

Jesuit Provincials of the Americas Meet



The 33 provincials of North and South America Edward Schmidt, SJ, provincial of the Chicago Province is second from left in the fourth row. In the first row, fourth from the left is Fr. General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, Bradley Schaeffer, SJ, president of the Jesuit Conference, Frank Case, SJ, regional assistant for North America, and Robert Scullin, SJ, (standing) provincial of the Detroit Province.

On May 22, 2004, the first ever meeting of all 33 Jesuit Provincials in North and South America took place in Miami, FL. Father General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, also attended the meeting, which was designed to foster greater understanding, solidarity, and mutual assistance among the “American” provinces.

In identifying some common issues, such as globalization, migration, lay collaboration, and diminishing resources, Fr. General pointed out that North and South America together hold 50 percent of the world’s Catholic population and yet have 80,000 fewer priests than all of Europe, which numbers only

25 percent of the Catholic population.

Throughout the four day meeting, time was spent in prayer and reflection, as well as in working sessions chaired by Fr. Bradley M. Schaeffer, SJ, president of the U.S. Jesuit Conference. In their presentations, various provincials reflected on their experiences of justice and culture issues with respect to things like free trade, inter-provincial cooperation, and the budding importance of lay collaboration. A major discussion was centered on a document prepared beforehand by representatives of the US Jesuit Conference and the Conference of Provincials of Latin America, describing the issue of migra-

tion and what the Society and the Church are doing in response. “The bishops of America are strongly committed to working with the phenomenon of migration, as are many other religious and secular groups,” reported Fr. Francis E. Case, SJ, the regional assistant for North America. “Our efforts, then, will be more effective to the extent that we can work collaboratively with existing organizations.”

Overall, the historic meeting served as a means for Jesuits of both Americas to better understand and appreciate their individual missions and to look for new ways to work together in solidarity on some major problems facing the Church. —AMY HUDEC

Fr. James J. Donnelly, SJ Receives Award in Nepal



On July 7th, King Gyanendra of Nepal, announced that Fr. James Donnelly, SJ, will receive the *Gorkha Dakshin Babu III* (The Right Arm of the King of Gorkha) award for his 43 years of service to education in Nepal.

The conferral takes place on November 5th when Fr. Donnelly will receive the distinguished medal from the King himself. It’s quite rare for a foreigner to receive the honor, usually reserved for Nepalese, although the late Fr. Eugene Watrin, SJ received the award last year.

Fr. Donnelly in his career has taught over 3,000 students, coached many in drama, debate, and various other extracurriculars, supported Scout troops, organized the first National Basketball Tournament in Kathmandu in 1975, and has served as a member of many school boards and associations. His enthusiastic contact with U.S. friends and family has inspired generous financial support for Jesuit ministries in Nepal.

—AMY HUDEC

New Cristo Rey Jesuit High School President

After serving for eight years as President of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Fr. John P. Foley, SJ, has handed the reins to Fr. James G. Gartland, SJ. Named president of Cristo Rey on June 28 after a nationwide search, Fr. Gartland says “what excites me most is the mission. I’m excited about continuing to walk with and serve the families of our community.”



Fr. Jim Gartland

Fr. Gartland has actually been a part of the Cristo Rey community since the beginning. In 1993, he conducted the original Jesuit “feasibility study” in Pilsen, before becoming pastor at St. Procopius. He’s spent the last five years at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, serving as a theology teacher, chaplain, and member of the leadership team. He’s also the superior of the Miguel Pro Jesuit Community. “Cristo Rey is one of the easiest places I’ve ever worked,” he says, “because the students are so eager to study and learn new things;

they are eager to work. My fear was that I’d be assigned somewhere outside of Pilsen,” he adds, “for I would have missed being here very much. We have great students and families.”

—AMY HUDEC

New Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory Rector

Fr. Thomas C. Widner, SJ, has been appointed by Fr. General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, to be the new rector of the Brebeuf Jesuit Community. He currently serves as the Secretary for Communications of the Jesuit Conference in Washington D.C. as well as superior of the Leonard Neale House Jesuit community. “I’m very much looking forward to more pastoral work in contrast to my current administrative position,” he said when contacted about the appointment.



Fr. Tom Widner

As rector, a position he’ll assume on November 1, Fr. Widner will be responsible for the personal and apostolic care of the Jesuits. He’ll also be involved in pastoral work with the school. “I’m very consoled by the appointment,” says the Indianapolis native. “I’m happy to be returning to my home. I’m happy to be returning to Brebeuf.”

Fr. Widner has worked in pastoral ministry before, notably as an associate pastor in several Indianapolis parishes, and on the staff of two retreat centers, but he’s probably best known for his work in journalism. A former editor of *The Criterion*, Indianapolis’ archdiocesan paper, he also served as editor-in-chief of *The Catholic New World* in Chicago and has been a member of the editorial staffs of *America* and *Company* magazines.

Fr. Widner replaces Fr. J. Peter Carey, SJ, who “has shown great care for the men and the work at Brebeuf during a period that has seen both transition of leadership and great growth for the school,” according to Provincial Edward W. Schmidt, SJ.

—AMY HUDEC

New Assignments



Fr. Denis A. Dirscherl, SJ, will serve as an assistant chaplain at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, returning to the Chicago Province after teaching for a number of years in Maryland.

Fr. Jeremiah W. Lynch, SJ, will teach history and work in the development office at St. Ignatius College Prep, following his work as associate pastor at St. Procopius Parish in Pilsen.



Fr. Richard H. McGurn, SJ, will serve as a retreat director at Bellarmine Retreat Center in Barrington, IL after a sabbatical following his term as Socius to former provincial Fr. Richard Baumann, SJ.

Fr. John F. Pennington, SJ, will serve as a chaplain at the Regional Medical Center in Rapid City, North Dakota, having just completed



a book about his years at Chicago’s Cook County Hospital.

New Jesuit School in Poland



David Godleski, SJ, attended the opening of the Peter Skarga, SJ, Jesuit High School in Nowy Sacz, Poland, which friends of the Chicago Province helped fund. The plaque under which Fr. Godleski is pictured thanks the Chicago Province for its contribution to help create the middle/high school located in the southern province of Poland.

Province Priorities

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES



Esther Leal, one of the organizers of the day and director of Loyola University Latino Alumni Coalition with other volunteers.

Loyola Alumni Devote Day of Service to Poder Learning Center

Thirty young Hispanics, most of them graduates of Loyola University Chicago, devoted themselves to a day of service on Saturday, July 30, at Poder Learning Center in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. Poder provides adult immigrants with the tools they need to pursue their dreams: more than 375 adults attend classes, workshops, and special events at the Center each week. They work in a variety of ways, from practicing English conversation skills in small groups to taking instruction for the GED examination. From the use of original language acquisition software to public forums on issues facing today's immigrants, Poder has emerged as a leader in adult education for the Pilsen community and beyond.

SJ, president of Loyola University, is dedicated to developing the university's relationship with the Hispanic community in Chicago and has been promoting service opportunities for alumni, especially days such as this one at Poder Learning Center. For five hours, volunteers took care of general maintenance problems, cleaned, painted two classrooms, and worked on a number of computer problems.

"The volunteers did so much work," says Dan Loftus, Poder's executive director, "work that would have taken us over a week to complete. Our intention was to get people down here for a successful day of service; but to have some become interested in volunteering on a regular basis throughout the year was the best outcome of all."

Fr. Michael J. Garanzini,

—AMY HUDEC



On July 29, George Lane, SJ, became the fifth Jesuit to be honored with a street sign in Chicago. Honorary George A. Lane S.J. Way, which is located on the corner of Ashland and Cornelia, is pictured along with Baumhart Place, Damen Avenue, Marquette Road, and the honorary Rev. Donald F. Rowe, S.J. near St. Ignatius College Prep.



U.S. News & World Report Rates Xavier University as Second Best in the Midwest

For the 10th straight year, Xavier University ranks among the top 10 Midwest colleges and universities in U.S. News & World Report. The 2005 edition of America's Best Colleges gives Xavier its highest ranking ever, number two among 142 Midwest colleges and universities.

Province Priorities **LAY COLLABORATION****ILVC Member, Jack Lynch,
Honored by Cook County**

Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin awarding Jack Lynch his Resolution.

Mr. John (“Jack”) Lynch, a member of the Ignatian Lay Volunteer Corps program, was honored on July 15, 2004, with a resolution from the Cook County Board of Commissioners, for his assistance to over 500 patients from the Access Evanston/Rogers Park Family Health Center. Over the past year, Jack has helped patients obtain more than \$500,000 worth of life extending medications, which they otherwise could not have afforded.

The health center’s Dr. Mark Simon, MD, says, “We had a store-front clinic with doctors and labs, but were missing a very vital ingredient. Jack came in and was able to get much-needed medication to so many patients for free; he’s helped us fill the missing piece of our clinic.”

For more information about ILVC, visit www.ilvc.org, or contact George Sullivan, Regional Director of ILVC’s Chicago Chapter, at 773-975-6871 or gsullivan@ilvc.org.

—AMY HUDEC

**Lay Partner***Patrick Mahoney*

Fourteen years ago, Patrick Mahoney left Loyola Academy, diploma in hand, on his way to college at Central Michigan University. “In graduating from Loyola, I received a fantastic academic education,” says Patrick. “More importantly, it was Loyola that made me start to develop a more personal relationship with Jesus. In becoming more aware of and comfortable with who I was, I was able to develop some unbelievable friendships with other students and faculty members—friendships that I still cherish today.”

At CMU, Patrick played baseball and graduated with a degree in business administration, after which he started coursework for a graduate degree in sports administration. An internship in that program brought him back to his high school alma mater, when he interned in the athletic office for the 1996-1997 school year. “My experiences as a student led me back to Loyola,” says Patrick. “I wanted to be able to share with students my own experiences. In sharing my experiences and trying to have a positive impact on these kids, I want to help them realize their full potential as loving and dignified human beings—to let our kids know that becoming a companion of Jesus is what we as a Jesuit and Catholic institution are all about.”

Patrick has remained a vibrant asset to Loyola Academy, coaching basketball for seven years, baseball for eight years, and football for the last four. He’s also worked in the admissions office as assistant director of admissions from 1999 to 2003, when he was named director of athletics. “What I like about being at a Jesuit School is that we can be intentional and outward in our teaching to students that they need to develop a relationship with Christ and become a companion with Jesus as St. Ignatius did. I like that we strive for the *magis* in trying to be greater in all we do.”

With close to ten years of service as a member of the faculty at Loyola Academy, Patrick truly exemplifies “a man for others,” someone who not only loves being involved with the students but appreciates what working in a Jesuit institution still offers him personally. “The greatest blessing about being at Loyola is being rewarded through having a positive impact on a student, when you know that you’ve made a positive difference in a young person’s life. Being able to do that with the students while still being able to grow and examine myself as a person of faith is very rewarding as well.”

—AMY HUDEC