

St. Peter Canisius, S.J. Award - Fr. Craig Boly, S.J. '62

St. Peter Canisius, S.J. is the patron saint of Jesuit High School. A contemporary of St. Ignatius of Loyola, he was a famous scholar, preacher, writer, and Apostle to Germany during the Reformation. The Catholic Church canonized him in 1925. This year we are pleased to present the St. Peter Canisius, S.J. Award to Fr. Craig Boly, S.J. '62.

Fr. Boly was born and raised in Portland and is the second of six sons. His older brother, Jeff, was in the first class at the newly opened Jesuit High School in 1956. Fr. Boly graduated from Jesuit in 1962, where he was inspired to join the Jesuit order. "The Jesuits were so diverse and yet they got along so well," recalls Fr. Boly. "They were smart, athletic, and interested in so many things. They were spiritual without being pious; they were grounded in humility."

Influenced by the Jesuits he had encountered, Fr. Boly entered the Jesuit Novitiate in Sheridan, Oregon in September 1962. After earning a master's degree in English in 1969 from Gonzaga University, Fr. Boly's studies for priesthood included teaching English and Latin at Seattle Prep High School from 1969-71, where he also directed plays, moderated the school newspaper, and coached basketball. He then studied theology at Regis College in Toronto, taught ethics at George Brown College, and volunteered at the local Suicide Prevention Clinic. Fr. Boly was ordained a priest in 1974.

After ordination, Fr. Boly spent the summer of 1974 at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Washington as a hospital chaplain. He became the campus minister at nearby Gonzaga Preparatory School in 1974-75, where he started the Search retreat program. He was part of the administrative team that transformed the all-boys Gonzaga Prep into a coeducational school in 1976. Fr. Boly returned to Toronto to earn a Ph.D. in systematic theology from St. Michael's College, Toronto School of Theology.

Fr. Boly taught theology at Gonzaga University from 1982-1992 and also obtained his M.A. in Counseling Psychology. He was licensed in the State of Washington as a marriage and family counselor. His books include *The Road to Lonergan's Method in Theology*, *Jesuits in Profile*, plus an eight-volume series he edited titled *Laborers in the Harvest, Essays by Jesuits of the Northwest*.

During his tertianship in 1985, Fr. Boly was chaplain in the maximum-security prison at Long Bay Gaol in Sydney, Australia. He returned to Gonzaga University for six years as Dean of St. Michael's Institute, the Jesuit College of Philosophy and Science for Jesuit scholastics studying for the priesthood. Fr. Boly served as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Seattle from 1992-2004 and St. Pius X Church in Cedar Mill from 2005- 2012.

From 2012-2021, Fr. Boly was pastor of St. Ignatius Parish in SE Portland. He became the main caregiver for his mother, Francis, so she could live at home until her death at 101 in 2020. He began a sabbatical in 2021, but in discerning his next steps realized that he wasn't ready to retire. At the same time, Jesuit High School did not have a dedicated priest, and Fr. Boly returned to his alma mater in the fall of 2021 where he has been missioned ever since, presiding at Mass, working as chaplain, leading student retreats and adult faith formation opportunities, and participating on the school's leadership team and Board of Trustees.

Fr. Boly maintained close ties to Jesuit High even before returning in 2021. He attended many school and alumni events, and his presence earned him the 2017 Alumnus of the Year Award. He also played an integral role on the school's Board of Trustees and Board committees for six years, including the Ignatian Identity Committee and the Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee.

This June, Fr. Boly will celebrate a milestone with his 50th anniversary of ordination as a Jesuit priest. "Fr. Boly has a wonderful gift of presence, and his gentle, pastoral demeanor and hopeful nature rooted in the Jesuits' unique way of proceeding have been blessings to our school and the community," says Jesuit High School President Thomas Arndorfer.

For his committed dedication to Jesuit High School, for his continued support and prayers, and for all he has done for our school and the community, we are proud to honor Fr. Craig Boly, S.J. '62 with the St. Peter Canisius, S.J. Award for 2024.