

A LETTER

FROM
THE EDITOR



Tim Freeman is provincial assistant for development and public information.



Eric Knapp, SJ, was ordained for priestly ministry on June 12.

Dear readers,

On June 11, 2004, Eric Knapp, SJ, was ordained for priestly ministry. This year, just as in past years, we've devoted much of the summer issue of *Partners* to ordination. It gives me great pleasure to introduce you, our partners, to Fr. Eric Knapp, SJ, the newest priest in the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus. In this issue's cover story, you'll learn how Eric uses his many talents—he's an athlete, coach, chaplain, spiritual director, teacher, scholar, and preacher—to, as he says, "care for souls."

It's currently ordination season. Like Chicago, the 91 Jesuit Provinces around the world have just ordained or will soon ordain their new priests. In India, Japan, Micronesia, France, Argentina, Canada, and many African countries, Jesuits like Eric will lay prostrate before the people of God and be ordained for priestly ministry. Most of these men will never meet one another. Yet each, like Eric, has hopes and dreams about his future life of ministry. Each will minister to hundreds, maybe thousands, of individuals. Each desires to "save souls."

In early May, I was invited along with development professionals from ten other Jesuit Provinces in North America to come to Rome to learn more about the worldwide Society of Jesus. The three-day visit to the Jesuit Curia gave me great insight into the international body of the Society of Jesus. We heard from Fr. General Peter Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, as well as from his assistants for Africa, Latin America, East Asia, and South Asia. We learned about the great work Jesuits are doing around the world through the Jesuit Refugee Service. And we learned that in every part of this world, there exists great need. Some areas are plagued by war, others by famine, abject poverty, disease, or violence. And we learned that in 127 countries throughout the world, Jesuits seek to serve those who are struggling by providing much needed resources and, more importantly, by offering hope.

The cover story of this issue of *Partners* makes it quite clear that Eric Knapp, through his faith, desire, and work ethic, will serve for the greater glory of God by saving souls and caring for others at St. Procopius Church in Chicago.

In Rome, it was quite clear to me that Eric is connected with the over 20,000 Jesuits around the world who also seek to save souls.

Thanks to your continued generosity and prayerful support, Eric and Jesuits around the world will be able to change the world soul by soul.

Sincerely,

Development directors from 11 North American Jesuit Provinces gathered in Rome to learn more about the worldwide Society of Jesus.

Front row: Jack Paquette (Wisconsin), Br. Jim McDavitt, SJ (New England), Barbara DeCarlo (Upper Canadian), Fr. General Peter Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, Eileen Fitzpatrick (Chicago), Tim Freeman (Chicago), Bill Masterson (California), Paul Owens (Missouri),

Back row: Ed Plocha (Maryland), Linda Wood O'Connor (New England), Matt Senecal (Oregon), Fr. Roger Yaworski, SJ (Upper Canadian), Rachel Brennan (Detroit), Margaret Cuccinello (New York), Fr. J. Winston Rye, SJ (Upper Canadian), Michael Bourg (New Orleans)

