

# A LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL



Fr. Timothy P. Kesicki, SJ

Dear Friends,

On January 18, 2010, I woke to my usual routine of morning prayer, breakfast, and a review of the day. Since this was a national holiday, I had only one event on my calendar, "Dedication of Christ the King Jesuit College Prep." While walking out to my car on this winter holiday, I had to stop. All at once it struck me, "You're dedicating a new Catholic School today. You're not going to close a school; you're going to open a new one!"

When I was in the first grade we dedicated a new building for our Catholic grade school. I can still remember that scent of fresh paint, the feel of wall-to-wall carpeting on my little feet, and the thrill of a brand new classroom. At the dedication, our class sat front and center. We were featured as the "reason" and the "future" for this major parish investment. In the 1960s it seemed that dozens of new Catholic school buildings opened every year. In the decades that followed, that began to change. We saw fewer dedications and many more school closings, including my own grade school. Each June I wondered, "When will we start opening new ones?"

The cover story of our magazine proclaims the passage from Saint Matthew's Gospel, "Upon this rock I will build my church." We know that rock to be Saint Peter, the apostle who first led the faithful to build the Church of Christ. As the faith grew from villages to cities then nations and continents, this Gospel passage was invoked as the foundation upon which all new edifices stood. This past January we had reason to proclaim it again.

In my remarks to the students of Christ the King, who were once again seated front and center as the reason and the future for this major investment, I wanted them to know how they were part of a tradition of Jesuit schools. There are over 460 Jesuit high schools in the world, such as Loyola High School in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Colegio San Jose in Peru; Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland; and St. Xavier's School in Kathmandu, Nepal. The students of Christ the King belong to a 462-year-old tradition of Jesuit education to serve our world for the greater glory of God. With the grace of God they will be that rock for future generations.

Six days before the dedication of Christ the King, I learned that the people of Haiti suffered a major earthquake as they were returning home from a day's work. Within minutes, word of this tragedy spread throughout the world, but for me it would hit close to home. I had only recently missioned Br. Jim Boynton, SJ, to serve the people of Haiti, and I knew that his world and his mission were about to change. We learned rather quickly that he was safe and then followed the unfolding disaster through his eyes and his work.

We immediately responded with an appeal to all of you for help, and you answered with great love and generosity. Br. Boynton and the Jesuit ministries in Haiti have some much needed assistance in their work. In the aftermath Br. Boynton is now laboring to establish a small network of Fey y Alegria schools in the vicinity of Port-au-Prince. These new schools will provide the children with much needed education and once again be the rock upon which the future of Haiti will be built.

While our work is never finished, and Jesuit education in Haiti and at Christ the King still needs your help, we have reason to celebrate new life in this Easter Season. I pray that you can continue to be part of that rock upon which our Church is built.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy P. Kesicki, SJ". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Timothy P. Kesicki, SJ  
Provincial