



## Office of the Vice President for Mission

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TO: The Gonzaga Community  
FROM: Frank E. Case, S.J. and Shanea Giroux  
SUBJ: Moment for Mission  
DATE: January 29, 2014

### **Reconciliation**

The last Moment for Mission on “Personal Dignity” focused largely on our role as educators in helping students to develop a positive sense of themselves as participants in community and society. One of our colleagues in the University emailed me noting that this should also apply in our collegial relations here on campus – faculty-faculty, staff-staff, and faculty-staff. I agree.

In the 35th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus in 2008 we Jesuits articulated our mission in today’s globalized world and a mission of reconciliation of relationships – of individuals with God, of individuals with others, and of individuals with creation. This idea of reconciliation picked up on something that Pope John Paul II had said in his New Year’s Day address in 2000. Referring to Pope Paul VI’s remark, “If you want peace, work for justice”, Pope John Paul added, “and if you want justice, work for reconciliation”. It was no surprise looking at the state of our world at the turn of the millennium that the pope would make such a call. Our world desperately needed and still needs this reconciliation, if it seeks the justice that is a precursor of peace. This need, however, is as real on the very local scale, and even in families and work places, as it is on the global scale. “If we want peace, work for justice, and if we want justice, work for reconciliation.”

As we all know, proximity can at times create friction. This can occur in any close community, in a family in one’s work environment, even in a community of Jesuits. Where friction and even ruptures exist, it is good for the health of the community and for one’s individual health to find ways to repair the break, to seek reconciliation. Lent is traditionally a time for reconciliation. It’s still several weeks away, but perhaps this Lent might be a time for us to reflect on the Jesuit mission of reconciliation of individuals with God, with one another, and with creation.