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Ever Dream of Being a Jesuit?

Suzie Perry

JHE Resources Editor, Regis University / Argosy University, sperry@regis.edu

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Ever Dream of Being a Jesuit? Here's the Next Best Thing!

Suzanne Perry
JHE Resources Editor
Regis University
(sperry@regis.edu)

The purpose of this section of the Journal is to provide Jesuit/Ignatian resources for use in instruction, inspiration, contemplation and action. **Resource suggestions from our readers are warmly received. Contact Dr. Suzie Perry at the email address noted above.**

Who wouldn't want to be a Jesuit? Jesuits are cool and sometimes controversial. The Catholic order of the Jesuits is the largest in America as well as around the globe. Jesuits are famous for going out into the world and getting their hands dirty through their preferential option for the poor and their passion for social justice. They play a key role as educators, and number scientists, musicians, lawyers, actors, authors, administrators and numerous other professions among their ranks. The latest and greatest news is that the new pope, Pope Francis I, is a Jesuit.

Regretfully, most of us lack the ten or more years for formation before taking final Jesuit vows. About half of us are not the necessary gender, either. But take heart! At least we can get breaking news about the Jesuits in a superb online newsletter, *National Jesuit News* at <http://www.jesuit.org/blog/>.¹ *National Jesuit News* has all of the latest reports about the Jesuits and the site is rich with videos, podcasts, and archives from previous issues. For those who are ready to take the next step, there is even a Path to Priesthood.

Ever wonder what Jesuits think about? The 12 blogs in the newsletter, all written by Jesuits, deftly answer that question. They don't think alike at all. Each blog is very different from the others. This is the perfect opportunity to channel our inner Jesuits. From the poetry and music of Paul Brian Campbell's blog to the color and resources of John Predmore's offerings, there is a resonance opportunity for each of us.

We also have the new opportunity to take a Jesuit with us! The *Jesuits* phone app, available for both Apple and Android, brings us an abbreviated yet still powerful version of *National Jesuit News*

along with some special features.² The app offers three sections: **Locations**, **News**, and **Prayer**.

Locations


Within this detailed section we can find all of the primary Jesuit locations in the United States. Parishes, retreat centers, colleges and universities are all highlighted in this area via a clever pop-up map. If we want to visit, directions and contact information are included as well.

News

We can vicariously experience "Jesuitness" by picturing ourselves in the latest Jesuit news posts. This process of using our imaginations, a time honored Jesuit practice, will stand us in good stead if we decide to take the Spiritual Exercises, or would rather be on the beach than in our offices.

Prayer

Even the most heroic Jesuits need prayers, so this section is just the ticket for them and for us. Here, some of the most inspiring and consoling prayers from The Society of Jesus can be found.

If becoming a Jesuit is not in the cards for us, at least now we have a website for our computers and an app for our pockets. Both are tremendous resources that are bound to help us keep our Jesuit-envy at a manageable level! 

Notes

¹ *National Jesuit News*, accessed May 2, 2013, <http://www.jesuit.org/blog/>.

² "Mobile: The Society of Jesus in the United States," accessed May 2, 2013, <http://www.jesuit.org/about/press-and-publications/mobile/>.