But how about boiling that story of a lifetime down to six words?

This was one of the questions the 22 Jesuits ordained to the priesthood were asked to ponder leading up to these celebrations.

“Speak Lord, your servant is listening,” offered Francis Hoang-Long Nguyen, SJ, quoting the biblical prophet Samuel’s response to God in Hebrew Scripture.

“God planted. He also gives growth,” wrote Richard Nichols, SJ.

And Travis D. Russell, SJ: “More surprises than certainty. All grace.”

Grace certainly abounds in the lives and vocations of these 22 men from Canada, the United States and Haiti who have said yes to their Catholic faith, yes to the Society of Jesus and yes to the call to ordained priesthood. Their witness is a sign of joyful hope. Their witness is an invitation to all of us to put our faith into action in service to God and our sisters and brothers everywhere.

The formation process that leads up to Jesuit priestly ordination is a long one, typically lasting 10-12 years and including intensive stages of study, ministry, accompaniment of those on the margins of society, prayer and more — all while living in Jesuit community. This brochure is just a snapshot into the lives of these men throughout their life in the Society of Jesus, capturing some highlights from their journeys and providing a glimpse of their unique personalities. As you learn about them, please keep them in your hearts and in your prayers.
It has been asked to tell his vocation story at least once - and probably far more times.

Loving God,

Like his Savior and brother, Jesus Christ, Saint Ignatius of Loyola gathered companions for his ministry of faith, hope and love.

We are thankful that so many thousands of others have answered the call to the Society of Jesus through the ages.

Bless these 22 men who will continue to serve the Society, the Church and the world as ordained priests.

Never cease to enkindle their love for you and your people, and strengthen all of us to serve with them as fellow disciples.

We pray this through Christ, Our Lord,

AMEN.
Ricardo Ávila Natividad, SJ

Province: USA Northeast
Birthday: July 23, 1977
Hometown: El Paso, Texas

Education:
Bachelor's degree, political science and Latin American studies, University of Chicago; Juris Doctor, Yale Law School; Master's degree, philosophical resources, Fordham University; Bachelor of Sacred Theology, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University; Master of Divinity, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University.

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:
Taught at Xavier High School in Micronesia. Litigated consumer law claims for poor New Yorkers as a staff attorney at CAMBA Legal Services. Ministered to youth at Nossa Senhora do Rósario parish in Russas, Ceará, Brazil.
Post-Ordination:
Will serve as a Visiting Legal Fellow and Scholar with the Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance, where he will practice at the intersection of poverty law and health law.

What is one hobby you’ve cultivated as a Jesuit and why is it important to you?
Photography. A picture seems self-contained and self-explanatory, but a little reflection reveals that there is more to the story it tells. The camera points to what is there and what is not there; interpretation is required to make sense of what meets the eye. Our lives are made of just such moments, so are sacraments.

Tell your vocation story. One catch: You must use only six words.
Lord, you are enough; help me.

What is your favorite book, movie, music, or TV show you’ve encountered since entering the Society and why do you love it?
“Jokes: Philosophical Thoughts on Joking Matters” by Ted Cohen. The book revealed what Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common and introduced me to shaggy dog jokes. It also exposed what jokes do to us and make us do. Even more importantly, the book helped me appreciate that “turning aside to look,” as Moses did, brings us closer to God.
D. Matthew Baugh, SJ

Province: USA Central and Southern

Birthday: June 22, 1979

Hometown: Casa, Arkansas (population: 202)

Education:
Bachelor’s degree, international development, Duke University; Juris Doctor, Yale University; Doctorate, international relations, Oxford University; Diploma in Philosophical Studies, University of Toronto; Master of Divinity, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry; Licentiate in Sacred Theology, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:
Served at a parish in the mountains of El Salvador. Taught political science and law at Spring Hill College. Ministered to inmates at a prison in Boston.

Post-Ordination:
Will serve as associate pastor at Saint Francis Xavier (College) Church in St. Louis.

Matthew (center) ministering at the L’Arche community in Mobile, Alabama.
What is one hobby you’ve cultivated as a Jesuit and why is it important to you?
A few years ago, a married couple that I’m close to got me hooked on crosswords. I had never solved a single crossword in my entire life to that point. Now I find myself trying to shave time off my performance and reading blog entries about puzzles. I’ve also seen the quirky documentary “Wordplay,” which I highly recommend! All evidence suggests that crosswords are the intellectual equivalent of a viral epidemic — but they’re fun, so surely that balances things out.

Tell your vocation story. One catch: You must use only six words.
“Son, everything I have is yours.” (Lk 15:31)

Who is one important mentor who has accompanied you on your journey? What made them a good mentor?
Nick King, SJ, the first Jesuit I ever knew, the one who helped me to discern my vocation to the Society of Jesus, has remained a dear friend and model. While I was a graduate student in Oxford where we met, he was chipping away, verse by verse, at a translation of the New Testament meant to capture the raw power of the original Greek. (He has since completed a translation of the entire Bible.) But what struck me most was his astonishing preaching. Here was a man, I thought, who has met Jesus Christ, who knows the Word intimately as a person and not as mere words on a page into which we must ourselves breathe life.
Peter Gadalla, SJ

Province: USA Central and Southern

Birthday: July 29, 1982

Hometown: Destin, Florida

Education:
Bachelor’s degree, mechanical engineering, University of South Alabama; Master’s degree, philosophy, Saint Louis University; Master of Divinity, Regis College, University of Toronto; Licentiate in Sacred Scripture, Pontifical Biblical Institute.

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:
Served on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Taught philosophy and theology at Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in Miami and at Bethlehem University in Palestine. Served in several Oriental Catholic Churches throughout his formation, such as the Maronite Church, the Syriac Catholic Church, the Greek Catholic Church, and the Coptic Catholic Church, to which he belongs.
Post-Ordination:
Will continue with graduate studies in Sacred Scriptures in Jerusalem and Rome.

What’s one interesting fact about yourself not everyone would know?
I have an accent in the seven languages I know (Arabic, English, French, Italian, Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic), including my mother tongue (Arabic).

Peter (left) with his uncle, Fr. Wafik Nasry, SJ, on a trip to Rome in 2006.

Who is one important mentor who has accompanied you on your journey? What made them a good mentor?
My uncle, Fr. Wafik Nasry, SJ, because he is authentic and he is the happiest man I know.

How might you explain the Jesuit motto “ad maiorem Dei gloriam” to someone who’s never heard it before?
It is the desire to do one’s best to fulfill the will of the Father — namely to have life and have it to the fullest.
Christopher E. Grodecki, SJ

Province: Maryland

Birthday: April 12, 1983

Hometown: Winnetka, Illinois

Education:
Bachelor’s degree, English and German literature, Georgetown University; Master’s degree, German, Georgetown University; Master’s degree, philosophy, Loyola University Chicago; Bachelor of Sacred Theology, Regis College, University of Toronto; Master of Divinity, Regis College, University of Toronto.

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:
Taught and was Ignatian identity assistant at Washington Jesuit Academy in Washington, D.C. Taught philosophy and served as director of the RCIA program at Saint Joseph's University. Served as a deacon at the University of Toronto Newman Centre.

Chris with students while on his long experiment at Washington Jesuit Academy in 2010.
Post-Ordination:
Will complete his Master of Theology and Licentiate in Sacred Theology at Regis College at the University of Toronto.

Who’s your favorite saint, and why?
One of my favorite saints is Saint Peter Faber, SJ. Although he has been overshadowed by his fellow first Jesuits, Ignatius and Francis Xavier, his example of how to be a Jesuit is one that I find truly inspiring. Not only was he someone whom Ignatius regarded as the best director of the Exercises, but it was precisely through the depth of his spirituality that he was able to contribute to building up the church in Germany despite the difficult challenges presented by the religious and political divisions there. Entrusting himself to the Trinity, Faber was able to discern God’s ever faithful, loving but hidden presence no matter the circumstances. In this way, he is an example of the virtues of faith, hope and charity, and, for me in particular, a real witness to Christian hope.

What do you love about the Society of Jesus?
Central to the Jesuit vocation is that one offers all of oneself — which includes the various gifts, talents and interests that God has given to you — back to God for God’s service and glory. In the end, what is said occasionally about the Society really is true: If you’ve met one Jesuit, you’ve met one Jesuit.
Jonathan Harmon, SJ

**Province:** USA Central and Southern

**Birthday:** February 2, 1985

**Hometown:** Tyler, Texas

**Education:**
Associate degree, general education, Tyler Junior College; Bachelor’s degree, philosophy, Saint Louis University; Master of Divinity, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University.

**Highlights of Jesuit Formation:**
Did pastoral work in Belize as a novice. Taught fine arts and theology at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas. Directed the RCIA program at Saint Mary Magdalen Church in Berkeley, California.

**Post-Ordination:**
Will serve as parochial vicar at Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish in Denver.
What is one hobby you’ve cultivated as a Jesuit and why is it important to you?

During regency I was able to re-cultivate my passion for art. Before entering the Jesuits I did not think that my background in graphic design and art would be of use. Since regency I have been able to use my art to enhance my own prayer, and I have painted many images of Jesus and Our Lady, as well as Pope Francis. One of the first paintings that I did as a Jesuit is currently hanging in the Jesuit Novitiate in Grand Coteau, Louisiana. This “hobby” has developed over the years into something that I hope to use in future ministry as a tool for evangelization.

How has your spirituality changed since entering the Society?

My spirituality has changed drastically since entering the Society of Jesus. Growing up and going to public school with the closest Jesuit community over 100 miles away meant that I didn’t have any contact with the Society or its spirituality. Before entering I had no idea that my imagination could be such a powerful tool in prayer, that I could place myself into a scene from the life of Jesus to truly get to know him more deeply. This spirituality has been one of the most meaningful elements of my Jesuit life, and it is something that I am constantly at work developing and coming to understand each time I pray.
Stefanus Hendrianto, SJ

**Province:** USA West

**Birthday:** April 13, 1974

**Hometown:** Bangka Island, Indonesia

**Education:**
- Bachelor of Laws, Gadjah Mada University;
- Master of Laws, Utrecht University;
- Doctorate, law, University of Washington;
- Master of Theology, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry;
- Master of Divinity, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

**Highlights of Jesuit Formation:**
Worked with the Yupik Eskimo people in Alaska. Taught law and political science at Santa Clara University. Led a spiritual direction program for women in the Maternity Home for Pregnant and Homeless Women in Boston.

**Post-Ordination:**
Pastoral year at Saint Agnes Church in San Francisco.

Hendri’s first birthday with his grandparents, parents, aunt and cousin.
Who’s your favorite saint, and why?
My favorite saint is Saint Edith Stein, also known as Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. I love her because she is a brilliant woman who was in love with the truth and sought new paths for philosophy and theology. But more importantly, she is the exemplar of extraordinary courage. Through her martyrdom, she shows a willingness to give away even one’s life out of love for Christ and his people. Saint Edith Stein is especially dear to me because she is the one who constantly prays for me in my life journey, especially in my journey as a Jesuit, as I entered the novitiate on October 11, 2009, the day of her canonization (October 11, 1998).

Who is one important mentor who has accompanied you on your journey? What made them a good mentor?
Fr. James V. Schall, SJ, was an important mentor in my life because he taught me how to acquire an excellent intellectual foundation and build a life based on this foundation. Fr. Schall showed me that we can lead a rich intellectual life if we have the habits, discipline, productivity and the desire to pursue the truth. He also taught me that a priest needs to continue reading and studying — for the sake of his pastoral work — and that study is the “eighth sacrament” in priestly life. A priest must have good knowledge of what he teaches first before he can tend the pastoral needs of the Christian people.
Adam Douglas Hincks, SJ

**Province:** Canada

**Birthday:** January 5, 1982

**Hometown:** Toronto, Ontario

**Education:**
Honours Bachelor of Science, Astronomy and Physics, University of Toronto; Doctorate, physics, Princeton University; Diploma in Philosophical Studies, Regis College, University of Toronto; Bachelor of Sacred Theology, Pontifical Gregorian University.

**Highlights of Jesuit Formation:**
Post-Ordination:
Will complete his Master of Theology and Licentiate in Sacred Theology at Regis College, University of Toronto.

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had during your formation, and why was it meaningful to you?
During theology studies, I was privileged to spend four weeks in Israel and Palestine with my Jesuit classmates from Rome. We did our annual eight-day retreat in Jerusalem and then visited many of the important pilgrimage sites. Although I already had a solid acquaintance with the Bible and the life of Christ, this experience helped bring them alive in new ways.

How has your spirituality changed since entering the Society?
Before entering the Society, my knowledge of Ignatian spirituality was fairly rudimentary. As a Jesuit, I have become much more a person of the Spiritual Exercises in my prayer life and in the manner in which I discern and make decisions. I have also had the privilege of accompanying others making the Spiritual Exercises and witnessing how God spoke to them.
Stephen Kramer, SJ

**Province:** USA Central and Southern

**Birthday:** November 19, 1977

**Hometown:** St. Louis, Missouri

**Education:**
Bachelor’s degree, philosophy and letters, Saint Louis University; Master of Theology (with focus on Ignatian Studies), Boston College School of Theology and Ministry; Master of Divinity, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

**Highlights of Jesuit Formation:**
History teacher at Belize Central Prison Youth Division, Jesuit High School in New Orleans and De Smet High School in St. Louis; math teacher at De Smet and Regis Jesuit High School in Aurora, Colorado. Served as RCIA director and deacon at Saint Columbkille Parish in Boston, as well as retreat director and spiritual director at Saint Ignatius Church in Boston and with Boston College Campus Ministry. Served as preached retreat director at Manresa Jesuit Retreat House in Convent, Louisiana, a ministry he hopes to engage deeply after ordination.

**Post-Ordination:**
Will serve as a parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Jesuit Church in New Orleans.

**How has your spirituality changed since entering the Society?**
The first lesson I received in trust, the greatest spiritual lesson I have learned from the Society, came from my vocation director. Fr. Chris Pinné, SJ, gave me an application to join the Society, but I was attacked with fear and doubt and had great trouble filling it out. As the weeks and even months rolled by without receiving my application, Fr. Pinné calmly sat me down. Then he asked me the most important question anybody had ever asked about my spiritual life: “Stephen, why don’t you trust God?”
At first, I was bewildered. “Of course I trust God,” I protested. However, I began to realize he was right. I knew I desired to serve God in the Society of Jesus. I believed God was calling me to do so. But, I did not trust God would see me through. It dawned on me that if God wanted me to serve this way, then he would provide.

When I got home, I immediately sat down and completed the application. I knew once I dropped the envelope into the mailbox, I was not getting it back. Once more, fear overtook me. My hands were shaking. Then, I recalled Fr. Pinné’s words. I looked up, said, “God, I trust you,” and deposited the envelope. The moment the envelope was out of reach and the hatch had closed, a strange feeling came over me: peace.

Over the years, as I have gone through formation, there have been many times that I found myself in unfamiliar territory. But every time I look up and tell God I trust him, I am met with his peace. And every time this happens, I relearn the same lesson. God is here and with us always. If it is God’s will, then God will provide. There is no need for fear.
Andrew Laguna, SJ

Province: USA West

Birthday: October 17, 1986

Hometown: Chino Hills, California

Education:
Bachelor’s degree, biological sciences, University of California, Irvine; Master’s degree, philosophy, Saint Louis University; Master of Divinity, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University.

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:
Served as a live-in assistant for three months at the L’Arche community in Tacoma, Washington. Spent five months in Kingston, Jamaica, working at Saint Anne’s parish and primary school. Taught sophomore Scripture and worked as a campus minister at Saint Ignatius College Preparatory in San Francisco, where he also coached track and cross-country. Served as deacon at Saint Patrick’s and Saint Ambrose in Berkeley, California.
Post-Ordination:
Will serve at parishes for his first few assignments: Our Lady of Guadalupe in San Diego, California; a parish in Plátano y Cacao, Tabasco, Mexico; and Most Holy Trinity Parish in San Jose, California.

What is your favorite book, movie, music, or TV show you’ve encountered since entering the Society and why do you love it?
My all-time favorite book is “Lord of the Rings.” I’ve read it four or five times now, and Tolkien’s story continues to feed me. Especially since joining the Society, I have found life-giving connections between my own journey and that of the characters in the world he creates. My favorite show right now is “Parks and Recreation.” It’s just a great show — super funny with endearing characters. I can re-watch episodes and laugh out loud every time.

What do you love about the Society of Jesus?
The quality of people who I am blessed to live and work with. I am in awe of the Jesuit brothers that I am connected to in this life. Their passion, giftedness and deep faith in Christ inspire me to be a better Christian and human being. I have also had many colleagues, especially at Saint Ignatius College Prep in San Francisco, who I admire and who have taught me so much about Ignatian spirituality, dedication and service. I am surrounded by amazing people in the Society.
Alex Anthony C. Llanera, SJ

Province: USA West

Birthday: November 4, 1987

Hometown: Sacramento, California

Education:
Bachelor’s degree, theological studies and political science, Loyola Marymount University; Master’s degree, political science, Saint Louis University; Master of Divinity, Regis College, University of Toronto.

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:
Taught at Saint Ignatius College Preparatory in San Francisco. Worked in the legal department at Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles. Ordained to the priesthood on November 24, 2018, in Sacramento due to family circumstances.

Alex with students at St. Ignatius College Preparatory in San Francisco, California.
Post-Ordination:
Will complete Licentiate in Sacred Theology at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University.

What is your favorite book, movie, music, or TV show you’ve encountered since entering the Society and why do you love it?
When I was in theology studies, I started watching a BBC Series called “Father Brown” based on the series by G.K. Chesterton. The story is based on a British diocesan priest who doubles as an amateur detective solving crimes and murders. It was great seeing a religious figure portrayed on television who was smart, caring, faithful, compassionate and had a good sense of humor.

Who’s your favorite saint, and why?
Saint Aloysius Gonzaga’s bravery and conviction to give up a life of privilege at such a young age and follow God’s will was very inspiring. His persistence to be a Jesuit went against his family’s expectations, but he knew in his heart that God was calling him to live a life of service. He gave his life ministering to plague victims and died caring for the sick. His example led me to choose him as a personal patron saint and to take Aloysius as a vow name.
Vinny Marchionni, SJ

**Province:** Maryland

**Birthday:** July 24, 1986

**Hometown:** Lower Merion, Pennsylvania

**Education:**
Bachelor’s degree, history, Saint Joseph’s University; Master of Divinity, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University.

**Highlights of Jesuit Formation:**
Studied Spanish in Bolivia and Costa Rica. Taught American and world history, served as assistant boys’ lacrosse coach and began a summer service learning program (two weeks of team teaching and field research for students) at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Baltimore, Maryland. Served as a deacon, helped form a youth group and put together bilingual (English/Spanish) worship at Saint Jarlath’s Parish in Oakland.

**Post-Ordination:**
Will serve this summer at Our Lady of Mount Carmel + Saint Benedicta + Saint Mary of the Assumption in Staten Island, New York. Then, will move to Parras de la Fuente, Mexico and serve at the Jesuit parish of Santa Maria de las Parras through June 2020.
What is one hobby you’ve cultivated as a Jesuit and why is it important to you?

I have always loved going to the gym. When I arrived at theology studies, I wanted to change it up, so I have focused my attention on powerlifting, which has taught me to integrate my body for a purpose, in this case to lift a very heavy object. While some might say that the squat is for legs or the bench is for chest, the reality is that a lifter uses every part of his body to complete each lift. It is total body integration as my breathing, my core and my feet provide a foundation for the larger muscle groups to function. Mental focus and strength improves as I focus not on the weight or wanting to sculpt any particular part of my body, but simply to stay disciplined and maintain good form throughout the lift. It is beautiful to see what a body can do when it is properly attuned and disposed. I see this helping me in future sacramental ministry — not because chalices are so heavy — in that a priest uses his body to help the people of God experience God. Through voice and gesture, priests become vessels and if I can keep the physical and mental discipline as well as bodily integration I learned while powerlifting, I know my sacramental ministry will be consoling for God’s people and fulfilling for me.
Johnny Masséba, SJ

Province: Canada

Birthday: July 17, 1985

Hometown: Léogâne, Haiti

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:
Completed pastoral service with youth in Haiti and helped Haitian immigrants in the bateyes settlements where sugarcane cutters live. Taught Spanish at the Collège Saint-Ignace in Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti. Served as a deacon at the parish of Sainte-Marie-de-l’Incarnation in Quebec City.

Biography:
Fr. Johnny Masséba, SJ, entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus in July 2007. After two years of formation, he pronounced vows on August 6, 2009. From 2009 to 2013, he studied philosophy and social sciences in the Dominican Republic. During this time of formation, Johnny carried out youth and Haitian pastoral activities and helped Haitian immigrants in the bateys. From 2013 to 2015, he did his regency at the novitiate in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, as house minister. He also taught Spanish at the Collège Saint-Ignace located in the municipality of Croix-des-Bouquets. In the summer of 2015, he headed to Québec, Canada, for theology studies. This was a special time that helped Johnny deepen his knowledge of God and to become familiar with the themes of the Universal Church and the manner in which it works. During the summer of 2017, he traveled to Serverette, France, for Arrupe Month (a program of reflection focused on the call to be ordained). Johnny was ordained a deacon on May 28, 2018, and he served as a deacon at the parish of Sainte-Marie-de-l’Incarnation in Quebec City to prepare for his priestly ordination.

What is your favorite book, movie, music, or TV show you’ve encountered since entering the Society and why do you love it?
I discovered a film entitled “Into Great Silence” during my formation in the novitiate. It is a French-Swiss-German documentary directed by Philip Gröning on the monks of the Grande Chartreuse and was released in 2005. The film is quite lengthy, nearly 3 hours. There is practically no dialogue (usually prayers), no additional music, no comments, no other
noise besides those produced by daily gestures, no other voices except for those performing a religious rite. This movie enabled me to penetrate into monastic life and understand the daily routine involved in this lifestyle. Among the various ways one can answer God’s call, I was able to compare my calling to the Society of Jesus to monastic life. Even though I did not feel called to the monastic life, the monks showed me that finding time for God, being prayerful and remaining constantly in his presence are possible. This realization allowed me to refocus on God each time life’s situations prevented me from doing so.

Moreover, the film’s silence was very important to me. Usually, I enjoy watching comedies or action films. This time it was totally the contrary. I was in the presence of monks who lived a great silence. I then found myself in front of these teachers who showed me the importance of an interior spiritual life. In fact, this movie, which I had the chance to see at the beginning of my formation, gave me the desire to always grant God an essential place in my life. It is a process which has matured over my few years of formation with the Society of Jesus.
Francis Hoang-Long Nguyen, SJ

Province: USA West

Birthday: November 24, 1983

Hometown: Seattle, Washington

Education:
Bachelor’s degrees, architecture and construction management, University of Washington; Master’s degree, applied philosophy, Loyola University Chicago; Master of Divinity, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University.

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:
Worked with DCDC Architecture Firm at University of Detroit Mercy on a proposal for a community urban farming design in Detroit, Michigan. Gave retreats through the Ignatian Spirituality Project for people experiencing homelessness in Chicago. Taught mathematics and theology and worked in campus ministry at Seattle Preparatory School, where he also co-designed with Hennebery Eddy Architects on Our Lady of Monserrat Chapel.

Post-Ordination:
Missioned to Most Holy Trinity Church in San Jose, California.

Francis (left) giving a “God’s friendship” talk on a Kairos retreat with Jeff McDougall, SJ.
Who’s your favorite saint, and why?
Saint Francis of Assisi. After the fall of South Vietnam in 1975, all the officers of the Republic South were detained in what was called “an educational camp.” My father was one of them. During those years, the main strength that kept him sane was saying the prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi every day. My name Francis, thus, came from such an experience of prayer. Therefore, Saint Francis of Assisi is one of my favorite saints because he ties my life with the life of my father.

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had during your formation, and why was it meaningful to you?
I was missioned to China and Taiwan for two years after regency in Seattle, Washington. There, I learned Mandarin, as well as the Chinese culture and religions. During my years there, I had an opportunity to visit different ethnic minority groups in the southern parts of China and stay with them in their very simple homes. It was one of my most memorable and meaningful experiences because it challenged me to really “seek God in all things” and share my experiences of God in a completely different culture, perspective and language. Being with them was an experience of interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

Tell your vocation story. One catch: You must use only six words.
“Speak Lord, your servant is listening.”
Richard Nichols, SJ

Province: Maryland

Birthday: November 18, 1976

Hometown: Baltimore, Maryland

Education:
Bachelor’s degree, mathematics, College of the Holy Cross; Master’s degree, philosophy, Saint Louis University; Licentiate in Sacred Theology, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:
Volunteered at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, New York. Studied Latin under Fr. Reginald Foster. Completed clinical pastoral education at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston.
Post-Ordination:
Will continue to serve as a chaplain at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital.

What is one hobby you’ve cultivated as a Jesuit and why is it important to you?
One hobby that I have cultivated as a Jesuit is CrossFit. I find this exercise regimen both challenging and rewarding, and it has introduced me to friends I would not otherwise have made.

Tell your vocation story. One catch: You must use only six words.
God planted. He also gives growth.

Who is one important mentor who has accompanied you on your journey? What made them a good mentor?
Fr. Michael Boughton, SJ, is an important mentor who has accompanied me on my journey. In his position as formation director, he was responsible for my growth and development as a Jesuit. He challenged me when I needed to be challenged and gave my support when I most needed support. For example, he challenged me to develop my skills in hospital chaplaincy, despite my hesitations, and now I love it.
Bryan Y. Norton, SJ

Province: USA Midwest
Birthday: February 1, 1984
Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio

Education:
Bachelor’s degree, philosophy, Williams College; Master’s degree, classics, Washington University (St. Louis).

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:
Taught classical languages and literature at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Worked with Brothers of Saint John of God in their care for the sick. Served as a deacon at Saint Ignatius Church in Paris and at Saint Peter’s Church in Saint Denis.

Post-Ordination:
Will return to Paris to complete his Licentiate in Sacred Theology at Centre Sèvres.

Who’s your favorite saint, and why?
When Jesuits profess their perpetual vows at the end of novitiate, they are invited to take a special patron saint, if they wish. Though we do not use this “vow name” publicly, we do take it seriously; for the choice clearly signifies a special spiritual bond in the Body of Christ. For me, the decision
was easy, and I’ve never regretted it. On vow day, like many a Jesuit before me, I took the name Mary.

Of course, it’s hard to top the Mother of God, right? Practically speaking, the choice resolved an otherwise intractable dilemma: picking among my favorite Jesuit saints. On a much deeper level, though, this Marian link says something important about the maternal roots of my Jesuit vocation. Ultimately, I owe my faith formation to my dear mother, Barbara. At a very young age, her tenderness convicted me that God is Love (1 Jn 4:8). Over the years, her unwavering support taught me to build upon the Rock (Mt 7: 24-27). At every step of my journey, her loving, maternal presence — even from afar — has prepared me for the close companionship with Christ that lies at the heart of Jesuit life.

Given this bond, I have always felt especially close to Mary. In her maternity, she has led me to the person of Jesus. Day by day, she teaches me who he really is: “God with us” (Mt 1:23). In so doing, she reminds me who I am called to be: a hearer of the Word and a bearer of Christ’s presence in the world. The English poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889) — one of my favorite Jesuits — puts it beautifully: “Through her we may see him / Made sweeter, not made dim, / And her hand leaves his light / Sifted to suit our sight.”

Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church — pray for us…
Gregory J. Ostdiek, SJ

**Province:** USA Midwest

**Birthday:** July 19, 1969

**Hometown:** Beavercreek, Ohio

**Education:**
Bachelor’s degree, mechanical engineering, Dayton University; Bachelor’s degree, English, Dayton University; Master’s degree, English, Penn State University; Master’s degree, philosophical resources, Fordham University; Master of Divinity, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry; Master of Theology, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

**Highlights of Jesuit Formation:**
Made 30-day pilgrimage to Haiti shortly after 2010 earthquake to help design and build one-room schoolhouses. Taught high school physics at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois. Spent final year in formation, while a student at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, as a transitional deacon at Saint Peter’s in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Post-Ordination:**
Will study at Harvard for one year for a Master of Education.

Greg (second from left) with his family on the USS San Jacinto (CG-56), on which he served as the Air Warfare Officer.
Who is one important mentor who has accompanied you on your journey? What made them a good mentor?

I have been privileged to know Fr. John Murphy, SJ, since 2012, during my philosophy studies at Fordham University. He has been my spiritual advisor several times, and will be one of my vesting priests at my ordination to the priesthood this June. I have truly been blessed to have a friend this wise and compassionate helping me along the path to ordination.

Did your naval service prepare you for life as a Jesuit at all? If so, how? Do you identify with Saint Ignatius as someone who served militarily before choosing a different path?

My naval service certainly helped me to learn to live together — sometimes in close quarters! — with a variety of kinds of people. And although I did not identify with Saint Ignatius as a veteran before entering the Society of Jesus, as I have lived as a Jesuit I have tended to increasingly identify many of the procedures he set up for the Society as having a military basis, or at least a military analogue.

For instance, Ignatius practiced what we would today call “command by negation”: subordinate commanders in such a setup are expected to run their organizations according to previously agreed-upon broad principles and stated strategic guidelines, while keeping their immediate superiors informed of their decisions and actions — who then step in only if they see something going wrong. I think Ignatius kept more of his military mindset with him as he changed careers — and vocations — than we tend to acknowledge today.
Ted Penton, SJ

Province: Canada

Birthday: October 23, 1974

Hometown: Ottawa, Ontario

Education:
Bachelor’s degree, philosophy, University of Ottawa; Master’s degree, philosophy, Penn State University; Juris Doctor, Harvard Law School; Master of Divinity, Regis College, University of Toronto; Master of Sacred Theology, Regis College, University of Toronto.

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:
As a novice, hitchhiked from Montreal to Winnipeg, staying overnight in a series of homeless shelters. Spent a summer working in prison chaplaincy at a federal penitentiary in Nova Scotia as part of a Clinical Pastoral Education program. Worked in Chicago with the Ignatian Spirituality Project, offering spiritual retreats for men and women experiencing homelessness and in recovery from addiction.

Ted (holding the paddle) with fellow Jesuits at Villa St. Michel in Quebec.
Post-Ordination:
Will continue to serve the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States as Secretary of the Office of Justice and Ecology.

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had during your formation, and why was it meaningful to you?
Spending a summer in a chaplaincy training program at a federal penitentiary in Nova Scotia was very meaningful. I was humbled by the openness of some men in sharing with me very dark and difficult parts of their life stories. The sadness there could be overwhelming — so how much more difficult it must be for those who, unlike me, didn’t get to leave in the evening. I was also really inspired by many men’s courage in facing up to very significant challenges and in recognizing where God was calling them even at such a painful and difficult point in their lives. Their example gave me the courage to look more closely at certain shadows in my own life.

How has your spirituality changed since entering the Society?
Since entering the Society, my spirituality has become much more relational. My faith was born during a moment of meditation, and very few of my friends had any religious or spiritual faith or practice. So for many years I consigned my faith to a primarily private place in my life. It did motivate me to act in certain ways — for instance, in volunteer work — but I continued to find God primarily in personal prayer and reflection. During my years as a Jesuit, my spirituality has become much more integrated with my communities, my work and all my relationships, rather than something apart.
Adam Z. Rosinski, SJ

Province: Maryland

Birthday: May 11, 1985

Hometown: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Education:
Bachelor’s degree, theology/religious studies and counseling/human services, University of Scranton; Master’s degree, social philosophy, Loyola University Chicago; Master of Divinity, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry; Master of Theology, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:
Served as a teacher and campus minister at Saint Joseph’s Preparatory School in Philadelphia. Coordinated the 2015 “2Philly4Francis” pilgrimage, bringing together 43 Jesuit high schools to celebrate Pope Francis’ visit to Philadelphia. Ministered as a deacon at Saint Brigid and Gate of Heaven Parishes in South Boston.

Post-Ordination:
Will serve as parochial vicar at Saint Raphael Catholic Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.
What was one particularly meaningful experience you had during your formation, and why was it meaningful to you?
I served as the coordinator for “2Philly4Francis” during my regency. This was a pilgrimage that brought together students from 43 Jesuit high schools from across the Assistancy to celebrate Pope Francis’ visitation to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families. There were so many meaningful parts to this experience: four days spent with 450 Jesuit high school students from so many different places on fire with their faith; being and praying with the pope; and watching my student leaders take on and run this huge program almost by themselves, just to name a few!

But the most meaningful parts lie before and after the actual event. Our campus ministry staff discerned this, really prayed and listened and discerned as a team, and it became undeniably clear to us that offering a program like this is what the Spirit was inviting us to. The consolation that came from the discernment was one of joyful certainty, which was never shaken even in the face of so many unknowns that inevitably come with an event of this size. Likewise, in the years since the pilgrimage ended, I’ve heard from so many students, chaperones and school administrators who have shared with me some of the wonderful fruits that have come from their experience and how these fruits have transformed not only the individual pilgrims, but even their larger school communities.
Travis D. Russell, SJ

**Province:** USA West

**Birthday:** April 9, 1985

**Hometown:** Sutherlin, Oregon

**Education:**
Bachelor’s degree, global security studies, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; Master’s degree, social philosophy, Loyola University Chicago; Master of Divinity, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

**Highlights of Jesuit Formation:**
Served as a pastoral care worker with Jesuit Refugee Service at Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi. Worked inside Chicago’s juvenile hall with the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, a ministry that seeks healing in communities that have been impacted by violence and conflict. Worked with Jesuit Restorative Justice Initiative in Los Angeles, giving retreats in prisons throughout California.

**Post-Ordination:**
Will serve at Saint Ignatius Parish in San Francisco, California.
What are three words a family member or fellow Jesuit would use to describe you? (Ask someone.) Do you agree with his or her selections?
On my bookshelf I have a framed list of words that my community gave to me for my birthday, and they are words that are supposed to “describe me.” The list includes words such as “resilient,” “humble,” “Jesuit,” “magnanimous” and “travieso,” which means “trouble maker” or “mischievous” in Spanish. I would say the only one I agree with is the latter. The others are too kind — and I’m not just saying this because I’m “humble.” They are too merciful and give me too much credit, which I think is a truism for us all: others see us in a better light than we see ourselves.

Tell your vocation story. One catch: You must use only six words.
More surprises than certainty. All grace.

Imagine you could travel back in time and meet yourself the first day you entered the Society of Jesus. What’s one piece of advice you’d give to yourself?
It’s not really advice, but more of a reminder: You’ll never experience more joy in your life than being a Jesuit. Wait, maybe that is advice: Never stop being grateful!
James R. Sand, SJ

**Province:** USA Midwest

**Birthday:** November 21, 1984

**Hometown:** Cincinnati, Ohio

**Education:**
Bachelor’s degree, history, Miami University (Oxford, Ohio); Bachelor’s degree, education, Miami University; Bachelor’s degree, classics, Miami University; Master’s degree, philosophical resources, Fordham University; Master of Divinity, Regis College, University of Toronto; Bachelor of Sacred Theology, Regis College, University of Toronto.

**Highlights of Jesuit Formation:**
Worked as a chaplain at Saint Barnabas Hospital and a volunteer gardener at Central Park in New York City. Taught Latin and history at University of Detroit High School and Academy. Supported Jesuit Volunteer communities in Detroit and Toronto.

James (second from right) with his family and Superior General Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ (far right), at his diaconate ordination.
Post-Ordination:
Will teach at Saint John’s Jesuit High School in Toledo, Ohio.

Who’s your favorite saint, and why?
My favorite saint is Saint Joseph. My father always expressed an affection for him when I was growing up, and I think some of that affection has rubbed off on me. My father said that he was a saint who “worked with his hands for a living.” Joseph was a man who had to struggle with the demands of everyday life as a carpenter while also living up to the tasks God gave him. Joseph strikes me as a quiet man who got caught up in all sorts of strange and wonderful things.

His simple and honest goodness and attempts to do what is right, even in the midst and against his own hesitancies, is a compelling, imperfect human element in the middle of a story about angelic hosts, the stainless Virgin and God’s descending to earth in the flesh. Joseph is just going about his life and trying his best. God sends dreams to motivate and aid him in making the proper decisions, but it is not the divine dreams that mark out Joseph as holy. Rather, it is the struggle with the circumstances of his abnormal life that highlight the virtue of his profound love for his wife, child and God. He hesitates not because he is fearful or desires evil but because he wants to do the best and does not always know what would actually be best. He comes across as unsure exactly because he is such a good man. Yet when he knows the good, he does not hesitate but makes every sacrifice for it.
Matt Spotts, SJ

**Province:** USA Midwest

**Birthday:** September 19, 1985

**Hometown:** Cincinnati, Ohio

**Education:**
Bachelor’s degree, history and philosophy, Fordham University; Master’s degree, history, Saint Louis University; Master of Divinity, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University.

**Highlights of Jesuit Formation:**
Worked in parishes on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Taught history and religious studies, coached debate and boys’ and girls’ sprinters at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis, Indiana. Ministered at San Quentin State Prison, working with the “mainline” and death row populations.

**Post-Ordination:**
Will serve as an associate pastor at Saint Joseph-Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Wilmette, Illinois, as well as assist at Loyola Academy in Wilmette.
What’s one interesting fact about yourself not everyone would know?
My friends knew enough about my fondness for the Harry Potter novels that they threw me a Harry Potter-themed birthday party for my 30th birthday.

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had during your formation, and why was it meaningful to you?
On the Saturday before Passion Sunday 2018, I went into San Quentin State Prison to preside at a Communion service on death row. As was our practice, we read the readings for the following Sunday, which meant that we were reading the Passion. For a variety of reasons, only one man was there when I got to the chapel, an unusually small number that left me momentarily annoyed, most of all at the systemic reasons that made it hard for the men on death row to go to services. However, we began, prayed and read the Passion together.

When we concluded, I looked up and saw the man in tears. It occurred to me that, while I was lost in disappointment that more men didn’t make it to the chapel that day, I had allowed myself to forget the bigness of what we were doing: I was reading the story of Jesus’ arrest, trial, imprisonment and execution with a man awaiting his own execution. I had let myself forget that he might see the experience of Jesus in a way that I did not and could not.

He didn’t say all that. All he said, wiping tears from his eyes, was “I’m sorry I’m crying, but I don’t get to do that too often.”

I don’t know what God touched in him that day. But I do know that God was deeply, profoundly present with us who were gathered in God’s name. And it touched me — it was a reminder that God’s profound movements in the human heart have nothing to do with the number of people there. Sometimes the biggest movements will always remain hidden. But they’re there and God is always at work, and every now and then, I get to see God at work.
Robert Van Alstyne, SJ

Province: USA West

Birthday: May 18, 1986

Hometown: San Carlos, California

Education:
Bachelor’s degree, philosophy, Boston College; Master’s degree, philosophy, Saint Louis University; Master of Divinity, Regis College, University of Toronto.

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:
Served as a hospice aid with the Missionaries of Charity in Pacifica, California. Served as a classroom assistant and bus driver at Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Taught theology at Jesuit High School and gave retreats with Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life (SEEL) in Portland, Oregon.

Robert (third from left) at his diaconate ordination with (from left) Fr. Penn Dawson, SJ; Alex Llanera, SJ; and Chris Grodecki, SJ.
Post-Ordination:
Will return to Regis College to complete his Master of Theology and Licentiate in Sacred Theology.

Who's your favorite saint, and why?
Saint Peter Faber, SJ, who repeatedly made the journey between Germany and Portugal and undertook a behind-the-scenes ministry to theologians during the Reformation, offers the example of a dedicated and faith-filled “helper of souls.” His journal shows us what generous and joyful service comes from a life of continual prayer. With the help of Saint Ignatius’ spiritual direction, he overcame his early struggles and found freedom in a life devoted to Christ.

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had during your formation, and why was it meaningful to you?
When I was living in Germany, there was a priest who would tutor me weekly in philosophy. He had been very sick for many years, and I did not realize at the time how close he was to death. In the patience, kindness and counsel he gave me during the small events of those tutoring sessions and at dinner table conversations, he offered a great example of how one might fully integrate teaching, priestly ministry and Jesuit brotherhood.