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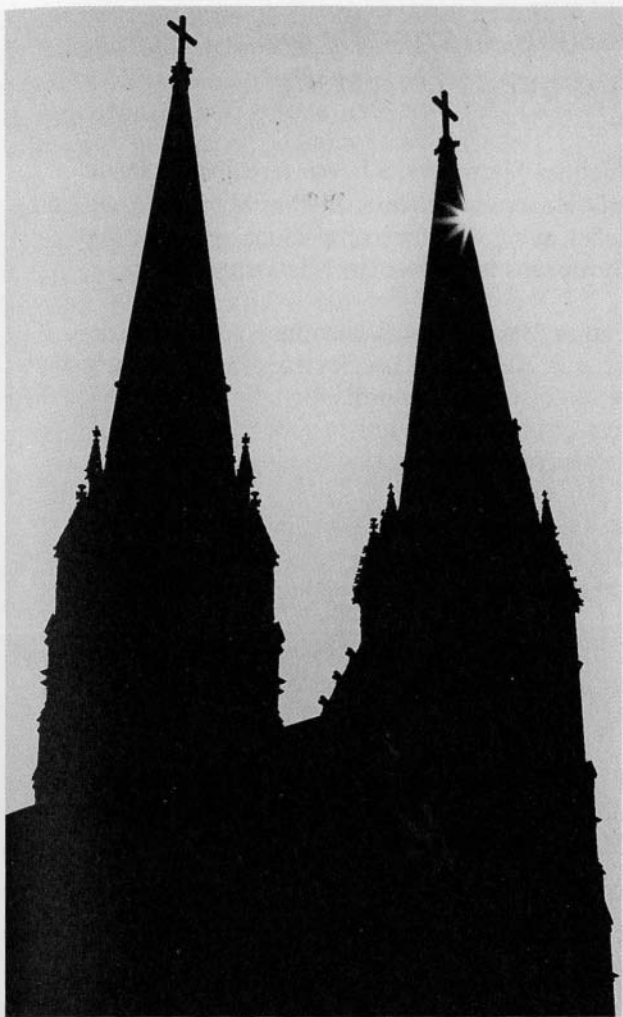
## Some Noteworthy Jesuits

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*Some  
Noteworthy Jesuits*

## *Jacques Marquette and Marquette University*

**J**acques Marquette, S.J., was a renowned Jesuit missionary and explorer. Father Marquette and Louis Joliet, along with five companions, were the first Europeans to explore the Mississippi River.

Father Marquette was born June 1, 1637 in Laon, France. He entered the Society of Jesus at the age of seventeen. After his ordination, he traveled to Quebec, introducing Christianity to Native Americans. He moved from tribe to tribe by following rivers.

In the course of his two-year journey exploring the Mississippi River, he recorded information regarding the topography and animal life in the Midwest.

On May 18, 1675, Father Marquette died at the age of thirty-seven near the present-day city of Ludington, Michigan.

Father Marquette's life testifies to faith, service, and discovery, a rich legacy and a continual challenge to Marquette University.

The origins of Marquette University date from 1848 when the Most Reverend John Martin Henni, first bishop of Milwaukee, obtained money to establish a Jesuit college. In 1855 Jesuits agreed to staff St. Gall's Parish, but they lacked personnel for a college.

The Wisconsin Legislature eventually granted a charter for Marquette College in 1864, and in 1881 seven Jesuits opened the college in September. By the end of that year, 77 students were enrolled. The first graduation was held in 1887 with five students receiving Bachelor of Arts degrees.



## *Saint Robert Bellarmine*

Saint Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621), an Italian, entered the Jesuits in 1560. He quickly showed great talent in languages, philosophy, and theology. After six years teaching at Louvain, Belgium, he became professor of controversial theology at Rome in 1576. He published dozens of books, including a famous catechism. In 1599 he was named a cardinal and worked closely with a number of popes. His last twenty years were devoted to administration and writing.

## *Saint Paul Miki*

Saint Paul Miki (1564-1597) was born in Japan. Francis Xavier brought Christianity to Japan in 1549, where its rapid growth (there were 200,000 Christians by 1590) alarmed Japanese rulers and forced the church underground. Paul Miki's family converted when he was still a boy. He entered the Jesuits in 1586; just before his ordination to the priesthood, he was arrested with two other Japanese Jesuits. The three Jesuits were crucified with six Franciscan friars and fifteen other Japanese.

## *Matteo Ricci*

**Matteo Ricci** (1550-1610) pioneered Jesuit efforts to christianize China. He studied science and mathematics at Rome, theology in India, and Chinese at Macao. The Jesuit strategy for China was to use western science to win the respect and support of Chinese intellectuals and gain the Emperor's assent to Christian preaching. Speaking and writing Chinese and wearing mandarin robes, Ricci established a Jesuit residence at Beijing in 1601 where for 150 years Jesuit scientists and scholars secured imperial favor and fostered interchange between eastern and western intellectuals.

## *Robert de Nobili*

**Robert de Nobili's** career (1577-1656) parallels that of Matteo Ricci, a Jesuit working in China. He entered the Jesuits in 1596 and sailed for India after eight years of study. Before Nobili, Indian Christians were westernized and lived under Portuguese protection. Nobili felt that Indian Christianity should retain as much Indian culture and customs as were compatible with the faith. He learned Tamil and Sanskrit and studied ancient Indian religion. In 1623 Gregory XV approved his approach, and he converted 4,000 Indians, many of them Brahmins, the elite who earlier had scorned Christianity.

## *Blessed Miguel Pro*

**Blessed Miguel Pro** (1891-1927), who was born and raised in Mexico, entered the Jesuits in 1911, but a bitterly anti-Catholic regime forced Jesuit seminarians to flee to California in 1914. After studies in California, Spain, and Belgium, Pro returned home one month before the government closed every church in Mexico. Soldiers hunted down priests, who distributed the sacraments in secret. Pro was arrested and executed. His last cry as he faced the firing squad was, "Long live Christ the King."

## *Saint Peter Claver*

**Saint Peter Claver** (1580-1654) attended the Jesuit college at Barcelona and entered the Jesuits in 1602. Eight years later he was assigned to Cartagena, Colombia, then the world's greatest slave market. Peter devoted his life to meeting slave ships. The voyage from Africa usually killed a third of the Africans; survivors were shattered in body and spirit. Peter brought them food, compassion and Christian faith. In forty-four years he baptized 300,000 Africans.

## *Saint Aloysius Gonzaga*

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga (1568-1591) was the heir to an illustrious Italian noble family and spent his youth as a page at the Spanish court. But courtly pomp drove him to reflect on the gospels. He entered the Jesuits in 1585 and studied at Rome, where he volunteered to help the plague stricken and died a martyr of charity. He was only twenty-three years old when he died.

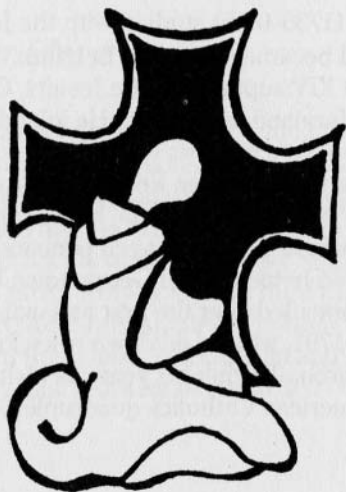
## *John Carroll*

John Carroll (1735-1815) studied with the Jesuits in Maryland and became a Jesuit in Belgium. In 1774, after Clement XIV suppressed the Jesuits, Carroll returned to Maryland as a priest. He joined Benjamin Franklin's fruitless effort to encourage Canada to join the American Revolution. Appointed in 1790 the first American bishop, he was stationed in Baltimore where he encouraged education for men and women and helped found Georgetown University in 1789. He presided over the first national synod of bishops in 1791, which laid down rules for the American church. During his years as bishop, the number of American Catholics quadrupled.



## *Gerard Manley Hopkins*

**G**erard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889) was an Englishman who wrote several of the prayer-poems printed in this book. He was educated at Oxford where he converted to Catholicism. In 1866 he entered the Jesuits; finishing his training, he served as a parish priest at Liverpool and a teacher at Dublin. Late in life he began writing poems that broke new ground in the use of the English language. His poems were not published until 1918, almost thirty years after his death.



## *Saint Peter Canisius*

**Saint Peter Canisius** (1521-1597) was born in the Netherlands but studied at Cologne, Germany. He entered the Jesuits in 1543 and spent most of his life in Germany and Switzerland, founding Jesuit colleges, teaching, preaching, and writing his famous series of catechisms. He has been called the Second Apostle of Germany because he did so much to prevent the spread of Lutheranism in Germany and Austria.

## *Saint Francis Borgia*

**Saint Francis Borgia** (1510-1572) was born into a wealthy Spanish family. His father was the Duke of Gandia in Valencia, and his mother was also of royal lineage. He married a noble lady, and together they had eight sons. But his wife died suddenly in 1546, and Borgia entered the Jesuits in 1548. In 1565, Borgia was elected the third superior general of the Jesuits. During his generalate, he revised the Jesuit constitutions, encouraged a deeper sense of personal prayer among Jesuits, built the Church of the Gesu in Rome, opened new mission territories in India and in North and South America, and used his wealth to reorganize the Roman College, which eventually became the Gregorian University.

## *Saint Edmund Campion*

**Saint Edmund Campion** (1540-1581) was an Englishman who was martyred for his faith in London by Elizabeth I's government. His studies at Oxford converted him to Catholicism. He joined the Jesuits in France because the Jesuits were not allowed to operate in England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. After his studies, he taught at Prague for several years before returning secretly to England in 1580. After a period of saying Mass for Catholics, he was captured, tortured, and executed.

## *Saint Francis Xavier*

**Saint Francis Xavier** (1506-1552) was Ignatius Loyola's roommate at the University of Paris and an outstanding athlete. Together with four fellow students, they formed the nucleus that grew into the Jesuit order. Xavier was the first and greatest Jesuit missionary, spreading the Catholic faith in India and Indonesia. He was the first missionary to Japan and died as he was trying to enter China.