



JESUITS®



ORDINATIONS 2020

It's safe to assume every Jesuit vocation story at least once — than that.

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

This was one of the questions the 15 Jesuits ordained to the priesthood were asked to ponder leading up to these celebrations.

“Forgiven, healed, loved. Responding in love,” said Kevin Hughes, S.J.

“Go and do likewise (Luke 10:37),” wrote San Mai, S.J.

And Jason Downer, S.J.: “Abundant grace.”

Grace certainly abounds in the lives and vocations of these 15 men from Canada, the United States and Haiti who have said yes to their Catholic faith, yes to the Society of Jesus and yes to the call to ordained priesthood. Their witness is a sign of joyful hope. Their witness is an invitation to all of us to put our faith into action in service to God and our sisters and brothers everywhere.

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

It has been asked to tell his
- and probably far more times

LOVING GOD,

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

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

Bless these 15 men who will continue to serve the Society, the Church and the world as ordained priests. Never cease to enkindle their love for you and your people, and strengthen all of us to serve with them as fellow disciples.

We pray this through Christ, Our Lord,

AMEN.

Thomas William (Billy) Biegler, S.J.



Province: USA West

Birthday: July 27, 1983

Hometown: Sacramento, California

Education:

Bachelor's degree, philosophy, University of San Francisco; Master's degree, theatre and performance studies, Washington University in St. Louis; Master of Divinity, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Taught freshmen at Jesuit High School in Portland, Oregon.
2. Studied theatre at Washington University in St. Louis.
3. Served as a deacon/chaplain at Saint Cecilia Parish in Boston.

Post-Ordination:

Will serve at St. Ignatius Parish in Portland, Oregon, and work to promote vocations to the Society of Jesus.

What is your favorite book, movie, music, or TV show you've encountered since entering the Society and why do you love it?

I've seen Greta Gerwig's "Lady Bird" more times than I can count. Much of "Lady Bird" reminds me of my own high school story, and Greta and





Billy and his family at Saint Cecilia's in Boston.

I were friends in high school. But beyond the self-indulgent, Greta's depiction of home, teenage angst, the church and her consecrated religious is heartwarming. With style and reverence, Greta reveals the holy in those experiences and places so common to many of us. "Lady Bird" affirms the beautiful in the ordinary — even in Sacramento!

What is one hobby you've cultivated as a Jesuit and why is it important to you?

Since first studies, I've spent a lot of time with poetry. Something about the opacity of a poem lends itself to a vulnerability that resonates. Sometimes in prayer, I'll stick with a phrase or a sentence from a poem for weeks, repeating it over and over so that God can break it open. These last few weeks, I've sat with a line from Jorie Graham's "Over and Over Stitch," which concludes: "There are moments in our lives which, threaded, give us heaven."

What brings you joy?

In no particular order: my family and friends, Diet Coke, Netflix, dining out, a conversation of depth, the Eastern zodiac, poetry, preaching, praying in an empty church, theater, my Jesuit community, the heat and true crime podcasts.

Greg Celio, S.J.



Province: USA West

Birthday: May 7, 1982

Hometown: Fullerton, California

Education:

Bachelor's degree in history and master's degree in education, University of Notre Dame; Master of Divinity, Regis College, University of Toronto

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Taught history and coached baseball and football at Bellarmine Preparatory School in Tacoma, Washington.
2. Studied Spanish at the Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico, and volunteered at Ciudad de Los Niños.
3. Served the Spanish-speaking community of Parroquia San Juan Bautista as a deacon in Toronto, Canada.

Post-Ordination:

Will be missioned to Seattle to work at Seattle Preparatory School and to assist in vocation promotion.

What is one hobby you've cultivated as a Jesuit and why is it important to you?

As a Jesuit, I have spent a lot of time singing and making music. Whether singing in a large choir or playing piano alone in the community chapel,



Greg, Justin Claravall, S.J., Allison Scanlin and Tony Rehberger during a hiking retreat at Bellarmine Prep.

music is an important way for me to relate to God. As a novice, I began composing music while on the Ft. Belknap Reservation and had the opportunity to study music more formally while at Saint Louis University in 2011. Since then I've had the opportunities to sing in choirs and lead music as liturgies, particularly during the past few years at Regis College in Toronto. It has been a gift to get together with Jesuit brothers to sing and play instruments in the community.

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had during your formation, and why was it meaningful to you?

I spent a year in Guadalajara, Mexico, studying Spanish at the Universidad de Guadalajara and volunteering at Ciudad de Los Niños, a home and school for kids from low-income backgrounds. I loved the people I met and the amazing culture, while I also experienced the difficult and humbling stretches that come with learning another language. Most mornings I helped the kids in their English classes, and in the afternoons, attended my own Spanish classes. Mixed in with this daily routine were a couple of moving experiences away from Guadalajara, including a visit to a Jesuit mission in Chiapas and a walking pilgrimage to Talpa de Allende in Jalisco. Feeling moved and grateful for these experiences, I returned to Mexico last summer to serve in a Jesuit parish in Oaxaca as a deacon and served the Spanish-speaking community in Toronto as a deacon this past year.



Greg and Travis Russell, S.J., during their time living and studying in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Justin Claravall, S.J.



Province: USA West

Birthday: June 4, 1986

Hometown: Artesia, California

Education:

Bachelor's degree, history of art and architecture, University of California, Santa Barbara; Master's degree, philosophy, Saint Louis University; Master of Divinity, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Taught religion and community service at Bellarmine Preparatory School, Tacoma,

Washington.

2. Worked with the Philippine Jesuit Prison Service in Muntinlupa City, Philippines.

3. Worked in L'Arche Noah Sealth in Seattle, Washington.

Post-Ordination:

Will serve at Dolores Mission Parish in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles.





Justin hiking in Washington with fellow ordinand Greg Celio, S.J., and colleague Allison Scanlin, who all taught at Bellarmine Preparatory School in Tacoma, Washington.

What is one hobby you've cultivated as a Jesuit and why is it important to you?

Calligraphy. I need to make art or have some kind of creative practice. Since Jesuit life can be transient (so far, I haven't lived anywhere for more than three years), I found that some art mediums are more convenient or portable. Calligraphy still inspires me and challenges me, and its materials are easier to move than a drum set or a standing easel.

Tell your vocation story. One catch: You must use only six words.

I have died. Life is Christ.

What brings you joy?

Sitting around a table with lots of food, lots of friends, Jesuit and non-Jesuit, listening to laughter and deep conversation, with good music in the background, and maybe even singing along and dancing with my friends ... these things, sometimes individually and sometimes all together, they bring me joy.

Jason G. Downer, S.J.



Province: USA East

Birthday: July 15, 1980

Hometown: Rochester, New York

Education:

Bachelor's degree, history, Canisius College; Master's degree, college student personnel administration, Canisius College; Master's degree, social philosophy, Loyola University Chicago; Master of Divinity, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry; Master of Theology, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Accompanying a group of students from Loyola University Chicago to MAGIS/World Youth Day in Brazil in 2013.
2. Coordinating a 19th annotation retreat for members of Saint Peter's University.
3. Serving at the Kino Border Initiative for the summer of 2017.

Post-Ordination:

Will do a pastoral year in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

What is one hobby you've cultivated as a Jesuit and why is it important to you?

Before I entered the Jesuits I had never even run a mile; now I've run six half marathons. I started running during novitiate as a form of exercise and





Jason with Loyola University Chicago students at World Youth Day in Brazil in 2013.

since then it has become something I really enjoy. Running is a great way to start my day. I often get to see some pretty spectacular sunrises and to say a quick prayer of thanks to God.

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had during your formation, and why was it meaningful to you?

The six weeks we spent at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, New York, was a particularly meaningful experience during my formation. Novices have been going there for more than 40 years, and we are thrown into the deep end helping the nurses and aids care for the patients. My class started there during Holy Week, and I remember what it was like bathing a patient with all their wounds and just praying for them with the Passion narrative running through my head. It was a clear encounter with Christ.

What brings you joy?

I find joy in being able to accompany young people as they encounter God in new ways during college. Talking with a student after a retreat or an immersion trip as they are trying to put words to the experience is just a privileged place to be.

James Ferus, S.J.



Province: USA East

Birthday: September 5, 1985

Hometown: New Bedford, Massachusetts

Education:

Bachelor's degree, government, Harvard University; Master's degree, philosophical resources, Fordham University; Master of Divinity, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Entered the Jesuit novitiate after spending two years in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.
2. Taught violin to students in the Bronx during philosophy studies at Fordham University.
3. Played with the inmate choir at San Quentin State Prison during theologies studies in Berkeley, California.

Post-Ordination:

Will continue serving in his current ministries at San Quentin and Our Lady of Lourdes in Oakland, California, as he completes a Licentiate in Sacred Theology.

Who is one important mentor who has accompanied you on your journey? What made them a good mentor?

Fr. Jack Fagan, S.J., arrived in Portland, Maine, the same week as I did in the summer of 2014. I was beginning my regency at Cheverus High



James gives violin lessons at St. Ignatius School in the Bronx in 2013.



James (right) with Fr. Jack Fagan, S.J., (left) and then-novice Brendan Gottschall, S.J., en route to an island near Portland, Maine.

School, and Jack, his appointment as superior of my community. We quickly established a pattern of sharing stories of our daily ministry in our house's living room while listening to classical music on the radio. Jack's enthusiastic questions not only helped me focus my prayer on how God had been present throughout my day in the lives of my students and their families, but also helped me imagine new possibilities for evangelization to the youth. Using his wisdom from decades of creative pastoral ministry on the margins, Jack's responses to my stories reflected on how seemingly minor interactions with folks may have actually made a major impact on their days. Such creative visions came true when we entertained the Cheverus students three straight years singing humorous duets at the annual karaoke fundraiser. Jack modeled wonderful care for the Jesuits in our community as our superior and invited me to assist him with some of his administrative responsibilities, which gave me a valuable perspective on his important role and a greater sense of ownership in spite of being the youngest member. We were also privileged to participate together on several Kairos retreats, and I was fortunate to witness the impact his compassionate priestly ministry had on the students. Moments like these moved me forward toward the later stage of formation with eagerness to be ordained a priest. Throughout the years, Jack has shown me the importance of hospitality — to teacher colleagues and especially to family and friends — and that what matters most is spending quality time with the people we love. It's both an obvious choice and an honor to have Jack vest me at my ordination this summer.

Kevin Cahill Hughes, S.J.



Province: USA East

Birthday: September 13, 1985

Hometown: Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Education:

Bachelor's degree, biology, La Salle University; Master's degree, biology, Saint Louis University; Master of Divinity, Regis College, University of Toronto

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Worked with deaf Catholics in St. Louis, Toronto and Rochester, New Jersey.
2. Taught math and science at McQuaid

Jesuit High in Rochester.

3. Did a summer emersion with fellow Jesuit scholastics in China.

Post-Ordination:

Will serve as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Hope Parish in Portland, Maine.

Who's your favorite saint, and why?

My favorite saint is Mary Magdalene. We learn from Luke's Gospel that she is a woman from whom seven demons had been cast out. Her healing encounter with Jesus caused in her a complete and total transformation, so that she becomes a companion of Jesus during his ministry. We also



Kevin at dinner with some of his Jesuit friends while on vacation. From left, Jonathan Harmon, S.J.; David Lugo, S.J.; Alex Llanera, S.J.; Kevin; and Bryce Deline, S.J.



Kevin baptizing his cousin Andrew's son Ashton; serving as a deacon and performing baptisms brought Kevin great joy.

learn from John's Gospel that Jesus appears to her after his resurrection and charges her with the mission of telling his disciples the Good News. Mary Magdalene is my favorite saint because I admire her response to follow Jesus after being healed, and I desire to emulate her eagerness and willingness to be sent by Jesus on mission to bring the Good News of him to others.

Who is one important mentor who has accompanied you on your journey? What made them a good mentor?

Br. Jim Lemon, S.J., was one important mentor to me during my time in formation. I lived with "Bro" during my long experiment as a novice and would often talk with him about my day, week, struggles, etc. During one occasion in which I was complaining about the attitude of another community member he asked me a simple question that has stayed with me ever since, and which I find myself going back to regularly. He said, "Kevin, I hear you and I understand what you're saying, but I have one question: For whom did you enter the Society of Jesus?" This immediately put everything into perspective. He helped me to realize and remember that I did not enter the Society of Jesus for myself or for anyone other than Christ. Br. Lemon's question continues to help me remember to bring my focus back to Christ, because it is Christ who sustains me. This also helps me to remember to give thanks to Christ for the many blessings I have received in my life through my family, my friends and in my fellow Jesuits.

Kevin Andrew Kelly, S.J.

Province: Canada

Birthday: February 5, 1971

Hometown: Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Education:

Honours Bachelor of Science, human physiology, University of Toronto; Master of Theological Studies, Regis College, University of Toronto; Master of Divinity, Regis College, University of Toronto

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Worked with the African Jesuit AIDS Network in Nairobi, Kenya, including helping to develop HIV awareness programs for local parishes and schools and supporting women living with HIV in starting their own businesses.
2. Worked at the Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice in Toronto, leading discussions on social justice issues.
3. Helped launch the Ignatian Spirituality Project in Toronto, a retreat program that supports those in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction and who have experienced homelessness.

Post-Ordination:

Will serve as director of Villa Saint-Martin, the Jesuit retreat center in Montreal.





Kevin with an Ignatian Spirituality Project retreatant

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had during your formation, and why was it meaningful to you?

The Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP), which I helped launch in Toronto, provides spiritual support for men and women who have experienced homelessness and who are currently in sober living houses in recovery from addictions. Our wonderfully diverse retreat team facilitates weekend retreats, follow-up days of reflection and ongoing spiritual companionship. The nine women and nine men are of different faith traditions, span almost five decades in age and are comprised of religious and lay people, each with unique education and employment experiences. Some are in recovery themselves or are alumni of ISP retreats. This diversity allows the group to capitalize on its many strengths and meet each ISP retreatant where they are in their recovery journey.

Who is one important mentor who has accompanied you on your journey? What made them a good mentor?

My brother Paul was born with Down syndrome and passed away in October 2019 after living with dementia for almost three years. Paul naturally assumed the best in people. He was able to see people's struggles and brokenness even when they were not open to seeing them or sharing them with others. His strength was his ability to bring people together and make anyone feel they were the most important person in his life. Paul modelled many gifts that I seek and try to cultivate as a Jesuit (though, not always successfully): He was gentle, focused on the other and relied on others' support for him as much as he supported others with their own needs. Paul also loved a party, a good laugh and other simple joys ... things that many of us lose sight of when life gets too busy.

David Lugo, S.J.



Province: USA Central and Southern

Birthday: January 14, 1987

Hometown: Houston, Texas

Education:

Bachelor's degree, physics, Texas A&M University; Master's degree, philosophy, Saint Louis University; Master of Divinity, Regis College, University of Toronto; Bachelor of Sacred Theology, Regis College, University of Toronto

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Served in a Jesuit parish in rural

Guatemala.

2. Taught theology and mathematics at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas.

3. Studied spiritual theology and Ignatian spirituality at Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid, Spain.

Post-Ordination:

Will return to Madrid to finish his Licentiate in Sacred Theology at Comillas Pontifical University and serve as a priest at a Jesuit parish in Madrid.





David with a group of fellow Jesuits from his master's program in Ignatian spirituality at Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid on a trip to Ávila. From left: Andrés Hernández-Caro, S.J. (Colombian Province); José Antonio Rubio, S.J. (Central American Province); Andy Liberato, S.J. (Antilles Province); and David.

What is one hobby you've cultivated as a Jesuit and why is it important to you?

A fellow Jesuit and I have been recording weekly podcasts to help us prepare for our Sunday homilies. This has been a fun side project that taps into my love for preaching and my love for digital technology.

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had during your formation, and why was it meaningful to you?

The Easter Triduum 2017 was particularly meaningful. That weekend our varsity soccer team played in the state tournament and I was able to go with them and lead them in three prayer services, each modeled after a different Triduum liturgy. It was a wonderful experience of being a priest "on the road" with my students. To top it all off, that's the year we won state.

What brings you joy?

My nieces and nephews. When I first saw the oldest of the bunch it sparked such joy. In that moment I was so happy to see my family grow and my brother become a father. I know now that even though I won't have my own kids, that this boy and his siblings and cousins will be for me a great source of life and love. Whenever I'm down, I look through the pictures my brothers share with me of their children and I can't help but smile.

San Mai, S.J.



Province: USA West

Birthday: November 11, 1967

Hometown: Portland, Oregon

Education:

Bachelor's degree, computer engineering and Master of Business Administration, Santa Clara University; Master of Divinity, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Taught math and science at St. Andrew Nativity School in Portland, Oregon.
2. Served as a deacon and leader of

children's faith formation at Our Lady of Lourdes in Oakland, California.

Post-Ordination:

Will serve as associate pastor at St. Aloysius Parish in Spokane, Washington.





San's eighth-grade students from St. Andrew Nativity School in Portland, Oregon, June 2017.

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had during your formation, and why was it meaningful to you?

For my regency assignment, my provincial missioned me to St. Andrew Nativity School, a Jesuit inner-city middle school in Portland, Oregon, for underserved young people. To be clear, this was not my first choice because I was hoping to be missioned to a high school or university. Having worked in the corporate world for many years and being the oldest Jesuit scholastic at the time, I had many reservations about working with middle schoolers. Would I be able to connect with them given our age differences? How would I deal with classroom management given that many of them would be going through all kinds of hormonal changes? Would I even remember the math and science I learned so many years ago when I was their age? Despite these initial reservations, I had an incredibly consoling and affirming experience during regency. I love St. Andrew Nativity and I especially love my students. In retrospect, what I have learned is that while the math and science I taught to my students was important, loving them and receiving their love in return was much more important. Although my “official” ministry as a regent was to teach math and science, I think it is more accurate to describe this regency assignment as a ministry of love, which is really what Jesus’ ministry was all about. I am grateful to my former students for teaching me how to be more patient, kind and loving as they are essential qualities that I pray will make me a good Jesuit priest.

Tell your vocation story. One catch: You must use only six words.
“Go and do likewise.” Luke 10:37.

Levelt Michaud, S.J.



Province: Canada

Birthday: December 26, 1986

Hometown: Léogane, Haiti

Education:

Bachelor's degree, philosophy, Centre Bono, Dominican Republic; Bachelor's degree, theology, Centre Sevres, Paris

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Served with the Jesuit Refugee Service, doing pastoral work with Haitian students.
2. Worked with Haitians in a batey, where sugarcane cutters live, in the Dominican

Republic.

3. Studied theology in Paris, where he also accompanied a Christian Life Community and led an interreligious group for migrants.

Post-Ordination:

Will continue working on his Licentiate in Sacred Theology at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.





Levell in Nsiamfumu, Democratic Republic of Congo, in July 2019.

What is your favorite book, movie, music, or TV show you've encountered since entering the Society?

Book: "The Little Prince"; movie: "Amistad"; music: "Heal the World" by Michael Jackson.

What are three words a family member or fellow Jesuit would use to describe you?

Calm, faithful and hard worker.

What are hobbies you've cultivated as a Jesuit and why are they important to you?

Bicycling and writing poems. Bicycling because it was my mode of transportation to go to school in my hometown and writing because it's a way I express my feelings.

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had during your formation?

To be able to study with other Jesuits around the world.

Tell your vocation story. One catch: You must use only six words.

Prayer, service, gratitude, study and work.

Joshua M. Peters, S.J.



Province: USA Midwest

Birthday: September 29, 1978

Hometown: Detroit, Michigan

Education:

Bachelor's degree, American studies, University of Dayton; Master's degree, social philosophy, Loyola University Chicago; Master's degree, theology, Xavier University of Louisiana; Master of Divinity, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Worked on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud

Reservations in South Dakota.

2. Taught at Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School in Chicago and sang in the gospel choir at St. Benedict the African Catholic Church.
3. Studied theology in the Spring 2019 semester at Hekima University College in Nairobi, Kenya.

Post-Ordination:

Will serve as an associate pastor at Christ the King Parish/Trinity Vicariate in Detroit, Michigan.



Joshua at the 2019 graduation for Christ the King Jesuit College Prep (CTK) in Chicago, where he taught as a Jesuit in formation. In this "Peters Fam" selfie, from left: Joshua with Ms. Martinka Peters and her daughters, Jenelle Peters (CTK '19) and Mya Peters (CTK '14).



Joshua with members of the Jesuits' Christ the King Catholic Parish Eucharistic Youth Movement (EYM) in the Kangemi neighborhood in Nairobi on Good Friday. These EYM youth were acting in the Way of the Cross.

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had during your formation, and why was it meaningful to you?

In the spring semester of 2019 I was given an opportunity to study theology at Hekima University College in Nairobi, Kenya. It was the fulfillment of a dream and my first visit to the continent of Africa, let alone Eastern Africa. Through their gracious hospitality, the Jesuits at Hekima helped me instantly feel at home. I was deeply consoled to live in Nairobi for almost six months in such an apostolically vibrant environment. I ended up working with the Missionaries of Charity Brothers in the Kibera slum twice a week for my entire time in Nairobi. The other thing I benefited from was being in a culture where “Black is Beautiful” is a way of life! Kenya and the Eastern African nations of Tanzania and Uganda are beautiful in every sense of the word. I was not aware of how much the United States is permeated by a culture of white superiority until I lived outside of it for almost half a year. Eastern Africa is not without its issues but no one there has to fight for their right to say that they are Black and proud like I have observed here in the U.S. This translates into a culture where Blackness is celebrated and reveled in by just waking up, greeting the day and praising God with one’s life. I felt deeply privileged to watch this glory unfold on a daily basis while in Eastern Africa.

Perry T. Petrich, S.J.



Province: USA West

Birthday: December 28, 1984

Hometown: Tacoma, Washington

Education:

Bachelor's degree, theatre and theology, Fordham College at Lincoln Center; Master's degree, social philosophy, Loyola University Chicago; Master of Divinity, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University; Master's degree, Catholic educational leadership, University of San Francisco

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Coaching the Sacred Heart Nativity School track team to their first gold medals.
2. Serving on the founding team of Cristo Rey De La Salle High School in Oakland, California.
3. Making music with fellow ordinand James Ferus, S.J., throughout theology studies.

Post-Ordination:

Will wrap up his master's thesis on lay leadership in Jesuit schools while sheltering in place in Berkeley, California, before moving to Sacramento to serve as a campus minister at Jesuit High School.



Perry at his family Christmas party in Kent, Washington, in 2014.



Perry (far right) working at the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

What was one particularly meaningful experience you had during your formation, and why was it meaningful to you?

Eight days after the 2016 election, I was at a parent meeting of the middle school I was just sent to by my provincial. All of the parents at the school were either immigrants or children of immigrants from Latin America. We invited an immigration advocacy group to give a “know your rights” presentation. The president of the school and I sensed that something in the room wasn’t right — there was too much fear and hurt to process any kind of learning. We made eye contact, and I interrupted the presentation. I thanked the presenters for coming and then turned to the parents and just asked how everyone was feeling. It turned into a conversation among the parents where fears were shared and support was offered. It ended up being, at that particular moment, exactly what our community needed. After the meeting ended, the president mentioned how it was God’s Providence that I was sent to the school for that year. From that night, I came to more deeply believe that God sends us where we are needed and then provides the grace for us to respond to that need. I learned a little bit more what it means that God will provide.

Douglas J. Ray, S.J.



Province: USA East

Birthday: July 9, 1973

Hometown: New York, New York

Education:

Bachelor's degree, history, Princeton University; Juris Doctor, Harvard Law School; Master's degree, philosophical resources, Fordham University; Master of Divinity, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Worked in campus ministry at

Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

2. Mentored students in the corporate work study program at Cristo Rey New York High School.

3. Directed the retreat program for campus ministry and taught business law at Fairfield University.

Post-Ordination:

Will work at St. Peter Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.





Doug with his extended family on the day he professed first vows in Society in 2012.

What are three words a family member or fellow Jesuit would use to describe you? (Ask someone.) Do you agree with his or her selections?
Thoughtful, prayerful and thorough. (Yes, I agree.)

What is one hobby you've cultivated as a Jesuit and why is it important to you?

A few years ago, I spent a summer working at St. Francis Mission on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. A Lakota elder taught me the basics of bead weaving, and I have enjoyed doing that ever since. It is a quiet, contemplative practice that allows me to express myself by creating designs for bracelets and other decorative items. It requires a great attention to detail, but does not involve words, which has made it a relaxing escape from my philosophy and theology studies. I also enjoy the experience of taking a pile of different colored beads and some thread and watching them take shape into something beautiful under my hands.

Imagine you could travel back in time and meet yourself the first day you entered the Society of Jesus. What's one piece of advice you'd give to yourself?

I would tell myself to relax. I spent a lot of my formation trying to be the "perfect" Jesuit before I realized that there is no such thing. A lot of our formation is about learning to live in freedom, and my desire to do things exactly right often got in the way.

David Romero, S.J.



Province: USA West

Birthday: September 27, 1986

Hometown: Northridge, California

Education:

Bachelor's degree, theological studies, Loyola Marymount University; Master's degree, philosophical resources, Fordham University; Master of Divinity, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Worked with an alternative study abroad program, Casa Bayanihan, in the Philippines, accompanying students and marginalized communities in Metro Manila.
2. Taught religion, helped in campus ministry and with immersion experiences and served as chaplain for the theatre program at Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose, California.



David on an L.A. immersion trip with students from Bellarmine College Prep, visiting Homeboy Industries.



Family photo during David's sister's wedding.

3. Served as chaplain at the Suffolk County House of Corrections in Boston and as a deacon at St. Michael Parish in Bedford, Massachusetts.

Post-Ordination:

Will join the team of Christus Ministries in Los Angeles, which serves young adults.

What's one interesting fact about yourself not everyone would know?

I learned how to cut hair in the novitiate, and I love it! Within the first few weeks of novitiate, in order to save money, our assistant novice director asked for two volunteers to learn how to give haircuts. I figured, "Why not? New life. New things to learn." What I didn't realize was how much I would enjoy it! I'm a details-kind-of-guy, and so it's a great opportunity to pay attention to detail, to grow as a better communicator by understanding and responding to different requests, to express my care for my brother Jesuits by serving them in this way and to have all sorts of interesting conversations.

How might you explain the Jesuit motto "ad maiorem Dei gloriam" to someone who's never heard it before?

I would say that it's a call to have everything we say and do in life point to God, the loving creator and giver of life. Instead of doing something great that communicates to others, "Look at how good I am," it's the disposition to say and do things that acclaim, "Look at how great God is!"

Matthew C. Stewart, S.J.



Province: USA Central and Southern

Birthday: June 12, 1980

Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri

Education:

Bachelor's degree, music, Saint Louis University; Master's degree, theology, Saint Louis University; Master's degree, philosophical resources, Fordham University; Master's degree, choral conducting, University of Denver; Licentiate in Sacred Theology, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Highlights of Jesuit Formation:

1. Worked with immigrants and refugees in the Bronx, New York, during first studies at Fordham University.
2. Taught theology, supervised the Peer Ministry program and helped coordinate liturgies at Regis University in Denver.
3. Served as a deacon at St. Brigid and Gate of Heaven parishes in South Boston.





Matt playing piano at Mass at Regis University in Denver.

Post-Ordination:

Will serve as parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier College Church and assist at Loyola Academy, a Nativity-model middle school, both in St. Louis.

What are three words a family member or fellow Jesuit would use to describe you? (Ask someone.) Do you agree with his or her selections?

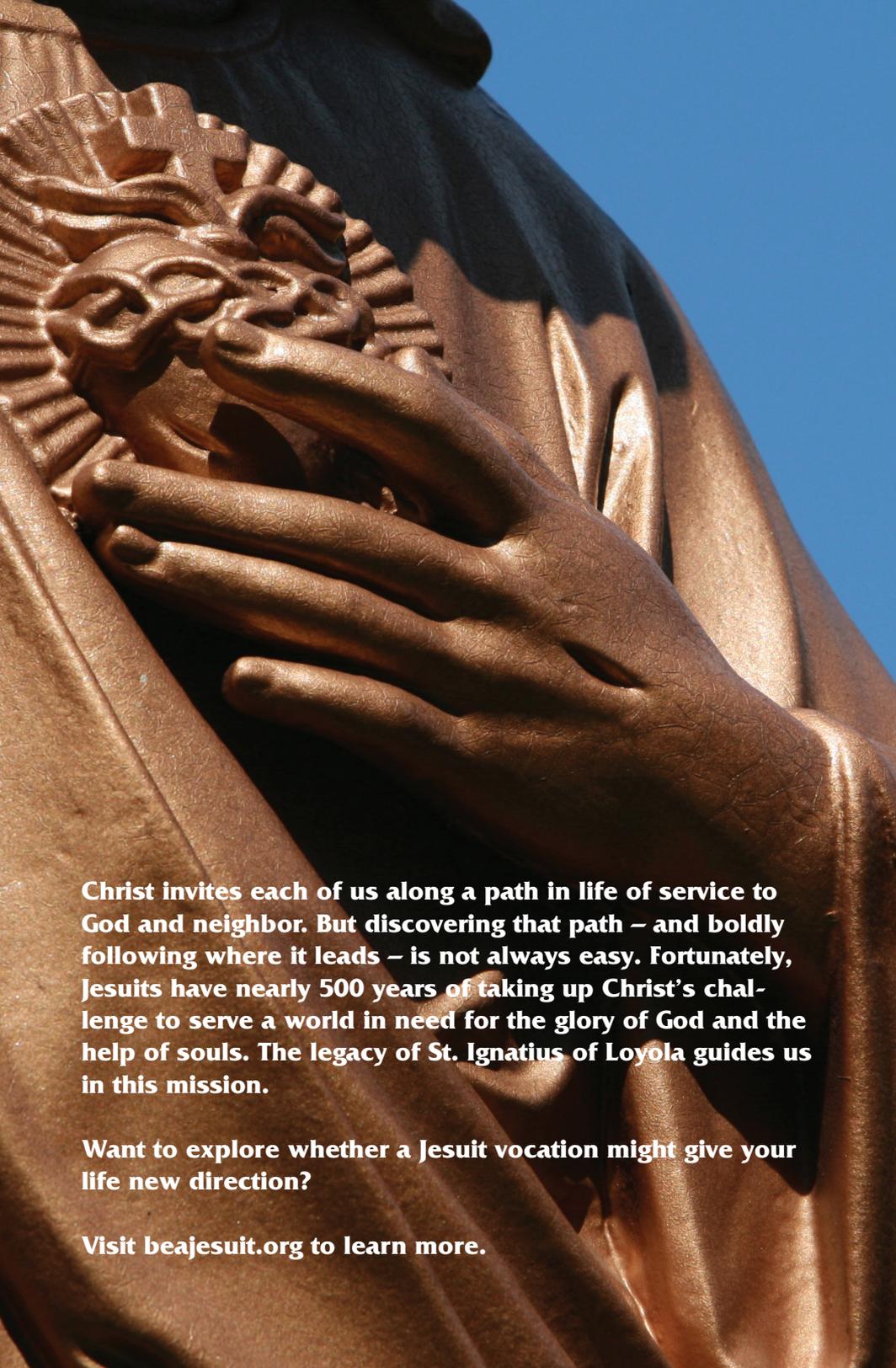
I was actually pretty moved by people's responses to this question. They said: musical, culinary, extroverted, engaged, curious, faithful, magnanimous and sensitive. It's not so much that I'm surprised. I'm just very touched by the ways my fellow Jesuits responded.

What is one hobby you've cultivated as a Jesuit and why is it important to you?

After regency, a colleague gave me one of his used sewing machines, and I've been using it ever since. I've been able to learn how to hem things, turn old long-sleeved shirts into short-sleeved ones and have even learned how to make whole shirts. I've also made two albs for myself and a set of altar cloths for our house. Ever since I was a kid, I've loved being creative and making things. Sewing is a way not only to engage my creative impulses, but also to make things that can be helpful for the community.

Tell your vocation story. One catch: You must use only six words.

Learned. Heard. Waited. Avoided. Surrendered. Entered.

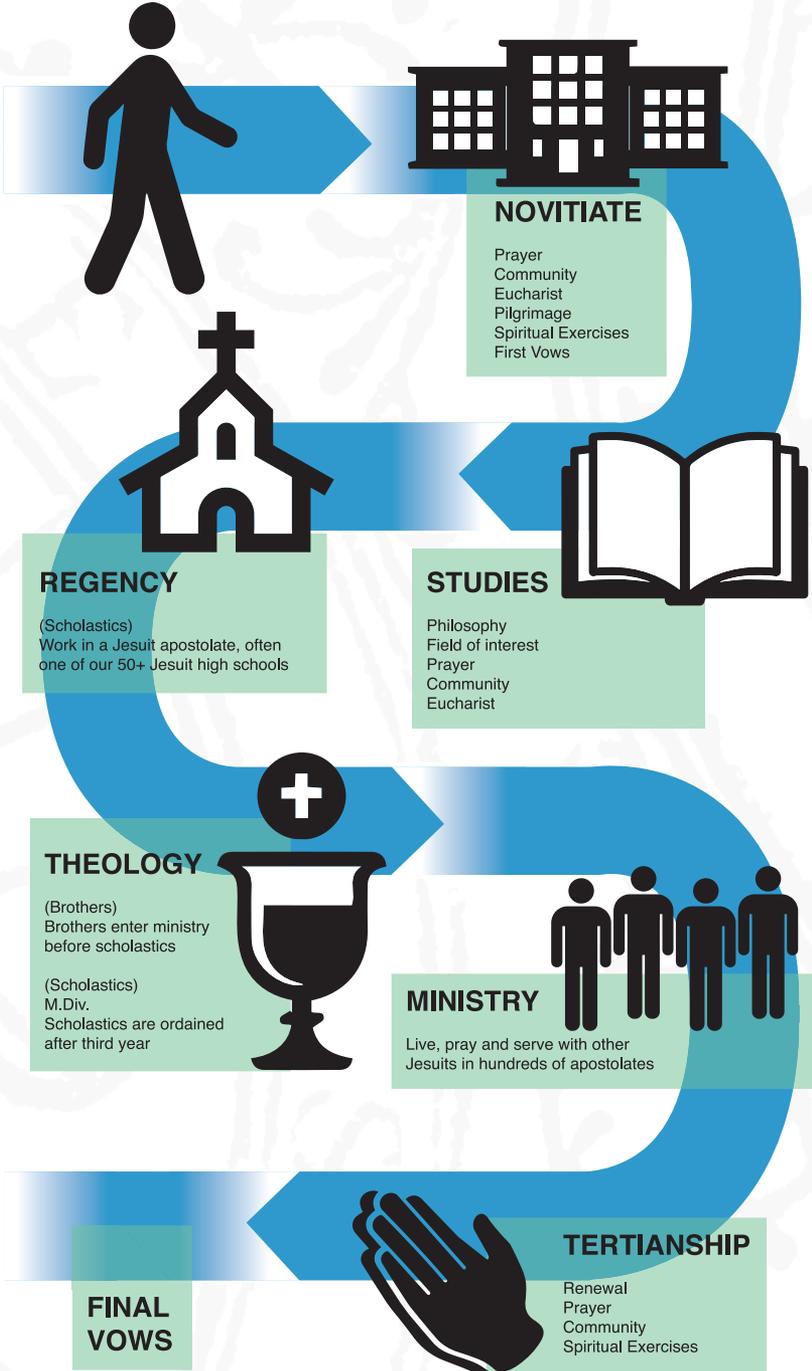


Christ invites each of us along a path in life of service to God and neighbor. But discovering that path – and boldly following where it leads – is not always easy. Fortunately, Jesuits have nearly 500 years of taking up Christ’s challenge to serve a world in need for the glory of God and the help of souls. The legacy of St. Ignatius of Loyola guides us in this mission.

Want to explore whether a Jesuit vocation might give your life new direction?

Visit beajesuit.org to learn more.

The steps in Jesuit formation





Back cover: David A. Lugo, SJ, and Matthew C. Stewart, SJ, were ordained to the priesthood for the Society of Jesus by Archbishop Robert J. Carlson at St. Francis Xavier College Church in St. Louis on August 15, 2020. Photo by Lisa Johnston. Front cover: Jesuits USA East Province ordinations at Saint Joseph's University Chapel. Photo by Michael Marmora.



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