There was excitement in the air as 400 Catholic educators, including two dozen AJCU presidents, walked across the Catholic University campus on the way to the Pryzbyla University Center to hear Pope Benedict XVI’s address in April. The Catholic University community could not have been more welcoming, and students were enjoying their holiday and tossing frisbees on the lawn in front of a giant screen as they waited to greet the papal entourage.

College and university presidents and school superintendents mingled outside the hall before being urged by security to take their assigned seats. Festive music and videos of what was happening outside killed time before the Pope’s arrival. The mood was cheerful, and nothing like what would have been expected from the somber media reports that preceded the event. “Catholic college leaders expect Pope to deliver stern message,” “For Catholic educators, eagerness and angst attend Pope’s visit,” and “Uncertain Church awaits Pope in U.S.” were just a few of the headlines.
Jesuit-led Movement Advocates Chevron Human Rights

The Jesuit-led HUMAN RIGHTS resolution received a strong 24 percent vote at Chevron’s annual stockholder meeting May 28 in San Ramon, California. For the past four years, Jesuits and religious investors have engaged Chevron Corporation (CVX) on the need to develop a comprehensive, transparent and verifiable human rights policy to deploy throughout the 180 countries where they operate. The National Jesuit Committee for Investment Responsibility (NJCIR), with the support of the U.S. and English Canadian Jesuit Provincials, has focused on Human Rights as a core area of shareholder advocacy. This issue fits close with Jesuit apostolic concerns regarding the marginalization of Africa, the rights of indigenous people, economic justice, and conflict and violence.

Led by the Wisconsin Province, this growing movement with Chevron now includes 30 institutional investors including the Jesuit provinces mentioned above. Creighton University, University of San Francisco and Gesu Parish (Milwaukee). In addition, many other religious congregations and two Catholic healthcare networks have filed their support. Along with Chevron, Jesuit provinces are also leading corporate dialogues with Monsanto (Missouri Province), Bristol Myers Squibb (New York Province), Occidental Petroleum (California Province) (JM Group, Detroit Province). Chevron is the only Jesuit-led resolution that went to shareholder vote this year.

Proponents appreciated the opportunity to interact with Chairmen David O'Reilly and other Chevron board members before the meeting and also noted Mr. O'Reilly's signal that Chevron is committed to the human rights dialogue with shareholders.

The shareholder coalition acknowledges some hopeful Chevron human rights initiatives over the past year, such as additional training, development efforts in the Niger Delta and the inclusion of a human rights statement in the Business Code of Conduct. However, Fr. Provincial Tom Krettek (WIS) maintains, “We believe the company’s various human rights activities would achieve greater impact as a comprehensive policy with specific objectives, timeframes, management accountability, performance metrics, guidelines, evaluation and reporting procedures for operating in high-risk environments.”

In her remarks at the annual meeting, Jesuit consultant for Socially Responsible Investing, Anna Bradley, referenced the work of UN special representative on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations, Dr. John Ruggie. “Companies need to adopt a human rights policy,” she said. “Broad aspirational language may be used to describe respect for human rights, but more detailed guidance in specific fundamental areas is necessary to give those commitments meaning.”

Speaking in support of the Jesuit Human Rights resolution at the annual meeting, Fr. John P. Fitzgibbons (WIS), vice president for administration and dean of the College of Professional Studies at the University of San Francisco, referenced a recent USF law school symposium, “The Future of Corporate Accountability and Oversight,” which included panelists from extractive industries, investors and advocates from the crossroads of business and human rights. Fitzgibbons noted that the sustained and sizeable support for the resolution demonstrates that “the investment community is awakened to human rights and anticipates action and leadership from the board.”

While religious investors are clearly motivated by the humanitarian concerns, they must make a convincing fiduciary case to implement policy change on the corporate level. To this end, the resolution again received the support of two of the major proxy advisory services, Institutional Shareholder Services and Proxy Governance. Jesuit Conference Policy Director John Kidder adds, “This is not only the right thing to do, but it’s smart business. A human rights policy will address threats to shareholder value before they arise.” The list of co-filers has steadily grown over the years.

The energy sector is under mounting scrutiny for human rights practices. Increasingly, oil and gas resources are located in conflictive, repressive and deprived locations which can make operating environments more volatile. Only two weeks ago, a consumer campaign was launched against the French oil and gas company TOTAL, referencing human rights abuses, revenue transparency concerns and social-environmental impacts.

The coalition also maintains that the establishment of a Human Rights policy will improve Chevron’s social license with host communities and position the company as partner of choice for all stakeholders.

John Sealey, provincial assistant for social and international ministries in the Wisconsin Province, added that Jesuits and co-filers will continue to press the company. “This effort is in Chevron’s long-term interest as well the host communities who shoulder the costs but rarely realize the rewards of petroleum wealth,” he said. “We are particularly grateful for the support of so many religious investors who bring such insight and on-the-ground perspective to our conversations with the company.”

NJCIR chair Fr. Mark Hallinan (NYK), provincial assistant for social ministries in the New York Province, offers a vision for the work ahead. “We hope that Chevron will work with us to transform their current human rights statement into a policy that will be fully integrated into all company operations.”

Gracious God,

You gifted the earth with bountiful gifts - gifts you intended to be shared equitably among all your peoples.

You crowned the splendor of creation with the gift of human life, endowing each person with a measure of your own divine dignity.

Bless the efforts of those who work to assure that all share fairly in your wondrous gifts.

Bless the efforts of those who work to assure that the dignity of all your beloved children is protected and revered.

Move the hearts of those with power - corporate and civic leaders - to understand their responsibility to effect just policies and to be wise stewards of your gifts.

May all persons of faith be tireless advocates for those who lack a voice in our world and may we all work unceasingly for the dawning of that justice without which there cannot be true and lasting peace.

Amen.

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**Jesuits Had a Role to Play in Papal Visit**

By Katie McCarthy

A Papal visit is not an easy feat to pull off. It requires countless hours of detailed planning, coordination, perhaps a bit of divine assistance, and a Jesuit or two thrown in for good measure.

While many are aware of Fr. Federico Lombardi's (ITA) high profile role within the Vatican, several American Jesuits were also involved in Pope Benedict's first apostolic visit to the United States. The trip, which took place April 15-20, required many lay and religious to work long hours to ensure its success.

Among them, Fr. James McCann (CHG), the director of the USCCB Office to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, was a member of the Papal entourage, and facilitated various aspects of the visit, aided by his ability to speak numerous languages.

“I was brought in to facilitate communication and streamline details among the various languages being spoken. It provided such a unique experience, but also such amazing access to the Holy Father,” commented McCann. “Being around him, I was struck by his energy, especially at 81. Most of this was responding to the crowds – they energized him. This was most obvious at St. Joseph’s Seminary, for his meeting with young people. Pope Benedict connects so well with young people, and vice versa.”

This unlimited access, according to McCann, also exposed him to the various sides of the Pope through the different events.

“We saw the Pope in three different modes. First, when he is with the crowds, he makes a lot of eye contact, a very concentrated glance. But then when he was in procession to the liturgy, the strong focus was removed and abstracted from the crowds. He was focused on the Mass. But then, with the students, and at CUA, he was the professor, the teacher.”

Preparations for the visit began in January, with weekly planning meetings attended by USCCB and diocesan officials, as well as local law enforcement, the Secret Service and federal agencies. For their effort, members of the Papal entourage were rewarded with the special “God-pass.”

“Members of the entourage had a specific pass for security, and the police called it the ‘God-pass.’ It let us into everything, except for the private meeting between the Pope and the president,” said McCann. “The sheer number of police, and how heavily armed they were, was amazing. The Pope used the president’s armored limo when not using the Pope-mobile. Security was very tight.”

The press attention to the Papal visit was worldwide, and journalists traveled from all corners of the earth to cover it. With so many questions being asked, many religious, including Jesuits, were asked to provide commentary, as well as give the audience a crash course in all things Catholic. So while McCann was ensuring a smooth visit, Frs. James Martin (NE) and Allan Deck (CFN), among others, were assisting the media in its coverage of the visit.

Martin, the associate editor of America magazine, saw the opportunity to assist the media as a chance to evangelize and educate a wider audience.

“As with so many questions being asked, many religious, including Jesuits, were asked to provide commentary, as well as give the audience a crash course in all things Catholic.”

**See Papal Visit on page 7**

Photo by Katie McCarthy

The crowd welcomes Pope Benedict XVI upon his arrival at Andrews Air Force Base, April 15, 2008.

Pope Benedict XVI exits the baseball stadium in Washington, DC after celebrating an outdoor Mass. The stadium was filled to capacity.

As the sun rises, final preparations are made in the empty stadium.
Engaging Religious Diversity at the High School Level

By Mary Ann Wallace

Interreligious dialogue at the high school level is exciting and challenging. All our efforts begin with prayer and encourage reflection and openness in the spirit of Ignatius, who urged his companions to find God in all things.

The process of defining and sharing religious identity begins with orientation in freshman year. There, first-year students are led in small groups by senior leaders. For their part, the senior leaders, prior to leading the freshmen in small groups, have reflected on Jesuits’ “graduate at graduation” document, which encourages students to be loving, religious, intellectually competent, open to growth and committed to justice. Themes of diversity, interreligious dialogue and the practice of Jesuit education are also incorporated into the day. The senior leaders are crucial to the success of orientation, for as Ignatius did, they take the students where they are and begin the process of helping them learn a way of proceeding. This is the starting point of the students’ journey through high school. Throughout their time at Brebeuf Jesuit, students will realize that their religious identity and openness to all other religions will have an impact on every aspect of their lives.

Brebeuf Jesuit is a Jesuit, Catholic school that encourages interreligious dialogue. The student body is approximately 50 percent Catholic, 37 percent Protestant and 13 percent non-Christian. Mass is offered each day before school and during the school day on holy days of obligation. Seniors celebrate baccalaureate with a mass, and reconciliation services are celebrated during Advent and Lent.

Campus Ministry has an advisory board of students from various religious traditions: Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Catholic, Muslim and Buddhist. This group is instrumental in planning all school-wide prayer services and advising campus ministers about their religious traditions. A typical element of our common prayer services is a call to prayer from different religious traditions. Students sing or recite a prayer in the language of his or her religious tradition and then translate it into English for all gathered to understand. A small gesture fosters an awareness of the religious diversity in our community as well as in the larger world where they will ultimately work and lead. Likewise, scriptures from the different religions are incorporated into services. This spring’s prayer service was celebrated on Holy Thursday on the theme of servant leadership. Students participated in a food drive, and the collected goods were visible at the service. The prayer service itself included a call to service from the different religions.

Each school day begins with a prayer over the public address system. We use the interreligious calendar from the National Conference for Community and Justice of Chicago and Greater Illinois as a resource and invite adult and student volunteers to lead prayer. Again, students of different religious traditions pray and the entire community shares in this diversity. Each day closes with the familiar Ignatian Examen, helping us reflect on the actions of our day and our opportunity to serve God more closely the next day.

On retreats, senior leaders and adults are asked to share their religious experiences, encouraging retreatants to do likewise. This sharing stimulates discernment of what God is telling each of us. Several years ago on a freshman retreat, when a senior led the group in a Muslim morning prayer, a prayer not familiar to most retreatants, they sensed from the leader’s reverence that this was a holy and sacred experience. Retreatants are also asked to volunteer to pray before meals, which may result in traditional Catholic meal blessings, Hebrew prayers or more spontaneous Evangelical Christian prayers.

In addition to campus ministry, the board of trustees, administrators, faculty and staff of the school grapple with what interreligious dialogue truly means and looks like in our school.

One example that reflects the celebration of religious diversity at Brebeuf Jesuit is an all-school prayer service on Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day. This prayer experience is organized by the Jewish Student Union. The same group also organizes a Seder meal during Passover, open to all students and their families, and the lighting of a menorah in our front lobby during the eight days of Chanukah. The menorah rests on a table close to the wreath, similarly lit during the weeks of Advent.

Complementary to the intentional efforts fostering interreligious dialogue at Brebeuf Jesuit is the daily interaction of students that gives way to dialogue. This often happens over lunch or during time together in student commons. It regularly occurs during meetings of the campus ministry advisory board, often with the question, “Well why do you do that?” It likewise happens when friends support each other through the fasting periods of Lent or Ramadan.

We continue to be companions on the journey of life at Brebeuf Jesuit. Our attempts and struggles with interreligious dialogue are part of our identity, and the culture of the school is enriched because of our willingness to be companions, especially spiritual companions.

Wallace is Co-Director of campus ministry at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, where she has served for 15 years, spending 12 years prior to that in parish ministry.
Pastoral Care Consortium Convenes Jesuit and Lay

By Kevin Gillespie SJ and John DeSio

More than 10 years ago, the 34th General Congregation set forth as one of its mandates that Jesuit colleges and universities need to create avenues of collaboration among themselves. In the chapter of “Jesuits and University Life” it was stated: “Thus our universities have a clear opportunity to promote interuniversity collaboration and, in particular, to undertake common projects between Jesuit universities of developed and developing countries.”

In response to the GC 34 “collaboration” charge and the GC 35 message of networking, a consortium of Jesuit graduate schools in pastoral care and spirituality has been created. At the initiative of Fr. Anthony Ciorra, OFM, dean of Fordham University’s Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education and Fr. Kevin Gillespie (MAR), chair of Loyola Colleges Department of Pastoral Counseling, one dozen deans, professors and other administrators from Jesuit graduate schools came together on April 4 at Fordham University for a pastoral convocation on the themes articulated by the American Bishops in their document on lay ecclesial ministry, “Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord.”

In addition to Fordham and Loyola Baltimore, Boston College, Creighton University, Gonzaga University, Loyola Chicago, Loyola New Orleans, Santa Clara University, Seattle University, Universidad del Alber te Hurtado and Weston School of Theology represented other Jesuit schools. Those Jesuit schools were invited but were not able to attend this initial meeting. In addition, Richard Vigilante from Competency Assessment in Distributed Education (CADE) and development officers from Fordham and Loyola Baltimore were present.

Fr. Larry Yvenes (CHL) from Chile was the sole representative of an international institution. At the meeting, Yvenes described Hurtado’s new graduate program in spiritual and pastoral care. To date, five faculty members from Loyola College have spent a week to two weeks presenting courses at Hurtado, but Yvenes would welcome more from other Jesuit pastoral graduate programs.

Besides Hurtado, similar collaborative programs have been created at the Center for Family Ministries at the Ateneo University in Manila and Fujen University in Taipei. Conversations with Jesuit institutions in Hungary, Kenya, Singapore and Vietnam, to name just a few, are also being explored. Moreover, the group was invited by Vigilante to imagine ways by which CADE, in collaboration with JesuitNet, could train and then offer online global classes that would link various Jesuit higher education institutions throughout the globe.

The pastoral consortium saw the Fordham meeting as the first official step towards creating a new organization charged with supporting that mission. To that end, an exploratory steering committee was formed to develop an official mission statement and to flesh out the consortium’s guiding principles. The steering committee will include Ciorra and Gillespie; Eileen Burke-Sullivan, assistant professor of theology at Creighton University; Mark Markuly, dean of the school of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University; Robert Ludwig, director of the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola Chicago; Dr. Hosfman Osipno, coordinator of Hispanic Ministry Programs at Boston College; and Shonna Bartlett of the Ministry Institute at Gonzaga University.

Between now and the fall, the group will discuss its potential focus, how it will carry out the mission of bringing the laity and its ordained counterparts closer together in their work for the Catholic Church, and how the new group will work within existing organizational frameworks, such as other universities. During the convocation, the group also discussed ways to expand online distance learning course offerings through JesuitNet, including ways to offer courses to students from colleges they do not attend.

Fr. Charles Currie (MAR), president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), opened the event by telling how the new consortium meshes well with the ideals of his own organization. “We try to encourage as much collaboration as possible,” said Currie. “When we see areas where (different organizations) should be in touch with one another, we try to make that happen.”

He added that his organization would do all that it could to support the consortium, but that it was important for the new group to act as its own independent offering and not an offshoot of existing organizations. “I hope you will develop this initiative,” said Currie, offering AJCU’s assistance.

The group also discussed different potential areas of focus for the future, such as the consortium’s development of a Latino focus; the differences between participating Jesuit institutions; the possible inclusion of other Catholic institutions in the future; and the greater emphasis on bringing more international students into their respective colleges and programs.

At the end of the day, Ciorra said he was pleased with the vigorous exchange of ideas that took place during the meeting. He further stressed the importance of “Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord” and the role the new consortium will play in spreading the message that document has put forward.

“Expanding the role of the lay ministry in the Catholic Church will be critical to the future health and well-being of the Church,” said Curria. “The GRE, and the entire university, is proud to take a leading role in the effort to make that happen.”

For more information on the consortium, visit: http://www.fordham.edu/academics/colleges_graduate_s/graduate__profession/graduate_school_of_r/pastoral_convocation/index.asp

Gillespie (MAR) is professor of pastoral counseling at Loyola College in Baltimore. DeSio is a freelance writer and associate edi

Web Resources

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
http://www.ajcunet.edu/

Jesuit Secondary Education Association
http://www.jsea.org/

Jesuit Conference
http://www.jesuit.org
While a world seeking healing beats a path to Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, N.Y., Fr. Alan Briceland, chaplain, awaits with generationally Korean, offering a ministry of genus with a few dozen worshipers. Briceland, a Catholic chaplain, is packed with patients from Ecuador, Mexico and the rest of Latin America, Ireland, Eastern Europe, Korea and Nigeria, among other places. At this Mass, he is praying with the nurses and staff at this United Nations of care and, in his homily, warns them about the temptations of religion applied to healthcare.

The day before, he received an early morning phone call, he says, asking him to go to the hospital from his apartment in the Jesuit community on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. A child had fallen, was seriously ill, and his parents were distraught with guilt.

“There is a temptation to a Spirit of lies,” warns Briceland. That Spirit reveals itself in making deals with God to heal an illness in exchange for promises of good behavior. By contrast, Jesus in the Gospel of John calls Christians to live in a spirit of truth.

“The truth is the child had an accident,” he says, noting that “God is not to blame. He is with us.”

The wards of the giant facility, situated amidst the Korean groceries and the smells of Indian food wafting over from nearby Jackson Heights, tell many stories about God’s love, says Briceland, sitting after Mass in the office he shares with another Catholic priest from the Philippines, a Protestant chaplain and a Muslim imam.

“Every day there are stories worth recording,” he says. Sometimes he will encounter the other side of the story, the complexity about life, for example, not seen in tabloid headlines about human monsters.

In one recent case, a woman was treated on the psychiatric ward after she was said to have killed her two-month-old child. As the family grieved, she was being treated for what appeared to be a severe case of post-partum depression. Briceland notes that the mentally ill rarely get the same consideration those with physical ailments regularly receive.

Briceland has been at Elmhurst since 1996. In a crowded big-city hospital, in the midst of a neighborhood that is a magnet for immigrants, Briceland, a former high school teacher, finds this particular parish filled with human possibility and Divine love.

While he will visit occasionally with non-Catholic patients, his work’s focus is on the 60 percent of patients who identify themselves as Catholics. They challenge him every day and, at 76 - an age when many are enjoying the golf links of retirement havens - he finds himself infused with energy for the job.

“It brings out a whole different aspect of me,” he says, noting that his clerical role is brought out most fruitfully in direct minstry with the suffering.

“I’m the priest here,” he says, “I wear the collar.” Through no particular effort of his own, he says, people respond to him in that role. “It’s like God is here in disguise... I don’t really find that. It’s me. It feels like God working through me.”

When he enters a patient’s room, he is conscious of being an agent sent to bring God’s healing, to help the ill and their families to forgive, and help them accept what they cannot change.

Privileged to be a confidante of the sick, the stories keep accumulating, and he has recorded many of them in an unpublished manuscript. There was the young man from Colombia, only in his twenties, who died of cancer, even after doctors had told him he would survive. Briceland had to tell the man’s father.

There is the 19-year-old girl from Trinidad, her family from a Hindu background, whose father befriended the Catholic chaplain. She has been beset by illnesses that have caused her to shrivel up to only 50 pounds. She has been at Elmhurst for four months, slowly gaining strength for an upcoming surgery.

There is Shane, 21, an Irish immigrant who entered the psychiatric ward after attempting suicide. Briceland spent much of one weekend watching the British Open golf tournament with him and talking about his family back in Ireland.

Much of his time is spent listening. Relatively little is spent preaching. He’s found that patients are anxious to tell their stories, in a setting where few are able to listen. Knowing their language helps. When he first came to Elmhurst, he needed a translator to communicate in Spanish. That is no longer the case. He will even put an occasional Korean phrase into the liturgy at the Sign of Peace.

Working in a hospital where immigrants abound, a welcoming attitude is essential. “I often think about how fragile the life of an immigrant is,” he says, noting how many of the patients at Elmhurst are alone, in a strange country without family, often not able to speak the language. Sometimes they just want someone to pay attention to their personal stories.

“The doctors don’t have time for your story. They just have time for who you are and what your medical condition is. That’s what my job is,” he says.

Before entering the pastoral care field, Briceland had a particular image of hospital chaplains as “nice guys who say good morning, pray and then leave.” But it is a bit more complicated. His training and experience is regularly put to use, by first adhering to the Hippocratic creed of doing no harm.

He’s learned that phrases such as “everything will be okay” and “God will take care of it” are pious falsehoods serving as blanket barriers against expressing understandable anger. Sometimes silence is the best approach.

“You come in to be a presence. You are saying that God cares, that God is with you and he cares,” he says. “You come in to be with someone. If need be, you talk.”

Feuerherd is a communications consultant for the New York Province.
Catholicism: A Prescription for Health and Happiness

By Rodney Kasinger SJ

Catholicism is often regarded as a burden, a burden that people more or less willingly suffer here in order to avoid a much heavier burden elsewhere. The truth of the matter is that Catholicism is the greatest prescription ever given for physical, mental and spiritual health and for happiness, here as well as hereafter.

For a long time, medicine has known about the psychosomatic: how the body and mind are interdependent. What happens in one affects the other. Catholicism teaches us that there is a third element: the spirit. The psychosomatic is the interdependence of the spirit, the mind and the body. We are realizing more and more that the spirit affects the mind and the body, and the mind and the body affect the spirit. As someone has said, “the physician who does not take into consideration the spirituality of the patient is a veterinarian.” More and more we are becoming aware of the danger of reducing human problems to just one of these elements. Human problems must be solved in body, mind and spirit. It is called the medicine of the person, or holistic medicine.

Catholicism also teaches us the importance of preventive medicine. For too long we have had unreal expectations of expensive late-stage intervention and neglected the relatively cheap early-stage prevention. We spend too much time, money and technology on crisis-management, when many of these crises could have been prevented by a simple Catholic lifestyle.

Catholicism fulfills our most basic human needs. We all have a basic need to love and be loved. Love is the essence of Catholicism: the love of God, the love of self and the love of the neighbor. We also have a basic need to forgive and be forgiven; human beings cannot live together very long without forgiveness. Nothing can destroy us faster and more completely than the refusal to give, or accept, forgiveness. We can forgive others because God has forgiven us more than we will ever have to. And we can forgive ourselves because God has already done so.

We all have a basic need to have a meaning and purpose in life. “He who has a why to live can endure any how.” The Catholic knows where he came from, where she is going and what he is doing here. Jesus gives meaning and purpose to the life of a Catholic. “He is the way, the truth and the life.” In Jesus, the medium is the message: Jesus not only gives meaning to life but gives us also the power to live it. We all experience within ourselves the law of the body warring against the law of the mind. The good we will we do not, and the evil we will not do that we do. We cry out “who can save us?” With Paul, the Catholic says, “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ, our Lord!”

I have heard it estimated that more than half of illnesses are emotionally induced. Much of this illness comes from worry, worry about the past and about the future. The Catholic has contrition for the past, and plans for the future, but no worry about either. The Catholic commits the past to the mercy of God, the future to Divine Providence and has the grace of God for the present moment. By living today, the Catholic makes a beautiful dream of the past and a wonderful hope for the future. He or she doesn’t know what tomorrow holds but does know Who holds tomorrow.

Loneliness is the most common complaint today. You don’t have to be alone to be lonely. It is the existential loneliness of the creature for the Creator. The Catholic is never alone, but has the indwelling of the Blessed Trinity and the greatest support group in the Communion of Saints. The Catholic is remembered many times every day in the thousands of Masses said throughout the world.

Being a Catholic, of course, does not mean that we will never get sick. We are not immune to germs, bacteria and viruses. We are not exempt from accidents, or from being a victim of crime. Our bodily organs do wear out. And the older we get the more frequent and more impressive are these intimations of mortality. But Catholicism — with the Sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick, the Rite of Reconciliation and the Eucharist – is also the best prescription for these illnesses.

But in spite of all the preventive and remedial power of Catholicism, we all have to die.

With all the fibers of our being we want to live and yet we know we must die. Catholicism also gives us the answer to that dilemma. Jesus came on earth not to tell us that we will die; we find this out sooner or later for ourselves. He came to tell us that we will live. “I am the resurrection and the life; who ever believes in me, even if he dies will live.” He came not just to tell us; he came to prove it. He suffered, died and then rose again on the third day. The resurrection is the viewpoint from which the Catholic sees all of the events of this life. This life is not the ultimate value, which puts things in perspective and gives us a loving, trusting faith that nothing can destroy.

Catholicism is the greatest prescription ever given for physical, mental and spiritual health and happiness here as well as hereafter. And if we all did live as Catholics, we would do more for the national health and for Medicare and Medicaid than anything that ever will come out of Congress or out of medical science and technology. Kasinger (NOR) is writer in residence and auxiliary chaplain at Our Lady of Wisdom Healthcare Center in New Orleans. This piece was taken from a recent talk given to the provincial assistants for healthcare.

Continued from page 3

Papal Visit

“Working with the media is important for at least three reasons. First, you help reporters get the story right and portray the church accurately. Second, if you’re asked to provide commentary, you’re being given what is essentially free air time to evangelize,” said Martin. “During the papal masses in DC and New York, for example, during the distribution of Communion time, I spent at least 10 or 15 minutes discussing the theology of the Eucharist, probably reaching more people in a few minutes than I might in a year of homilies. Finally, as a Jesuit, I’m always trying to help people learn more about the Society of Jesus.”

The media coverage also provided a unique opportunity for Martin to reach varying age groups and belief systems at a national level.

While blogging for the New York Times appealed to one demographic, Martin ventured into what some might call a “demographic frontier” by appearing on The Colbert Report. Broadcast by cable channel Comedy Central, The Colbert Report (ed. note: the T’s are silent in both “Colbert” and “Report,” for maximum mock self-seriousness) mimics a news commentary program, while satirizing personality-driven political pundit programs, particularly Fox News The O’Reilly Factor.

“The New York Times had asked for, and its readers seemed to want, detailed analysis of individual talks and events. And most of the readers of the blog to which I contributed (A Papal Discussion) seemed to be Catholic, so I tailored my comments to that audience,” said Martin. “The Colbert Report’s audience is similarly sophisticated, but of course expects their facts leaned with a little more humor. In both cases I was striving to do what St. Ignatius suggested, which is to ‘go in their door, and come out your own.’”


“The question I received the most from the anchors was, ‘What will the Pope talk about?’ A theme he discussed often was hope, given his recent encyclical on the topic. His message was both positive and constructive,” said O’Brien. “People who hope live differently,” the pope wrote. He encouraged us, but also called the American people to live differently. His message was challenging, as the Gospel itself is challenging.”

Deek, director of the USCCB Office for Cultural Diversity, also lent his assistance by providing commentary for Spanish-language channel, Univision.

And so, these Jesuits, while only a handful, helped make the Papal visit a success, each in his own way. Whether it was by helping the papal logistical team communicate with one another, or advancing the papal message to a larger audience, all did their part for a greater good.

McCarthy is a communications associate at the Jesuit Conference.
Sean Dempsey, 35, from Shirley, New York, has a master’s degree in American Studies from Saint Louis University. He taught American Cultures and worked at the Center for Service and Action at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. After ordination, he will pursue a doctorate in U.S. history.

Frank Buckley, 48, from New Orleans, has a master’s degree in social work from Loyola University Chicago. A certified yoga instructor, he counseled and taught yoga at Bellarmine College Prep in San Jose. This fall he will work at a substance abuse rehabilitation program for the homeless in San Francisco.

Glen Chun, 51, from Honolulu, has a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame and worked in finance and accounting at Bendix Corporation for 17 years. He was a prison chaplain in Chicago and is also a trustee of St. Ignatius College Prep there.

Charles Rodrigues, 42, from Bombay, India, has a master’s degree in sociology from Bombay University and international business from the University of Kentucky. He taught religion at St. Xavier High in Cincinnati and did pastoral ministry, youth retreats and vocation promotion in Mumbai, India.

William Murphy, 38, from East Lansing, Michigan, has a bachelor’s degree in economics from DePaul University in Indiana. He taught mathematics at St. Xavier High in Cincinnati and was deacon at Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts. After ordination, he will return to St. Xavier as assistant to the president.

Peter Nguyen, 34, from Chicago, has a master’s degree in social philosophy from Loyola University Chicago. He taught theology at St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago and ministered at a leper colony in Bihar, India. Peter is trained in martial arts and will complete his theology studies after ordination.

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Maryland Province

Philipp Hurley, 34, from Sykesville, Maryland, has a bachelor’s degree in theology from Loyola College Maryland and a master’s degree in philosophy from Saint Louis University. He taught philosophy and ethics at Gonzaga College High in Washington, D.C., taught English at jesuits in Krakow, Poland, and was deacon at the chapel at St. Agnes in San Francisco. He will serve as priest at Holy Trinity Parish in Washington, D.C., after ordination.

Gregory Schenden, 39, from Detroit, has a bachelor’s degree in English from John Carroll University in Cleveland. He taught communications and English at Gonzaga College High in Washington, D.C., and was RCIA director and deacon at St. Agnes in San Francisco. He will serve as priest at Holy Trinity Parish in Washington, D.C., after ordination.

New England Province

Joseph Palmisano, 33, from Monroe, Connecticut, has a master’s degree in ecumenical theology from Trinity College, Dublin. He taught at Campion College, served St. Ann’s Parish in Kingston, Jamaica, and learned retreat ministry at Jesuit Retreat House in Dublin. He will work in pastoral ministry in Belfast after ordination.

New York Province

Peter Gyves, 57, from New York City, has an M.D. from Georgetown University and a master’s degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University. He was a pediatrician for many years in Boston and Maryland and volunteered in HIV/AIDS care in Africa.

Anthony Soohoo, 33, from Flushing, New York, has a bachelor’s degree in anthropology from the University of Chicago and a master’s degree in philosophical resources from Fordham University. He taught and was campus minister at Xavier High in New York City and is currently deacon at Our Lady of Grace in Chelsea, Massachusetts.

New Orleans Province

Mark Mosa, 41, from Worcester, Massachusetts, has a master’s degree in English from the University of South Carolina. He taught philosophy at Loyola University New Orleans and has written on ethics and culture. Currently he teaches catechism and RCIA and is a deacon in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Jose Fetzger, 48, from Lima, Peru, has a master’s degree in Spanish from Saint Louis University and has studied French at the Université Laval in Quebec. He taught Spanish at Jesuit College Prep in Dallas and has worked in spiritual direction and Hispanic ministry. He is presently assigned to Monse-rat Jesuit Retreat House in Dallas, where he will remain after ordination.

Wisconsin Province

Phillip Cooke, 41, from Kansas City, Missouri, has a master’s degree in American Studies from Saint Louis University, and a master’s degree in religious education from Loyola University Chicago. He is interested in at-risk youth ministry and will pursue such work at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota after ordination.
DE TR OIT

Be a Bumpy Ride!" Fasten your Seat Belts! It’s Going to be a Bumpy Ride!”

Fr. Eduardo P. Schmidt, now transcribed to Peru, served as head of the translators at General Congregation 35. Fr. Provincial Edward W. Schmidt reports that his colleague worked quickly and reliably to provide simultaneous Spanish–English translation.

Fr. George Traub, director of Ignatian Programs at Xavier University, recently published an anthology, “A Jesuit Education Reader” (Loyola Press). The book showcases the first, recent short essays on the mission, challenge and state of Jesuit education and covers a variety of topics including the history of Jesuit education, Catholic identity and Ignatian Jesuit pedagogy.

On May 17, Fr. John P. Foley received an honorary degree from Fordham University for his work as founding president of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago and the Cristo Rey Network. As the national association’s chairman, Foley oversees 20 member high schools providing Roman Catholic university preparatory education in 15 states.

Fr. David De Marco, M.D., was the featured speaker in April at Marquette University’s “Faith in the Health Professions” lecture series, which is cosponsored by the College of Health Sciences, College of Nursing and School of Dentistry. His talk, “Entering the Patient’s Chaos: Moving Beyond Providing Healthcare toward More Meaningful Caregiver-Patient Encounters,” was warmly received by 150 medical professionals from the Marquette University community and is being converted into a retreat.

After addressing the priests of the Diocese of Tucson at their Ongoing Formation Program, Fr. Ted Ross gave a public lecture on the current trends and future challenges for the American Catholic community titled “Fasten your Seat Belts! It’s Going to Be a Bumpy Ride!”

-- Jeremy Langford

-- John Miconic SJ

NEW YORK

On April 23, Fr. Scott Pilarz (MAR), president of the University of Scranton, awarded Fr. Kenneth Gavin, representing Jesuit Refugee Service/USA, and Suzanne Geaney of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps, the Pedro Arrupe Award for Distinguished Contributions to Ignatian Mission and Ministry. Ken accepted the award in the name of JRS staff members and on behalf of the thousands of refugees and displaced people that JRS has served throughout the world.

The province sponsored a colloquium for all of the teachers in the high schools at Fordham Prep, April 24–25. Among the 485 educators present, presentations were made by Frs. Mal Fitzpatrick and Joseph Kaminovsky, Fr. Vincent Blagi and a team of teachers from the province’s high schools planned the very full program. The Prep’s president Fr. Kenneth Boiler and his headmaster Mr. Robert Gomprecht were the very welcoming hosts.

Fr. Dave Mahan (MAR), who has been a consultant for the Ecclesial Ministry Institute in Marquette, Michigan, will become assistant director at Campion Renewal Center in Weston, Maryland. Bill was ordained in the chapel at Campion Center in 1959, when it was still West College.

Fr. Joe Mulligan, who works with Christian Base Communities in Nicaragua, was in the US during April, giving slide presentations on his experience in Palestine as a member of the Michigan Peace Team (www.michiganpeaceteam.org) in December and January.

University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) will send five students/staff to New Orleans to build additional medical treatment rooms for the St. Joseph Rebuild Center (a post-Katrina homeless recovery program spearheaded by the Harry Tompson Center, an outreach of Immaculate Conception Church). The Detroit Collaborative Design Center at UDMercy, in collaboration with an architect in New Orleans, designed and partially built the original center last summer. Fr. Gilbert Sungher (CFN) serves as a conduit for UDMercy’s efforts to assist the Jesuits in New Orleans after the storm and flood.

-- Kenneth J. Bollier SJ

-- Louis T. Garaventa SJ

CHICAGO


Fr. Michael Simone has been accepted to the Johns Hopkins’ PhD program for Old Testament Studies, which he will begin in September. In addition, Hopkins has offered Michael a grant that will cover 80 percent of his tuition for five years.

Fr. R. Gerard Albright, professor of biology, was named 2008 Honorary Alumna of the Year by the UDMercy School of Dentistry at its 2008 Alumni Recognition event, April 19. The honor is based in part on Albright’s dedication to the integrated development of his students over the past 48 years and his role as a mentor to other UDMercy faculty.

This summer, Fr. Bill Ibach (NEN), who has been a consultant for the Ecclesial Ministry Institute in Marquette, Michigan, will become assistant director at Campion Renewal Center in Weston, Maryland. Bill was ordained in the chapel at Campion Center in 1959, when it was still West College.

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-- Kenneth J. Bollier SJ

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New Web Sites

Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus
www.jesuits-mis.org

The home page will change on a daily basis to display tidbits of Jesuit history, to remember by name the men who died on that day, to list current news items and coming events. Other pages will contain information about our mission, ministries and apostolates. There is a section on vocations and one inviting our benefactors to learn about different ways of supporting us. And there will be pages to download current as well as archived issues of our province publications and obituaries.

Jesuit Refugee Service, USA
http://www.jrusa.org

New sections include:

• The Refugee Voice: Our new quarterly magazine on critical refugee topics
• On Assignment: Reports from the field by JRS/USA staff members
• The Church and Refugees: Selected bibliography of Catholic social teaching and other ethical and socio-political works that address refugee, migrant and detainee issues
• Required Reading: JRS/USA staff recommendations for further reading
• Spotlight on Issues: Focused updates on areas of refugee concern for JRS
• Take Action!: Recommendations for responding to refugees’ needs
• Jesuit International Programs: Listing of JRS international projects funded by JRS/USA donors

Ignatian Wikipedia

The Ignatian Wiki (www.IgnatianWiki.org) is a free, on-line encyclopedia begun in January 2006 that uses the software that supports Wikipedia. Over the past two years, it has grown to over 4,000 articles and attracted visitors from over 93 different countries. The site seeks to develop freely licensed content that can help students, faculty, staff, administrators, volunteers, alumni, and others interested in Jesuit institutions to understand and further the Catholic and Jesuit identity of these institutions.
Marquette Publishes Dorothy Day Diaries

Marquette University Press has published The Duty of Delight: The Diaries of Dorothy Day, a 700-plus page, fully indexed compilation of the personal diaries of Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker newspaper. One of the largest volumes ever published by Marquette University Press, the book was published in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the first issue of the Catholic Worker newspaper, May 1, 1933.

Biographical information about Day is widely available, including in Marquette University’s Raynor Memorial Libraries’ Dorothy Day-Catholic Worker Collection, but the diaries show the human, everyday side of Day. The diaries begin in 1934 and continue until a few days before her death in 1980. Day had specified that her diaries and family correspondence would be sealed for 25 years after her death.

In 2004 Marquette’s staff selected Robert Ellsberg, publisher of Orbis Books, to edit the Day diaries. He was selected for his publishing expertise and for knowing Day during the last five years of her life. “Sometimes her reflections were prompted by happiness, sometimes by sorrow,” said Ellsberg in the introduction, “but mostly her diary entries were an expression of her intense interest in life and her responses to what was happening around her.”

“The diaries give the reader a sense of the human side of Dorothy,” said Matt Blessing, head of Special Collections & University Archives, “Here’s one of the leading Catholic activists and intellectuals in the world having to deal with moody teenagers.”

Day, a radical journalist who converted to Catholicism, edited the Catholic Worker from its inception until her death in 1980; many regard her as among the most influential lay people in the history of American Catholicism. The Marquette University Archives began to acquire the records of the Catholic Worker movement in 1962. The collection includes the personal papers of Day and others involved in the Catholic Worker movement, records of Catholic Worker communities, photographs, audio and video tapes and other materials.

The Duty of Delight: The Diaries of Dorothy Day was produced in a print run of 3,000, is cloth-bound on acid-free paper and retails for $42. Contact Marquette University Press, 414-288-1564, 1-800-247-6553 or www.marquette.edu/mupress/ for more information.

Marquette University Press

NEW ORLEANS

■ Fr. John Armstrong hosted the Formation Assistants at our novitiate in Grand Coteau, Louisiana, for their February meeting. Most had never had the pleasure of visiting remote Cajun country and were a bit apprehensive. The place, however, won them over. A special advantage of the venue was hearing Fr. Billy Huette, novice master, share insights from his many years of work in formation.

■ Fr. Edmund Rodriguez, pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Albuquerque, called together parishioners who are police officers and fire fighters to plan a Blue Mass, a liturgy to thank and honor first responders, akin to the Red Mass for judges and lawyers. The committee invited Archbishop Michael Sheehan of Santa Fe to preside. He responded enthusiastically and the Mass was held on February 20. During his homily, the Archbishop declared this Mass an annual event. The Blue Mass is part of the church’s 125th anniversary.

■ In January, Bishop Michael Jarrell of Lafayette appointed Fr. Jim Lambert, pastor of St. Charles Parish in Grand Coteau, as a three-year term on the diocesan Council of Priests. At the February meeting he was elected vice-chair of the council.

 ■ Fr. Tom Greene of Loyola’s Jesuit Social Research Institute recently was an invited speaker at a conference on immigration and the plight of undocumented immigrants in New Orleans to visit

 ■ Fr. Greg Lucey (IWS) who has just celebrated his 75th birthday, has announced his retirement as president of Spring Hill College in Mobile. During his tenure on the “Hill,” he constructed and renovated more buildings than any other president in the college’s history and also increased the student body to its largest in history.

 ■ Timothy W. O’Brien, a 2006 graduate of Holy Cross College, has been accepted into the tri-province novitiate at Syracuse, N.Y. The entrance date is scheduled for August 23. He is the first candidate accepted this year.

 ■ The Ignatian Volunteer Corps presented its first Delta Strada Award to Fr. William Watters at a ceremony at Loyola Blakefield on April 10. The 170 guests raised nearly $40,000 for the work of the IVC. The award is named after Sancta Maria della Strada, the first church that St. Ignatius and the early Jesuits obtained to serve Rome’s urban poor. Watters was honored for his parish service, dedication to social justice and his support of the IVC from its beginnings.

 ■ George W. Bur has been named the 31st president of St. Joseph’s Prep. He succeeds Fr. William J. Byron who completes his two-year term in June. Bur has been a leader in educational access for the poor and is a 1959 graduate of the Prep. He served at the Gesu School, an elementary school adjacent to St. Joseph’s Prep, for nearly 20 years.

 ■ Gesu School in Philadelphia marked its 15th anniversary with a gala at the Philadelphia Museum of Art on May 1. The Gesu Spirit Medal was presented to Ralph Saul and John J. F. Sherrerd. The two longtime trustees, along with Win Churchill, headed the school’s $12 million capital campaign “Building for Tomorrow.” Gesu recently was one of 12 schools honored with a Catholic Schools for Tomorrow Award by Today’s Catholic Teacher Magazine.

 ■ Fr. Timothy J. Stephens presented his Final Vows on April 1 in the Church of St. Aloysius Gonzaga in Washington, D.C. Fr. Provincial Tim Brown received the vows. Fr. Gerard McGlone pronounced his Final Vows on April 5 at Old Saint Joseph Church in Philadelphia. Fr. Michael A. Zampelli pronounced his Final Vows on May 3 at Santa Clara University. Fr. Robert M. Hussy pronounced his Final Vows at Holy Cross Church in Durham, N.C., on June 1.

 ■ Fr. Denis R. Como has been in the Kurdistan area of northern Iraq for almost a year and a half. Besides teaching English at Bobol College and being a spiritual director to 30 seminarians, Como is also involved in parish life in the area. Como says, “There is no better way to touch the holiness and war- 

 ■ Fr. Alfred J. Hicken has continued his work with Iraqi refugees at the Jesuit Center in Amman.

 ■ Mr. Charles R. Gallagher discussed his new book, “Vatican Secret Diplomacy: Joseph P. Hurley and Pope Pius XII,” (Yale University Press) at the Col-

 ■ Fr. Anthony J. Forte celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Church of the Gesu in Rome on June 18, the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination. Forte, currently on sabbatical in Ger-

 ■ Mr. James J. Heederman will pronounce his final vows at the Mass during the New England Province assembly to be held at Holy Cross Uni-

 ■ On June 8, Fr. Joseph Palmsiano was the commencement speaker at his alma mater, Fairfield Prep. One week later, on June 14, he was ordained in Fairfield University’s Egan Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola.

 ■ On April 22, Earth Day and the Feast of Our Lady, Mother of the Society, ground was broken for the Fairfield Jesuit Community Center.

 ■ Fr. Jeffrey P. von Arx, (NY) university president, noted the importance of hav-

 ■ Fr. Walter Conlan, rector, called the “green” building a focal point for university and Prep activities.

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 ■ The College seeks candidates for the position with a deep interest in and ability to support the mission of Holy Cross, the experience and capability to lead a sophisticated and successful advancement effort at one of the nation’s leading liberal arts colleges, and the interpersonal skills and intellectual curiosity to develop strong, effective relationships with a broad range of individuals.

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 Job Announcements

Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations

College of the Holy Cross
Worcester, Massachusetts

Reporting directly to the president and an officer of the College, the Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations is responsible for leading and directing those programs and activities of the College designed to attract and enhance philanthropic resources. The Vice President oversees a staff of 48.

The College seeks candidates for the position with a deep interest in and ability to support the mission of Holy Cross, the experience and capability to lead a sophisticated and successful advancement effort at one of the nation’s leading liberal arts colleges, and the interpersonal skills and intellectual curiosity to develop strong, effective relationships with a broad range of individuals.


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--- Donald Hawkins SJ

--- Alice Poltarcik

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Jesuit Schools Announce Free Tuition Plans

Fairfield University and the College of the Holy Cross have announced free tuition plans for the 2008-09 school year for local students meeting income requirements.

Fr. Jeffrey von Arx (NYK), president of Fairfield University, recently announced that beginning with the next academic year, all high school students with annual family incomes under $50,000 who graduate from public and diocesan schools located in the City of Bridgeport, and who are admitted to Fairfield University, will qualify for a full tuition scholarship. The Bridgeport Tuition Plan applies to students attending any of the seven high schools in Bridgeport.

In making the announcement, von Arx said the initiative is “not only close to my heart, but one that lies at the very foundation of Jesuit educational tradition.” Von Arx said that student financial assistance was among the highest institutional priorities and efforts would continue to increase aid by building the endowment. He indicated that currently 25 percent of Fairfield’s students have family household incomes of $50,000 or less.

Since 1999, Fairfield has worked close-ly with Bridgeport high schools through the Community Partnership Scholarship Program, which provides one student from each of four partnering schools with a full tuition scholarship each year. There are currently 19 Bridgeport students enrolled in the university through this program, which is also being expanded to provide additional scholarships to eligible students.

Not far away, in Worcester, Massachusetts, residents who are admitted to the College of the Holy Cross and who come from families with incomes below $50,000 will receive four years of free tuition.

“Any low-income families in Worcester do not even consider a private college education for their children because they assume it is out-of-reach,” said Holy Cross President Fr. Michael C. McFarland (NEN). “Through this new program, we are strengthening our commitment to making a Holy Cross education available to Worcester residents who otherwise would not be able to afford it. We are delighted to extend our many partnerships with Worcester with one that will directly benefit our city’s young people.”

According to U.S. Census data, the median family income in the City of Worcester is $42,988. Holy Cross’ tuition for the 2007-08 academic year is $34,630. Standard room and board and fees bring the current comprehensive cost to $45,102 per year.

New Orleans Rebuild Center Wins Architecture Awards

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) honored the Rebuild Center in New Orleans with the Architecture Award of Honor at its March meeting held in New Orleans on March 6. The annual design awards are given by various regional, state and national chapters to projects that maintain high standards of design and are typically given to larger budget projects such as museums or libraries.

The awards celebrate the best of the region’s architecture; recognize achievement in a broad range of architectural work; and inform the public of the breadth and value of architectural practice. The theme this year was “Architecture Matters.” The Rebuild Center serves 250-300 people per day, providing laundry, shower and telephone facilities as well as chapel and relaxation space.

The University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture’s Collaborative Design Center, which worked on the project, and architect Wayne Troyer’s office also received awards in Michigan and the Gulf States, which were presented during the AIA national convention in May in Boston.

Fr. Gilbert Sunghera (CFN), assistant professor of architecture and a liturgical space consultant at the UD Mercy Design Center, served as a consultant to the Rebuild Center, which was a collaborative effort among New Orleans agencies serving the homeless. It was built to replace the Harry Tompson Center for the Homeless, a project of Immaculate Conception Parish, which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

“What is nice about such recognition,” Sunghera said, “is that it produces buzz about the work that (the Province is) doing in New Orleans. Even though the conversation about such awards is typically limited to architects and their ‘groupies,’ it does inspire young architects to consider ways their skills can be used for the betterment of society.”

Sunghera noted that the works of the Design Center at Nativity School in the Bronx and Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles have stirred similar conversations in the past, and that the broader recognition the Rebuild Center has received will expand this conversation. “From a Jesuit vocation perspective, it illustrates to candidates the way Jesuits integrate all disciplines in service to the Church and the World,” he said.

“Similar examples were an inspiration to me.”
Sports Illustrated recently listed five Jesuit high schools among its top 25 athletic programs in the country for 2007-08. The schools were:  
5. Rockhurst High School, Kansas City, MO: 10 straight tennis titles, as well as championships this year in football, soccer, swimming and golf. The lacrosse team is favored to win a third state title, and a school-record 39 track and field athletes went to the Kansas Relays.  
13. St. Xavier High School, Cincinnati: the football team went 15-0 and won the Division I state title. The cross country team won districts.  
18. Gonzaga College High School, Washington, DC: The Eagles won titles in soccer, swimming and diving, basketball, rugby, crew and tennis, and the basketball team finished the season ranked No. 4 in the SI.com Top 25.  
20. Brophy College Preparatory, Phoenix: The Broncos won the Class 5A, Division I football title after defeating Hamilton (Chandler, Ariz.) in the state semi-final. The school’s top athlete is baseball player Riccio Torrez, a Baseball America preseason All-American who will attend Arizona State in the fall.  
23. Jesuit High School, Portland, Oregon: Jesuit was the top program last season. This year, the golf team won the state titles and senior Jeff Petroff won the individual championship. The school won league titles in boys’ and girls’ cross country, football, girls’ soccer, volleyball, boys’ swimming and girls’ and boys’ skiing.

CALEIFORNIA

Santa Clara University President  
Fr. Paul Locatelli delivered the commencement speech for the class of 2008. Locatelli will step down as president during the 2009-10 academic year. Named to the position in 1988, Locatelli, 69, is the university’s longest serving president; he leaves to take on duties with the Jesuit Curia in Rome.

Novice Chris Calderon spent his long experiment in the Dominican Republic working with Creighton University students at the Institute for Latin American Concern. Chris was working with Fr. Pat Malone (WIS), who is the director of pastoral programs at the institute.

Wisconsin

Before Fr. Superior John McGarry (CFN), Frs. Grant Garinger and Mike Lee, professorial final vows at Loyola Marymount University. In his second year as an assistant professor in LMU’s Department of Theatre and Dance, Garinger teaches various acting and directing classes. Out of the classroom and on stage at LMU, he has directed “Speranza’s Hope,” “Annie’s Yestercles,” and Richard Harris’s “Dead Gall.” Celebrating 25 years in the Society this year, Garinger is only speeding up.

At his heels, Lee, an assistant professor of theology and religious education in the Department of Theological Studies, soon completes a first successful year at LMU. Awarded the university’s Faith and Justice Curriculum Development Grant, awaiting the August publication of an article Religious Education, maintaining his departmental course load, and actively engaged in service-learning, Lee already offers much.

On an opposite coast but also before a Californian, Fr. Tom Stegman, too, professorial his final vows. Fr. Tom Smolich (CFN), president of the American Assistantcy, received them at St. Peter’s in Cambridge. Newly tenured and promoted at Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Stegman, associate professor of New Testament, keeps an excited eye on Baker Academic Press. His commentary on 2 Corinthians will be published soon.

At Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, Fr. Bert Boscht (MSJ), pastor of St. Gabriel’s, reports busyness. First commemorations, confirmation and the graduation ceremony for Prairie Catholic kids kept both him and Fr. Jim Warosh liturgically two-steppin’ and tap-dancin’ all the way through springtime. Fr. Jack Wambach was getting some fits at St. Camillus in Wauwatosa.

In Wauwatosa, where 99 inches of snow fell this past winter, Fr. John Lynch lamented that spring came slowly. First year novice Mr. Michael Roseman kept the community warm with freshly baked breads during his hospital probation. Fr. Gene Donahue from the Oshkosh Jesuit Retreat House led the men through their annual retreat. He was careful, however, not to mention the upcoming seasons of the Cubs or the Brewers. He left that for enthusiasts Frs. Earl Kurf and John Naus, respectively, who, apparently, both wear Derek Jeter jerseys anyway. Frs. John Paul, David Shields and Tom Sweeter spoke about their work with, again respectively, formation, Milwaukee’s Casa Romero and parish life.

Jesuit Schools in Sports Illustrated

A Faith that Frees. Catholic Matters for the 21st Century  
Richard G. Malloy SJ  

Searches for answers in the midst of the sexual abuse crisis in the church, many blamed the “clerical culture” But what exactly is this clerical culture? We may know it when we see it, but how can we—a clergy or laity person—go about dismantling it and putting in place a new, healthy culture? After looking at the crisis and establishing where we are now, this book challenges us with concrete suggestions for changing behaviors.

Essays on Love and Knowledge (Marquette Studies in Philosophy)  

Includes essays on idealism and Thomism, theory of concepts by functional unity, being and spirit, intellectualism, spiritual love and apperceiptive synthesis, and history of the notion of natural faith.

Educating Darfur Refugees. A Jesuit’s Efforts in Chad  
Patrick Samway SJ  
University of Scranton Press, Scranton, PA (2008)  

In an unforgettable journal that he kept while working for nine months in the Sudanese refugee camps in Chad, Samway provides a behind-the-scenes, eyewitness account of the greatest refugee tragedy of our time. Chased with the task of setting up schools for over 5,000 refugee children, Samway recounts in his experiences of coping with life in the African desert, eventually building 65 classrooms and a curriculum in Arabic.

Jesus: A Portrait  
Gerald O’Collins SJ  

There are many books about Jesus, but few attempt to tell us what he was actually like. This new book by the distinguished Catholic biblical scholar and systematic theologian Gerald O’Collins concentrates on bringing the personality of Jesus alive. It combines devotion and experience with a lifetime of scholarship.

Maps  
National Jesuit News  
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world,” the Provincial said in their June 21 letter. At the May Jesuit Conference Board meeting, they set this revitalization in motion, approving a series of projects related to leadership formation, vocation promotion and reconfiguration.

For Father General, the Strategic Discernment Process coincided well with GC 35. “The decisions you have reached anticipate many of the decisions made by the recent General Congregation, and the structures you have proposed will facilitate implementation of the Congregation’s decrees,” he said in a letter to Jesuit Conference President Fr. Tom Smolich (CFN).

“Your document provides an invaluable tool for the years to come as the Jesuit Conference responds continually to the Spirit who makes all things new,” Nicolas added.

The U.S. Provincial expressed their gratitude to everyone involved in the Strategic Discernment process. “Responding has depended on the work of many people to whom we are very grateful. Making the vision a reality will once more call on many people — those already involved and partners and Jesuits of the future. We thank you in advance for your dedication to the mission of the Society and for the generous spirit you will offer to bring these desires to fulfillment,” read the joint letter from the 11 major superiors of the United States.

A standing ovation greeted the Pope as he entered the hall and moved to the stage where two dozen cardinals and bishops were already in place. Fr. David O’Connell, C.M., president of Catholic University, extended greetings to Pope Benedict on behalf of the university and the assembled guests. Then the Pope, seated before a microphone, began his address. Like each of his talks during his visit to the U.S., this one would reflect both genuine warmth and deep seriousness.

He spoke of gratitude, affirmation and encouragement for the important contributions of Catholic education at all levels. He challenged Catholic educators to realize their ever-increasing opportunities and responsibilities to promote Catholic education as “integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News,” a “place to encounter the living God,” part of the “diakonia of truth which the Church exercises in the midst of humanity” and “an especially powerful instrument of hope.”

The Pope acknowledged the great sacrifice the Catholic community in the U.S. has made in making Catholic education a priority and encouraged continuing commitment to the task. Listeners familiar with Ex corde Ecclesiae’s call for a majority of Catholic faculty took special note when Benedict stressed that Catholic identity was not simply a question of statistics, but a question of conviction and whether faith was tangible in our universities and schools. He also emphasized that Catholic identity was not equated simply with “orthodoxy of course content,” but that it demands that “each and every aspect of your learning communities reverberates within the ecclesial life of faith.”

Benedict repeated his favorite themes of the compatibility of faith and reason and the involvement of the Church in humanity’s search for the truth that “leads us to discover the good.” This lofty goal requires professionalism and excellence in Catholic education.

In one of his most striking expressions, the Pope urged educators to practice “intellectual charity” — the profound responsibility to lead students to truth — that is nothing less than an act of love.

Benedict reaffirmed the “great value” of academic freedom, but noted that any appeal to such freedom as a justification for positions that contradict faith and the teaching of the Church would betray the university’s identity and mission. He insisted that Catholic identity involves public witness to the way of Christ, as found in the Gospel and upheld by the Church’s Magisterium, a witness that should shape all aspects of an institution’s life, both inside and outside the classroom.

In his closing remarks, Benedict repeated his gratitude for the dedication and generosity of those involved in Catholic education and made two special appeals to religious brothers, sisters and priests: do not abandon the apostolate, especially in serving the poor; and bring renewed enthusiasm to the promotion of vocations.

Finally, alluding to the theme of his visit, “Christ Our Hope,” the Pope exhorted everyone to bear witness to hope... by living the truth which you propose to your students.” He left his listeners warmly affirmed in their work and clearly challenged to work ever harder and with greater clarity to foster the Catholic identity of their schools.

Within the hour, he was off to his next address, this time to representatives of various religions. The range of topics and audiences addressed during his short five-day visit was truly remarkable. In each case, besides a warm presence that ran counter to the preconceptions of many, he offered challenges, much food for thought and, true to the theme of his visit, hope. Reading through his many addresses, one is struck by the seriousness and depth of his comments, none of which are casual. Nearly every sentence seems to call for reflection and further unpacking.

Interestingly, in his talk to Catholic educators, he did not mention Ex corde Ecclesiae, but everything he did say mirrored that document. Despite the predictions (and hopes) of some, he did not point out what we might be doing wrong, but he certainly challenged us with his comments on academic freedom and, more importantly, with his call to make our schools “places to encounter the living God,” where each and every aspect “reverberates within the ecclesial life of faith.”

That is why those leaving the auditorium were happy to be affirmed in what they were doing, but sobered by the challenge they had received.

Currie (MAR) is president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.

In August 2009, the two provinces will form a joint novitiate, staffed by Fr. Mark Thibodeaux (NOR), who will be the novice director, and Fr. Dan White (MIS), who will be the assistant novice director. The new novitiate will be located in Grand Coteau, at the site of the current New Orleans novitiate. Throughout the coming year, formation and novitate staffs of the two provinces will be engaged in planning the program of the new novitiate and the specifics of the transition to a joint novitiate.

With Fr. General’s approval of the Assistance Strategic Discernment plan, the Missouri and New Orleans Provinces will come together as one. While that process will take several years, the first noticeable change will be the appointment of a single formation assistant for both provinces, as well a combined novitiate.

Beginning January 1, 2009, Fr. John Armstrong (NOR), who is currently serving as formation assistant for New Orleans, will become the assistant to the provincial for formation for Missouri, as well. The immediate plan will follow the model that the Maryland and New York Provinces have established, with each province maintaining its own formation program, but with one assistant for formation. Fr. Dave Flaming (MIS) is presently the formation assistant for Missouri. Men from the two provinces will meet together for their formation gathering over the Christmas break.

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In Memoriam

We invite you to celebrate the lives of these recently departed Jesuits. To read their complete obituaries, please visit http://www.jesuit.org/obits.

Fr. Paul Tipton, Former President of AJCU, Dies

(From AJCU) Fr. Paul S. Tipton died on May 25, 2008 at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. after a long battle with cancer. He was 69. He had a long and distinguished career in higher education and government affairs, including presidencies of Spring Hill College, the University of Jacksonville and the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.

Born February 21, 1939, in Birmingham, Alabama, he entered the Society of Jesus in 1958, receiving his BA degree from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala., in 1964. His first teaching assignment was at Jesuit High School in El Paso, Texas, where he taught English and Drama and was moderator of numerous student organizations. While in El Paso, he undertook graduate studies in American History at the University of Texas at El Paso before joining the staff of the late Congressman Richard C. White (D-Texas) in 1968. He continued working as a congressional staffer while studying theology at Woodstock College. He was ordained as a member of the New Orleans Province in 1971.

In 1972, Tipton was named the 35th president of Spring Hill College, where he served until 1989, the longest presidential tenure since the founding of the school in 1830. During his 17 years at Spring Hill, Tipton accomplished much, including influencing the Alabama State Legislature to establish a statewide student grant program, overseeing the successful implementation of new Title IX regulations affecting intercollegiate athletics and establishing a majority lay board of trustees.

After leaving Spring Hill in 1989, Tipton assumed the presidency of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, serving until 1996. During that time, he oversaw the federal relations activities on behalf of the 28 AJCU institutions, serving as the group’s representative to Congress, federal agencies, and other educational associations. After the six Jesuits and their co-workers were killed in El Salvador in November 1989, Tipton played a leading role in efforts to identify the assassins and to cut off U.S. military aid to the country. He rescued the first witness to the fact that the military had been responsible for the killings, Mrs. Lucia Cerna, and brought her to safety in Washington, D.C.

In 1996, Fr. Tipton was named president of Jacksonville University where he led efforts to revise the mission and vision of the institution to more clearly define the school as a liberal arts undergraduate university. He also introduced reforms to the core curriculum for all undergraduate students, including a community service component as a requirement for graduation.

In 1998, Tipton left the Jesuits to become a priest of the Archdiocese of Mobile. In 2000, he returned to Washington, D.C., where he served as counselor to the Secretary and as a senior advisor for management and administration, U.S. Department of Labor. He assisted in the transition from the Clinton to the Bush administrations before founding in 2001 the Provident Consulting Group.

From 2003 to 2005, he served as president of St. Mary’s Ryken, a Catholic college preparatory school in Leonardtown, Maryland, where he oversaw the business operation of the school, developed a long-range financial plan, re-crafted the mission statement, and increased the annual giving by over 100%. In 2005, he returned to Provident, with which he remained active until his death.

During his life and career, Tipton served as a member, and often chairman, of many educational boards including the Association of American Catholic Colleges and Universities, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and the American Council on Education. Tipton is survived by eight first cousins and is remembered by many religious and academic colleagues, friends, sailors, and former students throughout the country.
Maryland Province, Gesu School, Sign Agreement

By Karen Witiw

On the morning of May 9, members of the Gesu School family gathered in the school’s Pierre Toussaint Chapel at 17th and Thompson Streets in North Philadelphia to mark the signing of the Sustaining Agreement between Gesu School and the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus. The agreement formalizes Gesu’s 100-plus-year identity as a Jesuit-sponsored elementary school, while also affirming the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary as co-stewards of the school.

Fr. Provincial Timothy Brown (MAR), Gesu School President Christine S. Beck and Gesu Board Co-Vice Chairmen Gordon Cooney and Robert McAaline executed the Sustaining Agreement. Principal Sr. Ellen Convey, IHM, officially witnessed the signing.

Gesu’s Choir Under, under the direction of music teacher H. L. Ratliff, welcomed guests to the celebratory signing with a lively rendition of “Dear Jesus, I Love You.” Seventh grader Imani Briscoe delivered a heartfelt greeting to the community members, Jesuits, IHM sisters, trustees and faculty assembled for the ceremony.

“Today we are honored to be the first elementary school to join the ranks of the many colleges and universities, secondary schools and Native schools in the Maryland Province to sign a formal Sustaining Agreement with the Society of Jesus,” beamed Beck in her opening remarks.

Brown shared an excerpt from the Sustaining Agreement with the assembly, stating: “Although Gesu School is an ‘independent Catholic school,’ that is without a parish, Gesu School’s board of trustees assumes responsibility to the Society of Jesus (and to the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary) to offer superior personal, spiritual and academic opportunities to the entire community, especially its students.” The Maryland Province, in turn, pledged through the Sustaining Agreement to support and affirm the school in its Jesuit, Catholic mission.

Speaking on behalf of Board Chairman Winston Churchill and the entire board of trustees, McAaline assured Brown, “We are aware of our responsibilities in this partnership and will strive to fulfill and exceed them.” McAaline explained that the board is encouraged by examples of the many Jesuit trustees, as well as Vice Principal Fr. Neil Schneider (NYK), Chaplain Fr. Ray Donaldson (MAR), Principal Sr. Ellen Convey, IHM, and Vice President Sr. Pat McGonigle, IHM.

Drawing a parallel to the ideal of “faith that does justice,” Brown described the work at Gesu School as “hope that does justice… Of the three theological virtues, hope is the most essential,” he explained, referring to St. Augustine. “Hope has two lovely daughters, anger and courage – anger so that what should not be will not be, and courage so what should be will be.”

“Justice,” he continued, “is fidelity to the demands of a relationship.” Fidelity to the demands of the relationship that exists between the Jesuits and the Immaculate Heart Sisters and with the trustees, administrators, faculty, staff and students of Gesu School.

Gesu School has long been recognized as a champion of justice and a “beacon of hope” for its violent, poverty-stricken North Philadelphia neighborhood, giving children a fair shot at life. Gesu accepts students from the surrounding neighborhood on a first-come-first-served basis, and many of the students come from impoverished or single-adult households. Despite a four-year graduation rate of roughly 50 percent for Philadelphia’s public schools, over 90 percent of Gesu’s graduates complete high school on time.

Student Imani Briscoe’s family has lived in the Gesu neighborhood since 1980, and her mother Bernadette Briscoe now serves on Gesu’s Board of Trustees. According to the elder Briscoe, “The Sustaining Agreement between Gesu School and the Jesuits is a profound agreement that impacts not only our children but the community at large. The fact that the Jesuits have agreed to remain part of the life of the students gives continuity to the shared interest in their education.”

“Having had three children go through Gesu and with one child currently at Gesu, I have seen the difference between Catholic and public education. In this day and age, with education being so pivotal in making career choices, I know that my children are now more capable, and can stand toe to toe with any of their peers in the job market.”

“Of the first things Fr. Villiger did when he bought the property was to commit himself to the education of the local children,” Fr. George Bur (MAR) explains of the Jesuit priest who first established the Jesuit mission in the area in 1868. “It’s remarkable that after 140 years we’re still here creating a community dedicated to Jesuit ideals and focused on the children from one of Philadelphia’s neediest neighborhoods.”

Bur, Gesu School’s founding president and soon to be principal of St. Joe’s Prep next door, knows first-hand the labor of love required to keep Gesu School’s Jesuit, Catholic mission alive; in 1993, along with Principal Convey and board Chairman Churchill, oversaw Gesu’s transition to an independent school when the Gesu Parish was closed due to a dwindling congregation. The school now serves 450 mostly non-Catholic children in grades pre-K through eighth, and has become a model for other inner-city Catholic schools struggling to survive.

Gesu School’s Sustaining Agreement with the Province has been two years in the making. The agreement required thoughtful adjustments to previous models already in place due to Gesu’s unique position as the only Jesuit-sponsored elementary school in the Maryland Province, as well the school’s religiously and ethnically diverse student body. The long-awaited celebratory signing of the Agreement was followed by a luncheon in the school’s Sherrerd Gymnasium.

Witiw is a communications associate at Gesu School.