

# FIRST VOWS

for Six Jesuit Novices

A special **alb**  
for a new priest



## CELEBRATING FOUR NEW JESUIT PRIESTS



On June 12, 2021, four Jesuits from the USA East Province were ordained to the priesthood by Bishop James Massa of the Diocese of Brooklyn. They were among 25 Jesuits in the United States, Canada, and Haiti to be ordained last summer. The Ordination Mass for our East Coast Jesuits returned to the Fordham University Church, as the waning pandemic thankfully allowed more in-person gatherings. Friends, family, and fellow Jesuits gathered to celebrate these four men completing their formation journey to the priesthood. From left to right in the photo above are Fr. Joseph O'Keefe, SJ, Provincial of Jesuits USA East; Fr. William Woody, SJ; Fr. Zachariah Presutti, SJ; Bishop James Massa; Fr. Michael Lamanna, SJ; and Fr. Daniel Gustafson, SJ.

Jesuits from throughout the province joined together on the altar in support of Bill, Zach, Michael, and Danny during their rite of ordination.

Six Jesuit novices of the USA East Province pronounced first vows in 2021. Five pronounced their perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience on Aug. 14 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse, NY. Back row: Christian Zombek, SJ, and Luke Lapean, SJ. Front row: Mario Verde, SJ, Robert Lorenz, SJ, and Ronald Jacobs, SJ.



Nicholas Leeper, SJ, (inset) studying at St. Louis University, professed his first vows on Dec. 10, at the Bellarmine House of Studies in St. Louis.

These men now continue in their formation as brothers in Christ, companions in the Society of Jesus.

Suffice to say, the vestments a priest wears at his ordination are very special.

The alb that Fr. Zach Presutti, SJ, wore on June 12, 2021, was indeed special not only to him, but to an entire social enterprise start-up in Baltimore. Lifting Labels is a small apparel manufacturer that sews clergy vestments, judicial robes, and university gowns, and it is staffed by formerly incarcerated men and women. They are part of the Ignatian-inspired Innovation Works network that seeks to reduce poverty and grow entrepreneurial opportunities in Baltimore City. One of their first vestment orders was from Zach, whose own commitment to prison ministry made him the perfect "fit" for a Lifting Labels alb. He wore it with pride during his ordination Mass.

