January 5, 2020 | Epiphany of the Lord
Smart, Rebellious, and Dangerous

We begin 2020 with another in our occasional series of essays by parishioners who, in the words of St. Ignatius, 'find God in all things.' This essay is by Leo Vaccaro, a history teacher at St. Joseph’s Prep. Leo also gives tours of the Church of the Gesu, which was the subject of his master’s dissertation.

When I give tours of the Church of the Gesu in North Philadelphia (built primarily between 1879 and 1888), I explain that one reason for its peculiar baroque construction is that the Jesuits at that time had been kicked out of their mother church, Il Gesu in Rome. When the Jesuits in Philadelphia decided to build a new church, they wanted a replica on Stiles Street of what they had lost in Italy. We are lucky enough at St. Joseph’s Prep, where I teach, to have the 1878 letter from Archbishop James Wood that reads “I have heard with much pleasure that the Rev’d Jesuit Fathers pro-pose to give their new Church the title of ‘The Gesu.’ It has my full...approbation.” Philadelphia’s Church of the Gesu gave these 18th century Jesuits back what the disciples of Garibaldi and Mazzini took from them an ocean away.

Getting kicked out was not an unfamiliar experience for the Philadelphia Jesuits. Felix Barbelin (whose likeness can be seen in our OSJ courtyard) was forced out of France; Burchard Villiger (the first principal at St. Joseph’s) was kicked out of Switzerland in 1847. Indeed, the Swiss were not neutral about having Jesuits around; they were only officially allowed back by a 1973 referendum. The internet tells me that the Jesuits received 54.9% percent of the vote, and not all of the cantons voted in favor of letting them return. Add to these expulsions the better-known fact of the suppression of the Society of Jesus from 1773–1814, and there seems to be a general trend worth noticing.

The great thrill for me in giving history tours is when someone asks a compelling question that makes me think deeply and in a new way. And this is the main point of my reflection, because on a tour of the Gesu Church someone asked me ‘why?’ Why does it seem like Jesuits always get kicked out of places? This lead to other questions: what unites the 16th century Jesuits that founded the Society of Jesus and built places like Il Gesu in Rome with the 19th century refugees who built these communities in Philadelphia with what we have here today in Philadelphia that goes by the name ‘Jesuit’? Is there any continuity?

Although I am not in the Society myself, I have read —continued inside
12:05 Daily Mass Intentions and Presider

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<th>Day</th>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</td>
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In your prayers, please remember our sick and homebound brothers and sisters and our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital.

Douglas Adler, George Bernato, Eleanor and Rick Bravo, Deborah Brooks, Ann Crowther, Jane Crowther, Mary Kay Crowther, Elizabeth Davies, Fr. Ed Dougherty SJ, Barbara Epting, Tessie Griffin, Carol Herman, Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Imani Ivie, Sharon Krinsky, Bruce Maloney, Allen May, Giancarlo Mazzoleni, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, D. Minter, Julius Mingroni, Bobby Morrissey, Barbara Paul, Tamara Lucia Sanchez Porta, David Roberts, Ray Scannapieco, Donovan Schmidt, Dennis Scott, Sara Smith, Richard Swift, Ann Frances Tozzi, Mary Turner, Robert Wasilewski, Gail Williams, Sharon Winge and Patricia Yusko.

Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Sick—also know as the Anointing of the Sick—will be offered at **5:30 PM Mass on Saturday, January 18**. This celebration is in addition to the regular monthly anointing on the first Saturday of each month at 12:05 PM. After the Liturgy of the Word, all who wish to be anointed will be invited to come forward, as at Communion. Then, the minister will call upon the Holy Spirit, extending his hands over each person to be anointed and praying in silence. The minister then anoints the person’s hands and forehead with the oil of the sick, which is blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday each year. The words that accompany the anointing are especially meaningful: Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin, save you and raise you up. At Old St. Joseph’s, we wish to extend the offer of grace and spiritual healing widely to all who suffer from Illness of any sort.
much about their history. I attended and work at one of their schools, and I am fortunate enough to be a member of this Jesuit parish. While no one person has the authority to answer such a question, I found an occasion to crowdsource a response. I was asked this fall to give a talk at a retreat for new teachers in the Jesuit USA Northeast Province. In it, I sought to give my best answer to these questions in a Socratic way, so as to incorporate the understanding of the participating lay people and Jesuit priests.

We identified some common chords of memory that unite the Jesuits as well as a number of stereotypes that have characterized the group: Jesuits are ‘smart’ like Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. They are ‘rebellious’ like Daniel Berrigan and ‘dangerous’ like Pope Francis. Clearly being smart, rebellious, and dangerous will get a guy kicked out of a place.

Of course, we know that stereotypes are not the full truth. But in my experience, the continuity in the history of the Jesuits is that that they have attempted to stand for the radical and often uncomfortable mission of Christ. They have tried to focus their energies not on one particular national allegiance and fixed course, but on transformation and universality, on finding God in all things. This is vastly different and often far less welcome than ‘finding God in our things.’

The conversations at that teachers’ retreat posed a particular challenge for all of us involved in Jesuit institutions today. As lay people have taken over so many tasks and roles at Jesuit institutions, the institutions have responded by branding all sorts of things with Jesuit names. It’s not uncommon to hear at St. Joseph’s Prep, “join us for Ignatian Lunch, in the Jesuit dining room,” or “Living greater at St. Joseph’s, that’s the Magis©!” This is something to be careful about. If it helps us become more enthralled with the Gospels, in the joyfulness and life-affirming understanding of the way in which God lives through creation and suffers with all people, then I think it is good. But if all this Jesuit language merely creates our own private culture, our secret handshakes that separate ourselves from the outsiders, well then, we’ve lost our way. As Richard Rohr reminds us “The Christ is always way too much for us, larger than any one era, culture, empire, or religion. Its radical inclusivity is a threat to any power structure and any form of arrogant thinking.” How often do we really see such radical inclusivity in the Church today? When we do, it sure seems to get some people upset! And yet, I see this as something that we all should all account for, as members of a Jesuit parish. I hope that we can strive to be just like those smart, rebellious, and dangerous refugees today.

—Leo Vaccaro

Front page image: Ignatius Walking, from ingatianspirituality.com
Announcements

Reading Ahead:
Elizabeth Johnson’s *Creation and the Cross*
Old St. Joseph’s parishioner and Saint Joseph University professor Gerard Jacobitz will lead an exploration of Elizabeth A. Johnson latest book, *Creation and the Cross*. Written as a dialogue between teacher and student that explores the relationship between the created world and the work of salvation, this book was published at the end of Johnson’s 27-year teaching career at Fordham University. You may wish to get your copy and start reading now; all are welcome to join Gerard in a series of three talks on **Sunday, February 9, and 23 and March 1 at 1:15 PM** in Barbelin Hall.

Ethical Decisions in Health Care Settings
On **January 22 and 29 from 7:30–9:30 PM** in Barbelin Hall, Rev. Dr. Aloysius Ochasi will speak on *Moral Principles for Ethical Decision-making* and *Practical Ways for Resolving Disputes When Principles are in Conflict*. The first of these two companion talks will tease out the often unarticulated moral and philosophical values we bring to healthcare choices. The second talk will examine decision-making through the lens of particular cases. A possible snow-date is set aside on February 5.

Reverend Dr. Ochasi is the Assistant Director of Academics and Consultation at the Institute of Clinical Bioethics at Saint Joseph's University. He teaches medical school, graduate and undergrad classes, directs the Institute’s research programs and provides bioethics consultations at area hospitals. While his talks will be of particular interest to healthcare professionals, all are welcome to attend.
Announcements

PREP Resumes January 6
PREP, OSJ’s Parish Religious Education Program, resumes after Christmas break on **Monday, January 6 at 6:00 PM** at St. Mary’s Interparochial School.

Book Group Meets January 7
The OSJ Book Group will meet on **Tuesday, January 7 at 7:30 PM** in the Loyola Room of the parish offices. We will discuss the final six chapters of *Signals* by Tim Gautreaux. New readers are always welcome! For more information, please contact shlosscarol@gmail.com

Centering Prayer on January 15
The centering prayer group will meet on **Wednesday, January, from 6:30–8:30 PM** in the Drexel Parlor of the parish offices. There will be a presentation with discussion on centering prayer, followed by evening prayer with a period of centering. Anyone interested in contemplative prayer is welcome. For further information, contact Christine Szczepanowski at 267-250-3049 or prep@oldstjoseph.org.

Promoting a Church and a World for All
Did you know that the US Catholic Church has celebrated National Migration Week for nearly half a century? This year, the US bishops set aside **January 5–11** to reflect on “Promoting a Church and A World for All.” Pope Francis frames our obligations to immigrants, migrants, and refugees with four words: welcome, protect, promote and integrate. Beyond welcoming the stranger, Pope Francis challenges us to do what is necessary to help newcomers become active, participating members of our communities. For more information on National Migration Week, including background and action suggestions, visit the US Catholic Conference of Bishops sponsored website: justiceforimmigrants.org and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s website: welcomethenewcomer.org.

Intelligent Talk on Immigration: A Legal Perspective
Parishioner and attorney Thomas M. Griffin will shed light on the realities faced from the border to the courtroom by people seeking a safe home or to reunite their families here in the United States. Come learn about the legal challenges of migration in this era of aggressive enforcement and political polarization on **Sunday, January 12, at 1:15 PM** in Barbelin Hall.
INFORMATION

Pastor
Fr. Walter Modrys SJ (pastor@oldstjoseph.org)
Parochial Vicar
Fr. Frank Hannafey SJ
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 contact Fr. O’Donnell (eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org) at least two months before the desired date.

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. Please call the parish office at 215-923-1766 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 (osjsspirituality@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
Luann Balestretti (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)