



Easter Sunday **April 1, 2018**

In my preparation for this most sacred Easter morning, I find myself reflecting on identity and the remarkable power of foundations in shaping human lives.

Like anyone, I celebrate personal milestones and achievements. Yet, I know I am but a speck of dust if not for God's creative power planting a spark of life in the loving act of my parents. Further, one of my life's great privileges has been to work as an educator at St. Louis University High School. Yet, I know that if not for the men and women who formed me during my years as a student, or the woman who hired me, my career would be something different.

As a school community, we are enjoying ongoing bicentennial celebrations. Two hundred years of Jesuit education in St. Louis City! Truly remarkable, yet there would be no anniversary if not for the vision and dedication of countless Jesuits, laypeople, and benefactors—people whose names we may not even know and whose face we have never seen. And where did these people get the seeds for their own vision? This past summer, I had the opportunity to go on a pilgrimage to Spain and Rome to visit some of the heritage sites of Ignatius of Loyola. Iñigo, a quirky Basque gentleman, banded together with some of his friends and cultivated a shared vision—a vision that led to something greater than any of them imagined on their own.

But, neither did Ignatius act from his own accord. Throughout his travels, which led him from his home castle in northern Spain to his final years in Rome, he regularly drew strength from a steadfast devotion to the Virgin Mary and graced experiences of prayer with the person of Jesus. Luis Gonçaves da Câmara, an early Jesuit companion of Ignatius' who in Rome helped gather and transcribe stories that became Ignatius' autobiography, mused, "If the fruit and the work are like this, what must the tree and the craftsman be like?" Indeed, the earth teems with the fruits of mankind's encounter with God. My very life, and the life of the Jesuit apostolate at 4970 Oakland Avenue, are products of such encounter.

Foundations. Some events reverberate through time, laying new foundations and altering the course of human history. Today, we celebrate one of those events. We celebrate what is not there, a shifting seismic moment in time. We celebrate that Christ is risen. Alleluia!

-Mr. Brian Gilmore, Campus Ministry & Theology Department