

Fr. Kolvenbach Speaks to CU VP's, Deans and University Ministry Staff October 8th, 2004

Thank you, Fr. Schlegel. In the past 24 hours I have had the opportunity to learn very much about Creighton University. I receive annual reports from the Provincial's visit here, and Fr. Schlegel writes to update me on the progress of the University. I know he is happy with the staff he has assembled, and the University is growing and expanding and winning awards for the very values we treasure so much.

I won't repeat what I said last night, and I welcome hearing your comments or reactions, for it is you, along with the Board of Trustees and the Jesuit community, who will take the next steps in a growing cooperation in mission here at Creighton University.

In this brief moment we have together, let me thank you who are administrators, and you who make up the departments of University Ministry. We like to say that the measure of the success of a Jesuit University is what our students become. It is not about their idealism or even the many things they do while they are here. Our goal is to do everything we can, with the creativity and uniqueness that our Jesuit tradition calls forth, to allow each of them to grow to the full potential of their God-given talents, so that they might be servants for others.

Therefore, your role is to ensure, with every decision you make, with every priority and policy you set, that the distinctive character of these schools is always Jesuit, in the way the Society understands "Jesuit" today. So, it is you who will have to continually ask: "Are we choosing to act in service of a Faith that does Justice?" "Are our faculty and staff helped to understand and contribute to this Mission?" "Are our students becoming what we hope them to become?" "Are we giving them opportunities to dialogue with our culture, and be engaged in critiquing it?" "Are we laboring to ensure that our education is done in the context of the entire global community, which is becoming increasingly inter-dependant?" This is not the way many other universities evaluate themselves.

And, in order to perform this role, you must see to it that you are continually forming yourselves to grow in a sense of the characteristics of Jesuit identity and pedagogy, even ensuring, through retreats and times of reflection together, that you can benefit from the graces of the *Spiritual Exercises*, which are the wellspring of this Mission.

Please, let me hear your comments about what I said last night.