



Following the June 13 ordination liturgy at the Church of the Gesu in University Heights, Ohio, Frs. Martin Schreiber, SJ (third from left), and Cyril Whitaker, SJ (second from right), celebrate with Most Reverend Richard G. Lennon, bishop of Cleveland, and Frs. Ray Guiao, SJ, biprovince assistant for formation; Timothy Kesicki, SJ, provincial of the Detroit Province; and Edward Schmidt, SJ, provincial of the Chicago Province.

Serving God's People

JESUITS MARTIN SCHREIBER AND CYRIL WHITAKER
BEGIN THEIR LIVES OF PRIESTLY MINISTRY

by Jeremy Langford

On June 13, 2009, Martin Schreiber and Cyril Whitaker were ordained Jesuit priests at Church of the Gesu in University Heights, Ohio. Both Ohioans, Martin hails from University Heights and joined the Detroit Province Jesuits in 1998, while Cy is a Cincinnati native and joined the Chicago Province Jesuits in 1999. Their ordinations mark the transition to a lifetime of priestly ministry and serve as a sign of the realignment between the Chicago and Detroit Provinces.

Martin and Cy exchanged smiles with family and friends as they processed to the altar for the ordination liturgy with Most Reverend Richard G. Lennon, the bishop of Cleveland; Very Reverend Edward W. Schmidt, SJ, provincial of the Chicago Province; Very Reverend Timothy P. Kesicki, SJ, provincial of the Detroit Province; and fellow Jesuits. A generation apart in age, these newly ordained Jesuit priests share a profound faith, commitment to God's people, and love for the Church and the Society of Jesus.

In the photo story that follows, you'll learn more about Martin and Cy, their journeys to the Jesuits, and their gratitude for the opportunity to serve wherever the need is greatest.





2009 Ordination

“When I looked out and saw my brother Jesuits, I thought, ‘I really am one of these guys. They want me here, and I want to be with them.’ Seeing my friends and loved ones, I was incredibly moved by how much they were in my court, praying and pulling for me.”

—Fr. Cyril Whitaker, SJ



Hundreds of Martin and Cy's fellow Jesuits, family members, friends, and colleagues filled the Church of the Gesu for the ordination liturgy. Martin was right at home, having attended grade school, made his first communion, and served his first Mass at Gesu parish. "Even back then," he says, "I often thought about being a priest as I watched the Jesuits at Mass. God was close at a young age. I found Jesus fascinating and wondered why older people prayed so hard at Mass."



Under the direction of Dr. Joseph Metzinger, the Church of the Gesu choir accompanied Jayme Stayer, SJ, and Sue Devers (inset), who served as cantors for the ordination liturgy.



Following the central moments of prayer in the ordination liturgy—the litany of the saints, imposition of hands, and prayer of consecration by the bishop—the ordinands are clothed with the liturgical vestments of a priest. In this special moment, Fr. Robert Welsh, SJ, vests Martin (foreground) while Fr. Mark Andrews, SJ, vests Cy.

In the tradition of the apostles, the ordaining bishop and fellow priests lay hands on the heads of the candidates and pray silently as a sign of the conferral of the Holy Spirit, who ordains one to serve in Holy Orders. Among those concelebrating, Fr. Richard Salmi, SJ, lays hands on Martin (foreground) and Fr. John Ferone, SJ, lays hands on Cy as others wait to do the same.

The bishop then anoints the hands of the newly ordained with chrism, the oil that is used in the sacraments of baptism and confirmation, as a sign that they now share in the mission of Christ. Here, Bishop Lennon anoints the hands of Fr. Whitaker. “My image of priesthood is one of sacrificial love,” he says. “In other words, as a priest, I belong to the People of God and serve them through the sacraments and in every way I can.”



Before the newly ordained concelebrate the Mass for the first time as priests, they receive the bread and wine as symbols of their service to God's People at eucharistic worship. Fr. Schreiber receives the chalice from Bishop Lennon. "Having a relationship with Jesus is the main priority of my life," explains Martin. "This is not some pious jargon. I believe the grace of the priesthood is that I am better able to bring Jesus to the world by loving others and being present in their best and worst moments. Bringing people together for a meal to talk and laugh is one of my favorite activities as a Jesuit."



Fr. Cyril Whitaker enjoys talking with Nancy Agacinski and John Power.



Fr. Schreiber met the Bolton family during his regency service at the University of Detroit High School and Academy. (Left to right) Jonathan, Megan, Charlie, Fr. Schreiber, Mariann, William, and Bill Bolton.



At the ordination reception, Thomas and Ana Deutsch share in Fr. Whitaker's excitement about being ordained to the priesthood. Thomas was a lay classmate of Cy's at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "Before the ordination liturgy, a fellow Jesuit told me, 'when it's all over, it will hit you that you're a priest,'" explains Cy. "He was right; it hit me at the reception when I was asked to give a blessing. At that moment I knew I was a priest."



Following the ordination liturgy, Martin enjoys catching up with his Phi Delta Theta fraternity brothers and classmates from Miami University in Ohio: Jaime and Marin Connelly, Brian Hunt, Amy and D.J. Neiman, Ryan Hanson, Jason Maney, Megan Hunt, Joe Clair, and John Connelly.

Get to know ...

Fr. Martin J. Schreiber III, SJ



Martin's Parents: Martin and Margaret Schreiber

Born: May 10, 1976, in Rochester, NY

Siblings: Hadley and Eileen

Cities raised in: Rochester, NY; Boston, MA; and University Heights, OH

Grade School: Gesu Grade School

High School: St. Ignatius High School, Cleveland, OH

University: Miami University, Oxford, OH

Major / minor: BS in finance with a minor in management information systems

Activities and interests: Soccer, running, cooking, spending time with friends and family

Work history: McDonald & Company Investments

Date of entry to Society of Jesus: August 21, 1998

JESUIT FORMATION

	Dates	Institution / Location
Novitiate	8/98-8/00	Loyola House, Berkley, MI
First Studies	8/00-5/03	Loyola University Chicago
Regency	8/03-6/06	University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy
Theology	8/06-5/09	Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, CA
Ordination	June 13, 2009	Church of the Gesu, University Heights, OH

Ministry and Service Experience: Nyumbani (HIV orphanage) Nairobi, Kenya; St. Boniface Foundation, Port-a-Prince, Haiti; Sociedad Amigos De Los Ninos, Nuevo Paraiso, Honduras; Sacred Heart School, Dangriga, Belize; San Quentin State Penitentiary, San Rafael, CA; Children's cancer and burn unit at Loyola Medical Center, Maywood, IL; served as deacon at Christ the Light Cathedral, Oakland, CA

Advanced Degrees: MA in applied philosophy with a concentration in healthcare ethics from Loyola University Chicago; MDiv, Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, CA

Assignment following ordination: Doctoral studies in education from Loyola University Chicago



Martin (pictured at age 3) and his younger sisters, Hadley and Eileen, have been close from early on. All three attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and even overlapped for a year when Martin was a senior, Hadley was a junior, and Eileen was a freshman.



Gratitude

from Martin Schreiber

I am grateful for the many people and events that have made the reality of Jesus alive in the world present through my formation in the Society of Jesus. As I look back, remembering the faces of people and the relationships they offered, I am overwhelmed with joy. Starting in the novitiate at 21 years old, I never imagined I would be writing a note 11 years later, saying with such confidence that I have found what God is calling me to be—a Jesuit priest.

Over the years being with prisoners at San Quentin, the children in the cancer and burn unit of Loyola, and the countless people of God whose names I did not know encouraged me to live in the present. This is where I found God. Jesus did not enter into my life as



To view video and photos from Ordination 2009, please visit our website at www.jesuits-chi.org



A newly ordained Fr. Martin Schreiber III, SJ, is

surrounded on the altar of Gesu Church by his loving family: (front, center) grandmothers Rita Schreiber and Jean Monroe; (far left) Marty and Hadley Coggin (nee Schreiber) and their children Mary Margaret and Emmett; parents Dr. Martin Schreiber Jr. and Margaret Schreiber; and Eileen Schreiber and her fiancé, Chris Radis. "I'm honored that later this year, I'll be the celebrant at my sister Eileen's wedding, which will be held at Gesu Church!" says Fr. Schreiber.

"Martin has always been a great son who has brought both pride and humility to our lives," explain Martin and Margaret Schreiber. "Along the way to his ordination there have been scores of people who in some way have had an impact on nurturing his vocation—from grandparents to teachers, friends, fellow Jesuits and countless others. Parents want their children to be happy, and as a Jesuit, Martin has truly found happiness. We believe Christ and St. Ignatius will continue to watch over Martin as they have long before he was ordained."

a triumphal all perfect reality. Rather, through the vulnerable lives of the poor, the needy student and the hungry child, Jesus encouraged me to respond to their vulnerability with tenderness.

Gratitude for the donations, the countless hours of teaching I received from my teachers, the abundant love from family and friends, and without question the constant unfolding of Jesus in my life makes saying thank you extremely important at this time in my Jesuit life. Ignatius always said start with gratitude in your prayer—deal with taking out the garbage at the end. I am still learning about the Society of Jesus and myself, but my learning always entails an intimate connection with the Spirit. If anything, I am excited about the years to come, to see where the Spirit will take me. I am eager to be a part of a Church that still is emerging after 2000 years in an ever-changing world.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT
Fr. Martin Schreiber, SJ



As classmates at Miami University, Martin and I used to walk once or twice a week and attend afternoon Mass. As he was preparing to graduate from Miami, our walks and Mass attendance grew more frequent. One day Martin said, "We have to talk" and then told me of his desire to become a priest and, more specifically, a Jesuit priest. Being 20 years old, I said, "But Martin, you will be an amazing dad, husband, teacher and president of a company. You just got offered this great job, etc....Won't you miss not having a wife, children, a career?" He replied, "Meghan, when I become a priest, I will become the father to many. My days will be spent helping, guiding, and teaching others...." I am so happy for Martin. He is in his element as a Jesuit priest and will be able to fully share his gifts of patience, intelligence, compassion, love, and humor.

—Meghan Brady



Marty and I met in high school and grew closer in college. Since he entered the Society, we've both zig-zagged the country and our paths have continued to cross. I've seen the positive effect that the Society has had on him. He has grown in confidence, humility, and his ability to connect with others. As a friend, he has remained loyal. As a priest, he will be compassionate and inspiring, with the same welcoming hospitality that he experiences with God and with his family. I feel privileged to call him friend. The Church needs priests like Marty. I'm extremely grateful, because I made a pact with God that one of us would enter the Society. He stepped up to the plate and took one for the team!

—Christopher Boscia

2009 Ordination

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT

Fr. Cy Whitaker, SJ



As music director at Archbishop Moeller High School, I got to know Cy Whitaker when he taught Latin and Religion.

We discovered mutual interests in classical music, literature and philosophy (especially the Greeks). These same interests also led to a profound friendship, in which he served as a mentor to me. His breadth of knowledge and depth of understanding are truly profound, and his burning faith led him to try and answer all my doubts with logic and passion. Let me hasten to add that Cy has a great sense of humor, with a delightfully wicked streak of sarcasm, often directed at himself. All who know him, however, know that the cynicism is only a veneer covering a most sensitive and loving soul.

—Bob Browning



I was fortunate enough to have Cy Whitaker as my Faith and Sacraments teacher at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois, during the 1998–99 school year. Throughout the year Fr.

Whitaker taught us not to be afraid of fundamental questions and to spend time considering what they meant. With his wit and dry sense of humor, he maintained a healthy learning environment and taught us to think for ourselves. Learning from him was the capstone of my Jesuit education, and I am forever grateful for that experience. We have kept in contact over the years and met a few times to catch up on life, faith, and God. He is a great friend and spiritual mentor, and I know he will make an outstanding Jesuit priest. Additionally, my fiancée and I have invited Fr. Whitaker to preside over our marriage ceremony! We are very much looking forward to being his first wedding!

—Patrick Ryan



After 10 years of Jesuit training, Fr. Cyril Whitaker, SJ, celebrates his ordination to the priesthood with his mother, Rosemary Whitaker; younger sister, Mary Jo Whitaker; and Bishop Richard Lennon. “My father, William, was absolutely adamant that I get a college education,” says Cy. “Both of my parents stopped their formal education at the eighth grade, so when I was in high school, my dad told me I was going to Xavier University. When we visited the campus some time later, the president at the time, Fr. Robert Mulligan, SJ, stopped and talked to my dad. He never forgot that and was even more sold on sending me to XU. While I was there I decided to become a diocesan priest, but two weeks before I graduated my dad passed away. So, I decided to postpone the priesthood and began my teaching career. Education has been a pivotal part of my life, and I am grateful to my dad for that.”

“When I think of Cy I am so proud,” shares his sister Mary Jo. “He will be such a good priest because he’s a very kind person. He has a good heart. He works very hard to make sure that everything is right. And he is very sincere, open, honest, and real. When Cy says something you can really take his word for it. I just want him to know that his sister loves him very much.”

Gratitude *from Cyril Whitaker*

Fifty-two and a priest in the Society of Jesus! Thanks be to God. I am thankful to the benefactors whose generosity, goodwill, and labor have seen me through these last 10 years. I am thankful to my novice master, vocation director, formation superiors, rectors, provincials, and communities. I am thankful to the Society of Jesus, who has done all it can to help me reach this point. I am particularly thankful for my regency at Xavier University. I am thankful to those Jesuits whose example I hope to imitate. I am thankful to my mom and dad, who gave me love and a Catholic education. I am deeply grateful to my sister, who is seldom told how good she really is and who has given so much for her brother. I am thankful to my teachers who instilled in me Christian principles, my love



Fr. Whitaker sits with Santa at age two in Pogue's Department store in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio. His sister Mary Jo fondly remembers her brother when he was young. "Cy was a good kid," she says. "We always had to behave with our Mom. And I remember Cy always used to ask her, 'Is me being good, Mommy?'"

for the classics, and my desire to teach. I am thankful to my confirmation sponsor and his wife for their prayers and example of holiness. I am thankful to my friends who have believed in me all along. I am thankful to all my former students who still come back to say hello, to let me know how they are doing, and to ask me to officiate at their weddings. I am thankful to God, who is the source from whom all these blessing have come to me. I am thankful to Mary, the ars Dei and the mother of my vocation. I am thankful to Blessed Peter Faber, whose name I took at vows.

Get to know ... Fr. Cyril W. Whitaker, SJ



Cyril's parents: Rosemary and the late William Whitaker

Born: October 7, 1956, Cincinnati, OH

Sibling: Mary Jo

City raised in: Cincinnati, OH

Grade School: St. Michael Parish and School, Cincinnati

High School: Archbishop Moeller High School, Cincinnati

University: Xavier University, Cincinnati

Major / minor: Classics and philosophy

Work history: All Saints School in Kenwood, OH; Lima Central Catholic High School in Lima, OH; Archbishop Moeller High School in Montgomery, OH; and Loyola Academy in Wilmette, IL

Date of entry to Society of Jesus: August 21, 1999

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Novitiate	8/99–8/01	Loyola House, Berkley, MI
First Studies	8/01–5/04	Loyola University Chicago
Regency	8/04–6/06	Xavier University, Cincinnati
Theology	8/06–5/09	Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Cambridge, MA / School of Theology and Ministry, Boston College
Ordination	June 13, 2009	Church of the Gesu, University Heights, OH

Ministry and Service Experience: assisted with the chemical dependency unit at Mercy Hospital, the Warming Center at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Detroit, and the University of Detroit's Fathers' Initiative Project; taught at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Covenant House in Detroit, University of Detroit Mercy, Order of the Fisherman in Detroit, St. Malachy School in Chicago, Xavier University in Cincinnati, the seminary at Thanh Hoa in Vietnam, Weston Jesuit School of Theology, and in the Humanities to the Homeless program; helped organize children's English language studies in Lithuania; and served as deacon St. Paul Church in Cambridge, MA

Advanced Degrees: MA in Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago; M.Ed. in French, Xavier University, Cincinnati; M.Div. and Th.M., Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Cambridge, MA

Assignment following ordination: Associate Pastor at St. Xavier Parish, Cincinnati