

St. Ignatius of Loyola

St. Ignatius, founder of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits), is shown here in typical Spanish Colonial style. The cave near Manresa where he retired in prayer for nearly a year is in the background. In this cave he began “The Spiritual Exercises,” a manual for training the soul to grow nearer to God. He is holding this book with the Jesuit symbol. The initials on his cloak refer to Christ. The foreground wheat shared with St. Maria symbolizes seeds sown by their teachings and also connects them to Kansas and to this particular Cathedral with the wheat motif.

The Society of Jesus was the first religious order to minister to the Indians in eastern Kansas even prior to the establishment of the Apostolic Vicariate of Indian Territory East of the Rocky Mountains. In this part of Kansas, Jesuit priests traveling from Osage Mission (now St. Paul) in southeast Kansas served the forts and railroad camps in advance of the country’s western expansion. In more recent times, Jesuits have served as spiritual director of the former Oak Stone Retreat House in Liebenthal and in parish assignments.

