Jesuit Parish in Belize Stands Up to Violence

Inaugural High School Grads Overcome Obstacles to Succeed

Learning to Love the Way God Loves

Two Jesuits Ordained Priests
Dear Friends,

There have been many exciting events since the publication of our last issue. For one, the Church welcomed Pope Francis, our first leader from the Americas. His humility and compassion have inspired many Catholics to enliven the words of the Gospel—to put our faith into action.

His Jesuit formation has also renewed interest in the Society of Jesus, and vocation teams report an uptick in inquiries. This fall, we will welcome a new novice class to St. Charles College to begin their Jesuit formation.

For the first time, novices will be welcomed by the senior Jesuits at the newly established St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Pavilion at the college. Our senior men have settled into their new home and have enjoyed sharing meals and visiting with the current novice class.

Their legacy of service in our churches, schools, retreat houses and missions inspires our Jesuits and the men in formation today. They have passed on the torches that help to light the way of future generations, like the first high school graduating classes of our Cristo Rey School in Houston and the Good Shepherd School in New Orleans.

Our Jesuit schools have helped to form leaders like Br. Larry Huck, the first president of the Good Shepherd School, and Steve and Schezy Barbas, who in their service and generosity to their alma maters, community and the province, have made the educations of many young people and Jesuits possible.

We celebrated two of those vocations this summer with the priestly ordinations of Raul Navarro and Jeremy Zipple, two men with different paths who share the same desire to serve Christ and His Church.

It’s a desire also shared by Fr. Michael Gallagher, Fr. Ross Romero and Fr. Matt Ruhl, who are putting faith into action at the United Nations and in Africa and Belize. Their diverse work of attorney, university professor and mission pastor mark the uniqueness of the Society of Jesus, each using his gifts to do the work of the Gospel.

Fr. Joe Tetlow, in his reflection on the Suscipe prayer, writes, “God is always actively giving and providing gifts as the Creator of all. This is a stunning reality because it means that everything we do, God does.” As a Church, we are united by our universal vocation to use these gifts to build His Kingdom on earth. Please continue to pray and work with us for His worthy cause, and be assured that our prayers remain with you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[Signature]

Mark A. L learn, SJ
The Southern Jesuit is a publication of the Jesuits of the New Orleans Province.

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The Southern Jesuit is a publication of the Jesuits of the New Orleans Province.
New leadership at schools in New Orleans

Br. Lawrence Huck has been selected as the first president of The Good Shepherd Nativity School.

The 12-year-old school that serves low-income, urban youth in downtown New Orleans has an extended-day, year-round program integrated with personal, moral and spiritual development programs.

Br. Huck has taught at Jesuit High School in both Tampa and New Orleans, where he served lengthy terms on the schools’ boards. He was recently province representative for renovations to St. Charles College in Grand Coteau, La., where he was also on the faculty at Berchmans Academy of the Sacred Heart.

Peter S. Kernion, a 1990 graduate of Jesuit High School of New Orleans, has been appointed principal of his alma mater.

“He brings to his new role at Jesuit a broad range of administrative experience,” said President Fr. Raymond Fitzgerald.

Kernion has been a teacher and coach at the school since 1996 and has served as assistant disciplinarian, academic scheduler, head of summer school and assistant principal of student affairs. He succeeds Michael Giambelluca, who has assumed the presidency of Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha, Neb.

Professor aiding with cultural immersion

Fr. Eduardo Fernandez, associate professor of pastoral theology and ministry at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley, Cal., gave a workshop on the dialogue of faith and culture to the novices of the New Orleans and Missouri Provinces, preparing them for their international and cross-cultural immersions. As director of the ecclesiastical doctorate program at JST, he has also been preparing workshops to assist with the further training of Latino/a doctoral and pre-tenure faculty at the Wabash Center for the Teaching of Theology and Religion in Crawfordsville, Ind.

School president receives honors

The Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Houston honored Fr. TJ Martinez, president of Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School of Houston, with its award for outstanding contribution to education at its 39th Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner in May. The honor was sweetened with the announcement that an endowed scholarship in Fr. Martinez’s name will be awarded annually to aid one Cristo Rey graduate with college expenses.

Tertianship for two Jesuits

Fr. TJ Martinez and Fr. Derrick Weingartner have been called to tertianship, the final phase of their formation as Jesuits, in Nairobi, Kenya. Fr. Martinez will briefly leave his post as president of Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School of Houston, and Fr. Weingartner will depart Immaculate Conception Parish and Southern University in Baton Rouge where he has served as associate pastor and campus minister.

Jesuit playwright recognized at university festival

The Department of Theatre Arts and Dance at Loyola University New Orleans presented “The Witness,” an award-winning, one-act play written by Professor Emeritus Fr. Ernest Ferlita, as part of the Senior One-Act Festival in April.

Based on real-life events during the Salvadoran Civil War, “The Witness” explores the 1989 murders of six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter by the
El Salvadoran military. It first premiered at Loyola in 1999 in memory of the 10th anniversary of the murders.

Fr. Ferlita spent 32 years teaching drama and speech at Loyola University New Orleans, where he chaired the department of drama and speech for 18 years and where an outstanding drama award bears his name.

**Regents on the move**

**Penn Dawson** concludes first studies and his chaplaincy work in Chicago to begin teaching and ministering at Loyola University New Orleans’ College of Law. Dawson, who was a practicing attorney in Tampa before entering the Society of Jesus, holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida.

**Matthew Baugh** begins his regency as assistant professor of theology at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala. He recently completed his doctorate in International Relations at Oxford University. Baugh also holds a Juris Doctorate from Yale University and an undergraduate degree from Duke University.

**Peter Gadalla** and **Jonathan Harmon** leave first studies at Saint Louis University to begin regency. Gadalla will join the Jesuit community at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Jerusalem and will teach and do campus ministry at Bethlehem University in Palestine. Harmon will teach at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas.

**Julio Minsal-Ruiz**, having completed first studies at Fordham University, arrives in New Orleans to begin teaching at Jesuit High School.

**Transitions**

It’s a homecoming for **Fr. Gregory Lucey**, who returns to Spring Hill College as university chancellor after serving as president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C. Fr. Lucey served as president of Spring Hill College from 1997-2009 and previously held a number of other leadership posts, including rector at Marquette University, president of the Jesuit Conference and vice president for development at Seattle University.

**Fr. RV Baylon** has departed Spring Hill College for the Philippines Province, where he is working at Ateneo de Manila University School of Medicine and Public Health.

**Also joining the Spring Hill College community is Fr. Don Bahlinger**, who is drawing on his 25 years of missionary work in Latin America and with the Kino Border Initiative to assist the Archdiocese of Mobile with Hispanic ministry this summer.

**SUMMER 2013 | JESUIT 5**
Fr. Jim Bradley has been appointed rector of the Jesuit community at St. Charles College, relieving Fr. Tony Ostini who remains at the college as director of the Jesuit Spirituality Center. Fr. Bradley continues to serve as director of the senior Jesuit community at its new home, St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Pavilion.

Fr. Edward Buvens has been missioned to Xavier Jesuit Center in Denver where he will serve as a pastoral minister. He was superior of Ignatius Retreat Center in Atlanta for the last four years.

Fr. Ian Gibbons is special assistant to the president at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston. He recently completed tertianship in Portland, Ore.

Fr. Donald Hawkins is directing retreats at the Jesuit Spirituality Center at St. Charles College in Grand Coteau, La. He leaves New Orleans after 12 years of pastoral work at both Holy Name of Jesus Church and Immaculate Conception Church.

Fr. Frank Reale has been installed as pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in New Orleans, where he has served as interim pastor since 2012. He is also superior of the Jesuit community at Immaculate Conception.

Fr. Stephen Sauer will begin campus ministry work at the University of San Francisco this fall.

Two of last year's ordinands, Fr. James Hooks and Fr. Daniel Tesvich, will begin new assignments. Fr. Hooks will be associate pastor of Immaculate Conception Church and campus minister of Southern University in Baton Rouge, La. Fr. Tesvich has been appointed associate pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Church in New Orleans.

Novices work in gratitude for support of the Seminary Fund

The 14 novices of the New Orleans and Missouri Provinces gathered in Baton Rouge, La., with lawn equipment and cleaning supplies to work at the home of Mrs. Helen Hennan, a generous benefactor who bequeathed her estate to the New Orleans Province. Novices and province staff organized her possessions and cleared the two-acre grounds for the sale of her estate, which she requested benefit the Seminary Fund.
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.

**2013 JUBILARIANS**

Together, these Jesuits have contributed 1,085 years of service to the Society of Jesus and the Church.

**70 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY**
Rev. J. Niel Jarreau, SJ

**60 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY**
Rev. W. Peter Bayhi, SJ
Rev. Ernest J. Jacques, SJ
Rev. Marvin C. Kitten, SJ
Rev. Louis J. Lambert, SJ
Rev. Edmundo Rodriguez, SJ

**50 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY**
Rev. Alfred C. Kammer, SJ
Rev. David L. Lawrence, SJ
Rev. Clyde H. LeBlanc, SJ
Rev. Joseph M. Nasser, SJ

**25 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY**
Rev. Bernard J. Barry, SJ
Rev. Mark E. Thibodeaux, SJ

**60 YEARS IN THE PRIESTHOOD**
Rev. Oren W. Key, SJ
Rev. Rodney T. Kissing, SJ
Rev. Charles A. Leininger, SJ
Rev. John F. Schroder, SJ

**50 YEARS IN THE PRIESTHOOD**
Rev. David C. Borbridge, SJ
Rev. John R. Stacer, SJ
Rev. Andrew P. Whitman, SJ

**25 YEARS IN THE PRIESTHOOD**
Rev. Warren J. Broussard, SJ
Rev. James F. Goeke, SJ
Rev. Gregg H. Grovenburg, SJ
Fr. Robert J. Ratchford

Father Robert James Ratchford passed from this life on Good Friday evening, March 29, 2013, at Ignatius Residence in New Orleans. He was a Jesuit for 64 years and a priest for 51 years. A funeral Mass was celebrated at Holy Name of Jesus Church, and he was buried in the Jesuit cemetery at St. Charles College in Grand Coteau, La.

Fr. Ratchford was born on November 16, 1924, in Firesteel, S.D. He attended Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., leaving to join the Army Air Corps as a B-29 gunnery instructor. After military service, he resumed chemistry studies at Indiana University and Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala. He entered the Society of Jesus on July 30, 1948, at St. Charles College, and pronounced his first vows on July 31, 1950.

Fr. Ratchford earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Spring Hill College, a doctorate in chemistry from Catholic University in Washington D.C., and a Licentiate of Sacred Theology from Jesuit College in Innsbruck, Austria. He did post-graduate work in solid state electro-chemistry at the Max Planck Institute for Physical Chemistry in Göttingen, West Germany, and at the Technische Hochschule in Karlsruhe, West Germany. He was ordained a priest on July 26, 1961, at Dreifaltigkeitskirche in Innsbruck.

Fr. Ratchford worked at Loyola University New Orleans for 16 years, where he taught chemistry and served as director of alumni, acting academic vice president and provost, dean of arts and sciences and assistant academic vice president. He also served on the New Orleans Province staff as executive assistant and catalog coordinator, and later he returned to Loyola University New Orleans to teach chemistry once more. In 1998, he moved to Ignatius Residence where he served as an assistant to the superior and the treasurer until shortly before death.

Fr. Ratchford was a chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol for over 35 years. In 1985, he received a commendation for flying an ill two-year-old child to Philadelphia for special treatment. He also served as a chaplain for the Jefferson Parish Correctional Center and as alumni chaplain at Loyola University New Orleans.

Donations in memory of Frs. Ratchford and Jenniskens may be made to the Senior Jesuits Fund of “The Jesuits,” 710 Baronne St., Ste. B., New Orleans, La., 70113 or at www.norprov.org.
STATEMENT OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

In the name of the Society of Jesus, I give thanks to God for the election of our new Pope, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J., which opens for the Church a path full of hope.

All of us Jesuits accompany with our prayers our brother and we thank him for his generosity in accepting the responsibility of guiding the Church at this crucial time. The name of "Francis" by which we shall now know him evokes for us the Holy Father's evangelical spirit of closeness to the poor, his identification with simple people, and his commitment to the renewal of the Church. From the very first moment in which he appeared before the people of God, he gave visible witness to his simplicity, his humility, his pastoral experience and his spiritual depth.

"The distinguishing mark of our Society is that it is . . . a companionship . . . bound to the Roman Pontiff by a special bond of love and service.\" (Complementary Norms, No. 2, § 2) Thus, we share the joy of the whole Church, and at the same time, wish to express our renewed availability to be sent into the vineyard of the Lord, according to the spirit of our special vow of obedience, that so distinctively unites us with the Holy Father (General Congregation 35, Decree 1, No. 17).

P. Adolfo Nicolás S.J.
Superior General

Rome, 14 March 2013
Go Forth and Set the World on Fire
Two Jesuits Ordained Priests

Fathers Raul Navarro and Jeremy Zipple prepared for priestly ministry in the Jesuit tradition, sharpening their minds with years of academic study and exploring their apostolic callings through service to others. Conferring Holy Orders on these men was Most Reverend Gregory Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans, on June 8, 2013, during the ordination Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church in New Orleans.

Father Raul A. Navarro, 53, was born in Mexico City and moved to the United States at the age of 12. The family settled in New Orleans, where Fr. Navarro and his three siblings attended local schools.

After graduating from Redemptorist High School, Fr. Navarro studied at Loyola University New Orleans, earning a bachelor’s degree in geology in 1983. At Loyola, Fr. Navarro first became acquainted with the Society of Jesus and also found a place that would become his academic and professional home for nearly two decades. After graduating from college, Fr. Navarro worked at Loyola in administrative and accounting positions and earned two more degrees: a master’s degree in education and a Master of Business Administration. Along the way,
he was active in campus ministry and volunteered for student retreats, while discerning a Jesuit vocation.

In 2002, Fr. Navarro entered the Society of Jesus; he spent two years at the novitiate in Grand Coteau, La., followed by philosophy and theology studies at Loyola University Chicago. As part of his regency assignment, Fr. Navarro taught at Houston’s Strake Jesuit College Preparatory and helped open the Cristo Rey school in that city. Following regency, Fr. Navarro was missioned to the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley, Cal., where he earned a Master of Divinity.

Among Fr. Navarro’s memorable formation experiences are his long experiment in Guadalajara, mission trips to Mexico City and last year’s trip to the Philippines, his first visit to his parents’ homeland. Following ordination, Fr. Navarro will serve at Immaculate Conception Church in his hometown of New Orleans.

“I feel really humble and honored that I have been called to follow Jesus in the capacity as a priest in the Society of Jesus. This call gives me a sense of joy as well as a mission to spread the Gospel to all those I can. It is to be done by my actions and prayers. I am called to preach, teach, and be with the people of God. Jesus has called me to be one of his laborers.

“\textit{One of the things that has given me consolation and has attracted me to the Jesuits and given me a willingness to serve is that God loves me very much and has blessed me with many gifts. This realization makes me feel very humble and very grateful. This spirit of gratitude has led me to desire to share the gifts that God has given me.}”

— Fr. Raul Navarro

Fr. Raul Navarro

Father Jeremy K. Zipple, 35, is a native of Hattiesburg, Miss. A 1996 graduate of Hattiesburg High School, Fr. Zipple attended Boston College, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in economics with a minor in film and music. During his time at Boston College, Fr. Zipple worked in campus ministry, played piano for student liturgies and volunteered at a homeless shelter. He also came to know the Jesuits and to appreciate how the Society of Jesus offered a unique model of the priesthood, one that combined secular pursuits with a life of faith.

Immediately following graduation, Fr. Zipple taught math and music to middle school students at St. Francis Cathedral School in Metuchen, N.J., before entering the Society of Jesus in 2002. During his time in the novitiate, Fr. Zipple, who had an early and passionate interest in film production, worked on a PBS-aired documentary on the great Jesuit missionary St. Francis Xavier. In 2004, he was missioned to New York’s Fordham University, earning
a master’s degree in philosophy before beginning a three-year regency assignment with National Geographic Television in Washington, D.C.

While traveling the world as a writer, producer and director for National Geographic, Fr. Zipple contributed to documentaries exploring a wide range of topics—from a lost Mayan civilization to the elusive quest for King Solomon’s mines. Since 2010, Fr. Zipple has been missioned to the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry where he earned a Master of Divinity while serving as a deacon at St. Joseph’s Parish in Belmont, Mass.

Following ordination, he will return to Boston to continue work on his Licentiate in Sacred Theology.

“In his address to General Congregation 35, Pope Benedict challenged the Society of Jesus ‘to reach the geographical and spiritual places where others do not reach or find it difficult to reach,’ asking Jesuits to ‘devote their lives to stand on those frontiers.’ In the chris... Mass Pope Francis celebrated on Holy Thursday just days after his papal election, our first Jesuit pope charged priests to ‘go out to the outskirts, where there is suffering, bloodshed, blindness that longs for sight, and prisoners in thrall to many evil masters.’ These marching orders issued by our two most recent pontiffs describe so wonderfully the inspiration that has sustained me through my years of Jesuit formation and are also where I find hope, challenge, and excitement as I look ahead to my future priestly ministry.

“Wherever humans love and long and strive and suffer, there the triune God is to be found, creating, redeeming, and sanctifying us. And it is the Jesuits’ call to walk alongside others on the journeys of their lives, helping each to detect and give thanks for the manifold ways God’s love envelops and sustains us. For that call, I say ‘Deo gratias.’”

— Fr. Jeremy Zipple
I feel tremendous gratitude for the opportunities and experiences my vocation has brought me—opportunities to work with juvenile prisoners in Belize, hospice patients in Boston, high school students in Houston, and alongside wonderful colleagues and friends at National Geographic Television, where I spent three years learning to harness the power of film and media.

It is a dictum of Ignatian spirituality to seek 'God in all things,' a dictum affirmed in the splendid words of the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins who declares, 'The world is charged with the grandeur of God.' I have come to believe that Divine Love is at work in every facet of human existence—in our tears and our laughter, in the poverty of inner city slums and the creativity of a scientific laboratory, in the bitter sorrow of an oncology ward and the sheer joy of a maternity unit, in the silence of prayer and the exuberance of liturgy.

Fr. Jeremy Zipple

Chronicling 200 Years of the Society of Jesus in the Southern United States

When the Mississippi River was still a great, wild vein in the New World, Jesuits were exploring the southern frontier and proclaiming the word of God to native peoples and early settlers. Their stories and those of future generations of Jesuits they would inspire are being chronicled and published in a singular, permanent record to commemorate centuries of Jesuit ministry in the southern United States.

Tentatively titled "Biographies of the Southern Jesuits: The First 200 Years," the volume features Jesuits who founded works, evangelized the faithful and nurtured converts throughout the south and southwest since the 1700s.

Highlights of the book include stories of the original Jesuit Mission Band that traveled through the province proclaiming the Gospel, and stories of early French Jesuits who first evangelized Native American nations in the region.

The book also includes stories of Jesuits like El Paso native Fr. Ernest Burras, who while studying in Austria was able to outsmart the Gestapo to aid escaping Jews, and Fr. Eugene Hebert, who left his Cajun homeland to work as a missionary in Ceylon.

The timing of this retrospective coincides with the unification of the New Orleans and Missouri Provinces to form the new Central-South Province in June of 2014. Stretching westward from Florida to New Mexico, north to Colorado, east to Missouri, and including the Central American country of Belize, the new province boundaries will allow for greater cooperation, innovation, synergy and more efficient use of resources in ministry, something about which early Jesuits knew a thing or two.

The book will be available in July of 2014. Advanced copies can be reserved by contacting Michael Bourg at 1-800-788-1719 or mbourg@norprov.org.
Senior Jesuits find welcome in homecoming at St. Charles College

On a Monday morning in early May, the senior Jesuits of Ignatius Residence in New Orleans began a journey reminiscent of that of the Israelites after the first Passover.

Fr. Rodney Kissinger, one of the 20 senior men who made the journey, wrote to friends, “We are making our last preparations for our grand exodus ‘through the desert and Mount Sinai to the promised land flowing with milk and honey.’”

After the usual morning Eucharistic celebration, the elder community gathered for breakfast and ate “in haste with their cloak tucked into their belt dressed for travel, sandals on their feet, and walking staff in hand.” By 9 a.m. they had loaded into cars and set out on the road for the promise of a newly renovated facility awaiting them at St. Charles College in Grand Coteau, La.

The move occurred smoothly thanks to the detailed planning of Ignatius Residence superior Fr. Jim Bradley, aided by Bro. Terry Todd and the Ignatius Residence staff. Movers began the three-day transfer of furniture and personal belongings, and in the meantime the Jesuits lodged in retreatant rooms within the Jesuit Spirituality Center at the college. By the end of the week, everyone was settling into their permanent rooms in the new assisted living wing, St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Pavilion.

Every effort was made to maintain the daily schedule to which the community was accustomed. Mass began in the new chapel at 7:30 a.m., where two familiar objets d’art awaited the Jesuits. Stained glass windows from the Ignatius Residence chapel in New Orleans were re-installed in the new chapel, and the large crucifix that once hung in the college’s original main chapel had a new home behind the altar of the Pavilion chapel.

It is the crucifix before which most of these elder Jesuits knelt when they pronounced first vows at the beginning of their Jesuit formation.

“So I end up where I started as a novice,” commented the 98-year-old Fr. Kissinger.

The community gathers for breakfast, lunch and dinner just as they had at Ignatius Residence, but a
delightful change for the senior men is to be joined by the young novices and the other Jesuits who work in the spirituality center and at the nearby Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat House and St. Charles Borromeo Parish. Conversations are lively, and stories are exchanged.

The tradition of an afternoon social time has also been maintained, when men gather for hors d’oeuvres and snacks before dinner. A special area was designed for this with comfortable chairs, a small kitchenette and a serving counter.

Living quarters in the Pavilion are simple but comfortable for men in their twilight years. Each senior man has a private bath in his room, along with a nurse-signaling button, thermostat, and connections for a telephone, cable TV and the Internet.

For most of the men, views out their windows bring back memories because the rooms now occupy the part of the college that once housed the dormitory and dining room for the novices of yesteryear.

After months of expectation and preparation, and perhaps some anxiety, these senior Jesuits completed their exodus and arrived in a place that promises peace and great hopes for a new beginning.

“We have crossed the Jordan, shouted down the walls of Jericho and entered the Promised Land,” wrote Fr. Kissinger. “Just like at the Wedding Feast of Cana, the Lord saves the very best wine till last. It surely has been true in my life.”
Mission Accomplished: 
inaugural high school classes overcome obstacles to succeed

By Dan Thelen

Save the date! reads the invitation to Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School’s first-ever graduation. Students on the cover are suspended in a midair celebration full of giant grins and cheers. The moment is well earned.

In August of 2009, this inaugural class of young men and women embarked on a unique high school experience that combined rigorous academics with a work-study program to help them gain practical work experience and help offset tuition costs.

The school, planted in the heart of an underserved, low-income neighborhood in southeast Houston, was still under renovation with only one functioning hallway on opening day.

David Garcia-Prats, dean of academics at Cristo Rey, said this first class of courageous students demonstrated their ability to grow with the school and overcome challenges.

“They pioneered our sports program, AP classes, student council and more,” he said. Students struggled with the expectations of the school initially, “but now higher education is
seen as important, and the students have developed a different level of expectation for what they can do and achieve.”

In this neighborhood, where 70 percent of Hispanic and African American students drop out of high school, the 60 seniors who made it through four years at Cristo Rey all graduated and were accepted into college.

One of those graduates is Christian Anté, whose initial attraction to the school was its commitment to the immediate community.

“I was a transfer student who came to Cristo Rey because I wanted a school in my own community,” he explained. “I know it’s cliché, but they really helped change the lives of that community. That’s something I will take with me.”

His mother, Brenda Juarez-Anté, said the smaller, more close-knit environment was also a big factor in his decision.

Anté, who was president of student council and the National Honor Society chapter he helped to establish, has enrolled at Georgetown University and plans to pursue a law degree afterward. He believes that his work-study experience with three different companies is what has most prepared him for life after high school.

“I have a full résumé because of Cristo Rey!” he said. Anté believes the opportunity to “talk craft” with people in the legal profession added a different dynamic to his education.

“I was able to learn things not typically taught in a classroom, things that are practical and important for excelling in a work environment.”

Flirtisha Harris, who has taught everything from physical education to writing courses at Cristo Rey since it opened, said she is thrilled about how this first class has set a high bar for future graduates.

“I can see how these students transformed their self-confidence, how they see their potential as more than a product of their environment,” she said. “They have goals to become things like pediatricians and engineers, and I hope to follow them as they go and watch their dreams come true.”

While gearing students toward college is a priority at Cristo Rey, Garcia-Prats said, “We really try to be a Jesuit school first,” and that the Jesuit motto “people for others” is popular around the school. “These students contribute positively to their community, and I hope to see that continue into their future.”

East of Houston in New Orleans, the Good Shepherd School is celebrating the high school graduation of the 12 students who comprised its first kindergarten class in 2001.

The school, built in the shell of an old furniture store in the central business district, began with only this small class. It welcomed a new kindergarten class every year as students advanced into higher grades. Now, as a K-7 elementary school, it offers a holistic, Catholic education to children from low-income families.

Many students have been exposed to a culture of drugs, violence and poverty, often in single
Jesuit Brother Named First President of Good Shepherd Nativity School

Back on home turf in New Orleans, The Good Shepherd School’s first president, Br. Lawrence Huck, is ready to engage the community in the Jesuit Nativity school’s mission.

“The greater New Orleans area has, from the beginning, played an integral part in the success of Good Shepherd School,” he said of the institution for at-risk, underserved children in New Orleans. “I’m excited to be a part of this tradition, and I look forward to working with our students, their families, friends and our benefactors.”

Br. Huck, 44, fits naturally into his new assignment. A native of New Orleans, he has spent most of his ministry in the classroom, teaching theology at Jesuit High School of New Orleans (his alma mater), working as a campus minister at Jesuit High School of Tampa, and serving lengthy board terms at both schools. Most recently, he was on the faculty of Berchmans Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, La., only a short walk from St. Charles College where he oversaw renovations as the Provincial’s representative. He also directed retreats at the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Grand Coteau.

Ronnie Briggs, a founding member of the school and its board chair, said he is confident that Br. Huck, along with Principal Emily Paul, faculty, and the board of directors, will ensure that the school continues to foster the academic and personal growth of its students.

Br. Huck said the education and development of students is his greatest concern.

“Our students have their whole lives ahead of them,” he said. “The academic and spiritual foundation we help them build at Good Shepherd can instill the confidence and compassion they will need to succeed as students, and ultimately, as people for others.”

Matt Deboer (left) leads Good Shepherd School students in song at a peace vigil on busy Canal Street in New Orleans.
extended days and a year-round schedule—have created an environment where students have the support they need to thrive. One of the most notable is the Graduate Support Program, which tracks graduates through high school and organizes academic and social opportunities to promote their continued success.

Ronnie Briggs, founding member of the school and its board, said this first graduating class proves the school’s mission is on target. “This has been a really good class because all 12 (graduates) have stayed on course. Everyone has been accepted into college, and one young woman has chosen to enlist in the U.S. Navy,” he said.

Graduates Tamera Coney and Andrew Joseph have enrolled at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La., and Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, respectively. Both students performed strongly in rigorous high school curriculums. They credit the Good Shepherd teachers as great influences in their education.

“Because the classes were small, the teachers always had time for you,” Joseph recalled. Coney fondly remembers her teachers as “warm, welcoming and helpful.”

Beyond academics, Good Shepherd is a place, as Deboer describes, “centered on prayer and faith.”

“Our goal is to produce graduates who live out the Christian faith in their lives,” he said. “As they graduate from high school, we hope they see how Good Shepherd helped them to go to college, become lawyers and doctors, and then give back by serving those in need with a spirit of generosity.”

Briggs echoed this sentiment. “I hope and pray that they remember to give back and be a person for others.” It’s a hope already realized in many ways. Graduates come back to Good Shepherd and volunteer their time to inspire and serve their younger classmates. Senior Logan Page recently spent four hours working alongside Deboer at the New Orleans Mission for the homeless. Joseph helps students with the transition from Good Shepherd to high school.

Joseph’s own story is a great example to students. Teachers say he grew from “troublemaker” to the “go-to-leader” of his class. He believes his success is due in part to the mission of Good Shepherd.

“The atmosphere there helped me become the mature young adult that I am. Without their guidance, I don’t think I would be the same person I am today.”

Dan Thelen is an active community member at the New Orleans Catholic Worker House. He is currently serving as an advancement associate in the New Orleans Province.
In most ways, St. Martin de Porres in Belize City, Belize, is a typical Jesuit parish. Dynamic preaching and lively music draw people from all over the city to be part of a nourishing community. Parishioners are a mix of ages and economic status, with a few millionaires sitting alongside unemployed people. Naturally, the school is important.

What sets St. Martin's apart is the desperate violence that marks the south side of Belize City. In 2012, Belize achieved the unwelcome distinction of having the fourth-highest murder rate in the world, 10 times that of the United States, according to United Nations crime reports.

Eighty percent of the country’s violent murders occur in Belize City, and the city’s south side, where St. Martin’s is located, is its most violent section. Last year, between Ash Wednesday and Easter, Fr. Matt Ruhl, the Jesuit pastor, buried five men who were murdered and who were themselves accused murderers. Even the priests’ residence has been broken into.

Drugs began to fuel the violence after cartels from Guatemala and Mexico moved into Belize, which has become a key transit point for drugs headed north to the United States. In January, four men had their throats slit.

“There was panic. The city shut down like a storm was coming. It was eerie and weird,” Fr. Ruhl said. Law-abiding people confined themselves to their homes after dark, making normal parish routines more difficult.

“I wanted to start a peace movement by organizing the Bishops’ March for Peace, so that people would think about things that could be done to promote peace,” he said.

He was especially concerned about St. Martin’s youngsters. The parish has 700 grade school students and 90 in its pre-school. Some students already exhibit violence. Many have absent fathers, and some of their mothers, out of economic desperation, have resorted to prostitution.

Fr. Ruhl challenged his parishioners to take action. On Feb. 1, he led walkers from the Sarstoon River, the country’s northern border with Mexico, to the Toledo district bordering Guatemala. It took 13 days. Eight people made the entire walk. Others walked portions of the route.

“The walk is more than putting one foot in front of the other for 300 miles,” said Tanya Usher, one of the organizers.

“Here you walk, you talk, you pray, you inspire others. Our primary goal is to walk, talk, pray and get inspired as a Church and ultimately as a country in order to win hearts for peace. It is about raising awareness, engaging and empowering others. It is about discovering how best to address the horrible social ills in our country.”

Fr. Matt Ruhl, pastor of St. Martin de Porres parish

Fr. Ruhl responded to the violence ravaging the city by organizing a 300-mile march along the length of the country to promote “a culture of peace.”

By Thomas Rochford SJ
Usher, recruited by Fr. Ruhl to chair the walk, represents the young, talented leadership that gives the parish hope. A graduate of Saint Louis University with a degree in biology, she has been a parishioner at St. Martin's for 11 years and worked for the government of Belize in Washington, D.C.

She remembers walking home from primary school as a child, a distance of three miles, but she won't let her own daughter do that.

“I don’t think there’s any violence on my street, but things have changed enough that I don’t trust the way my mom could have trusted back then,” she said.

Fr. Ruhl said he had to stop walking after 150 miles because of feet problems, but he remained upbeat about the march.

“My desire is that the walk inspires all the citizens of Belize, to say ‘Look, it is just a small minority of people who are causing the trouble,’” he said. “The overwhelming majority of Belizeans are peace lovers, and they just have to stand up and take control of their country. Belize is more beautiful than a lot of Belizeans know. I love my St. Martin de Porres students. They gladden my heart.”

Fr. Ruhl looks forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of St. Martin’s founding in 1966. In the 1960s, population growth to an area developed from former mangrove swamps made a new school and parish necessary.

St. Martin’s began as an outgrowth of the existing Jesuit parish, St. Ignatius. Today, the campus includes a church, three primary school classroom buildings, a pre-school and a parish center.

Since Fr. Ruhl arrived two years ago, he has worked to transform the campus into a clean and safe oasis amidst a rough neighborhood of unkempt homes and littered streets—one of the toughest in Belize. The campus has newly planted trees, a neatly tended lawn and a white picket fence along the sidewalks.

“Parents appreciate the safe environment for their children,” the pre-school’s director, Tomasa Smith, said.

St. Martin’s has three feeding programs for children in the school and surrounding neighborhood. Health care, home construction and other services for the poor got their start at St. Martin’s before spinning off to other locations. The parish still operates a school, pre-school and day care center as well as services for seniors and neighborhood youth.

The parish grade school plays a crucial role in stemming violence in the community. According to Usher, many Belize City youth in the public schools don’t show up for class and the community lacks an effective truancy program. She said the schools fail to teach discipline and respect for others, especially for women.

She praised St. Martin’s for its school, and she would like to see the Church explore practical solutions to help improve the community.

“What more can the church do? Follow up. Yeah, this walk was a great thing, but what’s next? What are we going to do, how are we going to build on it?”

She sees St. Martin’s as a welcoming place that is peaceful, vibrant and active that keeps her coming back, and she appreciates that Fr. Ruhl recruited her to chair the peace walk.

“I am a young person. I always want to help, but what can I do?” she asked. “I think there are lots of people like me who want to do something and are willing if you just offer them the opportunity.”
Fr. Ross Romero is back in Omaha, Neb., where he is on the tenure track as a philosophy professor at Creighton University.

But from January to late June, while on leave from his teaching post, he lived a world away in West Africa, first in Ghana and later in Nigeria, for his tertianship, the final phase of Jesuit formation that tests and reaffirms a Jesuit’s commitment to the Society of Jesus in preparation for final vows.

He could have joined a tertian community in Portland, Ore., but he opted for the one in Ghana, in part, because Father General Adolfo Nicolás identified Africa as a priority for the Society, but also to spend time in a place that African Jesuit friends he’s made over the years call home.

“There was no way I could really begin to feel and think with the African Jesuits without spending some time in their place and really seeing first-hand what the Holy Spirit is doing here.”

Fr. Romero, 45, also would have missed the color and culture of a world away from the ordinary, and all the heart-stirrings that followed. Tertianship, after all, is a process that allows a Jesuit to step back from his regular work to pray, reflect and develop a deeper sense of self.

In an email from Africa, he recalled a stranger extending Nigerian hospitality as he walked on a busy city street in Benin City, sensing all eyes on the rare sight of this white Western Jesuit.

Fr. Ross Romero (standing fourth from left) with second-year novices at the Jesuit novitiate in Benn City, Nigeria, after instructing them in a philosophy session.
“A very dark man about my age walked up to me and said, ‘Welcome foreigner. You look beautiful to me. You are very welcome here,’” recalled Fr. Romero, still amazed by the gesture.

“Later in my Examen, I thought back on this experience and thought that this is precisely the kind of Kingdom that Jesus is laboring to bring about. Wouldn’t it be great if we in the U.S. had that kind of response to immigrants?”

His first stop was Cape Coast, Ghana, home of the English-speaking Jesuit tertianship in Africa, where he lived in community and studied the Society’s constitutions, worked with the poor and made the full 30-day Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

He said he’s still “unpacking things” in his mind that the retreat stirred up, and that during the retreat, he was led through periods of encouragement, energy and inspiration as well as moments of darkness, isolation and fragility.

“There was a very powerful healing of some of my memories going back to childhood,” he shared, “and I was also given the grace of seeing how my own vocational choices have been confirmed in my life as a Jesuit and a priest.”

The physical environment for the retreat was another matter.

Food and water were sometimes scarce. It was hot, even with fans, and it grew hotter when the Ghanese government reclaimed the power grid and imposed an unpredictable power schedule. Illness from the physical toll prompted one tertian instructor to return to his home province.

“What I understand now more clearly is that Jesus wants to expiate sin,” he said. “He wants, above all else, to take on for us the sufferings that we endure in this world, and he will do it whether we want him to or not because his love for us is so great. All I can try to do now is to try to help him in expiating sin in the mission of reconciliation, in and through the Society of Jesus.”

At the Easter Vigil, he helped Fr. David Ogun baptize more than 50 people at a Jesuit parish there.

“During the homily, Fr. David got carried away by the spirit and lots of people were dancing and singing throughout the church,” he said. “I found myself in a conga line with the altar servers dancing through the aisles!”

For the second half of his experience in Africa, Fr. Romero traveled east to Benin City, Nigeria, to preach and direct retreats at the Jesuit Retreat Centre for lay people, women religious and Jesuit scholastics and novices. His Pentecost Sunday Mass drew more than 1,000 spirit-filled Nigerians, the largest single Mass he’s ever celebrated. “Lots of fun with the preaching,” he wrote. “I went over 30 minutes and they were happy.”

Fr. Romero said he didn’t have time to explore other parts of Africa before returning to Omaha on June 22, but left feeling “that I know the Society of Jesus better for having come here.”

He also said he experienced a special grace that helped him through some of the more challenging days of tertianship, “a grace that I know must have come from the intercessory prayer of others. I am thankful for that generosity.”
As an attorney for a refugee asylum project in south Texas in the 1990s, Fr. Michael Gallagher was often tapped by U.S. immigration authorities to represent the very people they were prosecuting whom they believed had a good chance for victory. They recognized the talent of the Georgetown University Law School graduate, whose passion for justice work was shaped by the 1960s fervor for civil rights as well as time in India exposed to poverty on a massive scale.

Today, 64-year-old Fr. Gallagher represents the interests of refugees around the globe as the Jesuit Refugee Service’s representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

No longer in the field among 43.7 million displaced people living in desperate conditions, Fr. Gallagher spends much of his day in his Geneva office, reading reports and policy papers and monitoring developments, especially those related to armed conflict in the countries JRS serves, or, as in the case of Somalia, from where some of the refugees it serves in Ethiopia and Kenya come.

In 2001, after having completed master’s work in refugee studies at Oxford University, Fr. Gallagher was assigned director of JRS initiatives in Zambia. In 2006, he was named Southern Africa regional advocacy officer for Angola, the Katanga Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe. He was assigned to his current position in 2009.

In his Africa days, he would post news from various countries to the refugee camps via satellite phone so that displaced persons could track developments in their home countries.

Before his work with JRS, Fr. Gallagher was an attorney with the Las Americas Refugee Asylum Project.
in El Paso, Texas, and was the provincial’s assistant for social and international ministries. In the late 1980s, he directed the poverty law center at Loyola University New Orleans.

Today, on trips out of the office, he trains field worker teams in the nuances of international humanitarian and human rights law to assist in their advocating on refugees’ behalf.

Back in Geneva, he works with Lutheran World Federation, World Vision, the office of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Islamic Relief and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and is part of a UN working group that is fighting against fear of the foreigner or stranger through draft commitments for faith leaders.

He also works with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to solve challenges that develop in the field and cannot be resolved locally.

Globally, nearly 44 million displaced people—more than half of them children—live in desperate conditions within and outside of their own homeland or in detention centers, separated from their families by violence, persecution and natural disasters, according to UNHCR. They live in places like the Dadaab refugee camp complex, a patch of African desert near the Kenyan-Somali border dotted with thousands of make-shift shelters of tents, scraps of tin and tarp held with twine, home to nearly half a million people.

“All their familiar supports are gone,” said Fr. Gallagher, who noted that most refugees are women, children and the elderly. Most of the men are either fighting or are already dead, he said.

About 1,400 JRS staff and other volunteers serve refugees in 50 countries through a network of 10 regional offices that extend from the Americas to Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Asian Pacific region.

Their accompaniment of refugees in education, emergency aid, health care and social services informs his advocacy as he represents their interests to UN agencies and other non-governmental organizations in Geneva.

In some cases, the physical presence of field teams can even provide protection to refugees and help prevent attacks in dangerous situations.

“Accompaniment gives a person an opportunity to share,” he said, and those interactions between refugees and JRS field staff can lead to resolving problems.

Fr. Gallagher said the work of JRS field staff almost always involves collaborating with people of various cultures and religions. JRS workers in Thailand are mostly Buddhist; Ethiopian volunteers are Christian and Muslim. In Syria, he said volunteers providing meals and other life-saving assistance are all over the political spectrum.

“Most people are brought together by a desire to assist those who have left everything behind,” he said.

Fr. Gallagher also represents JRS to Diplomatic Missions in Geneva, where he works closely with the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations.

He exchanges information with other representatives of non-governmental organizations and sometimes lobbies countries to press for legal or policy change to help refugees.

“An example of this would be encouraging some European countries to consider funding rule of law programs in Eastern Congo where our teams encounter victims of sexual violence on a daily basis, but where, regrettably, impunity for these crimes is the rule rather than the exception,” he said.

JRS advocates for resolving humanitarian needs, “where there must be a response to danger, where the state lacks the ability or will to assist those who are suffering,” such as with Sudanese child soldiers, violated women, war victims and others who are persecuted, he said.

JRS also works with developing countries to address food security, education and challenges posed by climate change. Regardless of the refugees’ case for aid, they all share the need for community, safety and basic human rights, he said.

Last December, Fr. Gallagher, writing for the UNHCR, dissected the parable of the Good Samaritan to answer the questions of “who is my neighbor?” and “who must I love as myself?”

“The victim’s circumstances, apart from the fact that he is traveling to Jericho, are not known,” he wrote. “The only real consideration is responding to the needs of a neighbor.”

Fr. Gallagher said the parable compels everyone to reflect on who needs help, what type of help is needed, and “how complete” that assistance should be.

The Good Samaritan, in his model of accompaniment, completely restored the traveling stranger he found suffering. For the millions of refugees who need help, the work of Fr. Gallagher and his JRS colleagues is a sign of such hope.

For more on the mission and work of Jesuit Refugee Service, visit www.jrs.net.
Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all I have and call my own.

You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace. That is enough for me.
In the swatch of notes that became the Spiritual Exercises, Master Ignatius wrote out only two prayers. The first one is a generous response to Christ's epic battle to establish the Kingdom. St. Ignatius urges someone making the Exercises to pledge to live and labor with Jesus in a prayer that begins, “Eternal Lord of all things,” and ends with joining Him come whatever might.

St. Ignatius suggests praying the second prayer after a quiet, great-spirited contemplation on self and all creation. That exercise is usually called the “Contemplation to attain the love of God”; but actually, it’s about learning to love the way God loves. The prayer it contains is the Suscipe, or Take and Receive.

St. Ignatius advises us to remember two things before the contemplation begins. First, that love is done—as Ignatius says, it “shows itself in deeds rather than in words.” And second, that love is always a mutual sharing between the lover and the beloved—giving and receiving, receiving and giving.

With that in mind, I turn to see how God loves by going through the four moments of the contemplation. I consider that all that I have and am, even beyond what I can see, is God-given. Ignatius suggests reflecting on the incredible beauty and richness of God’s creation. I might remember places I have lived and people who hold a special place in my heart. And the point is that all these blessings are God’s gift to me. God gives and gives.

So if I want to love the way God loves, I want to give. But what have I to give God who gives me everything?

This is where the prayer starts. I can give God my love, a gift that has to be freely given. So I start: “Take, Lord, and receive my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will”—the core of myself. I say, “and receive,” asking the Lord to accept my love, knowing that God will.

Then, consider that God does not give gifts the way we do: we give a gift and then leave. But God remains in His gifts. God is entirely present throughout the universe and in every molecule of all the worlds. Loving the way God loves requires doing the same. Giving one’s self to the Lord means giving “all that I have and call my own.”

There’s more, because God is not “in everything” the way a color is on a wall. No. God is always active in His gifts, in the first place continually keeping them in existence as the Creator of all. This is a stunning reality, because it means that everything I do, God does. So Jesus said that He “can do only what He sees the Father doing.” I may not see what God is “doing” with me, but “in Him we live and move” as well as have our being.

Here is a wonderful truth: God gives me my very self, which I in am free to give back to God. So the prayer says: “You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it,” meaning my self. Amazingly, I am loving as God loves.

The final consideration is obvious. If God gives Himself and keeps staying with me, God is sharing His Divine Self with me. Think of a mirror aimed at the sun. The mirror is full of blinding light, even though it has none of its own, because the sun shares its light, freely. It loses nothing by sharing its light—but its light is its very self, and it shares its light generously, freely, steadily.

It’s like that with God and each of us. I am full of life that reflects God’s life. Everything I do, God is doing with me, or really, it’s the other way around. (See why sin is so bad?)

I think, and I share God’s infinite thinking. I act freely, and I share in the divine free action. I love, and I share in the God of Love, whom I love.

Fr. Joseph Tetlow, an expert in Ignatian spirituality, is a writer, lecturer and retreat director in St. Louis.
Students at Sacred Heart School in Dangriga, Belize, arrived at a newly renovated campus this school year. During a writing exercise for their national high school entrance exams, the students came up with the idea of writing thank you letters to donors who provided funding for the renovation.

Fr. Geoffrey Dillon, director of Project Learn Belize, secured a portion of funding for the renovations through the New Orleans and Missouri Provinces’ social grants program. In gratitude, the students sent thank you notes to the bi-province Social Grants Committee.

Students Send Thank You Notes for School Renovations

March 5, 2013

The Social Errands Committee
New Orleans and Missouri Provinces
The Society of Jesus

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Melissa, I am a 12-year old student at Sacred Heart School in my standard VII level. The reason why I am writing you this letter is to thank you for your wonderful and generous donation. The entire school really appreciates it.

At the beginning, our school looked like an old man’s teeth. It looked all broken and old.

When we returned at School in August, it looked like a brand-new house that just got built. We really were pleased.

On behalf of the entire school of Sacred Heart, we would like to thank you for your kind donation.

Respectfully yours,

Maggie

Melissa
March 6, 2013

The Social Grants Committee
New Orleans and Missouri Provinces
The Society of Jesus

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Jackson. I am a twelve (12) year-old Eighth (8th) grade student currently attending Sacred Heart School.

The purpose of this letter is to thank you for your kind and generous contribution toward Sacred Heart School's renovations.

The condition of the building at the end of the school year was like a horror house filled with large holes in the ceiling with old rusty wood decaying. When we returned in August, the school looked like heaven on earth, kingdom of God, home of the angels. As we arrived, the array of colors gleamed to our eyes as gnomes started to spread on our faces.

Thank you on behalf of Sacred Heart School for your kind, caring, loving and generous contribution to our school's renovations. We will always be grateful to you because you cared about the school.

Thank you once again.

Respectfully,

Jackson
Steve Barbas began to understand the impact of the Church’s preferential option for the poor while a student at Jesuit High School of Tampa. Through a sodality group, “I came to know the true meaning of the Beatitudes and Matthew 25,” he said.

Studying those scriptures called to mind some childhood encounters with Tampa’s underserved community, when he went on medical house calls with his grandfather.

“He dedicated his life to serving as a physician to people in need regardless of income,” Barbas recalled. “He was not worried about getting paid, but that his patients received the treatment they needed.”

Pairing the Gospel teaching with his early family experiences reframed his view of the world and his place within it.

“Little did I know then what an impact it would have upon my whole life.”

After undergraduate studies, he earned a Juris Doctorate from Loyola University New Orleans. He met his wife, Schezy, a Dominican College New Orleans alumna, who shared his faith and commitment to community service.

“We understand that in being a woman and man for others, the importance of giving back has to be an integral part of your life. Otherwise, it is an empty shell,” he said. “To be able to work alongside other amazing and inspirational people who do such good things is a privilege. Often times we are more inspired by those we serve or help.”

Steve and Schezy support several organizations whose missions resonate with their personal values, like the American Red Cross, the Ybor City Museum Society, Loyola University New Orleans, the University of Tampa, Jesuit High School of Tampa and many other local and national not for profits.

But there is a deep appreciation for the Jesuits, too, who have influenced their educations and faith lives.

“Much of who we are can be found in our Catholic education and upbringing. We recognize this as a major blessing and gift in our lives,” he shared.

They’ve led and supported Jesuit High School and New Orleans Province initiatives together. Steve has served on the boards of both of his alma maters, and at Loyola he volunteered for six years on the law school’s advisory committee, three of which he served as chair. After completing his volunteering for the law school he moved onto the Board of Trustees for six years. Last year, he was recognized with Loyola University’s St. Ives Award, the highest award given by the College of Law to those who have volunteered services to the College of Law or the university and maintained the highest standards of the profession.

“The Jesuits represent a significant part of my educational experience. And by that I mean not only academically but holistically, spiritually, theologically, ethically and civically,” he said. “I recently shared with the students at a Jesuit High convocation that they may not realize it now, but having Jesuits or a Jesuit education in your life is a true gift. One that they should not take for granted.”

“Whether it was Jesuit High in Tampa, Loyola in New Orleans, or through my work with the Province, every aspect of my life has been impacted by the many Jesuits I have encountered,” he said. “And for that I am eternally appreciative.”

It’s an appreciation that leads them to give of their time, talent and treasure—to simply be people for others.
Friends of Fr. Joe Doyle seeking your stories and assistance

Friends of Fr. Joe Doyle are coming together to honor his memory by perpetuating his spirit of care and hospitality. They are seeking to name the dining area at St. Charles College, a special place in his heart, in Fr. Doyle's memory.

They are in search of stories of his gracious hospitality—as well as assistance in raising the funds needed to reach the goal for this honor. If you have a story to share or wish to assist in this effort by serving on the committee or by making a donation in his memory, please contact Mike Bourg at 1-800-788-1719 or mbourg@norprov.org.

Vocation Events for the New Orleans and Missouri Provinces of the Society of Jesus

September 27-29, 2013
Come and See Weekend
In St. Louis, Missouri

December 16-20, 2013
Discernment Retreat
In Grand Coteau, Louisiana

January 2-6, 2014
Discernment Retreat
In Grand Coteau, Louisiana

February 2014
Come and See Weekend
TBA: Date and Location

“For more information contact
Fr. Drew Kirschman, SJ – Vocation Promoter
Email: akirschman@jesuits-mis.org
Cell: 314-650-3259

Fr. Paul Deutsch, SJ – Vocation Director
Email: pdeutsch@norprov.org
Cell: 504-782-6863

“We cannot feed God’s flock unless we let ourselves be carried by God’s will even where we would rather not go, unless we are prepared to bear witness to Christ with the gift of ourselves, unreservedly, not in a calculating way, sometimes even at the cost of our lives... this is possible only if we recognize Jesus Christ, because it is He who has called us, He who has invited us to travel his path, He who has chosen us.”

+ Pope Francis
Jesuit Jubilee 2013

Sunday, July 28, 2013
Mass at 3 p.m.
Holy Name of Jesus Church
New Orleans, Louisiana

(see page 7 for details)