



WINTER 2025

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The Gift of Service

Fr. Erik Sorensen's Journey of Reconciliation

What struck Fr. Erik Sorensen, SJ, when he first encountered Jesuits as an undergraduate engineering student at Carleton University in Ottawa was their relatability and diversity, as well as the sense that they were really grounded. “These were men who engaged deeply with the people they were serving,” he recalls. One Jesuit was also studying engineering, which prompted Fr. Sorensen to consider a vocation with the Jesuits.

[READ MORE](#) **P3** ▶

JESUITS

NEWSLETTER OF THE
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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

As we welcome the start of a new year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your prayers, generosity and steadfast support sustain and empower the Jesuits' mission to bring Christ's love and hope to those we serve in Canada and beyond.

In this edition, we are delighted to introduce you to Fr. Erik Sorensen, SJ, a young Jesuit whose journey of faith and service embodies our shared mission. His story, like that of so many others, reminds us of the profound impact of your support in helping the Jesuits live out the call to serve.

We are delighted to invite you to the Annual Provincial's Dinner, the Jesuits' largest fundraising event of the year. Join us on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at Bellvue Manor in Vaughan, ON, for an inspiring evening celebrating the Jesuit mission, our Magis award recipients and the generous community who supports our beloved Jesuits. Tickets, tables and sponsorship opportunities are available — please contact the Jesuit Office of Advancement - Toronto at 416-481-9154 or via email at supportus@jesuits.ca for more details. We look forward to warmly welcoming you!

During these winter months, your continued support is a true blessing. Your gifts help nurture Jesuits in formation, provide care for our senior priests and brothers, and extend the reach of our Jesuit ministries. Whether through a donation today, contributing to our scholarship programs, or including the Jesuits in your will, your generosity empowers our mission of faith and service for generations to come.

The Jesuits continue to accompany those on the margins, foster inclusive communities and care for our common home. Your partnership makes this vital work possible.

Please know that the Jesuits hold you in prayer every day, and we humbly ask you to remember us in yours. Your friendship and support mean more than words can express.

May this winter be a season of peace, joy and renewal for you and your loved ones.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Scott McMaster
Director, Office of Advancement

Erik S. continued...

Much has happened since Fr. Sorensen entered the Society of Jesus. Ordained as a priest just over a year ago, he is now completing doctoral studies in liturgy at St. Paul's University in Ottawa, focusing on liturgical theology and interreligious dialogue with Indigenous peoples.

"I didn't so much choose the focus on Indigenous relations as it has chosen me," he reflects. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action were published while Fr. Sorensen was in the Jesuit novitiate. Around that same time, he was sent to work at Mother Teresa Middle School in Regina, which serves many Indigenous families from the inner city. "Both the experience of working there, where I could see firsthand the impacts of intergenerational trauma from the residential school system, and the Calls to Action awakened in me a desire to embark on the journey of reconciliation in a serious way."

For Fr. Sorensen, if the Jesuits are committed to reconciliation and justice, then part of that work must address the past injustices in which the Society participated. "This journey of healing and reconciliation will take generations. My hope is to help the Jesuits and the broader Catholic Church in Canada take steps on that journey so that the next generation can take further steps."



Reflecting on a time when he felt his work made a significant impact, Fr. Sorensen recalls the Canadian Canoe Pilgrimage, which he helped coordinate in 2017. "This project brought together both Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants to paddle together and work toward reconciliation in Canada. I think this experience embodied, imperfectly, the journey of reconciliation and hopefully helped inspire and raise awareness."

Jesuit formation has equipped Fr. Sorensen to serve others in diverse ways. "I have developed skills in spiritual direction, leadership, organization, societal analysis, counselling and much more."

These skills enable him to respond to a wide variety of people and situations. "But more importantly, my Jesuit vocation has taught me that serving God is my highest priority. This gives my service meaning and purpose."

Although tertianship (the last stage of Jesuit formation before taking final vows) is still several years away, Fr. Sorensen is grateful for the immense generosity of donors. "In Jesuit circles, we often talk about our ability to respond to whatever mission the Society asks of us. Your material and spiritual support sustains us and ensures that we can respond without hesitation to the places of greatest need. Thank you!"

Have you remembered the Jesuits in your will?

By remembering the Jesuits in your will, you can help prepare young men to work in the vineyard of the Lord and sustain elderly Jesuits who have given their lives to Christ and the people of God.



For more information, please contact:

Colleen Franks

Assistant Director, Office of Advancement at 416.962.4500 ext. 241

or at cfranks@jesuits.org or online at jesuits.ca/support-us/planned-giving/



JÉSUITES
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FR. T. JAMES SHEPPARD, SJ
February 10, 1937 – July 3, 2024

Fr. T. James Sheppard, SJ, died on July 3, 2024, at René Goupil House in Pickering. He was 87 years old and a Jesuit for 47 years. After moving to Canada from the United Kingdom, he entered the Society of Jesus in 1977 and was ordained in 1985. He then journeyed to Brazil for two years of study and ministry.

Beginning in 1987, Fr. Sheppard was posted in several places (Jesuit Centre for Social Faith and Justice in Toronto, St. Andrew's Parish in Thunder Bay). During this time, he was director of the Jesuit Basic Church Community Project, bringing the Latin American experience of base ecclesial communities to North America. In 2003, he was appointed superior of the Jesuit community on the west coast, where he conducted retreats and engaged in pastoral ministry.

From 2006 to 2007, he was superior of Cardoner House (Toronto), then served as administrator of St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish (Vancouver). In 2011, he began serving residents and students at the University of British Columbia and the hospital system. He published his book "The Word for Us: Spirituality and Community" in 2013.

In 2017, he ministered at Manresa Retreat House (Pickering) before moving to Maison Bellarmin (Montreal) in 2020 and René Goupil House in 2022. He lived a full life, always centred on his vision of the Catholic basic community model, adaptable to every region.



BR. ARTHUR P. WHITE, SJ
October 23, 1936
– August 23, 2024

Br. Arthur P. White, SJ, died on August 23, 2024. He was 87 years old and a Jesuit for 68 years. Born in Winnipeg, he graduated from St. Paul's Jesuit High School and entered the Jesuits in 1956.

Before and after first vows, he learned skills, like typing and carpentry. In 1961, he was assigned to Regis College Print Shop, Ontario. In 1963, he was missioned to the Jesuit Curia in Rome as secretary to several English-speaking Assistancies. He was a typist for the Society's General Congregation 31 and two sessions of Vatican II. He returned to Canada in 1965 to serve as

Brother Socius to six provincials for 28 years.

Br. White returned to Rome in 1991 to serve as secretary to the director at the Jesuit Refugee Service and as general secretary to the English and USA Assistancies. In 1995, he was assigned as minister to the Ottawa community, while commuting twice annually to Rome and Loyola, giving support to meetings of Jesuit organizations until 2007. He began as assistant to the minister at Regis College in 2007. In 2010, he became minister to the La Storta Community in Pickering.

Br. White served as editor of the English Canada Province Newsletter for 35 years, was a lover of opera and an enthusiastic traveller.



FR. KEITH J. LANGSTAFF, SJ
January 30, 1944
– October 21, 2024

Fr. Keith J. Langstaff, SJ, died on October 21, 2024, at René Goupil House in Pickering. He was 80 years old and a Jesuit for 55 years.

He was born in Cornwall, Ontario, and entered the Society at Guelph in 1970. After his ordination in 1977, he worked for two years at St. Ignatius Parish (Montreal), interrupted by a specially crafted tertianship at Guelph. A passion for liturgy led him to the University of Notre Dame for liturgical studies.

Fr. Langstaff began a longer stay at Guelph in 1981 as a retreat director. In 1985 he embarked on a two-year program on spirituality at the Jesuit School of Theology, California. He returned to Regis College in 1990 for doctoral studies. From 1992 to 1998, he was on the formation faculty at St. Augustine Seminary (Scarborough). After completing his doctorate, he became a professor at the Toronto School of Theology in 1996. In 1998, he went to Loyola Retreat House in Guelph, conducting retreats and seminars on liturgy for four years.

He later served as director of pastoral studies and associate professor of theology at Campion College (Regina). In his final apostolic move in 2009, he returned to Pickering.

Until his retirement in 2020, he ministered at Martyrs' Shrine, conducted retreats at Manresa, engaged in local pastoral ministry and entertained all through his energetic personality.



SCHOLARSHIPS

DONATIONS UP TO NOVEMBER 1, 2024

WHAT IS A SCHOLARSHIP?

A Scholarship is a sum of money that is invested. The income from this money is used to support Jesuits in formation, current and future ministries, and senior Jesuits.

WHAT SUM IS REQUIRED TO FOUND A SCHOLARSHIP?

A moderate sum will found (begin) a Scholarship, but a Scholarship is not completed until \$15,000 has been contributed.

WHAT IS A FOUNDER'S FUND?

A Founder's Fund is a sum of at least \$50,000 that annually contributes to the expenses of educating a Jesuit, supporting current and future ministries, or caring for senior Jesuits.

FOUNDER'S FUND INCOMPLETE

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Joseph J. Barnicke Memorial Founder's Fund | \$40,000.00* |
| William Blakeney and Ruth Henneberry Founder's Fund | \$10,500.00* |
| Rev. Francis X. Johnson, SJ Founder's Fund | \$20,000.00* |
| The John Montague Founder's Fund | \$46,200.00* |

FOUNDER'S FUND COMPLETE

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Rev. Robert G. Foliot, SJ Founder's Fund | \$50,000.00 |
| Rev. S. Douglas McCarthy, SJ Memorial Founder's Fund .. | \$50,000.00 |

**Indicates that the Scholarship is open for general contributions.*

SCHOLARSHIPS INCOMPLETE

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Bill and Rosemary Balmbra Scholarship | \$7,500.00* |
| Bill & Marion DesRoches Memorial Scholarship | \$10,300.00* |
| Bruno Diesner & Gloria Micallef Sch Fund #2 | \$10,000.00* |
| Holy Souls Scholarship #13 | \$8,183.00* |
| Francis & Phyllis Joyce Scholarship | \$10,000.00* |
| St. Maximilian Kolbe Scholarship #2 | \$12,000.00* |
| Bro. Paul A. Desmarais, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$1,350.00* |
| Bro. J. Joseph Frechette, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$1,400.00* |
| Bro. John J. Masterson, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$980.00* |
| Bro. Arthur P. White, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$250.00* |
| George A. O'Neill, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$8,101.00* |
| Raj I. Vijayakumar, SJ Scholarship Fund | \$1,130.00* |
| Fr. Ken Casey Memorial Scholarship | \$280.00* |
| Rev. C. Robert Brennan, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$550.00* |
| Rev. David G. Creamer, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$9,456.00* |
| Rev. Norman J. Dodge, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$14,899.00* |
| Rev. William M. German, SJ Memorial Scholarship #2 | \$575.00* |
| Rev. Michael J. Hawkins, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$9,401.00* |

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Rev. Francis X. Johnson, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$6,836.00* |
| Rev. Keith Langstaff, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$300.00* |
| Rev. Michael J. Lapierre, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$13,250.00* |
| Rev. John D. Matheson Memorial Scholarship, SJ | \$1,350.00* |
| Rev. Gerald J. Mathieu, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$1,000.00* |
| Rev. Ovey N. Mohammed, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$3,430.00* |
| Rev. Jacques Monet, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$4,527.00* |
| Rev. Daniel L. Phelan, SJ Memorial Scholarship #3 | \$12,610.00* |
| Rev. T. James Sheppard, SJ Memorial Scholarship | \$300.00* |

SCHOLARSHIPS COMPLETE

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Rev. Joseph A. Brzezicki, SJ Scholarship | \$15,000.00 |
| Rev. Keith Langstaff, SJ Scholarship | \$15,000.00 |
| Rev. Edmund K-F Lo, SJ Scholarship | \$15,000.00 |

OTHER FUNDS

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Gregory Thomas Graham Foundation | \$344,195.39 |
| Mrs. Catherine M. Miller Memorial Scholarship #5 | \$701,242.26 |

JESUIT SCHOLARSHIP

When a Jesuit dies, a memorial scholarship is established in his name. Family and friends are invited to contribute to these funds.

CHEQUES:

Please make cheques payable to the **JESUITS** and remit to
43 Queen's Park Crescent E.
Toronto, ON M5S 2C3
supportus@jesuits.ca
or (416) 481-9154

Please accept my contribution to the _____ Scholarship.

NAME: _____ MEMBER NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____ TEL: _____

CITY: _____ PROVINCE: _____ POSTALCODE: _____

AMOUNT: _____ CARD: VISA MASTERCARD AMEX

CARD#: _____ CSV: _____

EXPIRY: _____ / _____ SIGNATURE: _____

ENROLLMENT CARDS

WHAT ARE ENROLLMENT CARDS?

An enrollment with the Jesuits is a promise to members that they will share in the Masses and prayers that Jesuits of Canada offer for their friends and benefactors.

ORDER ONLINE

You can always donate and order cards online. Go to www.jesuits.ca, click "Support Us" on the menu, then click "Mass Enrollments & Perpetual Memberships."

PERPETUAL ENROLLMENT

An enrollment for prayers and Masses. If you would like to send a Perpetual Enrollment, include the name of person(s) to receive the certificate, your name, address and donation.



RECEIVE A SELECTION OF ENROLLMENT CARDS TO HAVE ON HAND

A CARD ORDERS *(Please check which version)*

| FOR THE LIVING | QTY |
|---|-----|
| All Occasion <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B | |
| Mother's Day | |
| Birthday <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B | |
| Recovery | |
| Christmas <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C | |
| Thank You | |

| FOR THE DECEASED | QTY |
|---|-----|
| In Loving Memory <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B | |

PERPETUAL ENROLLMENT ORDERS:

For Perpetual Enrollment orders please visit us online. See above for our website instructions or call our office at **416-481-9154**.

B YOUR INFORMATION

Name: _____ Member Number: _____

Address: _____ Apt/Suite #: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____ Tel: _____

I am a Jesuit Alum Class of: _____

School: _____

C PAYMENT INFORMATION

A TAX RECEIPT WILL BE ISSUED FOR DONATIONS \$10.00 AND OVER

Mastercard Visa AMEX Cheque Amount: \$ _____

Void Cheque enclosed for monthly withdrawal

Card #: _____ Expiry: ____ / ____

CSV: _____ Signature: _____

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43 Queen's Park Cres. E., Toronto, ON M5S 2C3

TEL: 416.481.9154 | TOLL FREE: 1.855.962.4500
FAX: 416.962.4501
EMAIL: SUPPORTUS@JESUITS.CA

SUGGESTED OFFERINGS:

ENROLLMENT CARDS
\$5 for one year
\$15 for six years

PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP
Deceased: \$40.00
Living: \$40.00
Family: \$125.00

PAST EVENTS

Ignatius Day Mass

On July 31, 2024, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Toronto was filled with long-time benefactors and friends, as well as the family of Fr. Jeffrey Burwell, SJ, as we marked a transition from Fr. Erik Oland, SJ, to Fr. Burwell as the Provincial Superior of the Jesuits of Canada.

Fr. Burwell delivered the homily, as we celebrated the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola. He spoke of the transition for Fr. Oland and himself: “I recognize that the apostolic foundations laid by Fr. Oland are firm, and I begin my mandate from a position of stability and strength. If the mission of the Jesuits of Canada continues to flourish under my leadership, it is due in large part to the wisdom, knowledge and counsel exhibited by my predecessor.”

Fr. Burwell also recognized with gratitude each person who has nurtured and supported his vocation to the Society of Jesus. “I wouldn’t change a single decision, as each one — the wise and the foolish — has taught me and helped prepare me for this point in time.”

He reflected on St. Ignatius, founder of the Society of Jesus, while also looking forward at what Jesuits can offer society in the present moment. “Within increasingly secular and anti-religious contexts, Jesuits create space for spiritual growth. In a time of ideological polarization on a global scale, Jesuits proclaim unequivocally that it is Christ alone who brings about authentic reconciliation.”

Fr. Burwell noted that in Canada we are blessed to have a dynamic group of Jesuits in active ministry. “Yet, as we know, the ministry of the Society of Jesus is not carried out in isolation,” he said. “Without the support of others — without the commitment of those who share our desire to work toward the fulfillment of Ignatius’ vision — we would be



apostolically impoverished. Those who labour with us (and those who support us financially and with constant prayer) are integral to the wider mission. They bring unique gifts, resources and perspectives to our shared endeavour; they enrich our Jesuit ministries and extend our apostolic reach. I cannot thank them enough for their generosity, care, and desire to be men and women of service.”



..... *The 2024*

SCOTCH NOSING & DINNER

The 10th Annual Scotch Nosing, held on November 6, 2024, at Toronto's Albany Club, was a wonderful night of community, delicious food and exceptional Scotches. Our sold-out audience heard from our Scotch expert Ed Patrick, and our Master of Ceremony Hugo Straney was terrific. Thank you to Ruth Henneberry and William Blakeney for donating the Scotch. The proceeds from the event will go toward the care for our Jesuit priests and brothers in their senior years. Plans for the 2025 Scotch Nosing are underway; book early and don't miss this very popular event.



Holy Souls Appeal 2024

November is the sacred month of the Holy Souls — a time set aside to remember and honour those who have gone before us. During this special time, the Jesuits lift up their prayers to God, holding in their hearts the cherished memories of our relatives, loved ones, friends and neighbours who have passed from this world.

We received the names of loved ones who have touched your lives and who now rest in God's embrace and placed them in a basket at the altar of the René Goupil Chapel at the Jesuit infirmary. Throughout the month of November, the Jesuits remembered these loved ones in their daily Eucharist, holding them close in prayer. With immense gratitude we thank all those who participated and generously donated to the Jesuits of Canada during this appeal.



CURRENT EVENTS

Annual Provincial's Appeal: Support Regis College

The Annual Provincial's Appeal in support of our beloved Regis College is now at the halfway point. We thank those donors who have supported the campaign and ask all our friends to consider becoming involved. In an age of anxiety, we're empowering the next generation of hope-filled Church leaders, Jesuits and laypeople to further their mission in Christ.

For any questions and to learn more about this appeal, please contact regis.presidentsoffice@utoronto.ca or call 416-922-5474 x 231. You may also contact the Jesuit Office of Advancement at 416-481-8154 or supportus@jesuits.ca.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Easter Appeal

The Easter Appeal will launch in March 2025 and run through Easter. As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, we invite you to consider donating to support our beloved Jesuits during this sacred season. Our Office of Advancement team is available to help you personally at 416-481-9154 or via email at supportus@jesuits.ca. You may also donate through our website. May you be inspired to join with the Jesuits in celebrating the light of Christ this Easter season, as together we discover the presence of "God in all things."

Mother's and Father's Day Appeal 2025

As spring unfolds its beauty, we hope for a season of renewal and new beginnings. It is a time when we honour those extraordinary individuals in our lives who have embraced the challenging and fulfilling journey of parenthood. We extend a heartfelt invitation for you to share the names of those exceptional individuals who have made a

meaningful impact on your life or the lives of your family.

Please reach out to the Jesuit Office of Advancement at 416-481-9154 or via email at supportus@jesuits.ca to send in the names of your loved ones. Your prayers, gifts and ongoing generosity are gratefully appreciated.

Provincial's Dinner

April 30, 2025

Bellevue Manor, Vaughan, ON

Opportunities to purchase tickets, tables and sponsorship are now available. Please contact our Office of Advancement team to manage your requests and answer your questions at 416-481-9154 or via email at supportus@jesuits.ca.

Ignatius Day

July 31, 2025

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Toronto

Please follow our social media channels and print publications as details are finalized.



For the Greater Glory of God

A M D G



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BeAJesuit.org

photo by Moussa Faddoul of fotoreflexion

“

Ignatius often wrote about ‘friends in the Lord,’ and that’s how I understand it, that sense of support, that sense of friendship and that sense of common experience. **It became apparent that I wasn’t such a loner after all.**

FR. JOHN SULLIVAN, SJ



SUPPORT THE



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Your contribution to the Jesuit Office of Advancement provides the needed financial support for the education and formation of our Jesuit scholastics in their vocation to become brothers and priests. Your gift also assists in the healthcare and housing for the older and infirm Jesuits. In turn, the Jesuits will remember you, our friends and benefactors, in our Masses and prayers.

JESUIT OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT
SACRED HEART HOUSE
43 QUEEN'S PARK CRES. E.
TORONTO, ON M5S 2C3



For more information on the Jesuit Office of Advancement visit

www.jesuits.ca



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