President's Founders' Day Address Fred P. Pestello, Ph.D. November 18, 2011

Thank you, each and every one of you, for joining us on this festive night of celebration. You are a critical part of what makes this one of the best Catholic colleges in the northeast.

Our commercials reflect the excitement here on our campus. At Le Moyne, dolphins soar. Thanks to the hard work of our talented faculty and staff, the generosity of our friends and alumni like you, the character of our students and the appeal of our mission, Le Moyne College is thriving.

One can look in any direction here at the College and see exciting changes. This is perhaps most obvious in our facilities. Within the last year or so, we opened the new Le Moyne Plaza, dedicated an Athletic Turf Field, established a house for our student veterans, resurrected the Dolphin Den, and renovated the fourth floor of Grewen

Hall. At this moment we are building new student meeting and club spaces, designing a new softball field and nearing the end of construction of the nearly 50,000 square-foot addition to the science building. All told, we have done more construction than at any time since the College's founding.

As beautiful as the new facilities and renovated spaces may be, however, at Le Moyne facilities are first and foremost the context for fostering excellence. It is what takes place within our facilities that is most important. On that score, the past year's accomplishments are even more significant.

First among those achievements is the design and passage of a new Core Curriculum. The Core is particularly important at faith-based colleges which hold to a set of deep convictions and view knowledge as instrumental for both understanding and improving the human condition. Thanks to the efforts of Le Moyne's

faculty, our future students will be better prepared for the complex and interdependent world they will enter.

Here at Le Moyne the faculty is known for its dedication to both outstanding teaching as well as advancing knowledge, particularly in collaboration with our students. I can assure you that we continue to hire impressive new professors who complement well the already high standards set by the long-serving faculty. The abiding commitment of our faculty is to the formation of the whole person among our students. That has always been and remains Le Moyne's hallmark.

This approach to education has proven to be a compelling one. This fall we welcomed the third consecutive record class of new full-time undergraduates. Demand for Le Moyne is at an all time high. And our enrollment success was accompanied by both an increase in geographic diversity and an improvement in the overall student profile.

It is not students alone who are responding to us so positively. The most recent data on philanthropy show that, among all Catholic colleges and universities in the United States, Le Moyne College ranks 11th in alumni participation and, among Jesuit colleges, we are number four of 28.

I firmly believe that a strong attraction to the Catholic and Jesuit nature of a Le Moyne education is at the center of this response by potential students and generous donors.

We are being guided in all that we do by the OneLeMoyne Vision. It is an elegant statement that commits us "to be a premier Jesuit college where diverse talents meet to foster academic excellence, integrity and a commitment to justice." In it we pledge to "develop the full capacity of each student's mind and heart" by cultivating in our students a "keen compassionate intelligence." This is to be achieved through our upholding of "centuries-old ideals of liberal arts education by maintaining the highest standards of excellence, cultivating reason, critical

acumen and eloquence." I am immensely proud of the vision we created.

This coming year we will be working to realize the OneLeMoyne Strategic Plan, including establishing the McDevitt Center for Creativity and Innovation, forming a School of Business and completing additional facilities projects.

Thanks in part to your investment of time, talent, and treasure we are able to do all of these wonderful things, first among them graduating exceptional young men and women well prepared for all they will face in life and work.

Tonight, in a packed house, we join together to pay tribute to the Christian Brothers of Syracuse. Founded by **Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle**, the Lasallian Brothers, better known to us as the Christian Brothers, are revered across world for their dedication to Catholic education. Here in Syracuse we are privileged to have Christian Brothers Academy, arguably one of the area's finest high schools.

CBA graduates are known for being rigorously trained and civically engaged. They are found leading organizations and making a difference throughout Central New York and beyond.

Since our very founding Le Moyne has benefited greatly from our relationship with the Christian Brothers and CBA. Located just around the corner from us, hundreds of CBA graduates have found their way up to the Heights as students and stakeholders. Dozens are here in the room this evening – at this time I would ask all CBA graduates to stand (*hold for applause*). On behalf of the College I want to express our admiration and appreciation to the Christian Brothers and all of those who have had the benefit of a Christian Brothers education.

I ask that you now direct your attention to the video screens for a tribute to the Christian Brothers of Syracuse, as we celebrate faith, friendship and formation.

[AT THIS POINT THE VIDEO ROLLS]

Ladies and gentlemen, I am honored to present the Christian Brothers of Syracuse – Brother Joe Jozwiak, Brother John Loehr, Brother Edmund Dwyer, and Brother Gabriel Fiumano – with the highest honor given by the College, the Simon Le Moyne Award.

(Hold for applause.)

I now invite to the stage Brother Joe Jozwiak, Principal of CBA, who will accept this award on behalf of the Christian Brothers of Syracuse.