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Dear Friends,

This, our third issue of *JESUITS*, highlights what I believe is a wonderful development that is slowly but surely gathering momentum throughout our province. In the pages that follow, you will read about the many men and women who are discovering how Ignatian spirituality can play a greater role in their everyday lives. These individuals

are finding numerous ways in which to encounter the Spiritual Exercises outside the traditional retreats of “eight” or “thirty” days, models that remain simply inaccessible to the vast majority of committed working people. In a variety of adapted modes the Spiritual Exercises provide a rich, life-giving conduit through which to encounter the risen Christ amidst the frenetic pace of normal living. In short, many are coming to appreciate just how much Ignatian spirituality is now and was from the very beginning a spirituality for busy people!

This past June all the Jesuits in formation from the ten U.S. provinces (over two hundred and fifty strong) gathered in Los Angeles for a week of meetings (see page 7) . Being so fortunate to be among them, I found their enthusiasm and their faith incredibly inspiring! Steeped in the Ignatian tradition, their zeal for serving the people of God bubbled over. This experience truly convinced me just how much the Spirit continues to bless the Society of Jesus. These “young” Jesuits told countless stories of how their vocations were nurtured and encouraged by the example of lay women and men whom they met at crucial points in their discernment process. Clearly Jesuits and their partners in ministry can and do great work *together!*

As you will read, whether in Baghdad, Amman, Jamaica, or throughout New England, the Jesuits of our province are truly fortunate to have so many men and women laboring alongside us in the Lord’s vineyard. This edition of *JESUITS* both celebrates and acknowledges the importance of you, our friends and colleagues, and invites you into even deeper collaboration. Know how grateful we are and that we remember all of you each day in our Masses and prayers.

In gratitude,

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

JESUITS Jesuit Jubilee Year 2006, Autumn 2006 · Vol. 2, No. 2

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JESUITS is published twice per year by the New England Province and available online: www.sjnen.org. We welcome your comments. Please address all correspondence and requests for a subscription or additional copies to: Advancement Office, New England Province of Jesuits, P.O. Box 9199, Watertown, MA 02471-9199. Phone: 617-607-2895. Fax: 617-607-2898. Email: advance@sjnen.org

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COVER:
Michael Mahoney, Crista Carrick and Kelly O’Neil at the kick off meeting of the Jesuit Network at the McDavitt Center. Photo by Justin Knight

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