



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Blue Jays,

As many of you already know, senior Evan Johnson passed away this morning after a courageous fight with cancer. Moments like this are deeply painful and difficult to comprehend. For Evan's close friends, his absence will be personal and profound. For all of us, it may feel almost impossible to understand how someone we saw joyfully walking our halls and living the Jesuit experience alongside us could be taken so soon. His passing leaves behind cherished memories and hard questions about life, death, and the mystery of God's plan.

We should not shy away from these deeper questions. In the face of sorrow, there is a real temptation to distract ourselves, to avoid the ache of loss. But our faith calls us to a deeper truth. God made us for life in abundance and eternal. As St. Paul reminds us, *"If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord"* (Romans 14:8). It is in this hope that we grieve as a community anchored in Christ.

The harsh reality of this fallen world is that even the vibrancy of youth is not immune to suffering. But that very fact reminds us how precious and sacred our time on Earth truly is. It is natural and even holy to mourn. Jesus Himself wept at the death of His friend, Lazarus. But our sorrow can also become fertile ground for grace.

Let this loss prompt reflection and inspire action. Perhaps you feel called to pursue a future that helps combat the diseases that burden our world. Maybe you're led to reevaluate how you spend your time, or to express more readily your love and gratitude to those closest to you. Above all, be attentive to those around you, Evan's family and friends, his teammates and classmates. Let compassion guide you. And if you find yourself struggling in the days ahead, please don't struggle alone. Speak to someone you trust: your teachers, counselors, coaches, or any adult who cares for you. We are here for each other.

St. Ignatius of Loyola said, *"Love ought to show itself in deeds more than in words."* In the wake of Evan's passing, let us be men of faith and men for others, honoring God and Evan with our prayers and with our actions.

Though we begin this school year with heavy hearts, I am eager to see you again and to walk together through whatever joys and sorrows lie ahead. Let us dedicate ourselves to using our time and talents for the greater glory of God.

Christ's peace,

Fr. John Brown, S.J.

President