Good afternoon. It’s a pleasure to see this Chapel so crowded with the familiar faces whose hard work and dedication are responsible for the extraordinary developments unfolding at this University each day. I know you all have a great deal on your plates, and I appreciate your willingness to take time out from your busy schedules to be here. I’d also like to extend a sincere welcome to all of our newest employees—this is likely the first time you’ve had the pleasure of hearing one of my addresses. I promise I try to keep them as brief as possible—you’ll just have to blame your colleagues for giving me so much to talk about.

This is the seventh time I’ve addressed the University community in this forum, an annual gathering to provide an update on what we have achieved and where we will go from here. In preparing my remarks for this fall, I was struck by how many of my addresses, inspired by the long-running economic challenges facing the University, the nation, and the world, centered on themes of fortitude. Of sacrifice. Of success despite daunting obstacles.

That message is quite accurate, of course, and I remain deeply indebted to each of you for all you have done to ensure that no Loyola student, undergraduate or graduate, leaves this University with a lesser education—or a lesser spiritual or social experience—as a result of any constraints on our resources.

But as I considered the accomplishments of recent years more closely, I became profoundly aware that what has taken place here is so much more than surviving and thriving in the face of opposition.

The Roman poet Horace wrote that “adversity has the effect of eliciting talents, which, in prosperous circumstances, would have lain dormant.” And I believe that is precisely what has happened here.

Difficult times call upon each of us to exercise creativity, to look at challenges in new ways, to recognize the connections and relationships that can help us reach our goals. And now that we have uncovered these new talents and
strengths, we are in a far better position to face our future—whatever opportunities and challenges it brings—than we would be otherwise. If you’re looking for evidence of Loyola’s potential to shine, consider some of the extraordinary achievements and milestones we’ve attained in the past year alone. Let me preface this by saying that what I will share is only a brief list. To acknowledge every highlight of the past year would: (a) be impossible; and (b) the attempt alone would keep us here well past dinner time. You’ll have to trust me that this list is merely representative of the range of accomplishments we’ve realized:

- We launched a new minor in Forensic Studies, a program that will benefit from the insights and participation of no less than 10 disciplines, ranging from philosophy to engineering.

- Loyola continued to excel in widely-followed rankings of universities and individual programs, including U.S. News and World Report, the Financial Times, Kiplinger’s Personal Finance, BusinessWeek, and the Princeton Review.

- 11 of the 14 Greyhounds athletics programs evaluated by the NCAA recorded graduation rates of 100 percent.

- We were named one of the colleges and universities most welcoming to junior faculty by the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education—a distinction which underscores our commitment to creating an environment where we can recruit and retain faculty at the top of their fields.

- Loyola received the Carnegie Foundation’s Community Engagement Classification, a testament to our longstanding, but still growing, commitment to building and strengthening relationships with local neighbors as well as national and international partners.

- We received a $1 million gift from the estate of late Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig, brother of our own Fr. Frank Haig, S.J., professor emeritus of physics, which will establish the Alexander M. Haig, Jr., Endowment for Science, Faith, and Culture.

- Thanks to a generous donation from Mrs. Mary Mangione, the Loyola/Notre Dame Library was able to add a Heritage Edition of the St. John’s Bible, an extraordinary, illuminated text, to its permanent collection.
• The third Loyola student in three years received a Fulbright grant, which speaks not only to the talent and hard work of the student, Mazen Shomali, but also to the efforts of Dr. Arthur Sutherland, Director of National Fellowships, to increase student awareness of and successful application to these programs.

• We announced the creation of a master’s program in Theological Studies, which will enroll its first students next fall.

• We received a record number of applications for the undergraduate class of 2015 -- more than 12,000; and enrolled the largest class in Loyola’s 159 year history at 1,071 -- more than the 1,050 we budgeted. I’m particularly pleased that more than one in five members of the class comes from a minority or multicultural background, and that our geographic diversity is also increasing, particularly in states with growing numbers of high school students. Texas and Florida now rank among our top 10 feeder states. Personally, I’m pretty sure my recruiting trip to Florida last winter had a great deal to do with our growing popularity there, and I’m more than willing to head back down there once the weather turns cold this year.

• I am also thrilled that we enrolled 58 transfer students this fall, above our budgeted number of 50, a result of collaborative efforts by the office of Undergraduate Admission, the Dean of First-Year Students and Academic Services, and a host of others to quickly overhaul our transfer admission policies to create a more efficient, welcoming process for talented students looking to transfer to Loyola.

• We were able to continue meeting the full demonstrated need of all our undergraduates, while still coming in slightly below the projected financial aid budget for the year.

• At the graduate level, we are projected to be about on target with our graduate enrollments and revenues for the year.

• The Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaffirmed Loyola’s accreditation, the culmination of two years of dedicated efforts on the part of many members of the Loyola community who worked together to complete our self-study and meet with members of our evaluation team. Middle States did ask us to provide a progress report in October 2012 documenting further implementation of a process to assess student learning, as well as our efforts to integrate student learning more directly into our planning and resource allocation decisions. This process, like the entire reaccreditation process, will provide us with valuable insights
on how to better serve our students.

- Most of these achievements stemmed from collaborative efforts, involving the dedicated work of multiple people, multiple departments, even multiple divisions. But there are a few individual honors I would be remiss if I did not point out:
  
  o Mickey Fenzel, Interim Dean of Education, received an *Alpha Sigma Nu* book award for his “Improving Urban Middle Schools: Lessons from the Nativity Schools.” Dr. Fenzel, along with Cathy Rosensteel, Co-director of Special Education, received a “Maryland Race to the Top” grant to support professional development and place teacher interns at two Baltimore City elementary/middle schools.
  
  o Education professor Dr. Brad Erford was named President of the American Counseling Association, the fourth professor from Loyola to hold this title.
  
  o Dr. Kaye Whitehead, Assistant Professor of Communication, received a Maryland Historical Society fellowship to study the diary of a slave ship doctor
  
  o Dr. Jeffrey Barnett, Professor of Psychology, received two national awards from the American Psychological Association, and had one, an award for student research, named in his honor.

So many of this year’s accomplishments demonstrate extraordinary progress toward the initiatives of our strategic plan, and eventually, toward the plan’s ultimate goal of becoming the nation’s leading Catholic, comprehensive university.

- In the area of community engagement, after finding our direction in the needs expressed by neighborhood residents and business owners, our York Road Initiative moved forward by focusing our initial efforts in three areas where we already have a great deal of natural strengths: strengthening the commercial corridor; youth development; and building civic capacity. Hopefully you had a chance to stop by 5104 York Road on a Wednesday afternoon this summer to see the first tangible evidence of this initiative come to fruition with the launch of the Govanstowne Farmers Market which provided access to fresh produce and other local goods in a neighborhood with few healthy food options.

- Two key initiatives designed to support undergraduate education have advanced significantly. Of course, the Donnelly Science Center expansion marked its grand opening on September 30. If you haven’t checked out the revamped facility yet, I encourage you to visit as soon as you get a chance. And Last year at this time, I announced that, thanks to a
$500,000 grant from the Clare Booth Luce program, Loyola would add two new tenure-track positions for women faculty in the sciences. Today, these professors, Dr. Racnita Fenner and Dr. Megan Olsen, have joined the University, and I know they will be wonderful additions to our already exceptional science faculty.

- As an aside, I think it’s particularly fitting that Doctors Fenner and Olsen, who we were able to add to our faculty in part through a program designed to support women in academia, have joined us on the 40th anniversary of Loyola’s merger with Mount Saint Agnes College. It is difficult to quantify the impact that milestone has had on this university. I’ve said before that I believe Loyola would not exist today had we not become coeducational, and while I know some members of our Mount Saint Agnes family still mourn the loss of their campus and some of their traditions, most are proud of the influence the merger has had on Loyola, through our ability to add and excel in programs such as elementary education and speech-language pathology, and delighted by the quality and quantity of opportunities the merger made possible for Catholic education for women.

- Our plans to establish Living Learning Communities for all first-year students continue to move forward. Two longstanding members of the Loyola faculty and administration, Dr. Doug Harris of Political Science, and Mike Puma of Student Development, have been tapped to serve as co-directors, and the two are working closely with a cross-campus advisory board and implementation group—including student participants—to develop the program particulars and ensure it is ready for launch with the arrival of the first-year class in the fall of 2013. The first round of faculty hires for this program have been approved, and we expect to see a proposed outline of the program’s structure and initial themes by late January.

- In addition to expanding our existing graduate offerings with the addition of the full-time Emerging Leaders MBA and the upcoming Cyber Security Certificate and Master’s Program in Theological Studies, we’ve also strengthened our existing programs, amending the EMBA format to be more accommodating to prospective students’ work-life balance and creating an online orientation to welcome graduate students and help them feel more a part of the University family. The Loyola Clinical Centers, a key site for the practical experience required for graduate students in psychology, pastoral counseling, speech-language pathology, and education, has strengthened the interdisciplinary aspect of its operations, the partnerships through which it delivers services in the community, and, with help from grant funding, a number of key, high-profile programs, including its Expanding Horizons: Broadway Kids
musical theater program for children with disabilities.

- Loyola Athletics saw one of the most vivid signs of its growing strength come to life on a miserably cold, rainy day in March 2010, when the Ridley Athletic Complex opened. Games at Ridley are quickly becoming an integral part of the Loyola experience for our students—and a good many faculty, staff, and administrators as well. The growth of Greyhounds Athletics is about a great deal more than fine facilities—it's about the performance of our teams, most notably:

  - women’s lacrosse, which claimed its first Big East championship and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Championships;
  - women’s basketball, which hosted a second round NIT game;
  - men’s golf, MAAC Champions four years running;
  - and men’s swimming and diving, which claimed the MAAC crown for a third straight year in February.

None of these advances would have been possible without the able, prudent stewardship of Loyola’s finances. After falling to $122 million in fiscal year 2009, our endowment has slowly, conservatively rebounded to $147 million. Throughout the economic downturn, Loyola has maintained its bond ratings—"A" under Standard and Poor’s, and "A2" under Moody’s—during a period when many other universities have faltered. I am confident that we will continue to exercise this degree of fiscal discipline as market conditions improve, ensuring the University’s financial stability for many years to come.

Earlier this year, I was elected president of the Maryland Independent College and University Association, or MICUA, a group representing 14 private institutions of higher education. MICUA is a very important partner for Loyola. Thanks in large measure to MICUA’s work, the Maryland legislature voted this spring to maintain funding—known as Sellinger funding, in honor of Loyola’s Father Sellinger—to our institutions at last year’s levels. I am very grateful to Terry Sawyer and his colleagues in Administration and Government Relations for all their efforts to demonstrate the value our independent institutions bring to the state, especially after several years of steep cuts and proposed cuts to our funding. But know that this fight is not over. Funding for private higher education in Maryland is at risk each and every year, not only in terms of annual operating funds, but also in the form of capital grants like the $3.25 million grant we used to complete the Donnelly expansion.

In addition, there are grave concerns that a mandate to cut the federal deficit by $1.2 trillion will lead Congress to make additional cuts to federal student aid programs—a critical resource for many students both here at Loyola and across the country. In Newshound recently, we’ve asked members of the Loyola
community to sign an electronic petition urging Congress to preserve this aid. If you haven’t already done so, I encourage you to, and to ask your friends and family to do the same.

I know that it has not been easy to continue to deliver the caliber of programs our students need and expect after several years of operating budget cuts, and I appreciate the understanding with which you accepted this year’s 3 percent operating budget reduction. I am, however, profoundly pleased that this year’s budget allowed us to return to a merit-based salary increase program. Our budget planning for fiscal year 2013 is underway, and as in all years, rewarding top-performing employees for their dedicated service will remain a priority.

We've come so far already on many of the elements of our strategic plan, but to build on this success, to meet our full potential on all of our plan initiatives, we'll need to do more. We'll need to work harder. We'll need to approach each of these initiatives with fresh eyes and consider new ways of advancing all of these priorities.

We will also need more money.

Don’t be alarmed. As I said earlier, Loyola’s financial condition is sound, and we have more than enough resources available to continue delivering the first-rate education we always have, and to maintain the constant emphasis on excellence and improvement that our identity as a Jesuit university demands.

But at its heart, our strategic plan, the vision that’s guided our work for the past three years, asks for more. It’s not enough for Loyola to be a good university or even a great one. Loyola, we believe, will be the finest university of its kind in the country. Not simply a place to develop the skills and expertise to land a great job in a rewarding field, but an extraordinary academic, social, and spiritual community that, more than any other college or university in the nation, truly inspires its students and alumni for the rest of their lives.

That’s an ambitious vision. But fortunately, it’s one that many of our closest friends and most generous supporters already embrace. Loyola is now in what the fundraising community calls the “quiet phase” of a comprehensive campaign. Quiet is actually a bit of a misnomer. Our advancement staff is doing plenty of talking with our trustees and key donors about our vision for Loyola’s future and the kind of funding we’ll need to make that vision a reality. I spent quite a few evenings this spring hosting small dinners with key donors and prospects, listening to their insights on the direction we’d like to take Loyola. Their response has been overwhelming. Our message resonates with them on a deep and powerful level. Many of these people are Loyola alumni and Loyola parents. They know the Loyola experience is one that can, and does, inspire the rest of a person’s life. They know, because they’ve seen it happen.
Since then, we've worked with a consulting firm to dig a little deeper, to ask a wider group of alumni and other friends of the University their thoughts on these topics, and I've been moved by the depth of feeling people have about this institution. We all witnessed a vivid testament to the intensity of this feeling last week, when Ed Hanway of the Class of 1974 and chairman of our Board of Trustees, and his wife Ellen made a $5.2 million gift to the University. It's difficult to overstate the magnitude of this gift—the largest outright, individual gift in Loyola's history. It's designed to support some of the most essential elements of our strategic plan. Programs that speak to the very heart of the mission and vision we share for Loyola. It fully funds the priorities we've established for our Global Studies Program and the York Road Initiative, and it also provides support for the Living-Learning Program and the creation of a full-tuition scholarship. I am immensely grateful to the Hanways for their generosity, and to Vice President for Advancement Megan Gillick and her staff for their excellent work in securing this gift.

And this gift is just the beginning.

We won't be moving into the "public phase" of our campaign for quite a while—perhaps two years. And yes, at some point, you'll be asked to show your support for the campaign as well. Loyola's faculty, staff, and administrators have always played a very important role in the success of our fundraising efforts, especially during major campaigns. But there's another part for you to play in this as well, one that is perhaps even more important than "donor"—that of "advocate."

You know this University better than anyone else. You've been a part of the Loyola community for a very long time—more than 30 years, in more than a few cases. You know the impact a Loyola education can have on a student's life—and the impact our students and alumni can have on society.

So please don't be shy or modest about it. Don't be reluctant to tell your friends, your neighbors, your colleagues at other institutions how much you believe in Loyola today, and where you think this University is going tomorrow. Continue demonstrating for our current and prospective students, their families, and all of the visitors to this campus your sincere pride in our community. More than 12,000 high school students applied to attend Loyola this year—and that's not a fluke. Each of you helped make that happen, and you can have a similarly powerful influence on the success of our next campaign, and on the future of all of our endeavors.

Thank you very much for your time and attention today, and for your extraordinary contributions to Loyola University Maryland.

God bless you.