



St. Ignatius College Prep PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Dear Friends,

One of the gifts which summer often brings is a bit of perspective. Especially for those of us who live on academic calendars, more so than even at the turn of a calendar year, summertime offers us the opportunity to look backwards and forwards. For the third time in recent years, I made my annual eight-day retreat at St. Meinrad's Archabbey in southern Indiana. I find the warm and prayerful Benedictine community, the beautiful grounds, and inspiring architecture of this abbey to be a fitting place to reflect and pray about our school community here at St. Ignatius. Like the Benedictines at St. Meinrad's, we too are deeply rooted in a centuries-old spiritual tradition, and at the same time we're very much alive, vibrant and deeply committed to bringing forward our tradition for the next generation of Christian believers.

St. Ignatius of Loyola himself was a great admirer of St. Benedict, and when Ignatius the soldier and courtier was undergoing his own conversion experience, he made a pilgrimage to the Benedictine abbey of Montserrat outside of Barcelona in Spain. There, he placed his sword before an ancient statue of the Virgin Mary as a sign of his change of heart (and career!) Afterwards, Ignatius the pilgrim spent many months in prayer and reflection in a cave in the nearby town of Manresa, during which time God led him through a spiritual process that he later distilled into the *Spiritual Exercises* - the foundation of Ignatian spirituality which inspires and animates the life of our school. (Next time you are in the Dining Hall, I encourage you take a look above the trophy cases at the beautiful mural of this scene, painted by Jorge Simes). As I prayed and reflected during my retreat this year, I found myself giving thanks to God over and over again for the students, families, teachers, staff, and administrators of St. Ignatius College Prep, and for the benefactors and friends who have made Jesuit education possible at 1076 W. Roosevelt Road for the past 135 years. It is indeed a privilege to share this ministry with you. Thank you for all that you do for our school community.

Over the past two years, the Jesuit Community of St. Ignatius has funded two separate \$100,000 named programmatic endowments within *The Greater Glory Campaign* - one in honor of the late Fr. Edwin Moosbrugger, S.J. and one in honor of Fr. Ignatius Whitehead, S.J. I am deeply grateful for this support from my Jesuit brothers. I invite you to read a bit about the lives of these two extraordinary Jesuits in the next pages of this newsletter. It is on the shoulders of giants such as these that we stand today. These endowments are modest yet significant stepping stones on our way to the \$18 million goal for programmatic endowment support within our current \$30 million capital campaign. The returns on these funds directly support teaching and learning in our school.

If God has blessed you with the means, I humbly invite you to consider also establishing a named programmatic endowment fund of \$100,000 or more. You could do this in honor of a favorite teacher who touched the life of you or your family, or perhaps in memory of a loved one in your own family. Or perhaps, if you too were touched by Frs. Moosbrugger or Whitehead, you would like to join the Jesuits in honoring one of these two great Ignatians by making a contribution of whatever size to these endowments which the Jesuit community has begun to foster educational excellence. All of these ways of giving to endowment will help to insure that the tradition of St. Ignatius gets passed on to the next generation, *ad majorem Dei gloriam*. Please give John Chandler or me a call if you would like to talk more about these special gifting opportunities.

Meanwhile, may your own moments of looking backwards and forwards this summer be occasions for God's grace to lead you "onward to the Kingdom."

Sincerely,


Rev. Brian G. Paulson, S.J., President

Remembering Fr. Moosbrugger

On more than one occasion, alumni of St. Ignatius have been heard using the word “moose.” No, they weren’t reminiscing about biology class, and no, they weren’t referring to the latest ice cream flavor to hit the shelves at the local grocery store. Instead, they were talking endearingly about **Fr. Edwin Moosbrugger, S.J.** (better known as “Fr. Moos”), who taught at St. Ignatius for almost three decades.

Fr. Moosbrugger was an English, theology and speech teacher at St. Ignatius from 1940 until he retired in 1967. Seven years after he was hired at the school, the principal asked him to coach the tennis team. He accepted the challenge without any significant prior tennis experience. Little did he know that tennis would become a passion that would inspire him all throughout his life.

In 1949, Fr. Moos complemented his high school coaching with a job working as the director of the Chicago Tennis Association. His growing knowledge of the sport and involvement in various endeavors paid off when he finally led three Ignatius players to state competition in the early 1960s.

Mario DiPaolo, a Taylor Street businessman and current parent of an Ignatius student, remembered Fr. Moosbrugger from his days growing up in the neighborhood with friends like **Gus Mauro ‘67**.

“When the school stopped the football program, us kids from the neighborhood would scrimmage against kids from SICP’s football team on the old tennis courts. Things would get rough and Fr. Moos would come over and yell at us, even though we were just having fun,” said DiPaolo. “He was such a nice man. He got to know me and would always say to me, ‘Mario, why don’t you play tennis?’ I always said ‘no’ but eventually took up racquetball-- at that time called ‘paddle ball’-- and played often with a friend from the neighborhood, Jim DiVito, who became a national racquetball champ.”

In 1965, Fr. Moosbrugger was featured on the cover of *Tennis Magazine* wearing a collar and wielding a tennis racket.

Said **Jim Spalding**, a recently-retired SICP math teacher who was a colleague of Fr. Moos during the early 70s, “I remember Fr. Moos saying that the year he started, the team was terrible. A few years later, he decided to begin offering masses for the team to St. Michael and suddenly, the team got better! I’m certain he felt that any good fortune on the courts was a result of those masses he offered.”

According to Spalding, Fr. Moosbrugger was ultra-conservative in his religious and political beliefs. Spalding believes that same sort of conviction helped him to become a stellar tennis coach.

“He was so certain of his ‘position’ on an issue that he could convince anyone around him of its truth. He was almost fanatical, with great charisma and a very clear sense of responsibility. If he would have been asked to coach baseball or track, he would have been just as dedicated and focused.”

At the time of his death in March of 2001, Fr. Moosbrugger was the oldest Jesuit in the U.S. He died at the age of 99 and had continued to play tennis through his adult life until his early 90s.

Fr. Moosbrugger and his tennis team, from the 1960 yearbook.



Memories of Fr. Whitehead

“He was my favorite teacher, hands down!” exclaimed Ed Evert ‘57 after revealing the name of his most memorable high school instructor.

Evert was referring to the legendary **Fr. Ignatius Whitehead, S.J.** who taught freshmen students Latin, religion and oral speaking in the 40s and 50s. During those days, some students had the same teacher for several subjects and stayed in one classroom for the majority of the day. That’s when students learned a whole new way of looking at life while being inspired by Fr. Whitehead.

According to Evert, he was a “beloved teacher.” He was a diminutive man with white hair and a “bag of tricks” to help his students learn.

“He taught the third declension to the tune of *Volga Boatman* to help us remember it and would do magic tricks to keep us alert. He had the greatest sense of humor... he was always kidding around yet always expected the best performance out of us. He encouraged mental discipline and hard work at all times but had a neat way of doing it.”

Although Fr. Whitehead enjoyed his vices (students would gift him with cigarettes and he would smoke them in the classroom), he always stayed focused

THE JESUIT COMMUNITY HAS
ESTABLISHED ENDOWMENTS AT
ST. IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREP FOR
EACH OF THESE MEMORABLE MEN.
YOU MAY CONTRIBUTE TO EITHER
BY CONTACTING FR. PAULSON
OR JOHN CHANDLER AT
(312) 432-8344 OR [brian.paulson/
john.chandler@ignatius.org](mailto:brian.paulson@ignatius.org)

YOU MAY ALSO HONOR ANY
OTHER MEMBER OF THE IGNATIUS
COMMUNITY BY ESTABLISHING
AN ENDOWMENT IN THEIR NAME.



Fr. Whitehead, from the 1954 yearbook.

on education and developing their Catholic faith. He helped students to define what was and wasn’t important by making them think about what could change and what couldn’t.

“For instance,” said Evert, “Thou shalt not kill.’ That’s something that will never, ever change. However, Fr. Whitehead made us realize that abstaining from meat on Fridays is something that could very well change at some point in the future. When Vatican II came along, I felt prepared for it because I could sort out what was most important.”

When Fr. Whitehead passed away, Evert was very sad to see him go. During visits with alumni and friends as a major gifts officer for the school, he finds that people always volunteer information (in the form of memories) about their experiences with Fr. Whitehead. Ed is grateful for the chance to share his own stories in return.

“I recently met with a man in Oakland, California, who couldn’t say enough nice things about Fr. Whitehead, said Evert. “And this man only attended Ignatius for one year because his family relocated to Oak Park! That’s what I’m talking about. Everyone liked him. I just have tons of respect for him and will always be grateful I had him as a teacher.”

OUR THANKS

We are grateful to the following donors for their generous gifts to St. Ignatius College Prep from April 16 to June 30, 2005.

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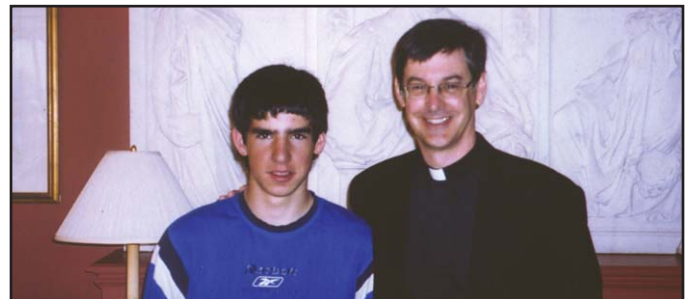
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TOP: Fr. Paulson celebrated mass at Sacred Heart Schools in May on the Feast of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, RSCJ. This mass was also offered in thanksgiving for Mrs. Janet Underwood, a longtime administrator at Sacred Heart, who is retiring. She is also a trustee at St. Ignatius and chair of the School Programs Committee. She is a parent to two SICP alums. BOTTOM: Fr. Paulson and second semester exchange student, Juan Pablo Poblete. Juan, from Chile, stayed with alumnus John Simon '78 and his wife, Tanya.

THE GREATER
GLORY
Ignatian Excellence for the 21st Century