Pronouncing Final Vows

For those of you I’ve not met, I’m Fr. Steve Katsouros, S.J. Since 2002 I’ve been president of Loyola, the Jesuit high school next door to the Parish, and I’m moving on to a new assignment. Currently, I am experiencing an opportunity – don’t you love that euphemism? – to downsize my belongings. In the process, I uncovered a document I typed on an IBM Selectric back in 1987 and submitted to the New York Province of the Society of Jesus.

The document is my autobiography, a requirement for all applicants seeking admission into the Jesuits. I was 27 when I wrote the story of my then-life, and while much has happened since entering the Society, the following lines leapt off the yellowing pages, because the words very much resonate with my present:

“When I pray these days, I hear the Lord inviting me to come closer to him. It is from this prayer as well as the accumulation of my other life experiences which lead me to suggest I have a vocation to the Jesuits.”

These words from long ago stand out because God’s invitation continues. The latest manifestation of that invitation is taking form in my Final Vows as a Jesuit, which I am scheduled to profess at our Parish on June 2nd during the 5:30 PM Ascension Thursday Mass.

You may be wondering, “What are final vows?” You’re not alone; recently, my father asked me, “Didn’t we do all of that already?” In many ways, the answer to my father’s question is yes. After I entered the Jesuits, I pronounced vows two years later, and in 1998 I was ordained a priest after serving our Parish for a year as a deacon. In fact, I celebrated my first Mass here at St. Ignatius on June 14th, 1998. Final Vows are a confirmation of all of the events that have happened in my life as a Jesuit, how God has accompanied me, and how I have found God in my ministry.

I have found God daily, hourly, very concretely during my years at 980 Park Avenue. As president of Loyola and as a presider in our Parish, I am humbled by the myriad ways God has been revealed to me in students, parents, colleagues, alumni, trustees, parishioners, penitents, fellow Jesuits, friends, family. I was blessed with enthusiastic support from our Parish for my vocation in the months before my ordination in 1998.

I completed my doctorate at Teachers College Columbia University last month, and I have a new assignment: I will serve as an administrator at the Jesuits’ University of San Francisco, beginning in August.

More recently, I experienced the same kind of support during my tertianship, a period of training in the Society of Jesus post-ordination when a Jesuit re-examines his vocation, re-reads The Constitutions of the Society of Jesus, and makes St. Ignatius’s Spiritual Exercises, the same retreat undertaken as a novice years before, but vastly different after experiences of ministry and Jesuit life. Tertianship is required before our Superior-General in Rome invites a Jesuit to Final Vows.

At a weekday Mass during my tertianship, I preached on the Genesis story of Abram and Sarai, invited by God to pack up their belongings and move to the land God promised to them. I recall expressing discomfort at imagining the couple, well into their seventies, leaving all that was familiar and schlepping to the unfamiliar, and in my homily, I extolled their faith in their God.

While not in my seventies, I am now having my own Abram and Sarai experience. I must confess to you – usually people say those words to me – that leaving Loyola and the Parish is a challenge (more euphemistic language). I have loved my ministry here, quite simply, because I love the extraordinary community here. But our God continues to invite me to a closer relationship, an invitation I described when I wrote my autobiography in order to be admitted into the order. Like Abram and Sarai, it is a relationship not bound to a particular address. Like Abram and Sarai, I know our God will accompany me as I continue my journey as a Jesuit. The commitment expressed in the Final Vows formula helps me to begin to approximate and understand God’s profound commitment to all of us.

Thank you for the ways you support the vocations of all the Jesuits who live and work among you at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola. Thank you for your support of my vocation. I will be praying in thanksgiving for the community here as I pronounce my Final Vows on Ascension Thursday in our Parish.

- Rev. Stephen Katsouros
President, Loyola School
Assisting Priest, Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

Father Katsouros will pronounce his Final Vows at the 5:30 PM Mass on Ascension Thursday. A large crowd is expected.
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, MAY 30th
Memorial Day.
The Parish House will be closed.
One Mass will be celebrated at
8:30 AM in the Lady Chapel.
There will be no 12:10 PM or 5:30 PM Masses.

ASCENSION THURSDAY
June 2nd
Masses will be celebrated at
8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 5:30 PM
in the Church.

We extend our prayers and
best wishes to Fr. Steve Katsouros, S.J.,
who will be pronouncing his Final Vows
at the 5:30 PM Mass.

Please note that we expect this Mass
to be extremely full.
Plan to come early if you would like a seat.

The Parish Ministry Council
cordially invites
St. Ignatius Parishioners
active in Ministry
to the
Ministers’ Night
Annual Supper Social
Wednesday, June 8th at 7:00 PM
Wallace Hall
RSVP by Monday, June 6th:
212-288-3588 or church@stignatiusloyola.org
Please leave both your name and your ministry.
We look forward to sharing a meal together!

We pray for the
faithful departed
Gloria Lemme
May she rest in the peace
of the Risen Lord

PLEASE HELP US
REACH
OUR SPRING APPEAL
GOAL!
Our 2011 Goal is $200,000
Where we are now: $29,080

OUR ANNUAL SPRING APPEAL
IS BEGINNING TO BLOOM!
As you plan to enjoy the summer months,
please plan to give to our Parish
through our Annual Spring Appeal Drive.
If you did not receive an Appeal letter in the mail
and would like more information about
this annual fundraiser, please contact our
Director of Development, Mary Reed,
at reedm@stignatiusloyola.org or 212-288-3588 x632.
Donations can also be made online through Parish Pay.
For further information, or to enroll in the Parish Pay
program, please visit our website:
www.stignatiusloyola.org
(click on About Us: Stewardship/Giving)

A Special Liturgy to Celebrate
Boomers & Beyond!

Boomers & Beyond
cordially invites you to an
Interparish Liturgy
concelebrated by the Pastors
of the Upper Eastside Catholic Parishes.
Wednesday, June 15th at 7:00 PM
St. Joseph Church, Yorkville
404 East 87th Street
A reception will follow in the Church Hall.
RSVP by Monday, June 13th:
BoomersandBeyond.eastside@gmail.com
(preferred) or call 646-241-1332.
www.boomersandbeyondnyc.com

CHANGE FOR CHANGE
Thank You!
Throughout Lent we accepted
donations of “coins and cash” for the
Mercy Center in the Bronx. Because of the generosity
of our Parish Community, $1,236.00 has been raised.

Thanks to all who so generously contributed!

is an inter-parish social
and community service
organization for single Catholics who are over 50.
Announced Masses and Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday, May 30th
(Sixth Monday of Easter)
Acts 16:11-15  Psalm 149  John 15:26 – 16:4a
8:30  LVG  John Monahan, S.J.

Tuesday, May 31st
(Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
8:30  MEM  Maria Mannarino
12:10  MEM  Donald Roesch
5:30  MEM  William Powers

Wednesday, June 1st
(St. Justin)
Acts 17:15, 22 – 18:1  Psalm 148  John 16:12-15
8:30  MEM  The Choix & Gordon Families
12:10  LVG  Eileen Smith
5:30  LVG  For the intentions of the Larkin & Bartone Families

Meeting Christ in Prayer:
Reunion Meeting
Tuesday, June 14th
7:00 – 9:00 PM
Wallace Hall
This Reunion Meeting is open to all those who participated in either the Fall 2010 or the Spring 2011 session of Meeting Christ in Prayer.
To register, please contact Sr. Kathryn King at kingk@stignatiusloyola.org

Sunday, June 5th
McKinnon Hall
9:00 AM – 2:30 PM
SVDP Blood Drive
Every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood. The New York Blood Center requires 2,000 donations daily to meet the transfusion needs of our community. Please be a part of our SVdP Blood Drive on June 5th.

Appointments can be made online at https://drm.nybloodcenter.org/PublicScheduler/GroupWelcome.aspx?Group06239
Walk-ins are also welcome!

CATECHESES OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Atrium Days: Tuesdays, June 7th and June 14th from 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Starting in September 2011, the Interparish Religious Education Program (IREP) of St. Ignatius Loyola will be offering a new program of religious formation for preschool children, ages 4 and 5. This is a Montessori-based set of activities in our new classroom space called the Atrium. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will draw its inspiration from the support of the Parish at large, as well as from the parents and the children who will participate. There are many materials needed for use in the Atrium. There is a strong tradition within the Catechesis that all the materials be made from natural sources and that, as much as is practical, they be hand-made.

In keeping with this philosophy, we are looking for people who would like to participate in creating the Atrium at St. Ignatius. We hope to start the ball rolling by declaring Tuesday, June 7th and Tuesday, June 14th “Atrium Days.” We will have space and materials ready for your participation from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM on each of these days. The time commitment is a minimum of two hours. Space is limited, so we will keep it to 6 or 7 people working at one time.

The work includes making and painting small clay figures, painting wooden figures, and finishing wood “furnishings.” In addition, we will need a few volunteers who can work on simple sewing and calligraphy projects at home.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Adele Gallo at amdgallo@me.com or 516-528-4660 and book a time slot.
If you would like to volunteer, but Tuesdays are not good for you, let us know.
There will likely be alternate dates proposed later.

Thursday, June 2nd
(Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord)
Acts 1:1-11  Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:17-23  Matthew 28:16-20

Friday, June 3rd
(St. Charles Lwanga & companions)
8:30  LVG  Victor Perez Family
12:10  MEM  Louis Sonenberg
5:30  MEM  George Caruso

Saturday, June 4th
(Sixth Saturday of Easter)
8:30  MEM  John & Nora Reilly

Sunday, June 5th
(Seventh Sunday of Easter)
Acts 1:12-14  Psalm 27
1 Peter 4:13-16  John 17:1-11a
Tutors Needed: Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service in East Harlem urgently needs women volunteers who are willing to commit four hours each month to mentor a 7th or 8th grade girl. A commitment for one year is requested. Mentors should be interested and familiar with New York City and be willing to explore its cultural and educational landscapes with their mentees. For more information, please contact the Volunteer Director at tgough@lsafhs.org or (646) 672-0434.

Visit www.littlesistersfamily.org

As True as the Gospel: A Presentation on The Book of Sir Thomas More. Speaker: Matthew Mehan Monday, June 13th at 7:00 PM The Rochester Room, Church of St. Thomas More. 65 East 89th Street (between Park and Madison Avenues.) Visit with the speaker and share light refreshments following the presentation. Free-will offering accepted. For more information, call 212-876-7719.

Cabrini Center: Are you caring for an elderly loved one? You are not alone. Cabrini Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation’s Adult Day Care Program offers medical, nursing, and rehabilitative services in a warm and nurturing environment. The program runs five days a week, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, with extended hours available. For more information and to book a free trial day, call 212-233-8402.

PARISH STAFF
Pastor
Rev. George M. Witt, S.J.
Pastoral Associates
Joanne Cunneen
Kathryn King, F.S.P.
Associate Pastors
Rev. William J. Bergen, S.J.
Rev. James L. Dugan, S.J.
Rev. Ugo R. Nacciarone, S.J.
Rev. Anthony P. SooHoo, S.J.
Assisting Priests (Sunday)
Rev. Philip G. Judge, S.J.
Rev. Stephen Katsouros, S.J.
Rev. James Martin, S.J.

Music Ministries
Kent Tritle, Director
Renée Anne Louprette
Nancianne Parrella
Robert Reuter
Mary Huff
Michael Sheetz
Philip Anderson
Eris Acheson, Administrator
Staff information: on the website at music/music staff

Director of Development
Mary Reed
Assistant to the Pastor
Diane M. Boyle
Administrative Assistant
Patricia Schneider
Director of Facilities
Czeslaw “Chester” Ciupinski
Events Coordinator
Katy Krauland
Treasurer
Fernando Castro

Religious Education
for Children
Joanne Cunneen, M.A., M.S. Director
(212) 861-4764

St. Ignatius Loyola
Grammar School
Ms. Mary Larkin, M.S. Ed.
Principal
48 East 84th Street
New York, NY 10028
(212) 861-3820 Fax: (212) 879-8248

St. Ignatius Loyola
Day Nursery
Ms. Theodora Crist, M.S.
Executive Director
240 East 84th Street
New York, NY 10028
(212) 734-6427 Fax: (212) 734-6972

Children’s Liturgy of the Word:
Sundays at the 9:30 AM Mass and
the 11:00 AM Mass in Wallace Hall.

Eucharistic Adoration:
First Saturdays at 9:00 AM in the Lady Chapel.

Centering Prayer:
Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Confessions:
5:00 PM Saturday or by appointment. Communal Penance Services are celebrated during Advent and Lent.

Baptisms:
Please call Joanne Cunneen at the Parish House to arrange for a Baptism and the preparation given prior to Baptism.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults:
Contact Maureen Fullam, M.A., Director, at the Parish House.

Marriages:
The Bride or Groom should call Joanne Cunneen at the Parish House to begin preparation for Marriage, normally one year in advance.

Music Information: (212) 288-2520 Email: music@stignatiusloyola.org

Visit www.sacredspace.ie