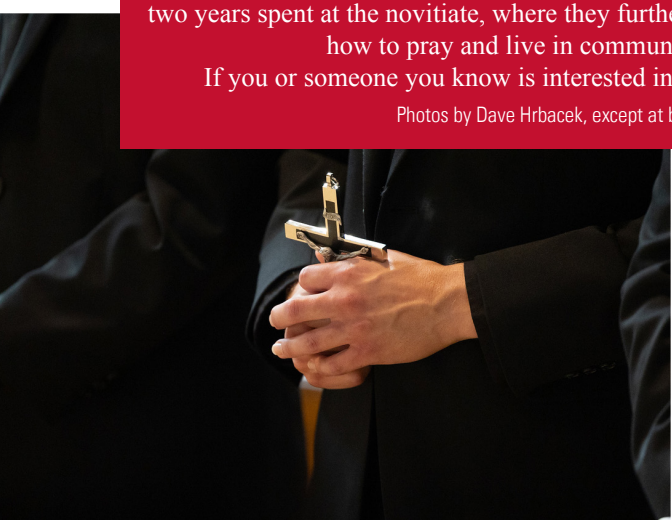




On Saturday, August 12, 2023, at St. Thomas More Catholic Community in St. Paul, Minn., nine Midwest Jesuits pronounced first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in a public statement of commitment to the Society of Jesus. Each Jesuit received a vow cross (see below left), which he will keep for the rest of his life. Pronouncing first vows is the culmination of these Jesuits' two years spent at the novitiate, where they further discerned their vocations and learned more about how to pray and live in community, and about the Society of Jesus.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Jesuit, please visit beajesuit.org.

Photos by Dave Hrbacek, except at bottom and below right by Don Doll, SJ



Please support a Jesuit in formation.

The Cost

Novitiate \$80,000 (2 years)	Regency \$15,000 (2–3 years)	Tertianship \$40,000 (1 year)	The total cost of formation for a Jesuit: \$525,000
First Studies \$180,000 (3 years)	Theology \$210,000 (3 years)		

* Does not include costs for extended studies, which may amount to \$50,000 or more per year.

To support the formation and works of the Midwest Jesuits, please contact:

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2023 Midwest Jesuits in Formation



JESUITS®
USA Midwest
Province

Young Jesuits, and the Young People They Minister to, are Our Future

“As young people, you want to change the world, and it is very good that you want to...work for justice and peace. The Church and the world need you, the young, as much as the earth needs rain. To all of you, dear young people, who are the present and the future...Jesus now says: ‘Have no fear, do not be afraid!’”

With these heartening words, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, missioned the 1.5 million youth attending World Youth Day in Lisbon this past summer, back to their home countries and communities. Six young Midwest Jesuits attended World Youth Day as chaplains and chaperones of young people from our parishes, schools and universities, and one of them later said: “I was moved to tears by the way God is using the Church to direct the progress and correction of humanity.”



Father Eric Immel, SJ (back row, fourth from left), and Matthew Zurcher, SJ (back row, sixth from left), led students from Xavier University and elsewhere at World Youth Day in Portugal this summer.

In 2019, Father General Arturo Sosa, SJ, articulated four apostolic focal areas for Jesuits and our partners today. Among these was the mandate “to accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future.” It is a noble ideal, no doubt, but it is one fraught with anxieties, challenges, frustrations and confusion—and with no easy formulae for universal solutions. Yet it is in this endeavor that God’s spirit shines most radiantly among the 76 young men the Midwest Province is blessed to have in formation, many from countries other than the United States.

While the events in Lisbon may have been an invigorating sign of the faith and religious vitality of our youth, the patient work of forming and accompanying young people in the creation of a hope-filled future happens in many more staid and hidden ways. I am struck by the way our men strive to engage our youth through the increasingly demanding work of teaching, catechizing, coaching and counseling, often amidst their own studies. Urban and rural summer camps, student Christian Life Communities, late-night devotional and liturgical gatherings, sporting events, coffee on cold campus mornings, eco-spirituality groups, juvenile prisons, *kairos* retreats, wilderness retreats and silent retreats are but some of the ways through which the Gospel is shared with our rising generations.

As the Midwest Jesuits’ provincial assistant for formation, I am humbled by the privilege of accompanying our talented, generous and faithful young Jesuits. This year, our province is blessed to have 14 young men studying at our novitiate in St. Paul, Minn. Ten of them are first-year novices, and four are in their second year. Over the course of approximately a decade, these men will receive an academic, apostolic, spiritual and human formation that will surely transform them, and, indeed, the future of our Church. Such a formation is possible only with your prayers and your steady support of our formation program. The cost of forming a single Jesuit, from the time he enters as a novice to the completion of formation, reaches \$525,000. Thank you for opening your hearts so generously and graciously to our appeal.

Yours gratefully in Christ,

Charles Rodriguez, S.J.

Fr. Charles V. Rodriguez, SJ
Provincial Assistant for Formation



Visit www.JesuitsMidwest.org
to learn more.

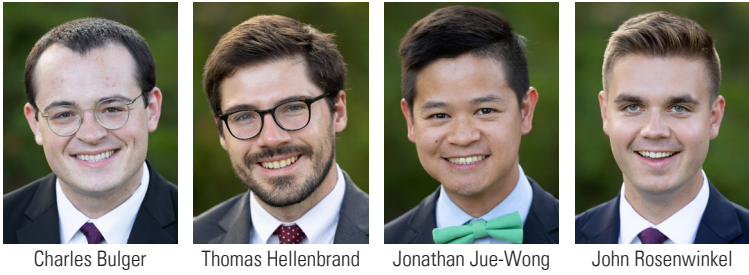


JESUITS®
USA Midwest
Province

NOVICES | First Year



NOVICES | Second Year



NOVITIATE: A man enters the Society of Jesus as a novice. Novices spend two years living in community while taking classes, making the 30-day retreat of the Spiritual Exercises, and engaging in a variety of ministries. At the end of that time, they profess perpetual vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, as either a brother or a scholastic, with the primary difference being that scholastics intend to be ordained to the priesthood while the brothers do not.

THEOLOGY | First Year



FIRST STUDIES

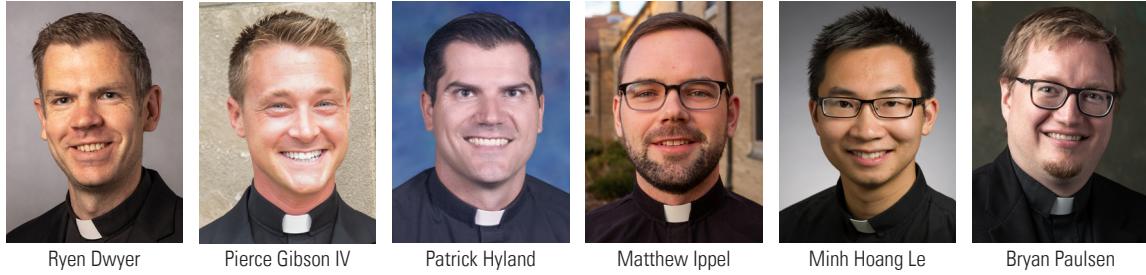


THEOLOGY | Second Year



THEOLOGY: Following regency, Jesuits begin an intensive study of theology. Scholastics preparing for ordination will earn a master of divinity.

THEOLOGY | Third Year



Midwest Jesuits in Formation



FIRST STUDIES: After the novitiate, Jesuits continue on to first studies, a two- or three-year period of graduate coursework in philosophy and theology.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT



SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT: Some Jesuits in formation may have a special assignment that does not fit into the categories listed above.

SPECIAL STUDIES

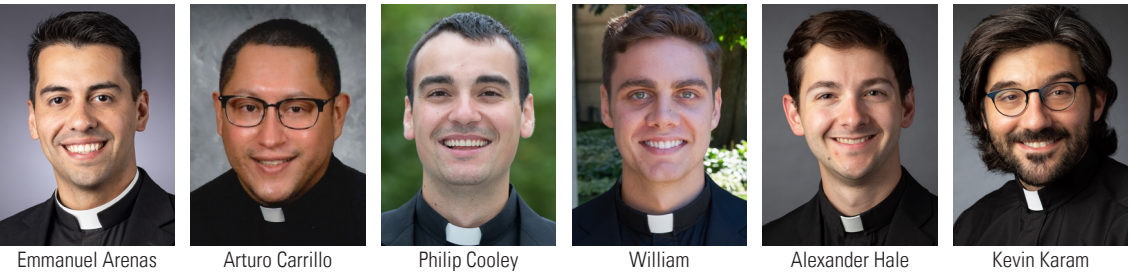


Timothy Perron

***BROTHERS IN FORMATION:** Brothers undergo a slightly different yet equally rigorous formation than that of their scholastic counterparts.

TERTIANSHIP: A Jesuit completes his formation with tertianship—a program of prayer, reflection, and studies—in preparation for final vows in the Society of Jesus.

REGENCY



REGENCY: Upon completing first studies, Jesuits move to regency, in which the Jesuit works full-time for two or three years in a Jesuit apostolate and lives in an apostolic community.

ORDAINED | 2023



Nicholas Albin

Andrea Bianchini

Daniel Dixon

Daniel Kennedy



Aaron Pierre

Damian Torres-Botello

ORDINATION: After completing theology studies, those Jesuits who are called to the priesthood are ordained.