## Ignatius of Loyola's Idea of the Jesuit University

Michael Maher, SJ, Gonzaga University History Department and Catholic Studies Program Gonzaga Socratic Club, Friday, March 23, 2007

THESIS: "The establishment of a school designated as Ignatian must not be simply a return to the past but rather an assimilation of the tradition and its adaptation to present needs and problems. Such a school, however, must embrace the fundamental characteristics identified by Ignatius and establish means by which these can be implemented and evaluated. Thus an "Ignatian school" has its roots nourished by past experience and insight whereas its branches are constantly exposed to the ever changing climate of our world today."

Key principles characteristic of Ignatius' idea of a Jesuit education, drawn from primary texts from Ignatius or the early Society of Jesus, include the following:

- 1. The ultimate purpose of education
- 2. A Jesuit school forms students who are able to articulate their beliefs
- 3. An education address the needs of all the aspects of a person
- 4. An education should be both moral and academic
- 5. That a Jesuit education must be theological in outlook
- 6. Various activities should be used to implement the primary and secondary purposes of education.
- 7. Faculty involvement in the student's life that went beyond the classroom experience
- 8. Education was to be adapted to the developmental needs of the students
- 9. The necessity of adapting to place and time
- 10. Proper order was fundamental
- 11. That in all things Ignatius followed the mind of the Church