Dear Brothers,

Peace of Christ!

On behalf of the USA Midwest Province, I would like to thank and congratulate the Jubilarians of 2018, especially our Golden Jubilarians. Their generous and faith-filled lives of service have been sources of inspiration for their fellow Jesuits and to the Church.

This book provides a glimpse at the 65 Midwest Jesuits celebrating anniversaries in 2018, including reflections from the four men who have spent 50 years in service of the Society of Jesus. As you read these passages, I invite you to reflect on your own years of service and on the paths God has put before you.

In these pages, you also will see a few images featuring our newest senior Jesuit healthcare community. More than a third of the Jesuits celebrating anniversaries this year live in senior Jesuit healthcare communities, where they still provide vital service to the Society. This new community was made possible by the generosity of our benefactors. But also by those of you who have aided in the With Others, For Others, campaign. I thank you for that, and encourage you in these efforts.

I hope this book acts as a reminder that, from our first year in the Society until our last, we are always active in our ministry and that we in the Midwest Province have much to celebrate. I thank these Jubilarians for their service to the Society, and I look forward to their many more years working for the Greater Glory of God.

In Christ,

Brian G. Paulson, SJ
Provincial
Midwest Province
Happy and Grateful

As I look back on my 50 years as a Jesuit, my overriding sense is that I am incredibly happy and grateful. I am happy and grateful that God has been interested in me, has loved me, and has been faithful to me. And I am happy and grateful because of the people who are and who have been part of my life.

God kept me a Jesuit. I do not get credit (or blame) for that. My momentous decision when I first made the Spiritual Exercises was to stay until tomorrow. It turned out to be 50 years of tomorrows.

I appreciate the way God has led me on a winding path: teaching high school, doing spiritual direction and giving retreats, working in minority communities, directing the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, studying in grad school, teaching in universities, and guiding Jesuit communities as their superior. Each job challenged and delighted me, and each called forth something new and different from me.

Each community where I lived and where I worked touched my heart and taught me something of how to be loved and how to love. Each brought forth deeper and deeper places in myself. Each has enhanced my awareness of Jesus’ presence in my life and my desire to follow and serve him.

Long-term friendships have become incredibly valuable for me. I have walked with so many good and wonderful people. When I was younger, I had good Jesuit role models and mentors. Various Jesuit companions have become life-long, intimate friends. I have developed and deepened relationships with men and women outside the Jesuit community. These include people I knew before I entered, former students, Jesuit volunteers, work colleagues, and so many others. They all provide a richness that I cannot fully describe except to say that I have been amazingly blessed by them.

So, after 50 years, I find myself grateful, especially for the people, and I also find myself looking happily toward the future.
Gratitude For This Vocation

Tremendous gratitude to God our Lord, to the Catholic Church, and to the Society of Jesus dominates my reflections on these first decades as a Jesuit.

First, to God our Lord for this vocation to the Society as a circumvention of my adolescent temptations to acquire property. Beyond that, the Society opened the more important gifts of the Spiritual Exercises, which gave a vision of service to Christ our King and the greater good, in personal accompaniment of Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to the Church for her array of gifts. Her schools and universities offered an education that opened unimaginable vistas, plus the opportunities to share ideas and experiences about truth, goodness, and beauty. Ordination to the priesthood is the gift of acting In persona Christi, bringing Christ to his people in many ways, particularly in the sacraments. I stand in amazement at engaging people in their most privileged moments from birth, through Holy Communion and the extension of God’s mercy in Confession, and their final moments in death. Because the Church trusts us priests to speak and act for Jesus Christ, we easily move from being strangers to sharing their deepest moments.

I am particularly grateful to the Society for accepting me. Christians form the temple of the Lord (Eph. 2:19-22), as rough-edged stones needing to be smoothed out to be joined in line with the foundation. God bless the many Jesuits who have patiently smoothed out some of my rough edges and continue to do so.
J. Michael Sparough, SJ

A Fool for Christ

When I entered the Society of Jesus I knew I wanted to be like the Jesuits who had inspired me while I was a student at Loyola Academy. They were talented, fun-loving, hard-working, manly men who had given their lives to Christ. I wanted to walk in their footsteps following Jesus.

My dream was to become a doctor priest — because I loved science, math and religion. But when I made the Spiritual Exercises, another part of my brain awakened — a love for drama, poetry, dance, mime, and storytelling. The more I prayed, the stronger was my desire to bring others to Christ, to teach them how to pray, and to use the arts as a vehicle for this pursuit. I’ve become, quite literally, a fool for Christ — embracing St. Paul’s metaphor for those who seek God’s kingdom above all else.

It’s been a call to deep humility as I’ve discovered what I’m good at and what I’m not. What surprises me is that in this life of self-surrender, I continue to uncover ever-deeper levels of my heart’s true desire. I could not imagine the joy Christ has gifted me with, the amazing education I’ve received, and the loving colleagues with whom I am privileged to serve. Sure, there are problems, but they pale in comparison to the treasures given. Even my own sin and failure have become opportunities for me to discover the unfathomable depths of Jesus’ love. To what a gifted life we companions of Jesus have been called!

The more I prayed, the stronger was my desire to bring others to Christ
Companions in Jesus

As a Jesuit I have had many opportunities to work with two of my greatest loves: sharing the spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola and fostering communities of faith and justice.

Making the Spiritual Exercises in the novitiate opened for me the possibility of personally encountering the Lord. In surprising and moving ways, God meets us in our prayer and in our daily lives. In pursuing that quest I have felt the call to be a companion of Jesus.

I find I often learn best when I attempt to teach others, and I have had many opportunities to teach and mentor others in the spirit of St. Ignatius through my work training spiritual directors and being a superior for young Jesuits in formation. The faith and commitment of these lay and Jesuit companions of Jesus has again and again broadened and strengthened my own faith, hope, and love. For this I am most grateful!

Early in my Jesuit training I had the opportunity to work at Holy Family Parish in Chicago, an inner-city church with African-American, Latino, and white parishioners. I’m sure I learned more there than I ever gave to them! I learned about community, trust in God, cultural diversity, the lives of the poor, and striving for justice. That foundation set the stage for my serving as pastor in four different parishes in Chicago and Cincinnati during my Jesuit career. In these faith communities I have continually found fellow companions of Jesus. I have been deeply touched by their example, friendship, and support. My ministry as a Jesuit has been an enormous blessing for me, and I pray for others as well.
YEARS IN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

Richard W. Anderson, SJ
Born: December 28, 1934
Entered: September 1, 1953
Ordained: June 9, 1966

Gerald F. Cavanagh, SJ
Born: September 13, 1931
Entered: September 15, 1953
Ordained: June 18, 1964

Thomas G. Boedy, SJ
Born: March 1, 1936
Entered: September 3, 1958
Ordained: June 4, 1970

Casimir R. Bukala, SJ
Born: July 14, 1931
Entered: September 1, 1958
Ordained: June 14, 1966

Patrick J. Connolly, SJ
Born: July 27, 1935
Entered: August 17, 1953
Ordained: July 28, 1966

James E. Fitzgerald, SJ
Born: June 9, 1935
Entered: August 17, 1953
Ordained: June 9, 1966

Eugene L. Donahue, SJ
Born: May 4, 1937
Entered: August 25, 1958
Ordained: June 10, 1970

Keith J. Esenther, SJ
Born: November 18, 1940
Entered: September 1, 1958
Ordained: June 10, 1971

Theodore M. Kalamaja, SJ
Born: February 25, 1935
Entered: August 17, 1953
Ordained: May 30, 1967

Joseph N. Pershe, SJ
Born: March 2, 1934
Entered: August 8, 1953
Ordained: June 9, 1966

Joseph D. Folzenlogen, SJ
Born: April 1, 1940
Entered: September 1, 1958
Ordained: June 11, 1971

M. Dennis Hamm, SJ
Born: January 18, 1936
Entered: August 14, 1958
Ordained: June 10, 1970

Robert T. Sears, SJ
Born: April 22, 1934
Entered: August 8, 1953
Ordained: July 31, 1966

Michael P. Zimmerman, SJ
Born: April 11, 1934
Entered: May 7, 1953

John A. Hennessy, SJ
Born: November 28, 1934
Entered: September 3, 1958
Ordained: May 27, 1969

Daniel P. Liderbach, SJ
Born: March 17, 1941
Entered: September 1, 1958
Ordained: June 2, 1973
Many Jubilarians this year are able to receive necessary healthcare while still living in a Jesuit community, such as St. Camillus.
Fr. Joseph F. Eagan, SJ, is celebrating his 65th year in the priesthood in 2018 and is one of twenty Jubilarians living in a healthcare community.
James G. Gartland, SJ  
**BORN:** January 2, 1958  
**ENTERED:** September 11, 1983  
**ORDAINED:** June 5, 1993

John F. Montag, SJ  
**BORN:** June 12, 1960  
**ENTERED:** August 17, 1980  
**ORDAINED:** June 11, 1993

Joseph G. Mueller, SJ  
**BORN:** January 2, 1960  
**ENTERED:** September 4, 1982  
**ORDAINED:** June 12, 1993

Paul R. Mueller, SJ  
**BORN:** September 10, 1960  
**ENTERED:** September 4, 1982  
**ORDAINED:** June 5, 1993

Frederick P. Zagone, SJ  
**BORN:** April 30, 1958  
**ENTERED:** September 4, 1982  
**ORDAINED:** June 5, 1993

Senior Jesuits in need of healthcare provide a vital service through their prayers for the Church and the Society.

Fr. Douglas J. Leonhardt, SJ, (left) is the superior of St. Camillus, where more than fifty Midwest Jesuits reside.