



Dear Friends of St. Ignatius School,

We hope this letter finds you well.

We are enjoying the beginning of another school year at St. Ignatius, as students have returned to 740 Manida Street fresh from a summer of leadership training in Lake Placid, ready to begin anew the great mission to which Ignatius called us all to over 500 years ago.

It is also with great sadness, coupled with profound gratitude, that we announce the pending “retirement” of Eavan O’Driscoll, President of St. Ignatius since 2013 at the end of the 2017-18 school year. When Ignatius of Loyola first embarked on “setting the world on fire,” he carefully chose his companions to help in this newfound endeavor and labor of love. We too have had a very worthy companion; St. Ignatius has been blessed to have Eavan O’Driscoll as not just a President, but a companion in the mission at 740 Manida Street.

Driven by an intense faith and desire to serve others, Ignatius, Francis Xavier and Peter Faber began a movement that has forever changed the landscape of the world through educating “men and women for others.” This focus on education as a means to bring about social change is alive and well in Jesuit institutions across the country today. Our collective mission at 740 Manida Street in Hunts Point is a shining example of the fruits of over 500 years of work by Jesuits and the men and women for others that they have educated.

Since Eavan took up the challenge and decided to resurrect the mission of “this little gem” in the South Bronx in 2013, St. Ignatius has graduated hundreds of students. The most recent graduates of the class of 2017 are all attending high school and 100% of Eavan’s first graduating class of 2013 have all graduated high school, and 92% are attending college! But her success — and the success of St. Ignatius — does not end in the classroom.

The mission of Nativity schools began in the face of adversity over 45 years ago on the Lower East Side of Manhattan — ridiculed by the neighborhood, rejected by the locals and threatened by the gangs, the initial students battled to succeed. And succeed they did, for on the backs of those initial visionaries — the likes of Walter Janer, Michael Mincieli, Ed Durkin, Jack Podsiadlo, Bud Frank, Gene Feeny and countless others — young boys learned that success was possible and living a faithful life for others was not just feasible but required. Thanks to the perseverance of those initial students, faculty, benefactors and Jesuits, 48 Nativity schools now exist across this nation educating young men and women. Thanks to the efforts of Eavan O’Driscoll, St. Ignatius remains among those 48.

Through the leadership of Eavan, our faculty has thrived, volunteers have increased, donor base has expanded and mission has flourished. Our facilities have never been in better shape. Eavan has brought stability and accountability to 740 Manida Street. She has been — and will remain — an advocate for and leader in the Hunts Point community. The spirit of Ignatius is alive and well in the South Bronx

thanks to her tireless effort, and we will seek to extend the successes she has helped foster with the leadership of a new President in the months and years to come. We ask that you join us in celebrating this important moment in the history of St. Ignatius and welcome your input as we take the next step. More work remains to be done.

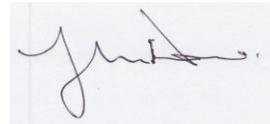
A committee has been formed to explore candidates, and I am pleased to announce that fellow Board member Thom Devlin will co-chair the search committee with me, along with other representatives of the board, the Jesuit Provincial, St. Ignatius benefactors and alumni. Thom and I remain available to discuss any thoughts you may have regarding the search, and we will keep our constituencies updated on our progress.

In the meantime, we ask that you join us in keeping Eavan and the entire community of St. Ignatius students, faculty and administration in your thoughts and prayers over the coming months as we search for our next President of – and our next companion in – the mission that is St. Ignatius School of Hunts Point.

Sincerely,



Bill Miller
Chair of the Board, Co-chair of Search Committee



Thomas Devlin
Board Member, Co-chair of Search Committee