



Tim Freeman



Dear Friends,

This past summer has been a season of promise, of hope and new life for Jesuit ministries, Jesuits, and friends. From the one-year-old Chicago Jesuit Academy to the province's two 175-year-old ministries: St. Xavier High School and Xavier University; from five new Jesuits entering the novitiate in August, to the newly ordained Jesuit priest, to the Jesuits celebrating 60 years of service; from the Jesuit ministries in Nepal to the Jesuit Conference-United States of America Assistancy, the Society of Jesus and lay partners working together offer an exciting future of service to God's people.

On July 29 Patrick E. McGrath, SJ, was ordained in Old St. Patrick's Church, the oldest public building in Chicago. During its 150th anniversary year, Pat became the first priest ever to be ordained at Old St. Pat's, and the festive, spirited evening was a beautiful beginning to the hope and excitement that Pat's lifetime of service as a Jesuit priest offers.

In this worldwide Jesuit Jubilee Year, this issue of *Partners* celebrates the world's greatest missionary, Francis Xavier, who was born 500 years ago. Xavier's zeal to bring the Gospel to all peoples inspires the Society of Jesus today.

The Xavier legacy continues in Cincinnati today, where the province's oldest institutions, Xavier University and St. Xavier High School, celebrate 175 years of remarkable service and look to the future with confidence and great promise.

Xavier's legacy of reaching out to the people of the Far East continues in Nepal. Through the St. Xavier Social Centre, Jesuit Fathers Tom Gafney, Bill Robins, and Norbert D'Souza, have reached out and served the handicapped for the past 40 years, offering each person dignity and opportunities to make better lives for themselves.

Many of us know Brad Schaeffer, SJ, as an administrator interacting with dozens of students roaming the halls at St. Xavier High School or St. Ignatius College Prep. He's been away from those roles for about 15 years now, having served as provincial and, most recently, as president of the Jesuit Conference. Brad shares a "behind-the-scenes" look at the Society of Jesus and the future hopes for the Jesuits and the Church.

With each of these inspirational stories of service are people motivated to prayerfully and enthusiastically support Pat McGrath, Brad Schaeffer, the great Xavier ministries in Cincinnati, the Jesuits in Nepal, and all Jesuit ministries. I am personally grateful to have witnessed friends and donors making Jesuit ministries possible. Thank you for partnering with the Jesuits who are making a difference in the lives of so many!

Sincerely,

Tim Freeman

Assistant to the Provincial for Development and Public Information