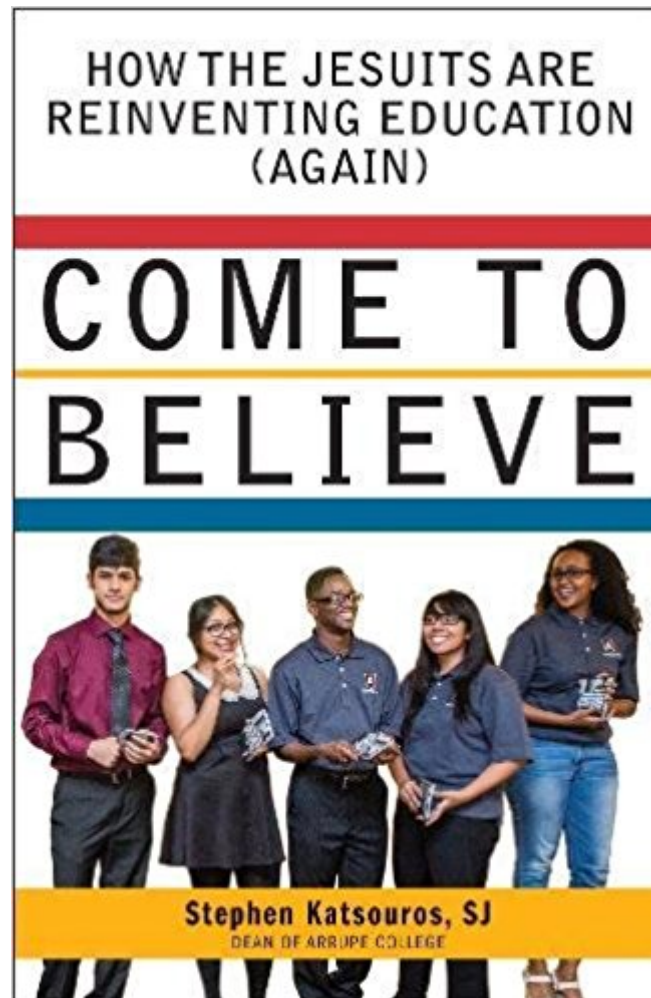




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# Come To Believe: How The Jesuits Are Reinventing Education (Again)



## Synopsis

Taking inspiration from a storied history of Jesuit educational innovations, Stephen Katsouros, SJ is trying something new as the dean of Arrupe College in Chicago. This ambitious new venture offers free community college education to underprivileged Chicago students. *Come To Believe* is both a memoir and a reflection on the eventful first year of the college's existence. With profiles of teachers, students, and other partners in this bold project it will surely prove an inspiration for similar schools throughout the nation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Arrupe College is the best idea the American Jesuits have had in the last 25 years. And the story of how the nation's first Jesuit community college got off the ground is one of the most compelling stories you'll read this year. Father Katsouros introduces you to some of the most inspiring young men and women you could ever hope to meet." --James Martin, SJ, author, *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*

"Pope Francis often reminds us that we must go to the periphery of society to meet and help those in need, to accompany them and to learn from them as well. Arrupe College is an extraordinary model of the compassion that Francis challenges us to live daily. This Jesuit school opens a path for young people on the periphery to pursue their dreams by making higher education accessible and by accompanying students along the way. This is an inspiring and hopeful read--I highly recommend it!" --Mark K. Shriver, author, *Pilgrimage: My Search for the Real Pope Francis* and president of Save the Children Action Network

"It is rare these days to be able to take a peek at the beginning of an institution of higher learning, especially one founded with a pastoral perspective;

the reader has that privilege in *Come to Believe*. In his title Jesuit Father Stephen Katsouros not only references the process of growing in faith that the disciples of Jesus experience in the Gospels but also, as he explains, the process of watching young people from disadvantaged backgrounds gradually coming to believe in themselves and that they actually belong in a college setting, specifically the two-year college within Loyola University Chicago that readers see taking shape here . . . . We see the struggles as well as the successes of trying to help a population that is almost all the first generation in their families to be in a college setting to really feel like they belong there and trying to provide support for them, including far more financial aid than most college students would have or need. At one point Father Katsouros talks about his gradual wisdom, one based on process and on watching the Spirit at work in an undertaking that is far more than just his efforts. Perhaps what Father Katsouros is doing with higher education and its accessibility is comparable to what fellow Jesuit Greg Boyle has undertaken in Homeboy Industries, the largest gang intervention and rehabilitation program in the country; both give new hope to underprivileged populations that seem to have been left behind in the widening gap between the haves and have-nots." --K. Finley/Catholic News Service

Steve Katsouros, SJ, a Jesuit priest, is the dean and executive director of the Arrupe College of Loyola University Chicago. He was previously president of the Loyola School in New York City (2002-2011) and an administrator at the University of San Francisco (2011-2015). "Fr. Katsouros's account of the first year in the life of the new Arrupe College captures the faith, hope, and love required to make a school like this work. This book is a testimony to the Jesuits and gives us all hope that more young people will have access to higher education on the journey to becoming their best selves." --Lidia Bastianich, best-selling author and restaurateur

This is the story of Arrupe College, a 2-year college, under the aegis or wing of Loyola University Chicago - as both are under the Jesuit umbrella. Jesuits are a Roman Catholic religious order, and they educate: they do it a lot, and usually do it well. It was founded in 2015, and has taken off in a major way: it is - so far! - successful. And it is giving hope and concrete success to youngsters, mainly Latinx, who need it. The book was written by Fr Steve Katsouros SJ (Jesuit), and Dean of Arrupe College. At the risk of being misunderstood - let me say first off: this is a fun book - an easy read, nay, a gripping engrossing read. Never a dull moment: never a moment when one wants to skip ahead a bit. It's full of deep insights neatly expressed, full of wonderful people ranging from students to donors. And now to clarify misunderstandings: it's a very serious book, and about a very

important topic: those who could become a lost generation without people like Steve Katsouros and all those he inspires and leads. Steve is a Catholic priest ("Fr Steve", "Fr K" indeed) and a Jesuit. Jesuits have done education a long time now. About 30 years ago, US Jesuits in the Chicago area started the Cristo Rey schools, an outreach to kids from poor and deprived backgrounds, which has made a big difference, which has involved other sections of the community like businesses in tackling the issue - and which has made Jesuits who were wondering if all they were doing was educating the sons of the elite begin to think again that education must be relevant in a major way, empowering for the marginalized, as their founder St Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556) envisioned and desired. Liberal types often wonder what relevance religion has to today's social problems - and would prefer to reduce freedom of religion to freedom to worship (inside church or mosque or temple walls). They say that a bit less of late, given how many people are hungering for spirituality and meaning. They would say it even less if they would read this book and see how empowering and motivating Christian faith (yes, Steve's own personal faith, as well as that of so many other personal faiths in evidence here) is for social change. Conservative types (particularly in the Catholic Church) sometimes mutter (politely, under their breath) that priests nowadays are becoming far too much social workers, rather than priests who find God's presence in our world, and lead people to God. To you too: do read this book. It has more references to and quotations from the Bible than many a preacher's: all done lightly, but all done with unerring point and accuracy. God, and God's grace and power, and God's mercy and care for the weak and the poor are powerfully visible here. The very title of the book, "Come to Believe", is taken from an important passage in John's gospel: John 8: 25-30. What else? This book can initially seem like a James Joyce-style stream of consciousness, inspiring and disorganized. Inspiring yes, disorganized no. The table of contents illustrates where you can go to hear more on particular topics. It is a multi-faceted organization, even if not large, and this book presents an easily accessible kaleidoscopic vision of it. Check out the table of contents. If you're a stats and numbers person (as I am), check pages 4, 133-134, and 173-174 for a stats picture of what Arrupe College is doing. Steve K has been the inspiring spirit: he brings Greek culture and sophistication (his father) and Irish political drive, ruthlessness, and utter charm (his mother was a Galway woman) to the task. With that combination - and of course the Holy Spirit - how could he not succeed? If you're from Chicago, you have no excuse for not reading this book. Chicago and Illinois are not doing well these days, by some metrics; but there are also points of light and embers of fire. Here is one portrayed in inspiring prose.

Fr. Steve Katsouros, S.J. tells an exciting story about a faith-based educational "start-up," keeping front and center the stories of the courageous students who are co-creating Arrupe College along with Fr. Steve and the other educators and administrators at Arrupe. I read it in two quick sittings. As a priest and Jesuit educator myself, I was especially moved by how Fr. Steve weaves together his learnings from other life experiences (family, friends, prayer/retreats, Jesuit formation, other school settings he has worked in, etc.) and explains how he applies those insights in this new setting, responding to new challenges and experiences. Fr. Steve is especially transparent regarding how his work at Arrupe feeds into his prayer and his preaching as a Jesuit priest, and, vice-verse, how his prayer and preaching help him to draw spiritual lessons he is learning from his students and colleagues at Arrupe. If you want to read about how Jesuit/Ignatian "contemplation in action" plays out in a school setting, this is the book for you. Lastly, great use of Scriptural quotations and citations! Bravo!

I literally could not give a more enthusiastic recommendation to *Come to Believe*. This book should be required reading for all higher education scholars and practitioners who are grappling with inequitable access and rising cost of attendance at so many of our American universities. Arrupe College shines as an innovative model to begin addressing these challenges in meaningful ways, and the book asks the question, why can't this be done elsewhere? I would join the author, Father Stephen Katsouros, as he implies that it can be, and through this text, presents a road map to help do so. In addition, readers will be inspired by the author's storytelling as he weaves personal narrative and the Gospel of Jesus seamlessly into the text, just as it is woven into the fabric of Arrupe College. Even as a non-catholic, I was literally moved to tears. Buy it now!

*Come to Believe* is a remarkable chronicle of the dream about and creation of Arrupe College at Loyola University Chicago. Father Steve Katsouros's book is a powerfully moving book about the faculty and staff of Arrupe College believing in the students and the students believing that they belong not only in college, but at a prestigious university. I marveled how Father Katsouros weaved so masterfully his life story, his faith, scripture, and anecdotes into a book describing how Arrupe College was brought to life. *Come to Believe* is a great book about a project that is historic for Jesuit higher education and, more importantly, is life changing for the students of Arrupe College.

A fascinating read that is full of hope! Come To Believe tells the story of Arrupe College, an innovative new model for affordable college education. Families everywhere lament the cost of college and the debt students take on to get a degree; Arrupe students graduate debt-free. How? Arrupe operates like an incubator within a larger university, leveraging some costs and operating leanly. Katsouros makes the case for this model through beautiful stories of it's inaugural students. These are kids who otherwise would never get to college, not just for financial reasons but academic challenges as well. Arrupe gives them a second chance.

This well-written, honest and insightful memoir is an inspiring testament to a heroic endeavor. The reflections contained within these pages highlight the importance of the impact of Arrupe College for generations to come. Educators - and those who believe in the transformative potential of education for all - will enjoy reading this accessible journey of a miracle come to life in Chicago.

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