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Dear Friends,

As I write these words, two recent events really stand out in my mind as being emblematic of my six years as provincial. The first event occurred on March 17 when I celebrated Mass for all those who work at the provincial offices. The gospel for the feast of St. Patrick comes from the fifth chapter of Luke and focuses on Jesus's command to Peter to put out into deep water and lower his nets for a catch. In describing the scene, Luke notes that the catch is so abundant that hauling it in is only possible because sailors from a nearby boat come to the aid of Peter and his mates. He writes, "They came and together they filled the two boats until they nearly sank" (Luke 5:7).

I couldn't help but think that a similar action is repeated again and again each day throughout the New England Province. The stories and pictures in this edition of *JESUITS* reveal so powerfully how Jesuits working in schools, parishes, retreat houses, in chaplaincies, in formation, and in caring for our elderly are able to do what we do because we work alongside so many dedicated men and women who believe in our apostolic works as much as we do. Together we "pull in the nets," as it were, in a way that would never be possible for Jesuits to do by themselves.

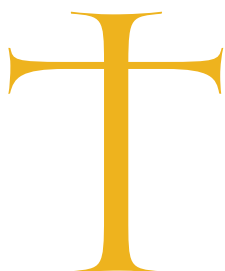
Similarly, on March 19, a second event took place, this time at the Marriott Copley Place in Boston. Over 750 people gathered together to celebrate the annual Jesuit GALA at which Joe and Rose Corcoran received the 2009 *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam Award* (see pages 16–17). The evening was such a great success because so many people worked so hard to make it happen. From the very first days of the Society of Jesus, St. Ignatius, our founder, always considered our benefactors to be true "partners on mission." For me, the GALA celebration really put a very human face on that reality, for which my brother Jesuits and I remain deeply grateful.

As you will see on page 3, Father Adolfo Nicolás, General of the Society of Jesus, has appointed Fr. Myles Sheehan to succeed me as provincial. When he recently visited Boston, I had the occasion to discuss the scope and dimensions of his new responsibilities. "Don't worry," I said, "What initially might seem to be a daunting task is eminently doable, for as you will soon discover, there are many fabulous and dedicated people in the boat with you!"

Please know of my abiding gratitude for all the concern that you have shown for the New England Province and for me personally throughout these past six years. Be assured that I shall continue to hold you and your loved ones in my prayers.

Sincerely,

(Very) Reverend Thomas J. Regan, SJ
Provincial, New England Province of Jesuits



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