

words

Words to Live By

words

“...whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.” - 1 Corinthians 10:31

Driving around Boston is hard. Driving around with “AMDG” on your license plate is even harder. With these four letters affixed to my vehicle, I am driving with the equivalent of a bumper sticker that says, “Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.” Has having this license plate changed the way I drive? Definitely—and for the better.

So, how did those four letters make it to my automobile? In 1999, I bought my first new car and was considering a vanity plate, one which would hold special meaning for me. I read an article in *Our Sunday Visitor* about a troubled teen who spent the summer in New York working for the Jesuits. The experience had such an impact on his life that he branded himself with a tattoo on his shoulder in the form of a huge cross with A-M-D-G. I applied to the Registry of Motor Vehicles and the rest is history.

Why AMDG? I am very grateful to the Jesuits for all that they have taught me both directly and indirectly. I attended Boston College High School ('89) and the College of the Holy Cross ('93). I credit the Jesuits with instilling in me one of my life passions: the Spanish language. My Master's Degree in Spanish and Spanish American Literature at Boston College was one of the most enriching experiences of my life.



James Ryan, Boston College graduate, teaches at Milton Academy

Working in the kitchen as a work/study at the Loyola residence at B.C.High, I got to know many Jesuits. My work in Campus Ministry surrounded me with people dedicated to living by the motto, “Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.” It has always had a profound impact on me how many lay teachers at these schools have made this their rule to live by. I am particularly indebted for their example of how to live a life worthy of the call they’ve been given by being at a Jesuit institution. I am reminded of their witness every day as I get into my car; I’m reminded that I am called to live my life worthy of the license plate I have been given. ✠

- James P. Ryan

Fr. Chuck Connolly, S.J. noticed James' car back in November and invited him to write this article.