

IMPACT CULTURE

THE NEWSLETTER of JOHN PAUL THE GREAT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
JULY 2010



CHARGE TO FIRST GRADUATES

CHRISTOPHER RILEY • PROFESSOR OF FILM
DECEMBER 12, 2009

On behalf of every member of the faculty, thank you for one last opportunity to address you as students and to welcome you as the professional colleagues you now become.

Let's see if you remember something I taught you in the very first guest lecture I gave when you were freshmen. Andrea Lynch. What is a story?

A story is a hero's struggle against an obstacle to reach a goal.

Today, we come to the end of a story you've all been living. You're the heroes of this story. You know the obstacles you've encountered and overcome since you arrived at JP Catholic. Now you've reached your goal. College graduation. An external, physical goal. A diploma you now hold in your hand. But also an internal goal, one that required you to grow and change. It's been a good story with colorful supporting characters, action, emotion, romance, danger, high stakes, a ticking clock, laugh-

ter, tears, crashing failures and, ultimately, today's triumph. A happy ending.

Now you need a new story. You remain the main character. Life will supply the obstacles. But for your new story, you'll have to choose a new goal. And for the best story, the story you'll live over the days and years and decades ahead, a story worth your blood and tears and lives, choose the best goal.

I'll suggest one.

I'm going to borrow it from Bob Marley, the Jamaican musician, by way of the 2007 Will Smith film *I Am Legend*.

In that film, Will Smith plays an Army doctor who is the lone survivor in all of Manhattan of a killer virus that has wiped out almost all of humanity. Most people died outright, including Smith's wife and daughter. The only people still living aren't really people at all. The virus, instead of killing them, has turned them into pale, angry, zombie-like creatures called "dark seekers" who hide from the sunlight. They are the living dead. Former human beings who come out at night with superhuman strength

continued inside

to hunt Smith's character, Dr. Robert Neville, seeking to feed on the last man on the island of Manhattan who is still truly alive.

Neville lives in a world of death and darkness, a world of grief, loneliness and hopelessness. At his lowest point, a moment when he's lost the last thing in the world he loves, his pet German shepherd, when he's ready to throw his life away, another survivor appears. She rescues him from certain death at the hands of the dark seekers. She's Anna, a young Brazilian woman who has heard Neville's radio calls into the emptiness, calls he's sent out hoping that somewhere there might be another human still alive. "Come meet me," he broadcasts. "You are not alone."

Neville and Anna share a playful moment between zombie attacks – because it is a movie after all – and he introduces her to his favorite music. Bob Marley, the Jamaican reggae artist.

Neville tells Anna a story about Marley: "One day he was scheduled to perform at a peace rally. Gunmen came to his house and shot him down. Two days later, he walked out on that stage and sang. Somebody asked him why. He said, 'The people who are trying to make this world worse are not taking a day off. How can I?'" And then Will Smith speaks the words, borrowed from Bob Marley, that I offer to you as a goal worthy of the story that begins for you today. "Light up the darkness."

That's it. In a world of loneli-

ness, a world of hopelessness, a world of sickness and hunger and heartbreak, a world where people feel rejected and misunderstood, a world where gays and addicts and adulterers fear Jesus hates them, a world where every one of us dwells in the valley of the shadow of death: "Light up the darkness."

St. Matthew, living in the aftermath of the first Christmas, the truest Christmas, wrote in his gospel, "The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

St. John, after spending three years with Jesus, tried to put into words a description of this great rabbi he followed: "In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness."

And John quotes Jesus saying about himself, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

But then Jesus says something shocking. He turns to his followers, the ones who smell like fish and the ones who used to make their living extorting taxes, the ones no one believes will amount to anything, the ones who have nothing going for them except for him, and he says to them: "You are the light of the world."

You, Josh Maas.

You, Tom Bunning.

You, graduates of the class of 2009.

You are the light of the world.



*Our first graduates. Left to right, back row: **Chris Lane**, Business; **Tim Evans**, Media; **Andres Villalobos**, Business; **Adrian Flores**, Media; **Daniel Williams**, Business; **Patrick Lyon**, Media. Second Row: **Joan Connolly**, Business; **Michelle Cowdrey**, Media; **Tom Bunning**, Business; **Chris Kaiser**, Media; **Matt Salisbury**, Media; **Justin Wilga**, Business; **Steve Marshall**, Business. Front Row: **Andrea Lynch**, Media; **Mollie O'Hare**, Media; **Leizel Umali**, Business; **Collin Clark**, Business; **Josh Maas**, Media; **Cherisse Alvarado**, Business.*

You're the light of the world.
So go.

Leave this place and walk into
the dark.

But dark is dangerous. Because the darkness might overwhelm you. It might get inside you. Your light might get snuffed out.

Your parents might not like this advice. I know. I have three daughters and a son. And this prospect of sending my children into the dark terrifies me. I want to keep them close. I want to keep them safe.

But we've avoided the darkness too long. We've been too afraid. We haven't allowed love for the hopeless and helpless, the angry, the dying, the abused and the abusers, the ones who disagree with us and who consider us enemies – we haven't allowed love for them to consume us.

Now is the time. You are the

generation. Today is the day for the people of the light to leave the comfort and safety of home, the convenience of self-serving careers and sprawling houses and friendship with those who are like them, those who agree with them, those who reward friendship with friendship.

Now is the time to go into the darkness, fearless and generous, crying with those who are crying over all they've lost, encouraging those whose courage is failing, suffering with those who suffer, feeding the hungry with food from your own table, clothing the naked with clothes from your own closet. Business graduates, go into the darkness and create jobs for those without jobs, jobs that provide dignity to those who've never known it, that pay a decent wage to those who need it, jobs that create something of genuine value. Media gradu-

ates, go into the darkness and tell stories of real and believable hope to those who've reached the end of their own hope, stories that help the ones wandering in darkness find their way home. Teach the people of Hollywood and San Francisco and New York and Paris and Mexico City and Hong Kong and Berlin that Jesus doesn't hate them.

Light up the darkness.

You'll need one another. To pick you up when you fall. To carry you on those days when your own legs can carry you no further. To light your way when you get lost. So stay close. To one another. And to the source of the light of life.

I Am Legend ends when Anna, the Brazilian woman, delivers a vial of blood containing the cure for the virus to a fortified village in Vermont where other survivors have settled. As she enters the gates of this outpost of human life, we hear her speak the following words. "In 2009, a deadly virus burned through our civilization, pushing humankind to the edge of extinction. Dr. Robert Neville dedicated his life to the discovery of a cure and the restoration of humanity... He discovered that cure, and gave his life to defend it. We are his legacy. This is his legend. Light up the darkness."

Walk into the darkness.

Share light with humility and grace. Share light as those who have received light as an unexpected and undeserved gift. Share it on Hollywood Boulevard

and on movie sets. Share it in boardrooms and budget meetings. Share it at funerals and birthday parties. Share it recklessly. Share it with everyone.

Matt Salisbury. Light up the darkness.

Light it up, Tim Evans and Chris Kaiser.

Michelle Cowdry, you're the light of the world.

Mollie O'Hare, Andrea Lynch, Justin Wilga. You shine like stars in the night.

Joan Connolly. Chris Lane. Steve Marshall. Andres Villalobos. You're a city set on a hill.

Liesel Umali and Patrick Lyon, light up the darkness.

Light it up, Cherisse Alvarado. Light it up, Adrian Flores. Light it up, Collin Clark. Light it up, Daniel Williams.

Choose this story. Set your heart on this goal. And when all hope seems lost:

Spend everything you have. Spend it all on love. Hold nothing back. Lose your life for the sake of the Light and for the love of those in the dark and you will find it, and you will die full and rich with love.

Go into all the world and light up the darkness.

God bless you and keep you. 11

Christopher Riley is a Professor of Film at JP Catholic. A veteran of the Warner Bros. script department, Riley is the author of [The Hollywood Standard: The Complete and Authoritative Guide to Script Format and Style](#). He has served as director of the acclaimed Act One Writing Program in Hollywood.



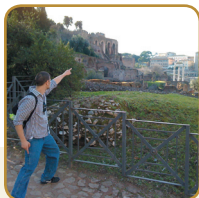
THE GLORY OF ROME

• T O U R •



• MARCH 23-29, 2011 •

- ✚ Experience the wonder and beauty of Rome in the company of JP Catholic students & faculty!
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FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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JP CATHOLIC

First Students

First Graduates

UNDERGRADUATE
COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA
 a. Entertainment Media
BUSINESS
 a. Entrepreneurship

30

2006

UNDERGRADUATE
COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA*
 a. Screenwriting
 b. Production
 c. Animation & Gaming
 d. Video Journalism
 e. New Evangelization
BUSINESS*
 a. Entrepreneurship
 b. Producing
 GRADUATE
MBA:*
 a. Business
 b. Producing
MA: Biblical Theology

** Pre-theology Option*

140

2009

TRAJECTORY

*Regional
Accreditation*

*Permanent
Campus*

UNDERGRADUATE

TECHNOLOGY*

a. Computer Engineering

300

2012

FUTURE DEGREES

UNDERGRADUATE

Fashion

Music

Acting for Screen

Politics, Business &

Economics

GRADUATE

Politics, Business &

Economics

850
STUDENTS

2016

JP CATHOLIC **QUICK FACTS**

Motto Impact Culture for Christ

Founded 2003

First Classes 2006

Number of Students, 2009/10

Undergraduate:	89
Graduate:	50
Total:	139

Current Facilities 14,000 square feet

Degree Programs 17 apartments

Undergraduate

Business

Business
Producing

Media

Screenwriting
Production
Animation & Gaming
Video Journalism
New Evangelization

Graduate

MBA

Entrepreneurship & Business
Transformation
Producing

MA: Biblical Theology

Accreditation Institutional accreditation in progress with WASC (Western Association of Schools & Colleges). Anticipated during 2012/13 academic year.

Recognition Featured in *The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College* as a Faithful Catholic College.



visit JP CATHOLIC

Join us on the first Thursday of each month at our information sessions for those curious about the University. Attend Mass with our students, enjoy lunch with faculty and students, and tour the campus.

11:00AM

Mass

11:30AM - 12:30PM

**University Vision
with Lunch & Tour**

Upcoming Information Sessions:

(1st Thursday of each month)

Thursday, **August 5th**, 2010

Thursday, **September 2nd**, 2010

Thursday, **October 7th**, 2010

For registration and more details:

Visit: <http://www.jpatholic.com/Giving/InfoS.php>

Call: 858-653-6740 E-mail: info@jpatholic.com



JOURNEY TO THE PRIESTHOOD

JP CATHOLIC WELCOMES SEMINARIANS

Forming Priests for the Chaldean Catholic Church

By Ankido Sipo, Class of '14

Five seminarians of the Chaldean Catholic Church are currently attending JP Catholic University. Along with their degrees in either business or media, the young men are studying philosophy and plumbing the depths of theology and Catholic dogma, with plans to follow their undergraduate studies by earning a Masters degree in Biblical Theology.

The students belong to the Seminary of Mar Abba the Great, founded in July of 2008 as the first—and currently only—Chaldean seminary located outside of Iraq. The Rector of the seminary is Father Andrew Younan, who

has recently joined the faculty at JP Catholic as a professor of philosophy. The Chaldean Catholic Eparchy of Saint Peter The Apostle, with its seat in El Cajon (right outside San Diego), is relatively new, created by Pope John Paul II in 2002. The seminary is named for an important sixth-century saint, Mar Abba, a Patriarch of the Church of the East. II



Mar Abba the Great



Left to right: Simon Esshaki, Emanuel Shaper, Fr. Andrew Younan, Royal Hannosh, David Stephen, Ankido Sipo.

The Congregation of Jesus and Mary: The Eudists

By Eric Kirst, MBA '12

In January, three new seminarian students from The Congregation of Jesus and Mary, known as Eudists, joined JP Catholic to study philosophy and theology, as well as broaden their education in programs not typically associated with the average priest. Eleuterio Mireles (31) and Rafael Reyes (27) are pursuing degrees in Media, while Eric Kirst (26) is studying for an MBA in Entrepreneurship. The seminarian formation leader, Fr. Gerard Lecomte, visits JP Catholic weekly to celebrate Mass, hear confessions, and provide spiritual direction for JP Catholic students.

The Eudists are an international society of priests who minister to the current generation of priests by providing counseling, and train new priests and laymen

to run the church in the future. The unique mission of this four-hundred-year-old religious society is in critical demand today.

While seminarian enrollment throughout the U.S. is stagnant, the Eudists' San Diego house of formation is booming with vocations, with the addition of five new seminarians in the past year alone, for a total of eleven current seminarians. The most recent addition is Steven Marshall, member of JP Catholic's first graduating class in 2009, and current MBA student. II



St. John Eudes



Left to right: Steve Marshall, Eric Kirst, Fr. Gerard Lecomte, Eleuterio Mireles, Rafael Reyes.

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build

NEW
PROGRAMS

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OUR
FACULTY

build our

FUTURE
CAMPUS

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the great

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