



2010 Freshman Convocation Remarks

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- It is my honor to welcome you... the Class of 2014.
- I know you probably have a lot on your mind right now ... Things like...
 - What will my new friends be like?
 - Will I get along with my roommate?
 - What will my classes be like?
 - How do I even get to class?
- My advice to you is... **don't worry**. You will work these things out quickly.
- You have probably heard this many times already, but... **GET INVOLVED**. You should know by now that there are many clubs and organizations to choose from on-campus. If you don't find one you like—create one. We appreciate that kind of entrepreneurial spirit around here.
- I want to tell you today **WHY** getting involved is essential to the promise and challenge of a Jesuit education.
- It's not sufficient to learn just in the classroom. Participating in service, athletics, or other activities *outside* of the classroom will greatly complement and enhance what you learn *inside* the classroom.
- It will help you, **AND**, just as importantly, it will help others. This is at the heart of our Jesuit mission.
- “Men and women for others” is more than a motto at John Carroll—we want you to live it. You cannot be for others if you are not involved or engaged.
- You will be challenged to seek out and listen closely to those on the margins of society. It will not be an easy challenge for you—but it will be a worthwhile one and you will have plenty of support at Carroll to help you find your way.

- Ask yourself...
 - Where are my talents and my gifts most needed?
 - How can I make the most difference in the lives of others?
 - Think beyond yourself.
- Our tradition of academic rigor—with emphasis on character and ethics—will teach you to think critically. It will prepare you for leadership in a globalizing world.
- As you begin your academic careers here, I pray that you will incorporate the values that support our Jesuit mission, and that so many of our alumni have taken from here and have folded into their lives.
- In my role, I've been blessed to have the opportunity to visit with many graduates of John Carroll University... and I'm proud to say that their stories share very common themes:
 - Not only do they say that they were they prepared for their *first job* out of John Carroll, they say they were prepared for their *fifth job*.
 - They were prepared *for life*—both intellectually and spiritually.
 - Not only are they successful with their careers, they are leaders in many ways... in their communities, in their churches, volunteering with local charities, mentoring someone just starting a career, and so on.
- This is the potential you carry within you. Whether you are a person of great faith or not, you are cultivating your soul and we are here to help you in this process.
- Welcome to John Carroll, and thank you for being an important part of our community.
- Jump in with both feet... get involved... and start making the most of your John Carroll experience. Engage the world around you and make a difference.
- Thank you.