

The word "**Jesuit**" comes from the full name of the order founded by **St. Ignatius of Loyola** in 1540: "**Society of Jesus**" (that is where the "SJ" after my name comes from). People mocked the members of the Society by questioning in Latin whether the members of the Society were **Jesus-like (Jesu-ita)**. The purpose of the Society is "**to labor strenuously for the salvation and perfection**" both of ourselves and of our neighbors (*Constitutions*).

Some of the opponents of the Jesuits refused to use our nickname. To avoid making any link between the Name of the Lord and the members of the Society, they called us "**Jebusites**," from some pre-Israelite inhabitants of Canaan (Gn 15:21, Ex 3:8, etc.); consequently, we often speak of ourselves as "Jebbs" or even <math>\langle sigh \rangle</math> "Jebbies."

To call someone "**jesuitical**" was originally an insult. It means **to use reason unreasonably** (from the point of view of the name-caller). Jesuits were trained in **casuistry** (arguing from specific cases to demonstrate how to make decisions when ethical principles seem to conflict with each other) and generally favored **probabilism** (the idea that when the moral issues are unclear, it is OK to choose a course of action which is probably moral, even if it may *seem* more probable that another course of action is correct--this apparent "laxity" caused Pascal [1623-62] to scorn the Jesuits). **Jesuitry** is another derogatory term associated with this history of name-calling.

**Ignatius of Loyola**

- Born in Basque territory around 1491-2.
- Served the Spanish King in battle against the French.
- Injured in battle in Pamplona in 1521. **Martin Luther** was condemned by Diet of Worms that same year.
- Developed the *Spiritual Exercises* during and after his convalescence.
- Studied at Barcelona, Alcalá, Salamanca and Paris. Got arrested pretty regularly by the **Spanish Inquisition** (run by Dominicans, the Order of Preachers [O.P.] founded by St. Dominic).
- Received Papal approval of the Society in **1540**.
- Motto of the Society: **Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam (A.M.D.G.)**--"To the greater glory of God. "
- Spent the last years of his life writing the *Constitutions of the Society of Jesus*.
- Died in 1556.

Jesuits are **Roman Catholic priests**. We take four vows: poverty, chastity, obedience to a Jesuit superior and **obedience to the Pope**. Training: novitiate (2 years), literature/philosophy(2-4), regency (3), theology (4), professional studies (1-6?), tertianship (1).

Ignatius and his followers were men of the **Renaissance** (a time characterized by the "*re-birth*" of the lost cultures of Greece and Rome). They were **Christian humanists**: "*Nihil humanum a me alienum*" (Terence, 159 BCE); "**The glory of God is [us] fully alive**" (St. Irenaeus, ~200 AD). Their experiences at university established a pattern for all Jesuit schools, reflected in our own pre-2008 Core requirements:

- 3 Philosophy Fields which used to be part of, or were closely allied to, philosophy:
- 2 Natural Sciences. . . . . Philosophy of Nature
- 2 Social and Behavioral Sciences. . . . . Philosophical Anthropology
- 2 Mathematics. . . . . Philosophy of pure reason
- 4 English Literature/Art. . . . . Philosophy of beauty (aesthetics & rhetoric)
- 3 Religious Studies and Theology. . . . . Philosophy of God (natural theology)
- Renaissance emphases:
- 2 History
- 2 Foreign Languages
- 2 International/Culturally Diverse courses

All core courses are supposed to teach **writing** and **critical thinking** in addition to the skills necessary for the particular discipline being studied.

The goal of Jesuit education is to produce **citizens of Heaven** and **citizens of the world**.

Georgetown	1789	Boston College	1863	Gonzaga University	1887
St. Louis University	1818	<b>Canisius College</b>	<b>1870</b>	U. of Scranton	1888
Spring Hill	1830	Loyola Chicago	1870	Seattle University	1891
Xavier University	1841	St. Peter's College	1872	Rockhurst College	1910
Fordham University	1841	Regis University	1877	Loyola Marymount	1911
Holy Cross	1843	U. of Detroit Mercy	1877	Loyola New Orleans	1912
St. Joseph's U.	1851	Creighton University	1878	Fairfield University	1942
Santa Clara U.	1851	Marquette University	1881	Le Moyne College	1946
Loyola Maryland	1852	John Carroll U.	1886	Wheeling Jesuit	1954
U. of San Francisco	1855				

*These schools probably have similar curricula: heavy emphasis on literary skills, philosophy and religion.*

The university system itself was 300 years old when Ignatius and his first companions went to Paris to study. We are continuing an **800-year-old tradition** created by Catholic scholars in the Middle Ages.

- **AMDG** -- *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* -- to the greater glory of God. The Jesuit motto (mission statement).

"the magis" -- "the greater"

"Magis" is the root of "majorem" in the Jesuit motto.

It might be loosely translated as a striving for excellence in all we do, except that this leaves God out of the picture. Hollywood stars and drug lords are devoted to "the magis," but not in the same way that the disciples of Jesus are.

- **"cura personalis"** -- "care for the person." Ignatius urged superiors to put personal considerations first when dealing with their subjects.
- **"Spiritual Exercises"** -- the basic retreat that Ignatius used for the formation of candidates to and members of the Society of Jesus. The full retreat takes 30 days and is normally done twice by Jesuits as part of their training. The Exercises may be adapted for other retreats or retreat-like prayer.
- **"discernment of spirits"** -- learning how to follow God's promptings.

Two levels:

**First week:** avoid evil, do good (the basic morality of the Commandments). There is no need to "discern" whether God wants us not to murder, commit adultery, steal, or lie. Our task in these areas is to recognize temptation for what it is and just say no.

**Second week:** distinguish between various kinds of good choices; avoid subtle temptations that are matters of prudential judgment and personal virtue rather than matters dealt with by the commandments. In these kinds of decisions we have a great deal of freedom: "let your conscience be your guide":

*Where should I go to school?  
 What should be my major?  
 Should I get married? To whom? When?  
 What kind of career should I seek?  
 Where and how should I live?  
 What kind of car do I need? What kind of car do I want?  
 What should I do with my wealth?  
 How much money should I donate to the Jesuits to tear down Churchill Tower?*

The architecture of Old Main says "Jesus Christ is the Lord of all the earth; the whole of history finds its fulfillment in Him." The architecture of Churchill Tower says, "Let's not waste any money on aesthetics."

- **"Find God in all things"** -- from the meditation in the Fourth Week to attain God's love ("*contemplatio ad amorem*"). God's love is infinite and infinitely close to us; the Creator is present and active in all His creatures.
- **"Preferential option for the poor"** -- "faith does justice." God calls us to be "for others." The law of love demands that we not tolerate injustice done to our neighbors. "The person who does not love the neighbor who is seen cannot love God who has not been seen" (1 Jn 4:20).
- **"De universa et quidquid aliter"**: "About all that is and a few other things besides" -- the Jesuit philosophy exam at the conclusion of our training in philosophy.
- **Haustus**: American Jesuit Latin slang for an evening party with snacks and sundry alcoholic beverages.
- **Pre-prandials**: drinks before dinner; happy hour.

### Prayers by St. Ignatius

"Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous--to serve You as You deserve: to give and not to count the cost; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and to ask for no reward, save that of knowing that I am doing Your will."

"Take, Lord, receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, my entire will. Give me only Your love and Your grace; these are enough for me. You have given all to me. Now I return it, Lord."