

Seven Jesuits from the Chicago Province will begin tertianship in January at Loyola House, the Jesuit novitiate in Berkley, MI.

The men who will be participating are

Patrick A. Fairbanks, SJ

Robert E. Finn, SJ

Robert S. Flack, SJ

Timothy A. Howe, SJ

Lester E. Love, SJ

Richard L. Millbourn, SJ

and David V. Meconi, SJ

Tertianship is the final stage in the formation process required by the Society of Jesus for its members and generally takes place three to five years after a Jesuit has completed theology studies and been ordained for priestly ministry or begun his life of service as a brother. Fr. Fran Daly, SJ, who will direct the four-month tertianship beginning in January, explains what tertianship is, what it entails, and why it matters.



When folks talk about Jesuit formation, they usually think of things like the novitiate. Many people can remember visiting older brothers or cousins at the Jesuit Novitiate in Milford, OH. Today the Province's Jesuits complete their two-year novitiate at Loyola House in Berkley, MI. Many of our partners are also familiar with the Jesuit First Studies Program at Loyola University Chicago, in which young Jesuits study philosophy and theology. And just about anyone who's attended a Jesuit

These Jesuits will begin their tertianship experience in 2006.



Patrick A. Fairbanks, SJ
Director of pastoral ministry at St. Ignatius College Prep



Robert E. Finn, SJ
Chaplain at John H. Stroger, Jr., Hospital of Cook County

SEVEN CHICAGO PROVINCE JESUITS TO “BEGIN AGAIN” DURING 2006 TERTIANSHIP

Formation for the Greater Glory of God

by Fr. Fran Daly, SJ

school is familiar with the regency stage of formation, the three-year period a Jesuit scholastic spends working and living in a Jesuit ministry, very often a school. After regency, Jesuits return to the classroom as students for three years of additional theology studies before they're ordained.

Many people think that's the end of Jesuit formation, but it's not. There's another very important stage in formation called tertianship. I'll explain a bit more about tertianship below, but I want to start by saying that Jesuit formation never ends. It's a lifelong

process. The Province provides many invaluable formation experiences, but each Jesuit should also, throughout his life, continue to form himself and be formed to better serve the mission of the Society of Jesus.

So, what is tertianship? Tertianship is the “final probation” for incorporation into the Society of Jesus. It's usually made after the Jesuit has completed all his studies and done some apostolic work. Most Jesuits today are in their late thirties or mid-forties when they begin tertianship.

And why is tertianship important? In *Together for Mission*, Andre de Jaer, SJ, helps explain its significance:

Ignatius attached considerable importance to beginnings. We have only to recall the significance of the preludes to his meditations. Often he himself was constrained to begin all over again, for example, when he was not permitted to remain in the Holy Land. There is a mystery in beginning and in beginning anew. For Ignatius it always involves a deferring to God and a breaking-through to what is actually real in any situation. The tertianship is one of those times when we begin anew, starting from God and at ground level. Our whole life is, in fact, a series of new beginnings: only beginning over again can we really continue at all.

Tertianship allows Jesuits to begin again. It's a time and place from which a Jesuit can look back on his Jesuit life and can renew and dream about his future life as a servant of Christ.

What actually *happens* in formation? Each segment of Ignatian formation is training by doing. Tertianship is no different in that respect. But tertianship, more than anything, is to be a “school of the heart.” During tertianship a Jesuit makes the full Spiritual Exercises of thirty days for the second time in his life. Through this personal encounter with Jesus, he gets in touch with his original desire to serve God and renews his commitment to labor with Jesus building the Kingdom of God.



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Provincial assistant
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Pastor at St.
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Tertians once again study the history of the Society of Jesus and reflect upon the *Constitutions* and *Complementary Norms of the Society of Jesus*. They bring to these studies their lived experience and appreciation of Jesuit life, which greatly enriches their time of sharing with one another. Tertianship programs vary in length: some are nine months, some are two summers, and others are four months. Whatever the length, a new community of Jesuits is formed among the Jesuits who come to tertianship from all over the world. To experience this brotherhood and unity in the midst of our cultural diversity is one of the great gifts of tertianship.

Another important part of tertianship is an apostolic experiment. Based upon his experience in the 30-day retreat, the tertian will discern with his tertian director about an area in his Jesuit life that challenges him. This challenge may be working with the poor, with the sick, caring for souls in spiritual ministry at a retreat center or a parish, professional growth in his regular ministry, or maybe the experience of a different culture or a pilgrimage of some sort. Such discernment leads the tertian to place greater trust in the Lord and helps him be available for different ministry than what he's usually been doing.

A final and very important dimension of tertianship is that it fosters—both individually and communally—a spirit of refounding the Society. The tertians begin to feel more a part of the Society and more responsible for the future well being of the Society and its ministries. Tertianship is generally an experience that helps Jesuits to mature and become more humanly and spiritually generative. Ignatius wanted this experience of formation to help the tertians renew their own love and service of God, so that they can better help others to progress for the glory of God.

As de Jaer mentions above, after Ignatius was stymied in his attempt to live in the Holy Land, he returned to Europe and began



Loyola House, in Berkley, MI, will host the tertianship program this winter. Loyola House is a shared community of the Detroit and Chicago Provinces; it also serves as home to the Jesuit novices.

again. His willingness to do so led to the creation of the Society of Jesus and has inspired hundreds of thousands of Jesuits and Jesuit partners around the world to serve others for the Greater Glory of God. In the coming months, please pray that our Jesuit tertians may experience similarly profound new beginnings. ■



Fr. Fran Daly, SJ, is tertian director for the Chicago Province. During the school year he directs Adult Faith for Faculty and Staff at St. Xavier High School and teaches a course in Religious Studies. He will spend the second semester of the 2005–2006 school year directing the Jesuit Tertianship program at Loyola House in Berkley, MI.

Reflections on Tertianship



Fr. Brian G. Paulson, SJ
President, St. Ignatius College Prep

The highlight of my tertianship experience—which I was fortunate enough to spend outside of Sydney, Australia—was the long retreat. As a novice entering in 1981, I was only 22 years old when I made the long retreat the first time, without any prior experience of having made a personally directed retreat. Looking back, I didn't

have a lot of life experience to bring to the long retreat at that time, especially regarding the third week. At a certain point, I was having problems connecting with the experience and I ran out of things to talk about with Fr. Fran Daly who was my very patient novice director. Eighteen years later, I had a lot more self-knowledge. There was a lot more “water over the dam” in life and ministry—the

richness of 18 years of Jesuit life, praying and studying the scriptures, and spiritual direction—so there was no dearth of “grist for the mill” in prayer the second time around during the long retreat.



Fr. Thomas C. Widner, SJ
Rector, Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School

I realize that tertianship is the Society's call of full acceptance to the individual Jesuit. Having entered the Society at age 43, I wasn't sure it would ever come. When it did, it came as a relief but also as just another day. Though it was the last step in my full incorporation into the Society, it did not reverberate

emotionally as a most significant event. What did reverberate was the communal experience of being with other Jesuits in a special way and the greater attention to prayer toward which it moved me. Tertianship gave me a richer understanding of myself as a Jesuit in the world and not just a Chicago Province Jesuit.