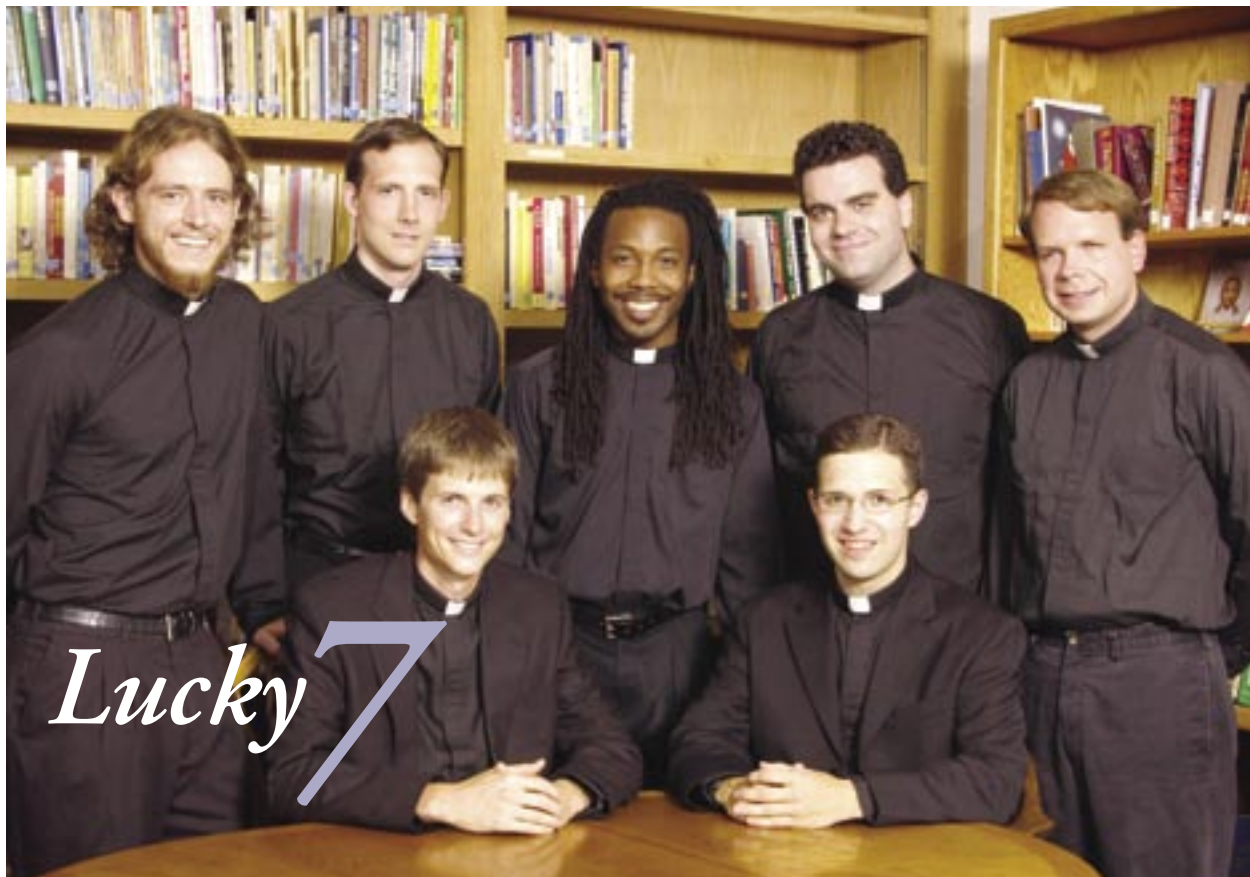


THE CHICAGO PROVINCE WELCOMES SEVEN NEW JESUIT NOVICES



The seven new Chicago Province Jesuit novices: (seated) Michael Singhurse and Joseph Koczera, (standing) Benjamin Krause, James Shea, Eric Styles, Jacob Martin, and Anthony Stephens.

Seven men entered the Chicago Province Jesuit novitiate in Berkley, MI, this August. It's the largest group to enter in the last ten years and by far the biggest class of novices to enter in the new millennium.

"We've certainly seen an increase in the last two years," says Fr. David Godleski, SJ, vocations director for the Chicago Province, who also pointed out that 56 men entered the Society in the United States this year, also a ten-year high. "I can't say the increase is a trend but I'm hopeful we'll continue to see numbers in the 50s," Fr. Godleski says. For vocations directors, this is certainly welcome news. This year, the novitiate in Berkley, MI, which is shared by the Chicago and Detroit Provinces, will be operating nearly at its capacity for the first time in years.

The seven new Jesuits are currently studying at the novitiate and serving at hospitals in the Detroit area.

Joseph Koczera, nSJ, 24, a native of Rochester, MA, graduated from Georgetown University with a BA in government, and in May, 2004, earned a J.D. from University of Notre Dame Law School. Joe has studied abroad in both London and Cuba and interned for the Massachusetts State Senate.

Benjamin Krause, nSJ, 24, a native of Omaha, NE, graduated from Xavier University with majors in philosophy and Spanish. While a student at Xavier, Ben, along with second-year novice Eric Sundrup, nSJ, helped found the Men 4 Others house, a community dedicated to offering social outlets to students while encouraging involvement in service.

Jacob Martin, nSJ, 30, who grew up in the Chicago area, graduated from University of Illinois at Chicago with a BA in theater. Since then he's acted in a number of performances at the Chicago Annoyance Theater and the Improv Olympics. He also played a part in *Tony and Tina's Wedding*.

Prior to entering the Society, **James Shea, nSJ**, 31, a native of Skokie, IL, was working at Misericordia, a residential program for the mentally challenged in Chicago. A graduate of Loyola University Chicago (with a degree in English), Jim spent a year with the Passionist Lay Missioners serving at AIDS Partnership Michigan.

Michael Singhurse, nSJ, a native of Terre Haute, IN, is a bridge-builder, literally. Mike, who graduated from Purdue University with a BS in construction engineering and management, spent the last year in California, where he worked on the new San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge Project.

Anthony Stephens, nSJ, 31, a native of Atlanta, graduated from the University of Georgia with an undergraduate degree in telecommunications and a graduate degree in journalism. Tony, who plays the string bass, piano, and alto saxophone, received the 1992 Louis Armstrong Award for outstanding jazz musicianship. Prior to entering, he worked in campus ministry at University of Illinois at Chicago.

Eric Styles, nSJ, a Chicago native, graduated from University of Cincinnati with a B.F.A. in electronic media before returning to Chicago, where he served as a liturgy coordinator at St. Benedict the African Parish and worked at the Theater School of DePaul University. Eric has also been actively involved in Charis Ministries, a Chicago Province sponsored retreat program for young adults.

For more information about the Jesuits or these events contact:



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Upcoming Events for Vocations

Come and See Weekend

Chicago
October 22-24

These weekends are for men ages 18-35 who want to learn more about the Society of Jesus. Besides presentations on certain aspects of Jesuit life (vows, formation, apostolic works), participants have an opportunity to converse and socialize with a wide variety of Jesuits and meet other men considering the Society of Jesus. There is no charge for the weekend except for travel costs and each man will live in our Jesuit community.

Discernment Retreat

Loyola House, Berkley, MI
January 2-10

A 7-day silent, individually-directed retreat in the Ignatian tradition, the Chicago Province's discernment retreat is designed to give young men considering a religious vocation in the Society of Jesus time to think, reflect, and pray about their decision. This event, held at the novitiate in Berkley, MI, helps a man to answer the question, 'how is God speaking to my heart?'

