

Oregon Provincial Fr. Scott Santarosa, SJ, with the New Superior General Fr. Arturo Sosa Abascal, SJ.

Jesuits Elect 31st Superior General of the Society of Jesus

Father Arturo Sosa Abascal, SJ, of Venezuela was elected the 31st Superior General of the Society of Jesus at the Jesuits' General Congregation 36 (GC 36) in Rome on October 14. Fr. Sosa is the first Latin American Superior General of the Society of Jesus, the largest religious order of priests and brothers in the Catholic Church.

Fr. Sosa, Delegate of the General for the International Houses and Works of the Society of Jesus in Rome, was elected by 212 Jesuit electors at the General Congregation, the supreme governing body of the Society, held at the Jesuit Curia, the Society's headquarters in Rome. He succeeds Father Adolfo Nicolás, SJ, 80, who resigned as planned after serving as Superior General since 2008.

"Fr. Sosa strikes me as a man who is imminently comfortable in his skin, as easy to be around as your next door neighbor, and whose way of being immediately puts you at ease," said Oregon Provincial Fr. Scott Santarosa, SJ, one of two Oregon Province delegates at GC 36. "His smile is warm and friendly, and he is always quick with a word of humor at meals or in the hallway. When I approached him to congratulate him, I said, 'Felicidades, Padre General!'

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Letter from the Provincial

How Can This Not Change Us?



Fr. Scott Santarosa, SJ
Oregon Provincial

The experience of being here in Rome for General Congregation 36 has been exciting, moving, and consoling. It has also been challenging. I suspect I will return to the Oregon and California provinces a changed man.

While I realize that sounds dramatic, I think it is the truth.

To sit every day next to Bhausahab from Pune, India on my left, and Joaquim from East Timor on my right, to look out at the *aula* (hall) and see Jesuits of all colors, sizes, and shapes from every corner of the world, I am excited to see how universal we really are. It reminds me of how God calls us each in our distinct and different places but to this

common life as Jesuits. We are more similar than different.

To see Fr. Adolfo Nicolás resign with grace and freedom, to hear exceedingly gracious words spoken of him, and then to watch him simply walk out of the door of the *aula* after his eight years of being our Superior General, was a moving reminder of the freedom to which we Jesuits are called. We hold our jobs and roles loosely, trusting that ultimately all is about service.

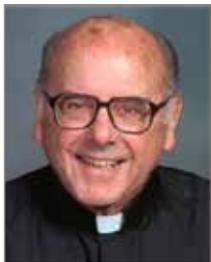
To engage in some 50+ short yet honest conversations or *murmuratio*s with my fellow GC 36 members about just who should be our next general, to watch Fr. Arturo Sosa kneel in the center of the *aula* and make his profession of faith and pledge to be our Father General, and to witness him slip so gracefully and capably into the role as our leader has all been so extremely consoling. The Spirit of God has truly been with us in our group discernment. Our God is a trustworthy God!

Our work now is to discuss governance and mission. At every moment we are invited back to our reason for being, which is following Jesus, giving ourselves ever more fully to him, seeing the face of God which is multi-cultural (like the Jesuits in the *aula*!), and asking how we can better serve the human family. At virtually every moment, this has been our task, our challenge.

How can seeing and being a part of these events not change me? How can it not change us?

I thank you all for your support and prayers in these exciting, moving, consoling, and challenging days of the General Congregation. Please pray also that God will help make happen in the Oregon and California provinces – and very soon the Jesuits West Province – what is meant to happen as a result of my and the other delegates' presence here in Rome. May we all be open to the new things God has in store for us. Thank you and God bless!

In Memoriam



Fr. Carmine Sacco, SJ
Oct. 22, 1924 - Sept. 21, 2016

Father Carmine J. Sacco, SJ, who was pastor of St. Rita Catholic Church in Tacoma for 32 years, 1979 to 2011, entered into God's peace on September 21 at the Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in

Los Gatos, Calif. He was 91.

Fr. Sacco was born in Seattle in 1924 and entered the Jesuit Order in 1944. After the usual studies, he was ordained a priest in Spokane in 1957 by Bishop Bernard Topel. After that, he was a teacher of religion at Seattle Preparatory School and then at Bellarmine Preparatory School in Tacoma. Most of his priestly ministry, however, was spent as pastor of a parish.

From 1971 to 1974 he was pastor of St. Luke Church, Woodburn, Ore. After graduate study in theology, he became pastor of St. Ignatius Church in Portland from 1975 to 1979.

The major life work of Fr. Sacco was as pastor of St. Rita Church in the hilltop area of Tacoma. For 32 years he provided daily spiritual and material help to the members of his parish and others. St. Rita was originally an Italian national parish, and he was only the fourth pastor over a period of approximately 90 years.

Fr. Sacco was a caring and loving pastor who was beloved by his parishioners because he was always there for them, because of his good humor, and because of his excellent preaching.

In 2011, at the age of 86, and due to ill health, he was no longer able to serve as pastor so he moved to the Jesuit Community at Bellarmine. There he spent his time in prayer, reading, receiving visitors from St. Rita Parish, and performing tasks around the house as best he could.



R. Theodore E. Kestler, SJ
Dec. 18, 1943 - Oct. 12, 2016

Father Ted Kestler, SJ, minister to residents of Chefnak, Alaska died in a house fire on October 12. He was 72. At the time of his passing, Fr. Kestler was serving in the Yup'ik village of

Chefnak with a population of just over 400. Located on the south bank of the Kinia River in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, it is about 98 air miles southwest of Bethel. Chefnak residents practice a subsistence lifestyle and rely on commercial fishing.

Father Kestler was born in Tacoma on Dec. 18, 1943, along with his twin sister, Mary Ann. He entered the Jesuit Novitiate at Sheridan, Ore., in 1964 and was ordained a priest in 1975. In 1980, while at Gonzaga Prep, Fr. Kestler first learned of the need for more priests in Alaska and volunteered with two other priests to go north.



Fr. Fredric Schlatter, SJ
June 16, 1926 - Oct. 21, 2016

Father Fredric W. Schlatter, SJ, entered into God's peace on October 21 at the Sacred Heart Jesuit Center Infirmary in Los Gatos, Calif. He was 90.

A scholar of classical languages and history, Fr. Schlatter was an outstanding professor, educator, gentleman, and priest who influenced the lives of many students at Gonzaga University as well as those studying for the priesthood.

Born in Tacoma on June 16, 1926, Fredric and his younger brother, James, were the two children of Fredrick W. and Genevieve M. (Boyne) Schlatter. Fred graduated from Bellarmine Preparatory (Tacoma) and entered the Jesuit Novitiate in August 1943 at Sheridan, Ore. He excelled in the humanities and philosophy, and after his ordination on June 16, 1956 (Spokane) Fr. Schlatter went on to Princeton University to obtain a doctorate in the classics in 1960.

With this degree in hand, Fr. Schlatter began an era of teaching the classics, first for seven years instructing younger Jesuits in formation for priesthood and for the next 30 years at Gonzaga University where he taught in the classics and history departments. Every class he taught started promptly on time and went the full time allotted; never was a moment wasted nor a harsh word spoken by Fr. Schlatter when he was teaching. He was named Professor Emeritus in 1997 by Gonzaga University; with this honor he reduced his work and teaching duties but remained available to mentor and guide students and colleagues. Fr. Schlatter remained mobile and lively until the very last few days of life.

In 1982, Fr. Kestler was missioned by the Jesuits to serve in Alaska. His first assignment was in the remote village of Kaltag.

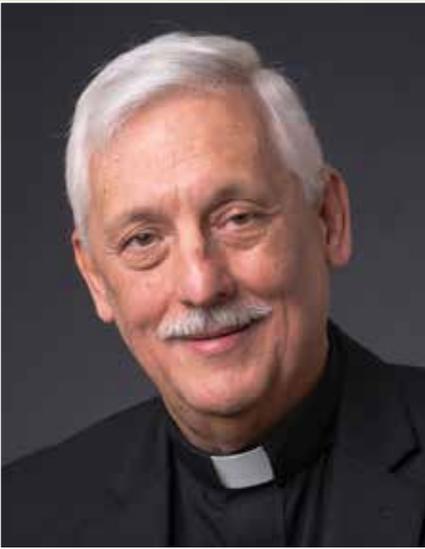
In 1985, Fr. Kestler was appointed rector and president of St. Michael's Institute at Gonzaga University. All the while, however, his desire to return to Alaska continued undiminished.

In 1990 he was appointed to serve as general superior of Jesuits in Alaska, which he did for nine years. In 1997, he became superior also of the St. Mary's Jesuit community of approximately 10 priests serving in western Alaska.

In remembering Fr. Kestler, Oregon Provincial Fr. Scott Santarosa, SJ, wrote, "Ted gave me a gift, which was the reminder that what we all do makes a difference in the world, in peoples' lives. The gift was connection – with one another, with people in the villages of Alaska and on the margins, with our history and legacy, and with our future."

31st Superior General

Continued from cover page



Superior General - Fr. Arturo Sosa Abascal, SJ

to which he responded, ‘¡Todavía no me aplasta!’ a humorous way of saying, ‘It hasn’t broken me yet!’ Of course, he had only been named Superior General a few short minutes beforehand!

“I enjoyed seeing him in action just a few days after the election. After all of the ceremony of the weekend, he just went to work and the rest of us didn’t make a big deal about him anymore. He recognizes that this role, like any of our Jesuit roles, is about service. We don’t aim for the limelight, but are most comfortable when we are working. This is clearly who Arturo Sosa is – most comfortable working, serving.”

Fr. Sosa was born in Caracas, Venezuela, on November 12, 1948. He entered the Society of Jesus in September, 1966 and was ordained a priest in 1977. He holds a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the Catholic University Andrés Bello in Caracas, a bachelor’s degree in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome, and a doctorate in political science from the Universidad Central de Venezuela. He was provincial superior of the Society of Jesus in Venezuela from 1996 to 2004. Fr. Sosa speaks Spanish, Italian, and English, and understands French.

Prior to his appointment as provincial, he was in charge of the social apostolate of the Jesuits in Venezuela, which includes the Jesuit network of schools for the poor, *Fe y Alegría*. He was also head of the Centro Gumilla, the Jesuit-run social and action research center.

Among his distinguished academic posts, he has served as a member of the founding board of the Andrés Bello Catholic University in Caracas and rector of the Catholic University of Táchira. He has taught and researched political science in many different institutes and colleges, and in 2004 was a visiting professor at the Latin-American Studies Center of Georgetown University.

“Father Sosa brings to his leadership of the Society both a freshness and a knowledge of its governance and leadership at its very center,” said California Provincial Father Michael F. Weiler, SJ, one of three California Province delegates to GC 36. “Fr. Sosa is the first General Superior of the Society to be born outside of Europe. He is both an insider and an outsider, a political scientist by training, provincial of Venezuela, and delegate of the Jesuit communities and universities in Rome. He also brings the



Photo by Fr. Don Doll, SJ

Congratulations: Fr. Arturo Sosa (right) shares an embrace with past Superior General Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, SJ, immediately after the election.

“We have a long tradition and a strong desire to listen to the same voice; that is the voice of the Holy Spirit.”

– Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ
31st Superior General, Society of Jesus



Photo by Fr. Don Doll, SJ

New Beginning: Jesuit Superior General Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ, (third from right) celebrates the Mass of Thanksgiving at the Church of the Gesù in Rome a day after his election.

interpersonal warmth of Latin America, greeting every delegate with a big *abbraccio* (Latin American embrace). In the months ahead we will learn more of his vision for the Society as he enters into the practicalities of governing this body of some 16,000 religious men.”

As the 31st Superior General in the Society’s 476-year history, Fr. Sosa now leads the 16,740 Jesuits worldwide. This includes approximately 12,000 priests, 1,300 brothers, 2,700 scholastics, and 753 novices, according to Father Federico Lombardi, SJ, General Counsellor and Assistant *ad Providentiam*.

In an interview at GC 36 before the election, Fr. Sosa said delegates come from different countries, but they share a common culture linked to their experience of the Ignatian spiritual exercises and practices of discernment. “We have a long tradition and a strong desire to listen to the same voice; that is the voice of the Holy Spirit.”

Fr. Sosa’s election was held after four days of *murmaratio*, a centuries-old practice of one-on-one conversation and information gathering, designed to prepare the delegation for the selection of a new Superior General.

The day of the election began with a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit at Santo Spirito Church, the 12th-century church across the street from the Curia. Following Mass, the Jesuits assembled in silence in the *aula* (hall) back at the Jesuit Curia. The delegates then prayed silently for one hour before voting began. In order to be named as the Jesuits’ new superior general, Fr. Sosa would have to receive 107 votes (50 percent plus one of the 212 electors). All aspects of the

election are strictly confidential, although the congregation confirmed that the first person to be notified of Fr. Sosa’s election was Pope Francis.

While Fr. Sosa’s election as Superior General completes one of the main tasks of GC 36, the group’s work is not over. Now the delegates will tackle matters of mission, governance, and the state of the Society. Topics may range from the Society’s changing demographics to challenges in worldwide ministries, and the Jesuit response to a rapidly changing world, environmental concerns, poverty, and violence.

(Sources for this report include www.GC36.org and www.cruXnow.com.)

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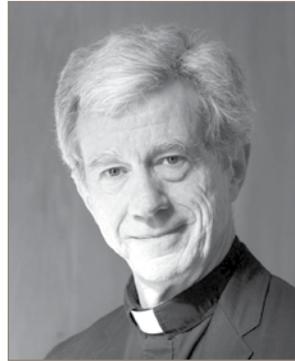
– Fr. Scott Santarosa, SJ,
Provincial, Oregon Province

New Appointments



Father Christopher Weekly, SJ, will serve as the provincial assistant for parish and spiritual ministries for the Oregon and California provinces. In this capacity, Fr. Weekly will be responsible for 14 parishes along the West Coast as well as the St. Paul's Catholic Student Center

in Boise, Idaho. The position will return to the former practice of including spiritual ministries of the entire West Coast. Fr. Weekly brings great pastoral experience to the position, having served as pastor of two Jesuit parishes in the Pacific Northwest.



Father Scott Coble, SJ, has been missioned to serve as the minister of The Jesuit Novitiate of the Three Companions for both the Oregon and California provinces. In this capacity, Fr. Coble will serve as both spiritual director for the novices as well as treasurer for the novitiate community. He

brings the combined gifts of being well-versed in directing the Spiritual Exercises after various summers of directing them at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos, Calif., along with the practical ease of working with numbers as a mathematician.

Four Jesuit Universities Highly Ranked in West

Gonzaga University, Seattle University, Santa Clara University, and Loyola Marymount University ranked among the top eight universities in the Western United States in the latest rankings by *U.S. News & World Report* released in October.

Gonzaga University was ranked the 4th best regional university in the West for the second year in a row. Gonzaga's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences is the 22nd best (tie) engineering program nationwide (among engineering schools whose highest degree is a bachelor's or master's). Gonzaga also ranks No. 4 among the West's best colleges for veterans. Gonzaga ranks No. 2 in the West for its average first-year student retention rate of 94 percent.

Seattle University maintained its more than decade-long Top 10 ranking as one of the West's best regional universities, ranking eighth. The university has maintained a position in the Top 10 in *U.S. News & World Report* since 2004. The university earned high



national marks in other categories, including #31 for best undergraduate engineering programs and #114 in best undergraduate business programs.

Santa Clara University is ranked No. 2, earning an overall score of 95 out of 100. SCU's first-year retention rate of 95 percent ranks the highest of any master's university in the country, and its 84 percent graduation rate is the highest in the West.

For the third year in a row, Loyola Marymount University is No. 3 among the best regional universities in the West. LMU's Seaver College of Science and Engineering is tied at No. 13 – up from No. 28 – in the ranking of the best undergraduate engineering programs at schools where no doctorate is offered. Additionally, LMU is No. 3 among the best colleges for veterans in the West, and is named among schools in the West with the most international students.

(The full rankings are available online at <http://www.usnews.com/colleges>)

One Mission, Many Ministries Mass and Blessing



Oregon Provincial Fr. Scott Santarosa, SJ, bestows the John Traynor Award to Mike and Janet Buck at this year's One Mission, Many Ministries Mass.

The fifth annual One Mission, Many Ministries Mass brought together Jesuits and lay colleagues from across the Portland region on September 11 at the Loyola Jesuit Center.

At the event, Mike and Janet Buck were named the recipients of the John Traynor Award for 2016. Long-time generous benefactors of the Jesuits of the Oregon Province, they have been involved in various Province ministries for many years. At the conclusion of the Mass, a luncheon was provided by the Buck families, who own Gubancs Restaurant & Pub in Portland.

The John Traynor Award was established in 2004 by the Oregon Province to honor persons who have shown leadership in fostering partnership among lay people and Jesuits. John Traynor was the first lay president of a Jesuit institution in the Oregon Province and exemplified these goals.

Established in 2011, the One Mission, Many Ministries Mass raises funds for the education and training of future Jesuit priests and brothers.

Fourteen Ordained into the Diaconate

Fourteen Jesuits were ordained as deacons on October 22 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland. For Jesuits in formation, ordination to the diaconate is the final step in preparation for priestly ordination in the Society of Jesus. Included in the group was Mr. Ryan Rallanka, SJ, of the Oregon Province.

Oakland Bishop Michael Barber, SJ, was the ordaining prelate at the Mass during which 11 Jesuits from the U.S., two from Korea, and one from East Africa were ordained to the diaconate. These men are currently studying theology at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley, Calif.

For the next nine months, the new deacons will gain pastoral experience before being ordained to the priesthood. As deacons, they can proclaim the Word of God, preach and preside at the sacraments of baptism and marriage and at the rite of Christian burial.

Earlier this year, 18 other Jesuits were ordained to the diaconate at Masses in Boston, Montreal, and Toronto. To learn more about Jesuit vocations and formation, visit www.jesuitvocations.org.



Photo by Nano Visser

Christmas Cards are in!

To place an order by phone or email, please contact uweadvancement@jesuits.org or call 408.884.1630.

All donations go to support our Province.



Letter from the Development Director

Greetings!



Siobhán Lawlor

It's my pleasure to reach out to you in my first letter to friends and benefactors of the Society of Jesus, Oregon Province. As you might recall, I joined the Oregon and California provinces in August as the new director of development. I'm coming on board at an exciting time in the history of the provinces as in July, 2017 they will reunite with a common purpose and a streamlined administrative model to form one new larger province – Jesuits West – covering 10 states.

The new province will cover a vast territory, from Alaska to Mexico and Hawaii to Utah. There will be many new challenges, but also many wonderful opportunities to provide service, education, and Ignatian spirituality to people hungry for the Word of God and also anxious to partner with us in making a positive difference in the lives of so many people we serve through our high schools, universities, social ministries, parishes, and volunteer organizations.

The common threads through all of these ministries are the dedicated Jesuits and lay partners who work together. My primary responsibility is to see to it that the provinces have the resources to begin or maintain these ministries and also that they have a sufficient number of Jesuits who can lead, guide, and support these many important works in our communities.

The source of all Jesuit ministries, including all secondary schools, universities, and social ministries is the Province. It's through the Province that young men are formed as Jesuit priests and brothers. It's through the Province that senior and infirm Jesuits are provided with compassionate care. It's through the Province that existing ministries were founded in years past and new ministries are founded now. St. Ignatius himself created the Province as the basic administrative unit of the Jesuits. The Province is the foundation and infrastructure of the Jesuit legacy.

One of the Province's responsibilities is to form new Jesuit priests and brothers to carry on the important work of the Society of Jesus. Currently, the provinces have 75 men in the Jesuit formation pipeline at various stages of training. The average cost to educate each Jesuit over a 12-year period is a staggering \$570,000. Education of future Jesuit priests and brothers is our largest expense which includes two years of Novitiate, three years of First Studies, two to three years of Regency, three years of theology, one to five years of Special Studies, and nine months of Tertianship. During this time, Jesuits earn Master's degrees in philosophy and theology and often a PhD in a specialized field. Ignatius wanted learned and competent Jesuits to serve the Church.

All gifts, large and small, make it possible for us to train new Jesuits, provide compassionate care for senior Jesuits, and support our work in service to the poor. The Province simply could not do what we do without the support of our benefactors. All gifts play an integral part of the Jesuit mission because your gift helps ensure that Jesuits can have a life-changing impact on the Church and the people we serve worldwide.

I hope to have the opportunity to meet you in the Portland, Seattle, or Spokane areas. We've planned a number of events in the coming months to get acquainted, including Masses, dinners, and luncheons. I look forward to meeting you soon. Thank you for your past support of our works and ministries. May God's peace be with you now and always.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Siobhán Lawlor".

Siobhán Lawlor

Director of Development

With a service area that includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, our ministries include:

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

PRIMARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Seattle Nativity School, Seattle
St. Andrew Nativity School, Portland

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Bellarmino Preparatory School, Tacoma
Gonzaga Preparatory School, Spokane
Jesuit High School, Portland
Seattle Preparatory School, Seattle

UNIVERSITIES

Gonzaga University, Spokane
Seattle University, Seattle

SPIRITUALITY MINISTRIES

Ignatius Spirituality Center, Seattle
SEEL Portland, Portland
SEEL of Puget Sound, Seattle
SEEL of Spokane, Spokane

PARISHES

St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Spokane
St. Francis Xavier, Missoula
St. Ignatius, Portland
St. Joseph, Seattle
St. Leo, Tacoma
St. Paul's Catholic Center, Boise
St. Rita, Tacoma

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, Portland
Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center, Seattle

MISSIONS

Alaska Missions, Bethel
Rocky Mountain Missions