Five Years of Francis
Queridos amigos en el Señor:

Una de las ceremonias más conmoveradoras mientras el joven jesuita pronuncia sus primeros votos ocurre cerca del fin de la liturgia. Después de pronunciar sus votos ante el Santísimo Sacramento y de recibir al Señor en la comunión, él recibe un crucifijo simple. Necesitarán leer más de este rito en la revista. Esa cruz le recuerda a él – y a cada jesuita – que compartimos la vida y la misión del Señor. El corazón de nuestra vida es apostólico; lleva a Cristo crucificado y levantado al mundo. Van a leer sobre muchas formas en las cuales la llamada de llevar a Cristo a otros es vivida. No puedo pensar en ninguna otra persona que cumple con esta llamada más enteramente que el Papa Francisco, cuyo ministerio entero es proclamar el júbilo del Evangelio, especialmente a los pobres. También van a leer de la historia de los jesuitas y nuestros colegas en nuestras universidades y colegios que este año celebran aniversarios, donde el centro de la educación se enfoca en conocer al Señor y en servir a Su gente. El simbolismo de la cruz perdura en tantos lugares.

Como nuestros compañeros de ministerio, ustedes también comparten en este trabajo apostólico por medio de sus oraciones, de sus esfuerzos y de su ayuda financiera. Ustedes ayudan a entrenar a la próxima generación de jesuitas que van a tomar la cruz y con ella la misión del Señor. Ustedes apoyan a los que han laborado por muchos años, pero cuya misión ahora es una de oración mientras la edad o enfermedad tocan sus vidas. Gracias por su generosidad de espíritu. Espero que, al leer esta revista, se encuentren fomentados y animados por continuar sus propias labores con el Señor y con la Compañía de Jesús.

Sinceramente suyo en el Señor,
Ronald A. Mercier, SJ
Provincial, Provincia USA Central y Meridional
New Presidents Named for Three Province High Schools

Three Jesuit high schools in the USA Central and Southern Province will be under new leadership in the 2018-19 school year. Michael J. O’Hagan will become president at Arrupe Jesuit High School (Denver); Fr. Timothy A. Howe, SJ, will serve at Colegio San Ignacio de Loyola (San Juan, Puerto Rico) and Alan R. Carruthers will take over at St. Louis University High School (St. Louis).

Michael O’Hagan has served as principal of Arrupe Jesuit High School since its founding in 2003. He has played a critical role in forming the student educational experience in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. His demonstrated leadership, combined with his deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Arrupe Jesuit, will help ensure the future success of the school.

Father Timothy Howe is an experienced school leader, having served as president of St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati since 2009. A member of the Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus, he previously spent 10 years as pastor of St. Procopius Parish in Chicago. He is a gifted educator, committed to Jesuit and Catholic education, and he has ministry experience in both English and Spanish.

Alan Carruthers is an established leader in Jesuit secondary education. He brings to St. Louis University High School 22 years of Jesuit secondary education experience, first at Rockhurst High School in Kansas City, Mo., then as vice principal and teacher at St. Paul's Jesuit High School in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and most recently as principal at Regis Jesuit High School – Boys Division in Aurora, Colo.

All three men will take on their new responsibilities on July 1, 2018.

Jesuit Students March for Life

More than 275 students and faculty from nine high schools and colleges in the USA Central and Southern Province journeyed to Washington, D.C., to join the 45th annual March for Life on Jan. 19. The UCS schools participating in the largest pro-life demonstration in the world were Jesuit High School (New Orleans), Jesuit High School (Tampa), Loyola University New Orleans, Regis Jesuit High School (Denver), Rockhurst High School and Rockhurst University (Kansas City, Mo.), Saint Louis University and St. Louis University High School (St. Louis), Strake Jesuit College Preparatory School (Houston), Tampa Jesuit and SLUH each sent contingents of more than 50 people.

According to estimates from America Magazine, more than 800 students and faculty from Jesuit universities and high schools across the U.S. participated in the peaceful demonstration in defense of human life. Many also joined the Cardinal O’Connor Conference for Life at Georgetown University and attended the annual Jesuit Mass for Life at the Cardinal O’Connor Conference Center.

Provincial Creates Position to Manage Conduct Programs

Deacon Phil Hengen joined the USA Central and Southern Province last year as Director of Safe Environment and Professional Conduct—a new position, and one that continues to evolve as the province honed its standards, policies and procedures related to sexual misconduct.

Deacon Hengen assists with programs to educate members of the province about safe conduct and helps in the formulation of province policy. He will also be part of the team that responds to reports of abuse and sexual misconduct.

“Most cases of abuse occurred decades ago,” Hengen said. “The province is fully committed to being responsive to anyone abused by a Jesuit, regardless of when it happened. Our primary focus now is ensuring there are no future incidents.”

The USA Central and Southern Province is fully accredited by Praesidium, Inc., an independent organization providing risk management assessment, policy development and training materials for use in preventing sexual misconduct and responding to allegations of sexual misconduct. It also participates in the Jesuit Conference’s “Conversations that Matter” program for the continual updating of Jesuits in the protection of minors and vulnerable adults. Deacon Hengen will help coordinate the province’s participation in that program.

Deacon Hengen is a licensed clinical social worker and a deacon for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. In addition to a private practice, he worked for the archdiocese for 22 years before retiring from his position as director of the Office of Youth Protection in August 2017. At that time, Archbishop Robert J. Carlson bestowed on Hengen the Order of St. Louis, King Award, the Archdiocese’s highest honor, in recognition of his outstanding service.

Deacon Hengen will work closely with Carol Brescia, LCSW, who is the contact person for anyone reporting abuse or misconduct.

Days of Prayer  Mark your calendars now!

The USA Central and Southern Province will host three Donor Days of Reflection during the coming year:
- Manresa House of Retreats, Convent, La., May 22
- White House Jesuit Retreat, St. Louis, June 27
- Regis University, Denver, date to be determined

Each Day of Reflection will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end around 3:00 p.m. Mass will be celebrated, and lunch will be provided. Retreat presenters will be members of this province.

If you are interested in attending a Day of Reflection, please call the advancement office at 314-361-7765. There is no cost to attend but reservations are required.

Father Anthony Wiecek, SJ, professor at St. Louis University High School, was ordained as a priest on Nov. 18 at the New Mexico Jesuit Retreat.

Fernando Luis Barreto Mercado, SJ, was ordained to the diocesan priesthood on Oct. 11 at the St. Louis Jesuit Retreat.

Father Anthony McGinn, SJ, returned to New Orleans as pastor of Immaculate Conception Jesuit Church, effective Dec. 1, 2017.
news briefs

Hurricane Recovery Update

The fall issue of this magazine included a story about the impact of three hurricanes on four schools in the USA Central and Southern Province. Many people responded with gifts and prayers. Strangers reached out with generosity and compassion, and school communities banded together, looking out for one another. The Jesuit schools in Houston and Tampa are doing well, though some families are still displaced. Colegio San Ignacio in San Juan, Puerto Rico, is striving for normalcy in abnormal conditions. Puerto Rico is struggling to recover.

The Jesuit schools and parish in San Juan were hit hard by Hurricane Maria but reopened within two weeks, showing remarkable resilience as they depended on generators and bottled or filtered water. After 128 days, 68% of Puerto Rico (about 1 million people) had their power restored, including the Jesuit schools, parish and community. However, more than 450,000 remain without power, especially in rural areas.

This province received more than 600 gifts, totaling nearly $540,000, to aid the people of Puerto Rico. The Jesuits in Puerto Rico have used those funds to make structural repairs, replace equipment and purchase and maintain generators. Perhaps more importantly, the gifts helped provide financial assistance to faculty, staff and others who needed help. Just clearing up the debris around the school campus cost more than $300,000.

In Houston, both Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School and Strake Jesuit College Preparatory School were the beneficiaries of a tide of goodwill. Thanks to donations, Strake Jesuit and Cristo Rey provided clothing, transportation, temporary housing, furniture, appliances and other necessities to families in need.

In addition to individuals, more than 50 public and private schools and colleges/universities from across the country reached out to Cristo Rey to offer support, allowing the school to help more than 60 students, alumni, faculty, staff and their families.

Cristo Rey received donations totaling $352,105, which it used to fund a financial aid program. Fifty-one Strake Jesuit students remain displaced from their homes.

In all three communities – Houston, Tampa and Puerto Rico – the grace and generosity of the students, faculty, staff and families have been remarkable. Even those whose homes were damaged or destroyed have reached out to help others. Some students distributed water, groceries and cleaning supplies, while others offered their labor to muck, tear down and build back up again. Just returning to school to be together was an important step in healing.

The broader Jesuit family has demonstrated what community is meant to be. Many of the gifts to help the people of Puerto Rico came from donors in Houston. Strake Jesuit families responded early in the Puerto Rican crisis by sending water purifiers to Colegio San Ignacio. Students from De Smet Jesuit High School (St. Louis) flew to Puerto Rico in November to clean out houses, repair roofs, tutor kids and plant mangroves. Seniors at St. Louis University High School spent three weeks in January restoring sports facilities for children and removing debris from roofless homes. Belen Jesuit in Miami also sent students, and more schools have trips planned.

Throughout these challenging months, the Jesuit school communities have felt a strengthening bond with the Jesuit family at large, thanks to intentional acts of solidarity. In Puerto Rico in particular, the generosity of many has enabled the Jesuits to accompany those who have suffered. They will continue to support the recovery efforts with an even greater commitment to share the gifts of the Jesuit mission.

De Smet Jesuit High School students repair roofs damaged by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

Top: Colegio San Ignacio students deliver clean water in Puerto Rico.
Left: De Smet Jesuit High School student tutoring children in a classroom outside San Juan, Puerto Rico.
Five Years Later: Changes under Pope Francis

By William Bole

I t has been five years since white smoke wafted from a tiny chimney atop the Sistine Chapel, signaling that the papal conclave had chosen a new successor of St. Peter, first Bishop of Rome. Just over an hour later, a little-known Argentine cardinal named Jorge Mario Bergoglio appeared on the balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica — the first Jesuit pope, the first pope to hail from the Americas, and the first to take the name “Francis.”

“When I heard that the pope had chosen the name ‘Francis,’ I assumed it was in honor of Francis Xavier, one of the most popular Jesuit saints,” said Steven Schoening, SJ, associate professor of history at Saint Louis University, and a noted expert on papal history.

“But when I found out that it was in honor of Francis of Assisi, I was not disappointed. St. Ignatius Loyola had a strong devotion to Francis of Assisi and was inspired to imitate him when, during his sickbed conversion, he read his biography. It’s hard not to appreciate this saint and his sincere, direct, almost literal living out of the Gospel — and Pope Francis has certainly refocused the Church on the fundamentals of living the Gospel.”

There has been much debate among religious pundits as to whether this approachable pope with a message of mercy has as yet brought change and reform to Catholic life worldwide. Father Timothy P. Kesicki, SJ, president of the Washington-based Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States, points out that to this day, “He hasn’t changed one definitive teaching of the church.”

Yet, Fr. Kesicki and many others are quick to add that the pope who thinks like a Jesuit has changed, perhaps forever, the way a universal pontiff carries out his ministry, and his pastoral spirit has proved infectious for untold numbers of Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

“Pope Francis is attractive to Western culture because he satisfies deep hungers in us,” said Bill McCormick, SJ. He is teaching a class at Saint Louis University this semester on “The Politics of Pope Francis.” The class is full, the discussions lively.

“The students love talking about Pope Francis because he restores their faith in genuine goodness in the public sphere,” McCormick said. “He has challenged political leaders to live out the principles that have too often been empty slogans: the common good, justice, solidarity and human dignity. His popularity shows that we are deeply hungry for decent and moral leadership.”

Francis is pontificating in a new key, making it clear that a fundamental task of the faithful is not so much to follow rules but to discern what God is calling them to do. He is altering the culture of the clergy, steering away from what he refers to as “clericalism” (which dwells on priestly status and authority) and toward an ethic of service (Francis says the church’s shepherds must have the “smell of the sheep,” always staying close to the People of God).

He has energized countless people, religious and lay. Jesuits and their many collaborators, who have gravitated toward what Francis likes to call “the periphery,” the social margins. He is creating a new image of a pope “who is not untouchable, who is open to criticism, open to changing his mind,” and who wants to lead “a more human church,” says Father Gustavo Morello, SJ, a sociology professor at Boston College and author of The Catholic Church and Argentina’s Dirty War (Oxford, 2015).

On March 13, 2013, the Jesuit Curia in Rome happened to be holding a training session for new leaders of English-speaking Jesuit provinces around the world — just as the papal conclave was voting. Father Peter Bisson, SJ, who had recently become head of the English Canada Province, was there and recalls that early in the evening, someone yelled out, “White smoke!” He and others ran out to St. Peter’s Square, where they were amazed to see a fellow member of the Society of Jesus emerge onto the balcony. The 266th pope immediately departed from custom: rather than blessing the pilgrims first, he asked them to take a moment to silently pray for him and ask God to bless his papacy. After that, he gave the traditional papal blessing. Standing in the square, Fr. Bisson thought to himself, “Something new is here.”

The next day, Pope Francis picked up a phone and called the Jesuit Curia. “This is Pope Francis. May I speak to Fr. General?” he asked a flustered receptionist, who was a little incredulous. Francis had to convince the man that it was really the pope calling, not a prankster. Switched eventually to the office of Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, SJ, then-Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Francis began making arrangements for the two to meet — not at the Apostolic Palace, where popes have traditionally resided, but at a residence for visiting clergy and lay people where he stayed during the conclave. It was an early indication that Pope Francis planned to decamp from the sprawling papal apartment and move into the simpler quarters of the guesthouse, on the edge of Vatican City. It’s where he continues to live.

“I think the three most characteristic virtues of Francis of Assisi were humility, simplicity and joy,” Fr. Schoening said. “How closely Pope Francis has followed...
his namesake, as seen in the humility of asking for the crowd’s blessing on his election day; the simplicity of living in the Vatican guest-house rather than the apostolic palace, and the way that, as he has repeatedly stressed, lies at the heart of the Christian life. A saying attributed (maybe apocryphally) to Francis of Assisi is “Preach the Gospel always; if necessary, use words.” This sums up a pope who likes to make meaningful gestures which capture the imagination and stick in the memory far more effectively than lengthy treatises.

If there are just a few keywords of this papacy, one of them is surely “periphery.” Another is “discernment.” Francis the Jesuit is constantly seeking to discern how God is working in his life, and as pope, he is nurturing that kind of spiritual discernment at all levels of the church, notes Fr. Bisson.

“How is the spirit moving among us? Where is the joy?” Fr. Bisson says, relating some Ignatian-style questions for discernment. That’s how Jesuits and others steeped in this tradition characteristically seek to “find God in all things.” As for Francis, Fr. Bisson adds: “He’s not afraid of finding God in unexpected places. He expects to spend his life among the black slaves. Meanwhile some esteemed theologians were discussing whether or not they — the slaves — “had a soul.”

During that November 29 conversation, held in the long, narrow chapel of the archbishop’s house in Yangon, a Jesuit asked why the pope always finds time to meet with fellow Jesuits during his far-flung travels. Francis replied that he does so “not to forget that I am a missionary,” to which he added, provoking laughs — “and that I must convert sinners!”

Fr. Kesicki explains that every religious order has its own charism, its way of carrying out the church’s work. No small part of the Jesuit charism is that it’s a missionary. “He knew how to discern occasions, for himself and others,” he said.

As a Jesuit, you go out to the periphery. You go out to the poor, the disenfranchised, refugees, those disaffected by the church. You go out to the people. Pope Francis has that missionary spirit. That’s what makes him a Jesuit.”

Early in his papacy, Pope Francis made the analogy of the Catholic Church as a field hospital. This image has stuck with Michael O’Hagan, principal and soon-to-be president of Arrupe Jesuit High School in Denver. “The Church is accessible,” O’Hagan says. “We are not waiting for people to come to the Church, but we are going out to the people.”

More than 90% of the student population of Arrupe Jesuit is Latino, and those students see that much of the pope’s message has a visibly prayerful quality. He is attentive to the way God is moving among them. Pope Francis himself says, “The Jesuit must be a master of discernment, for himself and others.” He made that comment when he met with 31 Jesuits based in Myanmar during his visit to that country in 2014.

“Think of St. Peter Claver,” the pope said, referring to the 17th-century Spanish Jesuit missionary. “He knew how to discern and knew that God wanted him to find God in all things. “He knew how to discern and knew that God wanted him to spend his life among the black slaves. Meanwhile some esteemed theologians were discussing whether or not they — the slaves — ‘had a soul.’”

At Arrupe Jesuit, the students are drawn to Pope Francis’ natural warmth. “They can find themselves in his message,” O’Hagan says. “They can find themselves in his prayer. There is simply nothing more powerful than that.”

The college students Bill McCormick teaches have current Arrupe Jesuit President Fr. Tim McMahon, SJ: “My God came seeking mercy, not justice.”

Historian John Padberg, SJ, credits Pope Francis with “stimulating the imagination of the ordinary faithful.” He doesn’t give boring homilies. He has something serious to say, but he says it with imagination.

“The greatest service he is doing the church is that he is incarnating – he’s putting flesh and blood – on the decrees of Vatican II, first by the way he himself personally exemplifies those decrees in his actions, and then in his words, that further develop the implications of those decrees 50 years later,” Fr. Padberg said. “He is speaking imaginatively to people in prose that they can understand. And finally, most importantly, he is talking about the most important face of God: mercy. Mercy and love.”

At Arrupe Jesuit, you always encounter a joyful man. He never looks beaten down. “His hope in the future makes him particularly attractive to young people.”

“It’s no accident that two of Francis’ major documents have “joy” in the titles — Amoris laetitia ("The Joy of Love"), on marriage and family, and "The Joy of the Gospel." Fr. Kesicki of the Jesuit Conference notes, “You can’t give witness to Christ risen if you don’t have joy in your heart. And in Francis, you always encounter a joyful man. He never looks beaten down.”

Indeed, reflecting on reasons for joy is part of the Spiritual Exercises — another Ignatian trait Francis has carried with him.

“His concern for the poor, his desire to evangelize … these clearly mirror the documents of the recent General Congregations and the Jesuit tradition.”

“He is the perfect witness to the Jesuit vocation,” Fr. Kesicki adds. “If you want to know what a Jesuit is, you couldn’t have any better example than Pope Francis.”

William Bole, a journalist in Boston, frequently writes about the Jesuits.

The Church does not exist to condemn people, but to bring about an encounter with the visceral love of God’s mercy. I often say that in order for this to happen, it is necessary to go out: to go out from the churches and the parishes, to go outside and look for people where they live, where they suffer, and where they hope. — Pope Francis
New Jesuit Archives and Research Center to Open this Spring

Months of dreaming, planning, building and packing are about to come to fruition as the new Jesuit Archives and Research Center will open in St. Louis this April. It will serve as a central repository for historical resources of Jesuits in the United States. It will also be a community resource: a center for historical research—preserving materials, including some that have been stored in boxes for years.

When the JARC opens to the public in the spring, it will be a venue for preservation, research and scholarship unsurpassed by any facility in the country.

Campaign Underway

A $5 million capital campaign is getting underway. Campaign committees are forming in seven cities with a significant Jesuit presence: Dallas, Denver, Houston, Kansas City, New Orleans, St. Louis and Tampa. Already, two province benefactors have pledged a total of $350,000.

For more information about the capital campaign, please contact:
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Traditions matter. When the former New Orleans and Missouri Provinces came together to create the USA Central and Southern Province, there were many conversations about how to honor the traditions that were most meaningful. One such practice was the passing on of vow crosses.

Jesuits receive a crucifix when they profess first vows at the end of their novitiate. During the Vow Mass at which they profess the perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, the men receive the cross of a deceased Jesuit. This simple but profound tradition connects young Jesuits with those who came before them.

For William Manaker, SJ, the tradition serves two purposes: “First, from the perspective of the man receiving the crucifix, it is a sign that he is entering into something that has existed before him and joining a greater Company. Second, the prospect of having someone else receive the vow cross after I die is another reminder that even this small thing is not my own; it is something that has existed before him and joining a greater Company. Second, the prospect of having someone else receive the vow cross after I die is another reminder that even this small thing is not my own; it is given to me by the Society as a reminder of my vows and must be returned when I die.”

When he professed first vows in 2016, Manaker received the cross of Fr. Raul Navarro, SJ, who died the year before.

Colten Biro, SJ, professed first vows in 2015. He received the cross of the theologian and author Fr. David Fleming, SJ (1934-2011). “Father Fleming has always been an inspiration to me,” said Biro, himself a writer. “His writing and work demonstrate a level of excellence which few people ever reach. However, the stories and encounters that people share about him show a truly humble and pastoral side to the man. For me, his cross – now my cross – reminds me that excellence can be given for the Kingdom and given wholeheartedly to others. The vow cross reminds me of the great things to strive for, while at the same time daring me to love and encounter others within each small moment.”

During the Vow Mass, held every August at the novitiate in Grand Coteau, La., the novice director presents the cross and talks about the previous owner. This was particularly poignant at the 2015 Vow Mass, when Fr. Antonio “T.J.” Martinez’s cross was given to Michael Mohr, SJ. Father Martinez was just 44 years old when he died the year before, in November 2014.

Father Martinez was the founding president of Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School of Houston in 2009 and led it until illness forced him to step down. Mohr worked at Cristo Rey as a novice and learned from Fr. Martinez as he endured the final stage of his battle with cancer. Mohr hopes he can emulate the joy and enthusiasm for Christ and the mission of the Society of Jesus that Fr. Martinez displayed even in his final days.

The men receiving vow crosses understand that someday their cross will be passed along to another generation. When asked what advice he would offer the man who will someday receive his cross, Biro says, “Understand everything is mission. Everything we do as Jesuits, everything we dedicate ourselves to – those works, institutions, ministries – are ways of returning that which has been given to us by God. We can never balance the scales against God’s gifts to us, but we can make it our mission to give, in each moment, all that we can back to God.”

One can’t help but believe that Fr. Fleming would be extremely happy with that bit of advice.
Two hundred years of history is a joy, an honor and a challenge. This year, Saint Louis University celebrates its 200-year anniversary. Along with St. Louis University High School, SLU is the oldest continuously operating institution in St. Louis. Jesuits connected to the school hope that the ongoing year of bicentennial celebrations will be an opportunity not only to recall the past, but to contemplate how to respond to current and future needs in the Catholic, Jesuit tradition.

“We are a Catholic, Jesuit, international, urban, residential, research university with a substantial medical and health care practice. That’s what distinguishes us,” said President Fred P. Pestello, Ph.D., concisely delineating the university’s role in the community and the world.

Jesuit-educated at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Dr. Pestello is Saint Louis University’s first permanent lay president, and he is delighted to lead a Jesuit institution. He noted the university is part of a 2,000-year faith tradition, as well as the nearly 480-year-old mission of the Society of Jesus. “We attend not simply to the head, but also to the heart and the hand.”

Saint Louis University got its start as St. Louis Academy. The school opened in St. Louis in November 1818, with classes in Latin, English, French, arithmetic and geography. It was the initiative of Bishop Louis William DuBourg, SS, who had arrived in St. Louis just 10 months before.

The academy struggled for several years, and DuBourg was tempted to close it, until, in 1823, 12 Jesuits responded to a call from Bishop DuBourg to establish a school for Native American boys. Historian John Padberg, SJ, described the Jesuits’ arrival from Maryland: “Like manna from heaven, this bunch of young Belgians shows up.” It became a Jesuit institution six years later.

Planning for the bicentennial celebration began years ago. Dr. Pestello appointed Dr. Ellen Harshman to lead the Bicentennial Steering Committee after she retired as dean of the John Cook School of Business in July 2015. The first order of business, Dr. Harshman said, was a bicentennial book: Always at the Frontier: Saint Louis University 1818-2018 was released on Jan. 10. This historical record was written by Dolores Byrnes, with the help of Fr. Padberg and archivist emeritus John Waide. The book contains documents and illustrations previously unseen. It is available for purchase through the SLU website.

The steering committee formed an advisory council of St. Louis community representatives to help guide its bicentennial planning. Council members include St. Louisans from all walks of life, including Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, Mayor Lyda Krewson and other business, civic and religious leaders. Saint Louis University is indisputably a product of its hometown, but, as Dr. Pestello notes, ”The world has changed a lot from 1818 to 2018, and the institution changes with it while remaining committed to a set of core values that are at the heart of SLU, those Gospel values, the model of Christ.”

The SLU community kicked off its celebrations with a Bicentennial Mass on the grounds of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, commonly referred to as the Gateway Arch, on Sept. 23, 2017, near the site of the original St. Louis Academy. An estimated 6,000 people attended, and 47 Jesuit priests concelebrated with Archbishop Carlson. Representatives of the Osage Nation participated, reflecting the school’s original mission of educating Osage children.

Father Christopher S. Collins, SJ, a representative of the Osage Nation at the Bicentennial Mass, September 2017.
whose first assignment as a Jesuit was on a Native American reservation, said their presence at the Mass was a “great gift.”

In his role as assistant to the president for mission and identity, Fr. Collins helps faculty and staff orient themselves to the university, understand the mission and determine how they can personally contribute. “People sense there is something more spiritual or meaningful than just running a research university,” Collins said, and instead of seeing the “ivory tower” mentality, he sees “people in the thick of it.”

With a history of motivating leaders, academic innovators and contemplatives in action, being “in the thick of it” has taken many forms at SLU over the decades. Former archivist John Waide, who now works as the outreach coordinator at Pius XII Memorial Library, noted that SLU has remained committed to the city of St. Louis, even when it was not the most popular thing to do. “Where you locate yourself is so important,” he says. “The university stayed here at Grand and Lindell since 1888, when they had enormous opportunities, including within the last 75 years, to move out.”

Waide, a 1973 SLU alumnus, hopes that students and alumni will use the bicentennial as a time to reflect. “Becoming part of a new 200-year history, I hope students will take pride in that,” Waide said. “Because between the Billiken (the school’s mascot) and the 1949 exorcism (on which the 1973 film, The Exorcist, was based) there are a million and one interesting stories, even some that have yet to be uncovered.”

Commitment to Service
Service is part of the culture at Saint Louis University. Father Collins says, “Though this is a spiritual mission we’re a part of, I’m most hopeful about very practical ways of living this mission.”

Saint Louis University last year celebrated the 20th anniversary of Make a Difference Day, the university’s single largest day of service. Fr. Pestello describes it as “literally thousands of our students, along with a contingent of faculty and staff, get up early on a Saturday morning and go out to various spots within the community and give back.”

Make a Difference Day 2017 embodies one the university’s premier bicentennial initiatives: the 200-Years-In-One Challenge, aimed at encouraging and tracking service. The goal is to improve the world by giving back 200 years of volunteer service—more than 1.7 million hours—all in one year. Participants, who need not have a direct connection to SLU, log their hours through a mobile app and online at www.slu.edu/200years. These hours are captured in real time by the bicentennial clock on the edge of SLU’s campus across from St. Francis Xavier College Church.

The 200-Years-In-One Challenge is not about starting something new, but about celebrating a tradition of service, and not just on the part of students. SLU professors and staff also volunteer their time and expertise and find imaginative ways to serve. One popular service program at SLU is the Saint Louis University Prison Education Program. Founded in 2008, the program provides access to Jesuit-inspired liberal arts education for incarcerated people and prison staff in the region. It works. The average rate of recidivism in Missouri is 60 percent, but the rate of recidivism for students in the SLU program is zero percent. Zero percent recidivism is something to celebrate during a year of celebrations.

Looking Ahead
In his book-filled office in the Jesuit residence on SLU’s campus, Fr. Padberg discussed SLU’s history and the importance of not only celebrating its success, but recalling “where it hasn’t succeeded, and to remember the things it has not done.” Fr. Padberg is motivated by the idea of “downward mobility” theorized by the late Jesuit Fr. Dean Brackley, SJ, and stated, “If you are only concerned with upward mobility, you have no idea the terrible obstacles in the face of the people who are down below.”

For this reason, he said, the university community must maintain the tension between downward and upward mobility and recognize the sources of structural inequality in the form of racial, social, intellectual and economic injustices. The university’s response is what will mark it as a truly Jesuit institution.

Father Collins would like to see the SLU community consider what more it can do for those to whom it has pledged friendship. The university must “provide the space to reflect and to be open to critique, and to humble ourselves again and again,” Fr. Collins said.

The late Sunday night student Mass at St. Francis Xavier College Church is a favorite SLU tradition for many, including Fr. Collins. Citing the human need for forgiveness from God, from others and from ourselves, he regards that Mass as “indicative of who we are that’s unique, and a sign of the community at SLU. It’s such an icon of who we attempt to be, agents of reconciliation, sharing communion together.”

Fr. Pestello views the year-long bicentennial anniversary as a time for the SLU community to come together “to reflect upon our past, and even more importantly, to consider our future.”

### Saint Louis University Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1818</td>
<td>SLU was founded as a college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1829</td>
<td>SLU becomes a university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1832</td>
<td>SLU moves to current Midtown location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1836</td>
<td>SLU desegregates with admission of first African-American students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>SLU goes co-ed with admission of first women students to the School of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>First lay families join SLU’s board of trustees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>SLU’s first permanent lay president, Fred P. Pestello, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>First Mass at St. Francis Xavier College Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>SLU bicentennial clock launched</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Select Upcoming Events

- **Apr 15**: SLU Bicentennial Ignite Summer Kick-Off
- **Apr 22-24**: Mission and Identity Lecture Series: Michael Rutter, SJ, presents Reimagining Health Care: Ignatian Insights for Achieving the Greater Good.
- **Sept 24**: International Saint Louis Climate Summit
- **Nov 5**: Mission and Identity Lecture Series: Michael Garanzini, SJ, presents Reflections From the City: Jesuit Education - Do We Need a New Paradigm?

Visit www.slu.edu/bicentennial/events for more information. 

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As one who loves learning, David Paternostro, SJ, was attracted to the educational ministry of the Society of Jesus, but while a young man discerning his vocation, he was especially drawn to the priestly ministry, the opportunity to bring the sacraments into people’s lives. As a student at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston, he witnessed Jesuits and admired their ability and willingness to be with people at crucial moments. As he looks forward to his priestly ordination this June, this is the kind of service he looks forward to as a priest, and where he expects to find the greatest satisfaction.

Paternostro has known Jesuits most of his life. His father graduated from Jesuit High School in New Orleans, and David met Jesuits while still a small child. His father was a career naval officer, and for part of his childhood, David considered a career in the Navy. As a teenager, though, his thoughts turned to the priesthood.

“There were many holy and learned Jesuits in the school who influenced me,” he said. “At first I swatted away thoughts of a religious vocation. But they kept coming back; eventually I knew I had to do something. “He continued, “I really understand the cross. ”

This summer, Paternostro will fulfill his dream of teaching at Jesuit High School in Tampa, Fla., as one of his favorite assignments so far. It’s where he learned how to balance his prayer, work and recreation and how to be with students. He found it very consoling when moments of informal conversation with a student could segue into a deep theological discussion, a great spiritual experience.

He also enjoyed his experiences at the Cristo Rey schools in New York and San Francisco. He’s currently back to studying, working on a licentiate in sacred theology at the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University – Berkeley Campus, which will allow him to return to the classroom as a teacher of theology. “I would love to teach in a Jesuit college or university,” he says. “But of course, part of being a Jesuit is going where I can help serve the greatest universal need.”

This summer, Paternostro will fulfill his dream of becoming a priest. Ordinations are scheduled for June 9 in St. Louis. And while he has been working toward this day for more than a dozen years, Paternostro admits that he is almost surprised that his ordination is upon him.

“From the moment you enter the novitiate, you are a Jesuit,” he said. “You get used to thinking that ordination is going to happen ‘one day’ and then, all of a sudden, ‘one day’ kind of sneaks up on you!”

University to finish his undergraduate degree in psychology. He cites teaching at Jesuit High School in Tampa, Fla., as one of his favorite assignments so far. It’s where he learned how to balance his prayer, work and recreation and how to be with students. He found it very consoling when moments of informal conversation with a student could segue into a deep theological discussion, a great spiritual experience.

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A Jesuit, Fr. Brown is up to going anywhere, open to any assignment. But during his 30-day retreat last summer, he began to feel convinced that ministry in a secondary school was his calling. And then he was sent to Iraq, to work in a refugee camp.

“I felt completely useless,” he said, noting that he speaks none of the local languages. “The only thing I had to offer was my life. The Suspects became very real to me. I knew I was ready to give my life for God’s sake.”

The people in the camp, especially the Christians, helped Fr. Brown make sense of the violence and destruction. “These people really understand the cross,” he said. “They helped me to grow spiritually.”

After nearly three months in Iraq, Fr. Brown has profound admiration for people who evangelize and who serve in the most dire situations. He also has a new appreciation for New Orleans and Jesuit High School. “After being in a refugee camp, it’s kind of hard to get too worked up about anything here,” he says.

Father Brown believes his job at Jesuit is to articulate the mission. “I love Jesuit High School, and I’m very proud of what other Jesuits have done here. I can sell what Jesuits and lay collaborators have been doing for 170 years because I really believe in the mission.”

“The great thing about working in the high school is that I know the kids or grandkids of the people I talk to in my job. I always begin by thanking them, because the best thing you can give is your son.”

Father Brown served at Jesuit High School before his tertian assignment, but he’s a different man now. “My time in Iraq was absolutely life-changing,” he says. “I have really come to believe that grace, forgiveness, love and beauty will rule the day.”

Father Brown also serves as superior of the Jesuit Community of the Immaculate Conception.
Prayer is vital to our relationship with God and our spiritual well-being, and establishing a prayer routine can help ensure we spend time in prayer each day. Prayer apps on a phone or tablet can be just the thing to help instill or bring new life to your habit.

A quick search of the app store reveals that prayer apps abound. So how do you find the right one for you? Well, we’ve done a little multi-generational research for you. Our app review team consists of Therese Fink Meyerhoff, director of communications for the province and editor of Jesuits magazine, and Claire Peterson, advancement and communications specialist. Claire is a 2017 alumna of Saint Louis University, and Therese … well, let’s just say she has a daughter Claire’s age. You’re getting evaluations from two generations here. Each of the apps reviewed below is available through Google Play or the App Store. The descriptions come from the app; our reviews follow.

### Prayer App Reviews: Using Technology to Enhance your Prayer Life

**Enhance your Prayer Life**

*Our prayer cannot be reduced to an hour on Sundays. It is important to have a daily relationship with the Lord.*

– Pope Francis

### 3-Minute Retreat

Loyola Press’s free app offers a peaceful prayer experience that helps you re-connect with God and re-center your day, wherever you are. Every day, the app guides you on a new bite-sized retreat filled with Scripture passages, soothing music and reflection questions that you can pray at your own pace. Choose English or Spanish. Also available online at LoyolaPress.com.

**Claire:** I like this app because it’s easy to switch between English and Spanish. Although the retreats are lovely, it’s tempting to breeze through the writings without slowing down.

**Therese:** This app is always upbeat and encouraging, with beautiful images and peaceful music. Each retreat begins with a helpful reminder to rest in God’s presence. The questions invite reflection, and the app enables you to spend as much time on each screen as you want. However, this app is not connected with the liturgical calendar, which I found a bit jarring.

### Insight Timer

Just a little curveball here: Insight Timer is not a prayer app. It’s a meditation app that both Therese and Claire found helpful as part of their prayer routine. It is the most popular free meditation app available.

**Claire:** This is a wonderful app. It’s so flexible and adjustable to individual needs. Although it appears busy at first, it is really very simple to use. It’s great for decreasing mind clutter, and for taking some time to focus on the breath. It’s structured, which I like, but not restrictive. I liked using this app before the prayer apps. That gave me the chance to quiet my mind and made me more focused on the text.

**Therese:** I found Insight Timer to be a great tool for contemplative prayer. There are countless meditation options. You can choose the amount of time you have available and listen to music or soothing sounds or choose a guided meditation or prayer. It’s fun to see how many other people are using the app at the same time!

### Jesuit Prayer

Jesuit Prayer offers daily scripture, Ignatian reflections and prayer to anchor your day and strengthen your resolve to remember what truly matters. Also available at JesuitPrayer.org.

**Claire:** This app is consistent and easy to use. You can set up alerts for morning and evening prayers, which is especially helpful to punctuate the day with a gentle reminder to pray. The scripture readings are complemented by the Ignatian reflection and prayer. With the reminder set to go off in the morning, it is a wonderful way to start the day.

**Therese:** There’s a lot to like about this app. I love hearing the different voices of people who are part of the “Ignatian family” and the feeling of being in union with all who are using the app. You can get a quick dose of spirituality or you can linger over the reflection.

### Reimagining the Examen

St. Ignatius advised that you always include the Examen, also known as the Examination of Consciousness, in your daily prayer. Created by Loyola Press, and based on Fr. Mark Thibodeaux, SJ’s best-selling book of the same name, Reimagining the Examen offers a unique prayer experience that’s tailored to your needs and mood. Each Examen guides you through a stimulating reflection on your day, helping you invite God into your nitty-gritty. Choose an Examen that matches your current state of being, or pray that day’s scheduled reflection.

**Claire:** This is a nice combination of prayer and meditation. The user has control of how quickly to progress through the pages, so it is easily personalized. I really like this rendering of the Examen because it’s simple and helps me to focus on small images and ideas, and to strive to be present in the moment. It offers a wide variety of themes, which is great because it is adjustable to times of day, moods and situations. It’s also nice to be able to adjust music and sounds and the text size.

**Therese:** This app is great for newcomers to the Examen because it guides the user through the prayer with clear instructions and visualizations. Those already accustomed to the Examen might find it sparks their creativity in how to review their day. I found this app to be the most “challenging”: it is simply not possible to use it on autopilot.

### Jesuits Magazine

Also available at JesuitPrayer.org.

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Everyday, people like you include a gift in their will to sustain older and infirm Jesuits.

I remember phoning Fr. Phil Postell 30 years after graduating from Jesuit High. I wanted to tell him what an impact he had made on my life. I used to marvel at his intellect … but more than that, it was his compassion and grace that lived up to the Jesuit motto, Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.

Dr. Michael Miroue

Senior Jesuits selflessly gave of themselves to help foster a new generation that would become leaders in the mold of Saint Ignatius. It seems only right – no, make that imperative – that they enjoy their ensuing years in comfort.

That is the reason my wife and I have included these wonderful men in our trust. It is the very least that I feel compelled to do.

Dr. Michael Miroue

This issue of Jesuits magazine presents a different approach to remembering the Jesuits who have entered eternal life. Instead of too-brief listings of significant dates and ministries, we will offer the briefest of glimpses into the way each man lived his life as a Jesuit. Full obituaries are available on the province website: www.jesuitscentralsouthern.org/in-memoriam.

Father Edmundo Rodriguez, SJ

October 18, 2017

Father Edmundo Rodriguez was 82 years old, a Jesuit for 64 years and a priest for 51 years when he died in Opelousas, La. His first assignment after ordination was in El Paso, where he continued the work with the poor begun by Fr. Harold Rahm, SJ. As he learned about the lives of the people sunk in grinding poverty, he was called to respond. He helped start a program to assist local high school graduates enrolled in college. Finding that children from Juarez were sleeping in the streets, he found ways to get food and shelter for them. He walked the streets, offering Mass and his presence. This early experience influenced his approach to ministry going forward: attention to local needs, direct contact with people and action to help meet those needs.

While a pastor in San Antonio, he helped calm racial discord. After serving as provincial for the former New Orleans Province, he accompanied Fr. General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach to El Salvador following the murder of Jean Vanier.

Father Edmundo is remembered for his kindness, keen intelligence and generosity enabled him to respond to Ignatius Residence in New Orleans. Brother Martin’s sick and elderly, and he played a crucial role in setting like home. He was especially attentive in his care for the necessities of a residence: food, supplies, maintenance, etc. He managed to make each Jesuit community feel if he or she was Christ himself.

He was minister of several large Jesuit communities over the years, which meant he was responsible for the necessities of a residence: food, supplies, maintenance, etc. He managed to make each Jesuit community feel like home. He was especially attentive in his care for the sick and elderly, and he played a crucial role in setting up Ignatius Residence in New Orleans. Brother Martin’s intelligence and generosity enabled him to respond to changing needs with skill and compassion.

Father Thomas Casey, SJ

January 11, 2018

Unassuming and faithful, Father Thomas J. Casey was 90 years old, a Jesuit for 72 years and a priest for 60 years when he died at the Fusz Memorial Pavilion in St. Louis.

Father Casey taught sociology to college students for 15 years before transitioning to pastoral ministry, serving in various towns and dioceses where priests were scarce. Since he loved teaching, he always tried to have an element of education in his work.

Community life was one of the reasons Fr. Casey chose the Jesuits over life as a diocesan priest. So he surprised no one more than himself when he made himself available to serve in remote locations. Always willing to go where he was needed, he found himself drawn to this ministry by the faith of the people he served, especially in Trinidad and Pueblo, Colorado and Tulsa, Durant and Wilburton, Oklahoma.

Father Elsner may be best remembered for his strength in a difficult time. He was president of Jesuit High School in El Paso when the decision was made to close the school, and he was a source of consolation to the Jesuits and the school community throughout the process. He loved pastoral ministry and especially the people of San Antonio, where he served for nearly 30 years. He never wanted to be far from dealing with God’s people, whether in the classroom, the parish or in the seminary, where he served as spiritual director. Fr. Elsner found joy in the knowledge of his redemption and shared that joy with all whom he met.

Father Martin Elsner, SJ

February 4, 2018

A gentle and kind man with an unflaggingly positive attitude, Fr. Marty Elsner was 86 years old, a Jesuit for 68 years and a priest for 55 years when he died in Opelousas, LA.

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Brother A. Joseph Martin, SJ

December 4, 2017

Brother Joseph Martin was 88 years old and a Jesuit for 63 years when he died at the St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Pavilion in Grand Coteau, La. Brother Martin’s vocation was service. He lived to serve – and treated each person as if he or she was Christ himself.

He was minister of several large Jesuit communities over the years, which meant he was responsible for the necessities of a residence: food, supplies, maintenance, etc. He managed to make each Jesuit community feel like home. He was especially attentive in his care for the sick and elderly, and he played a crucial role in setting up Ignatius Residence in New Orleans. Brother Martin’s intelligence and generosity enabled him to respond to changing needs with skill and compassion.

Please contact John Honaman to learn how to include a gift to the Jesuits of the USA Central and Southern Province in your will or other planned giving.

John M. Honaman, CFRE  |  (214) 605-7845  |  jhonaman@jesuits.org

Planned Giving Officer

In memoriam

Father Philip S. Postell, SJ

Former president and principal, Jesuit High School, New Orleans, 1982-2011

Former president, Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas, 1992-2011

Preparatory School of Dallas, 1992-2011

Postell 30 years after graduating from Jesuit High.

I used to marvel at his intellect … but more than that, it was his compassion and grace that lived up to the Jesuit motto, Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.

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We are each called to respond to God's invitation to serve in our own way.

In addition to Jesuit priests and brothers, the USA Central and Southern Province is blessed to have people serving through the Ignatian Volunteer Corps and alumni service programs. Alum service opportunities are for new college grads; IVC is for adults 50 and over.

For more information:

**Alum Service**
Pete Musso, Director
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www.alumservicecorps.org
(314) 361-7765

**Ignatian Volunteer Corps**
Vicki Simon, Director
vsimon@Jesuits.org
www.ivcusa.org

**Jesuit Vocations**
Randy Gibbens, SJ, Vocation Coordinator
UCSVocationCoordinator@Jesuits.org
www.BeAJesus.org

Jesus does not make us cross to the other side alone; instead, he asks us to make the crossing with him, as each of us responds to his or her own specific vocation.

~ Pope Francis