

words

Words to Live By

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“The Jesuits teach that our purpose in life is to give back. That’s why I am part of the Jesuit Connection.”

My mother always says, for every nickel she gave BC High, she got a dime back. I graduated from Boston College High School in 1999. After BC High, I went to a small liberal arts college. But this did not last for too long. I came home, as I like to say, to Boston College after a year away from the Jesuits and graduated from BC in 2003. I went on to Boston College Law School, where I earned my law degree in 2007. I am a proud “triple eagle” today, although one of my friends likes to kid me that I am not a true triple eagle because of that year away at the liberal arts college!

I got involved in the Jesuit Connection after graduating from BC Law. The Jesuit Connection is a program for young adults—sponsored by the New England Province. We have social, spiritual and service events. One Connection activity that I have especially enjoyed has been the Campion Companions program. The Connection periodically visits Campion Center on Sunday mornings, where we celebrate Mass with the Jesuit community and visit with individual Jesuits. Over 100 Jesuits—some in active ministries, some retired and some infirm—call Campion Center home. It is a vibrant and dynamic Jesuit community that also includes assisted living facilities and a health care center. Campion is a place where the accomplishment and brilliance of the Jesuits stand out—where else can you find a world-class astronomer, a business scholar and an expert artist living under one roof!

Thinking about the Jesuits at Campion reminds me of why I got involved in the Connection. Being a part of the Connection has been so fulfilling because I am contributing, I hope, to the Jesuits themselves, and not just to those institutions where they minister. Before I joined Jesuit Connection, I knew very little, if anything, about the New England Province of Jesuits. It had never crossed my mind that the Jesuits had a whole professional operation in place to support them and their work—I



John and Fr. Bob Lindsay, SJ, enjoy a conversation at Campion.

guess I just thought that the Jesuits’ respective schools provided for them entirely. When I was lucky enough to consider it during my years at BC, I had always marveled at the ministry of the Jesuits. I could not believe that these men had given themselves completely over to God and had established the secondary school system, as we know it. If it were not for the Jesuits, BC would never be. Flutie’s Hail Mary pass, the BC-Notre Dame rivalry, the Heights—they all, in some way, go back to the Jesuits.

That is what makes being a part of the Connection a quite humbling experience—that I can give back to these scholars, theologians, mathematicians, lawyers, social workers, doctors, priests—these men who have sacrificed enormously and dedicated themselves completely to building the best Catholic colleges and universities in the United States—the Jesuits. AMDG.

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