



JESUITS

USA MIDWEST PROVINCE | SPRING 2025

Caring for Our Common Home

Jesuit schools and universities
answer the call of Laudato Si'



Dear Friends,

It may not be obvious unless you pay close attention, but *Jesuits* magazine is published three times a year. Across the arc of each year, we try to include stories that reflect the Jesuits' Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs).

First published in February of 2019 by Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, the UAPs outline four guideposts for Ignatian ministry through the end of this decade. The areas are: Showing the Way to God, Walking with the Excluded, Journeying with Youth and Caring for our Common Home. These are not strategic goals or objectives but rather a horizon that shapes and guides the work of all Jesuits and lay collaborators.

In our cover story, we take a page from *Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home*, the encyclical letter published by Pope Francis. The title of the encyclical comes from a canticle of St. Francis, *Laudato Si', mi' Signore*, which translates to "Praise be to you, my Lord" for the works of (your) creation. In the story, we look at sustainability programs at our six universities, as well as other environmental initiatives in the Midwest Province.

"BRING HEALING TO OUR LIVES, THAT WE MAY PROTECT THE WORLD AND NOT PREY ON IT, THAT WE MAY SOW BEAUTY, NOT POLLUTION AND DESTRUCTION."

—Pope Francis' prayer
from his encyclical *Laudato Si'*

We have a profile of Jenny Bordeaux-Black Bear, the director of religious education at St. Francis Mission on Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, who is both journeying with youth and walking with the excluded. Hers is a monumental task, and Jenny is doing vital work with youth.

Also in South Dakota, Eugene Iron Shell Jr. writes in celebration of the 50th year of the permanent deacon program, including Jenny's father-in-law, Deacon Black Bear Jr., who had to apply for a dispensation from the Holy See to be ordained in 1976.

Elsewhere, the Covid-19 lockdown spurred Spanish teacher Patricia Luehrmann of St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati to establish an online tutoring program and eventually resume taking students to Peru for service trips in the Fe y Alegría schools network, an initiative that is still going strong. Fe y Alegría schools hold a special place in my heart, as I lived and taught in Peru in the early 1990s.

As you enjoy the magazine, I invite you to consider living out the Universal Apostolic Preferences in your own life as an example to those you encounter. I thank you always for your support, and please know of my prayers for you and those you love.

Yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Karl J. Kiser, SJ
Provincial
USA Midwest Province

(From left) Jesuits Very Rev. Victor Hugo Miranda, provincial of Peru; Cardinal Pedro Barreto, archbishop emeritus of Huancayo, Peru; Very Rev. Karl J. Kiser; and Fernando Roca at Virgen de Nazaret in Lima, Peru, on St. Ignatius Day, July 31, 2024.





Ten Years of Laudato Si'



ON THE COVER

Margaret Hudson takes part in a class program on the Clare Gardens organic farm at the Catholic Ecology Center near Milwaukee. The farm grows organic produce for senior living homes in Milwaukee.



Midwest Jesuit universities and other schools take Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on the environment to heart. Here, kids at the Catholic Ecology Center near Milwaukee fit into a giant replica of a bird's nest.

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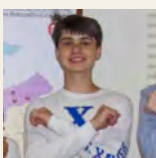
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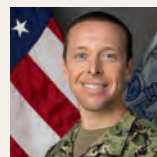
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An Exchange of Knowledge

Students from Cincinnati's St. Xavier High School tutor Fe y Alegría kids in Peru.



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Praying at Camp Lemonnier

Naval chaplain Fr. Christopher Krall, S.J., moves to Africa to minister to 4,000 troops.



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Glass of the Past

Detroit Sacred Art preserves the history of ecclesiastical works across Michigan and the Midwest.



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The Lakota Catholic Teacher

At South Dakota's Rosebud Indian Reservation, Jenny Bordeaux-Black Bear shares Catholic teachings alongside Lakota spirituality.

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Introducing Jen LaMaster and Patrick Gallagher



Jen LaMaster (above) and Patrick Gallagher (below) take on new roles at the Midwest Province.

The Midwest Jesuits are pleased to announce two new appointments in pre-secondary and secondary education: provincial assistant **Jen LaMaster** and associate provincial assistant **Patrick Gallagher**. They will work directly with Midwest Province Provincial Very Rev. Karl J. Kiser, SJ.

After 15 years in public education, LaMaster joined Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis, where she held multiple positions over her 13-year tenure. She joined the province office in 2021 and served as associate provincial assistant for pre-secondary and secondary education before accepting her current role.

"I look forward to continuing to serve our 22 schools in faith, mission and solidarity as they bring to life the rich tradition of Jesuit education in the 21st century," she says.



Gallagher, the assistant principal for faculty formation at Saint Ignatius High School (SIHS) in Cleveland, has been chosen to step into LaMaster's previous position. A dedicated Ignatian educator, he joined SIHS as an alumni volunteer

in 2009. In 2010, he was hired as an English teacher and later chaired the department.

LaMaster succeeds Matthew Couture, who joined the province office in 2011 and now works in a senior ministry role for Felician Services.

Xavier University Medical School Breaks Ground



Construction of Xavier University's College of Osteopathic Medicine is scheduled to be complete in 2026.

Shovels touched dirt in Cincinnati on Dec. 7, 2024, as Xavier University (XU) broke ground on its new College of Osteopathic Medicine facility.

The 130,000-square-foot building will include a state-of-the-art simulation hospital with 16 exam rooms and five flexible simulation rooms, a nearly 200-seat lecture hall, and a 5,600-square-foot meeting hall.

"As we break ground on what will become one of the region's premier medical teaching facilities, we also recognize the life-changing outcomes our College of Osteopathic Medicine will produce for future students and communities," says XU President Colleen Hanycz. "This project truly embodies our Jesuit Catholic mission and identity, building on Xavier's spires of academic excellence, and enabling us to more fully contribute to the universal good while forming students for and with others."

The college will become the first Jesuit osteopathic medical school in the world and Ohio's first new medical school in 40 years.

Construction is scheduled to be complete in 2026, and the college will welcome its first class of aspiring physicians in the fall of 2027. The inaugural class of Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine will graduate in 2031, the same year Xavier will celebrate its bicentennial.

JFAN Comes to Toledo and Plans a Return in 2025!



The 2025 Jesuit Friends and Alumni Network (JFAN) event in Toledo will feature comedy by Fr. Jake Martin, SJ.

Following a successful first-ever Jesuit Friends and Alumni Network (JFAN) event in Toledo this past fall, a May of 2025 event is scheduled.

About two dozen attendees gathered at Maumee Bay Brewing Co. in November for fellowship and networking. They also enjoyed an entertaining presentation about the impact of a Jesuit education by Fr. Martin Connell, SJ, who is both the dean of Arrupe College at Loyola University Chicago and a 1981 graduate of St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy in Toledo; and Karl Ertle, the new president of St. John's Jesuit.

"The JFAN Toledo event was a great start in the region," says Nora Dabrowski, the Midwest Jesuits' regional advancement director in Michigan and northern Ohio. "People are excited for future opportunities to gather and network with their Jesuit friends at home in Toledo."

On May 14, the JFAN Toledo event at Maumee Bay Brewing Co. will feature Fr. Jake Martin, SJ, and his comedic presentation, "A Jesuit Walks Into A Bar."

For more information about this and other upcoming JFAN events across the Midwest, see page 25.

Saint Peter Claver Chapel (rendering at right) will seat 200 worshippers when it opens this spring at Detroit's Loyola High School, which is led by Dr. Deborah Richardson-Phillips (inset).

The 60-Year Wait

Under the direction of Loyola High School of Detroit President Dr. Deborah Richardson-Phillips, St. Peter Claver Chapel opens its doors to the city

By Liam Martel

When St. Peter Claver Chapel opens this spring at Loyola High School in Detroit, the city will welcome its first new Catholic place of worship in more than sixty years. Contemporary and filled with light, the chapel occupies 5,220 square feet and seats 200 worshippers.

Father Gilbert Sunghera, SJ, a former adjunct professor of architecture at the University of Detroit Mercy; and Sr. Esther Mary Nickel, RSM, the director of sacred worship for the Archdiocese of Detroit, collaborated on the design.

The new worship space replaces the school's former chapel, which suffered a roof collapse in 2018. The project was made possible by a \$9 million fundraising initiative called Empower Loyola: A Campaign for Exceptional Sons. Other aspects of the campaign include a scholarship fund and faculty retention fund, as well as the construction of a new welcome center and student courtyard.

New growth for the school mirrors a city rejuvenated. According to United States

Census Bureau data, Detroit has grown in population for the first time since 1957. The city has also seen an increase in economic investment and development.

As the first female and first African American president of Loyola High School, Dr. Deborah Richardson-Phillips sees the chapel's opening as a significant milestone. "It represents not only a renewed commitment to Catholic education, but also a powerful symbol of community revitalization and hope. It's a welcoming space where people can gather, connect and build a sense of belonging."

Now approaching the end of her first year, she has high expectations for her faculty, staff and students. "My vision for Loyola High School of Detroit, rooted in the Jesuit tradition of St. Ignatius of Loyola, is to be recognized as a preeminent Catholic high school for males facing the challenges of an urban environment. I literally want to be on the list of schools in the country that people call when they want to know how you form and educate urban males."

Richardson-Phillips' appointment provides

an inspiring example for the school's majority African American student body of about 150.

"I want them to know that leadership can and does look like them, that barriers can be broken, and that their voices and aspirations matter."

The passion that Richardson-Phillips holds for Detroit and Loyola High School's students is evident. "Detroit is a place of rich history and boundless potential, and Loyola High School is part of its heartbeat," she says. "I hope to contribute to the city's ongoing renaissance, fostering leaders who will shape its future with faith, integrity and purpose." ✠



Liam Martel was a Midwest Province communications and advancement intern in 2024. A graduate of Marquette University High School in Milwaukee and a senior at Loyola University Chicago, his major is creative advertising.



A Fulfilling Call to Follow

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” -Jeremiah 29:11

By Austin Kleman, SJ

Growing up in central Wisconsin, I never imagined the plans God would have in store for me. I dreamed of studying in the Twin Cities, pursuing a career in mental health counseling, visiting New York City, and traveling to London.

But early in my life, I felt a call to follow God. I thought that following this call would mean giving up all those childhood dreams. Only a few days after my 18th birthday, I entered the diocesan seminary, and soon I was sent to study philosophy in the small town of Winona, Minn.

Little did I know what God had set in motion. While in Winona, I had the privilege of adding a psychology degree to my philosophy studies, and during my final year of college, I had my first encounter with the Jesuits. Fast forward a few years later to August 2020, and I was entering the Jesuit novitiate in St. Paul, Minn. Surprisingly, I had somehow made it to the Twin Cities!

Through two years of wonderful experiences in the novitiate, with plenty of

time for discernment, I rapidly approached vows and the transition to first studies. But I had already obtained a philosophy degree in the seminary. Well, the Lord had another surprise ready for me. I was missioned to study at Ciszek Hall Jesuit Residential College in New York City! Not only had my dream of living in New York been fulfilled, but once I arrived, I was asked to complete a master's program in mental health counseling and spiritual integration at Fordham University. God was slowly fulfilling my childhood hopes and dreams while I was pursuing God's call to follow.

Now, finishing my third year in the Bronx, I have been able to integrate my religious identity and values with my education as a mental health counselor. Pursuing God's call for me, and my dream to work as a counselor, this August I began my career in mental health counseling as an intern in the college counseling center at the University of Mount Saint Vincent. I have worked alongside fellow interns, counselors and the Sisters of Charity,

supporting young adults and growing my identity as a Jesuit religious and professional counselor.

Years after those early prayers and dreams, I marvel at how God has directed my life. God has fulfilled my desires and even surpassed them. I had hoped to live in the Twin Cities but never dreamed of professing vows in St. Paul. I had dreamed of visiting New York but never imagined living there for three years. I had imagined a career as a counselor but never thought I would integrate my faith into the profession.

While I still have a wish to visit London, I learned long ago that God has a marvelous plan awaiting me that is full of more hope, joy and adventure than my wildest dreams. ✝



Austin Kleman, SJ, is studying for a master's degree in the Mental Health Counseling and Spiritual Integration program at Fordham University in New York City. He entered the Jesuits in 2020.

Fr. David Shields, SJ

Yes, It Has Been Worth It

By Amy Korpi

There is a moment in the 2023 short documentary film *The Time You Were Given* when the filmmaker asks Fr. David Shields, SJ, a simple question: "Was it all worth it?"

Reflecting on his 63 years as a Jesuit, Fr. Shields offers a resounding yes. "God has been good, and my life has been interesting and full—a wonderful opportunity to relate to people in intimate and rich ways," he says.

Father Shields was drawn to his vocation as a student at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee. There, he saw in the Jesuits the life he wanted—one of hard work, yet fun, with significant purpose and a true sense of community.

"I arrived at Holy Rosary Mission and Red Cloud Indian School in May 1974," he recalls. "These were very difficult years on the Pine Ridge Reservation, a time of great violence. I kept track for a while of those I knew who died. In just five years, there were 60."

Father Shields served more than two fulfilling decades in South Dakota, frequently traveling great distances as part of his mission. But by 1995, macular degeneration, which he had lived with since his teens, put an end to his ability to drive.

He took a brief sabbatical, to study Spanish in Guatemala, before returning to Milwaukee, where he was missioned to St. Patrick's Church. Intent on bringing Ignatian spirituality to the parish, he toured a vacant former convent.

"It was a wreck," he recalls. "But I was a Greek major. What did I know about such things? I thought, 'Here is an accessible, affordable place for the Latinx community to gather.'"

"ABOUT THE TIME WE NEEDED SOMETHING, THE RIGHT PERSON OR RESOURCE WOULD SHOW UP. WE HAD STARTED WITH THE BELIEF THAT EVERYONE HAS GIFTS TO SHARE."

Day-by-day, year-by-year, Casa Romero Renewal Center grew beyond his original vision. "We tried and tested programs, and kept what worked," he says. "About the time we needed something, the right person or resource would show up. We had started with the belief that everyone has gifts to share."

Today, he remains in awe of what Casa Romero has become.

In true Jesuit form, the ministry now has

a life of its own, with capable staff members who love the organization and have new ideas. "When I got out of it, I had given everything I had to give," he says. "My part is over. I don't want to get in the way."

Since January of 2023, Fr. Shields has lived at a senior Jesuit community in Wisconsin, doing pastoral work as his health allows. This includes providing spiritual direction, and leading an eight-day retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House on Lake Winnebago in Oshkosh, Wis.

"It's what you make of it," he says of life in a senior community. "If you come to a place with open arms, you can focus on 'What can I do?' instead of 'What can't I do?'"

There's actually one thing Fr. Shields might have done differently: "I have no regrets, except I might have liked to learn Spanish earlier in life so I could have been more fluent." ❖



Amy Korpi, a freelance writer with two degrees from Marquette University, is based in Green Bay, Wis. She has been working with the Jesuits since 1998.



From Cincinnati to Peru

A St. Xavier High School teacher connects her students with children in the Fe y Alegría network

In the spring of 2020, at the height of Covid lockdowns, Spanish teacher Patricia Luehrmann of St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, turned to Peru to fill a void.

"I was in panic mode because my students had to prepare for the AP college exam, where they would have to speak the Spanish language, a skill you don't develop unless you practice," she says.

Her students were isolated, and their worlds were shrinking under quarantine. A Peruvian national who had led service trips to Peru for years, Luehrmann responded by creating a Big Brother online tutoring program that connected her students to students in Fe y Alegría schools there.

The exchange started with Andahuaylillas, a rural village near the Andes Mountains where Peruvian children gathered in a church annex after Mass for virtual meetings with Luehrmann's advanced students. They were

proficient enough in Spanish to help the Peruvian kids in subjects such as math, and in return they gained confidence in their language skills by conversing with fluent Spanish speakers. The cities of Paita, Ilo and Tacna were next, where Luehrmann's students followed the same tutoring model.

"It has been developing little by little because the nuns who work in the Fe y Alegría schools are people I've met before, and they love the project," she says.

Founded by Jesuits and active with the help of partners for the past 58 years in Peru, Fe y Alegría operates nearly 200 schools funded by the Peruvian government. Fe y Alegría also plays a thought-leading role in the nation's educational system, holding seminars every year to bring stakeholders together to reflect on and debate the issues of national interest and current affairs related to public education.

Fe y Alegría, which translates to "Faith and

Joy," was founded in 1955 to provide education to the poorest of the poor. With schools in 22 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela), the Fe y Alegría network consists of 41,241 people working in schools, radio stations and alternative-program centers, all in service to 826,356 students. Those students range from early childhood, preschool, primary and secondary education to adults seeking technical and professional training, intercultural bilingual learners, and people with disabilities.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of Fe y Alegría's founding. In light of that, Fr. Dani Villanueva, SJ, the general coordinator of the International Federation of Fe y Alegría, offers a quote from the organization's founder, Fr.



A MIDWESTERN PARISH FEEDS CHILDREN IN PERU

Since 2017, the Social Justice and Service Committee at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Libertyville, Ill., has awarded grants for the Mid-Day Meal Program at the Fe y Alegría #50 Fr. Carlos Schmidt, SJ school in Ayacucho, Peru. Nutritious meals are provided to more than 300 needy students a day. The church has also supported Parish San Juan Bautista in Huaró, Peru.

Top photo (back row, from left): St. X student Christopher Heekin, Fe y Alegría teacher Bertha Rebatta, and St. X student Charlie Stautberg with Fe y Alegría schoolchildren in the summer of 2023. Bottom photo: Fe y Alegría schoolchildren in Peru.

Jose Maria Velaz, SJ: “Fe y Alegría begins where the asphalt ends, where drinking water does not drip, where the city loses its name.”

Luehrmann credits her sense of mission to Fr. Fred Green, SJ, who founded the Cristo Rey school in her hometown of Tacna. She also credits Fr. John P. Foley, SJ, founder of the Cristo Rey Network in the United States. Both Jesuits were inspired to use the name Cristo Rey in honor of Blessed Miguel Pro, SJ, who proclaimed “Viva Cristo Rey!” or “Long live Christ the King!” before his martyrdom in Mexico in 1927.

Luehrmann met her future husband, Michael, while they were serving at the Center for the Working Child, a Jesuit project in Tacna. After moving to Cincinnati and marrying Michael, a 1983 St. Xavier graduate, she took a job at his alma mater, where she has taught Spanish for 30 years. In her earliest days, she restarted the student mission

trips to Peru, which had begun in 1982. Immediately, she knew she was in the right place.

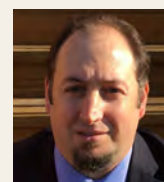
“I was so impressed with the students’ empathy, the sense of compassion,” she says. “I thought, ‘This is the right school for me because if these kids are thinking about others, this is the place I want to be.’”

Although she resumed trips to Peru after Covid lockdowns were lifted, she continued the virtual learning initiative, recognizing the benefits of regular contact for both sides of the partnership. She has also connected other schools around the country, including Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago and Marquette University High School in Milwaukee, for virtual exchanges with Fe y Alegría schools in Peru.

Back in the autumn of 2020, Luehrmann founded St. Xavier’s Fe y Alegría Club, and for the club’s inaugural meeting, she arranged for

Fr. Ernesto Cavassa, SJ, to attend virtually. The general director of Fe y Alegría Peru, Fr. Cavassa spoke directly to her students.

“You are welcome in Peru,” Fr. Cavassa said. “Come visit Fe y Alegría to see what you can learn from another culture and another way of life. In the Magis, I say to you all, thank you and welcome.”✠



Garan Santicola is a writer who lives in the Catskill Mountains of Upstate New York. He writes regularly for The Christophers and for the past three years has crafted the award-winning Beauty & Truth column for *Catholic New York* newspaper. He is currently working on his first novel.

A Decade of Focusing on the Earth

Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, is 10 years old, and Midwestern universities and other works have taken the message to heart

By Garan Santicola

The 225-acre Catholic Ecology Center near Milwaukee helps adults and children deepen their faith and foster a stewardship ethic through hands-on encounters with nature. Here, kids cross the boardwalk as part of a class ecology program.

It has been 10 years since Pope Francis released his encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, and in that time, ecology and sustainability programs at the six Jesuit universities of the Midwest Province, as well as other apostolates and partners, have taken the message to heart.

"A big part of the call to sustainability is similar to the call of the Spiritual Exercises, to return to who God made us to be—creatures!" says Br. Mark Mackey, SJ, pointing out the connection between core principles of *Laudato Si'* and the First Principle and Foundation of Ignatian Spirituality. "As creatures, we are dependent on others, on this planet and ultimately on our Creator."

An ecologist, Br. Mackey teaches Integral Ecology, Field Herpetology and Ecospirituality for Action in the **School of Environmental Sustainability at Loyola University Chicago (LUC)**, which *The Princeton Review* ranked 12th on its 2025 list of Top 50 Green Colleges. Young people have definitely thought more about the environment in recent years, and at times Br. Mackey could see it taking a toll. That is why in 2023 he founded the **Eco-Warriors Club** to address their increasing levels of climate anxiety. The club emphasizes proactive approaches that reflect the School's commitment to hands-on learning, an ethos that led to LUC's carbon-neutrality designation, a first among Chicago-area universities.

Liam Donnelly, a recent graduate of the School of Environmental Sustainability, exemplifies the proactive approach. A native Chicagoan, he started a composting business at age 15 and kept it going as a student at LUC. He spent nights biking around the neighborhood to collect and haul away compost from homes and businesses. Today, his WasteNot Compost company is Chicago's leading compost collection provider. Although Donnelly no longer uses a bicycle-drawn cart, WasteNot Compost has a fleet of all-electric vehicles and remains the only zero-emissions compost collection service in the country.

In response to *Laudato Si'*, all six Midwest

Jesuit universities have seen growth in environmentally focused student clubs, campus efforts and academic offerings. **John Carroll University (JCU)** now offers an **environmental science major**. The program is unique for its small size, creating a close-

Educators of Distinction. Open to faculty and staff, the program provides understanding of sustainability initiatives around campus, including the school's green landscape, which serves as everything from inspiration for eco-spirituality to gardening initiatives



Brother Mark Mackey, SJ (right, holding a bullfrog) with Jesuit scholastics during their inaugural summer first studies Integral Ecology graduate course at the Loyola University Chicago Retreat & Ecology Campus.

knit community focused on hands-on learning and field research, with classes that trek to nearby lakes and wetlands. Professors also get to know students well enough to connect them to job and research opportunities around the world as they prepare for graduation.

"WE UTILIZE THE AMAZING BEAUTY OF OUR PROPERTY AS A CONDUIT TO DRAW PEOPLE CLOSER TO CHRIST, PROVIDING QUIET PLACES TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE IN PRAYER AND INSTILLING A SENSE OF CHILDLIKE WONDER THROUGH ECOLOGY PROGRAMMING."

Xavier University (XU) has a **Sustainability and the Mission seminar** that is the first and only environmentally focused professional development opportunity among Jesuit universities to qualify participants for Province Ignatian

that promote food security in the surrounding community.

The **School of Architecture & Community Development at the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM)** is internationally recognized for its approach to environmental justice, particularly in the local community through its **Master of Community Development program** and the Detroit Collaborative Design Center, which focuses on urban revitalization and sustainability.

In 2022, **Creighton University (CU)** President Fr. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, instituted the **Sustainable Creighton Initiative**, which has already collected and processed nearly 10 tons of food waste, diverted thousands of plastic containers from landfills, and created a fund for student-led sustainability projects. Today, one in seven courses taught at CU discusses issues pertaining to sustainable development.



Brother Mark Mackey, SJ (far left) with Loyola University Chicago's weekly Eco-Warriors ecology anxiety support group.

Following Pope Francis' call for a seven-year journey toward integral ecology, the **Laudato Si' Task Force at Marquette University (MU)** has identified five priorities: include integral ecology across curriculum and research; reduce the school's ecological footprint; practice socially responsible purchasing and investment; respond to the ecological crisis through community engagement and public advocacy; and foster a deep sense of responsibility to care for our common home through action and spirituality.

That final priority echoes yet another guiding principle of all Jesuit works, the fourth Jesuit Universal Apostolic Preference: Caring for Our Common Home.

Elsewhere in Milwaukee, **Marquette University High School (MUHS)** science teacher Joseph Meyer's **Laudato Si' Project** led to the purchase of a 225-acre tract of rural land outside the city. There, Meyer founded the **Catholic Ecology Center**, a bucolic environment dedicated to deepening faith and fostering a stewardship ethic through hands-on encounters with nature. "We utilize the amazing beauty of our property as a conduit to draw people closer to Christ, providing quiet places to hear God's voice in prayer and

instilling a sense of childlike wonder through ecology programming," Meyer says.

"A BIG PART OF THE CALL TO SUSTAINABILITY IS SIMILAR TO THE CALL OF THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES, TO RETURN TO WHO GOD MADE US TO BE—CREATURES!"

At **Maḥípiya Lúta|Red Cloud** school on the **Pine Ridge Indian Reservation** in South Dakota, the **food sovereignty initiative** began with a geodesic greenhouse built to educate students about gardening. Today, traditional Lakota food is grown and used to prepare meals in the school's cafeteria, and the program has evolved to include multiple greenhouses and gardens and a chicken coop.

Chicago's **Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School (CtK)** and the adjoining **Chicago Jesuit Academy (CJA)** have completed a major solar panel installation that will benefit the environment while also lowering energy costs. Partnering with longtime supporters John and Sue Dewan, the schools stand to save up to \$1 million over the next 20 years. Rooftop solar panels are also

planned for the Midwest Province offices.

Brother Mackey has found it rewarding to help LUC students understand humanity's relationship with God—and how it relates to caring for God's creation. "Often, nature is treated like the background prop of a play rather than being integral to the story," Br. Mackey says. "Connecting students back to this great story, and also clearly connecting the work of Christ and his Church back to this timeline, can add a deep sense of vocation and purpose."

Ten years after reading the words of *Laudato Si'*, Br. Mackey knows how much they have guided his work. "For me, a person whose faith and relationship with God was always so intertwined with, and grown from, my love and interaction with nature, *Laudato Si'* was able to put into words things I had recognized but not been able to articulate."✠



International Jesuits in the Midwest Province

Many of these men are supported in their formation by the generous benefactors of the Midwest Province.

Mr. Mark Abang, SJ

From the Eastern Africa Province, Mr. Abang is a third-year regent who is serving on the campus ministry team at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis. He grew up as a child refugee whose family was displaced from his home country of South Sudan.



in Milwaukee. He also works as a supervised intern in the athletic department at the Maguire Center.

Fr. Robert Chawngthu, SJ

From the Kohima Region in India, Fr. Chawngthu is a theology teacher and campus minister at Maṛṇṇi Lúta|Red Cloud on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He passed his driving test over Christmas break 2024 and will now enjoy more off-campus movement to visit Lakota families and assist with weekend pastoral work on the reservation.



Fr. Rashmi Fernando, SJ

From the Province of Sri Lanka, Fr. Fernando is chaplain of the School of Dentistry at Creighton University in Omaha. He also helps with Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL), which is based at Creighton, as he completes his Interdisciplinary Leadership doctorate focusing on global citizenship.



Fr. Elvin Cardosa, SJ

From the Goa Province in India, Fr. Cardosa is working on an Interdisciplinary Leadership doctorate at Creighton University in Omaha. He also performs sacramental ministries and works with the Creighton Colleagues Program through the university's Mission and Ministry Office.



Fr. Endashaw Debrework, SJ

From the Eastern Africa Province, Fr. Debrework is the USA advancement leader for the future Hekima Jesuit University in Molo, Kenya. Based at the Midwest Province office in Chicago, he also works as a campus minister at Chicago's Saint Ignatius College Prep. In prior leadership roles, he has served as regional director for Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Eastern Africa, and country director for JRS in Ethiopia, his home country.



Fr. Anish Kochanichottil, SJ

From the Pune Province in India, Fr. Kochanichottil is an MBA student at Creighton University in Omaha, where he works in the university's office of the president. He also serves as the development officer for his home province.



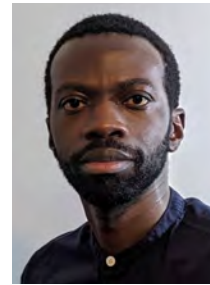
Fr. Jude Carrasco, SJ

From the Goa Province in India, Fr. Carrasco is studying for a master's degree and eventual doctorate in counseling psychology at Marquette University



Fr. Nathaniel Lubanga, SJ

From the Eastern Africa Province, Fr. Lubanga is studying for a doctorate in communications with a concentration in political science at Marquette University in Milwaukee. His



Continued on page 21



Father Christopher Krall, SJ (center) concelebrates Mass at Djibouti's Camp Lemonnier military base, where he is a Navy chaplain ministering to 4,000 troops.

A Sort of Homecoming

Born on a military base in California, Fr. Christopher Krall, SJ, now serves as chaplain to 4,000 troops in East Africa

By Patricia McGeever

When the fall semester at Creighton University (CU) in Omaha ended last December, students packed their bags to go home for the holidays. One of their professors, Fr. Christopher Krall, SJ, packed up his office and headed to a military base in Djibouti, a country in East Africa almost 8,000 miles from Nebraska. For the next nine months he will serve there as a Navy chaplain ministering to some 4,000 United States and allied troops.

"The mission is calling," Fr. Krall says. "So, this is a fulfillment to all the training I've ever done as a Jesuit but also the Naval training and what it means to be a chaplain in the military in the modern day."

Fr. Krall is a reserve Naval officer who finished chaplain training in the summer of

2024. Now one of nine reserve Catholic priests serving the Coast Guard, Navy and Marines, he will be stationed at Djibouti's Camp

"THIS IS A FULFILLMENT TO ALL THE TRAINING I'VE EVER DONE AS A JESUIT BUT ALSO THE NAVAL TRAINING AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHAPLAIN IN THE MILITARY IN THE MODERN DAY."

Lemonnier, the primary base of operations for U.S. Africa Command in the Horn of Africa. He will serve as the sole priest on the ministry team there.

"What I've been told is, I could be the only Catholic priest in the whole defense

department for the continent of Africa," Fr. Krall says. "I will be flying to outpost camps in neighboring countries where there are Catholic personnel, but they have not had a chance to have Mass or confession because no priest has been available or able to get out to them."

The Navy wanted him to report in October, so he could be prepared for Christmas with the troops. But he could not pull out of his classes in the middle of the semester. He is popular on campus as both a priest and a professor teaching theology and neuroscience. His neuroscience class fills up on the first day of registration.

Officially on a leave of absence from his teaching duties, Fr. Krall will still be able to

advise on some research projects. That is good news for the students he currently works with on projects.

"The kind of work he does goes beyond teaching and research," says CU theology professor James Jay Carney. "He's a real mentor for students and a real Christian witness."

Mariska Suwanda, a CU junior and ROTC member, knows this all too well. She calls Fr. Krall her "absolute favorite professor," a mentor both in research and life. Currently, they are developing a research project together that looks into post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the military and how the Ignatian Examen could help with the symptoms.

"In terms of spiritual readiness, there's not that much literature out there," Suwanda says. "There's a niche in the field that hasn't been fully looked at, and that's what we're hoping to do."

Colleague Tricia Ross, a CU associate professor of modern languages and literatures, worked with Fr. Krall on two projects. One reconciled science and religion, and the other looked at the impact that loneliness has on students on campus.



Father Christopher Krall, SJ, on a visit to Somalia as part of his chaplain duties. (Below) Fr. Krall at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti.

"He's great to work with, full of energy and new ideas for research," Ross says. "He's extremely popular with students because he's approachable, friendly and energetic."

As for his new assignment on a military base, Fr. Krall will likely feel right at home since he comes from a military family himself. In fact, he was born at Travis Air Force Base in northern California, where his father was stationed. The family later moved to Wisconsin, where Fr. Krall grew up, and in 2005, after double-majoring in physics and philosophy at Boston College, he entered the Society of Jesus. In the years since, he has earned several master's degrees and a Ph.D. He was ordained in 2015.

"What I find refreshing about Chris is, he's a very gentle soul, calm and a good listener," Carney says. "He doesn't need to dominate the room."

Both Fr. Krall's vocation and education will benefit the Navy. Admirals have already asked him how they can improve the spiritual readiness of sailors to equal the physical

readiness needed for military service. Father Krall hopes to be able to introduce the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola as a start.

"My hope is, and the idea is, that some of my research on prayer and conversion, and the use of the Exercises with a neuroscience background, can help facilitate or bring some needed perspective, especially as the Navy is open to this idea of spiritual readiness."

In return, Fr. Krall says, he hopes the challenges he faces in this mission will make him a more compassionate teacher, preacher and priest. ✠



Patricia McGeever, is an award-winning freelance writer and television news producer based in Cincinnati. A proud Xavier Musketeer, she is a retired Irish dancer and instructor.



This page (top): Designed by Detroit Stained Glass Works in the 1930s, Gesu Catholic Church's west wall windows feature medallions illustrating titles of Jesus, including "Lamb of God" and "Christ the King"; (below): Diehl & Diehl Architects designed this image of a bronze cross for the Gesu Church rooftop spire. Facing page (top left): Detroit Stained Glass Works windows in the chapel at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich.; (top right): A Diehl & Diehl blueprint of the carved pew panels at Gesu. (bottom left): Therese Bellaimy and Paul Diehl, cousins and descendants of the founders of Detroit Stained Glass Works, in front of Gesu's sanctuary windows depicting the Mysteries of the Rosary: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious. They have both attended the church since childhood.

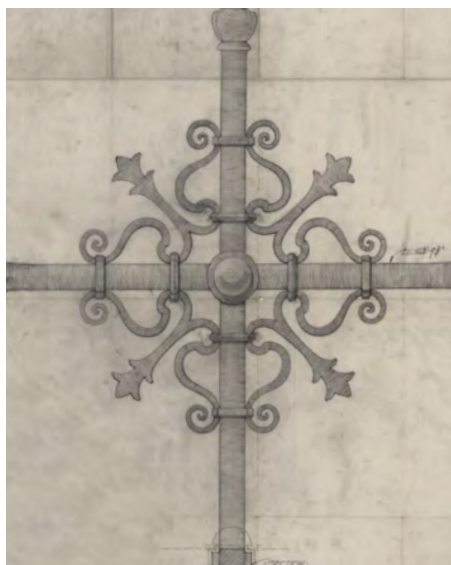
By Ann Power Greene

As chief executive officer of Detroit Sacred Art, a design firm specializing in ecclesiastical architecture and stained glass, Paul Diehl, a true believer in Jesuit education, is also a sort of historian.

"Detroit Sacred Art is dedicated to the preservation, education and celebration of the ecclesiastical works of our family," he says, referring to Diehl & Diehl Architects, Inc. and Detroit Stained Glass Works. "These two companies collaborated in creating inspiring places of worship across Michigan and the Midwest. As their descendants, we strive to preserve and share their legacy."

Paul's grandfather, George F. Diehl, began working on his own as an architect in 1923, and was joined later by his oldest son Gerald. The Diehls designed or renovated more than 60 Catholic churches in the Archdiocese of Detroit. The company ceased operation in 1994 but its legacy lives on today.

Paul's mother, Josephine Irving, was the great-granddaughter of Charles Friederichs Sr., a pioneer artist who co-founded Detroit's first stained glass studio, Friederichs & Safflin,



in 1861. The firm was later named Detroit Stained Glass Works and became known for some of the oldest windows in Detroit churches, including those at the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit.

Four generations of the Friederichs family operated Detroit Stained Glass Works before it closed in 1970, and the union of the two family-run businesses led to the creation of some of the most beautiful churches in Detroit, particularly Gesu Catholic Church, an apostolate of the Midwest Jesuits, and St. Scholastica Catholic Church. The firms also designed St. John's Seminary in Plymouth, Mich., and another Jesuit work, the chapel at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich.

Paul and the Diehl family have been lifelong parishioners at Gesu Catholic Church, which was designed by his grandfather, George F. Diehl, in 1936. Paul and his seven siblings attended Gesu School, and Paul went on to



the University of Detroit Jesuit High School, Marquette University (MU), and the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM). He then served as a Spanish teacher at his high school alma mater for 36 years, retiring in 2022.

Paul's wife, Patricia Montemurri, is the author of *Images of America: Detroit Gesu Catholic Church and School* (Arcadia Publishing, 2017). She shares Paul's interest in preserving the long history of Catholic churches in Detroit, notably Gesu, a parish the Jesuits have ministered at since 1922. The parish began in a farmhouse, and the current church was built in the mid-1930s near the corner of Livernois Avenue and McNichols Road near UDM. Paul's father, Gerald G. Diehl, renovated the church in 1987.



Architect Mary Clare McCormick worked at Diehl & Diehl for 15 years and now maintains the firm's delicate onion skin drawings of church construction. As vice president and chief archivist of Detroit Sacred Art, she also oversees the hand-drawn designs of church windows by Detroit Stained Glass Works.

Paul Diehl's cousin, Therese Bellaimey, is the great-great granddaughter of founder Charles Friederichs Sr. Like Paul, she and her family grew up in Gesu parish, where she still attends Mass and serves on the finance council. She is a big supporter of Detroit Sacred Art and has a deep appreciation for the history of stained glass, especially at Gesu.

When stained glass designs are approved, studio artisans create full-scale layouts called cartoons that show the cutting and assembly lines. They then choose glass from different manufacturers based on color, texture and price.

"At Gesu, all of the windows focus on Jesus, whether his life as featured in the Rosary, or his titles and attributes, such as 'Christ the King' and 'Lamb of God,' in the medallions of each amber window," Bellaimey says.

The windows were assembled and soldered at the studio in sections and then installed at the church along with steel sashes to

support them. Behind the altar, stained glass windows depict three sets of the Mysteries of the Rosary. The north and south walls at Gesu have beautiful blue windows that get their color from cobalt added to molten glass. They are the only windows with human figures in them. The east and west windows are geometric and include the same Moorish-influenced designs used in the floor tile and ceiling.

For members of the Diehl and Friederichs families, some of the most striking ecclesiastical architecture and design in the Detroit area is woven into their ancestry. Thankfully, they are passionate about preserving it and its history for the rest of us. ✠

For more about Paul Diehl and Detroit Sacred Art, visit www.DetroitSacredArt.com



Ann Power Greene serves as senior director of advancement operations for the Midwest Jesuits in Chicago. An alumna of Gesu Catholic School in Cleveland, she has more than 16 years of service to the Jesuits.



At left, resident scholar Lucas D. shares a story with senior regional coordinator Christa Pipitone during the onboarding process. Below (in foreground), Fr. Zach Presutti, SJ, talks to community members at an open house event in the fall of 2024.

Second Chances in Milwaukee

Thrive For Life Prison Project expands from the East Province to help formerly incarcerated men return to school and redirect the rest of their lives

By Patricia McGeever

A former convent and monastery in Milwaukee may soon be home to up to 12 former prison inmates who plan to return to school and change the trajectory of their lives.

The men accepted into the facility, Joseph

House, will live there while they go to school. It's all part of Thrive for Life, which gives formerly incarcerated men a second chance.

"This is a community," says Christa Pipitone, senior regional coordinator for Thrive

for Life in Milwaukee. "If you're looking for an apartment, this isn't the place. We have Sunday dinner, we have Circles, which are like support groups, and we have programming here to heal the whole person."

The goal of Thrive for Life is to unlock the potential in these men and help them become productive members of society. Father Zach Presutti, SJ, of the USA East Province, founded the ministry. When his brother was an assistant coach of the Marquette University men's basketball team, Fr. Presutti made trips to Milwaukee to cheer on the Golden Eagles. It was during those visits that he got to know the Jesuit community in the Midwest. Eventually, he recognized the opportunity to expand Thrive for Life to a new city and state.

"The core of the care we offer our folks as they re-enter from incarceration is a supportive living community so they can



continue their education,” Fr. Presutti says. “Most important to me in this whole thing is, we’re continuing the mission of the Church.”

Once a convent, built by the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1909, the building now known as Joseph House, also served as a Capuchin Franciscan monastery. When Fr. Presutti saw the building, he imagined it meeting all the needs of the ministry and purchased it with the help of generous donations.

After working through zoning issues, and having many conversations with neighbors, Fr. Presutti and his staff were set to prepare the living space. Volunteers painted, and everything in the building, from bedroom

“WHEN THEY COME HERE, THEY SEE THAT THIS IS A PLACE THEY’RE GOING TO BE STAYING, THEY’RE GOING TO BE LOVED AND CARED FOR.”

furniture to kitchen utensils, was donated through a wish list registry.

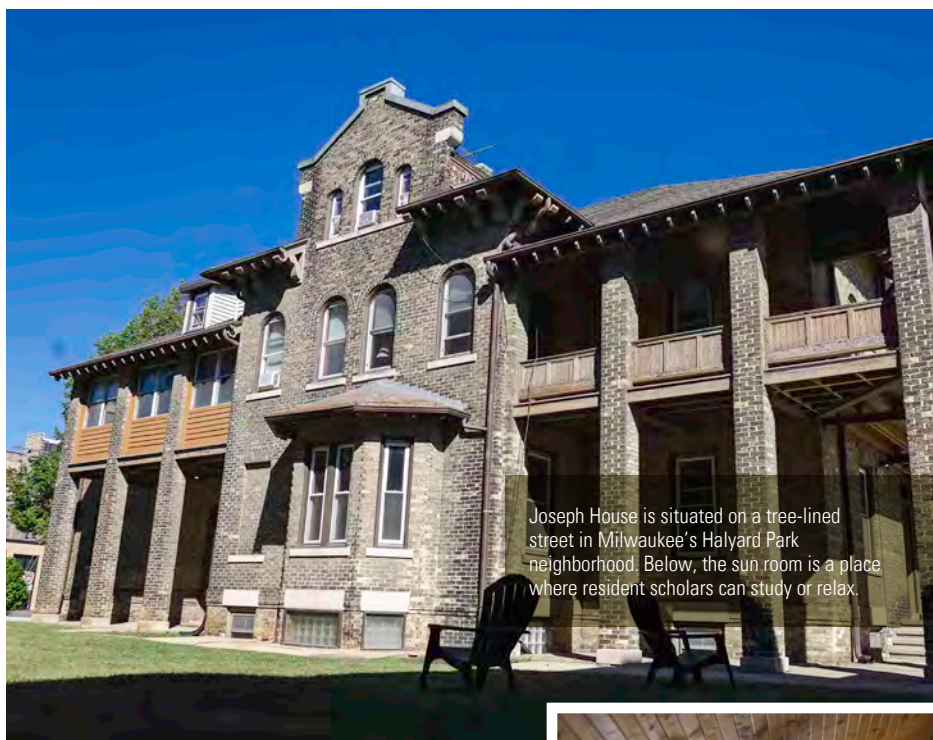
“I really thought it was important that the house felt like a home for the guys,” Pipitone says. “When they come here, they see that this is a place they’re going to be staying, they’re going to be loved and cared for.”

Residents go through a series of interviews before being accepted at Joseph House, and as long as they live there, they must be enrolled in classes at one of the ministry’s partner schools: Marquette University, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College or Milwaukee School of Engineering.

By living in the house, the men benefit from a built-in support system that goes beyond schoolwork. The program also reinforces life skills such as how to make a bed, iron a shirt, cook a meal and catch up with technology.

“If you’re highly committed and motivated and want to get out and stay out, we’re the place for you,” Fr. Presutti says.

Situated on a tree-lined street in Milwaukee’s Halyard Park neighborhood,



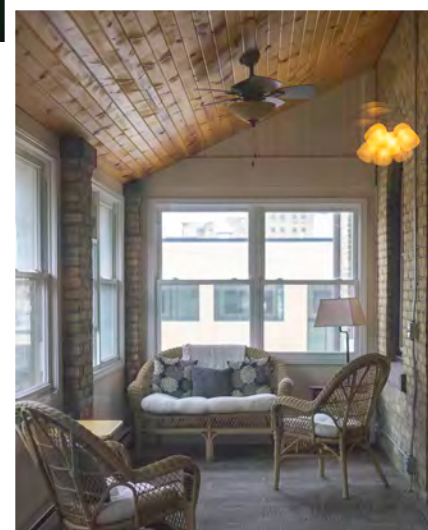
Joseph House is situated on a tree-lined street in Milwaukee’s Halyard Park neighborhood. Below, the sun room is a place where resident scholars can study or relax.

the house has both single and double rooms. The basement has a TV room, a family room and a place where residents can meet with their children. There’s also a workout room, community room, study spaces and a beautiful chapel.

As the men navigate their way through re-entry into society, Mychal Pagan will be there to help them. He knows how the program works because he’s been through it. He served 13 years in a New York state prison before he was accepted into Thrive for Life’s Ignacio House in Manhattan.

“It really set me on pace to be who I am today,” Pagan says.

While living in Ignacio House, Pagan attended New York University and graduated with a bachelor’s degree. He was working at a video production house when Fr. Presutti hired him as Thrive for Life’s associate director of communications. Now Pagan is in Wisconsin, where he lives at Joseph House and serves as both a mentor and the ministry’s supportive service coordinator.



“We want to make sure they know they can lean on this space, they can lean on us, to get through whatever is in front of them,” Pagan says. “I think the best thing I can do for them is be available and help them navigate the day-to-day life.”✝



An early deacon candidate class with Jesuits.

South Dakota Deacons

The permanent diaconate program in Rapid City, S.D., celebrates its 50th year, and Jesuits were there from the start

By Eugene Iron Shell Jr.

Photo courtesy of the Buechel Museum at the St. Francis Mission

The Jesuits have had a long and cordial relationship with the Lakota people. As far back as the 1880s, Chief Spotted Tail of the Sicangu (Burnt Thigh) Lakota Nation, and Chief Red Cloud of the Oglala Lakota Nation in Pine Ridge, ventured from their home in South Dakota to Washington, D.C., where they made numerous requests for the Catholic priests “that wear black dresses” to educate the Lakota children.

President Rutherford B. Hayes finally approved the request, and St. Francis Mission was formed in 1886 on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Holy Rosary Mission was founded two years later on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and today the institutions remain apostolates of the Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus.

This year, on May 31, the Diocese of Rapid City, S.D., celebrates the 50th anniversary of the diocese’s first permanent diaconate

ordination. Here, we reflect and pay tribute to the first five permanent deacons, and the Jesuit priests entrusted with their formation.

In the early days, men were formed to be Lakota catechists at Pine Ridge and Rosebud. Most notable was Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk. The men were selected for their good character, intelligence and zeal, and entrusted to perform baptisms, visit the sick, lead prayers, bury the dead and teach the Gospel, which is what current-day deacons are ordained to do.

Upon the re-emergence of the Church’s permanent diaconate in the late 1960s, Jesuit Fathers Harry Eglsaer and Paul Manhart approached Bishop Harold Dimmerling, the fifth bishop of Rapid City, and sought his permission to begin a program to train deacons for the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations. Bishop Dimmerling agreed, and the program was born in 1972.

From the beginning, the Jesuits wanted to build this new concept in the spirit of the early Lakota catechists like Black Elk. Father Chris Keeler, SJ, assisted with teaching the candidates, and Fr. Richard Jones, SJ, provided their spiritual direction. All of the candidates were married, and their wives participated in the same classes they did.

Jesuit Fathers John Hatcher and Patrick McCorkell were ordained in 1974 and spent a year studying theology at Regis College in Toronto. They had both worked at St. Francis Mission during formation in the summer of 1972. In 1975, they were assigned to St. Francis and appointed co-directors of the diaconate program, which the bishop had recently formally approved for the diocese.

“We had high hopes back then,” Fr. McCorkell says. “I think what stands out is that the Lakota people now have local clergy and have the capability to uniquely build up

the Church.”

Today, Fr. Hatcher is the priest-in-residence at St. Issac Jogues Parish in Rapid City, and Fr. McCorkell is a retreat director at Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Elmo, Minn.

Their greatest contribution in those early days was the development of a formal curriculum, which they had started in Toronto. Father Eglsaer would let them know what lessons were needed, and they would mail them to St. Francis. The lessons were published as *Builders of the New Earth: The Formation of Permanent Deacons* edited by Fr. Tibor Horvath, SJ, of the Regis College theology department.

Lakota men ordained at Holy Rosary Mission to the permanent diaconate were Steven Red Elk (1975), Reno Richards (1975), Lester Plank (1975) and Victor Young Bull Bear (1978). Deacon Ben Black Bear Jr. (1976), who had to apply for a dispensation from the Holy See because he was only 30, was ordained at St. Francis.

One thing all five of them understood was their Lakota identity.

“For a few years in the 1990s, I had the privilege of spending a few weeks each summer with Deacon Victor,” says Fr. Gary Wright, SJ. “I wanted to learn more about



The ordination of Deacon Ben Black Bear Jr. on June 19, 1976.

Lakota spirituality. It seemed to me that one of his greatest gifts was his ability to put the Gospel and faith into a way that spoke to the heart of his people. He was a witness to others that Jesus is the way because of his public role as a Catholic deacon, but he could put it into terms that his Lakota people could readily understand because of his embrace of Lakota spirituality. To say that he tried to integrate both ways would be misleading. It went deeper than that. He integrated the Catholic faith and Lakota spirituality into one single way of life in his own person.”

By the late 1970s, the program had expanded to include the entire Rapid City Diocese. The Jesuits built the Sioux Spiritual Center, which would serve as a base for the formation program. They formed candidates there until 2017, when the facility was turned over to the diocese, which operates it today.

The work of the Society of Jesus continues to bear fruit in the parish communities in western South Dakota. According to Deacon Greg Sass, current director of the permanent diaconate for Rapid City, approximately 60 deacons have been ordained since 1975. Father Peter Klink, SJ, a witness to early Lakota diaconate ministry, sums it up well.

“This program exhibited the very fact that our God is a good and gracious God,” he says. “He has created all things and all peoples in his generous love. The Lakota deacons help us to understand a more inculturated, richer and more deeply blessed Church.”✠



Newly ordained Deacon Ben Black Bear Jr. with his family.



Eugene Iron Shell Jr. has completed two years of aspirancy and the first year of candidacy. He is part of the 2027 cohort for the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Rapid City, S.D.

Being Lakota Catholic

Through St. Francis Mission, Jenny Bordeaux-Black Bear shares her faith and culture with the children of Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota

By Tom Drexler

For more than 10 years, Jenny Bordeaux-Black Bear has taught both the Catholic faith and the Lakota culture to hundreds of children on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. She was born and raised there herself, and now, as director of religious education at St. Francis Mission, she shares her passions with future generations.

"This is my task," she says. "When I was little, I always wanted to be a teacher. I wasn't sure what kind of teacher, but I knew I wanted to be a teacher."

Through the years, she prayed, asking God what was in store for her. She worked as a secretary at the St. Francis Mission radio station and even volunteered as a DJ. She also worked as a certifier/lactation counselor in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. But in 2013, Fr. John Hatcher, SJ, asked if she would take on the role of director of religious education for St. Francis Mission.

"I am grateful that I can teach our people and help bring people back to the Church," says Bordeaux-Black Bear, who holds a master's degree in education from Sinte Gleska University.

This year alone, she has provided religious education to 268 children at Sapa Un Jesuit Academy and three public schools. She

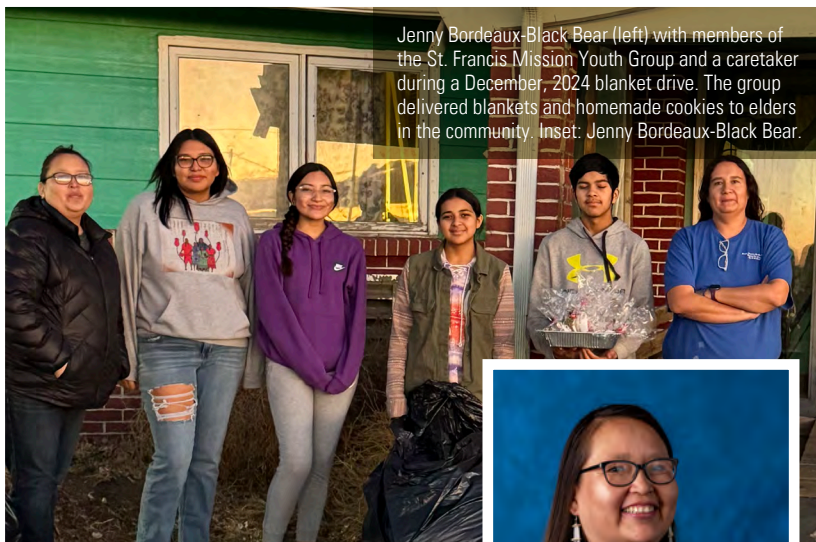
teaches all formation classes, including those for baptism, first communion and confirmation. She also coordinates a youth group for kids from 11 to 18.

She has always been active in her parish, a lifestyle she learned early from the many Jesuits and religious women in her life. Today, two priests work at St. Francis Mission—Jesuit Fathers Jim Lafontaine and Edmund Yainao—along with Deacon Ben Black Bear Jr. (who is her father-in-law), one religious sister and two lay ministers, including herself.

She credits her mother and maternal grandmother for her Catholic faith. Her grandmother, a sun dancer and pipe carrier, practiced traditional Lakota ways, faithfully attended Mass and was a strong advocate of saying the rosary. The two women showed Bordeaux-Black Bear that she did not have to be Lakota *or* Catholic. "It's okay to be both," she often reminds her students.

Circumstances on the reservation create challenges for anyone working in religious education. Many families are confronted with poverty and addiction—and many have connections to Rosebud's former boarding school, where instances of trauma and abuse turned some people away from the Church. But Bordeaux-Black Bear addresses the issue

Jenny Bordeaux-Black Bear (left) with members of the St. Francis Mission Youth Group and a caretaker during a December, 2024 blanket drive. The group delivered blankets and homemade cookies to elders in the community. Inset: Jenny Bordeaux-Black Bear.



with lessons in both Catholicism and Lakota culture, particularly how the Lakota values of respect, generosity, prayer, compassion, wisdom, humility and truthfulness can also be drawn from the Gospels.

"I think the family should be the first teacher of faith, but often we seem to be," she says. "We teach them to pray with the hope that these kids will go home to inspire their parents and family to be engaged Catholics."

Since 2013, many people at St. Francis Mission have grown in their faith, not just because of carefully planned classroom lessons or engaging youth group activities, but because of the example set by a single teacher, Jenny Bordeaux-Black Bear, a Lakota Catholic. ✠

To support the people of St. Francis Mission, visit www.sfmission.org



Tom Drexler, a graduate of Marquette University High School and Creighton University, is the regional advancement director for the Midwest Jesuits in Wisconsin and the Twin Cities.

International Jesuits in the Midwest Province

Continued from page 11

research examines the participatory role of local communities with health providers to achieve better outcomes.

Fr. Patrick Mugisho, SJ

From the Central Africa Province, Fr. Mugisho is the assistant director of advancement for the Midwest Province in Chicago, where he raises funds for the formation of Jesuits in the Democratic Republic of Congo (his home country) and Angola, and provides sacramental support at Chicago-area Catholic parishes.



Mr. Cleophus Odinga, SJ

From the Eastern Africa Province, Mr. Odinga is a Jesuit regent studying for a bachelor's and eventual master's degree in architecture at the University of Detroit Mercy. He also sets up online Mass streaming from Gesu Catholic Church in Detroit. Prior to his studies in Detroit, he was a member of the novitiate team for his province.



Fr. Samir Talati, SJ

From the Kohima Region in India, Fr. Talati recently completed a doctoral program in sociology at Loyola University Chicago and will graduate in May of 2025. His research focused on the role of education in regard to preservation of culture and language.



Fr. Gabriel Tolande, SJ

From the Central Africa Province, Fr. Tolande is on full scholarship at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., working toward a doctorate in systemic theology. He is developing an eschatology of hope for an African context drawing from the work of Fr. Karl Rahner, SJ, and Fr. Johann Baptist Metz. Prior to Notre Dame, Fr. Tolande studied theology in Rome.



Fr. George Vilezo, SJ

From the Kohima Region in India, Fr. Vilezo is studying for an Interdisciplinary Leadership doctorate at Creighton University in Omaha. He also provides pastoral/sacramental ministry at Creighton's St. Peter Faber Chapel.



Fr. Edmund Yainao, SJ

From the Kohima Region in India, Fr. Yainao is the pastor of St. Francis Mission on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. In 2024, he acquired USA citizenship and received a master's degree in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University in Omaha. For seven years prior to his work at St. Francis Mission, he served Lakota communities in pastoral ministry on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.



Marquette University Names New President



Dr. Kimo Ah Yun, Marquette University's 25th president.

After serving Marquette University (MU) in the dual roles of acting president and provost since June 10, 2024, **Dr. Kimo Ah Yun** (KEE-mo ah YOON) was unanimously elected the school's 25th president by the MU Board of Trustees.

President Ah Yun joined MU as dean of the Diederich College of Communication in 2016. Prior to that, he served as associate dean of the College of Arts and Letters at California State University, Sacramento, where he also served as chair of the department of communication studies, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, and professor of communication studies.

During his 20-year tenure there, he co-chaired the President's Committee to Build Campus Unity, which programmed and executed campuswide conversations on topics such as discrimination, identity and privilege.

President Ah Yun earned his bachelor's degree in communication studies from California State University, Sacramento, his master's degree in speech from Kansas State University, and his doctorate in communication from Michigan State University.

He replaces former MU President Dr. Michael R. Lovell, who died at age 57 on June 9, 2024, following a three-year battle with sarcoma, a rare form of cancer.

Klugs Honored by Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland

Steve and Debbie Klug have received the 2024 Magis Award from Saint Ignatius High School (SIHS) in Cleveland.

Since 1985, the award has recognized extraordinary individuals and families who are committed to SIHS and exemplify the *magis*, a Latin word meaning “more.” The Klugs’ award was presented in December 2024 at SIHS’s 40th Annual Christmas Concert featuring the Cleveland Orchestra and Chorus at Severance Hall.

“Saint Paul reminds us, ‘God loves a cheerful giver,’ and Steve and Debbie Klug are the epitome of cheerful givers,” said SIHS president Fr. Raymond P. Guiao, SJ. “Their extraordinary generosity toward Saint Ignatius High School and the Welsh Academy is only surpassed by the grace with which they give. In sharing their blessings to uplift those with less, they find true joy. Their joyful giving surely delights the Lord, and it is fitting that

we honor and celebrate their example.”

The Klugs grew up in Missouri, each from a family of seven kids. Steve attended the Jesuit-led St. Louis University High School, and Debbie attended the all-girls Incarnate Word Academy. Married for 51 years, they have three children: Kristin, Steve (SIHS ’96) and Timothy (SIHS ’01). Kristin attended the all-girls Beaumont School.

The Klugs’ support for SIHS has spanned decades, but their involvement took a new direction when they were approached to support The Welsh Academy, which was still in its feasibility study stages at the time. Father Dan Dixon, SJ, reached out to them at the request of Fr. Guiao to gauge their interest in helping establish a middle school for SIHS. They enthusiastically agreed, seeing it as a vital opportunity to strengthen the community and support young families.

Father Dixon emphasized that The Welsh



Steve and Debbie Klug with Saint Ignatius High School President Fr. Raymond P. Guiao, SJ.

Academy is about more than just academic preparation; it fosters a sense of belonging and community. The Klugs believed this was essential, knowing that the values of “Men for Others” deeply permeate SIHS, ensuring that students from The Welsh Academy would be embraced as integral members of the community.

“The Klugs are committed to social justice, which is a core part of our Grad at Grad philosophy,” Fr. Dixon says. “We encourage students to be open to growth, loving and religious. The Klugs recognize the struggles many face in our world and are dedicated to leveling the playing field.”

Lilly Awards Grant to Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies

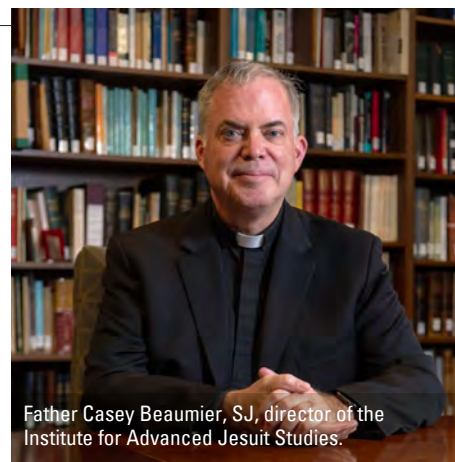
The Lilly Endowment’s National Youth and Young Adult Initiative on Faith and Service has awarded a \$10 million grant to a new program of the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies (IAJS) named AMDG, short for “Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam,” which means “For the Glory of God.”

“The AMDG program will draw from the depths of the Jesuit tradition and its vast national and global apostolic networks so that the beauty of the Catholic faith can be instilled in young people in a lasting way,” says IAJS Director Fr. Casey Beaumier, SJ, a Midwest Jesuit who is also a vice president and university secretary at Boston College, where IAJS is based. He will oversee the

program along with IAJS associate director Matt Schweitzer.

AMDG is designed to promote the renewal and expansion of faith practices in high school students, college students and parishioners through a yearlong immersion in faith exploration and service through Jesuit spirituality.

The grant will enable the IAJS to conduct a two-year pilot program with the intention of energizing the personal and communal religious practices of young adults, ages 16 to 29. Launching in July, the program will involve 625 participants representing 15 high schools, five colleges and universities, and five parishes throughout the United States.



Father Casey Beaumier, SJ, director of the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies.

AMDG will draw on the success of IAJS’s Ever to Excel program, an initiative for high school students who spend a week at Boston College learning about how to create a more meaningful life through the lens of Jesuit spirituality.

In Memoriam

To read the full obituaries of Jesuits who have gone home to God, visit us at www.jesuitsmidwest.org/In-Memoriam

We give thanks for the following Jesuits who have gone home to God.

Fr. Donald F. Rauscher, SJ

December 23, 1932 — October 8, 2024

"Don was a faithful Jesuit priest, intellectually alive and unafraid to take up new challenges in different areas of ministry, going where the need was the greatest. He enjoyed reading about and engaging others in discussions about world affairs. He was spirited, independent, and clear about what he wanted and needed."



Teacher at Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, Wis.; instructor at Marquette University; pastoral minister at Holy Rosary Mission and teacher at Red Cloud Indian School, both on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota; librarian at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and at Saint Louis University; hospital chaplain and a pastoral minister at the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Mankato, Minn., and at Creighton University; missioned to St. Camillus.

Fr. Richard Twohig, SJ

January 16, 1933 — October 21, 2024

"Dick was a devoted priest and Jesuit who was available to be missioned where the need was the greatest. He delighted in helping men and women to deepen their love for Christ and influenced countless high school students and staff in Cleveland, Detroit and Tanzania."



Physics, math teacher, chaplain and principal at University of Detroit Jesuit High

School, and rector of the Jesuit community there; teacher and principal at his alma mater, Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland; socius to two Detroit Province provincials and provincial assistant for international missions, secondary education, and health care; headmaster of Loyola High School in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; superior and director of Colombiere Center; minister in the Adult Faith Formation program at Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; missioned to Colombiere Center.

Fr. James M. Dixon, SJ

September 6, 1942 — November 28, 2024

"Dixie, as many of us called him, was a faithful friend to his relatives, Jesuit companions, former colleagues and former classmates. Some of his most attractive qualities were an endearing vulnerability, a capacity to laugh at himself, and a willingness to speak truth simply and succinctly as he saw it."



Sociology instructor at Loyola University Chicago who also worked on a sociological survey of the Society of Jesus; associate pastor at the Native Deacon Program at Immaculate Conception Church in West Bay, Ontario; theology teacher at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago; pastor of Holy Rosary Mission in South Dakota; senior associate judge of the Diocese of Rapid City, S.D.; associate pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, and St. Ignatius Church in Chicago; member of the Matrimonial Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Chicago; pastor of a family of parishes in Arizona; associate judge of the Diocese of Little Rock, Ark.; associate director and director of the Heartland Center in Hammond, Ind.; director of peace and social justice for the Diocese of Gary, Ind.; superior of the Woodlawn Jesuit Community; chaplain for the Ignatian Volunteer Corps; missioned to St. Camillus.

Fr. Anthony L. Dagelen, SJ

June 12, 1926 — December 7, 2024

"Tony was a steady man, absolutely reliable, willing to do whatever needed to be done. His more than 30 years among the Lakota gave him some understanding of what it means to be poor; and his many years serving his brother Jesuits at St. Camillus taught him something about sickness and suffering. So, he was at peace when the Lord he served so faithfully called him home."



Math, general science, religion and physics teacher at Red Cloud Indian School (now Maḥpiya Lúta), administrator and treasurer of Holy Rosary Mission, administrator and chaplain of Lourdes Mission Station and School, all on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota; missioned to St. Camillus, where he served as assistant superior until in 2011.

Fr. Patrick J. Connolly, SJ

July 27, 1935 — December 17, 2024

Professor in the School of Film and Television at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, becoming emeritus in 2016; pastoral minister in Los Angeles-area parishes and health care facilities; missioned to Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in California.



Br. James F. Heidrick, SJ

February 18, 1938 – January 8, 2025

“Brother Jim was a great Jesuit. As he rode his scooter across Creighton’s campus in his critical role as the university’s locksmith and key maker, he was well known and loved. He was a delight in community, and faithful to daily Mass.”



Studied electricity and other things in the juniorate at Jesuit College in St. Bonifacius, Minn.; worked in various areas of the

Creighton University maintenance department for almost six decades, 1964-2021, including supervising the boiler room, repairing roofs and repairing dental equipment, telephones and televisions; worked as a locksmith and came to be known on campus as the “keeper of the keys”; missioned to St. Camillus.

Fr. Albert R. Thelen, SJ

October 25, 1933 — January 17, 2025

“Bert was comfortable in his own skin and was not threatened or deterred by any challenge that came his way. He exuded confidence and expected positive



outcomes, whether he was fishing, playing cards or addressing conflicts that upset or worried people.”

English and theology teacher at Creighton Preparatory School; director of campus ministry at Marquette University; provincial, provincial assistant for both secondary education and pastoral and social ministries, as well as formation director for the Wisconsin Province; rector of the Marquette University High School and Marquette University Jesuit communities; pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Pine Ridge, S.D.; director of campus ministry and pastor at St. John’s Parish and executive director of The Cardoner Network, the vocation reflection program, at Creighton University; pastor of St. Benedict’s Parish in Omaha; ecclesial assistant for Christian Life Community of the Wisconsin Province; missioned to St. Camillus.

Evans Scholarships Come to John Carroll University

John Carroll University (JCU) has been selected as a new national partner institution for the Evans Scholars Foundation (ESF), the prestigious scholarship program overseen by the Western Golf Association (WGA).

Currently, 1,190 students nationwide attend 24 leading universities on the Evans Scholarship. The ESF’s selection makes JCU the second Jesuit university partner in the program. Marquette University (MU) has been a partner institution since 1955. JCU’s first cohort will enroll in the fall of 2026.

“We are honored to be chosen as an Evans Scholarship partner and look forward to helping these remarkable students achieve their academic and personal aspirations,” says JCU President Dr. Alan R. Miciak. “This program exemplifies our shared commitment to fostering leadership and service, and providing access to education.”

The ESF provides full housing and tuition scholarships to student golf caddies with limited financial means. Students must demonstrate strong academic achievement,



The partnership between John Carroll University (JCU) and the Evans Scholars program was announced in January at Canterbury Golf Club in Cleveland. At the meeting were (left to right): JCU Board of Directors Member Jim Meathe ('79), JCU Director of Admissions Mike Andelbradt ('18, '24G), Western Golf Association (WGA) President and CEO John Kaczowski, JCU Vice President for Enrollment & Marketing Carolyn Noll Sorg, JCU Board Chair Bill Donnelly ('83), Evans Scholars Foundation Trustees Chair Joe Desch, JCU Vice President for University Advancement Mike Scanlan ('06), and WGA Director Joe Murray.

leadership skills and exceptional character while also caddying regularly throughout high school.

An estimated 40% of Evans Scholars are first-generation college students, and 95% are employed or enrolled in graduate school within six months of graduating. Evans Scholars have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 and a 98% graduation rate.

“We are thrilled to establish this partnership with JCU,” says WGA President and CEO John Kaczowski. “JCU provides an excellent option for students who are looking for a smaller institution, and its tradition of strong academic outcomes align well with the outstanding achievements of our Evans Scholars.”



Guests enjoyed the comedic "A Jesuit Walks into a Bar" presentation by Fr. Jake Martin, SJ, at a 2022 JFAN event at Windows on the River in Cleveland.

Make Plans for Jesuit Friends & Alumni Network (JFAN) Events and Ordination

JFAN DETROIT

March 26, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., University of Detroit Mercy, Student Union Ballroom, 4001 W. McNichols Road, Detroit
Brother James J. Boynton, SJ, president of University Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy, will present the talk, "What is a Jesuit Brother Anyway?"

JFAN CINCINNATI

April 13, noon-1:30 p.m., St. Francis Xavier Parish, 611 Sycamore St., Cincinnati
The event will feature a panel discussion on the Camino de Santiago trail in Spain.

JFAN INDIANAPOLIS

May 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Location TBD, Indianapolis
Father Jake Martin, SJ, will deliver his comedic "A Jesuit Walks Into A Bar" presentation.

JFAN TOLEDO

May 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Maumee Bay Brewing Co., 27 Broadway St., Toledo
Father Jake Martin, SJ, will deliver his comedic "A Jesuit Walks Into A Bar" presentation.

JFAN DETROIT

May 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Detroit Shipping Company, 474 Peterboro St., Detroit
Father Jake Martin, SJ, will deliver his comedic "A Jesuit Walks Into A Bar" presentation.

JFAN LOYOLA CLUB CLEVELAND

July 22, Time TBD, Progressive Field, The Corner Bar, Cleveland
Friends and alumni will meet for a chat with Chris Antonetti, president of baseball operations for the Cleveland Guardians, and to cheer for the Guardians as they take on the Baltimore Orioles.

Visit www.jfanusa.org for more information and to register for events.

MIDWEST JESUITS 2025 ORDIINATION IN CHICAGO

For information about the 2025 Ordination Mass, and photos of the seven ordinands, see the back cover of this issue.



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Save the Date: Ordination Mass 2025

The Ordination Mass will be held on Saturday, June 14,
at Saint Ita Church, Chicago, Illinois.

His Eminence Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, will ordain seven Jesuits to the priesthood.

The Mass will begin at 10 a.m. CDT. For more information and a livestream of the Mass, visit

www.jesuitsmidwest.org/Ordination25



David J. Inczauskis, SJ



Matthew J. Ippel, SJ



James P. Kennedy, SJ



James M. McGivney, SJ



Jack E. McLinden, SJ



Patrick Saint-Jean, SJ



Christopher S. Williams, SJ