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Dear Friends: The Peace of Christ!

As I conclude my first year as Provincial, I want to thank you for your support and to express my gratitude for your prayers. In the years ahead, I hope to continue to move the Province forward to meet the needs of the Church in ways for which the Jesuits are so well known.

You will read in this issue about the exciting trip I took in May to Amman and Baghdad, seeking to reaffirm the ties that the New England Province has had with that region since we began a school in Baghdad in 1932. The faith, courage and hope of the men and women I met in Baghdad was an inspiration.

Our work in Amman provides a striking example of the good that a small number of Jesuits can do:

- we provide ministry for the English-speaking community in Jordan, many of them domestic workers from the Philippines;
- the staff of our pastoral center reaches out to the Christians with classes in prayer, Scripture, and Ignatian spirituality;
- the Jesuit Refugee Service works out of our pastoral center and provides assistance to a large Iraqi refugee community.

A wonderful part of my visit to the area was meeting with our Iraqi novice, Stev Metika, who is doing his novitiate in Cairo.

You will also read in this issue of the 2010 GALA fundraiser in April. Not only are we grateful for your generous contributions, but the presence of 1,250 guests brought with it a heartwarming spirit of affection for the Jesuits. I am happy to announce that the 2011 GALA will honor the past presidents of our institutions of higher education: Fr. John E. Brooks, SJ, of the College of the Holy Cross, Fr. Aloysius P. Kelley, SJ, of Fairfield University, and Fr. J. Donald Monan, SJ, of Boston College.

I hope that you enjoy this issue of *JESUITS* magazine and have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Very Reverend Myles N. Sheehan, SJ
Provincial, New England Province of Jesuits

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