



# Jesuit Jubilee 2006

**A** VISION, a mission, a prayer. More than words, they embody the spirit of Jesuit Jubilee 2006, which commemorates the 450th anniversary of the death of Ignatius Loyola (July 31, 1556) and the 500th anniversary of the births of Francis Xavier (April 13, 1506) and Peter Faber (April 7, 1506).

It is Ignatius's growing vision of a society, Xavier's mission to the Far East, and Peter Faber's years of prayer in offering the Spiritual Exercises in Europe that we celebrate.

They met in Paris in 1529. Ignatius—a former soldier and dilettante, practically an old man at age 38—had become serious about his studies and finally mastered enough Latin to enroll at the Collège Sainte Barbe. Xavier and Faber, both 23, were students and roommates there.

It was improbable but providential that ambitious Ignatius, noble Xavier, and humble Faber became the nucleus of the future Society of Jesus. They were joined over the next few years by Diego Laínez, Alfonso Salmerón, Nicolás Alfonzo, and Simón Rodríguez. The group made vows of poverty and chastity on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, 1534, in Montmartre, in a chapel high above Paris. They also vowed to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land as their first ministry.

The Jubilee year began on December 3, the feast of St. Francis Xavier. The Mass at which Father General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, presided in Pamplona, Spain, was just the first of worldwide events to commemorate this yearlong event.

Jesuits from Spain, the United States, and Ireland are organizing pilgrimages

to sites in Spain—Ignatius's birthplace and homeland—including Montserrat, Barcelona, and his and Xavier's ancestral homes.

Other pilgrimages in the works will focus on Xavier's missionary work in the Far East, that place for which he yearned and where he died. French Jesuits are preparing walking tours of Paris that will include sites frequented by Ignatius, Xavier, Faber, and the other first Jesuits. Still others will focus on Jesuit sites in the Holy Land.

A major international conference in Loyola, Spain, in August, will focus on the Spiritual Exercises, while another in Rome in October will be devoted to the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus.

The arts figure into the Jubilee year as well, a reflection of the Society's long history of engagement in music, dance, and literature. Among the works that have been commissioned is the image on this issue's cover, created by Fr. George Drance, SJ, artist-in-residence at Fordham University. (Postcards and posters bearing this image are available through the Jesuit Conference, [www.jesuit.org](http://www.jesuit.org).)

The three hymns included in the film *A.M.D.G.—A World is Not Enough* (see pages 18–20), are new compositions not only for the Jubilee film but also a contribution to the living canon of liturgical music.

Playwright Fr. Ernest Ferlita, SJ, professor emeritus of drama at Loyola University New Orleans, has written *Companions*, a play featuring Ignatius, Xavier, Faber, and the other early Jesuits. The author welcomes Jesuit schools interested in performing the work to download the script royalty-free. (At [www.norprov.org](http://www.norprov.org), go to “what's new” and click on “publications.”) The play is being translated into Spanish for a performance in Venezuela and will be performed in the United States as well.

Look to the next few pages and future issues of *Company* in 2006 for stories and news about the Jubilee year. **C**



EILEEN MILLER

The New York Province of the Society of Jesus started its Jubilee year with a Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church in Manhattan celebrated by pastor Fr. Ned Coughlin, SJ, Cardinal Avery Dulles, SJ, and Fr. David Ciancimino, SJ.

More information about the events, conferences, tours, and exhibits being planned for Jesuit Jubilee 2006 is at [www.jesuit.org](http://www.jesuit.org). Links to Jesuit provinces lead to specific information about how the Jubilee is being commemorated in your province.