A MESSAGE FROM ADVANCEMENT

Dear Friend,

Each year we share with you an overview of the funds raised during the past year and how your generous donations support the mission of the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province. We call this the gratitude report, because it is our opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks for your kindness and generosity. Your gifts of time, prayer and finances have a real impact on the works of the province. We appreciate your support and keep you in our prayers.

This year is a time of transition for the Central and Southern Province. Father Ronald A. Mercier, SJ, will complete his term as provincial at the end of July 2020, at which time Fr. Thomas P. Greene, SJ, will become provincial. Father Mercier was the first provincial of the USA Central and Southern Province of the Society of Jesus when it was formed through the union of the former Missouri and New Orleans Provinces. His leadership has been exemplary.

At one of our earliest staff meetings as a new province, Fr. Mercier used the Latin phrase “Ab esse ad posse valet illatio” to illustrate a point. This severely tested my knowledge of Latin so at the conclusion of the meeting I looked up the meaning. The translation is, “From the fact that something exists, it follows that it is possible.” If you already knew that, give yourself bonus points. During the past five and a half years, Fr. Mercier has worked tirelessly to form the new province and led us through a critical process of discernment as new Universal Apostolic Preferences were developed. He has done so with kindness and great patience. He has maintained an exhausting schedule. His leadership in dealing with difficult issues has been unwavering. We are grateful for his time as our provincial.

So, if the question is “Can a strong leader be kind and lead more by example than directive?” I would say the answer is “Ab esse ad posse valet illatio.”

I give thanks for Fr. Mercier and for all our wonderful benefactors.

Sincerely,

John Fitzpatrick
Assistant for Advancement

Borrador de carta para el informe de gratitud

Querido (a) amigo (a),

Cada año compartimos con usted una descripción general de los fondos recaudados durante el año pasado y cómo sus generosas donaciones han apoyado la misión jesuita de la Provincia USA Central y Meridional. A esto lo llamamos el Informe de Gratitud, ya que es nuestra oportunidad de expresar nuestro sincero agradecimiento por su amabilidad y generosidad. Sus donaciones de tiempo, sus oraciones y aportes financieros han tenido un impacto real en las obras de la provincia. Apreciamos su apoyo y lo mantenemos en nuestras oraciones.

Este año será un momento de transición para la Provincia Central y Meridional. El padre Ronald A. Mercier, SJ, culminará su mandato como provincial a fines de julio de 2020, momento en el cual el P. Thomas P. Greene, SJ, se convertirá en el nuevo provincial. El P. Mercier ha sido el primer provincial de la Provincia Central y Meridional de la Compañía de Jesús tras ser creada por la fusión de las antiguas Provincias de Missouri y Nueva Orleans. Su liderazgo ha sido ejemplar.

Como nueva provincia, en una de nuestras primeras reuniones de personal el P. Mercier usó la frase latina “Ab esse ad posse valet illatio” para explicar un punto. Esto puso a prueba severamente mi conocimiento del latín, así que al final de la reunión busqué el significado. La traducción es: “Por el hecho de que algo existe, se deduce que es posible.” Si usted ya lo sabía, se ha ganado unos puntos de bonificación. Durante los últimos cinco años y medio, el P. Mercier ha trabajado incansablemente para formar la nueva provincia, y nos ha conducido por un proceso crítico de discernimiento a medida que se desarrollaron las nuevas Preferencias Apostólicas Universales. Lo ha hecho con amabilidad y gran paciencia. Ha mantenido un horario agotador. Su liderazgo en el tratamiento de problemas difíciles ha sido inquebrantable. Estamos agradecidos por su tiempo como nuestro provincial.

Entonces, si la pregunta es “¿puede un líder fuerte ser amable y liderar más con el ejemplo que con las directivas?”, diría que la respuesta es “Ab esse ad posse valet illatio.”

Doy gracias por el P. Mercier y por todos nuestros maravillosos benefactores.

Sinceramente,

John Fitzpatrick
Auxiliar Provincial de Promoción
**2019 ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS**

**SOURCES OF REVENUE:**

- **5 Grants** - $59,855
- **65 Planned Gifts** - $929,052
- **168 Gifts from Organizations** - $353,610
- **7,307 Gifts from Individuals** - $1,633,418
- **GRAND TOTAL:** $2,975,935

**FUNDS USED FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY:**

- **Formation** - $810,670
- **Care of Elderly and Infirm** - $312,331
- **Works of the Province** - $1,224,329
- **Jesuit Archives & Research Center** - $125,700
- **International Missions** - $423,876
- **Other** - $79,029

**ANNUAL GIVING LEVELS**

- Companions of St. Ignatius Loyola
  - $5,000+
- Companions of St. Francis Xavier
  - $1,000-$4,999
- Companions of St. Peter Faber
  - $500-$999
- Companions of St. Aloysius Gonzaga
  - $100-$499
- Companions of St. Stanislaus Kostka
  - $36-$99
OUR FUNDING PRIORITIES

How You Help

Your gifts to the Jesuits USA Central and Southern Province go directly to supporting three primary areas:

- CARE FOR ELDER AND INFIRM JESUITS
- EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF NEW JESUITS
- INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS
CARE FOR ELDER AND INFIRM JESUITS

Jesuits dedicate their lives to building up the Kingdom of God. When they reach the stage of their lives when they can no longer serve in active ministry, the province has an obligation to care for them.

This province has two health care facilities: the St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Pavilion in Grand Coteau, La., with 16 Jesuits and the Fusz Pavilion in St. Louis with 25.

The individual care senior Jesuits receive is demonstrated by the lengths province staff recently went to when one of the Jesuits required special care for dementia. The Jesuits and staff in Grand Coteau were concerned for his safety because of his habit of wandering the grounds. They assessed his condition and decided to move him to a specialized facility. His brother Jesuits and the staff supported him through the process, even replicating his old room and including gear from the Jesuit high school where he served for many years to provide some continuity. He is doing well in his new home.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF NEW JESUITS

Jesuits have a centuries-old method of forming Jesuits to become faith leaders. This intensive 8-to-13-year Jesuit formation journey includes:

- **Novitate | 2 Years**  
  A time of learning, community, prayer and apostolic service, at the end of which each Jesuit pronounces vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

- **First Studies | 3 Years**  
  The newly vowed Jesuit studies philosophy and theology and deepens his Jesuit identity through other ministerial work that strengthens or challenges his gifts.

- **Regency | 3 Years**  
  The Jesuit brother or scholastic moves into active Jesuit ministry, usually teaching at a high school or university.

- **Theology Studies | 3 Years**  
  Jesuit scholastics prepare for ordination through theology studies. Jesuit brothers also study theology to enhance their effectiveness in ministry.

- **Priestly Ordination**  
  A Jesuit is ordained a priest only after completing this lengthy training, but he has been a Jesuit from the time of his entrance to the novitiate.

The U.S. Central and Southern Province has more than 70 men in various stages of formation. This blessing comes with the financial challenge of approximately $40,000/year to form one Jesuit.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Father Harold Rahm, SJ, known as the “Bicycle Priest,” died Nov. 30, 2019, at the age of 100. In 1964, he was “invited” by his provincial to travel to Brazil to explore ways Jesuits might be of service. This temporary assignment became his life’s work. Father Rahm worked in Brazil to help staff the Centro Kennedy Mission in São Paulo, which worked to improve lives through education and human development. He worked with alcoholics and drug addicts and founded Amor-Exigente (Tough Love).

His service and compassion continue through the Instituto Padre Haroldo, a center in his name in Campinas, Brazil. The center offers therapeutic treatment of alcoholics and drug addicts.

Father Rahm was a great example of the work Jesuits do in international missions. As pastors, teachers, spiritual directors, mediators and administrators these men dedicate their lives to spreading the Gospel, primarily to the poor, the neglected and the uneducated of the countries in which they serve.
IN LOVING GRATITUDE FOR OUR COMPANIONS

“Love consists in sharing
What one has
And what one is
With those one loves.”
St. Ignatius of Loyola

Steve and Schezy Barbas
Tampa, Fla.

Many people can attest that Ignatian retreats can be life altering. Steve Barbas is certainly one of those people. It was during a retreat in Grand Coteau, La., while in law school that he decided to ask the love of his life to marry him. Thankfully, Schezy Luque said yes, and together they have helped create a family and a community in which the greater glory of God shines brightly, in no small part because of their presence. A Tampa native, Steve attended Jesuit High School and Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans. He returned to his hometown and helped found a successful law firm which has grown to serve clients throughout Florida. A graceful man with an easygoing nature, Steve has a long record of giving back to the Jesuits and their works in all ways: with his time, talent and treasure. He is currently the chairman of the board of trustees at Jesuit High and has served on the board of the Jesuit Social Research Institute, based at Loyola New Orleans.

“I owe the Jesuits a debt of gratitude for playing so many important roles in my life,” Steve said. “In order for their good work to continue, it’s important to support the province in the formation of new Jesuits and the care of older Jesuits who, in retirement, need our care and support.”

Mark and Mary Jo LaBarge
St. Louis

Mark and Mary Jo LaBarge are founding members of the Belize 2020 Committee, a collaboration of volunteers in Belize and the United States who work to help the Jesuit apostolates in Belize. Their contributions are immeasurable, not just as donors, but as hands-on volunteers. They give freely of their time and reach out to others to enlist their help. They embody everything you could hope for in volunteers.

Mark graduated from St. Louis University High School, but his association with the Society of Jesus pre-dates that. He vividly recalls his father inviting Jesuits to their home for dinner and remembers with great fondness the likes of Jesuit Fathers David Wayne, Edward O’Brien and Tom Jost. He didn’t realize it at the time, but that was the beginning of a life-long connection to the Jesuits.

Members of St. Matthew the Apostle (Jesuit) Parish in St. Louis, Mark and Mary Jo started the Christmas adopt-a-family and winter coat programs at the parish. It was also at St. Matthew’s that they met Fr. Matt Ruhl, S.J. Mark helped with the “Revitalization 2000” campaign to rebuild the gymnasium at St. Matthew’s, then continued to support Fr. Ruhl’s work as he served in the Jesuit parishes in Belize City and Punta Gorda, Belize. The LaBarges travel to Belize several times each year to help where they can.

For a complete list of our benefactors, visit www.JesuitsCentralSouthern.org/SupportUs
Dr. Robert and Mrs. Jean Luchi were married for 65 years when Jean died on Sept. 26, 2019, after suffering from Alzheimer’s Disease. At her memorial service, Dr. Luchi expressed sadness combined with a sense of peace, saying, “Although Jean is gone, I know she is where she always wanted to be … with Jesus and our son Robert.”

Married in 1954, Dr. and Mrs. Luchi had a long and rewarding life together. Robert, Jr. was born in 1955, in Okinawa, Japan, while the Luchis were stationed there with the United States Navy. Robert was the oldest of their four children and became a Jesuit in 1983. Sadly, Fr. Robert Luchi, SJ, died in June 22, 2007, after a lengthy illness. During his illness, he was cared for by family members and the dedicated staff at Jesuit Hall in St. Louis.

Dr. Luchi supports the USA Central and Southern Province both financially and with his time. He is always willing to meet and greet fellow donors and to recruit new volunteers to support the cause. He remains grateful for the care his son received during his illness and to the donors who made that care possible. His consistent donations to the province help ensure that other Jesuits receive the same care and compassion.

Influence, inspire, ignite. These words, found on banners lining the beautiful Avenue of Oaks on the campus of Spring Hill College in Mobile, succinctly describe the effect Jesuits have had on the lives of Edward “Skeeter” and Stephanie Morris, benefactors of the Jesuit province since 1986.

Stephanie’s journey with the Jesuits began in her childhood with her father’s professorship at Spring Hill. The couple was married in St. Joseph’s Chapel, and in the 50 years since, the Morrises have been blessed with six children, many grandchildren and an even larger Jesuit family.

For more than 30 years, Skeeter has organized a weekend retreat for men in what has become an annual gathering. The tradition has woven many Jesuit guides into the fabric of his life, his prayer and his thought process.

The Morrises are inspired by the students of the Spring Hill Sodality, who they say “are on fire to bring encouragement to our world” because of their Jesuit formation. The couple’s comfortable home on Mobile Bay is a favorite gathering spot for the students.

“We will be forever grateful for the Jesuit witnesses who have influenced our lives,” says Skeeter. “As beneficiaries of their lasting bequest, we want to support their mission of finding God in all things.”

Now retired, Bob and Margo Murphy are gratefully enjoying the fruits of a God-centered life. A New Orleans native, Bob is a graduate of Jesuit High School. He was a professor of business at Xavier University in New Orleans, had an accounting practice and served in the Louisiana Air National Guard. Margo worked as a nurse for the Veterans Administration in New Orleans. After their two children — Robert and Roxanne — were born, she became a home health care nurse.

Already supporters of Jesuit High School, the Murphys began to donate to the Jesuit province when their son entered the Society of Jesus. They recognize the need for the province to provide training for young men in formation and are proud to support that work. The Murphys’ son, Robert, is now a Jesuit priest of this province.

Bob and Margo have lived a life of giving to others and to their family, volunteering at their parish, St. Edward the Confessor in Metairie, La., in many ways, including as lead couple for Marriage Encounter and with their children’s activities. Bob currently volunteers with the St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter of St. Edward’s, helping to provide food to the poor once a month.