

Bloggers

Webster defines a blog as “a web site that contains an online personal journal with reflections, comments, and often hyperlinks provided by the writer.” Part of the new social media, it’s no surprise that many people connected with the Society of Jesus have embraced this new technology to share their experiences and faith through blogging. Here’s a sampling of Jesuit-related blogs from around the web.

DIARY OF A ROOKIE PRIEST

ON JUNE 14, 2008 I WAS ORDAINED A CATHOLIC PRIEST. SO, WHO AM I NOW?

Being a new priest is kind of on-the-job training, especially if like me you’re offering Mass in a variety of places (I offered Mass in Frankfurt, Germany tonight!). Every place does things a little different. And, things that have fallen out of fashion in one place, may be all the rage in another—the beauty and complexity of the Church Catholic!

Fr. Mark Mossa, SJ, who is studying theology at Fordham University, was ordained in the summer of 2008, and in an early entry of his blog explains his purpose: “I am a new priest, and though I’m a little fearful, I’m looking forward to discovering what that means. That is what I’ll be writing about here.”

www.frmarkmossasj.blogspot.com

Holy Cross

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It’s been a good day. I took a sociology exam this morning, went to Greek, and then passed out for three hours. I was so out of it that at one point, about an hour into my nap, I shot out of bed in a frenzy thinking that I had missed my Latin class at 2 (it was 3 at the time). When I calmed down a minute later and realized that I don’t even have Latin on Wednesdays, I put down the books I was starting to pack and collapsed back onto bed for an epic snooze. Just goes to show how tightly wound I’ve been lately.

—Classics major Melissa Browne, '12

Holy Cross hosts a variety of bloggers to give potential students a glimpse into life at the school. Admissions officers blog about the admissions process; there’s another dedicated to photos of the campus. Some student bloggers share their lives from move-in to graduation. One’s a scholar-athlete, others are Holy Cross students involved in social service or studying abroad.

<http://me.holycross.edu>

Jesuits
and their lay
colleagues alike are
using “social media”
to express themselves
on the web

A Jesuit's Journey

Over the course of this week, I had the occasion to share with the freshmen, sophomore, and senior classes that I count myself blessed to say unabashedly that I love my life. I wake up each morning and I thank God for having invited me into the Jesuits, and I thank God for the grace that gave me the strength to accept the invitation.

Ryan Duns, SJ, entered the Society of Jesus in 2004, and like many Jesuits before him, headed to the novitiate. Unlike his predecessors, Duns started a blog—that now has over 600 posts—to chronicle the process of formation that he’s going through as a Jesuit.

On his blog, he shares his thoughts on his vocational journey, his love of Irish music, and his current experiences teaching at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy for his regency.

www.ryandunssj.blogspot.com



Ignatius has the answer. It is about changing desires, conforming them to Christ, begging for the gift of actual simplicity, and then proving our detachment by giving as alms two-thirds of what we own. Such true Ignatian living would change the very fabric of our economy and world. —Nathan O’Halloran, SJ, in an entry on living in poverty

Started in the summer of 2009, *Whosoever Desires* has six Jesuit contributors: Aaron Pidel, Jeff Johnson, and Brian Reedy, all students of theology at Boston College; Michael Magree, a teacher at St. Joseph’s Prep in Philadelphia; Vincent Strand, a philosophy student at Fordham University; and Nathan O’Halloran, a regent at Jesuit High in New Orleans.

On their “FAQ” page, they explain the purpose of the blog is “to address art, music, politics, culture—everything that moves us—in light of our faith in God, which is to say, contemplatively.”

www.whosoeverdesires.wordpress.com



I still use the Ignatian methods almost every day, from examination of conscience back to the methods of the 30-day retreat. I do that very often. Using the whole process of discernment to see where the Spirit is moving me has been extremely important, especially in my recent decision to support the health-care reform plan. The Jesuit emphasis on social justice, the fact that we have to advocate for the poor, for the widow, for those who cannot help themselves, plays a very significant part.

—Anh “Joseph” Cao in response to NJN’s question, “Do you find that you use the Ignatian principles of discernment as you reach your political decisions?”

The September 2009 issue of *National Jesuit News* marked the last print edition of the 38-year-old publication by the Jesuit Conference in Washington, D.C. *National Jesuit News* has been reinvented as a blog with regularly updated news about the Jesuits and their lay colleagues. A recent NJN exclusive was an interview with U.S. Representative and former Jesuit seminarian Anh “Joseph” Cao (R-La.) after he was the lone Republican to vote for landmark health-care reform on November 7, 2009.

www.nationaljesuitnews.org



We met as a group to talk about our community as a whole. We talked about what’s been going well, what we would like to change, and set some new goals. We decided to set a weekly ‘Simple Living Challenge’ (e.g., only buying food from the local farmer’s market or cutting out TV for the week), focus more on the JVC value of spirituality, and be more present to each other on a regular basis.

A 2009 member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) in Baltimore, Tom O’Keefe writes that his blog “chronicles my time before, during, and, perhaps, even after my service and will act as a way to reflect on my experiences.” Subjects include his teaching experiences at Cristo Rey Jesuit High in Baltimore, living in community, and “coping with being known as ‘Mr. O’Keefe’ (yikes!).”

Several other members of his JVC community also have blogs; he provides links to their sites from his.

www.thevolunteacher.wordpress.com