

Citation for Timothy P. Kesicki, S.J.

Father Timothy P. Kesicki, S.J., you serve as Rector of the Bellarmine House of Studies at Saint Louis University and Chair of the Descendants Truth & Reconciliation Trust. You are a:

- passionate disciple of truth, racial healing, justice, and reconciliation,
- distinguished alumni of the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University (Master of Divinity [1991–1994]),
- prophetic and compassionate leader.

You have served the Society of Jesus and the Universal Church in various positions of leadership and accompaniment. Notably, you served as President of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States, Provincial Superior of Chicago-Detroit Province (2008–2014), and President of Saint Ignatius High School, Cleveland OH (2000–2008).

As president of JCCU, you passionately and compassionately pursued the cause of truth, racial healing, justice, and transformation between the descendants of enslaved people and the Society of Jesus in the United States. Your heroic leadership led to the historic partnership to create the Descendants Truth & Reconciliation Foundation.

On April 18, 2017, you offered a public apology to nearly 100 descendants of the enslaved gathered at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Society of Jesus for the latter's role in the enslavement of African Americans. In your moving words, you said: "Today the Society of Jesus, which helped to establish Georgetown University and whose leaders enslaved and mercilessly sold your ancestors, stands before you to say: We have greatly sinned, in our thoughts and in our words, in what we have done and in what we have failed to do.... [A]nd we are profoundly sorry."

You are a frequent writer of opinion pieces in leading magazines and news media, as a moral voice in denouncing injustice. Under your leadership, the JCCU issued a statement condemning the violence at the United States Capitol on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, while "praying for our federal legislators and their staffs, those responsible for protecting public safety, and for all who are working to make our divided, wounded country 'a more perfect union'."

As an alum of JST-SCU, you embody Santa Clara University's vision of educating "citizens and leaders of competence, conscience, and compassion and cultivating knowledge and faith to build a more humane, just, and sustainable world" and JST-SCU's vision to educate and form women and men from across the world to serve and minister in the Universal Church.

For your heroic leadership and passionate pursuit of truth, racial healing, justice, and reconciliation in the Church and in the world, the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University is honored to confer the degree of Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa, on you, The Reverend Father Timothy P. Kesicki, S.J.

May 23, 2026 at Mission Church of Santa Clara University, Santa Clara.

Agbonkhanmeghe E. Orobator, S.J.

Dean

Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University