



GARTH LIEBHABER/CHICAGO IMC.

Mike O'Grady, SJ, is arrested by Military Police at Ft. Benning, GA, after crossing the line (right) at last fall's annual School of the Americas Protest.

Br. Mike O'Grady crosses the fence, leading to his immediate arrest.

Br. Mike O'Grady, SJ, Serves as Prisoner of Conscience

by Amy Hudec

On November 23, 2003, Br. Michael J. O'Grady, SJ, a pastoral and social minister from the Claver Jesuit Mission in Cincinnati, OH, was charged with trespassing on federal property for entering Fort Benning as part of a protest against the School of the Americas, renamed in 2001 as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. Br. O'Grady was joined in this act of civil disobedience by Fr. Joseph E. Mulligan, SJ, Fr. Benjamin P. Jimenez, SJ, Gary Ashbeck, Kathy Kelly, and Fr. Bernard Survil.

Annually, members of Jesuit communities and thousands of individuals from across the United States meet at Fort Benning, GA to protest the school's record of training Latin American soldiers in guerilla warfare. Over the last 56 years, the SOA has trained more than 60,000 soldiers, some of whom, the protesters claim, have continually used their skills to brutally violate the rights of their own people. In 1989, some of the graduates also participated in the brutal slayings of the six Jesuit priests and two women in El Salvador.

Following Br. O'Grady's arrest, Provincial Edward W Schmidt, SJ, released a statement of support that read in part: "Mike is a man of strong conscience. He's doing something he believes in. The Chicago Province of the So-

ciety of Jesus fully supports him in his decision to cross the line and his decision to refuse bail."

Br. O'Grady, Fr. Jimenez, and Gary Ashbeck all refused bail at the time of their arrest and remained imprisoned at the Muscogee County Jail in Columbus, GA. On January 20, 2004, Br. O'Grady bonded out to prepare for trial the following week.

On Tuesday January 27, 2004, Br. O'Grady pled not guilty in a court of law. As expected, he was found guilty and given a 90-day sentence without a fine. Following the verdict, Br. O'Grady was sent directly back to Muscogee County Jail. He was given credit for time served and was released 30 days later on February 26.

Br. O'Grady's decision to become a prisoner of conscience was motivated both out of a desire to protest the injustice of the SOA, and to minister to those in prison. In a letter from prison he wrote, "Please pray for our men inside here and in our jails and prisons, so many who are deeply wounded by addiction, violence, and a host of personal and societal ills. Their brokenness is almost overwhelming. This place is where they get dumped, warehoused, and where their spirits founder and fail. I pray to God for them and I pray to understand their reality, and how best to respond when I am back in Cincinnati." ■

New Provincial in Peru



Fr. Carlos Rodriguez Arana, SJ

Fr. Carlos Rodriguez Arana, SJ, was recently appointed Provincial of the Peru Province of the Society of Jesus by Fr. Peter Hans-Kolvenbach, SJ, superior general of the Society. As Provincial, Fr. Rodriguez will serve as the religious superior of the 238 Jesuits of the Peru Province, whose territory includes the entire nation of Peru. Ministries under his direction include 12 high schools, one university (Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya in Lima), 13 parishes, nine social centers, and six pastoral centers. Peru Province ministries take place not only in large cities, but also in the country's mountainous region, in the altiplano, and in the jungle. Fr. Rodriguez's six-year non-renewable term as Provincial began on February 21, 2004.

Fr. Rodriguez entered the Jesuits in Spain in 1961, and was ordained in 1971. Before becoming Provincial, Fr. Rodriguez worked for many years in Jesuit formation, serving as master of novices and rector of the Jesuit novitiate.

"I worry that my naming as a provincial may have come to me a little too late in life," Fr. Rodriguez says. "I hope with the grace of God to be able to respond to all my brothers who desire something from me. I feel great gratitude for the trust my partners have had in me."

—Amy Hudec

Scrooge

Fr. Gerald C. Walling SJ, played Ebenezer Scrooge, a role he's always coveted, in "A Christmas Carol" at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre in Arlington Heights, IL this past Christmas season. His previous theatrical credits include the role of Fr. O'Reilly in "Do Black Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" and George Bernard Shaw in "The Best of Friends." He also played prison guard number 2 in the hit film "The Blues Brothers." Fr. Walling performed 39 times in 38 days, which probably contributed to the cracked fibula he sustained during the play's run. "I'm pretty sure it happened because of one scene in particular when Scrooge wakes up and realizes it's been a dream. He sees life with new eyes and he's overjoyed, so he starts jumping up and down to celebrate." The injury, which Fr. Walling says is very minor, didn't detract from the overall experience. "This was the first role I've played in four years, and the people were wonderful. It was a truly wonderful experience."

—George Kearney



The Road to Ordination

This June, the Chicago Province's ordination will be held at Xavier University's Bellarmine Chapel. For Eric Knapp, the province's sole ordinand and a competitive marathoner, the road to Cincinnati runs through the streets of Boston, where he'll compete in the city's annual marathon on April 18. In addition to training for the marathon, Eric has spent this winter and spring preparing for his future life as a priest by discerning about possible ministries, completing his theology studies (by June he'll have completed required coursework for the M.Div, masters in divinity, and Th.M, masters in theology, degrees), and serving at St. Ignatius Parish in Chestnut Hill, MA. Look for more information about Eric's ministry in upcoming annual fund mailings and this summer's issue of *Partners* magazine.

Eric Knapp, SJ, will compete in the Boston Marathon on April 18.

