



# St. Francis Xavier

## K-8 Jesuit Parish School

*Recognizing the distinct possibilities in every child through faith, character and education.*

### **What does it mean when we say Academic Excellence in the Ignatian Tradition?**

The word “Ignatian” is used to describe the vision, the charism, the principles of operation that arise from the life and writings of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuit Order). The Ignatian vision, charism, or principles can be applied to broad variety of ministries in which Jesuits and their lay colleagues are involved, such as: education, missionary work, social justice initiatives, refugee service, pastoral ministries, retreat work and spiritual direction. Some” Ignatian expressions” are: to find God in all things; to seek to do what is for the greater honor and glory of God; to be children, women and men for others; to live a faith that does justice; to use our gifts, talents and abilities in service of others.

At St. Francis Xavier School we teach our children that everything we do is to be done to the best of our ability, for the greater honor and glory of the God who created us in love. Also, the development of our gifts and talents is not just for ourselves and our own advancement but that our gifts and talents are to be put to the service of others, to building up of the community.

The Jesuit Order has a long history in the field of education. The goal has been to educate people in the arts and sciences; to educate the “whole” person, body, mind and spirit; to educate people to be critical thinkers and have tools for decision-making. Part of Ignatian education is having a commitment to **excellence** in all that we do.

When a student graduates from St. Francis Xavier he or she is:

Intellectually competent

Religious (no matter what their faith tradition)

Open to growth

Loving

Committed to doing justice

Each of these goals is full of meaning and they are not just ideals but achievable realities.

The following pages include information on the Society of Jesus and its influences on our school and parish community.



## Early History

The first Jesuits to arrive in the region of what is now the California Province were Eusebio Kino, S.J., and his fellow missionaries, who in the early 18th century, ventured into what is now Arizona. More than 20 Jesuits worked in this area for nearly seventy-five years. Mission San Xavier del Bac near Tucson and other mission churches are a monument to their labors. In 1767 the Jesuits were expelled from the Spanish dominions, and in 1773 the Pope issued an edict of suppression, which lasted until 1814.



San Xavier de Bac

Modern Jesuit history in California began on December 8, 1849, when two priests, Michael Accolti and John Nobili, arrived in San Francisco from the Oregon Territory. They began their ministry working in St. Joseph Church in San Jose and at nearby Mission Santa Clara. Other Jesuits soon joined the two pioneers and in 1854 California became a Mission of the Jesuits' Turin Province in Italy. Due to religious persecution and the closing of all Jesuit colleges there, Turin was able to supply highly trained personnel to the new Mission.

During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the work in California expanded so that in 1909 the Mission became a fully independent Province. At that time the territory also included what had been the Rocky Mountain Mission, covering the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana, as well as the mission territory of Alaska. In 1932, this Northwest section became the Oregon Province.

## Universities and High Schools

Work in education, which was always linked to pastoral ministry, started early on. In 1851, Archbishop Joseph Alemany of San Francisco entrusted the old Franciscan Santa Clara Mission to Frs. Accolti and Nobili as a foundation for a school that became the first institution of higher education in California. Santa Clara University and Bellarmine College Preparatory, San Jose, both date from this venture. A College was established in San Francisco in 1855, which grew into the University of San Francisco and St. Ignatius College Preparatory.



Mission Santa Clara, 1849

In 1911 Los Angeles College was started, later becoming today's Loyola Marymount University and Loyola High School. In 1928 Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix opened. Expansion continued during more recent times. In 1963 Jesuit High School, Sacramento, opened its doors. Since 1970 Jesuits have staffed the Newman Center at the University of Hawaii. Also the Province has recently begun to staff Verbum Dei High School for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. In San Jose the Province has entered into an arrangement with a local parish to co-sponsor Sacred Heart Nativity School. Jesuits working in schools and universities thus serve students from a wide range



University of San Francisco  
First church and Jesuit residence, 1855

of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. All these institutions provide sizable financial aid to those unable to afford the tuition.

### **Parishes**

Parish work was the first apostolate given to the Jesuits in California, with St. Joseph's Church, San Jose. A Jesuit parish from 1849 until 1992, it is now St. Joseph's Cathedral. Other parishes followed, some for a short period of time, others continuing to serve changing populations.

Work with immigrant communities has been a significant ministry from the beginnings of the Province in San Jose. These communities include Italians, Portuguese, Irish, Germans and Mexicans. In addition to the apostolate in urban San Jose, Jesuits ministered in the nineteenth century to Mexican workers in the New Almaden mines south of the city. Our Lady of Sorrows parish, established in 1909 in Santa Barbara, is another early example of ministry to the Spanish-speaking. Our Lady of Guadalupe parish has served the needs of the Mexican community in San Diego since 1941. In 1980, Jesuits were given charge of Dolores Mission, a Latino parish and one of the poorest parishes in Los Angeles.



St. Joseph's Catholic Church, San Jose, CA

Jesuits have staffed Most Holy Trinity parish, San Jose, since 1992, serving a large Latino, Vietnamese and Filipino population. Work with the African-American community started in 1942 with the establishment of Christ the King parish in San Diego. Since 1952 Jesuit parishes have served Native Americans, Mexicans and others in Utah. In addition, urban parishes such as Blessed Sacrament, Hollywood, (1914), St. Francis Xavier, Phoenix (1928), St. Ignatius, Sacramento (1954) and St. Agnes (1994) and St. Ignatius (1997), San Francisco, minister to multi-ethnic congregations.

### **Retreats**

El Retiro Retreat House, Los Altos, established in 1925, offers the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius in individual and group retreats. The Loyola Institute for Spirituality, Orange, Calif., has since 1997 continued the retreat program established in the late 1920s in Southern California.

### **Social Ministries**

For many years, the addressing of social problems was done primarily in educational settings with the establishment of labor-management schools and other programs in the universities. The 1970s saw the establishment of apostolic ventures designed for ministry directly with the poor. An early effort was the Pacific Institute for Community Organization in Oakland. Established in 1973, the Institute trains local leadership to solve local problems. In 1986, Proyecto Pastoral was established in Los Angeles as an umbrella organization to coordinate the efforts of Jesuits working in various Hispanic social ministries. For these Jesuits, Proyecto serves to facilitate theological reflection on and social analysis of the problems they are working to correct.



El Retiro Retreat House, Los Altos

### **Missions**

Mission work has always been a constituent part of Province activities. When the Pacific Northwest was part of the Province, ministry to Native American peoples was an important part of our work. Starting in 1928, the Province sent men to missions in Mainland China and, when that was no longer possible by the early 1950s, to Taiwan. The California Province has also assigned Jesuits to work in Mexico and Central America. Today, the California Province contributes to international work through cooperation with Jesuit provinces in South America and Africa.

### **Jesuit Formation**

The training of Jesuit novices, originally done at Santa Clara, shifted to Los Gatos with the establishment of Sacred Heart Novitiate in 1888. In 1963, a new novitiate was established in Santa Barbara. Currently the novitiate is located in Culver City. In-province theological training for Jesuits was established in 1934 with the opening of Alma College in the Santa Cruz Mountains near Los Gatos.



Sacred Heart Jesuit Center

In 1969 the theologate moved to Berkeley, to join more closely with the other member schools of the ecumenical Graduate Theological Union. Renamed the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley and now administered nationally, it continues its mission to prepare Jesuits, as well as other religious and lay men and women for ministry in the Church.

### **Toward the future**

The California Province continues its mission by building on its historical foundations and adapting itself to the apostolic needs of the twenty-first century. Hallmarks of our efforts are collaboration with lay men and women in the Ignatian charism of service of faith and the promotion of justice, solidarity with the poor and marginalized, and the evangelization of culture.