
"To speak in general of those who should be admitted, the greater the number of natural and infused gifts someone has from God our Lord which are useful for what the Society aims at in his divine service, and the more experience the candidate has in the use of these gifts, the more suitable will he be for reception into the Society." St. Ignatius, Constitutions of the Society of Jesus

Keep these words of Ignatius in mind while noticing the wonderful gifts of those who joined the Jesuits of the New Orleans Province in 2008.

Jesuits

New Orleans Province



Caleb Bernacchio

Caleb Bernacchio, 28, was born in Baton Rouge, LA, and is the eldest child in his family with one brother and two sisters. Upon graduation from high school, he worked for Wal-Mart for several months until he enlisted in the Army and served a tour of duty in Afghanistan in the 10th Mountain Division. Upon his return home, he was severely injured in a boating accident, which, looking back, he sees as a key moment in his life. During his recovery, he discovered a new understanding of his faith by reading history and philosophy. He then studied philosophy at Louisiana State University, eventually completing his degree at the Angelicum in Rome. While in Rome, he met the Jesuits and began to consider the Society of Jesus. Back in the United States, while applying to the Jesuits, he worked with disadvantaged youth in the Baton Rouge public school system. In early August he presented a paper on Alasdair MacIntyre at St. Meinrad's. To relax, he deeply enjoys conversation with family and friends.



Steven Crimaldi, 27, was born in Staten Island, NY, and is the younger of two brothers. He cherishes that he was raised in the faith traditions of Catholicism and Judaism – both rosary beads and yarmulke. He took the Doubting Thomas for his Confirmation saint. Earning his undergraduate degree in journalism from George Washington University, he served as a Staff Assistant for U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (2004-06), and met the Jesuits at Holy Trinity Parish where he taught religion classes. In the summer of 2006, he taught in Dharamsala, India, and then, in the summer of 2007, he participated in the William Jefferson Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative in Ethiopia. He met several Jesuits from the New Orleans Province while studying for his Master's degree in theology (MTS) at Weston Jesuit School of Theology and began the application process. To relax, he plays the saxophone, reads and writes poetry, solves NY Times crossword puzzles, and watches episodes of *The West Wing*. All his life he has been fascinated with airplanes.



Steven Crimaldi



Peter Gadalla

Peter Gadalla, 26, was born in Houston, TX, and is the eldest child, having two younger sisters. For much of his childhood he lived in Egypt, where his family worshiped in the Coptic rite. As an undergraduate in mechanical engineering at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, he enjoyed studying vibration analysis and heat transfer. He was a member of the Pi Tau Sigma Honorary Society and served as president of the Society of Automotive and Aerospace Engineers. Through his uncle, Fr. Nasry, S.J., of the California Province, he met the Jesuits at Spring Hill College, enjoying their warm hospitality. Since graduation, he has worked for the Navy constructing ships, has been active in the Knights of Columbus at Spring Hill College, and has tutored at-risk children. To relax, he enjoys sitting on the beach. He also likes to listen to music and play soccer.

Jonathan Harmon, 23, was born in Tyler, TX, and is the third of six children. After high school, he entered the RCIA program to better understand his Catholic faith. Deepening his commitment to the Church, he became a teacher of the younger students of his parish and an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. He earned his associate's degree in general education at Tyler Junior College, where he was instrumental in starting a Catholic students' group. Bishop Alvaro Corrado del Rio, Jesuit bishop for the Diocese of Tyler, has accompanied him in the discernment of his vocation. Jonathan has volunteered with Meals on Wheels for several years. Martial Arts have been a consistent and positive influence in his life. In the summer of 2007, he earned his black belt and is now an instructor. As he looks forward to future ministry, he is attracted to pastoral work, especially directing retreats.



Jonathan Harmon

On August 14, 2008, these men arrived at the Jesuit Novitiate in Grand Coteau, LA, where they will spend two years. If you wish to contact any of them, you may do so at: St. Charles College, PO Box C, Grand Coteau, LA, 70541-1003, Tel: (337) 662-5253.



St. Charles College

Since 1922, St. Charles College in Grand Coteau has been the site of the Jesuit Novitiate for the New Orleans Province. Before becoming the Novitiate and Jesuit Spirituality Center that it is today, it opened in 1837 as a boarding school for Catholic boys offering elementary, secondary, and higher education. The town of Grand Coteau itself is steeped in history, being the site of an 1863 Civil War battle. More significantly for a Jesuit, then-Blessed John Berchmans appeared at the Sacred Heart convent down the road from the College curing one of the sisters in 1866. This was the miracle required for the canonization of Berchmans who had died as a Jesuit scholastic. In this historical environment, and surrounded by 775 acres of pasture, the novices do the 30-day

retreat of St. Ignatius and study the Constitutions in order to learn about the Society of Jesus and to discern whether to follow Christ poor, chaste and obedient as vowed Jesuits.

This year, two discernment retreats, designed for men considering the priesthood or religious life will be held at St. Charles College, the Jesuit Novitiate, **November 26-30, 2008** and **December 18-22, 2008**. For information about these retreats, or about Jesuit life, contact:

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