

The Patriarch Sets Out

A key aspect of the Jesuit charism and “way of proceeding” is each Jesuit’s availability for mission. The call of God’s Spirit through the Church guides the Society and the individual Jesuit, sometimes on surprising paths and at unexpected times.

In both the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the Diocese of Orange, priests have long been welcome at a House of Prayer for Priests, a place for spiritual direction, retreats, and meetings of priests’ support and prayer groups. A few months back, Bishop Stephen Blaire shared with Fr. Jim Hanley his vision of founding such a ministry and place of welcome for his priests in the Diocese of Stockton.



Fr. Jim Hanley by the Rose Garden & Grotto

The Spirit surprised Fr. Jim, as he reflected on Bishop Blaire’s dream, with a deepening sense of being called to make himself available for this new service. The Jesuit Provincial, seeing the Spirit at work in this call and in Fr. Jim’s willing response, has chosen to give him this important mission. So, Fr. Jim will be following the example of Abraham — who was seventy-five (just a youngster, by comparison!) when he set out for the Promised Land — as he sets out from the Retreat Center later this summer for a new home and ministry.

Fr. Jim expects that his work in the Stockton Diocese will be focused in Stockton and Modesto. He will maintain a Bay Area base at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos. Since diocesan priests are seldom free on weekends, Fr. Jim’s ministry will ordinarily leave his weekends free, and he promises that he will join us for occasional weekend retreats, extending his twenty-five years of touching the hearts and spirits of our retreatants.

We are grateful to God and to Fr. Jim for his years of loving and fruitful ministry among us, and our prayers go with him. The Retreat Center and our hearts will ever bear the imprint of his generosity, compassion, and holiness.



Called and Chosen ~ Or Vice Versa

J. Evangelina Preciado

The raffle ticket orders poured in from all over the nation — Arizona, Alabama, Washington, Florida, Nevada, Louisiana, Ohio, New York, North Carolina, Montana, Texas, and Utah — and from almost every city in California. Two tickets were even purchased from Canada, our neighbor to the north! Although everyone would like to win, all who participate consider the annual raffle an important opportunity to support their Jesuit Retreat Center.

Congratulations to the winners of this 26th Annual Raffle, Mr. Donald Sabatini (\$10,000 First Prize), Mr. Frank Lawson, Sr. (\$3,000 Second Prize), and Mrs. Hulda Eylders and Mr. Robert Bohna (\$1,500 Third Prize). The Jesuit Community and Lay Staff of the Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos thank each of you who participated, long-time benefactors as well as first-time donors, for your support of the Jesuit Retreat Center.

The Mustard Seed

An update on JRC financial development

"The mustard seed is the smallest of all, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants, becoming so big a shrub that the birds of the sky come and build their nests in the branches." Mt 13:32

Annual Appeal:

Since February 2008, we have received \$33,160 toward the Annual Appeal, which brings this season's Annual Appeal total to \$127,294.

Annual Drawing / Raffle:

The 2008 raffle ticket sales and donations totaled \$44,815.

Bequests:

Since the last issue of the JRC News, we have received \$7,834.34 from the late John and Mildred Prusky through the **Prusky Family Living Trust**, \$1,379 from the **Jay D. McEvoy Trust**, and \$15,000 from the **Marini Family Trust**.

On-line Bookstore:

Please access amazon.com through the JRC bookstore on-line, so that the JRC will receive a percentage of your purchases of books, CDs, toys, and electronics.

Gifts:

Since February 2008, friends of the JRC have given \$3,000 for benches, \$3,260 for Scholarships, \$1,200 for the Pierre Favre Program, \$3,625 in other restricted donations, and \$36,126 in general donations.

Estate Planning:

Steve Welch, Certified Financial Planner and JRC benefactor, can consult with our friends who are interested in discussing their charitable goals. Tax laws offer opportunity for wealth protection and advantageous estate transfer. In concert with your tax adviser and estate planning attorney, Steve can help you identify what you might achieve by including the Jesuit Retreat Center in your family's estate plan. You may talk with Steve confidentially and without obligation at **650-948-4141**.

Our generous benefactors are remembered daily and gratefully in our Masses and prayers.

A Director's Perspective

A New Hand at the Helm

The first months of 2008 found Jesuit leaders from around the globe gathered in Rome for our 35th General Congregation. The Congregation accepted the retirement of Fr. Peter Hans Kolvenbach, who served nearly 25 years as our Superior General, and selected Fr. Alfonso Nicolás as the new General. The electors found the process a rich and deeply moving spiritual experience, many confidently attesting that "we elected the man the Spirit wanted."

Toward the end of the Congregation, on February 21, all the participants were welcomed at the Vatican for an audience with Pope Benedict XVI. The Holy Father received them with great warmth and enthusiasm, encouraging the Society in its continued service to the Church especially in the mission areas of our time, notably dialogue with atheists and with those of other religious and spiritual traditions.

Pope Benedict strongly affirmed the ministry of the Spiritual Exercises toward the end of his talk, giving a boost to all of us who give retreats. An excerpt from the Pope's text follows.

"I invite you to reserve a specific attention to the ministry of the Spiritual Exercises that has been characteristic of your Society from its origins. The Exercises are the fountain of your spirituality and the matrix of your Constitutions, but they are also a gift that the Spirit of the Lord has made to the entire Church: it is for you to continue to make it a precious and efficacious instrument for the spiritual growth of souls, for their initiation to prayer, to meditation, in this secularised world in which God seems to be absent.

"Just in the last week I have myself profited of the Spiritual Exercises together with my closest collaborators of the Roman Curia under the guidance of your outstanding confrere Cardinal Albert Vanhoye. In a time such as today's, in which the confusion and multiplicity of messages, the speed of changes and situations, make (it) particularly difficult for our contemporaries to put their lives in order and respond with joy to the call that the Lord makes to every one of us, the Spiritual Exercises represent a particularly precious method to seek and find God in us, around us and in everything, to know his will and put it into practice."

A Director's Perspective

Planning, Profession, Prayer

The Advisory Board has asked the staff to collaborate on the development of a strategic plan for the next years of our ministry. The Board included in its meeting of May 15 conversations of half an hour with Jesuit staff and half an hour with lay staff. All appreciated the opportunity to share visions and dreams. We will complete the strategic plan, which will include input from many of our constituents, by the end of the calendar year.

The last few months have included two special Jesuit events here at the Retreat Center. Two members of our community, Fr. Tim Meier and Fr. George Schultze, took their final vows as Jesuits in Rossi Chapel, making even more complete their commitment to the Society and the Society's commitment to them.

Fr. Tim, who puts his doctorate in science to work at Stanford University, was joined by family and friends in celebrating his solemn profession on December 29. Fr. Tim has been in training as a chaplain in the National Guard for the last year and will ship out at the end of June for a 400-day tour of duty in Iraq.

Fr. George, who puts his Ph.D. to work at our local diocesan seminary, St. Patrick's, was joined by family and friends in celebrating his solemn profession on April 22. He will continue his work of teaching and spiritual direction, important aspects of the formation of the seminarians from many dioceses that St. Patrick's serves.

Please keep Fr. Tim and Fr. George in your prayers as they continue to serve where the Spirit calls them and the Society and the Church missions them.

The complete Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius are offered in an intensive 30-day format, but also as a retreat in everyday life, extended over six months or more. In following this form, the retreatant meets with an individual director weekly and prays an hour and a half daily. Doing the Exercises entails a serious commitment and is appropriate for those already cultivating a life of prayer and in regular spiritual direction.

If you have an interest in doing the Exercises in everyday life, our staff would be happy to help you to discern the Spirit's call and will recommend a director when that is timely. Please contact Fr. Tom Carroll at tcarroll@jrclosaltos.org for more information.

Welcome to the Ignatian Way

J. Evangelina Preciado

Bubbling with the enthusiasm and joie de vivre of over 42,000 Catholics, the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress is always the event to attend for Catholic formation and spiritual development. This year, four Jesuit organizations united in solidarity, and in adjoining booths, to form the "Ignatian Way." The group included Christian Life Community, the Vocation Office of the California Jesuit Province, the Ignatian Volunteer Corps, and The Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos.

Many people, including former retreatants, visited our display at the Congress. Fr. John LeVecke and Jen Horan, with Christian Life Community, designed the conference area, with comfortable chairs and couches, to promote "friend-raising," that is, to engage attendees in conversation and to provide a welcome respite from the bustle of the convention. JRC's display area featured a laptop with photos of our Center, a glossy brochure created for this event, and a daily raffle of a free weekend retreat. The winners were Melissa Broome of San José, Marcia Angelo of Vallejo, and Concepción Contreras of Pico Rivera.

We hope to increase the number of organizations under the Ignatian banner next year. Be sure to visit the "Ignatian Way" at the next Religious Education Congress, February 27-March 1, 2009 in Los Angeles. We look forward to seeing you there.



Evangelina Preciado speaks about JRC with LA Congress attendees.

In Memoriam

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Charles J. Albers | Joseph Kilkenny |
| James W. Barry | Arthur F. "Frank" McIntyre |
| Fr. John R. Becker, S.J. | Amasi Joseph Moschini |
| Mary Keane Belliveau | Rosalia Fritch O'Grady |
| Fr. Philip L. Bourret, S.J. | Stanley J. Padden |
| Fr. John J. Brennan, S.J. | William J. Prentice |
| Gertrude "Trudy" McShane Cattermole | R. Ursula Wagner Ramos |
| Dora Cecchi | Fr. Arthur F. Rutledge, S.J. |
| Mary Louise Chimenti | William E. Ryan |
| Roger William Dean | Dr. Chito Sansano |
| Andrew C. Del Re | Helena E. (Lynn) Santana |
| John Dozier | Br. William E. Sessing, S.J. |
| Robert J. Gaspich | Daniel C. Shea |
| Kathleen Mary Hallinan | Dr. Judy E. Sobieski |
| Edwin J. Hearne | Dermott J. "Jerry" Sullivan |
| Catherine G. "Kitty" Heinrich | |

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.

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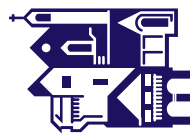
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