A Window to the Soul
How Reflection Deepens Service
There is no question that the current global economic situation has affected all of us, as well as our loved ones, in real and palpable ways. Optimistic headlines seem infrequent, and many of us face significant financial challenges. At Saint Joseph’s, these are trying times as well, and it is important that we remain true to our core mission as a Catholic and Jesuit university. Our highest priority remains providing an excellent educational experience for our students as we work to manage our expenses without jeopardizing any of our programs.

Recently released statistics related to the state of higher education in our country are alarming. A report from the College Board’s Commission on Access, Admissions and Success in Higher Education discloses the startling decline of educational attainment in the United States. According to this study, our nation’s college completion rates have plummeted. Though we were once ranked second in the world for workers aged 25 – 34 with advanced degrees, we now rank 11th. America is in danger of losing its place as a world leader in education.

Now, more than ever, given the extreme economic environment, it is essential that our country make a lasting commitment to educating those who are qualified. I am truly grateful to our alumni and benefactors who have taken a leadership role in support of Saint Joseph’s and especially thankful to those who continue to do so during these difficult economic times. Your dedication to the University redounds in myriad ways for our students, our nation — and the world — especially when you support scholarship funds and the Saint Joseph’s Fund that make this remarkable Jesuit education possible for needy and worthy students.

This leads me to another, more promising statistic. According to the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), the 28 member institutions of the AJCU provided $1.1 billion in financial assistance to students — both need and non-need based — for the 2007-08 academic year. At Saint Joseph’s, we supported 85 percent of undergraduates with nearly $40 million in financial assistance. I thank you for your contribution to this shining example of engaged philanthropy.

As alumni, parents and friends, you are integral and cherished members of the Saint Joseph’s community, and you play a vital role in the legacy of the University when you live your lives in fulfillment of the core values that guide us. During this trying time, it is paramount that we cleave to the fundamental Ignatian ideals — cura personalis; dedication to the Magis; pursuit of the greater good; and the service of faith together with the promotion of justice — that can and will make a positive difference for our students and for those they encounter.

God’s blessings,

Timothy R. Lannon, S.J.
President
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Work continued through the spring on the Michael J. Hagan ’85 Arena and the adjacent basketball center (pictured here under construction at the time the magazine went to press).
Sr. Pauline Silver Acayo, a peace officer working in Uganda for Catholic Relief Services, visited Saint Joseph’s last fall to discuss the conflict between the government of Uganda and the Lord’s Resistance Army rebel group in Africa.

The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice in San Diego chose Sr. Acayo as one of the Women Peacemakers of the Year in 2005. She also received a certificate of recognition in 2006 for her peace-building work from the New York-based Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children.
They cram their stuff into their backpacks, make sure their iPods are charged for their long flights or rides, and stock up on bottled water. Hours later, they stroll down Jetways or clamber out of cars and buses, stash their bags where they’re staying and get to work.

Clad in their Saint Joseph’s sweatshirts and tees and baseball caps, they rehab houses and build playgrounds. They toil in hospitals and shelters. They minister to the sick and the underprivileged.

As stirring as these efforts are, the truly amazing part happens when they return to campus and, before getting back into their daily lives, gather to talk about the journeys they have taken, to reflect on the lessons they have learned, to realize that what they have given is nothing compared to what they have received.

College kids’ engagement in service is, while noble, hardly newsworthy. But ask those kids to spend some time thinking about what they’ve done and sharing those insights with their peers? Now you’re moving from mere do-gooding to something much more intimate and substantial.

“A lot of studies have shown that when people do service, it’s a good thing, but it doesn’t necessarily cause them to think about what there is to be learned,” says Daniel R.J. Joyce, S.J. ’88 (B.A.), assistant to the vice president for mission and identity. “Reflection helps people dig a little deeper, to understand themselves and others and begin to grasp why certain situations exist and how they can be transformed. Reflection allows for the transformation of the individual doing the service, as well as of the system, so that the situation can begin to improve.”

Such reflection has become a hallmark of the University’s service efforts. It has proven so effective that other colleges, universities and nonprofits have sought to import the model — and the men and women who have participated in it. Institutions throughout the region have called on these Saint Joseph’s alumni to shepherd young people in activities that require them not only to assist others but also to engage in significant, meaningful assessment that places their actions within a larger context of peace and justice.
Three years ago, Josh Power ’05 (B.S.) joined the University of Pennsylvania’s Robert A. Fox Leadership Program as associate director for leadership and service projects. He oversees a variety of programs, including a partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern Pennsylvania through which Penn students are recruited and trained to serve as mentors to elementary and middle schoolers in West Philadelphia. It is the largest such campus-based program in the country.

Power is also involved with the Fox Program’s projects in New Orleans. It sends 100 undergraduates during spring break to build homes for families displaced by Hurricane Katrina and 15 students for 10 weeks during the summer to work with nonprofits doing post-Katrina recovery work. Through a new post-graduate fellowship program, a handful of Penn alumni will commit to living in the city and working with community-serving nonprofits for one to two years.

Power’s experience at Saint Joseph’s, where he participated in Project Appalachia and the Native American Experience in New Mexico, among others, led him to integrate reflection and discussion into the structure of the programs he administers at Penn.

“Reflection helps you better understand not only the impact that the experience is having on the community you’re working with, but also the impact the experience is having on you as a volunteer,” he says. “Without spending that time reflecting in deep thought with other students, you’ll be less likely to continue seeking out similar experiences or staying engaged with that community. Structured reflection and discussion help give students a chance to process what they’re feeling.”

Joseph P. Tierney ’83 (B.S.), the Fox Leadership Program’s executive director, says that Saint Joseph’s emphasis on reflection fosters a lifelong interest in service and made Power the perfect choice to help the nation’s future leaders realize the importance of helping others.

“He really is a poster child for service at Saint Joseph’s,” Tierney says. “But as great as Josh is, I don’t think he’s unique to what Saint Joseph’s produces.”

A few blocks away, Daniel Dougherty ’93 (B.A.) sits in a conference room at Drexel University’s Center for Civic Engagement, which brings together students, faculty, nonprofits and neighborhood groups to facilitate community-based experiential learning. Drexel’s emphasis on co-op education has helped the center make inroads at the university — no small feat for an institution not as accustomed to service as Saint Joseph’s.

“We get people who tend to be much more open and even deferential to an office such as ours, because they don’t have experience in service-learning or civic engagement,” says Dougherty, director of the Center. “If you have a sociology department or a psychology department, they’re used to such things, and they can do that on their own.”

While Drexel is a decentralized institution, the Center for Civic Engagement has a university-wide presence, giving Dougherty the opportunity to instill the sense that service is a noble calling to be embraced and not simply a requirement that must be endured. He launched a student leadership program, modeled after Saint Joseph’s Faith-Justice Institute, in which a small group of under-
graduates serve as liaisons between the university and the community groups it works with.

“SJU confirmed for me that service to others and seeking a world where inequality and injustice do not exist were desirable goals and were supported by the mission of the University, the charism of the Society of Jesus and a community of students, faculty and staff,” he says. “I became very active as an undergraduate in community service programs and that set into motion the desire to work with marginalized populations after graduation. I often reflected on what it meant to be a ‘man for others’ and to be a follower of Jesus through my work with homeless adults after SJU.”

Dougherty’s emphasis on reflection signals a culture change at Drexel, and it is his way of emphasizing to student volunteers the efficacy of their activities. It helps them realize they are not alone, but instead are part of a greater whole that is making a difference in West Philadelphia. While he’s been at the center for just a short while, he has ambitious plans, including the development of service-learning courses and possibly a formalized academic program centered on civic engagement.

“I’m not going to say that in three months we’ve changed the world, but I think three years from now I’ll have a better idea of it,” Dougherty says.

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After graduating from Saint Joseph’s in 1998, Seán Patrick Sanford (B.A.) began working at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Skillman, N.J., where his colleagues joked that he had brought Campus Ministry along with him. Among the initiatives he launched was an immersion program for high schoolers through which students who had just completed their freshman year spent a week working in Trenton; sophomores went to the Romero Center in Camden, juniors to Appalachia and seniors to Tijuana, Mexico. Sanford spent a decade at St. Charles and then went on to serve as executive director of St. Joseph’s Seminary in Princeton, N.J., a youth and young adult formation center that offers experiences to help individuals discover their place in the Christian tradition of justice and service. He founded programs to immerse high schoolers for weeklong service experiences and young adults in summer
service internships; he also started the Center for FaithJustice that conducts community service and justice education programs, provides resources to churches and schools, and seeks to “explore the fullness of Christian life” by fostering communities of faith in action.

“The thing I learned at Saint Joseph’s was this idea of needing to process the service experience — to have people talk about what they saw and experienced,” he says. “It has been said it’s almost better not to do it than to not process it. There are so many aspects that are missed, or even misunderstood, if they don’t get a chance to reflect on what they just experienced. We talk a lot about what that calls us to — as people and communities of faith — when it’s over.

“I have no interest in taking kids into Trenton to make them feel good about doing 25 hours of service,” he adds. “I want them to integrate it into what their life is about.”

Sanford’s objective doesn’t work with everyone, of course, but when it does, it holds powerful resonance. Since her time as a student at Saint Joseph’s, Diana Loiacono ’06 (B.S.) has been involved with the Center for FaithJustice as a program coordinator for its summer youth programs. She has seen firsthand the extraordinary effect reflection can have.

“As participants in these week-long service experiences, students are challenged to ask the hard questions and confront challenging realities as they engage in action on behalf of justice,” Loiacono says. “My hope is that their experiences of faith, community, and social action will lead them to recognize the intrinsic relationship between faith and justice.”

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To witness the power of reflection, to understand its potential to influence lives for years to come, look no further than Timothy Flanagan. After earning a bachelor’s degree in management in 2003, he seemed well on his way to the six-figure salary and big-firm consulting gig he had envisioned as an undergraduate. He started a company, nurtured it for a while, then took some time off to travel and do small-business consulting.

But in the back of his mind, Flanagan recalled his senior-year experience with Project Appalachia.

“That just turned my whole world around,” he says. “What I realized there was the Jesuit ethic of men and women for others. I decided that was it — that’s what I had to do: Take whatever skills I had learned at St. Joe’s to a community and help it raise its standard of living.”

Flanagan went to Washington, D.C., where he had some friends from Saint Joseph’s, and began volunteering with community development organizations. After a while, one of his fellow volunteers introduced him to someone with the Washington Area Community Investment Fund, and before long, he had come on board as a manager.

In that role, Flanagan offers capacity building and access to capital to existing and start-up small businesses in the greater D.C. area, helping to create jobs and self-employment opportunities for low and moderate-income individuals. Clients range from child-care providers to affordable housing developers to battered women’s shelters.

“It turned out to be the exact job I’d been looking for,” Flanagan says.

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Sipping coffee in a dining hall at the Romero Center, a peace and justice retreat center in Camden, N.J., that hosts high school, college and adult groups for service retreats, Megan Allen ’04 (B.S.) and Holly Myers ’05 (B.S.) are discussing the importance of their Saint Joseph’s experience to their current work. Allen and Myers plan and implement the Romero Center’s Urban Challenge Retreat, which sends participants to Camden and Philadelphia soup kitchens, homeless shelters and nursing homes during the day and returns them in the afternoon and evening to discuss such weighty issues as the existence of poverty. Their primary goal is to integrate service, reflection and education to effect change.

“At St. Joe’s, a big part of our service experience was reflection, which you don’t always get,” Myers says. “A lot of retreat centers concentrate just on the service aspect, which is vital, but if you’re not thinking about it and processing it, you’re not recognizing the change in yourself and growing with it. For me, reflection is the service. That’s where I recognize my own spirituality and feel God’s grace. The reflection and the service are absolutely intertwined.”
For Allen, reflection upon service is also a necessary part of her faith. At Saint Joseph’s, she says, she felt secure to ask the tough questions that reflection gives rise to. She could challenge her faith and challenge the world and still grow.

“I can’t do service without it being connected to a faith component,” she says. “It doesn’t make sense to me that people do service without reflecting and tying it into the whole person, the whole self, the whole spirituality piece.”

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“Reflection will always help our people — students, faculty and staff — come to know themselves and the purpose of their lives,” Fr. Joyce says. “That will always lead to something about spirituality and a kind of vision of themselves as it relates to God and their work in the world — their vocation.

“SJU has a reputation for reflecting on service with effect,” he adds, “both for those who now use it to help others reflect and for those whose reflection leads their career.”

Kate Byrne ’07 (B.S.) would concur. A former Service Scholar in the Faith-Justice Institute, she worked for NETWORK, a Catholic Social Justice Lobby, and did faith-based outreach in Philadelphia for Barack Obama’s presidential campaign. Today, Byrne works on health care policy and international trade issues for U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur of Ohio. Her career path, she says, has been informed by the interactions she and her fellow service scholars had with faculty members at the intersection of service and study.

“We had a lot of discussions on various topics,” she recalls. “That shaped me into the person that I am, probably more so than most classes I had.”

Flanagan, the Washington community developer, portrays it as almost inevitable, beginning from the moment the backpack is zipped shut and loaded into the trunk for that first immersion trip.

“Saint Joseph’s really instills, above all, the value of service to others and transforming that into a career,” he says. “I don’t think there’s another option if you paid attention. You do end up in service to others.”

Tom Durso is a freelance writer. In addition to this article, he also wrote the Sr. Mary Scullion feature on pages 18-19.
Like many CEOs, she is lauded as visionary and clever, a person with startling networking skills, someone who knows which people in the room can help her organization — and how. She can sense when to come on strong and when to lay back. She has spent two decades growing her enterprise into a national model of effectiveness. She speaks thoughtfully about strategic initiatives and exudes confidence and optimism.

But Mary Scullion, R.S.M. ’76 (B.S.), is no ordinary CEO. She’s a Sister of Mercy, for one, and she’s not shy about playing up that fact when it helps her cause. And the organization she cofounded with Joan Dawson McConnon in 1989 does not make widgets; it advocates on behalf of the homeless. Sr. Mary straddles two worlds, rubbing elbows with the region’s movers and shakers as the president and executive director of Project H.O.M.E., then ministering to the homeless people for whom she has found affordable housing and whom she has placed in jobs.

Along the way, Sr. Mary has become the face of housing advocacy in greater Philadelphia and has helped build a national reputation for her organization. Her thoughts and expertise have appeared in national media outlets for decades. And she has
received numerous honorary doctorates and awards for her leadership in the City of Philadelphia.

“She uses partnerships as a means of operating, because we have all these lofty goals and we can’t achieve them on our own,” says Erin O’Brien ’99 (B.A.), the organization’s volunteer coordinator. “She is a great brainstormer, able to articulate her ideas in ways that are a stepping-off point to bigger concepts. She’s a terrific collaborator.”

Sr. Mary believes if people are living on the streets or in doorways, it is not simply their problem, but everyone else’s as well, perhaps now more than ever. Philadelphia’s homeless population is the highest it has been in 10 years, according to the city’s homeless outreach center.

“Engaging the public in the issue of homelessness is a very strategic initiative,” she says in a conference room at Project H.O.M.E.’s headquarters on Fairmount Avenue. “Homelessness is not a problem in and of itself — it’s more symptomatic of deeper societal problems. It’s almost prophetic, saying there’s something radically wrong here. We have to look at our structural economic issues. It’s really important to engage the public because homelessness affects us all.”

Indeed, the organization’s tagline, “None of us are home until all of us are home,” comes from an address delivered at Saint Joseph’s University by Pedro Arrupe, S.J., then the superior general of the Society of Jesus, when Sr. Mary was a student there.

“He said that if a person is hungry anywhere in the world, the Eucharist is incomplete everywhere in the world, and that through the Eucharist, through our faith, there’s a place for everybody at our table,” she recalls. “That sense of hospitality and unity really helped Project H.O.M.E. That was what motivated and continues to motivate me and others to be a part of the community of people from all walks of life who are committed to ending homelessness.”

Two decades ago, in the cold winter of early 1989, Sr. Mary and McConnon, both veterans of serving the homeless, had seen enough. Joining forces in an effort to respond to the needs of those on the streets, they worked with the City of Philadelphia to open the locker room of the Marian Anderson Recreational Center at 17th and Fitzwater as an emergency shelter. Naysayers predicted that the homeless, many of them veterans, many of them mentally impaired or drug-addicted, would refuse help, but a surprising thing happened: The shelter filled quickly with men and women who were seeking a hand.

“Everybody said they wanted a little place of their own and a job,” Sr. Mary says. “We felt there was an opportunity to focus on solutions to homelessness as opposed to just responding to the immediate emergency need. We decided to seek more permanent resolutions and started Project H.O.M.E.”

From those very basic beginnings has grown an organization that has helped more than 8,000 people break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Project H.O.M.E. offers nearly 500 units of housing and has launched three businesses to provide employment to formerly homeless persons. It keeps people off the streets in North Central Philadelphia through the greening of vacant lots, economic development, home ownership for the working poor and the Honickman Learning Center Technology Labs, which offer comprehensive educational and occupational programming. It runs a small independent school with Germantown Academy and a free health care clinic through Thomas Jefferson University. All of these activities are oriented toward the tenets that give Project H.O.M.E. its name: housing, opportunities, medical care and education.

“By focusing on those four areas in a more strategic way, we wanted to partner with the people out there to end homelessness in Philadelphia, and that’s what we still believe is possible,” she says. “We believe that with the talent, resources, leadership and faith community in Philadelphia, we really can end homelessness for people on the streets.”

Such optimism and determination are standard for many if not most advocates, and in many ways Sr. Mary is a typical CEO. She answers questions thoughtfully, often pausing to choose the exact right words. She maintains a strategic outlook that aims to attack root causes as well as symptoms. She likes to wander around the office and joke with staff, often stopping to filch a piece of chocolate from someone’s candy dish. She is an avid runner whose language can slip toward the salty.

Yes, she is a person of faith, but also one who is fully immersed in the world.

“She’s a clever, clever CEO,” marvels Corinne O’Connell ’97 (B.A.), Project H.O.M.E.’s volunteer coordinator from 1999 to 2002. “Sr. Mary is an amazing visionary, an incredible leader. She has the ability to bring all sorts of people to the table to address the issues of poverty and homelessness — and has converted some staunch opponents into some of the strongest supporters.

“Sr. Mary has an incredible ability to connect people,” O’Connell continues. “She knows who’s going to be the messenger, or she’s going to get this person with that person and poof! What was an idea is now reality.”

Sr. Mary’s current reality involves very vocal advocacy for quality education. Reaching young people is the surest way to break the cycle of homelessness, she believes, especially now, when the disparity between the wealthy and the poor has grown so obscenely wide and the economy is chasing even the employed out of their homes.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about this driven, down-to-earth, passionate person is her unwavering belief that it can happen. She cites the theologian Jon Sobrino, S.J., who refers to the biblical story of the Good Samaritan and points out that while all of us think we would have stopped to help the beaten man on the road, we must remember that it is not simply one person about whom Jesus was talking. All who are suffering worldwide are on that road. What are we going to do, Fr. Sobrino asked, to stop such injustices?

“That story has been told and retold, and it makes me think: We do have power,” Sr. Mary says. “We can act. Even in this economy, I still have a lot of hope. There are still a lot of resources and talent and potential. We can take this a couple of steps forward.”

For more on Project H.O.M.E., visit www.projecthome.org.
Which Saint Joseph’s president served the longest term?
  - Burchard Villiger, S.J.
  - Donald I. MacLean, S.J.
  - Cornelius Gillespie, S.J.
  - Nicholas S. Rashford, S.J.

Where on campus is the memorial to the 12 members of the Class of 1943A who died in World War II?

Which varsity athletic team has the most victories?
  - Men’s basketball
  - Softball
  - Men’s rowing
  - Field hockey

Which current professor has the longest tenure at Saint Joseph’s?

Which alumnus was the subject of the 2006 box office hit, starring Mark Wahlberg?

Which of the following were NOT situated at the intersection of 54th Street and City Avenue in the 1950s and 1960s?
  - Fishman’s Seafood Restaurant
  - Dake’s Pharmacy
  - Franklin House Bank
  - Rolling Pin Bakery

Which current professor has the longest tenure at Saint Joseph’s?

Which four SJU alumni are currently playing or coaching in the NBA?

What locale is the farthest destination from which a current undergraduate hails?
  - New Zealand
  - Malaysia
  - Iceland
  - The North Pole

Which is the most popular dinner entree in the Campion cafe?
  - Turkey and Mashed Potatos
  - Quizno’s
  - Lemon Beef with Bananas
  - The Hawk Wrap

What is the claim to fame of Kathy Casey-Kirschling, who earned a master’s degree at Saint Joseph’s in 1989?
Check out www.sju.edu/alumni for upcoming events and other ways to stay in touch with Saint Joseph’s. This year, the Class of 1959 celebrates its 50th reunion, May 14-16, on campus. Classes ending “4” and “9” can reconnect with classmates and refresh memories of Hawk Hill during Alumni Reunion on November 14.

In what season did SJU have its first and only female Hawk mascot?
- 1982-83
- 2008-09
- 1997-98
- 2000-01

What Saint Joseph’s graduate was the most successful in Olympic competition?

Who made the following statement in a 1967 visit to campus?
- The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Sen. Barry Goldwater
- Stevie Wonder
- Former President Richard Nixon

Two faculty members conducted a research project in the early 1970s that had a significant impact on nutrition. What was the subject of their research?

Which Jesuit and former faculty member was called “The Waterfront Priest?”

Which of the following is NOT an intramural sport at Saint Joseph’s?
- Lacrosse
- Roller Hockey
- Capoeira
- Pickleball

Who is pictured in this painting?
- St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus
- Felix J. Barbelin, S.J., founder and first president of Saint Joseph’s College
- Joseph Greaton, S.J., first resident pastor of Saint Joseph’s Church
- Robin Williams, actor and comedian

What profession did University President Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., seriously consider before deciding to become a priest?

Which of the following endangered animals does NOT live in the University’s biodiversity lab, managed by Scott McRobert, Ph.D., professor of biology?
- Vietnamese Leaf Turtle
- Blue Poison Dart Frog
- Copperbelly Water Snake
- Yellow Spotted Amazonian River Turtle
Enter at your own Risk

MORAL HAZARDS OF THE ECONOMIC
An exaggeration? Maybe, but this depiction of a potential homeowner and broker isn’t much of a stretch when considering the current financial crisis. A culture of consumption and disregard for ethical considerations became a sort of religion for the market. Consumers took on more debt than they could afford, and mortgage brokers and investment bankers reaped the benefits of what seemed to be an unending flow of money exchanged on the market.

Until, of course, the credit ran out, and it was time for someone to pay.

John McCall, Ph.D., director of the Pedro Arrupe Center for Business Ethics and professor of management and philosophy, has examined the financial crisis from an ethical perspective. He says it’s human nature to look for someone to blame but believes there isn’t just one bad guy. “Rather, the culpability lies in a series of moral hazards at every stage of the crisis,” he says. “From borrower to investment fund manager, people reaped benefits while shifting risk onto others.”

**Borrower to Broker**

In January 2009, RealtyTrac, a California-based foreclosure-listing firm, reported that more than 2.3 million homeowners faced foreclosure proceedings last year, an 81 percent increase from 2007.

“People started using their homes like credit cards to finance a lifestyle of consumption,” explains McCall. In an effort to “keep up with the Joneses,” homebuyers often committed to future monthly payments they couldn’t afford. If they had asked themselves, “Can I afford this?,” McCall believes that many may have avoided becoming statistics as the nation’s foreclosure rate ballooned.

**Broker to Bank**

Brokers became accountable in the financial crisis by sometimes preying on homebuyers’ ignorance. “Relying on the fact that homebuyers didn’t always understand the terms of their contracts,” says McCall, “brokers pushed loans which consumers couldn’t afford.”

The brokers could conceal this lack of affordability by using adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) with low initial interest rates. Al Pastino ’64 (B.S.), managing director of Amper Investment Banking, a boutique investment bank in New York City, says brokers assured consumers they could manage ARMs by refinancing in a few years before the rates skyrocketed. The brokers had little incentive to worry about loan risks since they were paid by banks for the number, not the quality, of the mortgages they originated for banks.
“You have to understand that property values were increasing at double-digit rates (up to 30 percent in some areas),” says Pastino, an Arrupe Center Advisory Board member. “Everyone was riding this wave, and the brokers didn’t think that three years from now, the house with the $500,000 mortgage was only going to appraise for $380,000.”

Bank to Investment House

Housing price appreciation started to ramp up in 1999 and increased rapidly through 2005, according to a recent study by the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, D.C. Interest rates were also very low during this time and, in turn, real estate was considered a safe investment.

It was very easy to borrow money in this market, especially since banks didn’t hold onto the loans they were selling. Banks sold the loans to Wall Street investment houses, like the now-bankrupt Lehman Bros. “The banks weren’t exercising due diligence and, instead, routinely accepted risky mortgages,” says McCall. “They issued risky loans because they were able to gain a fee for selling those mortgages to investment houses.”

Investment House to Investor

“The Wall Street firms then packaged the loans in a way that made them appear less risky to investors,” explains McCall. The problem was that the people selling these investments didn’t understand the financial subtleties of their product.

The legal language of the investment contracts further complicated the issue, according to Pastino. “There was a great degree of ignorance here,” he says.

In describing how the series of events unfolded, Pastino observes: “It was like this tidal wave of optimism overwhelming the borrowers, lenders and investors. Everyone believed that the mortgages, and thus the related investments, would be satisfied by the ever-increasing value of the properties behind the mortgages. No one considered the possibility that these loans would have to be paid off in the traditional way.”

“It’s like the people playing the game had ethical blinders on,” adds McCall. “These people had little to no ethical training or framework.”

According to McCall, the educational efforts of the Arrupe Center and its board are designed to thwart ethical mistakes like those made by business leaders involved in the current financial crisis. Pastino says that the current situation points to the need for more oversight and stricter government regulation, and that recent history has taught us that without this oversight, abuses are not far behind.

McCall takes it a step further. “If we’re going to get ourselves out of this mess, we, as consumers, can’t take on more debt,” he says. “We’ve gotten so used to having things without paying for them, and it’s going to be hard to get people to bring debt down.”

To begin, McCall suggests Americans start asking themselves tough questions about their consumption habits:

In her role as the chief executive officer of Advanced Enviro Systems, a Philadelphia area-based company specializing in waste reduction and recycling, Judy Ward ’07 (M.B.A.) is acutely aware of Americans’ high level of consumption. “Trash is a byproduct of people’s purchasing habits,” she says. “Instead of using less, we are using more. The more that we continue to buy and use, the more waste accumulates.”

Ward, also an Arrupe Center Advisory Board member, says consumers should strive for sustainability and only purchase what is needed. “Currently,” Ward explains, “Americans are generating waste products faster than nature can break them down and using up resources faster than they can be replaced.”
Old habits die hard, but McCall believes the financial crisis has, at the very least, made Americans aware that our consumption behavior needs to change, “lest we face dire social, environmental and financial consequences.”

Pastino, the New York City investment banker, believes that in order for this cultural shift to take place, the message has to come from the top levels of government. “We must acknowledge the behavior that resulted in this situation and make the tough decisions necessary to correct the situation, to avoid a repeat,” he says. “This message needs to stay in the forefront.”

Pastino further believes that universities have a critical responsibility to graduate adults who will leave school with a sense of ethics and responsibility. “These values need to be part of the graduates’ core values,” he explains. “How you respond to challenging issues speaks to your value system. These values are critical. They’re shaped early in life, but are refined at the university.”

Frank Trainer ’68 (B.S.), former chief investment officer of fixed income at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., agrees. “If students aren’t forced to think through thornier dilemmas before entering industry, they will be largely influenced by the behavior they observe and reluctant to challenge it,” he warns. “If students have thought about these issues and debated them in the classroom, they are more likely to make decisions which speak to their core values.”

“Real issues,” Trainer says, like the ethical mistakes of the financial crisis, “aren’t supposed to be dealt with in hindsight.”

Carolyn Steigleman works with the Haub School of Business and is enrolled in Saint Joseph’s master’s in writing studies program.
Dear Fellow Hawks,

We find ourselves in the midst of extraordinarily trying times for private colleges and universities throughout the nation. The worldwide economic crisis has many hoping for the best but preparing for the worst. Saint Joseph’s is no exception. And yet all of us associated with this great University are committed to not only preserve, but also to strengthen those things that make Saint Joseph’s unique — we continue to embrace the Catholic, Jesuit values that have made us what and who we are.

Saint Joseph’s continues to help deserving students afford an education on Hawk Hill. That commitment extends not only to incoming students, but also to those whose college careers began before our current economic situation became a stark reality. During the closing days of the fall semester, Fr. Lannon and the University’s leaders moved swiftly to provide additional funding for students whose personal financial situations may have been adversely impacted by the economic downturn. This reallocation of funds, accompanied by the University’s continued commitment to retention, has ensured that student retention rates going into the spring semester remained on par with those posted last year.

We have been blessed by the continued philanthropic loyalty exhibited by our alumni, parents and friends. The Saint Joseph’s Fund helps open doors to countless opportunities for students and provides invaluable operational support necessary to keep our campus running. As the University’s academic year comes to a close, I ask you to join me in supporting the Saint Joseph’s Fund, if you have not already done so. I understand the challenges many of you face, but your participation plays a pivotal role in our success.

During these difficult times, serving our students remains at the forefront of everything we do. Numerous career-centered networking events provide tremendous forums for alumni to engage and help current students. In addition to these outlets, The Hawk Career Network powered by LinkedIn, which currently boasts upwards of 1,500 members, and MySJU for Alumni continue to grow, offering ways for Hawks around the country and around the world to connect online.

As an alumus, I am grateful to Fr. Lannon, the Board of Trustees and the rest of the University’s leadership for their forethought and planning. I am equally grateful to those alumni and friends who continue to support our alma mater through philanthropy and volunteerism. With this combined effort, I am confident that Saint Joseph’s will confront these uncertain economic times and emerge stronger and better for having done so.

Your loyal Hawk,

Dennis P. Sheehan, Esq. ’85 (B.S.)
President
Saint Joseph’s University Alumni Association

Please join us as the Saint Joseph’s University Alumni Association Presents

Edward J. Trainer ’63
&
David A. Voell ’93 and Anthony S. (T.J.) Voell ’93

Sunday, June 28, 2009
Drexelbrook
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For more information, e-mail alumni@sju.edu.
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During the With Faith and Strength to Dare campaign, we are planning for the University's future. We would like to hear about your plans, too.

Bequests benefit future generations of students in unimaginable ways. If you intend to include Saint Joseph’s in your estate plans, let us help you to achieve your charitable giving goals.

To plan a bequest to Saint Joseph's, obtain sample language or notify the University of your existing bequest, please contact us.

With Faith and Strength to Dare
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At the age of 86, Howard J. Heim, S.J., professor emeritus of physics, passed away on Dec. 12, 2008.

Fr. Heim became a physics professor at then-Saint Joseph's College in 1947 and stayed until 1950, when he left to teach physics at Wheeling College. He returned to Saint Joseph's physics department in 1960 and remained there until his retirement in 1996.

Throughout his tenure at Saint Joseph's, Fr. Heim taught general physics to mostly biology and chemistry students, occasionally filling in as a mathematics instructor.

According to J. Richard Houston, Ph.D., professor emeritus of physics and a former colleague, “Fr. Heim would begin each class the same way: he'd clap his hands twice and say ‘Let’s go St. Joe’s!’ Also, he always referred to his students as ‘Happy Hawks.’”

A Philadelphia native, Fr. Heim entered the Society of Jesus at the St. Isaac Jogues Novitiate in Wernersville, Pa., in 1940. He completed his undergraduate studies at Woodstock College (Md.) in 1946 and furthered his theological studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Woodstock College and the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He was ordained in 1953 and professed his final vows in 1956.

Houston described Fr. Heim as having a gentle and quiet demeanor, but said that “Fr. Heim was a huge, passionate Phillies fan. He could list every player from the past 40 to 50 years.” Fr. Heim lived to see his beloved team become World Series Champions last October.

— Sarah (Whelbon) Hennessey '07 (M.A.)
Partnering with SJU for Biomedical Research

James Michael Mullin, Ph.D. ’76 (B.S.), nearly has a panoramic view of the Lower Merion surroundings from his third-floor laboratory window on Lancaster Avenue. A biomedical research scientist at the Lankenau Institute for Medical Research (LIMR), he noticed one day that he could almost see the Saint Joseph's University campus from his window. Which got him to thinking: The proximity of his alma mater presented an opportunity to bring together the University's biology graduate students interested in biomedical research and the LIMR scientists whose research would benefit from the efforts of those eager, motivated students.

Mullin, who earned his undergraduate degree in biology at Saint Joseph's, has been at LIMR since 1986. He received a Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed postdoctoral fellowships at the Wistar Institute and at the Yale University School of Medicine, but he has maintained a relationship with Saint Joseph's by speaking on numerous occasions for science, health and pharmaceutical marketing career networking nights. He is also an adjunct professor in the biology department and collaborates closely with Deborah Lurie, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics and computer sciences, regarding study design and biostatistical considerations of the research, and with Peter Zurbach, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, regarding drug structure and activity issues. In 2004, he brought his idea for collaboration between SJU and LIMR to then-biology department chair Paul Tefft, Ph.D., and then-head of graduate biology, Karen Snetselaar, Ph.D., professor of biology and current department chair.

“I knew the quality of the students from SJU is uniformly high,” noted Mullin. “The fact that they could attend classes with the SJU biology faculty just down the road on City Avenue and then come here [LIMR] to work in biomedical research seemed optimal.”

With input from other University and LIMR administrators, a plan was conceived whereby master of science in biology students could apply for an LIMR research assistantship in biology.

Since then, six students have taken their course work at Saint Joseph’s and chosen to work from among 10 research laboratories at LIMR, according to their own interests. For their efforts, the students receive a tuition scholarship as well as a stipend. The biomedical researchers and clinical scientists at LIMR typically conduct investigations in cancer and heart disease. In Mullin’s lab, where research focuses on the role of epithelial barrier function in cancer and inflammatory diseases of the gut, three Saint Joseph's graduate students have recently published research in prestigious medical journals.

The work of Sonja Skrovanek ’06 (M.S.) has been published in the American Journal of Physiology, and, according to Mullin, will soon be republished in the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences. Lisa Murray ’06 (B.S.), ’08 (M.S.) was lead author for an article published in World Journal of Gastroenterology, and she, Mullin and Melissa Gabello ’04 (B.S.), who will receive her M.S. this spring, published a major article about an unexpected side effect of proton-pump inhibitors, or acid-lowering medications, in Digestive Diseases and Sciences, in December 2008. Two additional articles from this trio on the same topic will be forthcoming in 2009.

Skrovanek, Murray and Gabello all attest to the success of their assistantships. Skrovanek is now lab manager in the molecular biology department at Princeton University, and Murray was hired for a job directly related to the specialized work she performed in Mullin’s lab. “Not only did I publish research in several medical journals, but I presented at multiple national conferences and attended an international symposium in Berlin, Germany,” says Murray. “These experiences undoubtedly leveraged my career in the right direction, and gave me an edge over other students coming out of school.”

Gabello, who is interested in attending medical school in the future, commented on the value of her interactions with the physicians and medical residents at Lankenau. “Because Lankenau Hospital and LIMR are relatively small in size, there is close contact between researchers and physicians,” she noted.

Clearly, from the vantage point of the students who have spent time both on Hawk Hill and in Mullin's third-floor lab on Lancaster Avenue, the view of the world just keeps getting better and better.

— Patricia Allen
There’s no question Catholic schools can make a difference in the lives of young people. But in America’s second-most dangerous city, Camden, N.J., the presence of the Catholic Church in its schools represents the promise of a better education and a brighter future for the more than 1,000 children they serve.

Guided by this knowledge and their belief in the value of Catholic education, a number of Saint Joseph’s alumni are working to strengthen and support five Catholic elementary schools in the Camden city area through the recently established Catholic School Partnership.

The partnership is the brainchild of the International Education Foundation (IEF), established by Robert T. Healey ’51 (B.S.), and IEF’s local initiative, the Catholic School Development Program (CSDP), started in 2004 to help ensure the long-term sustainability of Catholic Schools in the Camden diocese. In the last three years alone, the diocese saw the number of its elementary schools drop from 52 to 38.

“Catholic elementary schools are so important because they feed high schools, and the high schools feed colleges,” said Healey, who was educated in Camden’s Catholic schools in the 1940s. “Statistically, we know that once children in inner-cities reach the age of eight or nine without proper schooling, they are lost to the streets. Catholic schools save our children, save our cities and, ultimately, save our country.”

The IEF/CSDP tapped longtime educator and SJU professor Robert H. Palestini, Ed.D. ’63 (B.S.), ’67 (M.A.), to serve as founding executive director of the Catholic School Partnership. Along with Christine Healey deVaull ’01 (M.S.), IEF executive director, Palestini leads a five-person management team and a 12-person board.

“When all else fails in troubled cities, it’s usually the Catholic Church that remains,” deVaull explained. “How can we abandon Camden?”

The partnership will assist the parish schools at Holy Name, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Cecilia, Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral, helping them to thrive and maintain themselves, so they may continue to offer not only an excellent education, but also a safe haven for the city’s children. The partnership strives to ensure that the very best educational strategies are being employed by empowering principals and teachers and by building a strong business model. Plans also include the creation of a Foundation for Camden’s Children, an endowment fund that will provide financial longevity for the schools and scholarships for low-income students.

Palestini has logged more than 35 years as an educator, serving as a teacher, principal, superintendent and, at Saint Joseph’s, dean of graduate and continuing studies. He is currently an associate professor of education at SJU and the author of six books on educational tools and understanding of Catholic education, and the partnership is headed for success.”

Monique Kelly ’94 (B.A.), ’97 (M.S.), who previously worked in SJU’s Office of Alumni Relations, is now an advancement consultant for the CSDP. Kelly sees the IEF and CSDP’s goals as closely linked to the University’s mission of social justice and service to others.

“I believe we are all called to give back to the people and the institutions that have shaped our lives,” she said.

“Catholic education is important for Camden because of the diocese’s long history of serving its most disadvantaged citizens,” Palestini urged. “Our goals are four-fold. We aim to provide excellent education, a nurturing and safe environment, continued affordability, and the tools to allow these schools to be sustainable, so that Catholic education in Camden has a future.”

— Kelly Welsh ’05 (M.A.)
Financial Planning Advice — For All Ages

When Patrick Burke '92 (B.S.) decided to publish his first children's book, his goal was not to make money. His goal was to help his kids make money — or at least, learn how to manage it.

As the youngest of eight children growing up, Burke remembers that money was always tight. That set the stage for his lifelong interest in financial planning.

A principal in institutional asset management at the Vanguard Group, Burke believes it's key to teach children the value of a dollar and the importance of saving money from a young age. His own children, Riley, 7, Emma, 6, and Nicole, 4, were the inspiration for his book, Getting Your First Allowance.

"I wanted my book to get kids interested in saving money — without lecturing them," he said. "I wanted to give my kids some incentive to save."

In the book, Burke shows how a weekly allowance can be a good way to teach children financial responsibility. And he offers further motivation for kids to save: parents can match every dollar a child deposits in the bank.

As the book's main character, Emily, turns five years old, her parents give her five dollars for her first weekly allowance. Her mom says, "Now you can buy toys or ice cream, or put the money in the bank, or even give some to a charity to help less fortunate people. But remember, Daddy and I will match whatever you put in the bank."

After first thinking of what “neat things she could buy,” Emily considers how she could use some of her allowance to help people. She decides to give one dollar to charity and deposit the other four dollars in the bank. Her parents promise to add four dollars to her account as well. Everybody is happy.

Burke suggests that parents model responsible financial practices, as Emily’s parents did, for their children. "Don't underestimate the importance of your own habits and their influence on your kids," he emphasized.

He advises parents to let their children see what financial decisions they make and explain to them why they spend or save. "Look at your own personal behaviors," he said. "Are you encouraging your kids to spend or save?"

As the youngest of eight children growing up, Burke remembers that money was always tight. That set the stage for his lifelong interest in financial planning.

It's not surprising, then, that he pursued and earned degrees in both finance and accounting from Saint Joseph's. He also earned a master's degree in taxation at Villanova University and ultimately received an M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 2000.

At Vanguard, Burke started a department that focuses solely on giving its clients personal financial planning advice. With the current economic downfall, these types of services are being called on more than ever — for people of all ages. “Financial planning can be time consuming and costly, but what we’ve tried to do at Vanguard is make it more readily available to the average American,” explained Burke.

He is also the company’s “St. Joe’s Champion,” coordinating recruiting and alumni activities for the University at Vanguard. He also serves on the board of visitors for the Erivan K. Haub School of Business.

— Maureen Catalano '09
Whether rationally or emotionally, the Subaru Legacy Special Edition just makes sense. The Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive gives you a firm grip on the road, and the power moonroof lets you admire the sky above you. Drive it once and you’ll fall in love.

Saint Joseph's University Alumni receive exclusive VIP Pricing on the Subaru Legacy Special Edition and the other fantastic models in the Subaru lineup. For details, contact Tim Curran at (610) 660-1702 or e-mail him at tcurran@sju.edu. Offer valid through June 30, 2009.

Log onto Subaru.com to view the complete Subaru vehicle line-up or to find a dealer near you.

Love. It's what makes a Subaru, a Subaru.
Anyone who has searched for a job or attempted to expand their business knows the value of a strong network of family, friends and colleagues. In fact, “use your contacts” has long been the most commonly uttered advice to job hunters. Ironically, at a time when the economy has gone south and joblessness is up, it has never been easier to use your contacts. You’ll need to go no further than your computer, BlackBerry or iPhone.

With just a few clicks and keystrokes, you can take advantage of SJUCareers and the Hawk Career Network — two powerful, Web-based networking tools.

Saint Joseph’s Career Development Center offers these dynamic, interactive resources to both students and alumni, whether they’re new to the job market or experienced professionals facing downsizing. And it gets better: those resources are free.

“In this market, with constant layoffs and impediments to small business growth across the country, we can help students and alumni expand their career opportunities and network rather quickly,” said Matthew Brink, director of SJU’s Career Development Center.

Many alumni and students already know about and have used SJUCareers (www.sju.edu/careers), Saint Joseph’s online guide for resume and cover letter samples, which also has links to sites about career paths, salary ranges and job postings, arranged by industry. Once registered, users may upload their resumes for thousands of employee-seeking companies in the United States and abroad, or job-hunt through an exclusive list of open positions posted by employers specifically looking to hire a Hawk.

The Hawk Career Network is the Career Center’s newest initiative. A joint effort with the Alumni Office, this business-oriented social networking site is powered by LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com) and provides unlimited job search and mentoring opportunities. Begun last summer, it already has 1,500 alumni and student members.

“The main purpose of the group is to provide interactive Web space for alumni and students to link up and mentor one another,” said Brink. “It’s basically the virtual version of how you would network in person, but it greatly accelerates the process.”

With this Web site — which some consider a Facebook for working professionals — participants can create extensive profiles and chronicle past and current education and employment. Users are also able to join groups that relate to their respective industries or interests.

Anyone can join LinkedIn by filling out standard personal information to create an account. Members must then request to join the Hawk Career Network, and once their affiliation with the University is verified, they are approved to make contacts within the SJU group.

Through LinkedIn, Michael McKeown ’80 (B.S.), vice president and partner at Genesis Micro Solutions in Berwyn, Pa., built an extensive network of more than 500 connections, simply by spending 30 minutes each day looking for contacts and joining relevant groups.

“I created a reliable attack plan through people I know for business development in 2009,” said McKeown. “I have had several meaningful customer meetings that will lead to business, and I have connected with consultants who want to work for me, so that makes recruiting easier. I truly believe I will see an incredible benefit in connecting with customers online and finding talent to fit my business model.”

McKeown described an added benefit: “I’ve connected with people I wouldn’t normally have been able to keep up with, including high school buddies, former colleagues and fellow SJU grads.”

“I’m a firm believer that there are several ways to ‘grow’ yourself and your career — and developing a strong network is one of them,” said Daniel Gallagher ’94 (B.S.), ’99 (M.S.), executive director of organization development at Comcast Cable in Philadelphia. “These days, you don’t have to physically shake someone’s hand to form a meaningful connection.”

Gallagher acknowledged that everyone has his or her own strategy on LinkedIn. Some users carefully guard their privacy and only accept connection invitations from people they personally know. Gallagher isn’t that exclusive, though, especially when it comes to fellow Hawks. “I would gladly offer 10 minutes of my day or meet over a cup of coffee to offer career advice,” he said.

Brink encourages alumni to develop a similar open approach toward the Saint Joseph’s community. He reasons that offering career advice, giving out contacts or helping fellow alumni find an open position is one of the greatest ways to give back to the University.

— *Sarah (Whelehon) Hennessey '07 (M.A.)*
but this time it was different. Getting production from virtually everyone in games and the Los Angeles Dodgers in five. Then, in a bizarre on the roster, the Phils dispatched the Milwaukee Brewers in four swept by a white-hot Colorado team.

However, on the way to the National League pennant, the Phillies got

strictly

magically, the mood in Philadelphia changed. We weren't a city of losers; we were a city of champions. Philadelphia sat atop the baseball world, and we basked in the reflected glory. The pent-up frustrations of 25 years were released in a huge outpouring of joy and excitement that perfectly culminated in a parade down Broad Street. It stopped the city for a day, completely overloaded the transit system, emptied schools, and brought people of different races, ages, backgrounds and professions together in a way that nothing except a world sports championship can do. Against the background of a complete economic meltdown, Philadelphia experienced euphoria. We were one, united in celebration.

Phillies Chairman Bill Giles said, “The Phillies were a great example of the idea that there is no 'I' in team, as it seemed like there was a different hero in every victory, particularly down the stretch in September and in the postseason when we won 24 of our last 30 games.” It is absolutely true that this team had different heroes every game and contributions from everyone, from the superstars on down the line.

“I have never seen such love between a team and their fans as I did riding on the float down Broad Street,” he continued. “The fans showed real affection for this bunch of guys, whom they consider to be good people and solid citizens.”

Incredibly, manager Charlie Manuel’s status with fans also soared from country bumpkin to genius. Philadelphiaans don’t exactly have a reputation for love, despite the famous sculpture in the John F. Kennedy Plaza, but they certainly showered it on their heroes of the fall.

Ultimately, how will the 2008 World Champion Phillies impact our fair city and its surrounding environs? We are currently in a fiscal crisis. The Arena Football League is out of business, so no more Philadelphia Soul. The Spectrum is being leveled, and there goes the Philadelphia Phantoms. The Eagles lost yet another NFC Championship game. So, in general, the mood in Philadelphia isn’t overwhelmingly positive. And while the Phillies’ run to the title generated some extra tourist dollars for the city, overall, the economic effect was negligible.

It is probably accurate to say that the Phillies provided a few shining moments and an exciting distraction for many who are otherwise experiencing difficult times.

Now, at the start of a new season in 2009, we’ll have to see whether the shining moments of last fall will sustain Philadelphia’s joy — even if the Phillies don’t have the same success against an upgraded Mets team. I truly believe that this championship will soften the edge, at least a little, and at least for a while. But we’re Philadelphia and we’re sports fans, and it will always be a case of, “What have you done for me lately?” … Right?

— John Lord, Ph.D. (B.S.) ’71

John Lord, a professor of marketing and hopeless sports fan, teaches Baseball: Tradition and Business. Raised in Philadelphia but born in Chicago, he remains loyal to both of his “home” teams.
I am a Navy chaplain. This role fulfills my deep-seated desire to serve God and country. Having grown up on military bases as the son of an Air Force master sergeant, I was drawn to military life from an early age. I pursued other career opportunities, however, in business and finance, and the occasion to serve was never opportune. I earned an M.B.A. at Saint Joseph's University in 1993 as well as a law degree from Villanova in 1996, and worked for several years at The Vanguard Group in brokerage and compliance prior to becoming a priest. Still, I had great respect for the military profession and a persistent desire to someday serve.

Fast forward to 2003. At the time, I was 38 and ordained a priest for the Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut. That momentous occasion occurred only after I had spent a good portion of my adult years considering the call. I was happy with my life, on the cusp of a promotion and immersed in the dating world. Nevertheless, I felt the continued attraction of the vocation, trusted God in calling me to the priesthood and finally took the leap of faith.

From the very beginning of my ordained ministry, I felt an express desire to someday serve as a military chaplain. When I first approached my bishop, the Most Rev. William E. Lori, some years back with this request, he kindly said that he just couldn’t afford to let me go. At that point, I fully accepted his decision in the spirit of obedience I promised at my ordination.

During the ensuing months, I was content with life as a parish priest and simply trusted that God would continue to lead and guide me according to His will and providence. I was caught by surprise when, over a year after our conversation, Bishop Lori released me to the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A., expressing his concern for the men and women in the military. He recognized the great sacrifices these heroic volunteers make and the Church’s pastoral need to provide for their spiritual care and well-being. He understood that their hearts and minds were under constant stress, especially with the insistent demands of the global war on terror.

I am deeply grateful for Bishop Lori’s decision. The work and presence of priests within the military is much-needed. While not always fully understood or appreciated by civilians, military service members are often located in dangerous and isolated places — military bases and camps in the Middle East or ships with long deployments. Service members must contend daily with the extreme physical, emotional and spiritual hardships inherent to exceptionally demanding assignments. For Catholics serving in the military, hundreds of miles away from a priest, the challenge is additionally compounded. While Protestant chaplains may offer spiritual support and emotional counsel, they are unable to provide the spiritual grace and consolations offered by Christ in the sacraments. Thus, without priests serving alongside them as chaplains and living under the same conditions, there would be no one to offer the Catholic faithful Holy Mass, hear confessions, provide the Sacrament of the Sick, or respond to their many special pastoral needs and spiritual challenges. My job, in a particular way, is to try to be there for them and to provide for their spiritual needs.

So far, it has been an adventure! Currently, I have the honor and privilege of serving as a chaplain onboard the USS Iwo Jima, a Wasp-class amphibious assault ship. Resembling an aircraft carrier, the ship is a virtual floating city propelled by steam with over 1,000 sailors and up to 1,800 embarked Marines. Our mission is to protect our country by launching a large number of Marines by sea and air on very short notice, and getting them rapidly into battle when a situation warrants it.

For my next assignment, I will likely serve as a chaplain in Kuwait, followed by attachment to a Marine Expeditionary Force with a subsequent deployment to Afghanistan. I believe this is precisely where our sailors and Marines need a priest most, and with all the sacrifices they make daily, I am glad I can be there for them.

As a Navy chaplain, I witness firsthand the heightened tempo of military operations. I observe each and every day the sacrifices demanded of our service men and women to support our freedom and protect our homeland. As a priest, it is a joy to be with them, ministering to these wonderful people, bringing the Good News of the Gospel to them. It is deeply rewarding and indeed a great honor and privilege to be a Navy chaplain at this time, serving both God and country.

— Rev. David A. Daigle ’93 (M.B.A.)
Lieutenant, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy

Fr. Daigle began his two-year deployment on the USS Iwo Jima in December 2007. To read his blog, visit www.catholicmil.org and search for “daigle.”
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THE CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT JOSEPH’S UNIVERSITY
BECAUSE YOU CAN’T WEAR YOUR DIPLOMA