

The Jesuit Post



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New Website Covers God, Culture

A new website launched by a group of young Jesuits is aimed at a generation known more for its devotion to pop culture than to religion.

The Jesuit Post is the first website of its kind, according to editor-in-chief Paddy Gilger, SJ, a 31-year-old member of the Society of Jesus, an religious order of the Roman Catholic Church long known for running colleges and high schools and for its dedication to social justice work.

Gilger, currently a graduate student at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif., said he wanted to reach young people on the Web with blogs, essays, photos and videos that draw the connection between contemporary culture and spirituality using a language and tone to which young adults can relate.

Gilger and three other co-founders (James T. Keane, SJ, Sam Sawyer, SJ, and Eric Sundrup, SJ) recruited a group of nearly 30 other young Jesuits to contribute to the site. They include Michael Rozier, SJ, writing on issues relating to public health, Joe Hoover, SJ, focusing on spirituality and social movements, Tim O'Brien, SJ, commenting on television and news, and James Martin, SJ of America Magazine, the Colbert Report, and author of My Life with the Saints.

The Jesuit Post includes, amongst other content, articles from a Jesuit who finds peace in yoga as well as church, another who sees the divine in Otis Redding and Mavis Staples, as well as a Jesuit who sees spiritual value in the repeat matchup offered by Superbowl XLVI.

"The site is about Jesus, politics and pop culture; it's about the Catholic Church, sports and Socrates," Gilger said. "It's about making the case for God – or better, about letting God make the case for himself in our secular age."

Gilger said Jesuits have long been known for their practice of finding God in all things. The website, he said, is an extension of that.

Early responses to the site have been positive, especially from young adults who have described the site as "funky, fresh, Gospel with head and heart."

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