Whenever I meet a Jesuit I haven’t met before, I naturally ask, “What do you do?” It’s a natural question because there’s no way of telling what a Jesuit is doing. Among my Jesuit friends, one is an expert on Hindu religious practices and Eastern mysticism. Another is the director of a university center for Jewish-Christian relations; he’s an expert on the Holocaust. Another Jesuit is working with the poor in a small Mexican village and another ministers as a chaplain in a hospital in Harlem. One Jesuit I know just got back from China where he was teaching architecture. Jesuits are all over the lot! As a Jesuit website describes the Society of Jesus, “we are pastors, teachers and chaplains . . . doctors, lawyers and astronomers among many other roles in Church and society.”

Sometimes people are surprised when I tell them that as a Jesuit I work in a parish. “Oh,” they say, “I thought all Jesuits were teachers.” “No,” I tell them, “Jesuits do a lot of different things.” In fact, when a new province is formed this summer covering the whole east coast, Jesuits will be ministering in 17 different parishes from Maine to Georgia.

Worldwide there are about 16,000 Jesuits (Jesuit is shorthand for Society of Jesus) and they are scattered from Japan to Philadelphia. You might ask who keeps this widely distributed band of strong-willed and idiosyncratic characters together. There is an administrative structure—called provinces—tied in to a central administration led by “Father General.” That’s not a military title, by the way. It’s short for the Latin Superior Generalis. Despite the popular and wrong-headed myth, St. Ignatius was not enamored of the military. The last thing the Jesuits resemble is an army!

Recently Father General took the initiative by publicly asking the Jesuits a somewhat pressing question: How can we focus all this diverse activity so that we reaffirm that we are all working together—in a common mission—even though we’re doing so many different things in so many parts of the world?

It’s interesting to ask this question in light of the history of the Jesuits. For St. Ignatius himself, his organizing focus was captured in the phrase, “to save souls.” In founding the Society in the 16th century, Ignatius had no specific work in mind that would define the character of the Society. Right from the beginning, the Jesuits were to be entirely flexible and mobile, ready to respond wherever the need was greatest, in order to “save souls.” So perhaps its very origins require the Society periodically to review what we are doing and what we should be doing, to “save souls.”

The General and his counselors got to work, doing

—continued inside
12:05 Daily Mass Intentions & Presider

9/30  Thomas Convery (D)
      Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ

10/1  Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society
      Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ

10/2  Edward & Mary Britt Families (D)
      Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ

10/3  Mike Rugienius (D)
      Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ

10/4  James & Katherine Henderson (D)
      Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ

12:30 PM  Litany of the Sacred Heart

10/5  Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society
      Anointing of the Sick
      Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ

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Saturday-Sunday

10/5  5:30 PM    Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ

10/6  7:30 AM    Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ
       9:30 AM    Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ
       11:30 AM   Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ
       6:30 PM    Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ

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Updating Our Parish Prayer List

Four times a year, OSJ renews the list of names on the parish prayer list. If you would like someone to remain on the list—or to be added to the list—please email office@oldstjoseph.org or call 215-923-1733. Thank you!

Pre-Mass Reflection Group

All young adults are invited to reflect on the Sunday readings that will be heard at the 6:30 PM Mass, each week at starting at 5:30 PM and ending by 6:20 PM. The group will meet in the Greaton Parlor and begin with reading the scripture of the day, followed by a short time of quiet prayer with an emphasis on imaginative prayer, followed by opportunity for sharing and discussion. Please gather outside 321 Willings Alley and you will be let in. Materials will be provided; all are welcome. If you have any questions or if you would like to facilitate, please contact Danielle at osjyac@gmail.com.
the research. They consulted widely among Jesuits and “our mission partners.” (That’s a Jesuit phrase referring to people we work with—like you, our parishioners at Old St Joseph.) Then, after a period of “discernment” — another favorite Jesuit word referring to the kind of prayer that leads to Spirit-filled decisions—Father General announced what he calls the four “Universal Apostolic Preferences.” He said:

*The Preferences give a horizon, a point of reference to the whole Society of Jesus. They capture our imaginations and awaken our desires. They unite us in our mission. The new Preferences are four areas vital for our world today.*

These “preferences” cannot be specific works or ministries that confine the Society’s activities to the exclusion of other worthwhile apostolic endeavors. It would be inconsistent with the Society’s history for Father General to decree that from now on all Jesuits must teach in inner-city schools, for example, or work in research universities, or preach parish missions. Rather, the “preferences” are intended, as Fr. General expressed it, to capture a way of proceeding (yet another common Jesuit expression), an attitude, a set of very deep and animating values, that must characterize all that we do as Jesuits and that we share with our mission partners.

So what are the Four Preferences? In themselves, expressed succinctly, they are not earth shaking. There are no great surprises—until you really think about them—and pray over them. So let me list for you what we as Jesuits are called to be all about in all our ministries today:

*Showing the way to God: Show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises (of St. Ignatius) and discernment*

*Walking with the Excluded: Walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice*

*Journeying with Youth: Accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future*

*Caring for our Common Home: Collaborate, with Gospel depth, for the protection and renewal of God’s Creation*

Much can be said about each of these preferences. They are “loaded,” as the saying goes. But we Jesuits at Old St. Joseph, and I hope you, too, as our mission partners, are called now to join together and to examine our parish life within this horizon. To what extent are we already doing this? How can we do better? Are there any elements of our parish life that stand in the way of advancing these preferences in our parish, communal, or individual lives? So we have an agenda to work on. As the popular saying goes, “I think we have a plan!”

—Walter Modrys SJ
Pastor

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*Front page image: The shoes of a pilgrim. These leather shoes, size 7, were worn by St. Ignatius Loyola. Today you can see them in the saint’s four small rooms, next door to the Church of the Gesu in Rome. St. Ignatius lived there for the last seventeen years of his life, and there he wrote countless documents and letters, including the constitutions of the Society of Jesus.*
Announcements

Tour the Neumann Shrine
Join Old St. Joseph’s Eldership Community for a tour of National Shrine of St. John Neumann, 1019 North 5th Street, Philadelphia, on **Tuesday, October 17 at 11:00 AM**. The tour group will attend the 12:15 PM Mass in the church and then enjoy pay-your-own-way lunch at Las Cazuelas, 426 West Girard Avenue. RSVP by October 15 to jamesmoore2030@comcast.net. For more information on St. John Neumann (the patron of sick children and immigrants) and the shrine see stjohnneumann.org.

Open House at Waldron Mercy
Waldron Mercy Academy is a Catholic, coeducational, independent school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. At Waldron Mercy, students from age 3 to grade 8 learn through the joy of discovery and engage in service learning from their first day of school. Please attend an open house to learn more about the benefits of a Waldron Mercy education. Register for Tuesday, **October 1 at 9:00 AM** or Sunday, **October 27 at 12:00 PM** by emailing Sr. Joellen McDonnell, the Director of Admissions, at jmcdonnell@waldronmercy.org.

Feast Day for the Visitation Nuns
The Visitation Nuns at 5820 City Avenue (between 59th Street and Cardinal Avenue), Philadelphia, will host a celebration of the Feast of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque on **Wednesday, October 16 at 7:00 PM**. Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Joseph Chorpenning OSFS. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation Nun, received the great revelations on the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

RCIA at Old St. Joseph’s
The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a time of discernment and formation for those considering initiation to or full communion with the Catholic Church. If you are an adult seeking baptism, eucharist or confirmation, please speak with any member of the pastoral staff or email rcia@oldstjoseph.org.

No PREP on September 30
There will be no PREP classes on Monday, September 30. Instead, PREP teachers will gather for dinner and a meeting at 6:00 PM in Barbelin Hall.

What Goes in the Time Capsule?
A time capsule from 1849 was found behind the memorial plaque to Fr. Barbelin during the courtyard renovation. Among the items packed into the brick-sized copper box were four newspapers (the Catholic Standard, Philadelphia Inquirer, Public Record and Public Ledger), a small bound volume containing the minutes of the committee that erected the memorial, a list of donors, burial cards and news clippings from Fr. Barbelin’s funeral and eight 1870 coins.

A new time capsule will be placed in the wall fronting the elevator to Barbelin Hall. If and when it is opened, it will show future generations who Old St. Joseph’s is today. What should the capsule contain? Email your suggestions to bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org!
Announcements

Parish Cookout Dinner
The next parish cookout dinner will be **Sunday, October 6** in Barbelin Hall following the **6:30 PM Mass**. All are welcome; if you’d like to help with hospitality for this or future dinners, please contact osjyac@gmail.com.

Grace—An OSJ Story Slam
Are you an avid listener to NPR’s *The Moth*? Have you been to a First Person Arts Story Slam? Perhaps you love true stories or are curious about what a story slam is. Mark your calendar for **Friday, October 18**; the Walnut Street doors to Barbelin Hall will open at **6:30 PM**, and an evening of ‘true stories told live’ and potluck refreshments will begin at **7:00 PM**. Here are the rules: five minutes, no notes, your own story with a beginning that hooks us, something at stake in the middle, and clear, strong ending. The evening’s story prompt is **Grace**: Did you find it on a dance floor? Were you a ‘natural’ or did you warm the bench? Is it something that comes before a meal, perhaps unexpectedly? Were you amazed in the moment or did you only recognize it in hindsight? Do you long for it or have you found it? Prepare your five-minute story of grace in your life and come put your name in the hat. Five names will be drawn to be the evening storytellers. For more information, visit oldstjoseph.org.

Hunger and Migration
On October 20, Old St. Joseph’s will once again host an **Offering of Letters**. We add our voices to others in Bread for the World, a collective Christian voice calling for the end of hunger here and abroad, and the Ignatian Solidarity Network, advocates for social justice animated by the spirit of St. Ignatius Loyola. *Bread for the World* advocates for the United States to maintain a just and supportive relationship with the countries of the Central American Triangle: Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Foreign aid from the US to these countries can lessen the pressure to migrate by improving education, employment and integrity in criminal justice systems.

The *Ignatian Solidarity Network* advocates a three-prong strategy. 1) investment in safe and sustainable communities instead of increased militarization in the Central American Triangle; 2) assistance that supports human rights and guarantees international protections to people who are forced to migrate due to persecution, human trafficking or torture; 3) eliminating reprisals toward people who apply for refugee status or seek asylum in the United States. In particular, degrading and inhumane detention facilities and separation of children from their parents must be ended.

Join us at the **Coffee Hours after the 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM Mass on Sunday, October 20**. We will provide all the information and materials you need to advocate for a humane response to hunger and insecurity in the Central American Triangle and to newcomers at the US southern border.

Save the Dates
The annual Jesuit Alumni Mass will be **Sunday, October 20 at 6:30 PM** at Old St. Joseph’s. Alums of all Jesuit institutions are welcome to come together in worship that day; a light reception will follow in Barbelin Hall.

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 26 at 10:30 AM** for a talk by Fr. William Byron SJ on gratitude. Fr. Byron will also preach at the 12:05 PM Mass, which will be followed by lunch and further discussion. **Copies of Fr. Byron’s book Growing Old Gratefully** will be on sale after Mass this weekend.
**INFORMATION**

**Pastor**
Fr. Walter Modrys SJ (pastor@oldstjoseph.org)

**Parochial Vicar**
Fr. Fran Gillespie SJ (fgillespie@oldstjoseph.org)

**In Residence**
Br. Robert Carson SJ
Fr. Edward Dougherty SJ (dougherty@oldstjoseph.org)
Fr. Ed O’Donnell SJ (eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org)

**Pastoral Associate**
BJ Brown (bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org)

**Business Manager**
Eric German (germane@oldstjoseph.org)

**Director of Music**
Mark Bani (music@oldstjoseph.org)

**Parish Offices**
(office@oldstjoseph.org)

**Religious Education (PREP) Coordinator**
Christine Szczepanowski (prep@oldstjoseph.org)

**Faith, Food & Friends Director**
Deborah Hluchan (faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org)

**Rectory Office Hours**
Monday through Friday: 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Mass Times**
Monday through Saturday: 12:05 PM
Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM
Holy Days: 12:05 and 7:00 PM

**Medical Emergency**
In a medical emergency when the need for a priest is urgent, please call the rectory.

**Hearing Enhancements**
Old St. Joseph’s is equipped with an audio hearing loop. Switch on the T-coil function of your device to use the loop. Booklets with the Sunday readings are available in the rear of the church.

**Registration**
Registration forms are available in the rectory office during normal office hours, on the bookcases in the back of the church and online at www.oldstjoseph.org. They can be returned to the parish office by mail or in person.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**
A priest is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation Monday through Saturday from 11:30 AM–12:00 PM or by appointment.

**Sacrament of Baptism**
If you want to arrange a baptism, please call Fr. Dougherty at the parish office at least two months before the desired date to arrange catechesis and the baptism celebration.

**Eucharist for the Homebound**
To arrange to receive Communion at home, please contact the parish offices.

**The Sacrament of Anointing**
The Sacrament of Anointing (the sacrament of the sick) is offered during the 12:05 PM Mass on the first Saturday of each month. Homebound or hospitalized persons wanting to receive the Sacrament of Anointing should call the parish office.

**Sacrament of Matrimony**
If you want to be married at Old St. Joseph’s, please visit our website, oldstjoseph.org and read the material under the heading Weddings, then call the parish office at least nine months before your desired wedding date.

**Rite of Christian Initiation**
If you are an adult wishing to be baptized, or to receive First Eucharist and Confirmation, or are a baptized non-Catholic seeking full communion with Catholic Church, please call the parish office or email rcia@oldstjoseph.org.

**Mass of Christian Burial**
To schedule a funeral or memorial Mass, ask your funeral director to call the parish office.

**Parish Pastoral Council**
(osjpc@oldstjoseph.org)

**Parish Finance Council**
Paul Shay, chair

**Historic Preservation Corporation Board**
Fr. Walter Modrys SJ, president

**Adult Education**
Rita O’Brien and Jeanmarie Zippo (adulted@oldstjoseph.org)

**Eldership**
Pat Nelson (eldership@oldstjoseph.org)

**Parish Life**
Joe Casey (parishlife@oldstjoseph.org)

**Ignatian Spirituality and Formation**
Len Mancini (osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org)

**Women, Faith and Fellowship**
Rana McNamara (wff@oldstjoseph.org)

**Young Adult Community**
(osjyac@gmail.com)

**Altar Servers**
Maria Ramirez (altarserver@oldstjoseph.org)

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**
Bill Stewart (EM@oldstjoseph.org)

**Hospital Ministry**
Luanne Balestrucci (hospitalEM@oldstjoseph.org)

**Homebound Ministry**
Neal Hébert (homeEM@oldstjoseph.org)

**Lectors**
Lou Anne Bulik (lectors@oldstjoseph.org)

**Ushers**
Nikola Sizgorich (ushers@oldstjoseph.org)

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word**
Peggy Connolly (clow@oldstjoseph.org)