



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: September 4, 2012

Faculty and Staff Retreat: This year, the Office of Mission will be offering only one retreat in the fall. It will begin on Friday, November 9th in the evening and end on Sunday, November 11th in the early afternoon. If you are interested in attending please email Shanea Giroux, giroux@gonzaga.edu. We are only able to accommodate 20 retreatants at Bozarth.

Additionally, if you are interested in any other programs the Office of Mission will be hosting this year please pick up our new programming brochure on the wall outside our office, College Hall room 107.

Ignatian Charisms

Often referred to, Ignatian charisms are most basically the character traits, the gifts of grace embodied in the Society of Jesus as founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola and to be used for the benefit of others.

The most prominent and easily recognizable charism St. Ignatius was endowed with was that of leadership. This charism plays out in the Society through time as ever seeking the *magis*, the more (see our former "[Moment for Mission](#)" on this topic). Ignatius was and Jesuits are soldiers of God, battling against the greatest of odds and imitating the example of Christ who so readily took up his cross. They are leaders on the frontiers of the Church, embracing and understanding cultures as a way to then help those cultures embrace and understand God and His son, Jesus Christ. This was done often, in the early days of the Society, at a cost of their lives.

Avery Dulles, in an article written for "America: The National Catholic Weekly" expresses, as he calls them, the "Ten Shining Features of the Society of Jesus." He lists them as:

- Dedication to the glory of God
- Personal love for Jesus Christ
- To labor with, in and for the Church
- To be at the disposal of the Church, available to labor in any place for the sake of the greater good
- Mutual union, Jesuits are parts of a body bound together by a communion of minds and hearts
- Preference for spiritual and priestly ministries
- Discernment (look for our upcoming "[Moment for Mission](#)" on this topic)

- Adaptability
- Respect for human and natural capacities
- And synthesis of the active and contemplative life, “seeking God in all things” (see our former [“Moment for Mission”](#) on this topic)

The members of the Society of Jesus today, as they have done over the ages, continue to teach and use these charisms for the benefit of those they guide, the lay partners, to a deepened relationship with God and with our fellow man.