

A SNAPSHOT OF Jesuit Vocations

By the Numbers

- 95** Average number of annual inquiries about applying to join the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus (last 10 years)
- 4** Average number of novices accepted annually in the Chicago Province (last 10 years)
- 70** Average number of novices accepted annually in the United States (last 10 years)
- 450** Number of novices accepted worldwide in 2007
- 18,815** Number of Jesuits worldwide (Jan 1, 2008)
- 2,952** Number of Jesuits in the USA in 2007
- 15** Chicago Province Jesuits accepted who were educated by the Jesuits (in the past 10 years)
- 26** Chicago Province vocation inquiries received annually through the Internet (past 5 years)

The **6** Novices Currently in Formation with the Chicago Province

Matthew Dunch Hung Nguyen

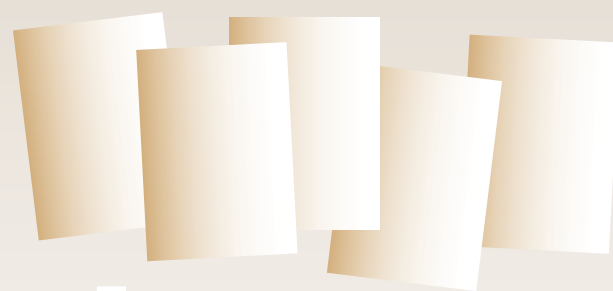
James Riordan Kyle Roark

Edgar Sanchez Christian Wagner

12,000: Number of annual visitors to www.thinkjesuit.org

Top **5** pages visited on www.thinkjesuit.org

- 1 Meet Us** (Scholastics' podcasts and brief biographies)
- 2 SJ Café** (Guest appearances by Jesuits)
- 3 Meet Us** (Novice group photos and names)
- 4 Discernment Articles** (Information on prayer and making the choice)
- 5 Next Steps** (Program for candidates to the Society)



Top **5** most helpful books sent to candidates

- 1** *The Fifth Week* by William O'Malley, SJ
- 2** *Contemplatives in Action* by Bill Barry, SJ
- 3** *A Pilgrim's Journey* by Ignatius Loyola
- 4** *In Good Company* by James Martin, SJ
- 5** *Armchair Mystic* by Mark Thibodeaux, SJ

Top 8 things most men do to discern a vocation

- 1 Prayer:** Develop a habit of prayer and participate in the sacramental life of a local Catholic parish.
- 2 Spiritual direction:** Meet regularly with a spiritual director.
- 3 Retreat:** Spend quiet time away from work/school for a 5- or 8-day directed Ignatian retreat.
- 4 Spiritual autobiography:** Write a 15-page spiritual autobiography recounting the major motions of one's life in relation to God and others.
- 5 Novitiate Visit:** Spend a weekend with the novices in Detroit to see the community and test the lifestyle.
- 6 Candidate Meetings:** Attend meetings and events where candidates engage with other Jesuits and learn about the Society of Jesus and our works.

7 Come and See: Attend a "Come and See" weekend which allows men 18–35 to visit to a Jesuit community and participate in social and spiritual life. We answer questions about Jesuit life while in informal gatherings among Jesuits and other candidates.

8 Six Weeks a Jesuit: For six weeks in the summer a man may live with other

candidates working with and for the Jesuits. Held in New York City or Midland, Ontario, this program gives first-hand experience in a Jesuit apostolate while living with a Jesuit community and learning more about Ignatian spirituality.

Age of Men Inquiring about a Jesuit Vocation

Youngest – **16** Oldest – **41**

Average age of men inquiring – **26**

Average age of men entering as novices – **27**

Upcoming Vocations Event

Men who are interested in a Jesuit vocation

are invited to attend upcoming events to better acquaint themselves with the Jesuit tradition.

Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola

In honor of the feast of St. Ignatius, current candidates are invited to attend the celebration of the Mass of St. Ignatius, to be held Thursday morning July 31, followed by a light breakfast and a brief program focusing on the life and legacy of St. Ignatius Loyola. This morning event will be held at St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago.

The Jesuits – Come and See

This is a weekend for men 18–35 of age who are interested in learning more about the life, spirituality and work of Jesuit priests and brothers. Come and See the possibility of a religious vocation: October 24–26, in Chicago.

**For more information about
the Jesuits, please contact**

Fr. Pat Fairbanks, SJ
Vocation Director
2050 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60614
Phone: 773-975-6363
pfairbanks@jesuits-chi.org

vocations@jesuits-chi.org
www.thinkjesuit.org