

# A LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Friends,

For as long as I have been a Jesuit, the new year begins with the first school bell in August. Most Jesuit assignments follow the rhythms of the academic year, so much so that even our novices enter the Society at the end of summer. With the new “Jesuit year” almost upon us, it is only natural to reflect on the many good things that happened this past year.

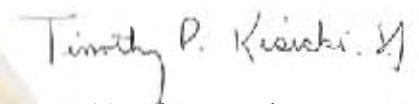
The greatest grace for me was the opportunity that I had to meet with each Jesuit in the Chicago Province. This first round of annual conferences with the Chicago Province Jesuits, along with my second round of conferences with the Detroit Province Jesuits, accounted for most of my time. This care of the person is at the heart of Jesuit life, and it made my travel all the more welcoming.

Many people have asked me if I find life on the road lonely or isolated. I can honestly say that in my many travels I have always been in good company; I love the chance to visit another Jesuit house. The major difference between a Provincial and a business traveler is that I am always staying in a Jesuit community, and in our communities I am always at home. If you have visited our many houses, you come to learn that while they are unique, they are also oddly alike. As Jesuits we live a common life and that eases the way for us to go wherever and whenever we are needed.


When the first class bell rings this August, we will see many new Jesuit faces in our works; from our six newly ordained priests to the seven new novices that I have accepted to our novitiate. We will have said farewell to Jesuit friends who have gone on to new missions and welcome others who are beginning new assignments. In all of these places, we will see the Jesuit Order alive and growing.

We thank you for partnering with us this past year, and I look forward to seeing you in my travels this next year. Let us together continue that great Ignatian dictum, *Ite Inflammate Omnia!*

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Timothy P. Kesicki, SJ  
Provincial



Fr. Timothy P. Kesicki, SJ, here with Fr. Tom Neitzke, SJ, concelebrated at the first triprovince ordination for Chicago, Detroit, and Wisconsin Provinces in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this June.