Four Jesuits Anointed to Serve
Grace Upon Grace
Classroom Rookies & Veterans
Accompanying Works of Mercy
message from the provincial

Dear Friends,

Each year, provincials meet with each Jesuit of their provinces, listening to them reveal their lives, prayers and desires. Through this discernment process, we seek — with God’s grace — to find with each Jesuit the magis—the ministry for the greatest glory of both the Church and the Society of Jesus.

So I seek to mission men to where they are most needed. I have learned that though there are many and diverse ministries in the Society, there is really only one mission, the help of souls. A Jesuit takes that fundamental mission and applies it creatively to his specific ministry. This year in the New Orleans Province, we have just ordained four new priests who will also be sent out “to set the world on fire.”

This issue of *The Southern Jesuit* pays witness to the great creativity of our Jesuits and their ministries. Our social grants program supports the practice of solidarity with the poor in a more personal accompaniment of the least of our brothers and sisters.

Fathers Bao Nguyen and John Lan Tran, in their support of so many Vietnamese religious, remind us of what it means to “go to the missions.” Through their creativity and determination, they seek to re-invigorate and strengthen the Catholic Church in Vietnam through the education and spiritual formation of over 100 priests, brothers and sisters.

Inspiring hope is another common thread in this issue. Father Chris Pinné shares with us the challenges he has encountered and countered in his life and ministry. Meanwhile at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas, students are raising awareness and funds to literally bring light into the lives of Kenyan refugees.

Veteran educators like Fathers Doug Hypolite and Ralph Houlihan are helping to form the future Church in our high schools; they also help form our Jesuit scholastics who are just beginning their Jesuit journey. Father John Brown, in his reflection on his first year of priesthood, speaks of the future of our Church and our hope in Christ.

These courageous responses to being missioned for the Gospel’s sake make me grateful to have my role in this process. But our Jesuit obedience is augmented and echoed in the fidelity of the many lay companions who work and walk with us, people like Ronnie Briggs and Red Dumesnil whom you will also meet in these pages.

God’s grace is alive and well in the passion, creativity and dedication of our Jesuits, lay companions and colleagues — all in the response to the call of the Gospel, all for God’s greater glory.

Yours in Christ,

Mark A. Lavin, SJ.
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New Retreat Director at Montserrat Retreat House
Fr. John Payne recently completed his service as a spiritual formator for priests for the Diocese of Austin in Texas. After 13 years in Austin, he moves on to Lake Dallas, Texas, to serve as a retreat director at Montserrat Retreat House. A native of Texas, Fr. Payne is also a board member at Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School of Houston.

Jesuit Teams Up With National Geographic on Ancient X Files: Crown of Thorns
Fr. J. Patrick Hough joined National Geographic for an installment of “Ancient X Files” centered on the Crown of Thorns.

Fr. Hough traveled with a film crew to Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France, to examine the relic that is believed to have pierced Christ’s head. “Faith, pilgrimage, hope and healing all wrapped into one,” he said of the experience. Most memorable for him was the overflowing number of pilgrims at Notre Dame on the monthly exposition of the relic, at which he was given the honor of holding the crown for veneration.

Vocation Director and Coordinator Appointed
On the feast of St. Ignatius, July 31, 2012, Fr. Paul Deutsch and Fr. Andrew Kirschman will become vocation director and coordinator of vocation promotion, respectively, for the New Orleans and Missouri Provinces. Fr. Deutsch, who is vocation director for the New Orleans Province, will relieve Fr. Lou McCabe as vocation director for the Missouri Province, as he begins a new ministry as pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in Punta Gorda, Belize. Fr. Kirschman will work closely with Fr. Deutsch on vocation promotion outreach at schools and universities in the two provinces. Fr. Kirschman will also continue part-time ministry at Arrupe Jesuit High School in Denver.

Five Men Approved for Theology Studies
Five young Jesuits will this fall move from the regency stage of formation, where they live in an active Jesuit community while working in that community’s apostolate — usually a high school — to the next stage of formation, theological studies.

Mr. Carlos Esparza of Strake Jesuit College Preparatory of Houston and Mr. Randall Gibbens of Jesuit High School of Tampa will be attending the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. Mr. John Nugent of Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas and Mr. José “Pepe” Ruiz of Strake Jesuit College Preparatory will be attending Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. Mr. Joseph Hill of Jesuit High School of New Orleans will be attending St. Ignatius Loyola Interprovincial Theologate in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
Summer 2012 Hearts on Fire Retreats
The 2012 Hearts on Fire tour of the Jesuit mission band of the Apostleship of Prayer welcomes all young adults (18-39, single or married)!
Hearts on Fire is an introduction to practical ways of connecting faith and everyday life.
Team members this summer will include Mr. Sean Salai of Jesuit High School of Tampa; Fr. Jay Hooks, who is a 2012 ordinand; and Fr. Anthony Wieck of Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas.

The cities on the schedule are:
- Corpus Christi, TX  July 6–7, 2012
- New Orleans, LA  July 13–14, 2012
- Tampa, FL  July 20–21, 2012

To sign up, or for more information, visit www.apostleshipofprayer.org/heartsonfire.html.

Three Young Priests Move On to High School Ministry, One to Doctoral Studies
After spending their first priestly year in pastoral assignments, three Jesuits have been missioned to the high school apostolate.
Fr. Johnathan Brown will transition from Sacred Heart Parish in El Paso to Jesuit High School of New Orleans; Fr. J. Patrick Hough will depart Immaculate Conception Parish in Albuquerque, N.M., to begin the school year at Jesuit High School of Tampa, and Fr. Jeffrey Johnson will bid farewell to Immaculate Conception Church in New Orleans to serve Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston.
The fourth member of the 2011 ordination class, Fr. Aaron Pidel, will begin doctoral studies in systematic theology at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind. He has spent his first year ministering at Gesù Catholic Church in Miami.

Three Jesuits Pronounce Final Vows
Final vows mark the end of Jesuit formation and are a reaffirmation of the first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.
Fr. Thomas Greene, who is currently secretary for social and international ministries of the Jesuit Conference, pronounced final vows on June 17, 2012, at 7:30 a.m. Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Grand Coteau, La. Fr. Tom Smolich, who is president of the Jesuit Conference, received his vows.

Br. Lawrence Huck, who is currently the Provincial's representative for the renovations of St. Charles College in Grand Coteau, La., will pronounce final vows at the 3 p.m. Jubilee Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in New Orleans on July 29, 2012.

Fr. R.V. Baylón, professor of bioethics at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala., will pronounce final vows on Saturday, September 8, 2012, at 11 a.m. Mass in St. Joseph Chapel at Spring Hill College.
Provincial Mark A. Lewis will receive their vows.
Fr. Robert B. Rimes

Father Robert Breard Rimes, 89, departed this life on May 30, 2012, at Providence Hospital in Mobile, Ala. He was in his 70th year as a member of the Society of Jesus and a priest for 56 years. He was interred at Spring Hill College.

Fr. Rimes was born in Monroe, La. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1942 at St. Charles College in Grand Coteau, La., after attending Spring Hill College for three years prior. He completed his bachelor’s degree in philosophy at Spring Hill College in 1949, after which he earned his Licentiate of Sacred Theology from St. Mary’s College in Kansas.

After ordination on June 15, 1955, he was missioned to Grand Coteau as socius to the master of novices for eight years, after which he was appointed the master of novices for ten years. He was then assigned to Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston as a member of the faculty and campus minister. His next assignment was as rector of the Jesuit Community at Spring Hill College, where he taught and worked in campus ministry. He was also appointed director of tertians after the death of Fr. James Yamauchi. Later, he was missioned to Grand Coteau as associate pastor at St. Charles Borromeo Church for one year before returning to Spring Hill College to again teach theology, serve as campus minister and as rector of the community. He also served the Archdiocese of Mobile as a vicar for religious.

In the last years of a long and fruitful life of ministry he continued to offer spiritual direction to many and assisted in various pastoral ministries in the Archdiocese of Mobile.

Fr. Gerald M. Fagin

Father Gerald Matthew Fagin, 74, departed this life on Thursday, June 14, 2012, at Ignatius Residence in New Orleans. He was interred at St. Charles College in Grand Coteau, La., where he entered the Society of Jesus in 1956.

Fr. Fagin, a native of Dallas, was an alumnus of Jesuit High School in Dallas. He earned a Bachelor of Arts and a master’s degree in philosophy from Spring Hill College before returning to Jesuit High in Dallas as a teacher. He went on to study theology at Regis College in Canada where he received a Master of Divinity as well as a master’s degree in theology and a Licentiate of Sacred Theology. Following priestly ordination on June 7, 1969, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Dallas, he received his doctoral degree in theology from St. Michael’s College in Toronto.

Much of Fr. Fagin’s ministry was centered at Loyola University New Orleans, where he began teaching theology in 1973. He was associate professor of religious studies, chair of the Department of Religious Studies and rector of the Loyola Community. He was also associate professor of theology and spirituality at the Loyola Institute for Ministry (LIM). Fr. Fagin also served the New Orleans Province as provincial, socius to the master of novices, director of studies and superior of collegians.

His publications include “The Holy Spirit” (2002), co-authored with J. Patout Burns, and “Putting on the Heart of Christ” (2010), as well as several articles and published lectures. He was in great demand as a spiritual director and devoted many years to developing spiritual formation programs at Loyola and at the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center in New Orleans.

All donations received in memory of Fr. Fagin will benefit the Senior Jesuit Fund, and donations given in memory of Fr. Rimes will benefit the Jesuit Seminary Fund. To donate, please contact Pam Meldrum at 1-800-788-1719 or donate online at www.norprov.org/donate.
One hundred years and countless achievements have come and gone since Loyola University was chartered in New Orleans in 1912. Since that time, the Jesuit-Catholic university has grown to house five colleges and two professional schools, educating 5,000 students a year with the guidance and support of more than 1,100 faculty and staff.

For a century, Loyola has not only contributed to the economic health of the greater New Orleans area — almost $164 million last year alone — but it has also produced men and women who serve as catalysts of change in their communities by exemplifying the ethical and values-laden education they received at their alma mater.

Loyola’s 16th and current president, the Rev. Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J, PhD, believes that creates quite a ripple effect outside Loyola’s campus. “Loyola University’s first 100 years were paved with great ambition and outstanding achievements. Today, Loyola is stronger than ever and poised to usher in its next century of impacting the world beyond its classrooms,” Wildes said.

Throughout 2012 and through May 2013, Loyola University New Orleans will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its chartering as a university by featuring a number of signature and academic events that celebrate and explore Loyola’s rich history, all of which are on the recently launched centennial website, www.loyno.edu/2012. The site also contains personal stories and photos showing the enormous impact a Jesuit education has on its students and features milestones, historical photos, video interviews and Loyola’s plan for the future, illustrating how the university was and still is a place of innovation, academic achievement and lasting friendships.

To permanently document Loyola’s unique history, the university commissioned the publication of “Founded on Faith: A History of Loyola University New Orleans,” written by professor of history Bernard Cook, PhD. The book, available online at www.loyno.bkstr.com, provides a definitive history of the Jesuits in Louisiana and explores Loyola’s impact on the city of New Orleans through a colorful cast of students, alumni, Jesuits, faculty and other characters.
Announcing the purpose of his own calling in a Nazarene synagogue, Jesus spoke these words as he read from a scroll of the prophet Isaiah:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty for captives and let the oppressed go free.”

Then, he rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant and said, “Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4:18-21)

On June 9, 2012, this same scripture passage was fulfilled for four men, who over a decade ago responded to the urgings of that same Spirit of the Lord. Burning with love and the desire to serve God’s people, these men were ordained as Jesuit priests by the Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi, Archbishop of Mobile, at services held in Saint Joseph Chapel at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala.

Even though their backgrounds and the stories of their spiritual journeys are quite varied, they share the same desire to dedicate themselves to the Jesuit mission of serving the Church for the greater glory of God wherever they may be most needed.

While their ordination is the culmination of many years of spiritual formation, studies and service, it is the beginning of a new and deeper mode of apostolic ministry to the Church and to the world. The Jesuits of the New Orleans Province are truly blessed to welcome these dedicated and gifted men as Jesuit priests.

**Father James “Jay” Hooks, SJ**, 34, was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Tampa, Fla. He first encountered the Society of Jesus at his home parish of Christ the King when he met a priest from the local Jesuit high school who filled in for the parish’s Sunday evening Mass.

A graduate of H.B. Plant High School, Fr. Hooks earned his bachelor’s degree in Spanish literature from Florida State University and then moved to Japan to work as an English teacher. While there, he decided to apply for entrance to the Society of Jesus in his home province of New Orleans.

After two years of novitiate training, he moved to Fordham University to complete a master’s degree in philosophy. From 2006 to 2009, he worked as a Spanish
teacher at Jesuit High School of New Orleans and also contributed to the school’s theater, choir and retreat programs. In 2009, he was sent to Rome to study theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

Since June of 2011, he has been at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif., and he will return to Berkeley to begin an advanced degree in theology. This summer, he will join a team of Jesuits for the Hearts on Fire Retreats for young adults in six major cities of the southern United States.

“As the date of my ordination grows closer, more and more people say something like, ‘The day is finally here!’ It is true that priestly formation in the Jesuits does not happen overnight. Still, I do not see my ordination as a goal as much as a turn in the road, a turn that brings me closer to Jesus and a new way of serving the Church and the world. I am immensely grateful to God and to my fellow travelers on this road who, in ways large and small, have brought me to this point in my journey. I also look forward to seeing where this road leads us.

In a particular way, I am grateful to have had so many inspiring models of Jesuit life and priesthood in my brothers in the Society. These men have taught me what it means to be a priest according to the pattern that Jesus left us. They have shown me how to carry our responsibility and authority quietly, humbly and in a way that leads people away from us and into a deeper relationship with God. Their lives have demonstrated that our privilege essentially lies in being stewards of an immense gift among and for all of God’s people. I hope that in my priestly life, I will be able to reflect some measure of the humility and generosity that my brothers have modeled for me, for I know that this is how Jesus himself worked — and still works — in the world.”

Father Bao Q. Nguyen, SJ, 40, was born in Saigon, Vietnam, to a large Catholic family. He graduated from LeQuy Don High School and studied at the National Economic University in Saigon before immigrating to the U.S. in 1992.

After graduating from the University of Houston with a degree in accounting, Fr. Nguyen worked for several companies as a general accountant and risk assessment manager and earned a Master of Business Administration before joining the Society of Jesus in 2001.

The former president for the southern region of the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement in the U.S., Fr. Nguyen taught theology at Strake Jesuit Preparatory in Houston and has given retreats to many religious and young adults in both the U.S. and Vietnam. His work to raise scholarship funds and financial assistance for Vietnamese religious sisters, seminarians and priests resulted in U.S. training for more than 100 individuals.
Fr. Nguyen earned a master’s degree in social philosophy from Loyola University Chicago and a Master of Divinity and a Licentiate of Sacred Theology from Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. This summer, Fr. Nguyen will direct an eight-day retreat in Vietnam. He has been assigned to work at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in New Orleans.

“Today, we experience brokenness, sinfulness, and chaos in society. Many people feel lonely, desperate, and alien within themselves and the Church. As a priest, I have a desire to console people who have struggled to find God in their lives. I wish that I could be an instrument to assist people to feel relief and to restore their good human nature as children of God. The image of a bridge to connect over gaps among rich, poor, ideologies, faith, religions, cultures, nationalities and many more has inspired and motivated me continually to work for the universal Church as a vineyard of God.

Being a priest does not mean that I am perfectly worthy of this wonderful sacrament, but I feel Christ has invited me to this special vocation and gives me the grace to live it. I acknowledge my religious life and priesthood as a heartfelt and sacrificial response to Jesus, who gives himself for me and others and becomes absolutely generous to the world. Everything on earth including myself contains God’s love. I cannot hesitate to express my gratitude to the Lord by generously jumping into the water with Jesus like St. Peter did (Mt 14:22–33), to take a perilous adventure with Him, and to let Him lead me to magnificent events of priestly ministries.”

Father Brian M. Reedy, SJ, 38, was born in Troy, Ohio, and spent his early years in Anaheim, Calif. He was raised Evangelical Christian though his family often adapted to the worship style of the nearest welcoming church community. There was always a consistent and strong faith in God and a solid foundation based on prayer and Scripture.

Fr. Reedy was strongly drawn to the Roman Catholic Church while studying at East Texas Baptist University. The sense of a vocation grew stronger following graduation when Fr. Reedy was working toward an advanced degree in chemistry and biophysics at Texas A&M University and coming into full communion with the Catholic Church at St. Mary’s Parish in College Station, Texas.

During his formation, Fr. Reedy taught high school math and science at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas and at Houston’s Strake Jesuit College Preparatory, and worked for four months in a soup kitchen in Tijuana, Mexico. He also served as an adjunct faculty member in chemistry at Fordham University, where he completed a master’s degree in philosophy and assisted with music ministry at St. Paul’s Parish in Manhattan.

This year, Fr. Reedy had the joy of singing the Exsultet and preaching in California at the Easter Vigil as his parents were received into the Roman Catholic Church.

Fr. Reedy will join the staff at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in San Antonio for the summer. This fall, he will resume theological studies in Boston. He hopes to be able to engage in the dialogue between science, theology and philosophy while teaching either science or philosophy.

“This past Easter I was very blessed to be able to sing the Easter Exsultet Proclamation at the vigil Mass during which my parents received their first Holy Communion. One of the lines of the Proclamation says, ‘dazzling is this night for me, and full of gladness.’ As I looked out at my parent’s faces, lit only by candlelight, it was truly a dazzling night full of deep gladness. I realized that this is a constitutive dynamic of my priesthood. I have the honor of proclaiming God’s love to the same people that have nourished and established me in my faith and vocation. My priesthood flows out of the loving relationships that have given me the freedom and courage to say ‘yes’ to the Lord’s
call. At the same time, I am now able to feed and nourish those same people with Christ from the tables of the Word and the Eucharist.”

Father Daniel J. Tesvich, SJ, 35, hails from New Orleans. Although Fr. Tesvich entered Louisiana State University (LSU) with the intention of studying political science, his plans were forever changed when a professor invited the young undergrad to attend daily Mass. It was this powerful experience that led Fr. Tesvich to learn more about his faith, and he quickly became active with the LSU Catholic Student Center, serving as a resident sacristan and part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) team.

During this period, Fr. Tesvich felt Christ calling him to priestly ministry and after discerning this call, transferred to St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington, La., to finish his undergraduate studies while preparing to become a diocesan priest. As his discernment continued, Fr. Tesvich realized that Christ was now calling him to serve in a different way— as a vowed religious in the Society of Jesus.

After graduating from the seminary, Fr. Tesvich entered the Jesuit novitiate in Grand Coteau, La., later teaching theology at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas. In addition to the master’s degree he earned from Loyola University Chicago, Fr. Tesvich received his Master of Divinity from Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

This summer, Fr. Tesvich is serving as associate pastor at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Grand Coteau. He will return to Boston in the fall to continue graduate courses in theology.

“I did something wild and unexpected during my first year in college at LSU that marked the rest of my life. I allowed myself to fall deeply in love with Christ and the many gifts that He pours out on His Church. It was especially in the Divine Liturgy, where we are given access to the grace wrought on Calvary and have communion with the very Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ, that I experienced myself as a loved and healed sinner called to a new life in Christ. It was during this time of deepening my faith and accepting Christ into my heart that He first began calling me to serve His people by becoming a priest. At first I resisted this calling since I had other plans for my life and because I knew myself as a sinner and late-bloomer in the faith. Certainly there were better men to be called!

As I have grown during my priestly formation, especially during the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius, I have experienced the great truth that the main issue is not the virtue and wisdom of the minister. Instead the issue is being called to share Christ’s love for humanity with others. Of all the many joys in my life so far, the best joy has been precisely that: sharing with others the healing love that Christ has given to me. I have great hope that since Christ has called me to this life of priestly service, He will give me the grace necessary to carry out His will. I ask for your prayers that I may always be open to the grace to be the priest Christ wants me to be.”

In addition to these four Jesuits ordained in Mobile, eight men were also ordained in other cities across the country: Fr. William V. Blazek, SJ; Fr. Cesare Campagnoli, SJ; Fr. Christopher J. Duffy, SJ; Fr. Paul A. Lickteig, SJ; Fr. Richard P. Magner, SJ; Fr. Matthew F. Malone, SJ; Fr. Joseph G. Marina, SJ; and Fr. Trung H. Pham, SJ.

Each of these Jesuits has responded to Christ’s call to join him in nurturing the universal Church by accepting the gift of his priesthood. Throughout years of formation, study, and prayer, they have deepened their love and grown in compassion for God’s people. We thank them for their commitment to offer their lives in service for the Greater Glory of God.

To learn more about the Jesuits or to support the Jesuit Seminary Fund, visit www.norprov.org.
Fifty years ago, when Fr. Ralph Houlihan was a young scholastic at his alma mater, classes at St. Louis University High School were formal and lectured, and Jesuits made up most of the faculty.

Today, “Fr. Houly” at 78, is one of only a handful of Jesuits remaining at SLUH, an urban institution that has cycled generations of St. Louis boys to men. He is engaged and energetic, alternately teaching the works of the ancient Roman poet, Virgil, and leading his junior Morality class in spirited discussions about academic cheating, birth control and other ethical matters.

“He’s really solid on his theology,” said 16-year-old Joe Archer, who likes Houlihan’s questioning, confronting style.

Houlihan admonishes fence-sitters or “mugwumps” to contribute to class discussion. And the man who used to join students on outdoor smoke breaks in the 1970s, recalling that those informal meet-ups generated a “gold mine of information,” challenges doubting students to remain open to God as they gain life experience.

“If some of you don’t believe in God, are you saying there’s no meaning to life?” he asks them. “How do you know you’re an atheist?”

For Houlihan, teaching high school is all about motivating and communicating to young people as they grow in knowledge and experience, and shape their identity, beliefs and values. Fewer Jesuits staff and administer schools now, but they’ve done a good job of inculcating in the lay-majority teaching staff the Jesuit approach to education, he said.

Almost since its beginnings in the 16th century, the Society of Jesus has been associated strongly with education. Last fall, Jesuit Superior General Fr. Adolfo Nicolás wrote to major superiors worldwide that he is more convinced than ever that the Society is called to pay more attention to the service of young people. That includes helping them make the most of youthful possibilities and creativity, thrive and dream, make good decisions, and feel the stirrings of their own hearts, Nicolás wrote.

“Youth happens only once,” he wrote. “It can open the person to incredible riches of true life or it can end up deflating all possible dreams and hopes.

We, Jesuits, therefore, have to ask...
ourselves: ‘what is the quality of our presence with the young, and how deep, genuine and Christian is it?’”

Fr. Doug Hypolite, a veteran teacher at Jesuit High School of Tampa and superior of the Jesuit community there, believes Jesuit education in the high schools is the Society’s most important ministry because of its leverage in shaping a more just society in the future.

“University work is great,” said Hypolite, 67. But in the high schools, “we’re forming so many young minds and helping them to grow, getting them committed to doing justice. You can’t really form people in college.”

At De Smet Jesuit High School in St. Louis’ western suburbs, 29-year-old Ronny O’Dwyer, who just completed his third year of teaching as a Jesuit regent, has found high school work to be “very tender.”

“They’re kids,” he said. “You’re walking with them. That may be in the ER or when the mom calls to see if we’ve noticed an improvement with the new ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) medicine.”

As if on cue, a De Smet student wept in the arms of a friend outside of chapel one sunny spring morning, apparently moved by a weekly Eucharist worship service led by 30-year-old Jesuit regent Vincent Giacobazi.

The night before, Giacobazi and campus ministry offered one of a series of organized events aimed at helping students grieve the loss of a student who died in December. That day, he taught Christian Scriptures to De Smet sophomores, trying to make texts written centuries ago appeal to boys just two years out of elementary school.

“We try to make it relevant,” said Giacobazi, who won this year’s Excellence in Teaching Award from the sophomore class. Giacobazi dispenses animal crackers for consistently correct or creative answers in freshmen Spanish, and as a reward for initiative in sophomore New Testament.

Mr. Vincent Giacobazi

O’Dwyer, a native New Orleanian who grew up in Denver and who comes from a “long line of educators, restaurant people and sales people,” said he tries to teach kids in a way that helps them to experience God’s love for them.

“My prayer in the morning is ‘help me teach as you teach, love as you love, discipline as you discipline, remember what I need to remember and forget what I should forget,’” he said. “Our guys don’t do well,” with the harsh discipline of an earlier era, he said. “They need to be loved into greatness.”

In his junior Moral Theology class, O’Dwyer brings order and calm to this “wild” section by instructing antsly students to “breathe deeply” and “do your best” on a quiz while soothing music plays in the background. “By the end of this song,” he tells them, “we’ll wrap it up and have a little man-versation.”

“Put your head up, no pillowing,” O’Dwyer tells a sleepy student who’s resting on his desktop.

“I’m reflecting,” the boy replies. Words like “grace” and “faith” and notions about stepping out of comfort zones pepper class discussion. In O’Dwyer’s classroom, kids are encouraged to be real and vulnerable. One after another, each student takes his turn before peers to share an experience of faith, or opening himself to love or suffering. They share stories about a family vacation, the death of a friend’s mother, the discomfort of newness at a Head Start service project pierced by the friendly welcome of non-judgmental youngsters.

“This is my favorite class,” 17-year-old junior Jake Koenig Jr. said. “We’re allowed to be free and open. Mr. O’Dwyer says it’s our class. You can be trusted and honest here.”

“He’s a great teacher. It’s not a homework class. He tells us, ‘your homework is to meditate on what you learned. Take 20 minutes each
day and think about what we talked about and how you can use it to better yourself.”

Standing at the door as the class exits and disappears into the noisy hallway, O’Dwyer connects with each student. Some get a fist bump, others a personal message.

“Use your seatbelt this weekend,” he tells one boy. He reassures another who asks whether he presented well in class. “Yeah,” he said. “You were fine.”

O’Dwyer said this generation of young people is “very honest” with little tolerance for false airs.

“They expect us to be frank, relevant and to live out what we teach,” he said.

Graduating seniors recognized O’Dwyer in May with the Teacher of the Year award for representing the ideals of Jesuit education.

Randy Gibbens, 34, said becoming a high school teacher was the last thing on his mind when he joined the Jesuits in August 2004.

But he said his three-year regency of teaching at Jesuit High School of Tampa revealed just how rewarding the work can be.

Gibbens, a native New Orleanian whose own high school experience at Jesuit High School of New Orleans deepened his understanding and appreciation of Jesuits, said high schools are “great places” to train for the priesthood. In his three years at Tampa, he has taught theology and biology, organized and given retreats, and moderated both the Altar Server Society and the campus pep club, Blue Tide.

He has an undergraduate degree in agronomy from Texas A&M University. After college, he worked for a year on a golf course construction project in the Dominican Republic. Moved by the poverty all around him, he ended up at a Catholic Worker House in Houston before joining the Jesuits and getting reacquainted with high school life.

“I don’t think I’m the greatest teacher,” Gibbens said. “But there’s something about being with the students every day, developing a relationship with them, the interaction with the kids.”

He added, “For me, the reward is being with the students, accompanying them as they undergo the process of self-discovery.”

Hypolite, his colleague, is a 44-year education veteran who is famous and tough-looking, a “classroom warrior type” who is both fun and demanding of student excellence, Gibbens said. His one-line Hypolitisms, or threads of wisdom, frequently are quoted in the school. Among them, “Rise to the top because the bottom is crowded” and “Stand up for something or you’ll fall for anything.”

“Kids dread having to do a lot of work in his class, but by the time they’re done, they’re really happy they had him,” Gibbens said.

Hypolite, who learned French at a young age to communicate with his French-speaking grandmother, focused his studies on language, initially studying Portuguese so that he could work in Brazil. But he was never sent.

He teaches Spanish, drilling always in the language, and telling students, “You’ve got to listen and focus.”

Hypolite, the Greek name for “stone horse,” also chairs the school’s French, Spanish and Latin language department. He has no immediate plans to retire from the classroom,
and says he finds teaching “energizing.”

“What more can I do for almighty God?” he asked. “All the gifts we have as Jesuits are meant to be put in practice. The gifts are not to keep but to be given away.”

Cheryl Wittenauer is assistant editor of the Missouri Province’s Jesuit Bulletin magazine.

Regis Girls Swimming Sensation is on Olympic Trajectory

By Tom Rochford SJ

Most students at a Jesuit high school work hard but aren’t known to the wider world. That’s not the case for Melissa “Missy” Franklin, an incoming senior at Denver’s Regis Jesuit High School Girls Division who will almost certainly compete as a swimmer in this summer’s Olympics in London.

Franklin, 17, known as “the missile,” has appeared on the “Today” show and drawn national network TV crews to her high school swim meets. She’s become the media’s pre-Olympics darling, profiled in the New York Times, USA Today, Los Angeles Times, The Telegraph of London, and elsewhere.

Built to swim, she made her world debut last summer by winning three gold medals, a silver and a bronze at the 2011 FINA World Championships in Shanghai. She is the current world record holder in the 200 meter backstroke, a record she set last October in Berlin.

Missy Franklin enjoys being a Regis student and continues to compete with her school’s swim team, passing up the great fortune that would be hers if she turned pro. She excels in all her classes, including several demanding advanced placement courses, and she participates in the retreats and service projects that Regis expects of its students.

“She doesn’t burn out and is always so engaging and has such a great spirit about her,” said John Koslosky, athletic director at the Regis Jesuit Girls Division.

Koslosky remembers the state swim meet when Franklin was a sophomore. The Regis girls won their first-ever 5-A State Championship.

“I went down on the pool deck after we won to congratulate the girls,” Koslosky said. “Missy buried her head in my shoulder, just sobbing. It was such a relief for her to win this for the school, for her teammates,” he recalled.

“I went down thinking, you swim at the worlds, you’re trying to make the Olympics, you’re swimming in Russia and Germany and the Philippines. This is just a state meet against high school kids. Yet it meant so much to her. I heard her say in an interview this year that it is still one of her favorite meets of all time, winning the state meet in her sophomore year,” he said. “She’s a special kid.”
Displaced

Students Partner with Jesuit Refugee Service/USA for Refugee Camp Simulation

By Cara Pavlak

The hot sun beat down on the new arrivals, who looked nervously at each other as patrol officers directed them through the Kenyan security checkpoint, questioning them about their identity and patting them down to ensure they had no weapons. Some of the refugees were relieved as they passed through the checkpoint, but then confused when friends were pulled out of line. Word spread that those young men were selected for interrogation and physical inspections, as border patrol searched for an armed warlord on the run, well-known for his tattoos and wanted for mass atrocities. Officers enjoyed the lull in new arrivals and passed the time with pick-up baseball until the next group of refugees arrived.

Such was the scene at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas, where the entire student body of 1,100 students participated in the nation’s first-ever Jesuit Refugee Service Camp Simulation with the guidance of Jesuit Refugee Service/USA (JRS/USA).

The school’s American/African Outreach Society (AAOS) — a JRS Action Team founded by students Justin Rotich and Brocke Stepteau — brought this experiential learning activity to campus with the help of JRS/USA, students, parents, and faculty.

As a JRS/USA Action Team, AAOS students fully embrace the JRS/USA mission to accompany, serve, and defend the rights of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. Rotich and Stepteau, who will be juniors this fall, said AAOS wanted students to “experience what the refugees go through, losing families, their possessions, the hardships, having no hope for the future, and the process of resettling in a new country.”

AAOS turned to JRS/USA and used its Refugee Camp Simulation Toolkit to give students a glimpse into the lives of the nearly 43 million displaced people around the world. Students fashioned two “camps” side-by-side in the school’s Terry Center building to simulate two camps in Thailand and Kenya.

Student volunteers manned the
camps, while each student or “refugee” experienced the various stations in each country: border patrol and security checkpoints to enter Thailand or Kenya, medical inspections, living quarters in tents with small food and water rations, and finally the education station where JRS/USA representatives spoke with students about global refugee issues.

While less than 1% of the world’s refugees are ever resettled, the simulation “resettled” all participants to the United States, where they were greeted with the national anthem and an enthusiastic student dressed as Uncle Sam who taught resettled refugees the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, AAOS members screened a video of their work to encourage fellow students to join their volunteer efforts with local refugees. Later that evening, AAOS members, faculty, and parents returned to school for dinner with JRS/USA representatives, local guest speakers, and performers.

Thinking globally while acting locally, AAOS has partnered with nonprofits in the Dallas region, including Catholic Charities and Refugee Resources, to help set up apartments for newly-arrived refugees and to help resettled refugee children improve their English skills. Last fall, AAOS held a benefit soccer tournament and donated proceeds to JRS/USA for the purchase of solar lanterns to make nighttime study possible for students of Kenya’s Kakuma Refugee Camp.

By the end of the spring Refugee Awareness Day, the students at Jesuit College Prep raised enough funds to help sponsor three scholarships for at-risk youth in the Kakuma Refugee Camp who require special needs education.

Equally important to raising aid for refugees is raising awareness among students, said Stepteau. “Giving them the chance to experience life as a refugee really opened their eyes to the challenges refugees face daily and when they come to the United States,” he said. “My schoolmates got to see what it is like to be a refugee, and it made them want to learn more about how they can be a part of helping and supporting refugees.”

To learn more about Jesuit Refugee Service/USA, visit www.jrsusa.org or “like” JRS/USA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jrsusa. To learn more about hosting a Refugee Camp Simulation, e-mail jrsoutreach@jesuit.org.

Cara Pavlak is a second-year member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and is currently serving as outreach coordinator for Jesuit Refugee Service/USA.
When Superior General Peter Hans Kolvenbach visited Saigon in 2007 to establish the Vietnam Province, Bishop Bui Van Doc of My Tho diocese predicted the future of the Vietnamese Church in his homily, “Vietnam will be a door to open for evangelization to China in the next couple years,” he said. This joy and hope have grown in the hearts and minds of Jesuit Fathers Bao Nguyen and John Lan Tran, and it inspires their supportive work with Vietnamese Formation Students — those seminarians, priests and religious women who are receiving religious formation in the U.S. with the goal of returning to serve the Church in Vietnam.

Roughly seven to ten percent of Vietnam’s 87 million people are Catholic, making it one of the largest Catholic populations in Southeast Asia. But over the last century, the Church in Vietnam suffered considerably with government dismantling of religious infrastructure and the expulsion of religious orders and seminarians. Decades of oppression left orders and dioceses in dire shape, and many religious groups were on the verge of collapse without the freedom to recruit or train new members. By the turn of this last century, the religious formation infrastructure of the Church in Vietnam was practically nonexistent.

By the early 2000s the government loosened its grip on overseas travel, and many religious orders and dioceses began to send their “best and brightest” abroad to be trained as leaders and formation directors. International orders such as the Society of Jesus and dioceses with international connections quickly took advantage of the opportunity, but many smaller diocesan orders and poorer dioceses struggled to find ways to train their future leaders.

“There were no more schools, hospitals, or social institutes that the Church or religious used to run,” recalled Nguyen from his 2004 trip to Vietnam as a Jesuit scholastic giving retreats to religious communities in Vietnam. It was his first return trip after having fled with his family only twelve years earlier.
“The communist party had confiscated Catholic schools and charity works and suppressed them, not allowing religious practices in public. Religious sisters had no chance to enter colleges because of financial insufficiency, restrictions to Catholics, and political nepotism to communist relatives,” he said.

Returning stateside, Nguyen began procuring scholarships at Catholic colleges and seminaries, including Loyola University Chicago, Boston College, Loyola Marymount University and Spring Hill College. Since then, more than 30 universities and colleges in the U.S., Spain and Malta have educated more than 100 Vietnamese students, and Nguyen estimates that roughly $10 million in scholarships has been raised for their tuition, room and board and necessary expenses. And, many American religious, through their administrations, faculty and board positions, have sought and found spiritual and intellectual development opportunities for the students.

Providing these opportunities for Vietnamese religious is one crucial step in strengthening the Church in Vietnam and in the evangelization of the world.

“In this country, we have more opportunities to improve our English and also to deepen our experience of how the American Church runs its ministries,” said Fr. Joseph Cuong Bui, a priest of the Can Tho Diocese who recently completed his Master of Pastoral Administration at Loyola University Chicago. “The Vietnamese Formation Students program is a truly supportive association that helps us prepare for greater professional skills in order to face a challenging mission in Vietnam.”

Education is a liberating solution for Vietnamese women religious orders in particular, especially diocesan congregations, which must fend for themselves financially while under the administrative and ministerial control of local bishops.

“After four years of study,” said Sister Maria Minh Hue, a member of the Lovers of the Holy Cross Congregation of Vinh Diocese, “I have learned many good lessons and gained valuable experience from knowledgeable professors. I feel confident now, helping and motivating the 83 novices and 70 pre-novices in my congregation.”

Sisters studying English as a second language at Divine Word College — and experiencing snow for the first time!

A sister of the Lovers of the Holy Cross convent in Vietnam visits with residents of a local leper colony.
And, the experience of living in a democratic society can lead to positive effects on political democracy, societal, intellectual, and ministerial missions, as Vietnamese religious congregations begin to operate kindergartens, orphanages, vocational technology centers and clinics. Sister Hue said her novitiate house is located next to a diocesan clinic and near an orphanage.

“Many sisters in my convent work in the clinic,” she said, “and pre-novices and novices take turns caring for children with disabilities at the orphanage.”

Realizing that these students are valuable assets to the Church in Vietnam, Fr. John Lan Tran became involved with the program. He first worked with Dr. John Moran, principal of St. Louis University High School, to procure a generous donation of 20 laptops. When several individuals donated laptops as well, Tran was able to provide almost 30 laptops to the students.

Other Jesuits have also become personally involved. Fr. Hung Nguyen and Fr. Doan Hoang helped organize a thirty-day Spiritual Exercises retreat for the students, with the two Jesuits themselves directing nine sisters during the retreat. A Vietnamese-Australian Jesuit at Boston College, Fr. Hoa Dinh, became a spiritual director for seven Vietnamese seminarians at St. John’s Seminary in Boston, and the Jesuit community at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala., sponsored two sisters from Hanoi.

Over the last few summers, many of the sisters and seminarians completed “summer experiments” by living and working in different convents. Among these experiments was the “youth retreat experiment” led by Tran and Sisters Thu Do and Yen Le (who are studying at St. Louis University and Boston College, respectively). Forming a small team, they gave retreats — in English — to Vietnamese-American youth in Dallas, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Baltimore. In the beginning, and though the sisters did not have much confidence in their English, they led prayers and coordinated activities. It gave them the confidence to organize a retreat on their own for youth at a Boston parish last spring. And last summer, the team went to Vietnam to host a retreat for 150 religious candidates.

At Christmas, nearly all of the Vietnamese students met in Houston for their annual gathering which included a retreat organized by Nguyen and Tran. Other team-building opportunities included a New Year’s Eve party, faith sharing, and seminars on learning English, choosing a college major, adapting to a new culture and learning how to minister in a foreign environment.

The Vietnamese formation program is relatively new,
and only a handful of students have returned to Vietnam so far. But while in the U.S., the presence of the students has helped bolster local seminaries and formation houses, like at St. John Seminary in Boston or at Holy Apostle Seminary in Cromwell, Conn., which currently has thirty Vietnamese sisters and seminarians. These hands-on experiences of American culture and ministry help students form long-term mentoring relationships.

“I am very proud of what these students have been able to accomplish in a short time,” says Tran. “They have overcome the language barrier and adjusted to a new culture.” As director of campus ministry at St. Louis University High School, he extends his ministry to the formation students with three or four retreats a year.

For Tran and Nguyen, as they accompany these students on their journey, they see the students as a grace to themselves and others.

“It is our hope that one day, they will be the yeast to enliven the Church in Vietnam,” said Tran. And, they are reminded of the faith needed in God, the courage to face challenges, the resilience and endurance to suffer, and the joy of growing.

Fr. Bao Nguyen will be an associate pastor at Holy Name of Jesus Church in New Orleans this fall. Fr. John Lan Tran is a teacher and campus minister at St. Louis University High School.

To learn more about or to support the formation of Vietnamese religious, please contact Fr. Bao Nguyen at bnpeter2007@gmail.com.
Finding God and the Good in a Tough Transition: Christopher Pinné, SJ

By Cheryl Wittenauer

In his new work as chaplain at Saint Louis University, Fr. Christopher Pinné ministers to staff, faculty and students with marital problems, illness, and any other of life’s difficulties.

How he has dealt with profound challenges in his own life has made him especially suited for the job. An accident five years ago in St. Louis left him a semi-paraplegic and changed his life’s direction.

The guy whose natural inclination is to move fast has slowed his pace and learned to be patient. He has come to rely on aides for some of his personal care, and is grateful for their vocation and the “dignity they bestow,” he said. He credits his team at Craig (rehabilitation) Hospital in Denver for giving him the emotional, spiritual and physical tools he needed to make peace with what happened.

Despite some physical limitations, Pinné, 60, considers himself luckier than many of the people he has come to know with spinal cord or traumatic brain injuries: the sheriff who was shot in the throat, a 16-year-old quadriplegic from Cheyenne, Wyo., an unresponsive woman who was struck crossing a street in downtown Denver.

“Whenever I want to feel sorry for myself, I think of her,” Pinné said.

The accident, he says, happened after he’d already lived a full life. It didn’t keep him from returning to his Jesuit brothers and home, and resuming work, currently as chaplain to Saint Louis University’s law school and the campus Department of Public Safety. Its officers were first on the scene when Pinné, while walking to breakfast, was hit by a motorist.

“These things happen to all sorts of people,” he said. “I’m just one of them.”

Pinné was just wrapping up his time as Missouri Province vocation director and was anticipating a new assignment at Regis Jesuit High School in suburban Denver when at 6:10 a.m. on May 5, 2007, he was struck by a vehicle in a crosswalk just outside Jesuit Hall on the SLU campus.

“I heard my own body hit the street,” he said. “I was lying on my right side. A woman came over and asked, ‘should I move you?’ I hurt all over.”

He was stiff and sore with torn ligaments and dislocated thumbs from trying to break his fall, but his spine appeared fine. He traveled to Poland that summer and drove with a friend to Colorado. One day that September, when he reached for his pain pills, a terrible pain shot up his back and hung with him for weeks.

A series of surgeries, vertebrae fusions and rehabilitation regimens allowed him to teach and advise boys at Regis for more than three years until Dec. 7, 2010, when he awakened from a nap paralyzed from the waist down. The next day, surgeons worked eight hours to repair three herniated discs, including one that had exploded in his spinal cord, and install rods, plates and screws to fuse more vertebrae.

“I remember telling the nurse, ‘I don’t want to be paralyzed for life,’” Pinné said. “Oh, honey,” he recalled her saying, “we don’t want that either.”

Four days later, on Dec. 12, 2010, he was transferred to Craig Hospital for four months of rehabilitation for his spinal cord injury as well as emotional and spiritual coaching. He returned to St. Louis in April 2011, ready to make the best of a path he would not have chosen.

“If I whine or moan, it’s not going to change things,” he said. “Was this on my bucket list? Oh, no. I didn’t say ‘Thank you, Jesus, for letting this happen.’”

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“Do you love me? ... Feed my sheep.” These words of Our Lord have remained with me over the years, ever since I began searching with open eyes and an opening heart for God’s plan for my life. Jesus, as both the Good Shepherd and the Lamb of God, sees clearly our desperate need to be satisfied and sustained by the real source for life — His own Body and Blood.

In my first year of service to the Church as a priest, I have found that very same need in the people to whom I have had the honor to minister. And in myself, I have found a growing desire to participate more fully, according to my new ministry, in the sacraments.

I first learned the ropes of parish life as a transitional deacon at Saint Columbkille Parish, near Boston College, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 4th, 2011. Ordination kicked off a whirlwind tour that has taken me to Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in San Antonio, Texas, World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain, Sacred Heart Church in El Paso, Texas, and to various other cities as the ecclesial assistant for Christian Life Communities in the New Orleans Province.

In each and every place, I find a culture that presents its own special challenges to the Gospel while simultaneously yearning for the salvation that Christ offers. I have seen it in a mother crying for her missing son in Juarez, Mexico, only a few blocks from Sacred Heart Church in El Paso; in a motorcycle gang member trying to reform his way of life; in a lay volunteer looking to make sense of her contribution to the Church; and in a group of seven-year-olds making their first communion. All of these are God’s people coming to the Church to be fed.

Despite the suffering in our world, hope is fully alive. Shortly after my ordination, I witnessed over 1.5 million youth celebrate the Gospel at World Youth Day in Spain, the homeland of Society of Jesus founder Saint Ignatius of Loyola, where I served as a chaplain to youth from Jesuit High School of Tampa and concelebrated Mass with Pope Benedict XVI.

Just as moving was the Mass I concelebrated with several of my fellow Jesuits in the Chapel of the Conversion, the room in Loyola, Spain, where Saint Ignatius began his own journey to holiness. Beneath its altar lie relics of every saint and blessed in the Society of Jesus!

Awareness of this tradition only amplifies the challenge of Jesus to Saint Peter: “Do you love me? ... Feed my sheep.” It calls us to do as those Jesuit saints did, as Saint Peter did, as Jesus did — to give our lives as witnesses to the faith, to give until there is nothing left, to defend what we know is good and true, and to rest in the peace of knowing our true home is with our Heavenly Father.

In my first year of priestly ministry, there has been no shortage of opportunity to strive for this, and I anticipate no such shortages in the future. For this I am grateful.

Fr. John Brown, originally from Eunice, La., has been missioned to Jesuit High School of New Orleans where he will begin teaching theology in the fall.

To learn more about the formation of Jesuits or to support Jesuit formation, please visit www.norprov.org.
In the Spiritual Exercises St. Ignatius suggests that we begin each prayer by expressing our desire that everything be focused on God and that we end each prayer by “speaking exactly as one friend speaks to another” (Sp Ex #54).

Imagine meeting a friend for lunch. As soon as he sees you he launches into a description of last night’s dream. Perhaps you’ve spoken about dreams before, but at this point you wave your hand and say, “Wait a minute! Hi, good to see you!” His dream may make for great conversation, but first you need to connect. Those formulaic sayings, “good to see you,” and the like are more than just custom; they are acknowledgments that you are in each other’s space. You’re telling your friend that you are aware of him, and he’s telling you that he is aware of you.

After greeting your friend you enjoy lunch and the conversation is delightful. He shares his dream and you talk about your new grandchild. Lunch ends and you prepare to say good-bye. Sometime in these final moments, you’ll probably thank him for sharing a powerful dream and he will tell you how much he enjoyed hearing about your grandchild.

What are you and your friend doing with those closing sentences? You are telling each other that you listened and that the conversation mattered. The connection established when you greeted one another has grown stronger. In truth, these final remarks to each other can sometimes be the most intimate moments in the entire conversation.

Think of prayer as a luncheon with God. No matter what takes place during the luncheon — meditation, the rosary, or any other way of praying — I want to begin my prayer by intentionally connecting with God. I might say, “Father it is good to be in your presence,” or I might imagine Christ looking at me welcomingly. Whatever words or images I choose, the common dimension must be that I am telling myself that God is aware of me. The Creator of the Universe is focusing loving attention on me! It takes only seconds and I don’t rehearse it nor do I worry about getting it right. I may, however, sometimes abide in that awareness once I have invoked it.

Letting God speak my name can be especially powerful. Recalling the luncheon, it is not absolutely necessary to use your friend’s name when you greet him, but I think that you will often find that you do, because names convey specialness. When God calls my name I know that I am important to God and have His loving attention.

When I finish praying I want to end by speaking to God, just as you and your friend spoke to each other before saying good-bye. I use real words and whole sentences — usually one sentence is enough. I don’t rehearse the words ahead of time and,
in general, I stay away from apologies. The spontaneity of my words often surprises me, and I discover in my words what is truly important in my relationship with God.

My words to God may reflect a theme from my prayer, but other times I find myself saying something completely unrelated. Sometimes, too, I cannot come up with anything to say and end up telling God just that. Even if nothing happens in my prayer or if I am totally distracted, I still try to pull words from my heart which touch my relationship with God.

Beginnings and endings personalize my prayer. When I tell myself that God is aware of me, I am making God a person to me. The infinite Creator is aware of me. At the end my words to God make me a person to God. Indeed, sometimes my very hesitation to put something into words at the end of prayer is a sign to me that I would rather, at that moment, keep God at a distance.

One can pray a beginning and ending without anything in between. Suppose that I resolve to devote a set amount of time to prayer each morning. I fulfill my resolution the first day, but over the next several days I slack off. Now it is late in the evening of the fifth day and I realize that I have not prayed and I am exhausted. Do I chalk up another failure? Or, do I tell myself that God is aware of me, pause a couple moments, and then speak words to God? This thirty second prayer will give me an experience tonight of being connected to God and I will now be more likely to pray the next morning.

The beginning and ending with nothing in between provides an opportunity for connecting with God at any time. I visit the sick; I delight in nature; or I have a moment of quiet. There are countless occasions for telling myself that God is aware of me and following this with a few words to God.

Intimacy comes from awareness and connectedness, and need not take long. Imagine a married couple who both work and have a large family. Every night they flop into bed exhausted. After a perfunctory kiss and an “I love you,” they roll over and go to sleep. One night the husband holds her a moment longer and says, “honey we haven’t had time for each other and we need to do something, but I want you to know that you looked beautiful at dinner tonight!” How long did that take? Six or seven seconds? Those few intimate words could save a marriage.

So it is with God. If I speak real words from my heart to God, I am intimate with God. If I allow God to be aware of me, if I allow God to look at me or to speak my name in a loving way, I am intimate with God. And even a few minutes of intimacy with God will transform my life.

Fr. Ed Kinerk is the director of Sacred Heart Jesuit Retreat House in Sedalia, Colorado.

Pinné said he learned from the staff at Craig not to look at life’s “tunnel,” which can get really long and dark, but to focus on what he can accomplish today, even if it’s moving just one toe. He finds support in his brother Jesuits and Ignatian spirituality that holds that God is in every situation. The paralysis cut short his time at Regis, where, he says, “my heart will always be,” but he’s keeping things in perspective. “When you face certain things and survive it, other things are no longer that big a deal,” he said. “I’m not going to get my shorts in a bunch over (what happened). I already knew God loved me. Now I know that he loves me more. He’s been with me all through this.”

Pinné’s positive spirit despite repeated surgeries, diminished mobility, grueling work to regain strength and activity, and “so much suffering made a powerful statement to (Regis) kids and adults alike,” who were inspired by him, “over and over,” and who established a scholarship in his honor, said Fr. Philip Steele, school president. “Who would dare whine about their own life when he was not whining about his?”

“Through all of this, it is clear to me that Chris simply wants to serve as a Jesuit priest,” Steele added. “He will do whatever it takes to be available to people as a priest. If it can’t be in a high school, then it will be on the SLU campus. He may be confined to a wheelchair, but he is one of the most available people I know.”

Roland Corvington, a retired FBI special agent who now heads SLU’s public safety division, said Pinné has been a “natural fit” since coming on board nine months ago. There, and at the law school, Pinné is helping people process their personal challenges and heartaches. “It’s tough being a human being,” Pinné said. “Maybe my job is to help them see they’re still loved by God. Whatever the issue, God’s not going to give up on us.”

For more info on Fr. Chris Pinné, visit: www.regisjesuit.com/page.aspx?pid=1365

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In the many ministries of the New Orleans and Missouri Provinces, Jesuits and lay colleagues put into practice the call of Father Pedro Arrupe, former Superior General of the Society of Jesus, to greater solidarity with the poor through apostolic works. As the two provinces move toward unification, they have chosen to administer a social grants program to encourage such works of mercy.

The program is modeled after a similar social grants project introduced in 1983 by the New Orleans Province to encourage Jesuit concern for the poor. This year, nine grants have been awarded to help promote a variety of programs, three of which greatly benefit mission service in Belize.

Project Learn Belize, directed by Fr. Geoffrey Dillon, and sponsored by the School of Education at the University of San Francisco brings student-teachers, nurses, professors and other members of the university community on regular immersion trips to Sacred Heart Primary School in Dangriga, Belize. This summer, participants will help local tradesmen restore the school’s fragile infrastructure.

“These renovations will provide a much safer environment for over 700 students and staff,” said Dillon. “Perhaps less tangible, but very important, is the sense of pride the refurbishment will provide the school community.”

Further north in Belize City, the Center for Community Resource Development, led by Fr. Brian Christopher, will use its grant to support activities in the St. Martin de Porres community — one that in recent years has been plagued with gang and drug-related violence.

“The goal is to create new social networks and support systems within the neighborhood, helping to link people to existing social and financial services, fostering community spirit and pride in one’s community,” explained Christopher. Plans include building community action networks to unite neighbors in identifying their community assets, to discern how they want their own neighborhood to look and to mobilize those assets to realize their vision.

While he noted that change happens one day at a time he added, “In the last year and a half, the group has already implemented a monthly event called ‘Family Sundays’. They have carried out yard clean-ups for elderly shut-ins, a home gardening program with 19 families, a neighborhood talent show, and an open house.”

Prison ministry at Belize Central Prison is also supported with a social grant, which assists Jesuit Fathers Jack Stochl and Bill Snyders with basic transportation costs and the bibles, mass aids and shipping costs for donated and purchased books used to carry out their sacramental ministry and drug and alcohol counseling sessions with the men and women incarcerated there.

Educational institutions like Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas and Jesuit High School of Tampa use social grants to support the Higher Achievement and Summer Bridge programs, respectively, which provide academic enrichment in a summer day camp setting to 6th, 7th and 8th grade boys from low-income families. Faculty, Jesuit scholastics and regents teach basic learning curriculums in English, math and science, and enrichment activities in art, music, cooking and video production are meant to strengthen students’
abilities to help them view Jesuit high schools as viable options for their education.

Spiritual and enrichment programs are also supported at The Good Shepherd Nativity School of New Orleans, where K-7th grade students, faculty and board members will participate in retreats and service-learning activities at area nursing homes, the Harry Tompson Center for the homeless and other community centers.

At the university level, Fr. R.V. Baylón, advisor for Spring Hill College’s International Service and Immersion Program, has received funding for a service immersion trip to El Salvador, where more than one third of the population lives in poverty.

“I have been moved by the changes I’ve noticed in the students who go on these trips,” he said, adding that they are evangelized by their experiences with the poor. Baylón helps fundraise for the service immersion program and participates with students in planning meetings and reflection sessions.

“I personally feel that my ministry as a Jesuit would not only be incomplete but also missing its soul if it did not involve the poor in some way,” he explained. His grant also includes donations to four organizations that directly serve the poor in El Salvador.

The two remaining grants support parish-related outreach in both provinces. In St. Louis, Mo., the Social Concerns Committee of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish will aid the local St. Vincent de Paul Society with rent and utility assistance for needy neighbors, as well as with Gardenville, a program that aims to build solidarity among neighbors and De La Salle Middle School through the cultivation and production of a community garden.

In Albuquerque, NM, the New Mexico Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice at Immaculate Conception Parish will help undocumented families meet basic human needs with food, shelter and utilities assistance, particularly families facing destitution because of family “breadwinner” detention or deportation. Some of the grant will also be allocated to a micro-lending fund to aid families with the filing costs of legal status applications and for emergency expenses.

Mary Baudouin and Fr. Christopher, the provinces’ assistants for social and international ministries, facilitated the application process for the social grants.

“We are excited that for nearly 30 years, the Jesuits have continued and are continuing this creative, inspiring and practical way of involving themselves and lay collaborators directly with the poor,” said Baudouin.

And together, the New Orleans and Missouri Provinces illustrate Arrupe’s call to “have the patience and the humility and the courage to walk with the poor” in hope that “through such humble service, we will have the opportunity to help them find, at the heart of their problems and their struggles, Jesus Christ living and acting through the power of the Spirit.”
Faithful Companions

By Michael Bourg

[Ingratitude] is the greatest of all imaginable sins, for it is the disregard of the blessings, graces, and gifts that we have received...On the other hand, how loved and honoured in heaven is gratitude for all the blessings and gifts we have received!"

St. Ignatius’ Letters to Women, Hugo Rahner, ed., p 171

Gratitude speaks of our relationship with the triune God — that his love overflows into the world for the good of all. And it is in how we, as receivers of God's blessing, respond to this gift and care for others.

The Jesuits of the New Orleans Province are fortunate to have devoted lay Companions who respond to God's blessings by offering their expertise, time, community connections, as well as their treasure with the Jesuits, all so that the Society of Jesus may do what it was founded to do — help souls.

Ronnie Briggs and James “Red” Dumesnil are two of these Jesuit Companions who live their lives with grateful hearts. Briggs, the “youngster” of the two, began his 25-year association with the Jesuits when he attended his first retreat at Manresa House of Retreats in Convent, La. He became more involved by “making the mistake of going to lunch with Fr. Tom Clancy and Brian Berrigan” who at that time were the director of the Jesuit Seminary and Mission Bureau and development director for the province. “I found myself on the financial advisory board,” he joked.

Dumesnil, a founding member of the province’s financial advisory board, has an entirely different Jesuit connection.

“When I married Gertrude Hebert in 1957, I became a Jesuit Companion. Her brother was a missionary, and the entire family was involved both spiritually and socially in the mission of St. Ignatius of Loyola.”

He said he became particularly grateful for the Society of Jesus during the period of change following Vatican II and its different interpretations over the following years. “The Spiritual Exercises [of St. Ignatius] helped me remain faithful to the basic truths of the Church,” he explained.

Briggs said it has been in giving that he has reaped great blessings. “I always receive more than I give,” he said. “We only have to stop and think to know how blessed we are and to find God in all things.”

Both Dumesnil and Briggs said they give their time, talent and support out of gratitude for the many gifts
they have received. Briggs said that when it comes to the Jesuits of the New Orleans Province, “I tell people, Jesuits who serve us do not just appear on the scene. It is only through the province that any and all Jesuits serve any ministry at all.”

Briggs said the formation and care of the Jesuits who found and sustain so many works and apostolates is critical. He gives “in my own selfish way” he said, because “There would be no Manresa, Immaculate Conception Church or Good Shepherd School had it not been for the Jesuits.”

Of his own support of the Jesuits, Dumesnil said, “For years, I have considered the Jesuits as the ‘Marine Corps of the Church,’ and in order for them to fulfill their mission, their economic needs must be fulfilled by us, the faithful.”

Briggs said it’s how we use our gifts from God that may be the starting point of discussions with St. Peter. “How did I use my God-given time, talents, and treasures?” he said he expects to hear.

“As disciples we need to return to God, voluntarily, what He has provided,” said Dumesnil. “At my age, I have learned that I have never regretted being too generous, but when the stock market plunges, I have often regretted not being generous enough.”

Both Briggs and Dumesnil are active with several other church apostolates as well. The old adage — if you want something done, give it to the busy person — rings true. Both men are members of the province’s development advisory committee and financial advisory board. Dumesnil remains a steady volunteer for many works of the Church in southwest Louisiana, and Briggs, a former province campaign chair, continues his work as president of The Good Shepherd School in New Orleans.

This work is done willingly because it is “their mission, their baptismal duty,” they explained. “God calls us all,” said Briggs. “How blessed are we to hear the call and to answer it.”

Michael Bourg is the executive director for advancement for the New Orleans Province. To learn more about supporting the formation and care of Jesuits, contact Mr. Bourg at 1-800-788-1719 or visit www.norprov.org.

**A Bit of Ignatian Wisdom...**

**The First Principle and Foundation**

The goal of our life is to live with God forever. God, who loves us, gave us life. Our own response of love allows God’s life to flow into us without limit. All the things in this world are gifts from God, presented to us so that we can know God more easily and make a return of love more readily. As a result, we appreciate and use all these gifts of God insofar as they help us to develop as loving persons. But if any of these gifts become the center of our lives, they displace God and so hinder our growth toward our goal. In everyday life, then, we must hold ourselves in balance before all of these created gifts insofar as we have a choice and are not bound by some obligation. We should not fix our desires on health or sickness, wealth or poverty, success or failure, a long life or a short one. For everything has the potential of calling forth in us a deeper response to our life in God. Our only desire and our one choice should be this: I want and I choose what better leads to God’s deepening his life in me.

— St. Ignatius as paraphrased by David L. Fleming, SJ
A Faith-Filled Welcome at St. Charles College

The tiny Cajun town of Grand Coteau has big meaning for the Jesuits of the New Orleans Province, where in 1837 Jesuit Father Nicholas Point established St. Charles College.

For nearly 90 years it was a boarding and day school for boys, and for the last 90 years it has been the spiritual hub of the New Orleans Province as home to both the novices at the Jesuit Novitiate and retreatants at the Jesuit Spirituality Center. Soon to join them are the senior Jesuits of Ignatius Residence who currently reside in New Orleans.

Renewing a Sacred Place is the province-wide initiative to restore St. Charles College for another century of welcome and service. For generations, the college has been the place where young men “learn to be” Jesuits: an invitation to find the love, peace and mercy of Christ.

St. Charles College — the 103 year-old building that replaced the flame-ravaged original structure destroyed in 1907 — requires electrical, plumbing and fire-safety upgrades, as well accommodations for the senior men, general updates for the novitiate wing, and additions and upgrades to the retreatant wing.

While looking ahead to another century of service, we also reverence the past. Fondly remembered for their warmth and pastoral care are Fathers Jack Deeves and Joe Doyle, both of whom met their Jesuit family in Grand Coteau and were forever grounded in their ministry by the lessons taught to them at St. Charles College. It was their spiritual home.

Fr. Deeves, known for his humor and jokes, was a dedicated spiritual mentor to hundreds of students at Jesuit College Preparatory School and Ursuline Academy. His devotion to young people and their education left a lasting impression on Dallas Catholics. With the generosity of friends, we hope to memorialize his welcoming spirit and disarming charm in the Fr. John Francis “Jack” Deeves Welcome Hall — the entrance corridor of St. Charles College.

Fr. Doyle, remembered for his love of cooking and his big hugs, enjoyed gathering friends around a table for a meal. For him, sharing a meal was a sacramental sign of the Eucharist. He loved to create this “community” in all of his work — as master of Jesuit novices at St. Charles College, as superior of Ignatius Residence senior community, and as president of Jesuit High School of Tampa. He was a faithful mentor, teacher and friend, and with the generosity of friends, we hope to memorialize his hospitality in the Fr. Joseph F. Doyle Dining Room.

While there is no way we will know the full impact of the lives and ministries of Frs. Deeves and Doyle, we can honor their service and proclaim the wonder of God’s merciful love for the gift of their lives and the inspiration of their steadfast love and welcoming acceptance of others.

Jesuits of the New Orleans Province invite you to help honor these men and their memories with a gift to Renewing a Sacred Place. You may do so by calling Michael Bourg at 1-800-788-1719 or visit our website at www.norprov.org.
2012 Jubilarians

Together these Jubilarians have contributed 980 years of service to the Society of Jesus and the Church.

75 Years in the Society
Rev. A. Gerard Fineran, SJ

70 Years in the Society
Rev. Rodney T. Kissinger, SJ
Rev. Louis A. Poché, SJ

60 Years in the Society
Rev. Christopher A. Billac, SJ
Rev. John N. Folzenlogen, SJ
Rev. James L. Lambert, SJ

50 Years in the Society
Rev. Wayne D. Herpin, SJ
Rev. Peter S. Rogers, SJ
Rev. Edward Salazar, SJ

60 Years in the Priesthood
Rev. John J. Heaney, SJ

50 Years in the Priesthood
Rev. Clair M. Cazayoux, SJ
Rev. Martin L. Elsner, SJ
Rev. Ernest C. Ferlita, SJ
Rev. Donald J. Martin, SJ
Rev. Bert Mead, SJ
Rev. Thomas J. Tierney, SJ
Rev. Hervé Racivitch, SJ

25 Years in the Priesthood
Rev. J. William Harmless, SJ

Sunday, July 29, 2012
3:00 p.m.
Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception
New Orleans, Louisiana

To read a brief bio of these Jesuits, please visit our website: www.norprov.org/news/jubilee

To honor a Jesuit Jubilarian with a special donation, please call Pam Meldrum at 1-800-788-1719 or visit www.norprov.org/donate.
Considering a Jesuit vocation?

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For more information on vocations, contact Fr. Paul Deutsch at
1-800-788-1719
504-782-6863 (cell)
vocations@norprov.org
www.norprov.org/vocations

Hearts on Fire 2012 Retreats

The cities on the schedule are:
Corpus Christi, TX  July 6–7, 2012
New Orleans, LA  July 13–14, 2012
Tampa, FL  July 20–21, 2012
Atlanta, GA  July 27–28, 2012

See page 5 for more information!