

Fr. Kolbenbach's Greeting to 70 Creighton Students October 7th, 2004

Thank you, Fr. Schlegel. It is wonderful to begin my visit to Omaha with some time with student leaders here at Creighton.

I welcome your questions and your stories as part of this brief conversation this morning. I have a few words I would like to share with you, as we begin.

As leaders here at Creighton, you know that this Jesuit sponsored education is shaping you, transforming you, and preparing you for your future. Your intellectual, personal, spiritual and professional development here has been to support your growth to the full potential of your God-given talents. Our education was never solely for your personal development or to prepare you for a career. The goal of Jesuit higher education is always in the context of the whole world and the role of the human person in it.

The vision of Jesuit education is that we can make a contribution to the world by equipping you to make a critical analysis of the condition of our world today, with compassion and commitment. The success of our Jesuit education is determined by what you become.

The Ignatian world view is affirming, but its vision is committed to discernment of the conditions we face around the world and how they relate to each other. Something is wrong in our world. Self-interest, injustice, and dehumanizing global patterns call for our attention and critical thinking, and they demand that if we are to be part of transforming our world, we ourselves must be thoroughly integrated persons. The world desperately needs men and women of competence and conscience who generously give of themselves for others, that we might all come to know and give ourselves to God's dream for our world.

I congratulate you for your contribution to what I hear is a campus community where service is central and generously given. I encourage you to continue to reflect upon transcendent values, including your relationship with God, for it will be faith that will engage you in the struggle for justice and solidarity in a world too often divided and full of contradictions.

Thank you for letting yourselves be stretched, at great personal sacrifice at times, that you might become women and men for and with others, now and in the future. May God bless you abundantly.