

## BILL WOODY '03

JESUIT

**“Go forth and set the world on fire”** are the famous words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit order. While Bill Woody '03 has not yet traveled the whole globe, he has certainly answered the call to make a difference in the many communities he has served.

Following his graduation from the University of Scranton in 2011, Bill submitted an application to join the Jesuit novitiate. “Even during my times at Holy Child, the priesthood was at the back of my mind. It was never explicit, but it was always there. In getting to know the Jesuits at St. Joseph’s Preparatory and at Scranton, it was this process where my interest just kept growing over time.”

Bill’s decision resulted in a series of moves that our foundress Cornelia Connelly would surely title an “Actions Not Words” approach to life. After his period of discernment during the novitiate, he professed vows, receiving the title of Jesuit in August 2013. From the moment Bill entered, he has assisted in campus ministry, served as a hospital chaplain in the Bronx, instructed high school Latin and Greek, ministered to the sick in a cancer hospice, and taught college philosophy...just to name a few placements. His assignments have even taken him to Jamaica, where he worked for six months in adult faith formation and as an early childhood teacher. “It’s funny that I went from teaching high school Latin and Greek, to teaching kindergarten in Jamaica, and then after



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BOSTON, MA

that I was sent to teach college philosophy. The Jesuits have a joke, ‘Join the Jesuits, see the world,’” Bill chuckled. Bill most recently taught philosophy at the College of the Holy Cross following a Master in Philosophy from Fordham University.

While Bill attended Holy Child with his three siblings (Dan '01, Mary Ann '04, and Paddy '06), Holy Child was an extension of his family. “The School was not just an institution. It was also like home. The level of care was something that you really felt from the teachers at Holy Child. There was never a teacher I couldn’t approach. That was something that really marked me.”

Bill’s family introduced him to the Faith and made it a central focus in their family life, but faith formation, Bill said, “was inseparable from either my family or my time at Holy Child.”

“I think the most important faith lesson came from the way in which the School enabled us to put into practice the motto of ‘Actions Not Words.’ Lynn Gosnell P’00’02’05’06 in particular helped to make this a reality—she organized any number of programs to engage in service to others. Holy Child takes seriously the task of educating its students for service and to live out the phrase ‘Actions Not Words.’”

The adventure has continued for Bill who recently moved to Boston College where he has begun a Master of Theology. He is also anticipating his ordination in June 2021. While impending ordination brings with it the anticipation of celebrating mass and confession, and many other duties, Bill’s heart remains in the classroom, where he hopes to continue to live out his childhood dream of teaching. “I would love to return to teaching in higher education. There’s something very special about it—being able to go a little deeper into the material. It’s really a sacred time, and I’ve just been so privileged to be able to be involved in that.” ❖