Sharing Our Jesuit Mission

St. Ignatius Loyola sent St. Francis Xavier to the East with the command, “Go and set the whole world on fire.” That fire of God’s love fills and moves the hearts of Jesuits today just as it did for those first Jesuits. And it is through the gift of the Spiritual Exercises that we seek to enkindle a passion for God in the hearts of all those with whom we share our mission and ministries today.

Dr. Edward Peck, executive director of the Ignatian Colleagues Program (ICP), (see page 12 for story on ICP), captured this effort well when he stated quite simply, “Part of the Jesuits’ gift to the world is sharing their mission with lay people.” The ICP, featured in this issue of Jesuits, is an excellent example of collaboration between Jesuits and our colleagues to achieve a common goal: enriching the personal spirituality of administrators, teachers and students alike in a way that motivates them to pursue the establishment of a more just society in every part of our world.

In our three provinces, similar efforts are meeting with great success through the work of Fr. James Conroy, SJ, and his colleagues in The Jesuit Collaborative. The Ignatian Leadership for Mission retreats, the Contemporary Leaders in Action two-year program of Ignatian leadership formation, and the Magis Program for lay men and women who work in Jesuit ministries are a few examples of how women and men across many Jesuit apostolates are being invited into the experience of Ignatian spirituality.

In the area of health care, the spirit of shared mission rooted in the love of God is reflected in our three provinces’ health care administrators and the care that they ensure for our older Jesuits and those among us who are not well.

Finally, we rejoice and give thanks to God for the Jesuits who have most recently professed final vows in the Society of Jesus. Their public profession of a lifelong commitment to the vowed life of poverty, chastity and obedience in service to the Church is testimony to their hearts on fire with the love of God.

As you receive this issue of Jesuits, the celebration of Easter will soon be upon us. May the fire of God’s love enliven your minds and hearts with deep faith, hope and love for God and God’s people.

Be assured of our prayers and best wishes for you and your families. Thank you for the many ways that you support the Jesuits and our ministries.

— V. Rev. Adolfo Nicolás, SJ
General of the Society of Jesus
December 21, 2010
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In the News

Forming a Community of Believers and Leaders

New England and New York Provinces offered their high school teachers, administrators and staffs an opportunity to share their hopes and experiences of Jesuit secondary education. The New England colloquium brought more than 350 colleagues to the College of the Holy Cross in September, and over 500 attended the New York gathering at Fordham Prep in October.

Fr. Vincent Biagi, SJ, assistant to the New York provincial for middle and secondary schools and lay formation, summarized the goal of the New York colloquium in his opening remarks:

“Forty years ago a group of 20 Jesuits gathered to establish the Jesuit Secondary Education Association. They put forward its essential nature in the now famous Preamble that still rings true to our experiences and beliefs:

We believe that Jesuit secondary education can become a dynamic means of forming a community of believers in Jesus Christ and leaders in society. If the faculty at a Jesuit school are men and women whose lives are inspired by the Ignatian vision, then the question about the percentage of Jesuits on the faculty is not an overriding issue. The school will be Jesuit if the lives of its teachers exemplify and communicate to its students the vision of Ignatius.

This colloquium witnesses to the veracity of these prophetic words and the power of the vision of Ignatius and the Preamble to inspire us still.”

— Fr. Vincent Biagi, SJ
New Leadership
at Jesuit Schools

Wheeling Jesuit University named Richard Beyer of Reston, Virginia, its first lay president. Beyer has spent 23 years in business and has served on university boards for 16 years. He took office January 2 and succeeds Sr. Francis Marie Thrailkill, OSU, who served as interim president during the search for a new president.

Fr. Kevin Quinn, SJ, has been named the next president of the University of Scranton. He succeeds Fr. Scott Pilarz, SJ, who will become the next president of Marquette University in the summer of 2011. Fr. Quinn is currently executive director of the Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education and a professor of law at Santa Clara University in California.

On October 16, 2010, John Hurley was inaugurated as the first lay president of Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. In his inaugural remarks, Dr. Hurley spoke of his vision for the college: “We embark on a journey, hoping for a new and deeper collaboration between the Society of Jesus and their lay colleagues in their work here in Buffalo. It is when we take seriously our responsibility for the service of the faith and the promotion of justice that we become the leaders that our world needs. Together, we will pursue the magis, not just for the sake of the prestige or high rankings or recognition it will bring our college, but because our success will ultimately glorify God: ad majorem Dei gloriam!”

Fr. Thomas Gaunt, SJ, is the new executive director of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. Fr. Gaunt was socius for the Jesuit Conference from 2001 to 2010. He succeeds Sr. Mary Bendyna, RSM, who served for seven years, stepping down in June. CARA is a national, nonprofit organization affiliated with Georgetown that conducts social scientific studies about the Catholic Church.

Tony Oroszlany will begin his responsibilities as the first lay president of Loyola School in New York City on July 1. A 1987 graduate of Loyola, Oroszlany has been the vice president for advancement and institutional planning at Loyola since 2004. He earned his BA, cum laude, in history from Georgetown University in 1991 and his MBA, magna cum laude, in finance & management in 2000 from Fordham University. He succeeds Fr. Stephen Katsouros, SJ, who will become the director of the Institute of Catholic Educational Leadership in the School of Education at the University of San Francisco.
Fr. Daniel Berrigan, SJ, peace activist and author, spoke at Mt. Manresa Jesuit Retreat House on Staten Island, New York, November 29 as one of the featured speakers during the year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Mt. Manresa, the first Jesuit retreat house in the country specifically for lay men and women. Fr. Berrigan’s reflection was on Dorothy Day, the co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, on the 30th anniversary of her death.

Fr. Berrigan’s peace message on this evening was: persevere. He cited the second chapter of Isaiah — “They shall beat their swords into plowshares” — as he reflected on Day’s long-ranging impact on himself as well as on the wider world.

Each of us must think, Fr. Berrigan told the audience, that “I am going to turn swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. I may never see the transformation myself. It makes no difference. I shall do it. I shall do it.” Fred Herron, interim executive director of Mt. Manresa, called the evening “a little moment in history.”
Visiting the Middle East

During January, New England Provincial Fr. Myles Sheehan, SJ, and Fr. Michael Linden, SJ, provincial assistant for international, pastoral and social ministries, visited with the communities of the Near East Province to enhance inter-province cooperation. During their travels they met with Jesuits working in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.


Stay Connected with Jesuit News

This issue of Jesuits magazine is only one way to keep connected with the good news about Jesuits and our lay colleagues in the three provinces. For more frequent updates, we encourage you to visit our websites, stay connected on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and read our blogs.


Please send your suggestions, comments and ideas to the communications team:

Mary K. Tilghman, Maryland Province, mtilghman@mdsj.org; Alice Poltorick, New England Province, apoltorick@sjnen.org; Fr. John Garvey, SJ, New York Province, garvey@nysj.org.

Look for the next issue of Jesuits magazine this summer.
Fr. Vincent Cooke, SJ, has been a key figure in Jesuit administration since 1976, first as vice-provincial for higher education, and then, from 1978 to 1984, as provincial of the New York Province. He returned to the classroom as a professor of philosophy at Fordham for six years, and then served as executive vice president for academic affairs at John Carroll University in Ohio.

Fr. Cooke became president of Canisius College in Buffalo in 1993. “He emerged as a leader among Jesuit university presidents when he began an honest dialogue about what it means to be an American, Catholic, Jesuit university in 21st-century America,” says Fr. Joseph M. McShane, SJ, president of Fordham University. “The most impressive thing about Vincent Cooke is that everything he does, he does not do for himself but for the greater glory of God.”

Life came full circle for Fr. Cooke when he returned to the New York Province last September to serve as assistant to the New York provincial for higher education and to coordinate the reconfiguration of the three Jesuit provinces of Maryland, New England and New York into a new East Coast province. Similar province unions are occurring across the Jesuit map of the United States. The Chicago and Detroit Provinces are now under one administration and will soon be joined by the Wisconsin Province. The Missouri and New Orleans Provinces are undergoing a similar reconfiguration.

The implementation of plans here in Maryland, New England and New York continues to move forward. The
tri-province novitiate has been a success for some years now. Building on the momentum in the area of formation, Fr. Thomas Feely, SJ, and Fr. Richard Deshaies, SJ, developed a model that allows for a single director of formation. Fr. Charles Frederico, SJ, has assumed the responsibilities of director of vocations for the three provinces and has developed an impressive group of interviewers, admissions boards and vocation promoters to serve well into the future. There has also been the development of a tri-province electronic newsletter as well as of Jesuits, the new print publication.

The appointment of Fr. Cooke as assistant for strategic planning is an important step. It is his responsibility to move the process of reconfiguration forward. Working closely with various provincial assistants, he will serve to focus conversations that should lead to increased collaboration and in a timely fashion to reconfiguration within the various sectors. These include higher education, secondary and middle schools, Jesuit formation, the care of elderly and infirm Jesuits and a variety of pastoral, social and international ministries. Communications and Advancement personnel are also actively engaged in assisting the process that involves nearly 1,000 Jesuits from Maine to Georgia.

Fr. Cooke is careful to note that the reconfiguration will not mean the closing of schools or colleges. This is an administrative and geographic redesign aimed at strengthening the talents that Jesuits and their colleagues bring to existing ministries as well as encouraging their energy and enthusiasm to move our apostolic concern into new areas of need in the Church and the world of the 21st century for the greater glory of God.

“The most impressive thing about Vincent Cooke is that everything he does, he does not do for himself, but for the greater glory of God.”
— Fr. Joseph McShane, SJ

Fr. John Garvey, SJ, is the assistant for publications for the New York Province.
A Jesuit pledges, with the grace of God, to live his vows of poverty, chastity and obedience rather than to pursue wealth, popularity and power as the goals of his life.

Fr. David McCallum, SJ, works at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York, as special assistant to the president for strategic development and leadership in the division of management. In the homily at his final vows Mass in the college chapel, he expressed the meaning of the vows this way:

“It is a mystery beyond me to explain the reason I live this way, except to share that I am in love with God, and I desire to live in union with Christ.
If it is not ultimately for love that we live, then I do not know what is worth living for. I cannot deny that this love is at the center of my life. This is nothing I could have chosen on my own, not without God’s help. I am very aware of my imperfections. I have uncertainties and ambivalence like anyone.
And yet, as Ignatius and all of those who have experienced the grace of the Spiritual Exercises know, we are God’s beloved, even as we are, mortal, messy, and imperfect.
It is only by grace that I have found the meaning and the joy of my life in surrendering to this love and in serving others as a Jesuit.”
In addition to Fr. Mccallum, from September through January, seven Jesuits of the Maryland, New England and New York Provinces professed final vows.

Fr. Brian Frain, SJ, faculty chaplain, teaches religion and serves as superior of the Jesuit community at McQuaid Jesuit School in Rochester, New York. Fr. James J. Fleming, SJ, a native of the Boston area, was appointed Wheeling Jesuit University's first leader of mission and identity last spring, and Fr. William A. Clark, SJ, is a professor of religious studies at Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Fr. Robert McTeigue, SJ, professed his final vows at Ave Maria University, Florida, where he is an associate dean of the pre-theologate as well as an adjunct professor of philosophy. Fr. Dean Bechard, SJ, is a professor of Scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. Fr. Adelmo Dunghe, SJ, is a professor of theology at Le Moyne College and Fr. Christopher Cullen, SJ, is a professor of philosophy at Fordham University in Bronx, New York, and also serves as the director of the First Studies program for Jesuits in formation.

“It is only by grace that I have found the meaning and the joy of my life in surrendering to this love and in serving others as a Jesuit.”

— Fr. David Mccallum, SJ
Xavier High School, the site of my long experiment, is quintessentially Jesuit; it is a Catholic institution that looks to create opportunity and inspire growth from the creative tensions swirling around it. Xavier provides a modern education that will hopefully catapult students from across Micronesia into future positions of leadership, yet it recognizes that tutoring the children at Sapuk Elementary — the struggling, local public school — is just as important. Xavier, it seems, has decided that the best way to mold Christian leaders is by planting students' feet in the world, setting their sights on the things of God and molding their character to face the journey’s many challenges. Xavier teaches this important lesson by encouraging students to tutor those in need, despite Xavier's own lack of resources.

I asked the novice master to send me to a mission for my long experiment because I wanted to experience abject poverty. I was certainly not expecting to be sent to a tropical island, but to the novice master's credit, Chuuk is chock-full of the creative tensions Jesuits speak of so fondly. It is in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, yet its people are constantly praying for rain, an important source of fresh water. Land is scarce, yet the unchecked proliferation of garbage is being allowed to ruin the very resource residents fight so hard to keep. Cell phones, hip-hop and iPods run rampant, but running water is a luxury. Five months after my arrival, I see that Chuuk is a manifestation of the poverty of the poor man that once was rich, and can't quite figure out why he is now poor. This is Chuuk and it is very Ignatian.

The message is clear: If you wait until conditions are perfect to start the journey toward the Kingdom of God, you'll never leave home.

Xavier High School, the site of my long experiment, is quintessentially Jesuit; it is a Catholic institution that looks to create opportunity and inspire growth from the creative tensions swirling around it. Xavier provides a modern education that will hopefully catapult students from across Micronesia into future positions of leadership, yet it recognizes that tutoring the children at Sapuk Elementary — the struggling, local public school — is just as important. Xavier, it seems, has decided that the best way to mold Christian leaders is by planting students' feet in the world, setting their sights on the things of God and molding their character to face the journey's many challenges. Xavier teaches this important lesson by encouraging students to tutor those in need, despite Xavier's own lack of resources.
The message is clear: If you wait until conditions are perfect to start the journey toward the Kingdom of God, you’ll never leave home.

Micronesia is still mission territory and Xavier excels in its role as a Catholic institution at the service of the Church in Chuuk. Xavier is located in the Chuukese village of Sapuk. Its chapel essentially serves as Sapuk’s parish church. Every Sunday the Sapuk community (many of whom are employed by Xavier) walks to Xavier well before Mass to share in fellowship and prepare for the service. They all stay long after Mass is over. Fr. Richard McAuliff, SJ, the school’s director, usually offers Mass. The shortage of priests and the long commute between parishes often results in delays of more than an hour or the replacement of a scheduled Mass by an unscheduled communion service. All of this is borne with typical Chuukese patience and gratitude.

“‘Nipisipisipisicon’ is not a word,” explains my Chuukese instructor, with a giggle, during a post-Mass round of mango snacking. Her name is Rekichem; she’s 11 and sharp as a tack. She calls me RicarTo and her opinion of my Chuukese is that I’m as slow as a caterpillar. A green, freshly picked mango and an invitation to meet her family and see her home after Mass is her peace offering. A little while later a small mob of smiling, Sapukian children are welcoming me into their village and offering me what little they have, with the consent of their parents. For me, “This is Chuuk” and I wish I could repay her kindness by staying long enough to get her, and all my little friends from Sapuk, into Xavier, for they have taught me so much more than a school ever could.

Ricardo Avila, SJ, now in First Studies, spent his novitiate long experiment teaching at Xavier High School in Chuuk, Micronesia.
An Immersion in Jesuit Spirituality

By Peter Feuerherd and Mary K. Tilghman

Michael Fazio, vice president for advancement at St. Peter’s College, regularly pitches the wonders of Jesuit education to potential donors, hoping to attract dollars for the Jersey City college.

So why was he in El Salvador last winter talking with people in women’s organizations and worker co-ops, all unlikely to contribute to St. Peter’s?

It’s the Jesuit way, Fazio noted in a blog about his trip. “We are called to act and act in a particular way — with an emphasis on justice and a preferential option for the poor. I have spent nearly half my life in Jesuit institutions. But I think now, finally, I’m starting to get it.”

That epiphany came as part of the Ignatian Colleagues Program (ICP), designed to immerse college and university administrators and professors in Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit social justice.

ICP began in the Midwest, when two mission and identity officers saw the need to prepare the next generation of leaders for Jesuit higher education, according to Edward J. Peck, ICP’s executive director. Soon administrators from the two coasts became interested in sending deans, vice presidents and department heads to ICP. The program became national in January 2009 and almost all of the U.S. Jesuit colleges and universities have been represented in one of three “cohorts,” spending 18 months in study, reflection and discussion. Two cohorts have completed their work; the third began in September.

Sessions focus on the history of Jesuit education and the Spiritual Exercises. Participants also go on an immersion trip and design a capstone project to put their new knowledge into action.

Peck believes the program remains true to the Jesuit spirit and takes its cues from their formation, including the idea of experiments “to shake up their worldview.” Just as young Jesuits go on immersion trips to experience solidarity with those on the margins of society, the ICP arranges week-long visits to El Salvador in February and Nicaragua in June. “That is an experience that we know will help our people understand the Jesuit commitment of a faith that does justice,” Peck said.

Beth Boquet, associate dean of Fairfield University’s College of Arts and Sciences, said her visit to El Salvador was transformative. She encountered a “faith that does justice and an emphasis on the justice as much as the faith,” she said. “It reminded me I need to have the courage to do justice in whatever context I have.”

Jonathan Mulrooney, associate professor of English at the College of the Holy Cross, wondered how he could connect his experiences in El Salvador
with his classes in British Romantic poetry. He decided that he could bring the lessons he learned about love, death, suffering in El Salvador — central themes in literature, too — into the classroom. “It has changed me as a teacher and made me more attuned to the way poetry tries to address these questions in a way that is not just academic,” he said.

**A deeper commitment to school and mission**

Whether participants were longtime staff members or brand new, they agree that ICP has enabled them to deepen their commitment to both their schools and Jesuit values. “This helps to put my work with students within the entire Ignatian framework,” said George Miller, assistant director of campus ministry at Loyola University Maryland.

Joe Della Posta, director of communications and public affairs at Le Moyne College, quickly saw the value of the program. Noting how often he presents the college to the public, he said, “I can recognize how important it is — what I’m learning and what I’m going to be learning.”

Mulrooney, who serves on Holy Cross’s mission and identity committee and took part in an Ignatian pilgrimage to Spain and Rome, signed up for ICP even though it began during his sabbatical. “It seemed like an extension of the pilgrimage,” he said. It offered an opportunity to think about where he fit in at the college, in Catholic Jesuit higher education and about Jesuit education as a whole — while reflecting on Ignatian values. “This program has given me an experience on the affective level of what those ideals mean in lived experience,” he said.

For Mary Ann Mahin, Georgetown University’s vice president of human resources, ICP was an opportunity to get out of academic “silos.” She frequently attends conferences with administrators who share responsibilities similar to hers — but this brought together people with different jobs and a similar hunger for Ignatian spirituality. The result is building bridges across the school. It’s very energizing,” said Mahin, a 30-year veteran at Georgetown. “It feels like a gift to be a part of it. And it feels like a responsibility,” she said. “It’s tied to the heart of who we are and why we’re different.”

**A practical application**

ICP has a practical application. As his final project, Miller led a reworking of Loyola’s retreat program to give students a progressively more Ignatian spirituality. The third and final retreat weekend is silent, he noted. These retreats reach a large number of young people since Loyola offers about 20 retreats a year — with some 30 to 40 students participating each weekend.

Nursing students can also profit from Ignatian spirituality, noted Susan Gennaro, dean of Boston College’s School of Nursing since July 2008. For her Capstone project she developed a program to enable BC students to learn firsthand how health care is delivered in other countries, by traveling to places such as Nicaragua and Haiti or meeting with students from India and Singapore studying at BC.

Dennis Misko is already thinking ahead to his capstone project. Director of special gifts at Canisius College, he’d like to bring alumni back to campus for the Spiritual Exercises. It’s a natural for someone who had developed relationships with many of the school’s 42,000 alumni. “We have a lot of alumni today who are asking if Canisius College can remain Catholic and Jesuit. They can have a major stake in this,” he said.

Miller said he finds he is now more open to other points of view, other ways of thinking. “Finding God in all things’ has really blossomed for me,” he said.

“*This program has given me an experience on the affective level of what those ideals mean in lived experience.*”

— Jonathan Mulrooney

Peter Feuerherd is director of communications for the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey. Mary K. Tilghman is acting director of communications for the Maryland Province.
When the reconfiguration of our provinces is complete, 12 of the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States will be located within its East Coast borders. Of the many pre-secondary and secondary schools, nearly 20 are on the East Coast. Education continues to be a primary focus of the Jesuits, our lay partners and our works.

During the month of January, the first-year novices from the Maryland, New England and New York novitiate experienced the graces of St. Ignatius’s Spiritual Exercises, the 30-day retreat, at Eastern Point Retreat House, Gloucester, Massachusetts. They were joined by the novices of the Chicago, Detroit and Wisconsin Provinces, whose novitiate is located in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Jesuit novices, religious and lay retreatants with staff upon completion of the 30-day retreat at Eastern Point Retreat House in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Fr. Kevin O’Brien, SJ, lectures at Georgetown University.

Fr. Francis Hannafey, SJ, teaches religious studies at Fairfield University.

Mr. John Peck, SJ, assists at a local school while in the novitiate.
Each of the provinces has one or more health care facilities, and we will continue to use all of them as long as our Jesuit priests and brothers, because of age or illness, need special care. Every province is committed to quality health care for Jesuits — to provide for them physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially.

Jesuit spirituality is based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. The Jesuit Collaborative offers training in and opportunities for experiencing the Exercises. It also coordinates the efforts of the network of 10 retreat houses from Maine to Georgia, together with our many parishes and chaplaincies, to provide opportunities — new and old — for Ignatian spirituality to grow and prosper.
The Earth: A New Frontier

"Here, with passion for environmental justice, we shall meet once again the Spirit of God seeking to liberate a suffering creation."

— Decree 2, General Congregation 35

Ministries

In its decree on “Challenges to Our Mission Today,” the Jesuits’ 35th General Congregation in 2008 called for “reconciliation with creation.” Care of the environment, it pointed out, affects the quality of our relationships with God, with other human beings, and with creation itself. The Congregation urged all Jesuits and their partners to promote practices focusing on the environment’s improvement.

Educational institutions across the Maryland, New England and New York Provinces have responded with ecological innovations. Among the largest solar installations in Greater Boston, **Boston College High School’s** 871-solar panel system will help power up to 40 percent of BC High’s daily electrical needs in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way. An online tracking site will provide a wealth of information for BC High’s science curriculum, as the local solar array will be integrated into several science classes in the future.

Over the next 30 years, the solar power array is projected to save the school hundreds of thousands of dollars in electricity costs, as well as reduce harmful carbon dioxide emissions by almost 10 million pounds — the equivalent of planting more than 23,000 mature trees.

“Energy and its conversion into usable forms is an integral part of the science curriculum at BC High. Our new solar array harnesses energy from our most important natural resource, the sun, and converts it to useful electrical energy with no negative impact to the environment. Our students are able to see these benefits firsthand by studying the electrical output of the array in their physics class and will then compare it to more traditional, nonrenewable energy sources. Hopefully a study of energy consumption and its related costs, both financial and environmental, will also place a spotlight on energy conservation,” said Brendan Crowley, science department chairman at BC High.

**Le Moyne College** in Syracuse, New York, will see a reduction in its carbon footprint with the installation of a 21-kilowatt solar panel system on the roof of a four-story residence hall on campus. Over the expected 25-year life of the system, it is estimated that the panels will save Le Moyne approximately $106,000. Beyond the cost savings, solar power is a key component of Le Moyne’s long-term sustainability strategy to reduce its carbon footprint.

The University of Scranton’s DeNaples Center features eco-friendly light fixtures and toilets and a heat-absorbing roof.

The new solar roof at Boston College High School will save the school in electrical costs and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
A unified science center under construction at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania incorporates numerous sustainable features, including a design that optimizes the use of natural light, maximizes airflow efficiency in laboratories and uses a HVAC system to recirculate already heated or cooled air to save energy. The building uses materials supplied from a 500-mile radius. This includes locally quarried stone, used extensively in Scranton’s historic downtown buildings.

The university’s DeNaples Center, which houses the dining facilities, a theater and the bookstore, has environmental features that are part of the university’s sustainability initiative. These include night sky-friendly light fixtures, green housekeeping supplies, sensors on everything from lights to toilets and a specially designed, heat-absorbing roof.

Regis High School in Manhattan is one of only a handful of schools to install a green roof made of vegetation and native grasses. Fr. Philip Judge, SJ, president of Regis, decided to install the green roof because “it’s an economically and environmentally good thing to do.” The roof is the second largest of its kind in the city. It is made of four to eight inches of growing material and is planted with native wildflowers.

Columbia University’s Center for Climate Systems Research has installed monitoring equipment to generate data Regis can use to expand its environmental science and ecology curriculum. There is a platform for astronomical observation, an apiary for bees and an herb garden that produces chive, mint, oregano, lavender and sage for use in the school cafeteria.

The University of Scranton’s unified science center, now under construction, incorporates numerous sustainable features, including a plan to use materials supplied from within a 500-mile radius.

Brian Peterson, moderator of the environmental club and an environmental studies teacher at the school, hopes students see that “we can have a direct, immediate and beneficial impact on the environment with how we construct our everyday spaces.” Sophomore Matt Balik, a member of the environmental club, has been involved in environmental issues for several years. “Our generation especially can’t ignore this issue,” he said. “The roof helps us be aware of the environmental effect we have and that we need to be concerned about it.”

To learn more about what Jesuits and partners are doing in ecology and advocacy efforts visit http://ecojesuit.com.

The environment friendly design of the Fairfield Jesuit Community Center on the Fairfield University campus balances the need for reflection among religious men with their gift for engagement and hospitality. The design has been honored by the American Institute of Architects’ (AIA) 2010 New England Design Award, and two 2010 Connecticut AIA honors: a “Building Award” and an “Encompassing Art” award for the stunning chapel inside the facility.

Fr. Gilbert Sunghera, SJ, assistant professor of architecture at the University of Detroit Mercy, served as a design consultant on the project. “I have to commend Fairfield University for their willingness to undertake this project,” he said. “They were very open to allowing a new architectural vocabulary to emerge for this building, not ‘playing it safe’ in the traditional sense of what people expect for a house for priests.”

Jurors from the Connecticut AIA chapter cited the Jesuit Community Center with a special commendation. “The center reflects an intuitive connection between the mission of calm, meditative, and community spirit with a plan that reflects spatial balance between individual and communal life,” the AIA jury commented. “The building captures views; the use of natural materials is confident and tranquil.”

Design Awards for Jesuit Community Center
Fr. Jim Conroy, SJ, travels extensively up and down the East Coast, promoting the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. We asked him to sit down with us to reflect on his first year as the executive director of The Jesuit Collaborative — to share the accomplishments and challenges about this important tri-province initiative and learn more about Fr. Conroy, the man and Jesuit priest.

Q: As a Jesuit you have been a teacher, parish priest, retreat director and novice director and led many religious and lay men and women through the Spiritual Exercises. How has that experience impacted you personally?

A: One of the graces of my life as a Jesuit has been the opportunity to direct men and women in the Spiritual Exercises. Spiritual direction, an often misunderstood term, is really spiritual conversation. God wants people to come closer. When one directs the Spiritual Exercises one has a front row seat to the best show in town — observing the experience of how God transforms the lives of people. As a young director I was often worried about what I was going to say and over time I’ve learned that God provides the experiences and I just prompt or stir.

Q: You recently spoke in Pittsburgh at a Friends of Danang-sponsored breakfast prior to a Veterans Day parade. You were awarded the Bronze Star for service in the army in Qui Nohn.

A: Yes, I served in Vietnam and wrote a reflection about a visit I made in January 2005 for America magazine (The article “A Veteran Remembers” is available online at: http://tinyurl.com/4nklvlo). The Friends of Danang are a remarkable group comprised of mostly Vietnam veterans who try to mend relationships between America and Vietnam. Recently, they have focused on veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and their families.

I remain committed to bringing Ignatian spirituality to those serving our country. I am directing retreats to active duty Catholic Army chaplains in San Diego and in Germany this year. After I entered the Jesuits, I always felt close to St. Ignatius, the founder of the Society of Jesus. He, too, was a soldier, who during his convalescence from wounds experienced conversion.

Q: What were your goals when you were appointed executive director of The Jesuit Collaborative?

A: When the provincials of the Maryland, New England and New York Provinces asked me to serve as the director of The Jesuit Collaborative in the fall of 2009 to succeed Fr. Ron Mercier, SJ, they established three priorities: 1. discerning the future of the Spiritual Exercises; 2. developing programs to assist Jesuit boards of directors proceed in an Ignatian manner; and 3. increasing resources and...
Promoting the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

providing access to partners and networks. A key emerging priority is training men and women to give the Spiritual Exercises.

Q | Can you explain more about discerning the future of the Spiritual Exercises?

A | The Jesuit Collaborative has developed a broadly consultative and reflective three-stage process to help provincials look at the ministry of the Spiritual Exercises. This process is designed to identify and strengthen existing programs, assist with establishing new programs and help determine how to deliver programs to underserved populations. We want to make programming more visible, up and down the East coast and in and out of our institutions.

Q | What does The Jesuit Collaborative and its success mean to you?

A | There is a very real hunger for God that this ministry responds to. The Spiritual Exercises help us to recognize the disorder in our lives and achieve the freedom to see what is of God and the grace to choose in the spirit of God.

— Fr. Jim Conroy, SJ

Q | How are governing boards using Ignatian discernment?

A | At The Jesuit Collaborative, we use the Ignatian Examination of Consciousness (Examen) as the entry point to discernment as our way of proceeding. Discernment first helps individuals, then organizations to identify the areas of gratitude and hopefulness and the areas of desolation, confusion and frustration. For example, during a meeting, if the group is trained in using Ignatian discernment, it is easier to monitor where the Spirit is moving among us, to see the presence of grace and light or darkness. This past year we have developed a process and begun training boards of our high schools to help them proceed in an Ignatian way. We modeled the training at The Jesuit Collaborative. Since we are idea rich and staff small, we model programs and train others to expand the programming to other institutions.

Q | Can you explain more about discerning the future of the Spiritual Exercises?

A | The Jesuit Collaborative website has an extensive list of resources and access to partner networks. Is that part of your strategy?

A | A key priority for us is to continue to develop and expand effective networks with Ignatian partners who are trained in the Spiritual Exercises. Our Ignatian partners are our auxiliary or virtual staff taking our programs on the road and reaching geographical areas beyond The Jesuit Collaborative’s physical location.

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Fr. Conroy, a native of Pittsburgh, entered the Society in 1971 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1978. Fr. Conroy attended John Carroll University, Cleveland and Fordham University, New York, and he has studied Ignatian spirituality at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California. He holds a master of divinity degree from Loyola University of Chicago.

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For more information visit www.jesuit-collaborative.org.
Health Care: A Special Vocation

A Jesuit province is that place Jesuits call home. The province nurtures men through their spiritual, educational and ministerial formation and cares for them in their later years. Our companions who provide health care for Jesuits, especially senior and infirm men, consider their work a vocation. Three of them share with you their calling:

Deirdre Banscher, RN
Health Care Coordinator
for the Maryland Province

The Maryland Province leadership wants to ensure ongoing good health care for senior Jesuits and enhance their quality of life. My philosophy of nursing, which emphasizes empowerment over caretaking, fits right in with the commitment to community life within the Society. Service to one’s own community is part of the Jesuit “mission,” and there seems to be no limit to the scope of mutual service I have observed. Jesuits’ generosity to one another has really been apparent.

Men in independent living communities throughout the Maryland Province have been able to remain home through bouts of illness because their brothers volunteer to provide personal care on a temporary basis, helping them with dressing or eating, with bandages or other needs. Others who need some ongoing assistance are able to remain apostolically active because members of their communities provide transportation, help with organizational activities and more.

There is no lack of participation in activities when the resident Jesuits plan them! The community is enlivened by deciding on a senior learning activity at a local community college. There have been luncheons or field trips to local attractions, organized with the help of the men themselves. I am grateful to be in a profession that has allowed me to experience the joy inherent in self-giving on a very personal level; what a grace it is to see these men experience the same satisfaction.

Read the reflection by Kate Morency, RN, provincial assistant for health care for the New England Province at: www.sjnen.org/facesoffriendship.

Fr. James Joyce, SJ, superior of the Jesuit community at Murray-Weigel Hall

Deirdre Banscher, RN, health care coordinator for the Maryland Province

Fr. Robert Lindsay, SJ, and Nancy Mulcahy, RN, director of nursing, admire a young visitor at Campion.

Fr. James Joyce, SJ, superior of the Jesuit community at Murray-Weigel Hall

Read the reflection by Kate Morency, RN, provincial assistant for health care for the New England Province at: www.sjnen.org/facesoffriendship.
Jacqueline Perez, M.D.
Assistant to the Provincial for Health Care for the New York Province

The great physician Sir William Osler wrote, “The practice of medicine is an art, not a trade; a calling, not business; a calling in which your heart will be exercised equally with your head.” In today’s health care environment the practice of medicine as an art is a challenging endeavor. I’ve found a way to practice the art and live out my call as assistant to the provincial for health care.

During my discernment process, the “Call of the King” from the Spiritual Exercises was a significant part of my prayer. God was exercising my heart while my vocation as a physician was exercising my head. Now, whether I sit with an elderly Jesuit at Murray-Weigel Hall or a novice at St. Andrew Hall, I know I am answering God’s call to companion these men in sickness and in health, in suffering and in healing. And my heart is exercised equally with my head.

Nicole Breslin
Administrator of Campion Health Center in the New England Province

As I took my first steps into Campion, I instantly knew it was a “special place.” There was a spirit of hope, joy and God’s presence. I watched as Campion care partners were truly doing God’s work with their own hands. I saw smiles on the residents’ faces and received welcoming hellos. At Campion I found a “home” that was already the way I would want a nursing home to be. I just had the privilege to run what was already a wonderful place.

One of my first experiences with a dying person was a cranky man of whom most were afraid. He was frightened to die and did not want to be alone. I sat and held his hand and often brought him outside in the sunlight. One day, I told him that everything was going to be okay. A Jesuit witnessed this encounter and said to me, “cura personalis.” I soon learned that cura personalis is expressed in the human acts of giving and receiving.

As the administrator of Campion Health Center I am privileged not only to give to others but also to receive from the Jesuits. Working at Campion is truly a vocation to me. I see myself as a “servant leader” and have been called to continue Jesus’ mission of love and healing to senior Jesuits. I feel that the Jesuits and care partners at Campion are my extended family. This had been my calling for a long time, and I am at peace to finally be where I belong.

Fr. John Devane, SJ, Nicole Breslin and Fr. William Connolly, SJ

Restoration of the Holy Spirit Chapel at Campion Center, The Final Stage

On the morning of September 20, 2010, the crew began work to complete the restoration of the Holy Spirit Chapel. Over the course of 12 weeks, pews are removed and refinished, walls and ceilings are painted and restored, masonry cleaned, new lighting installed and existing lighting refurbished, wood floors sanded and stained, and marble floors waxed and buffed. Once complete, the restored chapel will look as it did at the official opening of Campion Center (then called Fairview and later renamed Weston College) on July 31, 1926.

All is ready by Christmas Eve, December 24, for the first Mass to be celebrated in the restored chapel. The chapel is brighter and more welcoming than ever — truly an impressive chapel and worshipping space. The Campion community is very grateful to all who have contributed in so many ways to make this renovation possible and especially to our benefactors who have been so generous to us. We pray for them and their intentions at each of our Masses. The Chapel of the Holy Spirit is once again a fitting tribute to our Lord, Jesus Christ. May God be praised with a renewed spirit.

— By Fr. Ron Wozniak, SJ, minister at Campion
A Place in the Desert With Jesus

By Fr. Joseph Palmisano, SJ

The United Nations reports, as recently as December 20, 2010, that there are currently “39,461 refugees and asylum seekers ... registered in Egypt ... with school-age children (6-18 years of age) numbering at 9,956.” I am moved by the fact that one-third of the refugees are children, and reminded of Jesus’ own flight into Egypt. Jesus knew what it meant to be a displaced person.

Following Mary and Joseph’s example, Jesus may have learned during these “hidden years” the importance of sharing from what little one has with others; where the “other” ceases to be the stranger and becomes a friend. We know from the Gospels that Jesus never turns his back on the foreigner or the one who is estranged from the community.

We can all claim, at some level, “refugee status” with Jesus. There are those places in our lives where we may not feel at home with others and ourselves. It is as if we are in a foreign land and rather than feeling like we are under the consoling power of Jesus’ love, “heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience” (Col. 3:12), we find ourselves, rather, in a wasteland of crosses; a land of fear, uncertainty and displacement.

I recently underwent a 30-day regime of radiation for a brain tumor. I am 36 years old and have been a Jesuit for 12 years. I was diagnosed with the tumor in April 2008. The diagnosis came in Ireland, toward the end of the first year of doctoral studies at Trinity College, and just two months prior to ordination. The tumor is a slow growth and now, after following the discipline of treatment, and the advice of my doctors, the tumor is already showing signs of extensive remission.

While I have much to thank God for, especially the good outcome of the treatment, this experience of treatment has been my Egypt. This foreign land of radiation tables, face masks and powerful drugs has left me, in many ways, feeling displaced from my very self. I wondered if I would ever return “home” to a place of normalcy. Yet in the midst of feeling alone and worrying about the future, I am also rediscovering how this desert is shrinking, being “populated” with the new life of others. My brother Jesuits, my family, lay collaborators, my doctors and nurses, my friends continue to be there for me, reassuring me, like Jesus reassures his crucified friend, “Don’t worry, have no fear, today you will be with me in paradise!”

We as a Church are being invited during these 40 days of Lent to be with Jesus in a “desert” of sorts so that we may also share with him in the “paradise” of new life. It is precisely through dialoguing on our concerns and desires with Jesus where we may begin to feel ourselves being drawn closer to him, and the joy that comes in knowing that we are being placed, not in a barren desert, but with the resurrected Son.

It is attributed to Pedro Arrupe, SJ, (1907–1991), the 28th successor to St. Ignatius Loyola as Superior General of the Jesuits (1965–1983), the expression “Jesus is my everything!” Let us pray for one another during these 40 days of Lent that we may experience, with greater trust, Jesus as our everything, that we’ll take Jesus at his word: “Today you will be with me.”

Fr. Joseph Palmisano, SJ, was granted a Ph.D. in theology from Trinity College in Dublin in May 2010. He began tertianship in September.
Finding God in Unexpected Places
By Kara Connally and Claire Finley

In his book, *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*, Fr. James Martin, SJ, reminds us that God meets us where we are and encourages us to find God in all things. In their experience of reading this book, Claire Finley and Kara Connally experienced a display of these truths and, even more so, a friendship that “even with hurdles of distance and time, grew in union of hearts and minds,” as Fr. Martin writes in his book. Here is their story.

Over our four years at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, our friendship developed in line with the phases of friendship with God that Fr. Martin discusses: spending time together, learning, being honest, listening carefully, being silent, and changing. Our lives were transformed by relationships with Jesuits, lay colleagues and friends. Graduation brought changes to our lives but in learning to discover and rediscover friendships “our deepest desires, which lead us to become who we are, and [which] are God’s desires for us” were gradually realized. We were on a journey of much discernment and faith, uncertain of what the outcome would be and how it would change us.

Claire

“During a ‘Busy Person’s Retreat,’ my friendship with God grew deeper and I made a decision to pay attention to tugs at my heart. I felt that God was calling me to embrace poverty and become a volunteer. I took a leap of faith and became a live-in staff member at Maggie’s Place, a home and community for pregnant women who are homeless or alone. I worked at their home in Idaho and then at the coordinating office in Phoenix. I was invited by the retreat organizer at St. Francis Xavier parish to help lead an Ignatian Spirituality Retreat. When I arrived at the first meeting I was handed Fr. Martin’s book, and in that moment I immediately thought to call my best friend Kara.”

Kara

“A bout 2,700 miles away in Boston, that very book was surfacing in the office where I work, the New England Province of Jesuits, and where my daily conversations and relationships have been a continual and unexpected blessing in my life. I joined a series of Ignatian Conversations for Women to discuss Fr. Martin’s book. During the first session I was asked what image, feeling or words came to mind while reading. I said that I saw God as my friend, which I felt to be true most specially in my relationships. Being apart from my family and closest friends back in Seattle has forced me to be a better listener and to share the gifts God has given me. I wished Claire could experience this with me, and immediately e-mailed her.”

We started a long-distance “book club” to reflect every Wednesday night on the questions Fr. Martin raises in his book, as well as moments in our lives that mimicked these messages. This was not an easy endeavor, for just as in our prayer lives, we found ourselves drifting off topic or missing our scheduled rendezvous.

It was a special experience to share the vulnerable, enlightening and triumphant moments of our faith journey and our lives. God really did meet us where we were: busy women, taking a leap of faith, and having friendship and support of those around us to learn and grow. God came to us in many forms, through a mother’s encouragement, through conversations and e-mails with each other, through work, and through Fr. Martin’s words. We are both extremely blessed to have each other as well as many Jesuits, colleagues and friends, who, as Fr. Martin states most eloquently, “enrich [our] lives with their insights, inspire [us] with their faith, and challenge [us] to become better persons.”

Kara Connally is the administrative assistant to the provincial at the New England Province of Jesuits in Watertown, Massachusetts. Claire Finley is a staff member at Maggie’s Place in Phoenix, Arizona.

Jesuit News Around the World

Promoting Social Justice

The Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice was held last November at Georgetown University. Sponsored by the Ignatian Solidarity Network, the weekend focused on a quote from Archbishop Oscar Romero, “Each one of you has to be a prophet.” Students from all of the universities and colleges and most of the high schools in the tri-province area were represented, along with St. Ignatius and Holy Trinity parishes and the Jesuit Volunteers from Maryland and Washington, D.C.

Keynote speakers included Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of Dead Man Walking; Sr. Diana Ortiz, OSU, a missionary to Guatemala who was kidnapped and tortured; Kim Bobo, executive director of Interfaith Worker Justice; and Fr. Mark Ravizza, SJ, associate professor at Santa Clara University. Teach-In events included an Advocacy Day for participants to meet with legislators and their staffs on Capitol Hill.

Father Gavin Moves to Rome

For the past seven years Fr. Ken Gavin, SJ, has served as the national director of Jesuit Refugee Service/USA, one of the 10 worldwide regions of JRS. His ministry has involved oversight of JRS chaplaincy programs for undocumented non-citizens in U.S. detention centers as well as support and advocacy for refugees and displaced people both nationally and internationally. In his role as U.S. national director of JRS, Fr. Gavin traveled to JRS sites worldwide to learn firsthand about the plight of refugees. The insight and knowledge he gained from these visits enabled him to return home with an in-depth understanding of the needs of refugees. When asked how he has found consolation in his work, Father turns to the JRS Charter that simply states: “To accompany refugees is to affirm that God is present in human history, even in most tragic episodes.”

In January, Fr. Gavin moved to Rome as assistant international director in the JRS international office. He will focus on working with Jesuits, religious and lay men and women interested in serving in JRS throughout the world. In addition, he will travel to JRS sites throughout the world, helping to orient and deepen the understanding of the JRS mission in team members who work directly with refugees.
Preparing for World Youth Day

Fr. Phil Hurley, SJ, youth and young adult director for the national office of the Apostleship of Prayer, has been organizing events at college campuses for young adults preparing to participate in this year’s World Youth Day in Madrid in August as well as the Jesuits’ Magis program that precedes it.

“Hearts on Fire,” a day of talks, discussion, prayer and reflection, was held at Central Michigan University in early November and later that month at Fordham University in New York. Talks focused on the “pilgrim heart” and “contemplative hearts,” which introduced Ignatian Contemplation, the six rules for a successful pilgrimage and the Examen, followed by Mass, dinner and a coffeehouse.

Fr. Hurley was assisted by Shane Mulligan, SJ, and Michael Wegenka, SJ, as well as two Jesuit scholastics studying at Fordham, J.T. Tanner and Garvaundo Hamilton, who led the music.

For more information on upcoming “Hearts on Fire” events go to www.apostleshipofprayer.org/missionbandinfo.

On December 3, 2010, the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, Boston Archbishop Cardinal Seán O’Malley, OFM Cap., presided at the blessing of the Chapel of the Holy Name of Jesus at the Blessed Peter Faber Jesuit Community on the Boston College (BC) campus.

The chapel stands at the heart of the Blessed Peter Faber Jesuit Community of the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry (BCSTM). The residence is home to BCSTM faculty members and 55 Jesuits from more than 20 countries who are preparing for the priesthood and other ministries in the Catholic Church.

“The opening of the Blessed Peter Faber Jesuit Community this fall enriches the strong Jesuit presence on the BC campus,” said Fr. Thomas Smolich, SJ, president of the Jesuit Conference. “The Jesuits appreciate the support Cardinal O’Malley has given to our ministry of priestly formation through his blessing of the chapel.”

Cardinal O’Malley expressed gratitude to the Society of Jesus for service to the Church in Boston and throughout the world and is giving the community an image of Our Lady of Montserrat to place in the chapel.

Fr. Phil Hurley, SJ
Today’s Legacy Gift
Supports Tomorrow’s Jesuits

A group of novices recently spent a few days at Eastern Point Retreat House in Gloucester, Massachusetts. When one of the senior Jesuits asked them what province they belonged to, they responded, “We don’t speak of provinces; we are all one.” This is the attitude and realization that is needed for the new configuration of the Maryland, New England and New York Provinces.

With over 80 men in formation, we need your help more than ever. In the past, many friends and benefactors have included the Jesuits in estate plans. Your legacy could fund the education of future Jesuit priests and brothers.

Each Jesuit in formation requires support for tuition, books, room and board, health care, as well as the expenses of daily living. In your estate planning, we ask you to consider a gift to the Society of Jesus to help provide the spiritual formation, quality education and professional training needed to meet the demands of ministry today and in the future.

Bishop Emeritus John Boles of Boston greets newly ordained priests, Fr. Charles Gallagher, SJ, and Fr. George Collins, SJ.

Ways to Give ~
Supporting Jesuits and Our Ministries

Whether your support takes the form of an outright gift or a planned gift, there are a number of flexible options for your specific financial goals and circumstances.

Cash Gifts. Donors who itemize their tax returns receive a full charitable income tax deduction.

Credit Cards are a quick and easy way to make your contribution. You may make a gift online using a major credit card.

Matching Gifts. Many employers match gifts made by their employees. Donors can double or triple their gift when matched by their employer’s gift program.

Gifts of Appreciated Stock often provide the donor with substantial tax savings. Please contact us for information about the transfer of stock.
All Your Gifts
Support Today’s Ministries

Our mission is not a mission of Jesuits alone, but a mission in solidarity with men and women who share the spirit of Ignatius.

When you read of the need to support the Province’s Apostolic Fund, what comes to mind? The responses can be as numerous as the ministries and programs dependent on these vital resources.

Our friends and benefactors have come to know the Society of Jesus through our varied apostolic works. When there was a need for education, Jesuits founded schools — high schools, colleges and universities and in recent years, middle schools. When there was a need for spiritual renewal, Jesuits opened the first retreat house. When there was a need to strengthen the Church around the world, Jesuits responded by ministering in far-off missions.

Today, the generosity of our benefactors provides the resources necessary to continue these and other vital works, and also enables us to prepare for our future challenges and needs — to support the growing Church in Africa, Asia and Latin America — to continue serving immigrants and the poor — to partner in service to the Church with our lay colleagues.

Pages 14 and 15 of this issue of Jesuits provide you with a sense of the extensive outreach and varied apostolic works of the Society of Jesus. Opportunities abound for your companionship and partnership to help our mission. Please contact us to discuss how you or others you know can be of assistance.

A Planned Gift helps ensure the future of our many works through gifts of cash or securities. They include gifts stipulated in a will, charitable gift annuities, charitable trusts and beneficiary designations of life insurance policies or other assets such as IRAs. The Tax Relief Act once again includes an extension for the Charitable IRA rollover provision through the end of 2011. A planned gift allows you to arrange your assets to benefit you, your loved ones and our various ministries now and in the future.

An Honor or Memorial Gift can mark a special occasion or be given to remember or honor a beloved family member or friend. The honoree or a family member will be notified of your gift.

A variety of Mass and Enrollment Cards are available. Donations support the works of the Jesuits and also assist in providing care for our elderly and infirm Jesuits.

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Bernard Menhaus, the father of Br. Jerome Menhaus, SJ, was a close friend to the New York Province Jesuits. Bernie had wealth, but he never lived as a wealthy man. He loved his privacy, his home and his parish where he was regularly at daily Mass.

His many benefactions continue to assist apostolates in New York, elsewhere in this country and in various mission areas. Among those who continue to benefit from his extraordinary generosity are the students in our Nativity Schools, Jesuits cared for at Murray-Weigel Hall and our missions in Africa and Micronesia.

At his funeral Mass, at the Church of the Holy Family, New Rochelle, New York, Msgr. Ferdinando Berardi said of Bernie, “He made Christ’s presence known by how he lived. He was a husband, a father, grandfather and faithful friend to so many and a successful businessman. But above all he was a man of deep and constant prayer.”

Frances (Dixie) Burden, a Weston School of Theology student and native New Yorker, arrived in Gloucester, Massachusetts, in 1993 to attend her very first 30-day retreat at the incredible oceanside Eastern Point Retreat House. She felt an immediate connection, “a coming back to childhood’s playfulness and joy.”

This piece of heaven sitting on the rocks overlooking the Atlantic was the place where she would find herself.

Over the course of the next 16 years, Dixie would generously support a number of the ongoing maintenance projects at the historic retreat house. Dixie bought her own home in the area just a few years after attending that first retreat, and she has been a retreat director at Eastern Point since 1998. She found in 1993 that “God was inviting her to play with him each day and delight with his people.”

Dixie loves Eastern Point and will never be far away from fully supporting its mission to bring people closer to God through retreat work.

Wayne and Holly Gioioso, Jr. are teaching their four children about philanthropy. “We try to teach them that giving to others will enrich their own lives,” says Holly.

Holly and Wayne credit longtime friend Fr. William Watters, SJ, with helping to shape their philanthropic philosophy. Fr. Watters asked Wayne, president of Mid-Atlantic Properties, to become a trustee of the new Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Baltimore. In 2006, the couple endowed a scholarship at the school in Fr. Watters’ honor.

“We believe that the best way to combat poverty is through education,” says Wayne. Their generosity extends to other Jesuit endeavors as well: Loyola Blakefield, Loyola University Maryland, and the Saint Ignatius Historic Trust Fund.

The Gioioso children participate actively in the family’s philanthropic activities. Holly says about her husband, “Wayne gives so freely. We’ve all adopted his philosophy.”

Is there a Jesuit who has influenced or shaped your life or the life of someone you know? After you consider your personal circumstances and the needs of your loved ones, please consider remembering the Jesuits in your planned giving.

The success of Jesuit endeavors depends upon the grace of God and the generous support and care of colleagues and friends. New York Provincial, Fr. David Ciancimino, SJ, recognizes with sincere gratitude the committee and supporters of the inaugural Friends of the Jesuits Golf Outing who were successful in raising awareness and financial assistance for the Jesuits of the New York Province through selfless commitment and leadership.

The inaugural Friends of the Jesuits Golf Outing, held at the Meadow Brook Club in Jericho, New York, last October, happened because three men — Pete Dagher, Brian Devaney and Gary Goodenough — recognized the need to help the province. They responded by working diligently to engage many others to assist the Jesuits in their outreach to those in need and to support the health care of elderly and infirm Jesuits.

The co-founders and their committee members brought together nearly 100 women and men who not only enjoyed a beautiful day of golf but also learned more about the Jesuits and their work in schools, the missions, parishes and retreat centers. Those in attendance along with our sponsors and gracious donors contributed more than $202,000 to benefit these ministries.

Work is already under way for the second Friends of the Jesuits Golf Outing. It will be held at the Meadow Brook Club on Monday, September 26. The committee is once again committed to assisting the Jesuits in their ministries — wherever the need is greatest.

For more information please contact Debra Ryan in the New York Province Jesuit Office at ryan@nysj.org.
“The Church needs you, counts on you and continues to turn to you with confidence, particularly to reach the geographical and spiritual places where others do not reach or find it difficult to reach.”

Pope Benedict XVI, address to the Society of Jesus, General Congregation 35, February 21, 2008

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