



## 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: February 7, 2012

**Reminder: The spring faculty and staff retreat will be held at Bozarth Mansion Feb. 18-21, 2011 beginning at 4 p.m. on Saturday and ending at 12noon on Monday. Registration is \$75 and covers food and lodging costs for the weekend. Please contact Shanea Giroux if you are interested in attending.**

### **The *MAGIS* of St. Ignatius**

The spring issue of *Conversations in Jesuit Higher Education* invites reflection on “Faculty Life Issues”. One of the fundamental concerns is, obviously, how to make good choices among many possible goods. Against this backdrop the notion of *magis*, Latin for “more” or “greater” can appear to be a pitfall of overwork and depression. *Magis* can all too easily translate in practice to increased effort – work, work, work, work, work..... But as we have all experienced, that is a recipe for *minus*, the less, not for *magis*.

In last fall’s issue of *Conversations*, Fr. General Adolfo Nicolàs’ speech in Mexico City challenged us to go “deeper” in our quest for insight, understanding, and appreciation in order to counteract the effects of the “globalization of superficiality”. This would be a proper understanding of the *magis*. Another very good example is one of St. Ignatius’ criteria for the selection and renewal of our ministries – what will serve the *greater good*. Often enough in our personal lives the greater good will be to spend a weekend with the family, or to take a relaxing, reflective stroll along the river. Wonderful insights and new perspectives arise, rendering the “daily grind” more effective, even making it more pleasant and fulfilling.

St. Ignatius also used the term “greater” – in this case the Latin word *majorem* – in another context in the phrase *ad majorem Dei gloriam*, the common Jesuit slogan AMDG that we see on Jesuit buildings and elsewhere. To this phrase, “for the greater glory of God”, St. Ignatius often added “and for the good of souls”. By serving others we promote God’s greater glory.

St. Irenaeus, one of the early Church fathers, said that “the glory of God is the human being fully alive.” Is this not a big part of what *cura personalis* means? Through the baccalaureate learning outcomes and the core curriculum, do we not want to graduate women and men who are “more fully alive” with the values that are fundamental to Gonzaga’s mission? This vision of human beings more fully alive lies at the heart of the decree on mission of the 35<sup>th</sup> General Congregation of the Jesuits, where the Society articulated our mission in this globalized world as

promoting reconciliation of relationships of people with God, with other people, and with creation. And it is at the heart of the mission of Gonzaga University.