



Father Chris Manahan, S.J.

My Jesuit life started late, when I was 37 years old, after I had been working as a newspaper reporter and editor in Albert Lea, MN, and Cedar Rapids, IA. I was looking for a balance of the professional, personal, and spiritual in my life, and found it in the Society. When I entered as a novice in 1993 it was based on the good effect that I saw the Society's formation process had on my brother Tom, who entered in 1985 and was ordained in 1995, and is currently missioned to Marquette University High School in Milwaukee. The same good effect has been part of my own Jesuit life, and I am grateful for the decision that God helped me make 20 years ago to follow Tom's example.

After my ordination in 2003 I was sent to Saint Francis Mission on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota to work as a parish priest for two years; for nine months in 2005-2006 I was sent to study and work with Jesuits in the Philippines and India to prepare me for final vows as a Jesuit; and, for the past eight years I have been working with the novices at our novitiate in Saint Paul, MN, providing spiritual direction, the Spiritual Exercises, and guidance in their ministries and formation as they discern whether to make vows as Jesuits.

It was during my time as a novice that I first came to the Jesuit Retreat House at Oshkosh. It was a very enjoyable experience, from January through May of 1995, when novices are sent to work full time in a Jesuit apostolate prior to making vows to determine whether the experience confirms their decision to become a Jesuit. My work with Father Dick McCaslin, SJ, Sr. Marie Schwan, CSJ, and Fr. Gene Zimmerman, SJ, along with the Retreat House staff and the many retreatants who I came to know, helped confirm my vocation.

I was born July 30, 1956, the eighth of nine children of Cyril and Madeleine Manahan, in Rochester, Minnesota; graduated in 1974 from Lourdes High School in Rochester; graduated in 1978 from University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, in political science and journalism; worked 1978-1982 as a reporter/editor for the Albert Lea (MN) Evening Tribune; and worked 1982-1991 as an editor at The Gazette in Cedar Rapids, IA. While discerning my possible religious vocation, I graduated in 1993 from University of Northern Iowa with an education degree for secondary level Social Studies before I entered the Jesuit Novitiate in August 1993. During my Jesuit studies I graduated in 1998 from Saint Louis University with a master's degree in American Studies; and in 2003 received my master of divinity degree from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, CA. I was ordained June 6, 2003, at St. Luke's Church, Saint Paul, MN.