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Dear Friends,

Welcome to our second edition of *Jesuits*. This issue highlights and celebrates a unique jubilee of events concerning three of the original Jesuit companions -- the 450th anniversary of St. Ignatius' death, and the 500th anniversary of the birth of St. Francis Xavier and Blessed Peter Faber. These holy visionaries met while fellow students at the University of Paris. Subsequently, they would together lay the foundation for what would become the Society of Jesus. Their lifelong friendship, rooted in a deep love of God and a desire to serve God's people, models a relationship that we hope will inspire contemporary women and men likewise to become "friends in the Lord." Within the very first years Ignatius and his first companions quickly spread out in their quest to preach the gospel. It wasn't always easy. At the time Ignatius sent Xavier to India and the Far East, he knew that he would probably never see his friend ever again. Yet through their exchange of letters, we know that their friendship never wavered. Such was the depth of their love for God and their understanding that they were laboring together for God's greater glory.

I hope the range of articles presented here will give you an indication of some of the many ministries in which the Jesuits of the New England Province are engaged. As you will read, we are privileged to have a number of young men who still seek to follow Christ as Ignatius, Xavier and Faber did. Hopefully in their words, you will experience that the fervor of the first companions continues to burn in Jesuit hearts today and that the desire to serve God's people is just as strong.

As we begin a New Year, please be assured that my brother Jesuits and I continue to remember all of our friends and benefactors in our masses and prayers. We truly see all of you as our partners in ministry and thank God each day that we, too, can be "friends in the Lord" working together to bring about God's greater glory.

In gratitude,

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

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PROVINCIAL
V. Rev. Thomas J. Regan, SJ

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
John J. Hanwell, SJ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
ADVANCEMENT
Grace Cotter Regan

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS/EDITORS:
Elizabeth DuPont
James Martin, SJ
Matthew Monnig, SJ
Grace Cotter Regan
Clare Walsh, MSHS

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Pat Mullaly, Circle Graphics

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Advancement Office
New England Province of Jesuits
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P: 617-607-2891 / F: 617-607-2898
Email: advance@sjnen.org

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