

CALLINGS



THE NEWSLETTER FROM

THINKJESUIT.ORG

Relationships for a lifetime

Ministry in High Schools Yields Great Rewards

By Br. Michael Baranek, SJ

The high school years are a strange combination of the happiest times of one's life as one dreams great dreams and

“Most touching are the people – those with whom I worked and served and showed me love every day along the way.”

some of the most painful as one begins to realize personal limits. Relationships can be built that last a lifetime and at the same time, in the awkwardness of the teen years, one can face some of the most cruel situations. In high school one begins to realize the reality of others and an opening of a greater sense of

the wideness of the world. This has been the environment that I have ministered in for over 20 years of my Jesuit life. I have been in two very different Jesuit high schools and am about to start in a third. I



BR. BARANEK AT HIS NEWEST ASSIGNMENT AT RED CLOUD INDIAN SCHOOL IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

pray that I have done more good than harm.

My 30 plus years in the Jesuits have comprised a journey of faith – filled mostly with laughs (I have a very good sense of humor), but also bitterest tears. I never imagined where I would go, and who I would meet, while growing up in a traditional Catholic family in Cleveland in the 60s. The Lord has been very generous to me, and I can only express utmost gratitude.

My Jesuit journey began in the family. We were active in the local parish. I was filled with awe and wonder watching → *Baranek on next page*

ON THE WEB



Hear RJ Fichtinger, SJ, teacher at University of Detroit Jesuit High School, talk about his 'journey'.

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thinkjesuit.org

Summer Splash success

“Words cannot describe the amazing weekend,” said a young man after attending Summer Splash at the Jesuit summer vacation house near Waupaca, Wis. He was one of 22 young men from Omaha’s Creighton Prep, Milwaukee’s Marquette High, and the Twin Cities’ Cristo Rey High who participated in the annual event in late June sponsored by the Jesuit Vocation Office.

Summer Splash is an opportunity for young men to learn more about the Jesuits and Ignatian spirituality. It is a time for faith, fun and friendship, and the participants seemed to relish the opportunity to reflect, relax, and think, with a lot of time for fun and games on the lakes.

In addition to the Jesuits on staff at Loyola Villa, several Jesuits came from the Midwest to help host the event.



STUDENTS RELAXED AT THE LOYOLA VILLA.

“Meeting new Jesuits and talking with them was great,” one student said. “I really enjoyed hearing about their lives,” said another. **E**

See HAPPENINGS on back page for upcoming events ▶

the good sisters working tirelessly and lovingly in the school. I was also fascinated by the parish's priests. I was an altar boy and enjoyed serving the church and community.

I entered the Jesuits after graduating from St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland in 1978. The novitiate was a challenge – as it should be – and I was sent to Appalachia (Kentucky), and an Indian reservation in Northern Michigan. I spent about four months in Central America during my novice years learning Spanish and working with the Central American Jesuits. I was confirmed in my Jesuit call and proceeded to vows and studies at Loyola University in Chicago.

In Chicago, I majored in chemistry and education, and minored in physics. I felt a call to the high school apostolate and a realization that I was called to be a Brother. The Brother's vocation called forth the best of me. It is a decision I have rarely regretted.

My career in high school ministry started at Walsh Jesuit High School in Stow, Ohio. At that time, Walsh was filled with students from some of Akron's wealthiest families, and included a significant number of middle class students. The Jesuit community was very supportive, and the school community – students, staff, and parents – were fun, loving, and accepting. A pair of master teachers taught me how to teach both high achievers and those of low motivation.

I enjoyed teaching, but it was the extracurriculars that called forth growth. I learned to sew costumes and do construction as the drama program's tech director. I was student government moderator, and even coached baseball – though I have never played sports in my life. These were among my happiest years in the Jesuits.

Towards the end of my time in Akron, I was called upon by the province to spend summers cooking and doing maintenance at our villa in Northern Michigan. I continue this work, alternating with another Brother, to this day.

After five years at Walsh, I was sent to further studies – the most personally



BR. BARANEK HAS ENJOYED HIS WORK IN HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY INCLUDING THIS SKI TRIP WITH DETROIT'S LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL.

challenging years of my life. I earned a master's degree in chemistry from St. Joseph's in Philadelphia, but the graduate student work was challenging, and my research assistantship very time consuming. The professors, staff and other grad students were very good to me, but I missed the high schools.

From Philadelphia, I was sent to Boston for a master's in theology. This really confirmed my vocation as a Brother. There, I learned to sew vestments, reupholster furniture, and do needlework.

My next assignment – Detroit's Loyola High School – forced me to put everything together. Loyola is an inner city school, and the students are predominantly poor, African American, and non-Catholic. I was sent to run the physical plant and teach. I was also student government moderator, parent (booster) club moderator, retreat director, computer records coordinator, band teacher, sports booster, and security. Everyone wears several hats there.

I quickly found many students not performing to their potential, and many discouraged in studies. I challenged, encouraged, and supported them. They, in turn, challenged me, forced me to grow, and were a fun group.

After 15 years, it was time to move, and my provincial asked where I'd like to go. "Wherever needed," I responded. But, I knew my heart was with the Indian missions. The Detroit Province gave up its Native American ministries in Northern Michigan long ago. The call to the South Dakota missions of the Wisconsin Province was strong. The Provincial was very encouraging; anxious to start sharing men between provinces and to fill genuine needs.

After a short rest, I found myself in South Dakota. While here, I've cared for the needs of Jesuits in the mission, among other things, while waiting for an opening to teach in the high school. I have just begun teaching at Red Cloud Indian High School.

Looking back on my Jesuit years, I am amazed at the journey. Most touching are the people – those with whom I worked and served and showed me love every day along the way.

For me, being a Jesuit brother simply means to pray faithfully, to do whatever needs to be done, and to love those to whom you are sent. **G**

Br. Michael Baranek is a teacher at Red Cloud Indian High School on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.



Two join St. Paul novitiate

The Chicago-Detroit and Wisconsin provinces received two men into the St. Alberto Hurtado novitiate in St. Paul.

Entering are Matthew Donovan, 29, of Houston, Texas and Eric Immel, 29, of Green Bay, Wis.

Donovan graduated from Strake Jesuit in

◀ JOINING THE NOVITIATE ARE (from left) MATTHEW DONOVAN AND ERIC IMMEL.

Houston and received a BA in history from Loyola University Chicago. He worked with the developmentally disabled at Misericordia Home in Chicago and led Hope for the First Nations camp on the White Earth Reservation, Minn.

Immel earned a BA in American studies from St. Louis University and an MA in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Wisconsin. Eric has worked most recently in the Student Activities office at Creighton University. **G**

Vows professed by nine

On Saturday, August 13th, nine young men from the Chicago-Detroit and Wisconsin provinces pronounced perpetual vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience as Jesuits. At the liturgy that morning at St. Thomas More Church in St. Paul, each novice professed his vows and then received a crucifix, a sign of his dedication to following Christ. The Vows crucifix remains with a Jesuit for his entire life.

Several Jesuits from both provinces attended the Vows ceremony as these men celebrated the men who publicly professed their commitment to Jesuit life. Following the service, the newly-vowed men joined their families and friends at a social held in the parish center.



PROFESSING FIRST VOWS ARE (from left, back) GREG OSTDIK OF BEAVERCREEK, OHIO; KEVIN EMBACH OF GROSS POINTE SHORES, MICH.; KYLE SHINSEKI OF HONOLULU; MATTHEW LIESER OF LAKEWOOD, OHIO; (from left, front) JOSHUA PETERS OF DETROIT; JEFFREY SULLIVAN OF INDIANAPOLIS; JEFF DORR OF MILWAUKEE; TREVOR BEACH OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., AND JOHN ROSELLE OF BROKEN ARROW, OKLA.

John Roselle, SJ, one of the men who pronounced his First Vows, shared reflections about the event:

"This past Saturday, eight other men and I made the most important decision of our lives. After two years of intense soul-searching in the "Jesuit novitiate," we felt called to finally commit our lives to poverty, chastity, and obedience in the Society of Jesus. During Mass, in a church packed with our loved ones who came to support us, we went up one-by-one in the front of the Eucharist, knelt down, and promised to live the rest of our lives as Jesuits. There were many tears, but much joy.

What brought us to this point? For each Jesuit it is different, but it is fair to say that what we have in common is an experience of God, a desire to serve God and His people, and a sense of trust that being a Jesuit is right for us. This took a long time for us to each realize, but eventually we had to take the leap of faith.

*What is it like to take vows? It is a deeply personal decision that is both profound and joyful. We trust that this is the beginning of a new and wonderful life. Jesus promised His followers that whatever they gave up for the sake of the Kingdom they would receive back one-hundredfold. If we live the vows well, they will be boomerangs of grace that will backfire with blessings. Each of the three vows are gateways to tremendous freedom. This way of life is a witness to the world that God is alive, active, and interested in them. I have seen how this way of life can inspire and aid people in their needs. It is not about us; it's about God and "helping souls," as St. Ignatius so desired the Jesuits to do." **G***

ANSWERING THE CALL

St. Ignatius a dreamer?

A problem that plagued me in school was my propensity to daydream. My mother could vouch for that from the number of "friendly" teacher notes she received. Truth be told, I was quite often not quite "in class" — though I was physically there — missing out on much of what was being taught and overlooking many important assignments. In a world where we are judged by what we "do," daydreaming can be a real problem.

My defense for daydreaming came only later in life and, believe it or not, from no less than the founder of the Jesuits, St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Yeah. St. Ignatius was a daydreamer. Some of his most significant spiritual insights emerged from his daydreams and his reflections on them. There was a period of his life when he was convalescing from a serious knee injury sustained in a battle and was forced to spend a long duration confined to bed. This was when St. Ignatius began to gradually recognize a pattern in his daydreams. He realized that when he daydreamed of the chivalrous things he would do to gain the approval of the world and of the women he sought to impress, that subsequently his spirit would be low and he would find himself left feeling empty and distant. Yet when he dreamed of the saints and the heroic things they did for God, then his spirit subsequently would soar and he would find himself filled with energy thinking about what he would do for Christ.

I reckon daydreaming, in small measures, then cannot be all that bad. The prophets found God speaking to them through their dreams. And St. Joseph, the father of Jesus, through his dreams

"They may surprise you. They may inspire you, challenge you, and even invite you to explore new options and a different life."

recognized what God wanted of him when Mary, the girl to whom he was engaged, was found to be pregnant, and later when Herod sought to kill the babe Jesus.

Though daydreams and sleep dreams may differ, combined they can often provide us with a window through which we catch glimpses of our inner-most desires and our deepest hopes.

What then are the desires and hopes that reside in your inner most self? What are the things that fill you with a sense of restless anticipation at those times when you find quiet moments? What are the things you dream of — the things that you just cannot wait to begin doing? Do you pay adequate attention to these desires? You know, it is possible God may be speaking to you through them.

So, when you daydream the next time, especially if it happens spontaneously, explore what those dreams might be inviting you to consider. They may surprise you. They may inspire you, challenge you, and even invite you to explore new options and a different life.

And as with the prophets of old and St. Joseph, know that if your dreams inspire you to do great things for God, that God will also give you the courage and strength to see them through. **G**



By Fr. Paul Coelho, SJ
VOCATION DIRECTOR
WISCONSIN PROVINCE

Meet the team

Chris Collins and Grant Garinger are the new Vocation Promoters for the Wisconsin Province. Each Jesuit will be promoting the Society of Jesus to young men in the area where they reside. Look for Fr. Collins in the Omaha area and Fr. Garinger in the Milwaukee area. They can be contacted at:



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THE SAINTS




North American Martyrs

(Feast Day Oct. 19)

The Holy North American Martyrs are eight in number; five died in what is now Canada, three in what is now the United States. All are Jesuits, all are French in origin: Antoine Daniel, Charles Garnier, Gabriel Lalemant, Isaac Jogues, John de Brébeuf, John de Lalande, Noel Chabanel, Rene Goupil.

They came in the 1640s to New France and confronted much difficulty – building materials, everything in effect had to be imported from France; the Indian languages were varied and difficult; customs were at best non-Christian; insects infested the woods where they dwelt; the tribes were migrant and had to be followed from place to place.

There were less belligerent tribes who responded rapidly to the Jesuit's teachings, but the Iroquois of the northeast were dreaded, and it was to them that the eight martyrs all fell victims, over a period of seven years. Pope Pius XI canonized the group on June 29, 1930. 

IGNATIUS SAYS

*Lord, what do I desire
 except You. What could I
 wish for besides You?*

THE CALLINGS QUIZ

Jesuits and Windows



What does Fr. William Sullivan, SJ, former president of Seattle University, have in common with Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft?



First two correct answers will receive a copy of Fr. James Martin's book "In Good Company."

Send answers to
VOCATIONS@THINKJESUIT.ORG

LAST ISSUE'S QUIZ


Jesuits and champions

Jeff Peak (who works at Creighton University's Center for Service and Justice while pursuing his Master of Arts in Ministry) and Susan Celentani (teacher at Catholic Central High School in Burlington, Wis.) both answered last issue's quiz correctly: There were five Jesuit universities that have won the NCAA basketball title a total of six times. They are Holy Cross, San Francisco (twice), Loyola Chicago, Marquette and Georgetown. Both Jeff and Susan received a copy of James Martin's book "My Life with the Saints" for sending in the correct answers.



Click us out

A blog written by several young Jesuits who "think we have an interesting perspective in following the same spirit that compelled Ignatius to God in all things. Therefore, united in hearts and minds by the service of the Body of Christ, we attempt to address art, music, politics,

culture – everything that moves us – in light of our faith in God, which is to say, contemplatively." 

<http://whosoeverdesires.wordpress.com/welcome>

HAPPENINGS

WEEKEND AT THE NOVITIATE

SEPT 30-OCT 2 / NOV 4-6 / DEC 2-4

If I joined the Jesuits, what would the novitiate be like? Consider finding out by spending a weekend with the novices at the Novitiate in St. Paul, Minn. The event runs from Friday night to Sunday afternoon.

COME AND SEE WEEKEND

OCT. 28-30

The Jesuit community at Loyola University in Chicago welcomes interested men for a Come and See weekend. Meet young Jesuits in early formation and learn about Jesuit life, training, and ministries. This event includes presentations, personal stories of Jesuit vocations, Mass, meals with the Jesuits, and lively conversations.

IGNATIUS SILENT RETREATS FOR MEN IN DISCERNMENT

DECEMBER 16-22: Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford, Ohio

JANUARY 2-8: Jesuit Novitiate in St. Paul, Minn.

Make the most of your semester break during an Ignatian Silent Retreat for Men in Discernment. Spend 5 days in silent prayer and reflection. This is the time to slow down, pray, reflect and orient your life.

CALLINGS

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT VOCATIONS

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