

# minims & maxims

CHRIS SMITH



## Former Jesuit School Gets Makeover

The West Baden Springs Hotel near French Lick, Indiana, was an upper-crust vacation spot known for its spring waters. Built in 1902, this architectural landmark (the domed roof is 100 feet up) accommodated hordes of vacationers who came for the waters and the

gambling, not necessarily in that order.

The Depression, however, took its toll. The place fell into disrepair and closed. Its days as a resort over, the Society of Jesus bought it for \$1 in 1934. For the next 30 years it served as a philosophy and theology

school for Jesuits.

The West Baden Springs Hotel is once again open for business, having been restored to its former splendor by new owners and renamed French Lick Resort Casino, offering gambling (legal this time), golf, and, of course, a spa.

## Mission in Afghanistan

After two years in Afghanistan, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) has opened a second mission in the war-torn country to assist people in rebuilding their lives. The new mission opened May 15 in the heart of Bamiyan, an impoverished region in central Afghanistan. The first mission in Afghanistan opened in Herat, in the western part of the country, in 2005. According to South Asian Provincial Fr. Hector D'Souza, SJ, the JRS hopes to act as "catalysts enabling the local community to bring about a transformation for a brighter future."

JRS representative in Afghanistan Fr. Antony Santiago, SJ, outlined their programs, which include teacher training programs, providing learning materials and English courses, developing exchange programs, upgrading library and laboratory facilities, and strengthening the country's educational infrastructure.

—AsiaNews and JRS

## New Wine, New Wineskins

At one time, Jesuit vineyards in California produced 150,000 gallons of wine annually (with help from novices, below), but declining sales of altar wine and a competitive commercial market led to its closure in 1986. Entrepreneurs tried to reopen the winery, but it wasn't until Rob and Diana Jensen—both Santa Clara University grads (right)—tried their hand that the venture was "fruitful" once again.

The winery, now called Testarossa, offers 30 bottlings of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Syrah—all, Rob claims, featuring a trademark silky finish.

In 2005, the Jensens resurrected the Jesuit's *Novitiate* label for special bottlings of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir Rosés; a portion

of the sale of those wines goes to the Jesuit retirement home in Los Gatos. —*Mission* magazine





COURTESY OF SOTHEBY'S NEW YORK

## In the Millions

*Jesuiten III*, a painting by Lyonel Feininger (1871–1956), was recently auctioned by Sotheby's in New York for an astounding \$23,280,000. This figure was well above the \$9 million the 24" x 30" painting, created in 1915, was estimated to bring at the auction and close to three times as much as a previous Feininger painting recently fetched at an auction.

Feininger was born in New York City but lived and studied music and art for many years in Germany. During his varied career he was a graphic artist, cartoonist, and caricaturist with a definite anti-establishment and irreverent streak. Feininger was a musician and composer as well as a painter, and he was also one of the founders of the Bauhaus School in Germany.

David Norman, Sotheby's co-chair for Impressionist and Modern art, warns that Feininger was perhaps no great friend of the Jesuits, judging from the artist's representation of them as austere and aloof in this painting. Art historian Ulrich Luckhardt weighs in on this topic: "The figures recollect [Feininger's] own encounters with the Jesuits and their strict schooling, which he experienced when his father punished him in 1890 by sending him to a Jesuit school in Liège, Belgium."

## Vietnam Now a Jesuit Province

Jesuit superior general Peter-Hans Kolvenbach traveled to Vietnam in July to establish the nation as a full-fledged Jesuit province. Jesuits arrived in what is now Vietnam during a period of intense missionary work in the seventeenth century and worked there until the suppression of the Society in the eighteenth.

Jesuits returned to Vietnam in 1953 when Jesuits expelled from Mao's China were invited to minister to Vietnam's Chinese residents. Jesuits later ran a seminary and established student centers and a novitiate. In 1975, political upheavals resulted in foreign missionaries being expelled from Vietnam. At that time there were 11 Jesuit priests, 10 scholastics, 1 brother, 4 novices, and 15 candidates; today Vietnam boasts 38 priests, 45 scholastics, 20 brothers, 31 novices, and 150 candidates.

—SJ Electronic Information Service



COURTESY OF NASA

## Gonzaga Alumnus Aboard Space Shuttle

The crew of the space shuttle *Endeavour*, which lifted off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida on August 8, included Col. Benjamin Drew, USAF, an alumnus ('80) of Gonzaga College High in Washington, D.C. After finishing their task of taking parts and supplies to the space station, they returned on August 21.

Drew, who finished Gonzaga in three years, graduated with bachelor's degrees in physics and astronautical engineering from the Air Force Academy.

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## Youth Pilgrimage

For one week this July, young adults from Slovakia, Poland, and the Czech Republic walked and biked, camping out along the way, to Presov, a city in Slovakia. They were taking part in *Xavierada*, a yearly pilgrimage organized by Eastern European Jesuits.

The event focuses on a different topic each year. This year, the pilgrims set out to uncover the Christian heritage of Eastern Slovakia, following the footsteps of the Kosice martyrs—Marko Krizin and Jesuits Stjepan Pongrac and

Melchior Grodecky—who were executed in the region during a period of Calvinist rule. The *Xavierada* pilgrims eventually made their way to the Jesuit retreat house in Presov, where provincial Jan Dacok, SJ, celebrated Mass with them.

According to pilgrimage organizer Ladislav Sulik, SJ, the martyrs gave their lives for the preservation of the Catholic faith there. At retreat's end, says Sulik, he hopes that the historical journey taught the pilgrims that "God is love, and cannot be proclaimed in violence."

## Jesuit Archbishop



Canadian Jesuit Terrence Prendergast has been appointed the archbishop of Ottawa in Ontario. After completing studies at St. Mary's in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and at Fordham University in the Bronx, he served as rector and dean at Regis College in Toronto and taught at the École Biblique in Jerusalem. He served as auxiliary bishop of Toronto and archbishop of Halifax, Nova Scotia, before this appointment.



## New Cristo Rey Schools

The doors swung open on two new Jesuit Cristo Rey High Schools this fall, one in Baltimore and the other in St. Paul (right).

The Baltimore Symphony and Best Buy are among the corporate sponsors of these new schools. These sponsors—law firms, banks, and hospitals among them—hire Cristo Rey students to work one day a week in entry-level positions; their salaries pay 70 percent of their tuition, making a Catholic education affordable. Longer school days and lengthened school years make up for the work day.

All told, seven new Cristo Rey schools opened this fall,

bringing the total to nineteen—and more are in the planning stages.



While many Cristo Rey schools, including the first one, in Chicago, were founded by Jesuits, others are being sponsored by other religious orders and dioceses. More information on Cristo Rey schools is at [www.cristoreynetwork.org](http://www.cristoreynetwork.org).



## Priesthood Called Three Brothers

The three priests in this photo have something else in common: they're family.

Growing up in Ingram, Pennsylvania, Eugene, Patrick, and John Geinzer played with a miniature altar their grandfather built. Today, Eugene is a Jesuit who teaches art in

Beijing, Patrick is a Passionist priest at St. Paul Monastery in Pittsburgh, and John is a diocesan priest at St. Barbara Catholic Church in Collier, Pennsylvania. All three came together at St. Barbara this August to celebrate Mass.

—Pittsburgh Post Gazette