



## 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: May 1, 2012

### **The Spirit of Jesus**

The Feast of Pentecost is a formal celebration of the sending of the Spirit upon the apostles. This celebration is several weeks away but the experience it provides influences the entire Easter Season and gives us special meaning with commencement fast approaching.

The Spirit of Jesus is first of all the richness and depth of Jesus' life and presence, his attitudes towards the world, his vision, his desire to gather all into a community of love. But even more the Spirit is the very atmosphere one senses in Jesus' presence – his peace, joy, authority, purpose, and love of God the Father. The Spirit of Jesus is as well the third person of the Trinity, truly God, present in the world, filling the emptiness of the universe, giving creation and human history direction and purpose, sending the disciples out to preach, to teach, and to baptize.

Jesus sends his Spirit to help direct our lives and actions forward in our journey. At Gonzaga, that journey is to educate our students and send them forth with the teachings of this University as a work of the Society of Jesus and the Catholic Church.

There was a bit of a crisis after Jesus took his leave from the apostles. What would happen after his departure? Some of our students may too experience that crisis. What will happen when they leave the safety net we've provided to them these past years? And just as we may be asking, the early disciples asked, who will hold our followers together in community as they venture out to make their mark on our world? We trust that the Spirit will guide them as it did the apostles.

Jesus sends us his Spirit to *remind* us of what he said and did, and to *guide* us through time in the vast variety of cultures that enrich our world. The Spirit sends us to spread the good news by word and by example. "By this will all know that you are my disciples, that you have love for one another." We have completed this journey with our graduating classes, it is now for them to go out as disciples and show their love for our world.