

Joe Parkes, S.J. <jparkes@crystoreyny.org> 

Today at 4:00 PM

JP

To: Gene Boyle <geneboyle3@gmail.com>

Re: Sad News From Jay Booth: Daughter, Sara, of Al Booth, Passed Away

Thanks.

If you want some good news --- Le Moyne College in Syracuse NY conferred on me an honorary "Doctor of Humane Letters" degree at their graduation this past Sunday.

Two graduates of CRNYHS, Imalai Castro and Eduardo Arriaga (cum laude), graduated on Sunday. Eduardo will start working at JP Morgan Chase on June 28.



JOSEPH P. PARKES, S.J.

The 17th century British playwright Joseph Addison wrote: "What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to a human soul." Addison believed that great educators do not merely teach their students. They mold, shape and form them. They inspire and advocate on behalf of the young people in their charge with a spirit that seems indefatigable. Joseph Parkes, S.J., is one such educator. Every day, called by his Creator, he commits himself to providing his students with the tools they will need to navigate a complex world – and thrive in it.

Outgoing, gregarious and colorful, Father Joe is the president of Cristo Rey New York High School in Manhattan, where he has worked since 2004, leading a team of caring professionals united in their belief in the power of a Jesuit education to transform lives. Father Joe's colleagues will tell you that he is "old school" in the best sense of the phrase, with a fondness for reminding his students that the library is their office and that nothing good ever happens after midnight. Yet he possesses an unshakeable faith in the strength, goodness and excellence of the young men and women he has been entrusted with educating. He believes in their ability to change the world for the better.

Father Joe's influence on Jesuit secondary education spans 40 years. Prior to his arrival at Cristo Rey, he worked at three other Jesuit high schools, Fordham Prep, Ateneo de Manila University and his alma mater, St. Peter's Prep. Those experiences taught him that one of the true marks of Jesuit-educated men and women is the way they use their creativity and generosity – fueled by their education – in the service of others for the Greater Glory of God. Father Joe's greatest hope is that the network of Jesuit educational institutions will become even more effective in spreading the Kingdom by cooperating and learning from one another. To that end, he was instrumental in the founding of Loyola College, a co-educational boarding school for Catholic and Muslim secondary students in Abuja, Nigeria.

In addition to being a gifted educator, Father Joe is that very rare and extraordinary leader whose thinking is both practical and visionary. He is able to immerse himself in the minute, day-to-day details of a particular situation and to use his imagination to unlock the rich array of possibilities it holds. It is no surprise, then, that during the course of his vocation he has been called on to serve as the business manager and associate editor of *America* magazine, and as socius to the provincial and, later, provincial of the New York Province of the Society of Jesus. To each of these roles Father Joe brought his dedication to social justice, superb organizational skills and capacity to unite people. He also heeded the advice he received from a wise, experienced Jesuit nearly 40 years ago: "Take good care of the people who work for you."

A native of Jersey City, N.J., Father Joe is a member of the boards of Georgetown University, Fordham University and Mount Saint Mary's University, as well as the boards of St. Ann's School, the Convent of the Sacred Heart, and the Partnership for Inner-City Education. He earned a bachelor's degree from Fordham University and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin and Woodstock College.

With deep appreciation of the many good works he has begun and sustained in service to God and His community, Le Moyne College is proud to confer upon

JOSEPH P. PARKES, S.J.

the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters – *honoris causa*.

May 21, 2017