



From the Office of the President

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REGIS UNIVERSITY | DENVER, COLORADO

**Homily for the Memorial Mass for
Edward L. Maginnis, S.J.
Regis University, St. John Francis Regis Chapel
January 12, 2019**

Isaiah 25:6-9

Sung Response

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

Luke 24:13-35

On behalf of Father Maginnis' family and the community of Regis University, and finally of the Society of Jesus, welcome! We are honored that you are here in Ed's favorite home. We Jesuits really are itinerate, on the road, always sent. But we know this was Ed's spiritual home. He loved the Regis community and was missioned to spend the greatest part of his life here.

Nemo dat quod non habet. You cannot give what you do not have. Ancient wisdom distilled to an aphorism. But such wisdom, such truth, is dry and lifeless unless we listen quietly; tally tenderly, what it is we have and what it is we give away.

Isaiah the prophet puts the promise well. Here, "on this mountain, the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast. He will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples. He will swallow up death forever."

Father Ed Maginnis spent his life nourishing students and faculty peers, feeding us the best that has been thought and said. What Ed Maginnis had to give was nothing short of the delight of God, they music, the depth, the beauty of God's creative love. The stories are myriad: the accounting major who needed to take Father Maginnis' music appreciation course to finally graduate but dreaded that "right-brained" soft stuff of art! Invariably, the budding business mogul became more alive, more human, more...simply more of who God meant him to be.

Ignorance is powerful; it is a kind of death. Only God's power, only that place where time meets eternity, limitation embraces wholeness, that place where the shroud is pulled away... heals and saves us. That is what Ed Maginnis received from God and gave to his students and family.



Although there are many artistic renditions of the story of the travelers on the Road to Emmaus, our gospel this day, the one that appeals to me the most shows a scene of three robes figures walking along a dirt road, shafts of sun breaking through the shroud of trees and clouds. The man in the middle hand upraised as he talks, seems to fascinate the others. Ahead in the hazy distance is a town, perhaps Emmaus.

This rendition appeals to me most. The perspective allows the viewer to observe the travelers from behind. They are walking away from Jerusalem; and since they have yet to 'recognize' him in the breaking of the bread, they do not realize that the Lord is with them. Shrouded in darkness they begin to welcome the light.

Jesus brings the light of God. This giving away this light is actually the vocation of the professor. That is what Ed Maginnis gave to generations of students and to us.

God, lover of souls, swaying considerate scales,
Complete they creature dear, O where it fails,
 Being mighty a master, being a father, and fond.

- G.M. Hopkins, S.J., In the Valley of the Elwy.