



Edward W. Schmidt, SJ

In the spirit of partnership, if you have any questions please feel free to contact Tim Freeman at tim@jesuits-chi.org (773) 975-6909 or Mark Maxwell at mmaxwell@jesuits-chi.org or (513) 751-6688.

A LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL

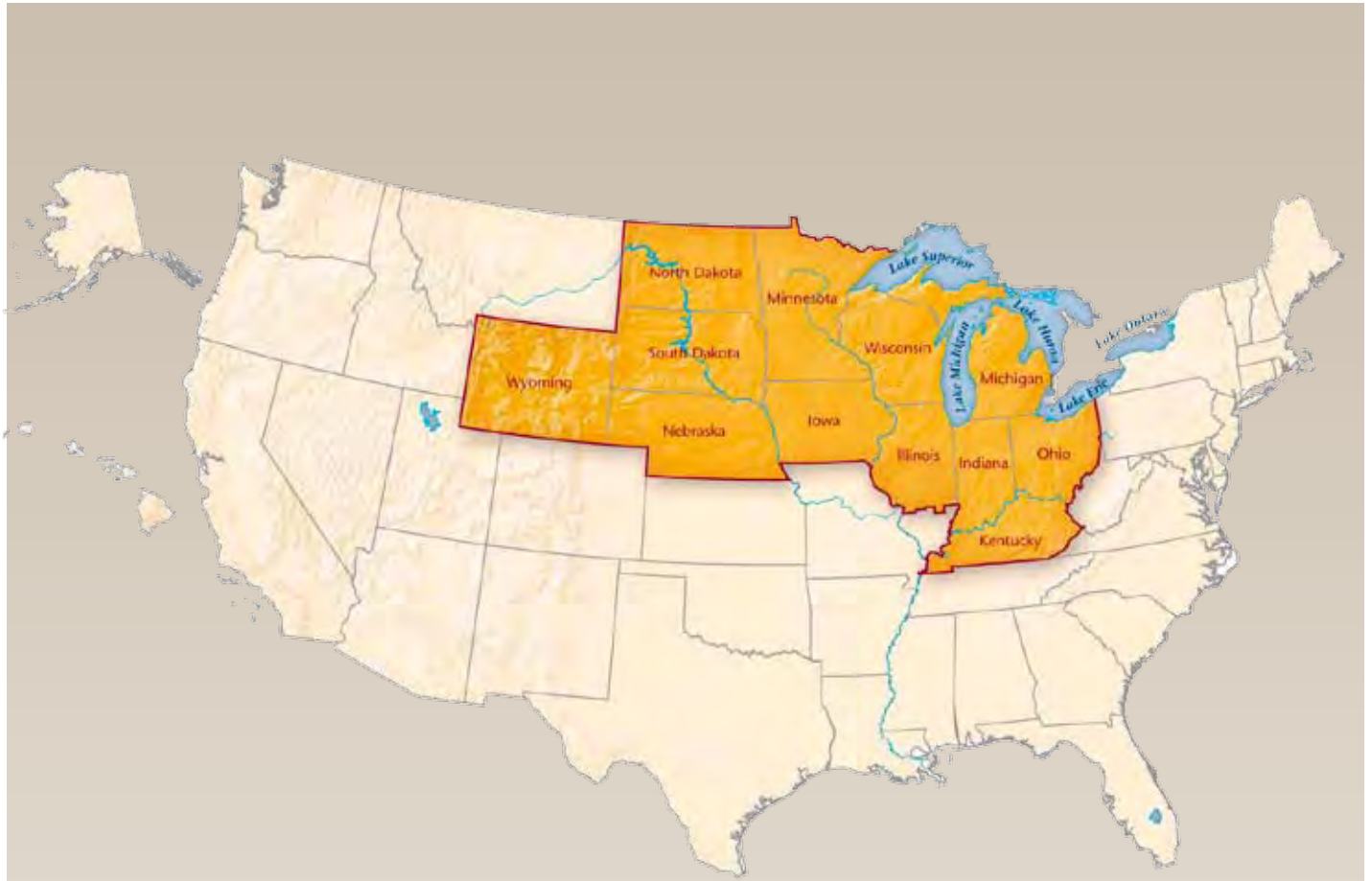
Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you some exciting news. We have recently received word that Fr. General Adolfo Nicolás has appointed Fr. Timothy P. Kesicki, SJ, as the next provincial of the Chicago Province. Fr. Kesicki will also continue as provincial of Detroit, a role he has served in since 2008. For our official announcement and a special video message from Fr. Kesicki and me, please visit the Chicago Province website at www.jesuits-chi.org.

For the past five years, the United States Jesuits have planned a realignment process that will reduce the number of Jesuit provinces in the United States from ten to five. By reorganizing the order, we wish to place more Jesuits in schools and other ministries. Fr. Kesicki's appointment represents an important milestone in this process for the Midwest, which will eventually join the Wisconsin, Chicago, and Detroit provinces into a single province. This will happen in two phases with Chicago and Detroit coming together sooner before joining with Wisconsin. The transition is envisioned to be completed by 2021.

For the immediate future, the Chicago and Detroit provinces will remain separate in both Church and civil law. But with this appointment, as Fr. Nicolás writes, "the Detroit and Chicago Provinces should now move forward as if they were one province."

An important theme of our recent General Congregation 35 is the call to the "frontiers." It is this theme that comes to mind time and time again in thinking about our Jesuit mission. We are challenged as Jesuits and Jesuit Partners to go to the intellectual, cultural, social, economic, and spiritual frontiers of our time. In this issue of *Partners* we explore this vital theme in our cover story on Chicago Jesuit Academy's first graduates; in our profile of Dr. Edward Peck, founding executive director of the Ignatian Colleagues Program; and in my reflection on the spirituality of new frontiers.



Surely the realignment represents a new frontier, one which we gladly explore. The next few years will be foundational for the future of our province and our ability to continue serve. I believe this will be a positive opportunity for us to grow in our mission to the frontiers.

There will be time later for remembrances, thank-yous, and fond farewells. For now, I thank Fr. Nicolás for making this great appointment, Fr. Tim Kesicki for all that is to come, and all of you for your support and prayer during my time as provincial. I look forward to your having more opportunities to learn about Fr. Kesicki in the coming months, through future issues of *Partners*, our website, and various events. As always, your prayerful partnership makes our work possible. We remain committed to our ongoing journey with you in serving God's people.

The new Triprovince will comprise the Chicago, Detroit, and Wisconsin Provinces.

More information about the realignment can be found at the Jesuit Conference website: www.jesuit.org.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Schmidt, SJ

PROVINCIAL

special ANNOUNCEMENT



Fr. Timothy P. Kesicki, SJ, (right) visits with Fr. Edward W. Schmidt, SJ, at the Chicago Province office.

New Provincial Named for the Chicago Province Jesuits

Fr. Timothy P. Kesicki, SJ, has been appointed by Fr. General Adolfo Nicolás, SJ, as the next provincial of the Chicago Province. Fr. Kesicki succeeds Fr. Edward W. Schmidt, SJ, who has served as provincial of the Chicago Province since 2003. Fr. Kesicki adds this position to his current responsibilities as provincial of the Detroit Province. In his letter of appointment, Fr. General Nicolás explains the significance of this dual leadership role, “Practically speaking, this means that the Detroit and Chicago Provinces should now move forward as if they were one province.”

“I look forward to working with Fr. Schmidt in the months ahead,” says

Fr. Kesicki. “It is a time of great hope, a time of great enthusiasm, and a time of great promise for all the works in our provinces.”

Fr. Kesicki was ordained to the priesthood in 1994. After his ordination, he worked for a year at the Jesuit Refugee Service in Adjumani, Uganda. He then went on to teach theology at Loyola High School in Detroit, Michigan. In 2000, Fr. Kesicki was named president of St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland, Ohio, where he served until he began his term as provincial of the Detroit Province in the summer of 2008. “The needs of young people are particularly acute right now,” says Fr. Schmidt. “I know that Fr. Kesicki’s experience of lead-

ing a high school will be a great resource as we face the future.”

“It has been a privilege for me to serve the Chicago Province, and I feel fully confident that Fr. Kesicki will do a wonderful job,” says Fr. Schmidt. “I am grateful I can turn this leadership over to him. He’s going to do well bringing the Detroit Province and the Chicago Province together; fully caring for the men and the ministries of the province; fully appreciating our friends, colleagues, and benefactors; and fully able to bring all this together to find new ways to serve God’s people.”

For more information please visit our website at www.jesuits-chi.org.