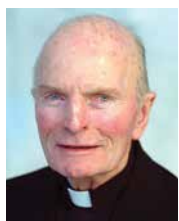
Jacqueline Penyacsek is the new administrator of Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos, California, the Jesuit West Province's healthcare/

retirement community. She previously served as a nursing home administrator at several nursing homes in San Jose, California, and as executive director of a nursing home in Stockton, California.

Curious about Jesuit life?
Imagine what we can do together.

BeAJesuit.org

STREET RENAMED IN HONOR OF THE LATE FR. RICHARD BROWN, SJ, IN SAN DIEGO



Father Richard Brown, SJ, who passed away at age 93 in 2020, earned the nickname “El Padrecito del Barrio” (Father of the neighborhood) for his 50 years serving at Our Lady of Guadalupe

Parish in San Diego. On October 7, Beardsley Street, which runs by the parish, was renamed “Father Richard H. Brown SJ Street” in his honor.



The event began with a memorial Mass celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Ramón Bejarano, of the Diocese of San Diego, followed by the unveiling of the new sign and a block party.

Fr. Brown was not Latino, but he spoke fluent Spanish and had a deep knowledge of Mexican culture and customs. He brought a mariachi band into Mass and instituted a blessing of the lowriders, sprinkling the cars with holy water. When he died, hundreds of lowriders processed through the neighborhood in his honor.

In addition to his sacramental ministry at the parish—baptizing thousands of babies, witnessing marriages and conducting funerals—Fr. Brown counseled gang members and was active in the parish's school.

He also worked with civic and church organizations to help keep his young parishioners out of gangs. In 1968,



Father Scott Santarosa, SJ, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, with Todd Gloria, mayor of San Diego

Fr. Brown created the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Youth Organization, a club for teens that had a spiritual component but also taught practical skills.

“He had a Mexican heart,” said longtime parishioner Adela Garcia. “He loved our culture. He knew more about our culture than I think anyone I had ever met.”

BISHOP DOLAN CELEBRATES ‘AMAZING COMMUNITY’ OF JESUITS IN DIOCESAN MASS IN PHOENIX

By Jeff Grant

The celebrant's greeting at the 9 a.m. Mass on September 27, 2023, came with a light departure in advance of the Penitential Act. Bishop John P. Dolan of the Diocese of Phoenix joked that as he arrived, “Stepping out of my car, I found this gaggle of Jesuits.”

Laughter rippled across the congregation of 700 plus worshippers inside Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral in Phoenix.

Oxford's Learner Dictionary, defines “gaggle” informally as “a disorderly or noisy group of people.” But the noise here reflected joyfulness, one of the traits associated with Jesuits.

Several Jesuits, including the Jesuits West Province's director of vocations, Father Radmar Jao, SJ, joined Bishop Dolan and Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo A. Nevares for the Mass. Father Daniel Nevares, SJ, Bishop Nevares' nephew, was also on the altar.

It was the first of several Masses celebrating religious orders that serve within the Diocese of Phoenix.



Bishop John P. Dolan of the Diocese of Phoenix (second row, center) surrounded by diocesan priests and Jesuits.

“Let us give thanks to God for the wonderful blessing of our Jesuit community. We're very pleased to have the Jesuits West community here. We welcome them, one and all,” he said.

“The beautiful gift of the Jesuit community is they come into a particular region of the Lord's vineyard, and they encounter Christ in each and every person,” Bishop Dolan said.

Jesuits have served within the diocese since its founding in 1969, though they have a much longer history in the Grand Canyon State.

Jesuits West contributions to the diocese include the establishment of Brophy College Preparatory and St. Francis Xavier Parish in central Phoenix. There is also the Kino Border Initiative, headquartered in Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Mexico, as well as the Phoenix campus of Creighton University, which is based in Omaha, Nebraska.

Eight priests with the Society of Jesus serve within the Diocese of Phoenix. Four are at St. Francis Xavier, two are at Brophy, and two serve at Creighton University's medical center. They all live at the Jesuits' community residence in central Phoenix.

continued next page



Bishop Eduardo A. Nevares with his nephew Fr. Daniel Nevares, SJ

Father Bob Fambrini, SJ, pastor of St. Francis Xavier and a longtime friend of Bishop Dolan's, was gratified by the celebration. "I've worked in five different dioceses as a parish priest. This is the first time a bishop has approached us with an invitation to highlight our ministry in a Diocese and promote vocations," Fr. Fambrini said. "It's highly unusual."

Their first activity in Arizona came in 1687, when Father Eusebio Kino, SJ, an Italian Jesuit, established a mission about 18 miles north of Nogales, Arizona, to serve the area's Native peoples and protect them from Spanish settlers, who wanted to use them for slave labor. Nuestra Señora de los Remedios de Doágibubig, located at what is now Tumacácori National Park, was the second of 24 missions started by Padre Kino in the late 1680s to early 1700s.

Pope Francis declared Fr. Kino venerable July 10, 2020—putting him on a path toward beatification.

Fr. Kino's work inspired the Kino Border Initiative, a binational program begun in 2009 by three Jesuit organizations and three others to work for humane and just migration between the U.S. and Mexico, while promoting policies that affirm the dignity of the human person.

Fr. Fambrini said KBI's work includes education and literacy assistance to migrants being deported and waiting for deportation.

"I'm especially proud of work being done there. Our Jesuit numbers are being stretched thin ... but our province has committed real presence on the border. Immigration is probably the province's biggest social justice issue," he said.

In 1928, Jesuits were asked by Ellen A. Brophy, widow of businessman William H. Brophy, to establish a school to provide Catholic, Jesuit education to young men in the Phoenix area. Ellen Brophy supplied the land on Central Avenue as well as funds for the school's construction. Brophy College Prep is the only Jesuit high school in Arizona. It includes Loyola Academy—a tuition-free, on-campus middle school for underserved youth with academic promise.

In 2021, Creighton University opened a 195,000-square-foot Health Sciences Campus in downtown Phoenix. The campus includes a medical school, accelerated nursing program, physician-assistant program and doctoral programs in physical therapy, occupational therapy and pharmacy.

Creighton also manages the medical clinic at St. Vincent de Paul in downtown Phoenix, helping address the health care needs of the uninsured, underinsured and homeless.



Fr. Radmar Jao, SJ

"The Jesuits are an amazing community," said Bishop Dolan. "They have been remarkable within the life and the history of our Church. From their own, we have doctors—Sts. Robert Bellarmine, Peter Canisius—amazing martyrs in Vietnam, Japan, Korea, North America and Salvador," he continued.

Bishop Dolan also said the Jesuits served as an example of how Catholics and Christians should live their faith.

"Indeed, we are all, in truth, members of the Society of Jesus. We are called, in the words of St. Ignatius, to give back to the Lord—not just carrying the name like a badge we take off when we leave this room, but we are Christ for one another by grace."

Worshippers were gratified and joyful over the occasion.

Linda Fischetti, assistant principal of Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral School, whose husband, brother and two sons all graduated from Brophy, and whose mother taught Spanish there for 25 years, said the Jesuits had a lasting impact on her family and her work.

"We were taught all the time what it meant to see the presence of God in everything and to live out the freedom within our faith to love, serve and sacrifice," she said.

St. Vincent DePaul CEO Sharon Clancy cited the Jesuits' role in her organization's work "specifically because of the shared values we have—the *cura personalis*, care for the whole person. How that plays out in our clinic is in providing love, care and compassion to people in their moment of need for quality health care," she explained.

"This is a wonderful celebration. I'm very grateful to be part of this."

The Jesuits were equally thankful.

Fr. Jao, whose role includes accompanying, encouraging and providing resources to men considering the priesthood, said the Mass was an affirmation of the Jesuit's work here.

"I find the diocese very open and service-oriented, especially to migrants, people disenfranchised or the poor," he said. "There are many opportunities to share one's gifts and talents to help those less fortunate or in need."

"Bishop Dolan is setting a foundation, very much like Pope Francis in the sense of open arms and welcoming those on the margins, and saying, 'there's a home for you here.'" ■

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JESUITS WEST HAPPENINGS

LOS ANGELES



Catherine Sanders of the Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation and the first-year novices

LOS ANGELES



Mike Smith, Annette Sikand, Patricia McKenna, Siobhán Lawlor, Al Marsella and Donna Gray

LOS ALTOS, CA



Frs. Kevin Leidich, SJ, and John Mossi, SJ

SACRAMENTO, CA



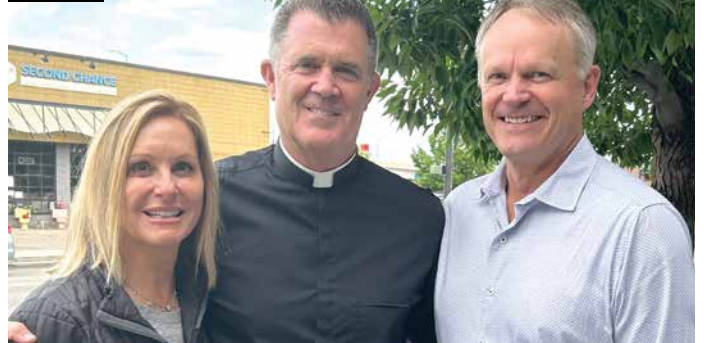
Jerry and Helen Reedy with Fr. John Mossi, SJ, and Barbara Harris

SACRAMENTO, CA



Richard Stevens with Barbara Harris and Fr. John Mossi, SJ

BOISE, ID



Beth and Robert Rebholtz Jr. with Fr. Jack Bentz, SJ

TACOMA, WA



Mike Tucci and Jack Connolly with Fr. Sean Carroll, SJ

TACOMA, WA



Angela Connolly with Frs. Gene Delmore, SJ, and Greg Celio, SJ

CELEBRATING ANOTHER BOUNTIFUL HARVEST WITH THE BEST NEIGHBORS

By Siobhán Lawlor



Lucky me! A beautiful day at Testarossa Winery with Diana and Rob Jensen and Fr. Peter Pabst, SJ

Every fall, those of us who live and work at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center (SHJC), the province's health care/retirement community in Los Gatos, California, receive a highly coveted invitation from our next-door neighbors. Far from a pedestrian potluck or cul-de-sac cookout, more than 100 of us walk down the hill for an elegant, full-bodied luncheon hosted by Testarossa Winery. While technically the get together on October 11 marks the first day that grapes were picked at the winery the Jesuits founded on this property 135 years ago, the day commemorates something more important: shared history and friendship across generations.

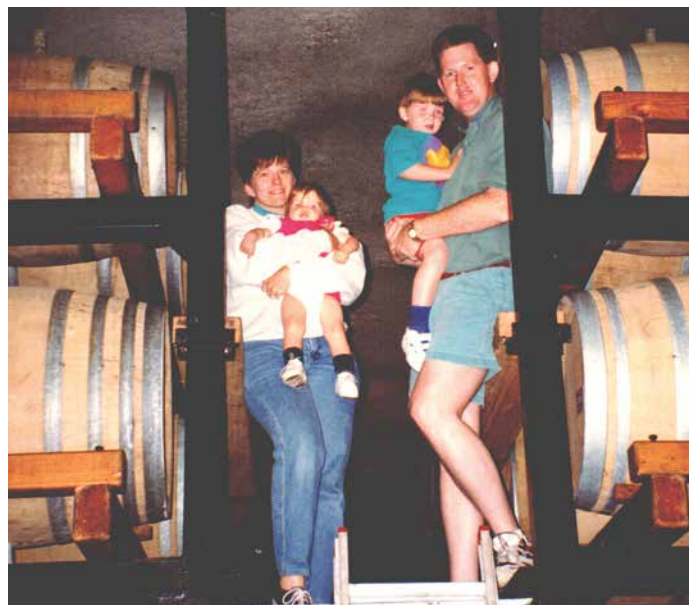
My office is steps away from Testarossa, on the fourth floor of SHJC, which is home to more than 80 senior and infirm Jesuits. Italian Jesuits purchased this land in 1886 and quickly began building a novitiate to house and train the growing number of young men who were joining the order. To finance the operation, they grew grapes both on the hillside and other locations, cleverly employing unpaid novice laborers to pick the grapes which they made into sacramental wine.

The Novitiate winery operated for 98 years until shuttering its doors in 1986. Eleven years later, it was not an Italian Jesuit who brought the winery back to life, but two Jesuit-educated 30 somethings with a big dream.

Diana and Rob Jensen met as electrical engineering students at Santa Clara University. Rob's junior year summer language program in Assisi, Italy, would prove providential because in addition to confirming his growing interest in wine, he also gained a nickname that would come in handy later—Signore Testarossa—Mr. Redhead.

The couple, who were busy climbing the corporate ladder in Silicon Valley, were married in 1988 by Father John Geary, SJ. Fr. Geary and his twin brother, Joe, were Jesuits whose architect father was responsible for major building additions to the winery in the 1930s. Importantly, too, the Gearys, like all novices in those years, had picked grapes and had plenty of stories to tell about the bee stings, the blisters and the memories.

Diana and Rob's first child, Nick, was born in 1993. For most young families, having a newborn is challenging enough, but the Jensens decided to double down. They started making wine that year, pressing grapes in the driveway of their Sunnyvale home and fermenting them in their garage. Rob took every viticulture course he could find at UC Davis while Diana studied business and legal compliance. A year later, Diana left her job in the semiconductor industry to take care of Nick and concentrate on their burgeoning business. Daughter Claire was born in 1996.



The Jensen family in Testarossa's early days



Jesuit Fathers Art Schenk and John Geary bless one of the first harvests at Testarossa Winery.

The first three vintages of Testarossa were made at Cinnabar Winery in Saratoga. But by 1997, the Jensens' connection with Fr. John Geary came full circle when Diana and Rob moved Testarossa to the historic stone and timber Novitiate winery, and Fr. John, after several minor strokes, moved to Sacred Heart Jesuit Center.

In 2001, Rob chose an auspicious date to throw in the towel at his tech job: October 11. It was not only the day of the first ever harvest at the Novitiate winery, it was Diana's birthday. And in the more than two decades since, the Jensens have never looked back except perhaps to laugh now about how naive they once were.

Today, Testarossa produces 25,000 cases of world-class Chardonnay and Pinot Noir annually. The great majority of the business is direct-to-consumer through their website, but you can also find Testarossa in restaurants in Dubai, London and many other capital cities. Diana and Rob have created an exceptional wine tasting experience and tour of the 85,000-square-foot winery (the fourth oldest continuously operating in the country). In addition, they launched a popular wine club for members eager to try limited edition releases and marketed the elegant old stone cellars, cask rooms and lush patios as private event spaces.

You could not wish for more faithful stewards of the Jesuit winemaking legacy than Diana and Rob Jensen. When they took over the winery, Diana worked closely with the province archivist to cull through hundreds of historic photos and artifacts related to the Jesuits' nearly century-long ownership. Many of those images have been reproduced and now adorn Testarossa's walls. Diana and Rob even brought back two dessert wines under the Novitiate label, naming one for a beloved Jesuit, Brother

Norbert "Biz" Korte, SJ, who worked at the winery for decades starting in the 1950s.

Of course, all that history does not come cheap as the Jensens have spent millions of dollars upgrading the historic buildings. Rob says, "When the winery was built, there were no electric pumps or forklifts. Adding to the complexity, there have been 13 major additions here since the 1880s, and almost none of those structures are at the same level. I jokingly call this the Winchester Mystery Winery."

Ten years ago, the Jensens decided to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the winery by inviting the Jesuits and staff of Sacred Heart Jesuit Center over for lunch. Everyone was included—from the nurses to the cooks to the maintenance workers to the accountants to the advancement staff and more. The day was such a success that they decided to do it every October 11.

The Jensens are leaving their stamp on the winery with another heartfelt tradition: the blessing of the grapes. Each of their harvests has been blessed by a Jesuit. In the early years, it was their dear friend, Fr. John, and last month, it was Fr. Peter Pabst, SJ.

Their son and daughter who were babies when this great adventure started are Santa Clara graduates themselves. Claire earned her degree in accounting and now works with her mom and dad at Testarossa, while Nick, who earned a civil engineering degree, hopes one day to join the family business.

Despite their success and many years in business, operating a winery—whether Jesuit-run or Jensen-run—is backbreaking work. When I asked the Jensens why they thought two inexperienced kids could be successful in the wine business, Diana quickly said, "Why not? Nobody told us we couldn't."

Spoken just like a Jesuit. ■



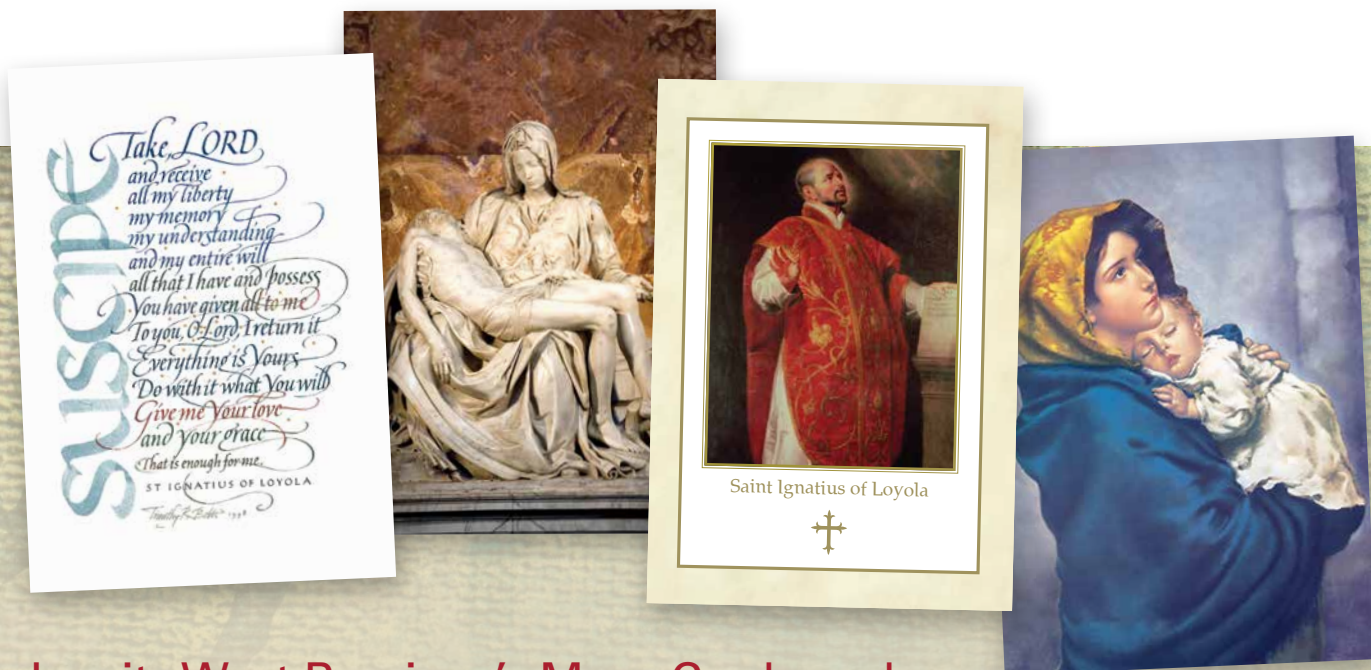
Former grape-picking Jesuits gather for a photo



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