



MIDWEST

JESUITS

CHICAGO-DETROIT AND WISCONSIN PROVINCES

SPRING 2017

Finding God in a Digital Age

Ignatian Spirituality in an Era of
Smartphones and Social Media

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Hispanic Ministry in Milwaukee

100 Years of Jesuit Involvement on the Near South Side

By Fr. Timothy Manatt, SJ

Fr. Timothy Manatt, SJ, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Milwaukee. He serves as pastor of both Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Patrick's Parishes. Photo: Jeff Zmania

On the third Sunday of Advent, I led parishioners of St. Patrick's Parish in Milwaukee through the meditation on the Trinity and Jesus' Incarnation from the Spiritual Exercises. At its conclusion, I asked, "What difference does it make that this parish has been staffed by Jesuits since 1982? I hope the preaching and teaching of my predecessors — Frs. Cletus Pfab, the late Bill Pauly, Rick Abert, Jim Flaherty, Joe Spieler, and José Moreno — have inspired you to embrace a personal connection to Jesus, drawing on your memories, imaginations, and personalities." The cultivation of a uniquely personal relationship with Christ is a hallmark of Jesuit spirituality, which we Jesuits have shared with Hispanic Catholics in Milwaukee since the early 20th century.

The Midwest Jesuits have had a connection to St. Patrick's since the early 1980s. The parish hosted the first baccalaureate Mass and graduation ceremony of then-Nativity Jesuit Middle School, whose trailblazing eighth-graders I taught in 1995–96. Decades earlier, Fr. Louis Fusz, SJ, a pastor at Church of the Gesu, advocated for the "Spanish-speaking people" of Milwaukee and helped the first storefront church — "Guadalupe Mission" — get established in 1926.

Assigned as pastor of Gesu by Archbishop Sebastian Messmer in

1919, Fr. Fusz was also named vicar to Milwaukee's Hispanic population, which at the time numbered roughly 750 and mainly consisted of railroad and leather workers from Texas and the Mexican state of Michoacán. A Gesu council of the Knights of Columbus paid to bring a Spanish-speaking priest, Fr. Emanuel Sandoval, SJ, from Chicago. He preached evangelizing "missions" to Hispanics, sometimes in a Slovenian/Croatian parish a stone's throw from St. Patrick's. Subsequently, Fr. Fusz stepped aside in favor of priests of the Mercedarian Order, who staffed the mission (1926–46), followed in turn by Franciscan friars.

The first Spanish Mass at St. Patrick's was celebrated Thanksgiving 1969 after persistent lobbying by Puerto Rican parishioners. Eighteen months later, a diocesan pastor with missionary experience in Paraguay was appointed, and a weekly Spanish Sunday Mass started.

Eventually, the archbishop turned to the Jesuits. In 1982, Frs. Cletus Pfab and Bill Pauly assumed pastoral care of the parish. Both learned Spanish through a Creighton University-sponsored health care program in the Dominican Republic.

In 2006, Fr. José Moreno, pastor of St. Patrick's, assumed responsibility for a second parish — Our Lady of Guadalupe — after the sudden death of its diocesan pastor. It was in the parish school's

gymnasium that the first weekly Sunday Masses with Spanish homilies took place in 1926, prior to the fledgling parish's move to its nearby storefront location.

Many factors converged to involve the Jesuits in Hispanic ministry in Milwaukee, including facility with Spanish and availability to the needs of the local Church. To be sure, new forms of solidarity with immigrant families will emerge. Some parishioners are making the Spiritual Exercises in everyday life, bringing them into closer relationship with Christ. Our involvement with Nativity Jesuit Academy, Marquette University High School, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, and Marquette University provides both a kindergarten through college educational pipeline and encouragement for religious vocations.

As Guadalupe and St. Patrick's are now the only Jesuit-sponsored, majority Spanish-speaking parishes between Cleveland and Rapid City, one wonders what might constitute the next frontier for our work in Hispanic ministry. ✠

Fr. Timothy Manatt, SJ, was installed as the seventh Jesuit pastor of St. Patrick's Parish and the second of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish on March 26, 2017. He will be joined in ministry for the summer by the newly ordained Michael Rossmann, SJ.

A Brother Abroad

Br. Matt Wooters, SJ, began working at Nativity Jesuit Academy in Milwaukee after living and working with migrants in Mexico last year. Photo: Jeff Zmania

By Br. Matt Wooters, SJ

Last year I attended a historic meeting with Jesuits from many countries. Not General Congregation 36 in Rome but a conference in Bogotá of all the Latin American Jesuit brothers in formation.

I was living and working with migrants in Mexico. The meeting — the first of its kind in the Americas — was particularly significant in the age of our first Latin American pope and shortly before the election of our first Latin American Superior General,

Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ. In fact, Fr. Sosa attributes his vocation to the hard work and holiness of Jesuit brothers.

In true Latin American style, I was welcomed with an *abrazote* — a big hug! It was a privilege to join 30 other young brothers from nine Latin American provinces to pray, honor the past, dream about the future, and discuss the graces, challenges, and uniqueness of being a 21st century Jesuit brother.

Brothers once made up nearly 30 percent of the Society of Jesus but now constitute less than 5 percent. We have been part of the Society since it began. To quote former Superior General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, the “religious brother embodies religious life in its

essence, and so is able to illustrate that life with particular clarity.”

Saint Ignatius intended that brothers do internal and humble tasks to facilitate priests’ work. With typical Ignatian fashion, he added that brothers “may be employed in more important matters in accordance with the talent God gave them.” Brother Jim Boynton, SJ,

frequently says the old model of being a brother included the “high and low-skilled craftsman,”

such as architects, painters, composers, and doctors as well as bakers, plumbers, woodworkers, and farmers. It is no overstatement to say that generations of brothers built the infrastructure that allowed the Society to prosper around the world.

Despite differences in cultures, languages, and work, I was moved by the multitude of commonalities discovered during the conference. We were asked to articulate what makes our vocations unique and prophetic in the modern era and shared nearly identical answers: closeness to the poor, indigenous, and people of other faiths; an emphasis on building community in and outside of the Society; simplicity in lifestyle; and a

certain *gozo para vivir*, or joy of living.

Brothers have a special closeness to people who may feel intimidated or far from the Church. This is especially true in Latin America, where priests are treated with a deference that sometimes puts them on a pedestal. Aldo, a Mexican brother, expressed beautifully what it means to be a Jesuit brother: “He is someone who recognizes that in the world there is a chronic pain that he identifies with his own pain. It is a pain that breaks with this model of love. In the world, there is a great thirst, and he not only desires to orient his life in function of this love but also to fully surrender his life to heal this pain of the world, to communicate this love to others, and to communicate to others this journey of love.”

I was honored to join my brothers from the Americas over cups of coffee and maté, speaking English, Spanish, Guarani, and Portuguese as we spent a week praying, laughing, and giving thanks for the gifts of our vocations and the gifts of each other. ✠

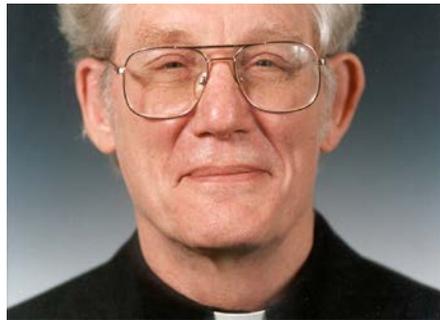
Br. Matt Wooters, SJ, is a Jesuit regent and social worker at Nativity Jesuit Academy in Milwaukee.

Assignments

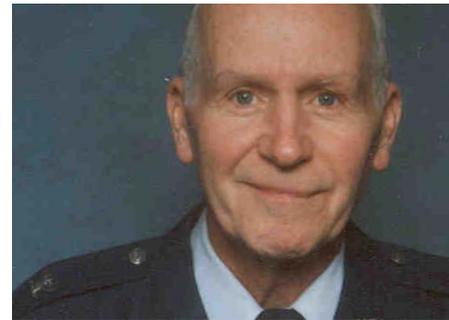
Jesuit Community



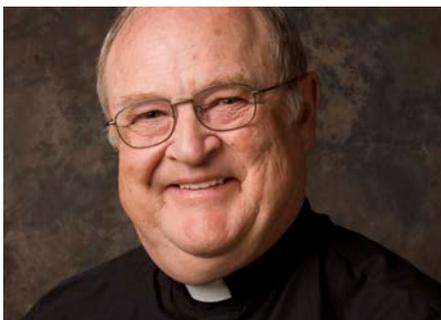
Fr. Richard Abert, SJ, will become superior of the Père Marquette Jesuit Community in Milwaukee on July 31, succeeding Fr. Mark Carr, SJ. He previously served as pastor of several parishes at Holy Rosary Mission on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.



Fr. Robert Bireley, SJ, has been missioned to pray for the Church and the Society at St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis. He previously served as professor emeritus of history at Loyola University Chicago.



Fr. Denis Dirscherl, SJ, has been missioned to pray for the Church and the Society at Colombiere Jesuit Community in Clarkston, Mich. He previously served as assistant chaplain at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Fairborn, Ohio.



Fr. Kevin Kersten, SJ, has been missioned to pray for the Church and the Society at St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wis. He previously served as chaplain to the Creighton University School of Law and assistant pastor at St. John's Parish in Omaha.



Fr. Joseph Mueller, SJ, will become rector of the Marquette University Jesuit Community in Milwaukee on July 31, succeeding Fr. Jeffrey LaBelle, SJ, who will spend the fall semester on sabbatical before continuing his service at Marquette's College of Education.



Fr. Matthew Walsh, SJ, will become superior of the Arrupe House Jesuit Community in Milwaukee on July 31, succeeding Fr. Daniel McDonald, SJ. Fr. Walsh also serves as associate pastor at Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee.

Jesuit Formation



Fr. William O'Brien, SJ, will become novice director for the USA Midwest Province effective August 14, 2017. He will succeed Fr. Tom Pipp, SJ.

Province Office



Fr. Glen Chun, SJ, will become the first socius for the USA Midwest Province effective June 5, 2017, the date of the creation of the new province. Fr. Chun, who is currently in the tertianship program in Dublin, Ireland, will also serve as admonitor and province consultant.

Universities



Fr. Justin Tirkey, SJ, of the Ranchi Province in India is beginning an interdisciplinary doctoral program at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

The Circle of Companions



Thank You for Helping Us Reach People Where They Are

The Midwest Jesuits are deeply grateful for your prayers and financial support of our mission. Our spirituality calls us to be contemplatives in action who share God's love by reaching people where they are. Today, we are called to use technology and new media to reach believers and seekers alike. We hope you enjoyed reading about the many ways we are embracing the "new frontiers" of the digital age while remaining grounded in our traditional educational, pastoral, social, and international ministries. Watch your mailbox for our spring mailing of *The Circle of Companions* to learn more about our Ignatian spiritual resources and how your support of our outreach helps others to find God in the digital age.



Jesuits like Fr. Doug Leonhardt, SJ (left), enjoy meeting friends and supporters of the Society of Jesus.

The Ignatian Heritage Society

With gratitude we invite you to become a member of the Midwest Jesuits' *Ignatian Heritage Society*. The Ignatian Heritage Society comprises friends and families of the Jesuits who — through thoughtful estate planning, deferred giving, and other forms of planned giving — ensure that resources will be available to support the good work of the Jesuits far into the future.

As a member of the Ignatian Heritage Society, you join others who want to create a legacy for their families by providing financial support for the formation and senior care of our Jesuits and by supporting the Midwest Jesuits' international missions through a planned gift.

For more information on becoming a member, please contact Jeff Smart at 800-537-3736 or jsmart@jesuits.org.

Fr. Thomas A. Lawler, SJ
PROVINCIAL, WISCONSIN PROVINCE

Fr. Brian G. Paulson, SJ
PROVINCIAL, CHICAGO-DETROIT PROVINCE

Jeremy Langford
PROVINCIAL ASSISTANT FOR COMMUNICATIONS,
ACTING PROVINCIAL ASSISTANT FOR ADVANCEMENT

Brian Harper
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Quentin Maguire
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNICATIONS

CHICAGO-DETROIT PROVINCE

1010 N. Hooker St., Chicago, IL 60642
(800) 537-3736

Regional Directors of Advancement

Nora Dabrowski (Detroit)
ndabrowski@jesuits.org | (773) 368-6399
Mail c/o Chicago Office

Jeff Meyrose (Cincinnati/IN/KY)
jmeyrose@jesuits.org | (513) 751-6688
10945 Reed Hartman Hwy., Ste. 119,
Cincinnati, OH 45242

Jeff Smart (Chicago)
jsmart@jesuits.org | (773) 975-6920

Joe Sweeney (Chicago/Cleveland)
jsweeney@jesuits.org | (773) 975-6909

WISCONSIN PROVINCE

3400 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 937-6955

Regional Directors of Advancement

Al Bill (Minneapolis/St. Paul)
abill@jesuits.org | (952) 715-0770

Dan O'Brien (Milwaukee/Omaha)
dobrien@jesuits.org | (414) 727-1955

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Fr. Mark Carr, SJ; Fr. Walter Deye, SJ;
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James Stoeger, SJ

FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.JESUITSMIDWEST.ORG