



895 students receive degrees at 116th Commencement

Saint Peter's College celebrated its 116th commencement exercises on May 20 at the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ. The College awarded degrees to 895 students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Thomas C. Fox of the *National Catholic Reporter* delivered the commencement address. Valedictorian Kristofer Gryte of Missouri urged his fellow graduates to put into practice the principles of Jesuit education in all things. Honorary degree recipients included the Rev. James N. Loughran, S.J. (posthumously), Rev. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B., and Right Rev. Melvin J. Valvano, O.S.B., both of St. Benedict's Prep in Newark.



Office of Advancement
2641 Kennedy Boulevard
Jersey City, NJ 07036

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EDUCATION. ONE STUDENT AT A TIME.



Cornacchia named 22nd President

"It is difficult to put into words what I am feeling now. I follow a man, a Jesuit, who was such a vivid presence on this campus for eleven years. I am a product of Jesuit education and I have spent 25 years here at Saint Peter's in many different roles but always, always, committed to the noble mission of this College."

Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D.
to lead Saint Peter's



PREPARING STUDENTS FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING, LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Dear Alumni and friends,

I am truly honored to have been selected the 22nd President of Saint Peter's College. I pledge to continue the important and noble work of providing an outstanding liberal arts education in the Catholic, Jesuit tradition.

As part of the Saint Peter's College community for more than 25 years and as a product of Jesuit education, I am privileged to lead our College as we prepare students for a lifetime of learning, leadership and service. We have many strengths and capabilities that will enable us to meet these challenges.

We are blessed with a strong Jesuit community of men dedicated to teaching all of us to "see God in all things" and with extraordinary teachers, scholars, administrators and staff who give witness to the ideal of developing men and women for others. Our Board of Trustees remains steadfast in their resolve to deliver on our promise of providing "education one student at a time!" And our loyal alumni continue to give generously to support our current students.

My goals for Saint Peter's College are simple in concept. However, these goals require a partnership among all members of the College community to achieve:

- A growing reputation for academic excellence and innovation.

- Higher student success, particularly as seen in greater persistence and graduation rates.
- An active spiritual life that embraces all members of the College community.
- A top-notch technology infrastructure that supports learning, teaching, research and administration.
- An ever-growing number of alumni engaged in the life of the College.
- Quality, safe, environmentally responsible, and well-managed campus facilities, including a new Campus Center.
- A vibrant and exciting student life program, including a competitive Division I athletic program.
- A campus-wide commitment to social justice and service.
- A high quality faculty that is provided adequate support to engage in scholarship, and that is appropriately compensated and respected.
- A dedicated, professional, appreciated, and justly compensated staff.

These aspirations can only be accomplished with all stakeholders having a voice in the governance and direction of our institution. Together, we are building a future on the foundation of our rich and proud heritage.

Sincerely,

Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D.
President, Saint Peter's College

Dr. Cornacchia invokes Ignatian values to fulfill 'noble mission' of Saint Peter's College

The Board of Trustees at its May 9th meeting appointed Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D., as the 22nd President of Saint Peter's College. Dr. Cornacchia is the first layperson to serve as President of the 135 year-old Catholic, Jesuit College in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees Frank Ziegler '63 formally introduced Dr. Cornacchia as President on Monday, May 14 with a ceremony attended by the Rev. Gerald J. Chojnacki, S.J., provincial of the New York Province of the Society of Jesus, members of the College community, friends and family.

"I am truly honored," said Dr. Cornacchia. "It is difficult to put into words what I am feeling now. I follow a man, a Jesuit, who was such a vivid presence on this campus for eleven years," added Dr. Cornacchia. "I am a product of Jesuit education and I have spent 25 years here at Saint Peter's in many different roles but always, always, committed to the noble mission of this College."

Father Chojnacki said Dr. Cornacchia's appointment represents a new chapter in the College's history as laypersons continue to take on leadership roles at institutions founded by the Jesuits.

"We've known for a long time as we've worked in the business of education that the Jesuits depend tremendously on a core group of lay partners," said Fr. Chojnacki. "They are a core of competent and committed individuals who are dedicated to the Jesuit and Catholic identity of our institutions and who continue to share the charism of Saint Ignatius in all of our works," added Fr. Chojnacki. "It's my privilege therefore to recognize one of our great lay partners today, Gene Cornacchia."



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-Rev. Gerald J. Chojnacki, S.J., NY Provincial

Father Chojnacki told the audience that the New York Province will continue to support fully Saint Peter's College in its mission to promote the ideals and values at the core of Jesuit education – concern and care for the whole person, service to others and academic excellence.

Board Chairman Frank Ziegler said the expertise exhibited by Dr. Cornacchia in a variety of academic and administrative roles over the past 25 years led the Board to endorse him unanimously as the best candidate to direct the continued growth of Saint Peter's College. "Dr. Cornacchia stepped in and performed ably after the untimely passing of our beloved Father Jim Loughran, S.J.," said Ziegler. "The Board of Trustees, the Presidential Search Committee and the entire College community know that under Gene's leadership, Saint Peter's will continue its mission of serving students and meeting all challenges in the finest tradition of Jesuit education."

Dr. Cornacchia spoke of the partnership and role of all on campus in ensuring the legacy and growth of Jesuit education.

"The principles and values that Saint Ignatius Loyola set out nearly 500 years ago endure not because of who the president is but because they are alive in all of us—they animate how we approach our work, our relationships with each other, and our faith," said Dr. Cornacchia. "Saint Peter's has been, is and will always remain a Jesuit and Catholic college because of all of you."



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-Frank Ziegler, '63, Chairman, Board of Trustees

Prior to his appointment in January as Acting President following the death of Rev. James N. Loughran, S.J., Dr. Cornacchia served as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. He joined the College in 1981 as a lecturer in the Political Science Department and served in the department for 19 years as a Professor and then Chairman. He held positions as Academic Dean and Dean of Faculty from 2000-2002.

Dr. Cornacchia earned his B.A., M.A. and Ph. D from Fordham University. He lives in Elmsford, NY with his wife, AnnMarie, and their two daughters, Lauren and Katherine.