

# A SNAPSHOT OF Jesuit Vocations

## By the Numbers

<b>95</b>	Average number of annual inquiries about applying to join the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus (last 10 years)
<b>4</b>	Average number of novices accepted annually in the Chicago Province (last 10 years)
<b>70</b>	Average number of novices accepted annually in the United States (last 10 years)
<b>450</b>	Number of novices accepted worldwide in 2007
<b>18,815</b>	Number of Jesuits worldwide (Jan 1, 2008)
<b>2,952</b>	Number of Jesuits in the USA in 2007
<b>15</b>	Chicago Province Jesuits accepted who were educated by the Jesuits (in the past 10 years)
<b>26</b>	Chicago Province vocation inquiries received annually through the Internet (past 5 years)

## The **6** Novices Currently in Formation with the Chicago Province



Matthew Dunch



Hung Nguyen



James Riordan



Kyle Roark



Edgar Sanchez



Christian Wagner



**12,000:** Number of annual visitors to [www.thinkjesuit.org](http://www.thinkjesuit.org)

### Top **5** pages visited on [www.thinkjesuit.org](http://www.thinkjesuit.org)

- 1 Meet Us** (Scholastics' podcasts and brief biographies)
- 2 SJ Café** (Guest appearances by Jesuits)
- 3 Meet Us** (Novice group photos and names)
- 4 Discernment Articles** (Information on prayer and making the choice)
- 5 Next Steps** (Program for candidates to the Society)



### Top **5** most helpful books sent to candidates

- 1 The Fifth Week** by William O'Malley, SJ
- 2 Contemplatives in Action** by Bill Barry, SJ
- 3 A Pilgrim's Journey** by Ignatius Loyola
- 4 In Good Company** by James Martin, SJ
- 5 Armchair Mystic** by Mark Thibodeaux, SJ

# Upcoming Vocations Event

## Top 8 things most men do to discern a vocation

- 1 Prayer:** Develop a habit of prayer and participate in the sacramental life of a local Catholic parish.
- 2 Spiritual direction:** Meet regularly with a spiritual director.
- 3 Retreat:** Spend quiet time away from work/school for a 5- or 8-day directed Ignatian retreat.
- 4 Spiritual autobiography:** Write a 15-page spiritual autobiography recounting the major motions of one's life in relation to God and others.
- 5 Novitiate Visit:** Spend a weekend with the novices in Detroit to see the community and test the lifestyle.
- 6 Candidate Meetings:** Attend meetings and events where candidates engage with other Jesuits and learn about the Society of Jesus and our works.



**7 Come and See:** Attend a "Come and See" weekend which allows men 18–35 to visit to a Jesuit community and participate in social and spiritual life. We answer questions about Jesuit life while in informal gatherings among Jesuits and other candidates.

**8 Six Weeks a Jesuit:** For six weeks in the summer a man may live with other

candidates working with and for the Jesuits. Held in New York City or Midland, Ontario, this program gives first-hand experience in a Jesuit apostolate while living with a Jesuit community and learning more about Ignatian spirituality.

### Age of Men Inquiring about a Jesuit Vocation

Youngest – 16 Oldest – 41

Average age of men inquiring – 26

Average age of men entering as novices – 27

## Men who are interested in a Jesuit vocation

are invited to attend upcoming events to better acquaint themselves with the Jesuit tradition.

### *Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola*

In honor of the feast of St. Ignatius, current candidates are invited to attend the celebration of the Mass of St. Ignatius, to be held Thursday morning July 31, followed by a light breakfast and a brief program focusing on the life and legacy of St. Ignatius Loyola. This morning event will be held at St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago.

### *The Jesuits – Come and See*

This is a weekend for men 18–35 of age who are interested in learning more about the life, spirituality and work of Jesuit priests and brothers. Come and See the possibility of a religious vocation: October 24–26, in Chicago.

**For more information about the Jesuits, please contact**



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