

Novices

FOUNDED ON TRADITION

by Patrick A. Fairbanks, SJ



Jesuit novices (left to right) Kyle Shinseki, Matthew Lieser, and Stephen Calme were among those who went on this year's Novice Vocation Tour. The Jesuit novices visited institutions in the Chicago, Detroit, and Wisconsin Provinces.

Throughout the year the Vocations Office is constantly buzzing with events to introduce candidates to the Society of Jesus and its works. One event in particular was designed to introduce the Chicago, Detroit, and Wisconsin novices to the many Jesuits and lay people who work in our province institutions. The Novice Vocation Tour, February 21 through 27 this year, took novices on a trip around the provinces, visiting primarily schools and Jesuit communities. The tour gives novices the opportunity to see where they may live and work someday, and raises awareness about the Jesuit mission and way of life among the students of our schools.

A total of eleven novices visited various institutions of the Chicago, Detroit, and Wisconsin Provinces over the course of the tour. This year the Chicago area Jesuits were thrilled to welcome three first-year novices on the tour: Trevor Beach, Kevin Embach, and

Kyle Shinseki. These men began their journey in Indianapolis and traveled throughout the Chicagoland area, visiting a total of eight Jesuit institutions and communities.

Kyle Shinseki spoke about his experience on the tour, "We received a warm welcome at each of the schools that we visited. Each school had a unique sense of Jesuit identity that provided a nurturing environment for its respective student body. I was pleased to see how active and visible a role Jesuits had at each institution." At Saint Ignatius College Prep, Kyle and the other two men spoke to the male students of the senior class in an effort to further the students' education on religious life and encourage vocations among young people.

While Saint Ignatius Loyola didn't originally intend to establish schools, he was led to found institutions of higher learning. These scholastic institutions operate today not only as a source of stability

Vocations

OF THE CHICAGO AND DETROIT PROVINCES

for the students themselves but also for the larger community and the worldwide Church. Through Saint Peter, Jesus founded his Church on the rock of tradition. The novices profiled here were indeed busy on the week of their tour, learning more about the tradition of “this least Society” founded by Ignatius and bearing the name of Jesus.

May we continue to pray through Christ that God will continue to bless us with vocations to the Society and religious life. ■



James Riordan, SJ, now a scholastic in Loyola University Chicago's First Studies Program, participated in the 2008 Novice Vocations Tour.

Learn more about becoming a Jesuit online:

thinkjesuit.org
Society of Jesus Vocations

Upcoming Vocations Events

We invite men who are interested in a Jesuit vocation to attend upcoming events to better acquaint themselves with the Jesuit tradition. To reserve a spot for any of these events, please contact Fr. Patrick A. Fairbanks, SJ, at vocations@jesuits-chgdet.org or 773-975-6363.

Six Weeks a Jesuit

June 18–August 1, 2010

Chicago, IL

July 9–August 23, 2010

Midland, Ontario

Each summer the Society of Jesus in the United States sponsors the Six Weeks a Jesuit program for men seriously contemplating application to the Society of Jesus. The program gives them an opportunity to live in Jesuit communities, work in Jesuit apostolates, and take time for reflection, prayer, and relaxation. The 2010 program will be hosted by the Jesuits of the Chicago Province and the Jesuits in English Canada, and will include meetings, presentations, and a mid-program get-away, retreat weekend.

For more information about the Jesuits, please contact



Fr. Patrick Fairbanks, SJ
Vocation Director
2050 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60614
Phone: 773-975-6363
vocations@jesuits-chgdet.org

Jesuit Ordination Weekend

June 10–12, 2010

Milwaukee, WI

Candidates are invited to participate in the 2010 ordination weekend, which includes the ordination of six Jesuits as well opportunities to meet and socialize with Jesuits of the Chicago, Detroit, and Wisconsin Provinces.

Summer Weekend

June 19–22, 2010

Waupaca, WI

Candidates are welcome to a weekend with Jesuits at one of our province retreat centers. It will be a great opportunity for reflection and relaxation.