July 31, 2016

This weekend we begin our year-long celebration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of St. Francis Xavier (College) Church. We chose this start and end date to correspond with the feast day of St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuits and beloved friend of Francis Xavier. I plan on reflecting often on the significance of our anniversary. You may grow tired of it! If so, simply skip this part and read all the other fascinating topics in the bulletin.

The celebration of the Eucharist provides a helpful way for us to contemplate this year. There our two basic elements to our Eucharistic prayer: remembrance and invocation. Each Sunday we recall God’s action in the world, especially in the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ. Remembering how the Lord has loved us, we seek His continued help in our lives now. Acknowledging with joy what has been enables the Church to confidently call on God today.

The next 365 days provide an excellent opportunity to be thankful. God has guided this faith community over many, many years. Gratitude will permeate every aspect of our celebration. Like the liturgy, this looking back allows us to understand the present and hope for the future. We seek Christ’s continued presence among us so we continue to bear fruit that will last. This anniversary is not some trip down memory lane, but rather a sacred time to consider who we are and who we can be.

Fr. Dan White, S.J.