



Office of the Vice President for Mission

TO: The Gonzaga Community
FROM: Frank E. Case, S.J. and Shanea Giroux
SUBJ: Moment for Mission
DATE: May 7, 2013

Commencement 2013

Final exams week and the graduations that follow can fuel within us a mix of emotions. I will surely take some quiet time amidst the hum of end-of-year activities to look back and to look ahead. With heart-felt gratitude I'll look back on the events surrounding our 125th Anniversary, the historic first day of classes, the Zagapalooza, the dedication of the new grotto, National Gonzaga Day, and the still-to-come graduation of our largest-ever undergraduate class. These were times of celebration, but also to some extent times of nostalgic reminiscences. "Tradition", the first part of our anniversary motto, affords us a strong moral and spiritual infrastructure, but it no longer serves if rigor mortis turns it into a gallery of stone monuments. "Transformation", the second part of the motto, reminds us that the Spirit continues to animate and adapt traditions through time and for a variety of cultural expressions. I am most grateful for our Jesuit, Catholic, and humanistic tradition, but even more so for how it gives fresh life daily in the persons of our students and colleagues who comprise the campus community.

Within the overarching framework of the anniversary year lie many others events and achievements that I will remember with thanks and appreciation – Thomas Friedman and Jane Goodall; the astounding success of our men's and women's athletic programs and teams; the inspiration our students have been to me in their pursuit of their studies and the many other activities that contribute to their journey to a fuller adulthood (graduation ceremonies always fill me with a sense of grateful pride); the final approval of our new mission statement and many other events associated with our Mission Office.

Mostly, however, I will remember with great fondness and thanks the many people who comprise our wonderful Gonzaga University community his past academic year. Thank you!