For Others
A Life-Changing Transplant Unites Jesuit Brothers in Faith

Also in This Issue:
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- Social Entrepreneurship: Not Just Business as Usual
- Finding God on a TV Screen
Dear Friends,

It can seem that life’s only constant is change. One season gives way to the next, while relationships and circumstances shift and grow. This is as true for the Society of Jesus as it is for the world.

The new year has brought many exciting developments for the Jesuits, both here in the Midwest and across the globe. This October, the Society of Jesus’ 36th General Congregation will elect a new Superior General to build on the good work of Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, SJ. Delegates from the Midwest are playing a crucial role in preparing for this historic meeting, reminding us that our efforts at home have ripples that extend far beyond our region.

These efforts express the heart of our Society. More than 60 ministries throughout the 12 states of our provinces allow us to serve where the need is greatest. Whether the Jesuits and our lay partners are educating students in our schools, serving the poor in our social ministries, sharing God’s mercy in our parishes, or exchanging hands of friendship with our international partners, our mission — to be men and women with and for others in imitation of Jesus Christ — holds steady in this ever-changing world.

The Chicago-Detroit and Wisconsin Provinces are faithfully advancing together toward the creation of a new province, a process that will come to final fruition in 2017. The new title and format of our magazine serve as symbols not only of our bond but also of our connection to all Jesuits going back to the time of Saint Ignatius. Our cover story about a Jesuit scholastic donating a kidney to his Jesuit brother beautifully highlights the strength of these ties (see page 10).

As you enjoy the news items and stories in this issue, you will see further signs that Saint Ignatius’s vision for the Society is alive and well. A Jesuit lawyer, a Jesuit screenwriter, and two Jesuit entrepreneurs might sound like the lead-up to a joke; in reality, it is indication of the many ways Jesuits live out their vocations, meeting people where they are and bringing God’s love wherever they go.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Brian G. Paulson, SJ
Provincial, Chicago-Detroit Province

Thomas A. Lawler, SJ
Provincial, Wisconsin Province

Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ, in Eastern Africa, with Fr. Yvon Elenga, SJ, rector of the Jesuit Institute of Theology in Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Fr. Thomas Lawler, SJ, in Lima, Peru, with Mr. Jaime Andrade, director of the Peruvian Jesuits’ Office for Development and Procurement
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News

Creighton Prep Receives Historic $10 Million Gift

Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha received a $10 million gift — the largest in the school’s history — to establish and endow Loyola Scholars: The Heider Academic & Leadership Achievement Program. Given by the Heider family, the gift will help future generations of young men to receive a quality Jesuit high school education.

Loyola Scholars is a year-round, three-year academic and leadership achievement program serving middle school males in the Omaha metro area who are academically talented, have leadership potential, and whose households have significant financial need. By nurturing gifts of the mind and spirit, Loyola Scholars strives to form young men of faith, scholarship, leadership, and service, ready for a college preparatory education.

“I am profoundly grateful to the Heiders for their remarkable generosity and philanthropic leadership,” said Fr. Tom Neitzke, SJ, president of Creighton Prep.

“Mary, Mark ’73, Scott ’81, and Cindy are truly men and women for others. Their commitment to giving back, to Jesuit education, and to building community has set a new standard not just here at Prep but far beyond.”

“My brother Mark and I had great experiences at Prep,” said Scott Heider. “We’re honored to be in a position to make a difference through the Loyola Scholars program that will welcome new students to the Prep family and introduce them to Jesuit values and ideals.”

Loyola Academy Becomes First Jesuit Fair Trade High School

By: Finian McNulty, Class of 2018

Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill., has become the 17th U.S. high school and first Jesuit high school to receive fair trade certification from Fair Trade Campaigns, a grassroots movement whose mission is to empower schools, communities, and universities to buy from companies whose products are created fairly and safely.

To achieve this distinction, Loyola created a student committee and facilitated awareness campaigns, displays, and discussions in theology classes, as well as an educational booth at the school’s Earth Day Fair. The committee educated students and teachers on how fair trade is involved in their lives and offered fair trade products in the school’s cafeteria and bookstore, such as shirts from Alta Gracia Apparel company.

The certification further advances Loyola Academy’s Jesuit motto of being “women and men for others.” Products that conform to fair trade criteria give workers protections against exploitation, as well as opportunities to break free from poverty. By choosing fair trade products, Loyola Academy helps protect the environment and create opportunities for marginalized producers.

Red Cloud Indian School Hosts Chicago Leaders Event

Red Cloud Indian School hosted a reception to raise awareness and support for its mission on November 3, 2015, at the University Club of Chicago. The gathering featured Chicago Archbishop Blase J. Cupich and Fr. George Winzenburg, SJ, president of Red Cloud.

Archbishop Cupich, who spent 12 years as bishop of Rapid City, has a special relationship with the school, a Jesuit ministry that has served the Lakota people on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation for more than 125 years.

Red Cloud, a K–12 school of 600 Lakota students, is a beacon of hope among a population of more than 30,000 Lakota. The Lakota people’s per capita income of $9,136 makes the Rez, as it is known, arguably the poorest county in the United States. Each year, Red Cloud graduates go on to top universities, including Creighton, Dartmouth, and Stanford. At the school’s heart is a curriculum of Lakota language, science, and math, complemented by spiritual formation that prepares students to earn a college degree and return home to be leaders who “give back to their community.”

“Through the generosity of benefactors from across the country, Red Cloud provides a high-quality, values-based education absolutely tuition free,” said Fr. Winzenburg.

“Our goal with this event was to thank existing benefactors and raise awareness among other Chicagoans who have a spirit of generosity and understand the power of education to help those in the greatest need.”
Xavier University and Bellarmine Chapel Dedicate Memorial to Salvadoran Martyrs

Members of the Xavier University and Bellarmine Chapel communities in Cincinnati dedicated a memorial to the Salvadoran “Martyrs of the University” on November 15, 2015. The memorial, which consists of “altar-tombs,” a plaque, wooden cross, and image of Blessed Archbishop Óscar Romero, honors the six Jesuit professors and their two lay companions who were murdered by the Salvadoran military during the country’s civil war. Following their deaths in 1989, the Xavier community conferred posthumous honorary doctoral degrees on the martyrs.

The memorial’s dedication service included a procession and reflection from Fr. Daniel Hartnett, SJ, Bellarmine Chapel’s pastor, who personally knew several of the martyrs.

“The memorial is beautiful and effective, conducive to reflection and involvement of the pilgrim viewer,” said Fr. George Traub, SJ, Jesuit scholar at Xavier’s Center for Mission and Identity. “The cross gave meaning to their lives and deaths and can give meaning to ours.”

The memorial, designed by artist Karen Heyl and made possible through a donation by the Beckman family, also includes a Peace Garden, representing a faithful response to the war, in which 75,000 innocent civilians disappeared or were murdered.

Jesuit Prepares for MAGIS and World Youth Day 2016 in Poland

Brad Held, SJ, is serving as U.S. project director for MAGIS 2016, the two-week Jesuit program leading up to World Youth Day (WYD) 2016 in Krakow, Poland.

MAGIS will gather 2,000 young adults from Jesuit schools and parishes around the world. Its 2016 theme, “To Give and Not to Count the Cost,” comes from Saint Ignatius’s Prayer for Generosity and ties into WYD’s theme: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.”

Held, who is studying theology at Boston College, is helping Jesuit parishes and the 28 U.S. Jesuit colleges and universities to send groups of students to Poland. MAGIS participants will come from a variety of countries and spend three days in Central Poland, followed by pilgrimage, service, social/cultural, and artistic experiments throughout Poland, Lithuania, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. Attendees will regroup in Czestochowa, Poland, to reflect and pray before joining thousands of pilgrims in Krakow from July 26 to 31. Pope Francis will attend the final three days of WYD.

“The young adults I’ve worked with are looking for an experience of mercy and forgiveness in their lives,” said Held. “MAGIS will be a very powerful experience of that.”


University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy Appoints New President

Father Theodore (Ted) Munz, SJ, will become the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy’s 29th president on July 1, 2016. He will succeed current president, Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ, who oversaw tremendous growth throughout his 14 years of service to the school.

A Cincinnati native and St. Xavier High School and University of Detroit graduate, Fr. Munz was the team leader for the founding of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago from 1994 to 1996. He served as president of Loyola Academy in suburban Chicago from 1996 to 2009 and later as treasurer of the Midwest Jesuits. Currently, Fr. Munz serves the Jesuit community at the University of Detroit Mercy.

“I have a special affinity for U of D Jesuit, having had my first teaching experience here in 1976,” said Fr. Munz. “We must set a high bar for our students in their formation as young men who are religious, intellectually competent, loving, open to growth, and committed to justice. We must also prepare our students to be leaders in service, particularly to those most in need. I look forward to serving our students, our community, and our mission.”

A farewell celebration will be held for Fr. Kiser at the end of the current school year.
Pope Francis personally responds to 30 questions from kids in his first children’s book, Dear Pope Francis: The Pope Answers Letters from Children Around the World. In the new book published by Jesuit-run Loyola Press, the pope answers questions about why he wears that big hat, if relatives watch over us from heaven, whether bad people have guardian angels, and more.

“One of the lines we use to describe this book is, ‘Little children have big questions,’” said Jesuit Fr. Paul Campbell, publisher of Loyola Press. “Yes, they are questions from little children, but they are very, very profound questions.”

The book came about when editors from Loyola Press traveled to Rome last May and asked the pope if he would consider writing the book. He agreed, and Loyola Press then reached out to dozens of Jesuits and collaborators around the globe, asking them to solicit questions and drawings from children. Sometimes, Loyola Press had to ship crayons, markers, and paper to children who had none. In the end, 259 children in 26 countries submitted questions.

Loyola Press selected 30 letters for the pope to answer, and Jesuit Fr. Antonio Spadaro, editor of the journal La Civiltà Cattolica, met privately with Pope Francis while he answered the letters.

The result: letters and drawings from 30 children, ages 6 to 13, posing some deep questions. “What did God do before the world was made?” one child asked. “Do you know why some parents argue with each other?” asked another.

Father Spadaro said half the time, he personally was stumped when thinking about how he would have responded. But the pope was not. To the question about what God was
doing before creation, the heart of the pope’s answer is, “Think of it this way: Before creating anything, God loved. That’s what God was doing: God was loving.”

William, a 7-year-old from Chicago, asked the pope: “Dear Pope Francis, if you could do one miracle what would it be?” Pope Francis answered: “I would heal every child.”

When asked by Mohamed, 10, from Syria, if the world will ever be beautiful again, like it was before, the pope responded by pointing out how, after he died and ascended into heaven, Jesus promised that he would return, and when he does, “everything will be new: a new heaven, a new earth.”

Because of this, Francis said, “The world now will not be like it was in the past.” The pope lamented that there are “evil people” who produce and sell arms in order to make war, people who hate, and people who are so attached to money that they will “even sell other people” to get more.

Although “this is terrible,” the pope stressed that “this suffering is destined to end, you know? It’s not forever. Suffering is lived with hope, despite everything.”

On a more lighthearted note, the pope answered questions about Sunday school, how Jesus walked on water, and what he would like to do to make the world a better place.

To celebrate the release of the book, which is also being published by Jesuit publishing houses in 11 other countries, several children whose letters appear in the book met with Pope Francis in a private audience at the Vatican on February 22. They presented him with the Italian translation of the book, as well as all of the letters collected for the project.

Meeting the pope was an incredible moment for the kids — and a little nerve-wracking. Ryan, 9, from St. Ignatius School in Canada, said, “One moment I felt excited, but then I felt like this is probably my only time I’m going to meet him, so I don’t want to blow this.”

Dear Pope Francis is available in English and Spanish. Please visit loyalapress.com/DearPopeFrancis to order a copy. *

[Sources: Vatican Radio, Wall Street Journal, Catholic News Service, Good Morning America, National Catholic Register]
A young Central American migrant living far from his family struggles to compose himself during the holiday party.

A Salvadoran immigrant shares how he clung to la Virgen de Guadalupe as a sign of hope during a dangerous, tiring journey from Central America through Mexico.

A student at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School – Twin Cities says I have a soothing voice...that puts her to sleep in class!

Life is full of encounters. My time as a Jesuit has blessed and challenged me with many. They have been discomfiting, eye-opening, and grace-filled, turning my world upside down.

On a recent trip to Saint Louis University, Steve, another Jesuit scholastic, and I discussed our philosophy studies. Steve spoke about Emmanuel Levinas, a philosopher who says the role of the other and her/his impact on another person is their “face” making a claim on us. As I look back on the encounters I have experienced as a Jesuit, I am struck by how each person made a claim on me.

I feel compassion for the young man spending Christmas away from his family for the first time. I am disturbed at the thought of someone fleeing horrific violence and oppression. I am heartened by my student’s honesty and support for my efforts to improve.

As I grow into my Jesuit vocation, I realize the primacy of human experience and God’s role in all of it.

fleeing horrific violence and oppression. I am heartened by my student’s honesty and support for my efforts to improve.

As I grow into my Jesuit vocation, I realize the primacy of human experience and God’s role in all of it. God invites, challenges, and encourages me to recognize and love the “face” making a claim on me. This claim is about encountering others in a world that constantly changes in ways both humanizing and dehumanizing.

Recognizing God’s presence in our world is important. So is responding. That is the claim. It reveals another’s authority on me, leading me to ask: Why did this happen? What do I do now?

These are questions I struggle with, questions that draw me deeper into the mystery of this Jesuit vocation to which I have responded, “Yes.” My vocation brings me to our world’s raw humanity, where I see the invitation to receive and respond to all the human encounters God gives me. I offer all I have and am, knowing that God will guide and challenge me to be of greater service with more selfless, abounding love.

Matthew Ippel, SJ, is a Jesuit scholastic of the Chicago-Detroit Province. He graduated from the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy and Georgetown University. Currently studying philosophy at Loyola University Chicago, he will move to Lima, Peru, this summer to continue his studies at Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya.
Father George Sullivan’s memories of what inspired him to enter the Jesuits are marked by humor.

“I was drawn to the Jesuits through the wonderful variety of educators at Omaha’s Creighton Prep,” he recalls. “One teacher, Jim Hoff, would go on to become a Jesuit priest and president of Xavier University in Cincinnati. Looking to pique our interest in biology, he put the biological definition of a kiss on the board. When another Jesuit saw him, Mr. Hoff asked the students if he might visit someone’s home for dinner that evening. He could not face eating in the Jesuit dining room!

“Somehow,” says Fr. Sullivan, “that was a pivotal moment in my wanting to be a Jesuit.”

Father Sullivan went on to teach at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee and Creighton Prep, where he also served as assistant to the president. After earning a law degree from Creighton University, he served as Creighton Prep’s 27th president and was appointed to Nebraska’s Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council. In 1989, Fr. Sullivan accepted a vice presidency with the Gregorian University Foundation.

“I came to know the Church universal, through clerical and lay students from all over the world,” he says. One person he met was Fr. Paolo Dall’Oglio, the Jesuit priest who restored a monastery in Syria before being kidnapped by ISIL in 2012.

We all have gifts. We need to ask God to help us continue to lead from our strengths.

In 2006, Fr. Sullivan returned to Creighton Prep as assistant to the president, also serving on the board of directors at New Cassel Retirement Center and on the Priests’ Council of the Archdiocese of Omaha. Father Sullivan now lives at St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis.

“I am buoyed by the companionship of so many Jesuits I have known and admired through the years. I do pastoral work and am taking an art class given by Janet Merkel, the mother of Fr. Thomas Merkel, SJ.

I also have caught up with some students I taught as a scholastic at Marquette High.

“My journey has been unexpected, yet not surprising. I was inspired to become a lawyer like others in my extended family; however, my use of the degree was in keeping with that of many ‘external’ Jesuits working in administration, fundraising, or pastorally representing an institution. It has been an honor to serve and to be served by so many amazing people who assist the vital institutions that support the Church in educating exceptional leaders.

“I am always brought back to 1 Corinthians 12: 4–7,” he says, “as an encouragement that we all have gifts. We need to ask God to help us continue to lead from our strengths. The grace to be a part of so many families’ faith lives from baptism to burial has brought me the most satisfaction. I did not expect this when I started. It has been grace upon grace.”

During his time with the Gregorian University Foundation, Fr. Sullivan met Pope Saint John Paul II.
The questioner was a university student discerning a Jesuit vocation. At the time, I was a Jesuit novice on “experiment,” working with immigrants and refugees in Milwaukee.

I had just explained what I was doing during my experiment – preparing and filing motions, briefs, and appeals; appearing with clients at immigration court, etc. A Jesuit doing such “non-Jesuit” work startled this discerner.

I am a lawyer. When legal professionals see the “SJ” after my name, they are often perplexed. Others I meet in more “traditional” Jesuit ministry settings often have similar reactions when they discover what I do.

So, why do I do this kind of work?

My experience as a lawyer prompted me to become a Jesuit. In college, I flirted with the idea of being a Jesuit priest. I fantasized about presiding at the Eucharist, attended “Come and See” events at the Jesuit novitiate, and met with the vocation director. Yet, after graduating, I moved on to law school. Strangely, once I was a lawyer, God intervened, rekindling my religious desire.

After graduating from law school, a few of us classmates opened a small firm. We were young and idealistic, convinced we could make things better. We took cases that put us in contact with people in need. Some of us, myself included, became “assigned counsel,” accepting referrals from public defenders and essentially representing those who could not afford a defense lawyer. Some of us took on family cases. One started defending individuals with mental illness, for whom the government sought involuntary commitment.

These cases brought us into direct contact with people, many of whom were victims of distressing circumstances, entangled in a web of suffering, anger, and despair. Many were from broken families and suffered from addictions or mental illness. Many were victims of poverty and violence. Their actions typically led to arrest, conviction, probation, and jail, creating cycles of broken families and hurting communities.

As a Jesuit lawyer, I am a sign to the broader world that law is about justice and liberation.

I once received a call from the local county jail. I did not recognize the number but was curious and answered. It was a young man asking if I would represent him. After discussing his situation, I asked how he had found out about me. “You’re always here,” he said, “and you seemed different, so I asked them who you were.”

I had been visiting the prison frequently to check on my incarcerated clients. My standard practice was to start each conversation with a simple “How are you doing?” It seemed natural. Isn’t that how “civilized” people converse? I did not see any reason to skip etiquette just because I was meeting someone in prison. But what seemed simple to me was apparently not so simple to the inmates. Like this caller, they were not used to being treated like anything more than “an offender” in the justice system.

Experiences like this prompted me to desire more than being a lawyer. I knew God was inviting me to a different way to approach my legal work. Our legal system impacts people’s lives. Unfortunately, the poor and marginalized usually suffer most in this process. The embers of my vocational desires – to be a priest and a Jesuit – were reignited, leading me to seek God more fervently and ask how I could best respond in faith, love, and service.

A major attraction to the Jesuits is that ministries are not limited in scope. In the Society, I could use skills I developed as a lawyer.

The oath of office for lawyers in Wisconsin concludes, “I will never reject, from any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed, or delay any person’s cause for lucre or malice. So help me God.”

As a lawyer, I am called to ensure God’s justice serves everyone. As a Catholic, I am called to a “preferential option” for the poor. As a Jesuit, I am called to a faith that embraces justice. As a Jesuit lawyer, I am a sign to the broader world that law is about justice and liberation. A sign to my brothers and sisters in the Church that we cannot ignore apparently secular work. A sign to my clients that they are loved by a God who will never forsake or abandon them.

This is why I do what I do.

Nate Romano, SJ, recently completed two years of service with the Creighton University School of Law clinics. He is presently studying at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley, Calif.

Nothing in this article is intended as legal advice or an effort to solicit or otherwise establish an attorney-client relationship.
A Jesuit Lawyer

By Nate Romano, SJ

Nate Romano, S.J., pronouncing first vows in the Society of Jesus on August 14, 2010
For Others

By Abby Deatherage

T

here are few things worse than surgery before Christmas — unless it allows for an amazing gift.

On December 21, Edin Barrera, SJ, 34, was admitted to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Barrera, a Jesuit scholastic studying philosophy at Loyola University Chicago, suffered from a kidney disease for years. His condition was declining, and he hoped his brother could donate a new kidney. Instead, one of his Jesuit brothers stepped forward.

The same day Barrera was admitted to Northwestern, Ryen Dwyer, SJ, 34, changed into his own hospital gown. Dwyer, also studying philosophy at Loyola Chicago, is a fellow Jesuit and therefore a brother not only to Barrera but to thousands of men around the world who comprise the Catholic Church’s largest religious order. Like any loving brother, Dwyer heard a call and responded.

Finding a new kidney is delicate: “I’m not the type to go and ask for something like that,” Barrera laughs. When Barrera’s brother was not a match, Fr. Jim Prehn, SJ, rector of the Ignatius House Jesuit Community at Loyola Chicago, announced that a Jesuit needed a kidney.

“If anyone wants to come forward,” he said, “let me know.”

Dwyer “felt a desire to respond right away” and believed God was guiding him to give his kidney. Throughout the process, Dwyer says, he prayed “that I would continue hearing God’s voice.”

God is very present to both Jesuits, in good times and in bad. When Barrera was diagnosed with his kidney disease in 2003, he felt God was near. “When I was diagnosed, of course it was difficult for me to hear. I was very young and wanted to live,” says Barrera. “But God was there.”

God remained present when Barrera, who was born in Guatemala but raised in Los Angeles, served as a hospital chaplain prior to joining the Jesuits in 2011. Helping those who were ill and struggling with diseases and caring for patients solidified his call to the priesthood.

Far from Los Angeles, Dwyer grew up in West Michigan and lived in Evanston, Ill., for many years before entering the Society of Jesus. He was attracted to the Jesuits and their unique spirituality, expressed in their desire to look for God’s voice in every moment and decision.

From the moment he volunteered to be a donor through the many tests that followed, Dwyer says he always felt an unusual peace. “I really feel on a deep level that it didn’t come from me,” he explains. This sense of peace continued, even on the day of the surgery.

“It just felt like the most natural thing in the world,” he says.

Within four hours, both surgeries were complete. Father Prehn told Dwyer, “You saved Edin’s life.” Dwyer’s simple reply: “God is good.”

Though it can sometimes take days for a kidney to function correctly, Barrera’s new kidney began working immediately. Dwyer left the hospital the next day; Barrera followed a day later, instantly feeling “stronger and healthier.” Both were home for Christmas.

“It’s a gift,” says Barrera. “Ryen gave me a part of himself.” What Dwyer probably did not anticipate was that the kidney would take on a new identity outside his body.

For fun, fellow scholastics decided to name Barrera’s new kidney “Janette.” Why Janette? No reason. But Barrera always loved the name Camila, so as a compromise, the new kidney was dubbed “Camila Janette.”

The entire experience provided a deeper meaning to Dwyer and Barrera’s faith. “This whole thing had to do with the body, with flesh, and at Christmas, we have Christ, God being born into the flesh,” says Dwyer. “I’ve been able to take the experience at a deeper level, especially with the Eucharist, thinking about our God, who became flesh for us and ultimately gave Himself up for us.”

Both men also have become advocates for organ donation. “I want people to be educated about the importance of organ donation,” Barrera says. “Ryen gave me more life. If it wasn’t for him, I’d be on dialysis. That’s not the life I want.”

“I don’t want to say how easy it is, because I understand that it’s not easy,” Dwyer adds. “But there’s no reason that anybody should die of a disease that can be treated through organ donation when people are available.”

With surgery behind them, Dwyer, Barrera, and Camila Janette are back to their studies at Loyola Chicago, proving that two Jesuit scholastics, a donated kidney, and the Holy Spirit make for an uncommon but extraordinary gift.
“It’s a gift; Ryen gave me a part of himself.”
Father Phil Cooke, SJ, never imagined he would run the University of Detroit Mercy’s Center for Social Entrepreneurship.

“Had you told me I would work in technology and business,” he says, “I would have thought you were crazy.”

Yet social entrepreneurship, a bold new frontier that uses business practices to address social issues, is the avenue through which Fr. Cooke is responding to one of his life’s most vital questions: How do we best work with, not simply for, the poor?

This question led Fr. Cooke to accompany marginalized populations in Guatemala and on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Still reflecting on how to help the poor “get the best out of themselves,” Fr. Cooke went to Berkeley, Calif., in 2012 to pursue a Licentiate of Sacred Theology. In California, he discovered Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship and, in 2014, moved to Silicon Valley to begin a fellowship with the organization.

Located on Santa Clara University’s campus, one of Miller Center’s initiatives is the Global Social Benefit Institute (GSBI) Boost. GSBI Boosts train entrepreneurs in the “blueprint stage” of developing an idea to serve the greater social good, says Pat Haines, Miller Center’s senior director of marketing.

“For three intense days, we go on location and help social entrepreneurs understand marketing, financing, business models, and impact models, and how they can take that idea and move it forward,” says Haines.

Through Miller Center, Fr. Cooke met Raul Diaz, a Nicaraguan entrepreneur living amidst tobacco factories. Determined to teach youth to sustain themselves with healthy products, Diaz and Fr. Cooke led 12 social ventures through a GSBI Boost in Nicaragua.

Haines saw how Fr. Cooke was affected by this GSBI Boost and another on Culion, a Philippine island where leprosy was eradicated only 10 years ago.

“Social entrepreneurship really
was the vehicle that allowed him to put the Jesuit philosophy of serving the poor in action,” says Haines.

Another Jesuit involved in social entrepreneurship is Fr. Nicky Santos, SJ, a marketing professor at Marquette University in Milwaukee. A native of Pune, India, Fr. Santos co-directs Marquette’s social innovation initiative with Dr. Jeanne Hossenlopp, vice president for research and innovation. He teamed with Dr. Gene Laczniak to develop the Integrative Justice Model (IJM), a normative ethical framework that presents five ethical guidelines for engagement with low-income populations.

“We thought it would be timely to develop an ethical framework that could give guidance to companies that wanted to engage low-income markets in a way that was fair, ethical, and a win-win for both,” says Fr. Santos.

He has already seen examples of companies adopting social entrepreneurship practices, including the Dannon yogurt company and Grameen Group’s efforts to fill nutritional deficits in Bangladeshi children, as well as Fr. Cooke’s work with Catholic Relief Services.

Father Santos hopes to develop an IJM assessment tool for organizations. He also worked with Kelsey Otero, Marquette’s social innovation coordinator, and a Miller Center team for a GSBI Boost in Milwaukee last November. Father Cooke and Miller Center will run a GSBI Boost in Detroit April 20 to 22, and the two Jesuits will collaborate with Miller Center and other Midwest Jesuit universities at a Marquette social entrepreneurship conference June 8 to 10.

“He’s drawing everybody interested in doing this kind of work and implementing it within their universities to address poverty within their regions,” says Fr. Cooke. “We can build our capacity together.”

Partnerships like these include laypeople with business acumen, who Fr. Cooke sees as ideal mentors to new social entrepreneurs, future GSBI Boost facilitators, and investors. Though years of experience in business and with the poor brought these Jesuits to social entrepreneurship, anyone can get involved.

“You don’t have to be an entrepreneur or businessperson,” says Fr. Cooke. “All you need is desire.”

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The Integrative Justice Model

- Authentic engagement with non-exploitative intent;
- Co-creation of value;
- Investment in future consumption without endangering the environment;
- Interest representation of all stakeholders, particularly impoverished customers; and
- Focus on long-term profit management rather than on short-term profit maximization.

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LEARN MORE ABOUT MILLER CENTER AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP at www.scu-social-entrepreneurship.org. To get involved with UDM’s Center for Social Entrepreneurship, e-mail philcookesj@gmail.com. To learn about social entrepreneurship opportunities in Milwaukee, e-mail nicholas.santos@marquette.edu.
Christine Curran is regional director of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) in Chicago. She has a background in social service leadership and administration. Christine earned a BA in philosophy and history of mathematics from Saint John’s College in Maryland and an MA in religious studies from Yale Divinity School, in addition to further graduate studies at Catholic Theological Union.

WHAT DREW YOU TO IVC?
I’ve always believed in the power of volunteers to make a difference. IVC is unique: it is geared toward retired men and women, demands a robust commitment of two full weekdays from September to June, and offers Ignatian faith formation. With many new retirees seeking creative ways to “give back,” IVC’s time has come.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES AND JOYS OF LEADING IVC CHICAGO?
IVC is about transformation — of society and ourselves. It is a joy to empower lay leaders in our Church and watch volunteers grow through their service and faith-sharing experiences. Relationships formed with students, clients, or colleagues at their service sites help volunteers to connect with concerns that might otherwise simply be items on the evening news. Through their volunteer experiences, homelessness, affordable housing, undocumented immigrants, and school closings in poorer neighborhoods take on new meaning. IVC volunteers know individuals in these circumstances.

The challenge is meeting growing needs across the Chicago metropolitan area. This year, the Illinois state budget impasse has hurt many of our service partners reaching out to the poorest and most vulnerable.

HOW DOES IVC INTEGRATE IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY?
Our program’s Jesuit roots set us apart. Ignatian volunteers gather monthly to share their faith and service experiences. These meetings include presentations, spiritual reflection, Eucharist, lunch, and book discussions. Each volunteer also meets monthly with a spiritual reflector. A highlight of our year is the community retreat at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House. We are privileged to have Fr. Jim Dixon, SJ, as our IVC chaplain.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR IVC?
IVC is growing significantly in Chicago. Currently, there are 56 volunteers serving in four counties and three dioceses across the Chicago metropolitan area. We are expanding our programming into DuPage County and offering additional service opportunities in the near west and northern suburbs.

PLEASE SHARE A STORY THAT EXEMPLIFIES THE IVC EXPERIENCE FOR VOLUNTEERS AND THOSE THEY SERVE.
Ignatian volunteers have many profound experiences of finding God in all people and things. For example, a former police chief from the northern suburbs volunteered on the South Side in predominantly black neighborhoods. It was moving for him to develop deep friendships with his black colleagues, something he never realized was possible when growing up in a segregated city.

HOW CAN PEOPLE SUPPORT AND GET INVOLVED WITH IVC?
We encourage potential volunteers to attend an “Information Session,” the first step to becoming a member. Donations make our work possible. Of course, we also always appreciate prayers for our volunteers and those they serve.
I have been a Jesuit nearly 24 years, but I am no good at the classic “Imagine yourself in a Bible story” prayer.

Maybe related, I watch a lot of TV. Cable dramas, Tina Fey/Amy Poehler-type sitcoms — I want it all.

I can justify this; I studied screenwriting at UCLA and work as a writer on a television show. But I also grew up learning TV was the “boob tube,” a way to induce a zombie-like state. Today we talk about watching TV in “binges” — not exactly a sign of healthy living.

Personally, I wonder whether TV contains reservoirs of grace waiting to be discovered. The stories we choose, characters we follow, and plot lines that affect us are not arbitrary. We watch what we watch because it speaks to our hopes, fears, and needs.

This sounds abstract, priest-y, and not at all fun, but try an experiment. Next time you watch a favorite show or movie, do the following:

1) Ask God to be with you and bring you light.
2) Enjoy the show like you always do.
3) When it is over, put the commercials on mute where they belong, and consider what stirred you. Where did you laugh or feel infuriated? Who is your favorite character? Why?

That’s it; just a couple minutes of noticing how you were affected by what you watched. You might be tempted to ask “bigger” questions, like why does that character make me so angry? Why do I wish the mom on Mom were my mom? What does this say about me?

But that is a slippery slope. This is not analysis, after all; just your favorite show. If questions come up, fine. But instead of trying to answer them yourself, leave them with God. “God, what is it about Barry Allen or Lisa Simpson that I love so much?” Trust that if there is something to know, God will show you in good time.

My experience is that doing this little by little helps you notice desires, dreams, and questions.

For example, I love The Good Wife, the CBS show about the spouse of Chicago’s district attorney, who struggles to forge her path after her husband is caught philandering. The series is about navigating impossible conflicts between a public and private life, which I can relate to as a priest.

Taking time to notice my reactions watching the show was like shining a light inside myself. It gave me a clearer sense of something I wanted to pay attention to and bring to God.

Television is entertainment, but it is also like Jesuit prayer, a practice where we put ourselves in the hands of a story, sit back, and let it surprise and nourish us. Here, too, gifts come to us, emotionally and even spiritually. We just need to pay attention.

As Ferris Bueller said, “Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”

Tonight, when your show is over, take a minute to look around. Whatever is on, you will not want to miss it.
Our pope is full of surprises — from eschewing the papal suite to washing a Muslim woman’s feet on Holy Thursday. Last year, he offered “Laudato Si,” an encyclical on climate change and the world economy. Some people find all of this “radical.” Let’s slow down and examine what he is actually doing.

Popes have commented on the economy since 1891, when Pope Leo XIII applied Catholic moral principles to social issues in “Rerum novarum.” Popes Saint John Paul II and Benedict XVI both spoke about the growing ecological crisis and are cited in “Laudato Si.” Ultimately, Francis’ encyclical continues a long-held tradition.

Our media treat climate change as a controversy with symmetrical “sides,” but Pope Francis accepts global warming as a fact, largely caused by human burning of fossil fuels and exploitative land management. He recalls our Jewish/Christian vision regarding the divine gift of creation and our human charge to care for it. He also spells out “the human roots of our ecological crisis,” specifically identifying “the technocratic paradigm.” While he celebrates the benefits of technological progress, Francis condemns greed and self-centeredness that might be caricatured this way: “I am the center of what is valuable in the universe; everything and everybody else is ‘raw material’ to be manipulated for my purposes.”

His encyclical’s fourth chapter describes integral ecology, which essentially means a study and vision that includes the human species along with other forms of life. The pope laments that a small but powerful minority wields economic power in a way that works against the vast majority of humanity in a disproportionate, unsustainable use of Earth’s resources. He affirms the global market as essential but insists that it should not take on a cancerous life of its own. He says nothing about capitalism but maintains that the global market should be focused first on meeting human needs and the integral development of all.

These observations and analyses lead Francis to urge practical efforts and discuss the roles of education and spirituality. Technical solutions, however, will be ineffective unless we learn how everything is connected and allow ourselves to be converted by our Creator’s grace.

Our fascinating and challenging pope is not wandering outside his “wheelhouse.” He is doing exactly what a pope is supposed to do: bringing traditional Catholic social teaching to bear on the issues of the day. Our call is to learn from his teaching and live out that vision as faithful citizens, serving the common good of the human family.

Fr. Dennis Hamm, SJ, is a professor emeritus of theology at Creighton University in Omaha.
To expand and strengthen education programs for refugees and the displaced in more than 45 countries around the world, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) has initiated the Mercy in Motion campaign. Launched the same day as the Jubilee Year of Mercy initiated by Pope Francis, the $35 million campaign is both a commitment to the Year of Mercy and to refugees. Each of the U.S. Jesuit provinces have been asked to assist with the campaign to generate awareness and financial support for refugees.

“Nearly 60 million people worldwide have been forced to flee their homes, constantly moving. But for people living in motion, those who cannot take possessions can bring knowledge and change their world,” said Fr. Thomas Smolich, SJ, international director of JRS and former president of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States.

Pope Francis has long urged Catholics to welcome refugees, saying the world is currently suffering from a “globalization of indifference,” ignoring those who cry out for mercy. As a precursor to the Year of Mercy and to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the founding of JRS by Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, Pope Francis welcomed refugees, staff, and friends of JRS to an audience at the Vatican on November 14, 2015, to formally commission and pledge support for the JRS Global Education Initiative.

Mercy in Motion is the first phase of the Global Education Initiative (GEI), a five-year campaign to raise the necessary financial support to improve and expand educational programs for under-served refugees. In 2015, JRS educational projects benefited more than 120,000 people. The goal of the GEI is to increase this number to 220,000 by the year 2020.

Because few refugee camps have trained educators on the ground, JRS will develop a long-term teacher-training program that will include the teaching of literacy and numeracy skills, educational psychology, up-to-date pedagogy, and inclusive education. A special emphasis of this program will be on Ignatian pedagogy — care of the whole person — and underscore the JRS values of companionship, service, and advocacy.

The JRS partnership with Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins (JC:HEM) offers additional educational opportunities to refugees in camps and urban settings who would otherwise have no opportunity for continued learning.

Through the Global Education Initiative, JRS is working to ensure that many more refugees see a future for their children and grandchildren.

One of several JRS pre-school programs at Kenya’s Kakuma refugee camp. Such classes give refugee children a head start and keep them safe while their families work to meet daily needs. (Christian Fuchs — Jesuit Refugee Service/USA)
Assignments

Formation

Br. Ralph Cordero, SJ, will join the staff of the Jesuit Novitiate of Saint Alberto Hurtado in St. Paul, Minn. He is currently in the USA Tertianship Program in Portland, Ore.

Retreat

Fr. James Shea, SJ, is spending the semester on staff at the Jesuit Retreat House-Demontreville in Lake Elmo, Minn. In the fall, he will join the staff at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago.

Jesuit Health Care

Fr. James Riley, SJ, has joined the staff at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich., where he will assist Fr. John Libens, SJ, the superior. Fr. Riley previously served as assistant to the president at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy.

Jesuit Community

Fr. Charles Hofmann, SJ, has been missioned to pray for the Society of Jesus at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich. He previously served in pastoral ministry and as a therapist at Xavier University in Cincinnati.

In Memoriam

The Midwest Jesuits serve a 12-state region with more than 30 educational institutions, 13 parishes, 10 retreat centers, seven international relationships, and a variety of formation, mission, and social justice initiatives.

Fr. Robert I. Grib (PAT and CDT)

March 31, 1940, to January 25, 2016

When Bob concluded his 31-year career in India, many acknowledged he probably spoke Hindi better than those native to the country!

Education, training, counseling, spiritual and neuro-linguistic programming, and ministry in India; pastoral ministry in parishes throughout Chicago; teaching at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis; retreat ministry at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, Ill.
In Memoriam

Fr. Gerard L. Stockhausen (WIS)
August 27, 1949, to January 12, 2016
Gerry was an exceptionally talented and respected Jesuit priest, scholar, leader, teacher, and friend. Among his interests and hobbies were his love of the outdoors and his love of singing and playing guitar.

President, vice president for Academic Affairs, and provost of the University of Detroit Mercy; executive secretary to the president and director of planning for the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States; economics professor at Creighton University; member of the Jesuit Committee on Investment Responsibility

Fr. Harold R. Meirose (CDT)
July 6, 1929, to December 30, 2015
Throughout his ministry, Harry had a particular affinity for people in difficult circumstances. He gave extra time and care to students with personal or family struggles and maintained correspondence with prisoners, including several on death row.

Teacher at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago, and Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis; pastoral work at Saint Xavier Church in Cincinnati and Our Lady of the Gardens in Chicago; Chicago Province assistant for social ministries; campus minister at Xavier University; assistant to the director and pastoral ministry at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Mich.

Fr. William M. Bichl (CDT)
July 8, 1931, to December 19, 2015
John Carroll alumni regularly asked Bill to celebrate their weddings and the baptisms of their children. He touched the lives of many students, faculty, staff, and parishioners at Gesu over his 45 years in University Heights.

Professor and administrator at John Carroll University; Detroit Province co-assistant for higher education; sacramental ministry at Church of the Gesu in University Heights, Ohio

Fr. Robert L. Dolan (CDT and PER)
June 30, 1944, to December 17, 2015
Bob was known among the Peruvian Jesuits as one who was available for any assignment he was asked to do. This open disposition led him to work with those in the greatest need. On several occasions, his work brought him face-to-face with members of the Shining Path, a Maoist guerrilla insurgent organization.

Pastoral and university youth ministry, adult education, Christian Life Community and social apostolate work, and counseling throughout Peru

Fr. Robert E. Finn (CDT)
November 10, 1936, to December 9, 2015
Bob was notably selfless in his care for patients at Cook County Hospital. He was ready with comfort and support to distraught families in the emergency room, and he supported patients of all religious faiths during their hospital stay.

Pastoral ministry at St. Ignatius Church and St. Fidelis Church in Chicago; chaplain at Cook County Hospital; publications and press relations for the Chicago Province office; adult education in programs for the working poor at the Midwest Workers Association

Fr. John P. Schlegel (WIS)
July 30, 1943, to November 15, 2015
Throughout his life, diversity and inclusiveness were hallmarks of John’s ministry. Whether at a university or parish, his preaching helped people connect scripture to current events and their own spiritual lives.

President of Creighton University and University of San Francisco; president and publisher of America magazine; pastor at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee; administrator at John Carroll University, Marquette University, and Rockhurst University

CDT = Chicago-Detroit Province | WIS = Wisconsin Province | PAT = Patna Province | PER = Peru Province
My muscles tensed. My Irish temper flared. Someone had vandalized our “Homeless Jesus” statue. Then the unexpected happened.

The statue arrived last year when an anonymous donor paid to install it in front of Ss. Peter & Paul Jesuit Church in downtown Detroit. It was dedicated the week after I began my assignment as the associate pastor and director of the Pope Francis Center, the parish’s homeless ministry.

After Mass, our bishop and more than 200 people stood in front of the church as I offered a blessing of dedication. When the funeral pall covering the statue was lifted, there was a reverent silence. Before us was a person lying on a public bench, his head and body covered, concealing his identity. The crucifixion wounds on his exposed feet disclosed who he was and what he wants us to know. Jesus’ body was draped in clothing and blankets, so many that I first wondered if there was another body under them. Tucked in his mouth was a piece of bread. Food particles, an empty water bottle, used napkins, and a coffee stirrer lay on the cement, while a cup of coffee sat above his head on the bench.

It is a funny thing, that fine line between insanity and sainthood. Often, I find in my ministry with the homeless that those who struggle most to hold on to reality are capable of profound insights.

The Christological symbols were undeniable: bread broken and shared, placed in Jesus’ mouth; leftover food and drink on the ground beneath him, remnants of a feast — perhaps a wedding banquet; the ground still wet from water poured out. At his head, a cup of coffee waited in expectation of his rising. Unable to put on socks to warm his exposed feet, they were draped over them, like a burial shroud covering his wounds. Neatly folded within the clothing and blankets were coins, the widow’s mite given from her need rather than her surplus.

It was a profound mingling of madness and mysticism, of child’s play and divine command. It was at once reality and insanity, preposterous and prophetic. These were offerings paying homage to our King. “Lord, when did we see you cold and hungry?”

And the wounded soul responded.

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2016 International Pilgrimages

A pilgrimage is a journey far from the security of home, leading travelers in search of deeper spiritual conversion. It is a retreat, an extraordinary learning opportunity in the classroom of life, and a chance to have exhilarating fun.

The Midwest Jesuits are offering two pilgrimage experiences this summer, as well as other opportunities in the future. Pilgrims will meet new people, visit Jesuit works in other parts of the world, and encounter the wonder of God’s creation.

Eastern Africa
June 10–24, 2016

Peru
June 17–27, 2016

Future Pilgrimage Opportunities: Tanzania, Uganda, Spain, Rome (Walk Saint Ignatius’s Footsteps), Northern India (Patna, Delhi, and/or Kohima and Nepal)

Space is limited. For more information on participating in a pilgrimage, contact Jeff Smart at (773) 975-6920 or jsmart@jesuits.org.

The Circle of Companions

Fr. Patrick Fairbanks, SJ
Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ
Fr. Timothy Lannon, SJ

Novice | Scholastic | Regent | Priest | Brother | President | Chaplain | Pastor | Professor | Doctor

What does it mean to be a Jesuit?

Follow us this year as we tell the stories of Jesuits in various stages of their lives and ministries. Watch your mailbox for the first edition of The Circle of Companions to read stories of Jesuit Frs. Patrick Fairbanks, Karl Kiser, and Timothy Lannon. Discover how your support enables them to go where God calls them.
A New Publication of the Midwest Jesuits

Our new Jesuits magazine continues a long tradition of sharing the stories and works of the Chicago-Detroit and Wisconsin Provinces. As we come together to form a new province, we remain grateful for the partners and companions who make our mission possible.