Presentation of the 2011 Milch Award for Excellence of Accomplishment

to

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School

The students celebrating their commencements here today share a special privilege; they have all had the great fortune to experience the challenges and opportunities made possible through Jesuit education. As a result of their time at Loyola, they will move forward into their personal and professional lives with a foundation grounded in intellectual rigor, discipline, leadership, integrity, and profound concern for the world around them. It is a bond they share with more than 2.5 million students at Jesuit schools, colleges, and universities worldwide, and countless more alumni from a family of institutions that continues to grow each year.

One of the most recent additions to this circle graduates its first class this year. Established in 2007, Baltimore's Cristo Rey Jesuit High School strives to extend the ideals and benefits of Jesuit education to young men and women from diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds who live in communities where educational options are otherwise quite limited. Hailing from throughout the city of Baltimore, Cristo Rey Jesuit's 314 students come from some of the City's most economically disadvantaged communities. The school keeps tuition significantly lower than at most comparable independent schools through a combination of generous scholarships supported by individuals, families, and foundations, as well as the unique Corporate Internship Program placements it makes for its students.

All Cristo Rey Jesuit students spend five full days each month engaged in entry-level work placements at law firms, banks, hospitals, universities, and other settings. In addition to helping to cover the costs of their educations, the students' work experiences offer early exposure to professional environments, opportunities to interact and build connections with college-educated mentors, and the chance to build practical skills which will help them succeed in any career they choose. Each year at Loyola, four Cristo Rey Jesuit students provide valuable administrative support in the departments of human resources, recreational sports, printing and mail services, and the Center for Community Service and Justice.

Cristo Rey Jesuit has also proven a valuable Loyola community service partner, welcoming more than 50 Loyola students to its campus each semester to serve as homework and mathematics tutors, writing coaches, and athletic assistants—creating opportunities to develop teaching and leadership skills but, perhaps more importantly, offering a chance to witness and appreciate the value of Jesuit education from a new perspective.

For its extraordinary contribution to accessible, quality education in Baltimore; for its deep commitment to introducing the ideals of Jesuit education to a new generation of students; and for its enthusiastic partnership with Loyola on programs supporting the education of students at both institutions, Loyola University Maryland is proud to present Cristo Rey Jesuit High School with the Milch Award.