

Fr. Peter Bisson, S.J.

Priest in the Society of Jesus (S.J.), also known as the Jesuits, an order of priests and brothers in the Roman Catholic Church. My administrative unit in the Jesuits is called the Province of the Jesuits of Canada / Jésuites du Canada.

Current Position

Provincial Assistant for Justice, Ecology and Indigenous Relations, Jesuits of Canada; part-time chaplain at Kateri Native Ministry, Ottawa, ON.

Interests

The links and integration between faith, social commitment, theology/intellectual life; communal forms of discernment; Jesuit-Indigenous relations

Education

-2002: Doctorate in Theology (Th.D.); Pontifical Gregorian University; Rome, Italy.
Dissertation: Towards a Soteriological and Theological Grounding of the Promotion of Social Justice: A Lonerganian Reflection on Mission in Decree 2 of the 34th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus.
-1995: Master of Theology (Th. M.) and Licence in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.), Regis College –Jesuit Faculty in the Toronto School of Theology, affiliated with the University of Toronto; Toronto, ON.
-1992: Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.); Regis College –Jesuit Faculty in the Toronto School of Theology, affiliated with the University of Toronto; Toronto, ON.
-1992: Master of Arts in Philosophy; Loyola University of Chicago; Chicago, IL
-1984: Master of Arts in Religion; Columbia University, jointly with Union Theological Seminary; New York City, NY
-1979: Bachelor of Arts in Humanistic Studies; McGill University; Montréal, QC
-1975: High School Diploma; École Polyvalente Cité des Jeunes A. M. Sormany; Edmundston, NB

Jesuit Formation and Ministries

-2020 – now: provincial assistant for justice, reconciliation and Indigenous relations (social sector for the Jesuits of Canada); part-time chaplain in Kateri Native Ministry, Ottawa
-2019 – 2020: provincial assistant for Indigenous relations
-2018-2019: sabbatical
-2012 – 2018: provincial superior, Jesuits in English Canada
-2008 - 2012: appointed socius to the Provincial of the Jesuits in English Canada
-2008 -2010: Director, Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice,

Toronto

-2007: Elected delegate for Jesuits in English Canada to the 35th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus, January – March, 2008, Rome

-2007-2008 appointed to the Coetus praeivus (planning commission) for the 35th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus.

-2003-2010: Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Campion College at the University of Regina; Regina, SK

-2001-2003: Lecturer in Religious Studies, Campion College at the University of Regina; Regina, SK

-1996-2002: doctoral studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy. Ministries: regular pastoral ministries in Rome, seasonal pastoral ministries in other parts of Italy; community governance; ongoing simultaneous translation; refugee work; spiritual direction.

-1998: final vows, Rome, Italy

-1995-1996: tertianship, a year of spiritual training at the end of our formation. Guelph, ON. Focus: communal spiritual discernment. Various parish ministries in Toronto and Halifax.

-1994-1995: General Curia of the Society of Jesus, Rome, Italy; simultaneous and written translation, but chiefly simultaneous, for various meetings of the Society of Jesus, and of bishops at the Vatican; assistance at the Social Justice Secretariat of the Society of Jesus.

-1993, May: ordained a priest, Toronto, ON

-1992, May: ordained a deacon, Toronto, ON

-1989-1994: theology studies (M.Div./S.T.B. and S.T.L./Th.M), Regis College, Toronto, ON. Ministries: student government, music ministry, spiritual direction, diaconal service; student member, Board of Directors of Regis College, 1991-1993; student member Board of Directors Toronto School of Theology, 1990-1991. Summer 1990: 2-month practicum in spiritual direction at the Guelph Centre of Spirituality, Guelph, ON

-1987-1989: regency, Canadian Jesuit Refugee Programme of the Jesuit Centre for Social Faith and Justice, Toronto, ON: refugee policy analysis, refugee advocacy, popular and adult education especially through workshops, and community organizing, research.

-1985-1987: philosophy studies, Loyola University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. Ministries: university chaplaincy, street ministry (gangs in various downtown housing projects), music ministry, community governance

-1985, August: first vows, Guelph, ON

-1983-1985: novitiate, Guelph, ON.

Ministries: prison chaplaincy, hospital chaplaincy, ministry to the handicapped (L'Arche), refugee advocacy

Some Publications

“Beyond Apology: Decolonizing the Jesuits” in *Our Shared Future: Windows into Canada's Reconciliation Journey*, Laura E. Reimer and Robert Christmas, eds.; Lanham, Boulder, New York, London: Lexington Books (Rowman and Littlefield Publishing Group): 2020, 67-92.

-“From Reconciliation to Decolonization: A Rough Guide”, with David McCallum, S.J., in *Promotio Iustitiae*, (2019), n. 127, 2019/1, 33-38.

-*Communal Apostolic Discernment – A Toolkit. Come and See! (excerpts from the draft)*, together with Elaine Regan-Nightingale and Earl Smith, S.J.; an internal publication, Toronto: Jesuits in English Canada, 2011

-“General Congregation 35: The Jesuits and a Corporate Use of “The Fifth (Religious) Level of Meaning: The Discovery of Love”, in *Lonergan Workshop*, 21 (2009) 17-32, prepared while I was a visiting fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center, at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. in 2008.

-“GC 35: A Postmodern Faith-Justice Mission?”, with Gaspar LoBiondo, S.J., in *Promotio Iustitiae*, n. 100, 2008/3, 40-46.

-*Making Faith Public; How Faith-Based Social Justice Groups in Regina Use Religious Resources*; January 2008, Public Policy Paper 53, The Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy, Public Policy Series, prepared while I was a fellow there.

-“The Post-Conciliar Jesuit General Congregations: Social Commitment Constructing a New World of Meaning”, in *Lonergan Workshop*, 19 (2006) 1-35

-“Breaking Open the Mysteries: Changing Jesuit Practices of Reading the Signs of the Times”, in *Scrutinizing the Signs of the Times in the Light of the Gospel*; Johann Verstraeten, editor; BETL CCVIII; Leuven: 2007, 121-148.

Community-Based Publication/Research:

-[Policy paper] *Renewing the Social Apostolate in the Light of Our Way Forward: Signposts for the Jesuits of Upper Canada: Implementing the Communal Discernment Option*; Report to the Provincial Superior and to the Social and International Commission of the Upper Canadian Province of the Society of Jesus, Toronto: March 2006

-[Policy paper] *On Solid Ground: Final Report of the Campion College Long Range Planning Committee*, September 2003; co-author and chair of the committee.

Professional memberships

- Associate member, Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice; Toronto, ON
- Member, Canadian Society for the Study of Religion
- Associate member, Canadian Theological Society

Languages

Spoken: English, French, Italian, Spanish.