



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



At the center of the picture and Jesuit intellectual tradition is St. Ignatius, who is presented here with four early Jesuit theologians. Ignatius is pictured in a black cassock, the traditional garb of a scholar at the University of Paris, which also became the standard dress for those who followed Ignatius and entered the Society of Jesus.

Dear Readers,

The riches of any culture are preserved in its traditions. In the culture of the Jesuits, the “intellectual apostolate” has a long standing and well known tradition. Appreciation for it begins with St. Ignatius himself. In order to serve the church better, he went to the finest university of his day, the University of Paris, and earned a graduate degree. Thus “armed,” this soldier-saint of the counter-reformation began his legendary campaign to battle “under the standard of the cross” to win souls for the kingdom of God. And so began the familiar association of Jesuits and education.

How many times have you heard religious jokes comparing Franciscans, Dominicans and Jesuits? Much of what makes those stories humorous is playing off the different traditions of each. The Jesuits are generally painted with

an academic brush that has been dipped in the colorful palette of schools, quick wittedness, and well rounded thought.

This issue of *Partners* highlights another province priority, the intellectual apostolate; telling our readers how this important Jesuit tradition continues and what it looks like in your corner of the vineyard. As loyal and generous friends, you help support a continuation of the excellence seen in Jesuit scholarship, in Jesuit students, and in Jesuit classrooms both in this province and around the world. Thank you for your continued kindness to the Jesuits and those who are served through the rich and ongoing tradition of the intellectual apostolate of the Society of Jesus.

John Castells. SJ

