



Provincial Edward
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A LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear friends,

Finding God.

That's the title of the ambitious new faith formation series by Loyola Press that's profiled in this issue of *Partners*. The Press chose the title for its new series from Ignatian tradition. St. Ignatius sought to "find God" in all things and taught his first companions to do the same. Together they founded the Society of Jesus in 1540. And in the 465 years since then, Jesuits have attempted to find God in all things and, more importantly, have helped others to do the same. Finding and sharing God is, in very simple terms, the mission of the Society of Jesus. It's what we try to do as Jesuits, whatever ministry we serve in.

The desire to find and share God with others attracted 155 Jesuits from the United States over the last 80 years to Patna Province, the Delhi Region, and the Nepal Region. Today local vocations far outnumber the North Americans serving there. In "The Changing Face of Patna Province," you'll come to understand why this is exactly what the Jesuits serving there always wanted.

Patrick McGrath, a Jesuit scholastic serving at Loyola Academy, writes on the Ignatian spirituality page about ways you can use St. Ignatius' Examen of Conscience to find God in your daily life experiences. Again we go back to Ignatius, who discovered through his conversion experience in Manresa that becoming aware of God's presence changes one's life, changes the way we are, the way we think, the way we live.

After December's tsunami in South Asia, relief workers, supplies, and emergency funds have brought another experience of God's loving presence in the wake of the disaster. The Jesuit Refugee Service played a substantial role in these immediate relief efforts, and your generous contributions helped make it happen. On the development page, Tim Freeman explains how the rebuilding process in South Asia will take years and why there's still a need for contributions.

I hope that this issue of *Partners* helps you become a bit more aware of God's presence in your life. Please know, too, that the Jesuits in the Chicago Province are profoundly grateful for your presence in our varied ministries. Our efforts to find and share God would be impossible without your collaboration and partnership. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Provincial Edward W. Schmidt, SJ