In this reflection, Chris Lowney reminds us of an attitude we can carry into the New Year.

**Be Grateful**

*Chris Lowney*

*Ignatius of Loyola reminded us that we ourselves are one of this world’s greatest marvels. Look at the world with gratitude and awe, but look at yourself with the same attitude. We are more talented, gifted, and resourceful than we ever consider. In one spiritual exercise, Ignatius counsels us to bask gratefully in the sheer wonder of our being by considering “how God dwells...also in myself, giving me existence, life, sensation and intelligence; and, even further, making me his temple since I am created as a likeness and image of the Divine Majesty” (#235).*

*Be grateful for your talents and gifts because they are the raw material out of which you will conceive and shape your life’s purpose. Whoever we are, whatever our circumstances, we can, as Archbishop Oscar Romero once put it, “Do something and do it very well,” whether that is raising children, teaching them to read, keeping the streets safe for them, creating dignified jobs for their parents, erecting buildings that will safely shelter them, or thinking and praying benevolent thoughts for their future.*

*Be grateful because gratitude is what energizes and motivates us to pursue great purpose.*

Chris Lowney is the author of several books including *Heroic Leadership*. He is also the director of Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins. Mary McFarland, former Gonzaga Dean of Professional Studies, is dedicating her talents to this effort at present. Additional information on this important collaboration and how you may be able to become involved with Jesuit Commons can be found at [www.jesuitcommons.org](http://www.jesuitcommons.org) or by contacting me in the Office of Mission at 313-6191 or casef@gonzaga.edu.