



Gratitude Report

*2021 - 2022 Annual Report
2023 Calendar*





Dear Thrive For Life Community,

Christ's Peace!

This past year, I had the privilege of traveling to Latrobe, PA for my yearly retreat with the Benedictine monks at St. Vincent's Archabbey. While taking a long afternoon walk around the St. Vincent's College campus, I stumbled upon the museum building dedicated to the late Fred Rogers. I learned quickly that I was retreating in his hometown. I was immediately flooded with childhood memories of his colorful cardigan sweaters, puppeteering, and the many insightful conversations with Mr. McFeely. As I perused through his voluminous collection of writings and audio recordings, I was struck by a particular comment he shared about his own early childhood experience: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

We are acutely aware that the United States of America continues to lock up more men, women, and children behind the prison walls per capita than any other country in the world. We are bombarded each day with news about the spike in crime throughout our major cities. One cannot escape the vast array of public opinion about the drug epidemic that plagues our streets. And yet, we are still reminded, "whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). These words of invitation from our Lord summon forth the loving and generous people we were all created to be.

Within these pages you will encounter the helpers of our day, those who commit themselves to the transformation of lives behind and behind the prison walls. These helpers understand the depth of the sanctity of each and every human life, despite what anyone has done or failed to do.

"Even more, by your Spirit you move human hearts that enemies may speak to each other again, adversaries join hands, and people seek to meet together. By the working of your power it comes about, O Lord, that hatred is overcome by love, revenge gives way to forgiveness, and discord is changed to mutual respect." (Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II).

Thank you for helping. May God continue to bless you for your generosity toward our mission this coming year!

In Christ,

Fr. Presutti, SJ

Fr. Zachariah F. Presutti, SJ



Thrive For Life



Join us

on the road to

transformation

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Thank you to the dedicated
volunteers who accompany our
brothers and sisters behind and
beyond prison walls.

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Thrive For Life

expansion

Bringing Ignacio House to Milwaukee, WI

Thanks to the partnership of Marquette University, Thrive For Life will accompany returning citizens who are continuing the good work of college education as they pursue degree-bearing programs at **Marquette's Education Preparedness Program (EPP)**.

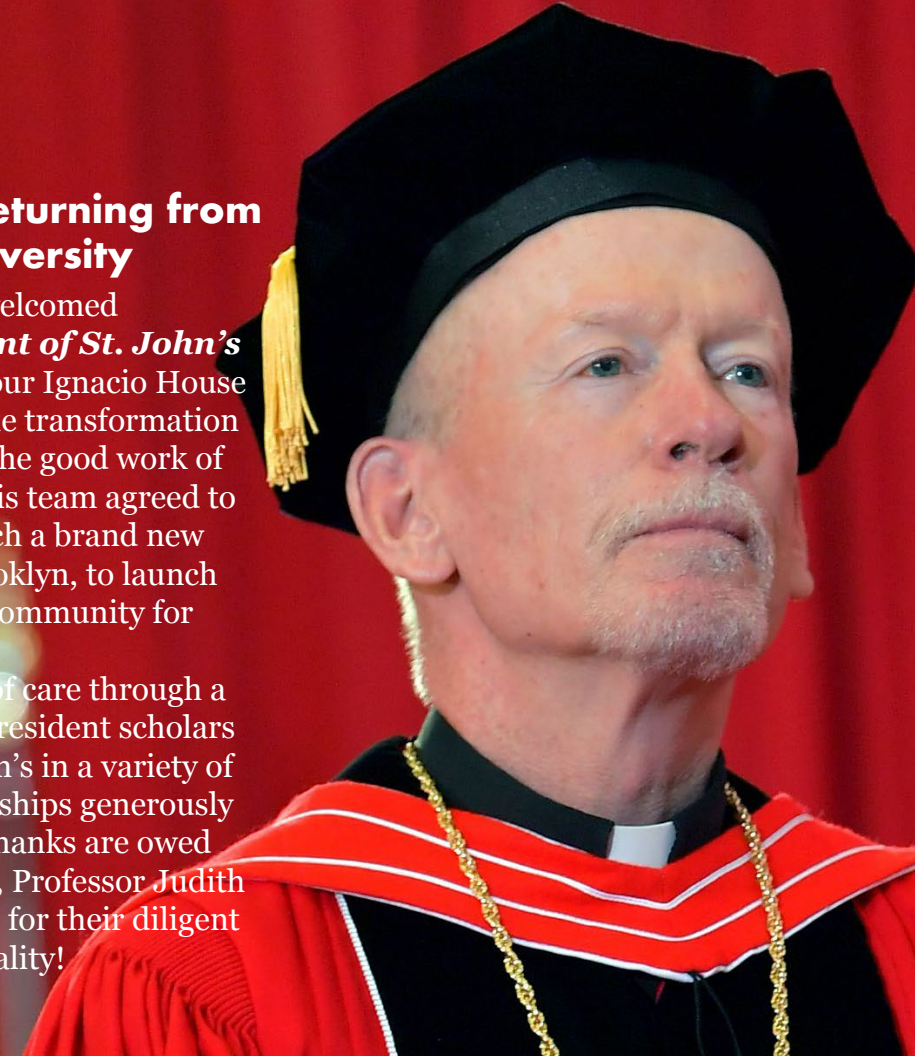
Spearheaded by **Dr. Theresa Tobin** and her team, EPP provides transformative academic support and career building resources for incarcerated and recently released students. **The Capuchin Franciscan Friars** have generously provided a former convent which will serve as the site of our house of studies, capable of supporting 15 resident scholars.

**photo of Marquette University*

Accompanying Women Returning from Prison with St. John's University

This past summer, Thrive For Life welcomed **Fr. Brian Shanley, OP, President of St. John's University** in Queens, NY to visit our Ignacio House of Studies in the Bronx. Moved by the transformation of our resident scholars continuing the good work of college education, Fr. Shanley and his team agreed to partner with Thrive For Life to launch a brand new Ignacio House in the Diocese of Brooklyn, to launch the nation's first transitional living community for returning female students.

While receiving a continuity of care through a holistic suite of supportive services, resident scholars will continue their studies at St. John's in a variety of degree-bearing programs on scholarships generously provided by the university. Special thanks are owed to Vice Provost Dr. Andre McKenzie, Professor Judith Ryder, and Professor Joanne Carroll for their diligent efforts to make this partnership a reality!



To Where Shall We Go?

Over the last year, we have engaged numerous prospective university, faith, and community partners to bring our successful Ignacio House of Studies model to other geographic regions. In the coming year, Thrive For Life will pursue expansion initiatives in St. Louis, New Orleans, and Washington, DC.



5

New University Partners

Growing our network of universities, we welcome Marquette University, the University of Wisconsin, St. John's University, Cornell University, and Georgetown University.



200+

New Faith Community Partners

Thrive For Life engaged over 200 faith communities in the Diocese of Brooklyn, Archdiocese of New York, and Diocese of Rockville Center. These communities provide mentors and volunteers, in addition to resident scholar sponsorships, second collections, and other fundraising.



5+

New Correctional Facilities

Our spiritual mentors will visit even more prisons and jails than prior to COVID-19 in New York, New Jersey, and Wisconsin!

community

Building Community across the United States

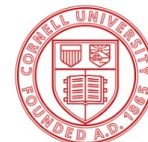
Through our national network of university, faith, and community partners, Thrive For Life is able to provide a continuity of care to our returning brothers and sisters as they strive for permanent and successful reentry into society.

Each partner provides a crucial contribution. Universities providing courses behind and beyond the walls sow the seeds of transformation through the life-changing power of education. Faith communities generously support the fundraising efforts of Thrive For Life and provide us with a foundational network of mentors. Additionally, local employment, housing, and organizational partners offer a range of services and opportunities for returning citizens to maximize successful and meaningful reintegration into society.

Expanding University Partners

In 2020, the U.S. Congress restored Pell Grants for incarcerated students, making an estimated **436,000+ individuals** eligible for funding to continue their college education. Our university partners are taking the lead in this endeavor to expand the reach of college education behind the walls.

This year, we welcomed several new university partners including **Cornell**, **Marquette**, the **University of Wisconsin**, **St. John's**, and **Georgetown** into our community. Looking to our next target regions for expansion, Thrive For Life is in advanced exploratory conversations with **Loyola University-New Orleans**, **St. Louis University**, and **Washington University-St. Louis** to bring our continuity of care to more communities throughout the country.



Expanding Faith Community Partners

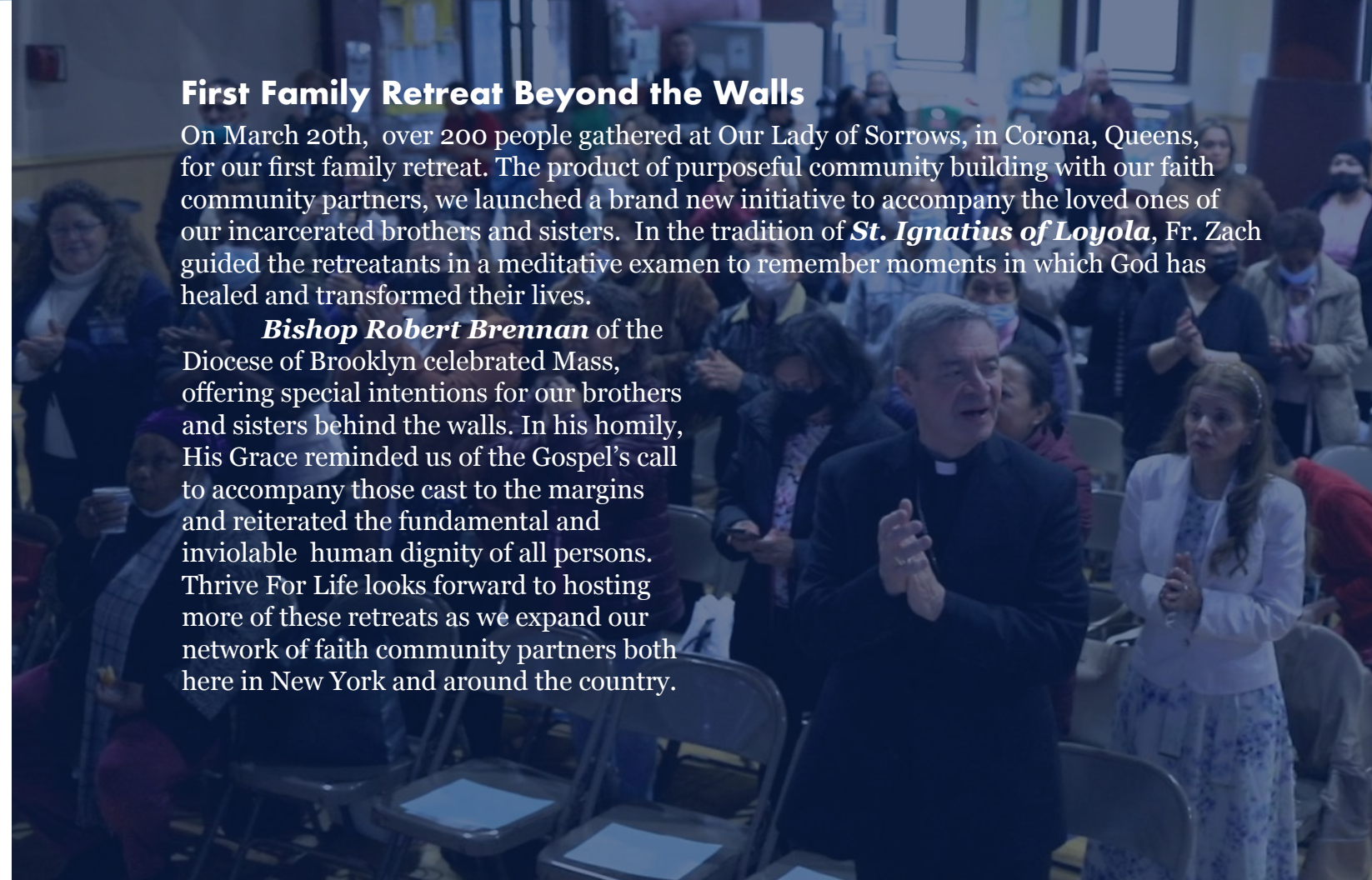
Over the last year, our spiritual care team has worked hard to foster new faith community partnerships throughout the New York metropolitan area. Expanding our reach to 200+ parishes in these regions, we now have unprecedented access to communities deeply affected by incarceration, allowing us to accompany not only our brothers and sisters behind the walls, but their families and loved ones beyond the walls.



First Family Retreat Beyond the Walls

On March 20th, over 200 people gathered at Our Lady of Sorrows, in Corona, Queens, for our first family retreat. The product of purposeful community building with our faith community partners, we launched a brand new initiative to accompany the loved ones of our incarcerated brothers and sisters. In the tradition of **St. Ignatius of Loyola**, Fr. Zach guided the retreatants in a meditative examen to remember moments in which God has healed and transformed their lives.

Bishop Robert Brennan of the Diocese of Brooklyn celebrated Mass, offering special intentions for our brothers and sisters behind the walls. In his homily, His Grace reminded us of the Gospel's call to accompany those cast to the margins and reiterated the fundamental and inviolable human dignity of all persons. Thrive For Life looks forward to hosting more of these retreats as we expand our network of faith community partners both here in New York and around the country.



transformation

Transforming Lives Behind & Beyond the Prison Walls

The journey of transformation begins behind the walls where Fr. Zach and teams of spiritual mentors provide quality meditative resources for an examined life rooted in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola to our incarcerated brothers and sisters. Through this accompaniment, our brothers and sisters discern a sense of purpose in life, recognizing their inviolable human dignity and worth. From purpose flows other graces, namely leveraging the power of education. While completing their studies, our resident scholars receive a continuity of care at our Ignacio House of Studies, discerning their next chapter in life through mentoring and guidance which leads to placement in gainful employment and permanent, affordable housing.

In May of this past year, Thrive For Life celebrated the culmination of our first graduate's journey of transformation—Jerrel.



**Jerrel & Fr. Zach on Graduation Day*



Discernment of Purpose

Meeting Fr. Zach and mentors at the Manhattan Detention Complex, Jerrel was a regular participant in our spiritual retreats where he grew closer to God and discerned a sense of purpose through the meditative prayer and reflection in the tradition of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises.

Safe & Stable Housing

Throughout his studies, Jerrel lived at Ignacio House where he not only received a holistic suite of supportive services propelling him to success, but served as an invaluable mentor to other fellow resident scholars striving to permanently and successfully reintegrate into society.



Life-changing Education

Realizing the transformative power of education, Jerrel diligently worked to complete his studies at Mercy College where in May 2022, he became the first graduate of Ignacio House earning his MBA with Distinction.

Gainful Employment

Equipped with a strong support system, education, and sense of purpose, Jerrel earned a full-time position where he applies his learned skills and knowledge to accompany people coming home from prison in their own journeys of reentry.



Ignacio House



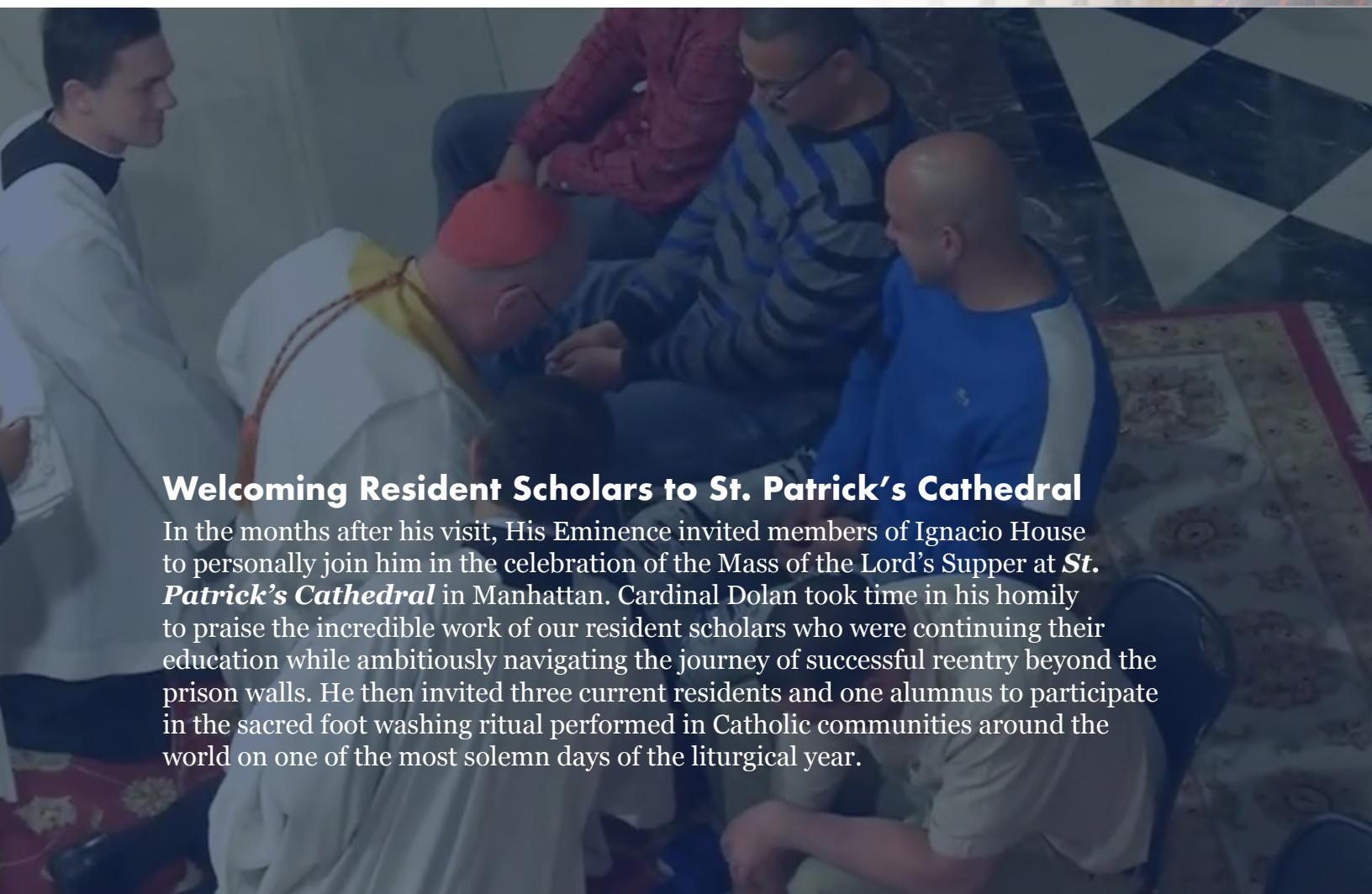
Cardinal Dolan Visits Ignacio House of Studies

On December 15, 2021, Thrive For Life had the incredible honor of welcoming **Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York**, to our Ignacio House of Studies. Cardinal Dolan celebrated Mass with resident scholars and members of the Thrive For Life community and took time to meet and connect with each of them. Reflecting on his visit, His Eminence insisted that serving our brothers and sisters behind the walls is “an essential ministry.”

But that was only the beginning...



**Cardinal Dolan & Resident Scholar Italo S.*



Welcoming Resident Scholars to St. Patrick's Cathedral

In the months after his visit, His Eminence invited members of Ignacio House to personally join him in the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper at **St. Patrick's Cathedral** in Manhattan. Cardinal Dolan took time in his homily to praise the incredible work of our resident scholars who were continuing their education while ambitiously navigating the journey of successful reentry beyond the prison walls. He then invited three current residents and one alumnus to participate in the sacred foot washing ritual performed in Catholic communities around the world on one of the most solemn days of the liturgical year.



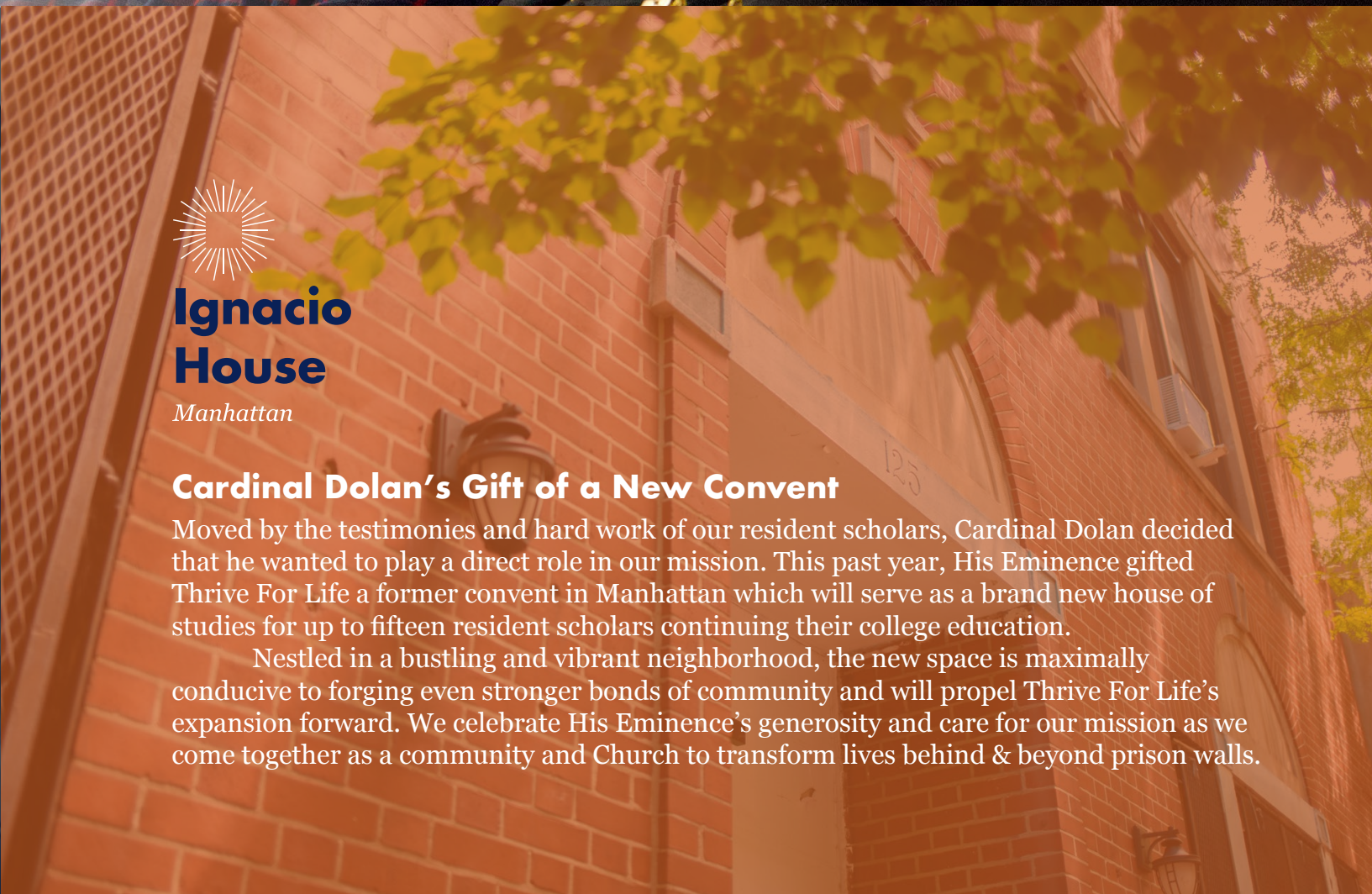
Ignacio House

Manhattan

Cardinal Dolan's Gift of a New Convent

Moved by the testimonies and hard work of our resident scholars, Cardinal Dolan decided that he wanted to play a direct role in our mission. This past year, His Eminence gifted Thrive For Life a former convent in Manhattan which will serve as a brand new house of studies for up to fifteen resident scholars continuing their college education.

Nestled in a bustling and vibrant neighborhood, the new space is maximally conducive to forging even stronger bonds of community and will propel Thrive For Life's expansion forward. We celebrate His Eminence's generosity and care for our mission as we come together as a community and Church to transform lives behind & beyond prison walls.



financials

We are pleased to present this financial summary for our 2021-2022 fiscal year (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022) :

Total Operating Revenue
\$910,752.88

Foundations

\$ 444,692.42 (49%)

Individual Contributions

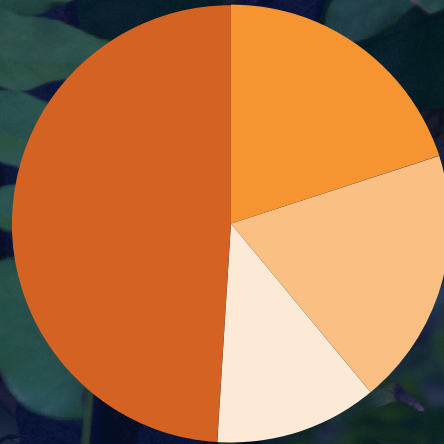
\$ 181,853.79 (20%)

Corporate Contributions

\$ 175,843.75 (19%)

Other

\$ 108,362.92 (12%)



Total Operating Expenses
\$689,975.00

Programs

\$ 462,978.00 (67%)

Fundraising

\$ 146,030.00 (21%)

Management

\$ 80,967.00 (12%)



3,500+

Newsletters Sent
Behind Prison Walls

100%

Scholars linked to
permanent housing

3,000+

Retreat Participants
Behind Prison Walls

0%

Recidivism Rates

Cost Avoidance

Exponential savings to taxpayers



\$138

City Shelter

Daily cost per person
Piecemeal programming

vs

\$46

Ignacio House

Daily cost per resident scholar
Holistic services



A single cot in the city shelter compared to a safe, stable and supportive living community.

Social Impact over Six Years

■ Cost avoidance + ■ Income generation



One Resident Scholar

\$198,720 + \$246,000

Retreat Participants

One Ignacio House

\$2,980,000 + \$3,960,000

\$7+ Million
dollars back into
the **U.S. Economy**
per Ignacio House
every 6 years

thank you

From long standing partner institutions to members of the Ignatian family, corporations, and foundations, Thrive For Life is proud and grateful to benefactors who support currently and formerly incarcerated brothers and sisters from **July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.**

\$50,000+

Anonymous Family Foundation
Catholic Charities, Diocese Of Brooklyn
Raskob Foundation for
Catholic Activities
Sensient Technologies Found., Inc.
USA East Province Of
The Society Of Jesus

\$25,000 to \$49,000

Annette Grant
Maldari Foundation
Sommer Brothers Charitable Found.
State Street Foundation, Inc.
Xavier High School

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Church of St. Pius X
Merritt Charitable Found., Inc
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Interested in supporting the

Thrive For Life mission?

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Thrive For Life

Forth & Make Disciples of All Nations

Matthew 28:19-20

Rising from the ashes of a global pandemic, political and economic strife, and tragic division in our country, Thrive For Life is building community. Our journey of national expansion continues to gain momentum thanks to the deep care and energy of our staff, volunteers, and partners. As we look forward to the next year, we rejoice in the many stories of transformation made possible by our donors and supporters across the nation. But the journey is far from over. With **new Ignacio Houses in Milwaukee and Queens**, Thrive For Life now turns to new horizons in the American South, Greater Midwest, and the nation's capital.

With the restoration of **Pell Grants** that will once again allow **hundreds of thousands** of our brothers and sisters an opportunity to acquire a college education, the need for a continuity of care has never been greater. Join us as we continue down the road of national growth, accompanying our brothers and sisters who endeavor to thrive for life. Now, more than ever, come with us to make disciples of all nations—community members committed to transforming lives behind and beyond prison walls.



“Transformation starts with sowing seeds of trust. From there, you can forge strong and meaningful relationships that give people a sense of belonging and purpose. At the end of the day, no one should walk the road alone.”

**Vivian C., Social Work Intern,
Ignacio House of Studies &
Young Executive Board Member**



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Epiphany of the Lord	9 Baptism of the Lord	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Feast of Saint Francis de Sales	25	26	27	28 Feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas
29	30	31				



“At Thrive For Life, we are not just building an organization, we are building a family. Managing the day to day operations of the group requires collaboration and a shared sense of purpose. This is all to say that we do this work not as individuals, but as a community.”

Duvan G., Office Manager,
Thrive For Life

February



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

5	6	7	1	2 Presentation of the Lord	3	4
12	13	14	8	9	10 Thrive For Life Founding Anniversary	11
19	20	21 President's Day	15	16	17	18
26	27	28	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24	25



“When I think of Ignacio House, I think of family. There is no one-size fits all; everyone has a story and a unique set of challenges. Overcoming that requires opening your heart to others and being a positive force for change in your own life and the lives of others.”

**Italo S.,
Resident at Ignacio House of Studies**

March



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20 Feast of Saint Joseph	21	22	23	24	25 Annunciation of the Lord, Saint Dismas, Patron Saint of the Incarcerated	
26	27	28	29	30	31		



“No walls, bars, or barbed wire can separate us from our loved ones. Each and every day, we hold them in our hearts as we look forward to their return home.”

**Fr. Zach P., S.J.,
Founder & Executive Director,
Thrive For Life**



April

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

2 Palm Sunday	3	4	5	6 Holy Thursday	7 Good Friday	8 Easter Vigil
9 Resurrection of the Lord	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
						1



“Every day, I am inspired by the deep commitment of each of our resident scholars to transforming not only their own lives, but the lives of those around them. Whether they are loved ones, fellow residents, or members of the larger community, our guys set an example for future generations of returning citizens as they reenter society.”

Sebastian Budinich,
Supportive Services Coordinator,
Ignacio House of Studies

May



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Feast of Our Lady of Fatima
14	15	16	17	18 Ascension of the Lord	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Pentecost	29 Memorial Day	30 Feast of Saint Joan of Arc	31			



“At Ignacio House, we are not a program; we are a community. I am glad to work with our resident scholars as we continue our journey of expansion, preparing our new Ignacio House locations to be welcoming homes for our brothers and sisters continuing the good work of college education.”

Sr. Katie S. IHM,
Facilities Manager,
Ignacio House of Studies

June



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

4 Feast of The Most Holy Trinity	5 Feast of Saint Boniface	6	7	8	1 Ignacio House Anniversary	2	3
11 Feast of Corpus Christi	12 Fr. Zach's Ordination Anniversary	13	14	15	16 Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Saint John Francis Regis	17 Feast of Immaculate Heart of Mary	10
18	19 Juneteenth	20	21 Feast of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga	22	23	24	29 Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
25	26	27	28	30			



“My experiences while working with Thrive For Life over the past year had cultivated a certain mindset in me. In order to truly be the person who God is inviting us to be, we need to be aware of when such opportunities to walk with others are presented to us.”

**Luke L., S.J.,
Jesuit Scholastic &
Pastoral Care Associate,
Thrive For Life**

July



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene
23	24	25	26 Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne	27	28	29
30	31 Feast of Saint Ignatius of Loyola					
1						



“At Ignacio House, I know that I have a family of motivated and committed brothers who want me to succeed. The journey of life may have many twists and turns, but here I know that I am not alone.”

**Chris P.,
Resident,
Ignacio House of Studies**

August

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	1	2	3	4	5
					Our Lady of the Snows
6	7	8	9	10	11
Transfiguration of the Lord				Prisoners' Justice Day	
13	14	15	16	17	18
		Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary			
20	21	22	23	24	25
	Feast of Saint Pius X			Feast of Saint Bartholomew	
27	28	29	30	31	



“Transformation is not some sort of fantasy. It is real and there are people ready to walk with you on that journey. The past may have its share of pain and sorrow, but the road ahead leads you where you want to go.”

**John Z.,
Resident,
Ignacio House of Studies**

September



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9 Feast of Saint Peter Claver
10	11	12	13	14	15 Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Feast of Saint Michael, Gabriel and Raphael	30

“Working with our resident scholars providing wellness & seeking safety mentoring, I have the tremendous privilege of accompanying people striving to grow into their best selves. By learning new coping and developmental skills, our brothers and sisters can take control of their lives and flourish, all with the help of a strong support system committed to their success.”

**Zita E.,
Wellness Mentor,
Ignacio House of Studies**

October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	v	20	21
22	23 Birth of St. Ignatius of Loyola	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



“At Ignacio House, it is not every man for himself; instead, it is about helping your fellow brothers to thrive and grow. Each person that comes through our doors will always be met with love and support. You will never be alone here.”

Omar P.,
Resident Scholar,
Ignacio House of Studies

November

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

5	6	7	1	2	3	4
			All Saints' Day	All Souls Day		
12	13	14	8	9	10	11
					Feast of Saint Leo the Great	Veteran's Day
19	20	21	15	16	17	18
26	27	28	22	23	24	25
Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe					Thanksgiving	
			29	30		





Thrive For Life

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