



Provincial Edward
W. Schmidt, SJ

A LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

Fall arrives, and even if we don't work in a school or have school-age kids, our real-time calendar seems to run September to August. Back-to-school sales are second only to Christmas in volume, experts report. Television hypes its hot new series. Temperatures drop and daylight hours dim.

School opens and veteran teachers meet new students while veteran students try to figure out new teachers. Our Chicago Province ministries include two well-established universities, Xavier and Loyola. We also have long-established high schools and the relative newcomer Cristo Rey. And St. Procopius grade school serves a vibrant Catholic community.

This year brings a new school to the mix, the Chicago Jesuit Academy. The Jesuits have announced this new venture before, and this current issue of *Partners* carries the exciting story of opening day at this important ministry. It is a profound outreach to a community in great need, and it would not be happening without you. Every new year at every school brings its own mix of excitement, energy, and resolve. It makes the promise that young minds and hearts can grow, and it dares to hope that young dreams can reach closer to reality. Now Chicago Jesuit Academy adds a new chance to dream.

Another new beginning is the two men who have entered our novitiate, Loyola House in Berkley, Michigan, to begin their spiritual formation as Jesuits. We are proud to welcome Christopher Musiet and Richard Beebe into our company!

The last phase of Jesuit early formation goes by the mysterious term *tertianship*. During this phase, which happens a few years after ordination (for priests) or after a suitable period of work (for brothers), the Jesuit makes the full Spiritual Exercises for a second time. He reflects on his Jesuit life in light of his experiences of ministry, and does some deeper study of the history and the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus. Fr. Fran Daly, SJ, who runs the tertianship program for the province, explains this important, but hardly known, part of Jesuit life.

And one of our veterans tells his story. Fr. Jack Kenealy, SJ, has served in India for 56 years. One of the fascinating elements of his story is his adoption over the years of 20 Indian girls who were given away by their parents simply because they are girls!

This issue of *Partners* represents the final work of George Kearney, who has left us after four years to return to school—business school. During this time he has prodded me to write these letters, to get a story done, to comment on an issue. And he has managed to make me and many others look very good. I thank George for the dedication, imagination, and skill he brought to his work.

This issue is also the first on which Jeremy Langford has worked as the new Director of Publications and Public Relations. Jeremy has long experience and success in book publishing, editing, and writing. His latest book, coauthored with his father, is *The Spirit of Notre Dame*, which was just released by Doubleday.

And bringing continuity to *Partners* is Annie DiMattina, Assistant Director of Publications and Public Relations. Annie came to our staff in December 2004, after graduating from John Carroll University in 2001. We take this opportunity to introduce Annie formally to our partners.

New beginnings, new energy, new hopes and dreams. That is what September is for. And September or any other time is right for telling you once again how grateful we are for your partnership. You help train our young men for future service in ministries new and old. You help open doors and futures for students in our schools. You continue to make the good work of our veterans possible.

Thank you.

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