



## **Commencement Address**

May 22, 2011

### **Fr. Niehoff's Remarks and Introduction of Tim Kesicki, S.J.**

- It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you -- our graduating Class of 2011; family members and friends; alumni, faculty, and staff; and everyone else who joins us today to celebrate this joyful and special milestone.
- I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our honorary degree recipients:
  - The Very Rev. Timothy J. Kesicki, S.J., from John Carroll's Class of 1984, who is now Provincial Superior of the newly combined Chicago-Detroit Province of the Society of Jesus. Fr. Kesicki is also our commencement speaker today.
  - I'd also like to extend a warm John Carroll welcome to Rev. Charles L. Currie, S.J., who retires this year after more than 14 years of distinguished service as president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.
- Above all, I extend my congratulations to our 664 undergraduate and 302 graduate-degree recipients on this important occasion. (Editor's note: IMC to confirm numbers with Deanna 5/16).
- It is an honor to call you sons and daughters of John Carroll University. The degrees you receive today culminate four years of hard work, and I hope you are proud of all you have accomplished.
- Hundreds are here with us today who are also feeling pretty proud.
- To thank them for all they have done, I invite the Class of 2011 to stand, turn around, and applaud your parents, grandparents, and everyone else who supported you in your educational endeavors.

- (Wait for applause...)
- Four years ago, the majority of you graduating today set foot on campus as freshmen. Chances are, your greatest concerns then were finding new friends and finding your way to class.
- Today, many of the friends you've made along the way are like brothers and sisters to you, and you've earned your ***John Carroll*** degree, which is much more than a piece of paper or a credential.
- Your Carroll education has given you the knowledge and skills that will transcend any job or career—it will prepare you for life.
- Our graduates are known for their ability to think on their feet. They are known to be innovative and ethical leaders in the workplace and in their communities—which just as meaningful and relevant today as ever.
- As you go forth, you are also the graduating class of John Carroll University's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.
- Our combined Commencement and Reunion make this a landmark weekend in the history of the University.
- I am confident that the Jesuits and the other leaders and visionaries that created and shaped our University would be proud of who we are today, of all we have accomplished, and of our promising future.
- Generations of Carroll faculty, staff, and administrators have inspired, challenged, and prepared John Carroll students to think beyond themselves and to make lasting contributions to society through their leadership and service—and today we will send you, the Class of 2011, to do the same.
- Please know that your education and engagement do not end today. You have been *alumni-in-training* these past four years. Today, we send you forth as *alumni ambassadors* for John Carroll.
- Today you join a valuable network of more than 39,000 other John Carroll alumni. \

- I invite you to come back for Reunions and other University events; stay connected with your John Carroll network; and participate in any other ways you can.
- We have prepared you to be good citizens ... to live responsible and productive lives.
- These are values that will serve you well for the rest of your lives. Go forth and apply these principles. Lead lives of integrity and purpose, and be agents of positive change in the world.
- May God's grace be with you and your families as you commence to this wonderful new phase of your lives.
  
- **INTRODUCTION OF TIM KESICKI, S.J.**
  
- And now, I am very pleased to introduce our commencement speaker, Fr. Tim Kesicki.
- As a John Carroll alumnus, he is not only one of our own, but, as the former president of Saint Ignatius High School (2000-2008), he is a beloved member of the Greater Cleveland community.
- He also served on John Carroll's Board of Directors from 2000 to 2010.
- As one who has walked the paths at John Carroll as a student, board member, and Jesuit leader, Tim Kesicki undoubtedly has many stories to share from his Carroll years.
- Only a select few individuals can reflect on the John Carroll experience from such a unique blend of perspectives and speak to our graduating seniors about becoming leaders and people of character to shape a better society.

- Fr. Kesicki received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from John Carroll in 1984. That same year, he entered the Society of Jesus at Loyola House Jesuit Novitiate in Michigan. His formation as a Jesuit included philosophical studies at Loyola University Chicago, theological studies at Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California, and studies in educational administration at Teachers College of Columbia University in New York.
- From 1988 to 1991, Fr. Kesicki worked at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy, where he taught theology, directed the service program, and served on the pastoral team.
- He was ordained to the priesthood in 1994. After his ordination, Fr. Kesicki worked for a year at the Jesuit Refugee Service in Uganda, and then taught theology at Loyola High School in Detroit, until 2000, when he moved to Saint Ignatius and served until his Provincial appointment in 2008.
- Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming our 2011 commencement speaker, Fr. Tim Kesicki.