



Gesu School Cultivates Jesuit Identity

By Debrah Miszak

Jesuit identity has been integral to Gesu Catholic School since its inception in 1925. From Fr. Justin F. De La Grange, S.J., the pastor who oversaw the beginning of Gesu School, to Fr. Lorn Snow, S.J., our current pastor, the Jesuit leadership of Gesu has imbued our community with aspects of the Jesuit charism.

As a Jesuit institution, Gesu School is compelled to foster an openness to discern how God is calling us to be disciples and educators. While Jesuit thought and pedagogy has always influenced Gesu School's trajectory, we have determined that we must cultivate and display our Jesuit identity even more as we help our students grow into men and women for others.

"Jesuit or Ignatian spirituality is one that inspires growth in becoming an authentic or genuine person," Fr. Snow, S.J. said. "To grow in the faith and be a person with and for others. A Jesuit school values and cares for each individual student and accompanies them in their growth intellectually, spiritually and as a human person."

One of the ways we are committed to doing this in the upcoming school year is by focusing on the Jesuit Schools Network "Profile of the Graduate of a Jesuit High School at Graduation," or "Grad at Grad." We are committed to helping our elementary and junior high school-age students develop these five traits by the

time they complete eighth grade so that they can answer God's call to strive for excellence and realize their full potential, whether they continue their education at a Jesuit institution or not.

"A Jesuit education cultivates an atmosphere of learning, openness to growth, deepening of our spiritual life and the care of each individual with a faith that does Justice and service," Fr. Snow, S.J. said about why it's so important to start implementing this framework at the grade school level.

These five attributes include:

1. Open to Growth: We strive to ensure that a graduate of Gesu School will be responsible for their actions, conscious of their feelings, and open to a variety of inner movements. They will possess a habit of reflection such as that exemplified by the Jesuit examen.

2. Intellectually Competent: A Gesu graduate should possess logical and critical-thinking skills, have precision in written and oral expression, foster in themselves general knowledge throughout a variety of disciplines, be willing to relate current events to cultural antecedents, and grow in awareness of global social issues. This encourages both a curiosity and a love for learning, as well as care and love for their neighbors and our common home. *(Continued on page 7)*

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Alumni Comments

“Enclosed find a check as a contribution to Gesu School where I spent eight years learning to read and write. It is given in honor of the IHM nuns who taughts me. Please put it to good use!” —Mr. and Mrs. James Bridenstine ‘59

“Gesu had a life long impact on my personal relationship with God and prepared me for my professional career!” —Mr. Andrew Howe ‘73

“Great memories of Gesu and many life-long friendships.” —Ms. Eileen Behmer ‘56

“Great to see everyone at last summer’s reunion. Please look us up if you are out Seattle way!” —Mr. Steven Miranda ‘71

“I am grateful for the good education, and the love and support, that my brothers and I received while enrolled at Gesu so many years ago. This gift represents a small acknowledgement of my thanks.” —Dr. Marie Lynn Miranda ‘77

“I had a wonderful time at the reunion! Keep up the great work!” —Mr. Paul Janisse ‘67

“I have many fond memories of going to Gesu. Look at all the cute Kids you are preparing for the world. Thanks!” — Mr. Richard Reome ‘55



**Leave a lasting legacy.
Donate to the education of
the next generation.**

Alumni Comments (Cont.)

"I reflect often to my educational beginnings at the remarkable Gesu School. Healthy and very busy between Manistee, MI and North Port, FL." —Mr. John Rice '54

"Keep doing the great work you've been doing educating our next generation." —Dr. Suzanne Tanguay '77

"Merry Christmas to Gesu! We are always grateful to the Gesu community and the time our son, Jason, spent there as a Jesuit Volunteer (2018-2019). Life changing! Many blessings!"
—David and Deborah Lalonde

"Still waiting for the Lions to be in the Super Bowl. When I was at Gesu, both the Lions and the Red Wings were outstanding. I did not know that Jack Adams and Charlie Gehringer attended Gesu Church. My thanks to all of the nuns that I agitated for..." —Mr. Richard Cunningham '57

"The summer reunion was wonderful! It was great to see many classmates in person. Gesu is the only school my brother and I both attended together so being able to share the experience was special for us. Thank you!"
—Dr. Lillian Brooks '81

"I think it would be fun if you included in the newsletter some data on enrollment over the years, such as the year of Gesu's largest enrollment number and how many students there were."—Celeste Doherty-Riley '71

"Gesu had a life-long impact on my personal relationship with God and prepared me for my professional career!"
—Andrew Howe '73

"I completed my PhD in education in November 2022."
—Dr. Erica Pettis '80

"A blessed Christmas to all Gesu students, faculty and staff!"
—Bishop Donald Hanchon

Jesuit Identity (Cont.)

3. Religious: An alumnus of Gesu School should read the Gospels and encounter Christ in them, have a basic understanding of the Church's teaching and mission, and should be aware of their own responsibility to explore their personal faith. We strive to ensure that they will have a personal experience of God during their time at Gesu and that they will appreciate the living community of the Church as celebrated in the Eucharist. We want to instill in our students the idea that they will always be in the process of becoming men and women for others.

4. Loving: Gesu students will learn to trust the fidelity of friends, family and adults and will experience moments of God's love and loving self. They should also come to grips with unloving actions, like prejudice, stereotypes and uncharitable behavior. Their education will help instill the importance of extending oneself in order to build up community and to develop healthy relationships with their peers. They will be sensitive to and grateful for the beauty of our created universe.



5. Committed to Doing Justice: A Gesu student will become more aware of selfish tendencies and will see through the example of their educators and peers that faith is a commitment to a just society. They will participate in community service programs and develop an awareness of public policies, social issues, and the demands of a just society.

We look forward to helping our students achieve these goals as we prepare them for success at Gesu Catholic School and beyond.

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