



2011 NOVICES

St. Stanislaus Novitiate in Grand Coteau



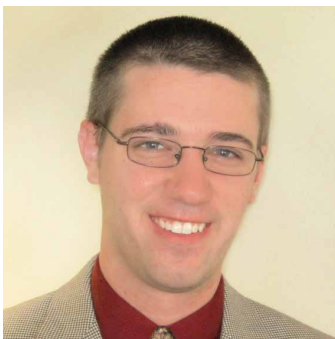
Brock Anderson, 34, was born in Fort Worth, TX, and graduated from Texas Tech in 2000 with a degree in agriculture and applied economics. In 2005 he converted to the Catholic Church from Southern Baptist. He has taught ESL in Shandong, China, designed sustainable rainwater harvesting systems in Costa Rica, and is currently working at Living Craft Project in New Mexico, a company that teaches building with natural materials (e.g. straw bales). He enjoys working outdoors and doing woodcarving.



Christopher Backes, 20, is from O'Fallon, MO, and is a 2009 graduate of DeSmet Jesuit High School. He recently completed his sophomore year at Loyola University New Orleans majoring in philosophy. In high school he was in Boy Scouts and Venture Crew and member of the youth group, played ice and rollerblade hockey. In college he was active in student liturgies, the Community Action Program, Philosophy Club and was an Op-Ed writer for the university newspaper. He enjoys reading, good discussions, and serving the poor.



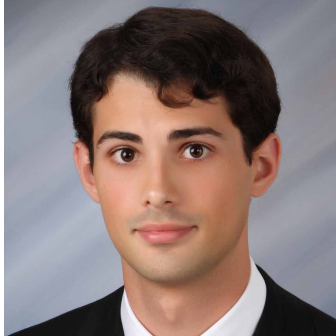
Thomas Croteau, 23, from Commerce City, CO, is a 1997 graduate of Holy Family High School, he just graduated with a double major in classics/early Christian literature and philosophy at Ave Maria University where he met his first Jesuit, Fr. Bob McTeigue, SJ (MAR), and was introduced to Ignatian Spirituality. He was in the Boy Scouts through high school and earned his black belt in Karate as a senior. He has participated in youth groups and community service projects in both Colorado and Florida. He enjoys reading, music and martial arts.



Scott Delatte, 23, is a 2006 graduate of Jesuit High School in New Orleans and recent graduate of Belmont Abbey College with an undergraduate degree in theology. He is very grateful to the monks for their fine example. Since graduation from college, he has worked long hours in a restaurant to pay off his academic bills. In high school he was in the band, CLC, Pro-Life Club and has been a reader and server at student Masses in both high school and university. He is an active participant in CLC. In addition to enjoying the company of his friends, he jogs most days of the week.



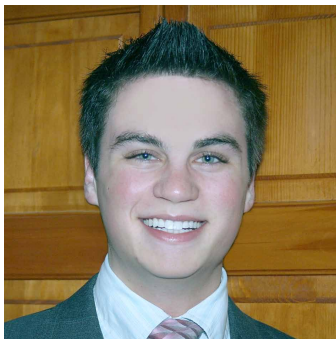
James Erler, 25, from St. Charles, MO, graduated from St. Louis U. High in 2004 and the University of Chicago in 2008 as a history major. He lived in China for several months and has a good knowledge of Chinese. He joined the Alum Service Corps to teach history at St. Louis U. High for a year, then for a second year teaching religion at Loyola Academy of St. Louis. He enjoys reading history and fantasy novels like *The Lord of the Rings* and *Harry Potter*, and hanging out with his friends.



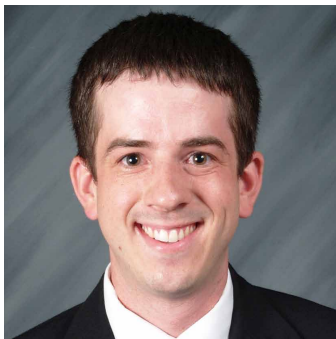
Christopher Farrell, 23, grew up in New Orleans but attended DeSmet High School in St. Louis for the fall of 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He recently graduated from Washington & Lee with an undergraduate degree in French and public accounting. He currently is employed by a wine distributor in New Orleans and is enjoying his introduction to this business. Through his life, vacationing in North Carolina with his siblings has always been a special time for him.



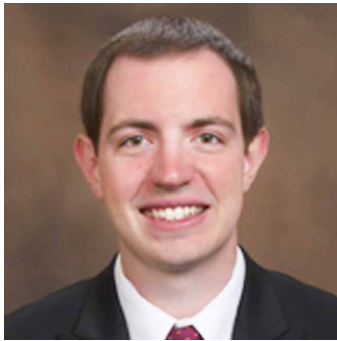
Chris Gattis, 22, from Ratcliff, AR. His high school was Subiaco Academy, with the Benedictines of Subiaco, AR. He recently completed his B.A. in theology from University of Notre Dame, working under the direction of Fr. Brian Daley, SJ (NYK). While at ND he spent a summer teaching English in Lvov, Ukraine. Recently he ran a half-marathon. For several summers he has served as a counselor at Camp John Marc, which serves severely handicapped children. He much enjoys art museums, sacred music and cookies.



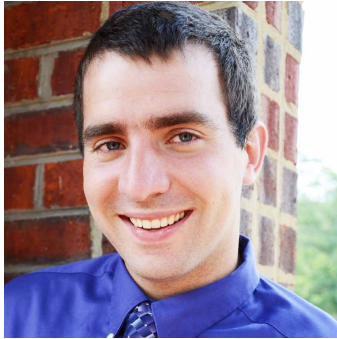
Aaron Heisohn, 18, from St. Louis, MO, and has graduated from St. Louis University High School. Aaron was member of the National Championship varsity racquetball team, pastoral chair for the senior class preparing masses and prayer services, and led many retreats with his youth group at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and the Kairos retreat at SLUH. He enjoys playing racquetball, spending time with his friends, and camping.



Chris Kellerman, 25, from Arlington, TX, attended public school and graduated from Texas Tech University with degrees in music and political science. In college he played in several music ensembles and was active in the Catholic Student Association. Recently he finished his M.A. in theology at the University of Dallas. He plays piano, has written for college and diocesan newspapers, and enjoys serving in youth ministry. He is a fan of major league baseball, especially the Texas Rangers.



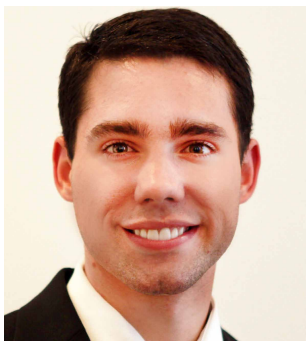
David Kiblinger, 24, is from Cape Girardeau, MO, and has a bachelor's degree in math and science from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. David has just earned an M.A. degree in theology at Villanova University. In high school he was member of the varsity soccer team, the Scholar Bowl, the National Honor Society, and was elected treasurer of the Student Council. In college he had scientific research grants three different summers, spent one semester in Budapest, and was very active in campus ministry.



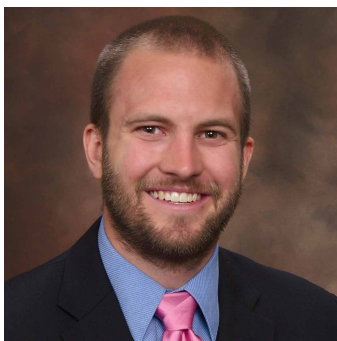
Jonathon Polce, 24, has been living in Rome the past two years. He was home-schooled in Connecticut and North Carolina before graduating from the University of Dallas in 2009 with a major in history. In college he was a member of the student senate and a residence hall assistant. Since 2009 he has been the assistant to the director of the UD Rome Program where he came in close contact with Fr. David Brown, SJ (NOR). He enjoys history, politics, and sports, including college basketball.



Tucker Redding, 26, from Boerne, TX. He was raised on a ranch, attended high school in Comfort, TX, and earned a B.A. in political science with a minor in communications from Texas A&M in 2006. While at A&M, he was heavily involved in the campus ministry activities of St. Mary's Parish in College Station, which serves the college campus. Since graduation he has been the youth minister at St. Justin the Martyr Catholic Church in Houston, TX. When he is not planning student retreats, he likes to play the guitar.



Juan Ruiz, 23, from Memphis, TN, attended Christian Brothers High School. He graduated from Saint Louis University in 2010 with a degree in business administration and information technology, with one semester at SLU's Madrid Campus. His father attended the Jesuit Colegio de Belén in Miami and his maternal uncle, Javier Vidal, is a Jesuit priest in the Dominican Republic. He is working at Daugherty Business Solutions in St. Louis. In high school he became an Eagle Scout and was a pole vaulter. He enjoys skiing and kayaking.



Brian Strassburger, 26, from Denver, CO, is a graduate of Regis Jesuit High School and of Saint Louis University in math and business administration. Among his activities are Boy Scouts, parish youth group, Model UN, NHS, Kairos retreat leader, and campus ministry. After college he served for two years in the Augustinian Volunteers, first in the Bronx and then with AIDS patients in South Africa. Currently he is working in the development office of the Augustinian Volunteers in Philadelphia. He enjoys sports and music.



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André Breaux, 25, from Lafayette, LA, has a BA in mass communication from Loyola University in New Orleans, where he worked at the Jesuit Center. His travels included a cross-country Amtrak trip and service immersion trips to Belize and Jamaica. He taught at a New Orleans charter school through Teach for America. He enjoys sports, game shows, and board games.



James Page, 26, from New Orleans, LA, has an economics degree from Pomona College in Claremont, California. He was a volunteer at New Orleans Museum of Art and taught pre-confirmation students at Holy Name of Jesus in New Orleans. Summer 2009 he did a walking pilgrimage in Spain. Sabre fencing and playing piano are some of his interests.



Alex Placke, 19, from St. Louis, Missouri, graduated from St. Louis University High School in 2010 where he was a member of the Latin Club, leading the freshman classicists to first place in the state-wide Certamen competition. An Eagle Scout, he has enjoyed several canoeing and camping trips on the Boundary Waters. He was also a server, sacristan, and reader in his parish and Kairos retreat leader at school.



John-Paul Witt, 23, from Miami, FL, has a BA in Arabic, theology, and peace studies from the University of Notre Dame, where he was a journalist at the student newspaper. During college, he also spent a year in Egypt teaching English to Christian youth. He likes camping in the Everglades and hiking in the Smokey Mountains, and he's a Notre Dame football fanatic.