



On December 3, the feast of St. Francis Xavier, we marked the beginning of a special Jubilee Year for the Jesuits that will see us commemorate significant anniversaries for three of the founders of the Society of Jesus.

The Jubilee Year observes the 500th birthday of Saint Francis Xavier, born April 7, 1506; the 500th birthday of Blessed Pierre Favre, born April 13, 1506; and the 450th anniversary of the death of Saint Ignatius Loyola on July 31, 1556.

When Father General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach announced the Jubilee, he said, "The anniversary invites us to examine and intensify our fidelity to the call of the Lord that they were the first to discern and that they followed in such a creative fashion that it continues to challenge us, their companions of the third millennium."

Special events will be held at the college throughout the year. We have invited members of the college community to consider making the 19th Annotation Retreat, an adaptation of the Spiritual Exercises for people who are not able to make the full 30-day silent retreat required in the Exercises. Retreatants will meet weekly with a spiritual director and commit themselves to daily prayer.

We celebrate the Jubilee Year at a time when the need for Jesuit-lay collaborations in all of the Society's apostolates is a very high priority. In December, Rev. Gerald J. Chojnacki, S.J., Provincial for the New York Province of the Jesuits, addressed our Board of Trustees and spoke very directly about the dwindling number of Jesuits and the increasing demands in our schools and other ministries. This period of special reflection on the spirituality and the example of Ignatius, Francis Xavier and Pierre Favre provides all of us — Jesuits and the laity — with an opportunity to commit ourselves more deeply to our Jesuit mission and identity.

For more information on the Jesuit Jubilee Year, visit Campus Ministry on the Canisius College Web site at www.canisius.edu/camp_minist or the Web site of the U.S. Jesuit Conference at www.jesuit.org.

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Robert R. Prazmark '75 outside the
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