SOCIETY OF JESUS
CELEBRATING

Jubilarians

2017
In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

MATTHEW 5:16
Dear brothers,

Peace of Christ!

As we look toward the exciting future of a new province here at home and a new era for the Society of Jesus around the world, we give thanks for our jubilarians of 2017, especially our Golden Jubilarians. The generous and faith-filled lives of service they have offered and continue to offer the Church and the Society are an inspiration to all of us.

Though these men entered our least Society at different times, in different places, and under different circumstances, they share a common vocation of service to the Church and world. They never could have imagined the many ways the Lord would call on them to offer their talents and gifts, but we are grateful that God did call them. Moreover, we thank them for their generosity and courage in answering that call.

This booklet contains a brief look at the many ways these jubilarians have encountered God’s love and shared that love with all those they served along the way.

As we gratefully remember them and all who have served the Chicago, Detroit, and Wisconsin Provinces, we pray that their example encourages each of us to give ourselves more completely to the mission of the Society of Jesus, that together in our new USA Midwest Province, we may love and serve the Church for the Greater Glory of God.

In Christ,

Thomas A. Lawler, SJ
Provincial
Wisconsin Province

Brian G. Paulson, SJ
Provincial
Chicago-Detroit Province
Harry J. Gensler, SJ

BORN: May 5, 1945

ENTERED: August 20, 1967

ORDAINED: June 8, 1974

50 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS
“Treat others as you want to be treated”

I became a Golden Rule (GR) fanatic on December 6, 1968, when I was a humble Jesuit novice. A talk by the Oxford philosopher R.M. Hare hooked me on GR for life. GR is subtle enough to be interesting and simple enough to permit a KITA acronym for using it wisely:

**KNOW:** “How would my action affect others?”

**IMAGINE:** “What would it be like to have this done to me in the same situation?”

**TEST for Consistency:** “Am I willing that if I were in the same situation then this be done to me?”

**ACT** toward others only as you’re willing to be treated in the same situation.

After writing a GR thesis and dissertation — as well as 16 books that deal in part with GR — my interest remains strong. This week, I taught Loyola classes on applying GR to racism, global warming, and moral education. I met with a Jamaican scholastic whose master’s paper is on GR and immigration, and I responded to an enthusiastic email on GR from an Iraqi who’s translating my *Ethics and Religion* book into Arabic. “Faith and justice” is a Jesuit slogan; since GR is important in the world’s religions (Matthew 7:12 uses it to sum up “the law and the prophets”) and is very useful for thinking about justice, I see it as a principle of interfaith justice.

See [www.harryhiker.com/gr](http://www.harryhiker.com/gr) for more information.
William P. Leahy, SJ

BORN: July 16, 1948
ENTERED: September 1, 1967
ORDAINED: June 9, 1978

50 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS
Gratitude and Mission

I entered the Society of Jesus on September 1, 1967, at St. Bonifacius, Minn., without ever having seen the place. I felt called to be a Jesuit, and I am filled with gratitude when I consider how that beginning sense of vocation has been nurtured and shaped through the years by so many people, events, and experiences.

It is because of the grace of God that I am a Jesuit priest today, not because I earned or merited such a vocation. Some of my earliest memories are about being a priest, but I did not think about becoming a Jesuit until my freshman year at Creighton. After much conversation with my parents and several priests as well as prayer, I decided to apply to the Society when I was 19, because I wanted to do so, because I believed God was drawing me to it. Nothing in the years since has ever made me want to change my mind; and though there have been disappointments, I love being a Jesuit and a priest.

My life in the Society has been blessed with great friendships, particularly with Jesuits who are peers but also with those who are younger and older than I am. They have helped me grow not only in knowledge and appreciation of God, myself, and others but also in what it means to be a Jesuit and a priest. Their lives remind me of commitment to vision, mission, and companionship.

Sometimes I ask how it is that someone who grew up on a farm in Imogene, Iowa, ends up a Jesuit priest and why so many good things have happened to me. I do not have an answer, but a response that somewhat satisfies is the following passage from a letter that St. John of the Cross wrote to a Carmelite nun in the late 16th century: “Men do not do these things but God, who knows what is suitable for us and arranges things for our good. Think nothing else but that God ordains all.”
David G. Matzko, SJ

BORN: May 14, 1949

ENTERED: September 1, 1967

ORDAINED: June 8, 1979

YEARS IN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS: 50
Gentle Love

It is hard to think about all the 50 years I lived in the Society. It is not hard, however, to remember my first day in the novitiate. It was a shock, and I ended the day telling myself it must get better.

What has been better is each of the extraordinary people I have met: my classmates and my teachers as well as the things I studied and the challenges I worked through. What was better was the gentle love of God. I have felt much like Elijah, who stood at the mouth of the cave before the destructive wind, earthquake, and all-consuming fire and discovered that God was in the silence of the soft, gentle breeze. What was better was the knowledge of how gentle God has cared for me the last 50 years and loved me more than I could even hope for.

What was better was my ministry with Native Americans. This was a ministry I had never thought about, nor would I have asked for it. I did not have to ask; the provincial did. In almost three decades of this ministry, I remain grateful for the opportunity. What I have discovered in my years of ministry is that I have received so much more from the people I have ministered to than I feel like I have given. So have I been “gentled” by the soft breeze of the Lord. Sometimes it is not about how we change someone or a people; it is about how they have changed us.

An Arapaho medicine man once invited me to a healing ceremony. In the prayer near the end of the evening, believing in the power of naming, he prayed, “I thank God for the Jesuits. They came and gave us a name for God.” I thank God for the Jesuits, because they gave me a name for God.
James M. McCann, SJ

BORN: February 14, 1949
ENTERED: August 21, 1967
ORDAINED: December 8, 1979

50 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS
Joy and Astonishment

Fifty years of sharing in Jesuit life have brought great joy. At the same time, these years have unfailingly produced astonishment — astonishment and wonder about God at work in the world in so many ways, in so many peoples.

Jubilee brings to mind all who are with us now or who have gone before us: family and friends to be sure, Jesuits of countless generations, teachers, benefactors, named and unnamed saints, whose care and dedication have nurtured our service. Jubilee also reminds us of the inspiration of those who are younger: their talent, imagination, determination, and generosity.

Jesuit joy is based on the joy of the Gospel message, on the growing (over a lifetime) awareness that God’s Spirit of Love is without limits. That joy also comes from belonging to a fellowship of companions of Jesus and belonging to what St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Chicago calls “God’s people in extraordinary variety,” the Church.

Jesuit ministry — whatever the mission, whatever the setting, the city, the country, the continent, the language — is a collaborative work in a world that longs to hear the Gospel. We go out together into that world with hearts open and compassionate, attuned to those in need, respecting the dignity of one and all, ready to listen to every story. Out in that world we discover that the same God who gave us life offers to everyone mercy, reconciliation, and new and everlasting life.

Discerning how to go about all of this is not always clear. Life brings many zigzags with all kinds of surprises. We can count on God’s providence, on the insights of Ignatius, on our support of one another, to find the way. At every twist and turn we can only be amazed.

Jubilee is a celebration for all of us. Let us rejoice and give thanks, and let us always remember that God still has many a surprise in store.
J. Thomas McClain, SJ

50 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

BORN: August 28, 1949

ENTERED: August 20, 1967

ORDAINED: June 4, 1977
Availability

God “hooked” me with an attraction to the ministry of Jesuits working in secondary education: I entered the Society of Jesus fully expecting to be a high school teacher for my whole apostolic life. It turned out that I was a full-time teacher only two years of these 50 in the Society. Along the way, the Society has asked me to serve in roles to which I never felt called (parish ministry and finance) and several for which I expressed great disdain (president/fundraising)! To my surprise, God blessed each of these new missions in ways for which I will always be grateful. I learned that the “act” (my gifts) plays in many different venues! Availability has been one of the greatest blessings of my Jesuit life.
Richard H. McGurn, SJ

BORN: January 22, 1944

ENTERED: August 21, 1967

ORDAINED: April 12, 1975

50 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS
Acceptance

My being “accepted” into the Society came about in a curious way. At age 22, I inquired about joining an unnamed archdiocese that serves a large and windy city and was told: “You’re too old! You didn’t attend the minor seminary! We can’t just send you to the major seminary! Try the Sacred Heart Fathers in Wisconsin — they run a seminary for ‘late vocations!’” Geez.

I grew up in Oak Park, when our provincial house was still there. So, I took myself over there to inquire. Now, in all my growing up years, we never saw anyone come in or go out of this rather creepy looking house. And as I went up the walk, I had an odd premonition that the door would creak as it opened. And so it did! But I was warmly greeted by Br. Freddy Frowerk, SJ. Not many days later, I met one of my well-loved mentors, Fr. Paul Clifford, SJ, who arranged for me to teach at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Ill., while my application was being considered. And shortly after that, I was accepted into the Society.

From those two men and many more Jesuits like them, I have experienced what “acceptance” means. And from them I’ve learned, during my years in parish and retreat ministry, how important it is to extend acceptance to the many people who come to us seeking help and consolation — people who often come up our walk anxiously and knock on our door, hoping to be well received.
Robert F. O’Connor, SJ

BORN: September 7, 1949
ORDAINED: June 8, 1979
ENTERED: September 1, 1967

50 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS
Me Still Rowing…

. . . I am rowing, I am rowing
though the oarlocks stick and are rusty
and the sea blinks and rolls
like a worried eyeball,
but I am rowing, I am rowing,
though the wind pushes me back
and I know that that island will not be perfect,
it will have the flaws of life,
the absurdities of the dinner table,
but there will be a door
and I will open it
and I will get rid of the rat inside of me,
the gnawing pestilential rat.
God will take it with his two hands
and embrace it . . .
This story ends with me still rowing.

Rowing By Anne Sexton

When I felt called to the Society of Jesus on December 7, 1966, it was as if I heard God say, “This is where you belong.” I didn’t know it at the time, but God set me firmly in the paradox of belonging and not-belonging. I belong. The Society accepted me. Fellow novices, scholastics, priests, and the people of God accepted me. And many yet do. What a blessing and joy!

I don’t belong. I have always lived on the outside of groups or persons to whom I’ve wanted to belong. Not enough. Neither I myself nor they are enough. Not God. I’m blessed with this Irish existentialism. Truthfully, it’s all blessing and burden, terrible pit and gold mine.

Indeed, I am a wounded sinner, beloved and sent on mission. The grace that is at work in my life, still, is the grace from which I am learning to minister more authentically. God be praised!
Bradley M. Schaeffer, SJ

BORN: July 21, 1949

ENTERED: August 21, 1967

ORDAINED: June 11, 1977

50 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS
Jesus and Jesuits

During my long retreat in Milford, I remember saying to the Lord, “This is where I give you my heart.” Throughout these years of grace, it has been my goal to keep Jesus at the center of my life and to continue giving Him that heart so He may do with it whatever He desires. Sinner yet called, I have tried my best to find Him in every mission. It has been an amazing journey.

Among the saints, Peter has been my hero; his was my vow name. His personality matched my own in his speaking before thinking, missing the point, or needing to be admonished and forgiven, while also coming to a genuine awareness of who Jesus was and what He was about. He both sinned and loved greatly, as have I. Two of my favorite Scripture passages are his words to Jesus: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life”; and “You know all things; you know that I love you.” I pray these passages often and trust they have guided me, at least when I’m at my best.

Though I always saw myself as a high school guy, superiors thought otherwise, and I’ve given most of my apostolic life to serving the Society directly. None of us joins the Society to take care of it, but some must. It has been a unique and graced privilege to do so. In a wide variety of settings, I’ve been asked to care for Ours and for our mission. In each of those missions, I have come to truly love my brothers and what we are about. What a privilege to listen to how God works in and with them; what a privilege to accompany and mission them; what a privilege to serve the universal Society.

I hope I have given my heart to Jesus and to Jesuits. So may it be always.
SOCIETY OF JESUS

Donald M. Serva, SJ

50 YEARS IN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

BORN:       ORDAINED:
February 12, 1949       June 24, 1978

ENTERED:
August 20, 1967
Bridge Building

In my vow paper of 1969, I used the phrase “bridge-builder” to describe my vocation and aspirations as a Jesuit. Then, I primarily had in mind my interest in science and my life lived in faith. I thought building bridges between faith and science would be my contribution to the Jesuit enterprise of putting all things under Christ.

Over the past 50 years, I have built bridges different from my original intention. I did regency in Kathmandu, Nepal. Naturally, one thinks of bridges between East and West. Indeed, I was very much formed by an appreciation of different cultures and peoples. I also deeply realized the true international character of the Society as our Jesuit community welcomed more than 250 visitors from all over the world each year.

Returning to the United States in 1975, I completed theology and special studies and began teaching high school in Cleveland. There, I enjoyed building contacts with families and students, many of which have lasted a lifetime.

In 1996, I joined the faculty of (later) Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia and in a few years taught a course on faith and science, besides my regular biology courses and laboratories. I had returned to my first aspiration but built other interdisciplinary bridges to teaching colleagues and professors. For more than 20 years, I have been in Wheeling, participating in a Maryland Province work to the poor and underserved in Appalachia, united alongside Jesuits from many different provinces.

Although I am approaching the end of my college teaching career, I am expecting to build another bridge to a third career in the near future. I look forward to discerning what it might be.
Gary R. Wright, SJ

SOCIETY OF JESUS

BORN: December 17, 1949
ENTERED: August 20, 1967
ORDAINED: June 28, 1980

YEARS IN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS: 50
Returning Love

When I entered the Jesuits 50 years ago, I expected to join the Society’s work in education but ended up spending my Jesuit life in spiritual and pastoral ministries. I have always had many faith-filled traveling companions — parishioners, novices, Jesuit Volunteers, colleagues, Jesuit housemates. Always and everywhere, I have been overwhelmed by the love of those around me. They have accepted and encouraged me, given me endless gifts both material and spiritual, and befriended me. They patiently put up with my defects and called forth whatever gifts God has given me. Some went further and loved me intimately and deeply.

The people I was supposedly ministering to have ministered to me, providing my human and spiritual formation, teaching me to give and receive love. In their commitments, generosity and self-sacrifice, they have challenged me to “go and do likewise.”

It has been all love, all the time, flowing toward me.

I am flooded, overwhelmed, so that I can’t begin to comprehend or express my gratitude. I want to give love equally in return, but it’s impossible. There’s too much, and I’m too incapable! This is my 50-year experience of God: sending me wave after wave of love and care and devotion, even in the solitude of my annual retreat. I can never return to others, nor to the Lord, all the love poured out on me.

All I can do is keep riding these waves of love, which I trust will continue to transform me, guarded and resistant though I am, into love itself, until they return me home to the Love that gave me birth. Thank you, everyone who has journeyed with me and loved me.
Thank you, O God, Most Holy Trinity.

How can I make a return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?

I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

Ps 116:12–13
James E. Chambers, SJ (NEP)
BORN: April 17, 1924
ENTERED: August 8, 1942
ORDAINED: June 15, 1955

Kenneth J. Herian, SJ
BORN: February 20, 1924
ENTERED: September 1, 1942
ORDAINED: June 16, 1955

Frank M. Oppenheim, SJ
BORN: May 18, 1925
ENTERED: September 1, 1942
ORDAINED: June 15, 1955

Edward S. Sthokal, SJ
BORN: January 20, 1922
ENTERED: February 4, 1942
ORDAINED: June 16, 1954
Thomas S. Acker, SJ
BORN: July 21, 1929
ENTERED: August 21, 1947
ORDAINED: June 13, 1963

Thomas F. Ankenbrandt, SJ
BORN: January 6, 1930
ENTERED: August 21, 1947
ORDAINED: June 12, 1960

James J. Creighton, SJ
BORN: April 19, 1930
ENTERED: August 21, 1947
ORDAINED: June 12, 1960

Daniel L. Flaherty, SJ
BORN: July 29, 1929
ENTERED: August 21, 1947
ORDAINED: June 12, 1960
Thomas S. McShane, SJ
**Born:** July 22, 1929  
**Entered:** August 8, 1947  
**Ordained:** June 15, 1960

Walter J. Stohrer, SJ
**Born:** February 13, 1930  
**Entered:** August 8, 1947  
**Ordained:** July 26, 1960

Bernard J. Streicher, SJ
**Born:** November 11, 1928  
**Entered:** August 21, 1947  
**Ordained:** June 12, 1960
Dennis P. Ahern, SJ  
**Born:** October 14, 1938  
**Entered:** August 8, 1957  
**Ordained:** June 11, 1970

James C.L. Arimond, SJ  
**Born:** April 12, 1939  
**Entered:** August 17, 1957  
**Ordained:** June 11, 1970

Lawrence H. Biondi, SJ  
**Born:** December 15, 1938  
**Entered:** September 1, 1957  
**Ordained:** June 11, 1970

Walter E. Boehme, SJ  
**Born:** July 27, 1938  
**Entered:** August 17, 1957  
**Ordained:** June 10, 1970

John P. Coakley, SJ  
**Born:** July 21, 1940  
**Entered:** August 8, 1957  
**Ordained:** June 11, 1970

Joseph P. Daoust, SJ  
**Born:** August 24, 1939  
**Entered:** July 30, 1957  
**Ordained:** May 31, 1969

Denis A. Dirscherl, SJ  
**Born:** May 10, 1934  
**Entered:** August 8, 1957  
**Ordained:** June 8, 1967

Peter J. Fennessy, SJ  
**Born:** July 7, 1940  
**Entered:** August 14, 1957  
**Ordained:** June 6, 1970
Charles A. Hofmann, SJ  
**Born:** March 22, 1933  
**Entered:** August 8, 1957  
**Ordained:** June 9, 1966

John L. Kieffer, SJ  
**Born:** January 27, 1935  
**Entered:** August 8, 1957  
**Ordained:** June 13, 1968

John D. Laurance, SJ  
**Born:** July 5, 1938  
**Entered:** August 25, 1957  
**Ordained:** June 5, 1970

Thomas L. Schubeck, SJ  
**Born:** March 21, 1936  
**Entered:** August 8, 1957  
**Ordained:** June 12, 1968

Joseph B. Kappes, SJ  
**Born:** May 24, 1939  
**Entered:** September 1, 1957  
**Ordained:** October 29, 1977

William S. Kurz, SJ  
**Born:** November 9, 1939  
**Entered:** August 25, 1957  
**Ordained:** June 10, 1970

John F. Libens, SJ  
**Born:** September 28, 1939  
**Entered:** August 14, 1957  
**Ordained:** June 6, 1970

John M. Staudenmaier, SJ  
**Born:** December 10, 1939  
**Entered:** August 25, 1957  
**Ordained:** May 25, 1970
James J. Strzok, SJ
BORN: November 11, 1939
ENTERED: August 25, 1957
ORDAINED: June 10, 1970

John L. Treloar, SJ
BORN: October 17, 1936
ENTERED: August 17, 1957
ORDAINED: May 30, 1970

Thomas P. Sweetser, SJ
BORN: April 11, 1939
ENTERED: August 17, 1957
ORDAINED: June 5, 1970

Robert A. Wild, SJ
BORN: March 30, 1940
ENTERED: September 1, 1957
ORDAINED: June 11, 1970
Bernard F. McAniff, SJ

**BORN:** December 17, 1954
**ENTERED:** August 29, 1992
**ORDAINED:** June 14, 2003

James P. McDermott, SJ

**BORN:** August 25, 1969
**ENTERED:** August 22, 1992
**ORDAINED:** June 6, 2003

David V. Meconi, SJ

**BORN:** July 25, 1965
**ENTERED:** August 29, 1992
**ORDAINED:** June 14, 2003

Gregory J. O’Meara, SJ

**BORN:** October 2, 1959
**ENTERED:** August 22, 1992
**ORDAINED:** June 7, 2002

John S. Thiede, SJ

**BORN:** December 14, 1969
**ENTERED:** August 22, 1992
**ORDAINED:** June 6, 2003
60 YEARS IN THE PRIESTHOOD

Raymond C. Baumhart, SJ
BORN: December 22, 1923
ENTERED: September 1, 1946
ORDAINED: June 19, 1957

Matthew E. Creighton, SJ
BORN: February 8, 1927
ENTERED: August 20, 1944
ORDAINED: June 19, 1957

James E. O'Reilly, SJ
BORN: June 12, 1926
ENTERED: June 10, 1944
ORDAINED: June 19, 1957

Francis A. Prokes, SJ
BORN: February 3, 1923
ENTERED: August 15, 1948
ORDAINED: June 12, 1957
Francis E. Canfield, SJ  
**BORN:** February 1, 1936  
**ENTERED:** September 1, 1954  
**ORDAINED:** June 14, 1967

M. Joseph Casey, SJ  
**BORN:** July 6, 1936  
**ENTERED:** August 8, 1954  
**ORDAINED:** June 8, 1967

Frederick J. Deters, SJ  
**BORN:** February 11, 1937  
**ENTERED:** September 1, 1954  
**ORDAINED:** June 8, 1967

Norman J. Dickson, SJ  
**BORN:** December 4, 1936  
**ENTERED:** September 1, 1954  
**ORDAINED:** July 29, 1967

Denis A. Dirscherl, SJ  
**BORN:** May 10, 1934  
**ENTERED:** August 8, 1957  
**ORDAINED:** June 8, 1967

John P. Foley, SJ  
**BORN:** December 14, 1935  
**ENTERED:** August 8, 1954  
**ORDAINED:** September 9, 1967

Albert J. Fritsch, SJ  
**BORN:** September 30, 1933  
**ENTERED:** September 1, 1956  
**ORDAINED:** June 8, 1967

William F. Gerut, SJ  
**BORN:** January 6, 1937  
**ENTERED:** August 8, 1954  
**ORDAINED:** June 7, 1967
Theodore M. Kalamaja, SJ
Born: February 25, 1935
Entered: August 17, 1953
Ordained: May 30, 1967

George A. Lane, SJ
Born: July 29, 1934
Entered: August 8, 1954
Ordained: June 8, 1967

Patrick L. Murphy, SJ
Born: July 10, 1932
Entered: August 17, 1954
Ordained: June 7, 1967

Theodore C. Ross, SJ
Born: December 11, 1934
Entered: August 8, 1954
Ordained: June 14, 1967

Thomas J. Shanahan, SJ
Born: June 10, 1936
Entered: August 17, 1954
Ordained: June 7, 1967

Charles L. Stang, SJ
Born: January 1, 1937
Entered: August 17, 1954
Ordained: June 7, 1967

George W. Traub, SJ
Born: January 30, 1936
Entered: September 1, 1954
Ordained: June 8, 1967

James B. Warosh, SJ
Born: September 16, 1934
Entered: August 17, 1954
Ordained: June 7, 1967
Prayer of St. Ignatius (Suscipe)

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all I have and call my own.

You have given all to me.

To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will.

Give me only your love and grace, that is enough for me.

— St. Ignatius of Loyola
Mark W. Andrews, SJ  
**Born:** September 29, 1952  
**Entered:** September 12, 1981  
**Ordained:** June 13, 1992

James P. Flaherty, SJ  
**Born:** January 1, 1956  
**Entered:** August 11, 1979  
**Ordained:** June 12, 1992

José A. Mesa, SJ (COL)  
**Born:** October 25, 1960  
**Entered:** January 30, 1979  
**Ordained:** September 12, 1992

Brian G. Paulson, SJ  
**Born:** March 10, 1960  
**Entered:** September 12, 1981  
**Ordained:** June 13, 1992

Thomas J. Pipp, SJ  
**Born:** December 8, 1956  
**Entered:** September 12, 1981  
**Ordained:** June 13, 1992

Stephen R. Schloesser, SJ  
**Born:** August 15, 1958  
**Entered:** August 17, 1980  
**Ordained:** June 12, 1992

David E. Watson, SJ  
**Born:** August 15, 1956  
**Entered:** September 6, 1980  
**Ordained:** June 13, 1992
SOCIETY OF JESUS

AD MAIOREM DEI GLORIAM

JesuitsMidwest.org