Welcome to all of you, honorees, alumni, friends, colleagues...

What a wonderful evening to see so many people here to be with our honorees and to celebrate the life of Niagara University.

Tonight we celebrate what is at the core of Niagara’s Vincentian mission. We have honored four people who have carried on the charitable legacy of St. Vincent de Paul.

Tonight is all about our students...their excellence, their commitment and their ability to be leaders and change-agents in a very fast-moving world. Our students live by core values that they themselves have formed.

The other reason that we are all gathered here tonight is to showcase Niagara University, a Catholic and Vincentian university of excellence where we celebrate an education that makes a difference. All proceeds from this event directly benefit our students, 98 percent of whom receive some form of financial aid.

Niagara University has been blessed with the ability to bring cutting-edge curriculum forward for our contemporary times, and we have been able to
build important buildings to showcase our more than 50 majors that are all fully accredited.

The success that we have had in doing so has been made possible by the people in this room...each and every one of you. Your energy, your passion, your leadership have made this an extraordinary time for our students at Niagara University. Thank you.

Thank you to present and past members of the Niagara Board of Trustees and Board of Advisors, whose steady guidance has helped to shape many of the great things taking place at the university.

A special thank you to Jim and Mary Boldt for the incredible job you’ve done in chairing this year’s President’s Dinner, and to tonight’s honorees – Dr. Bull, Bob Gioia, Pamela Jacobs-Vogt and Peter Vogt.

Many of you already knew Dr. Robert Bull as one of the most astute and compassionate physicians in Niagara County. But you may not have been aware of the critical medical care that he provides regularly to the inhabitants of a small village in southern Mexico.

The charitable contributions of Bob Gioia, meanwhile, are well known in Western New York. His work with the NFTA, Great Lakes Health, the Oishei Foundation and several other philanthropic organizations is renowned and extraordinary.
Pam and Peter have given much of themselves to improve the region’s educational and arts communities. We are very happy to count Pam, her children, and their family foundation among Niagara’s most generous supporters. And we also commend Peter’s financial commitment to the students of Western New York.

Peter and Pamela, Bob Gioia and Dr. Bull are certainly deserving of our attention and it brings us great pride to present them with Niagara University’s St. Vincent de Paul Award.

Thank you all for your love and support of our honorees, and for Niagara University. I deeply appreciate your friendship and collaboration.

Dear friends, alumni and colleagues, let us now move forward together as partners. Let us walk toward the future – as collaborators – with a burning desire to instill Niagara’s mission into the future generations of young men and women. We do this together, all of us, with God as our strength and our hope.

Thank you and may God bless you.
It is customary at this point in the program to thank the chairs of tonight’s dinner for a job well done by presenting them with a gift. Not only have the Boldts given so much of their time to organize this event, but they have also generously provided for our musical entertainment this evening. In addition, Computer Task Group, for which Jim serves as C.E.O., sponsored tonight’s cocktail hour.

Jim and Mary, please accept this gift as a token of our great appreciation of your generosity and support for helping your alma mater raise much-needed scholarship dollars at this year’s President’s Dinner.

Thank you.

(FATHER PRESENTS BOLDTS WITH GIFT OF APPRECIATION)

Finally, I would like to introduce the chairs of next year’s President’s Dinner, and ask Jim and Mary to hand off the ceremonial baton.

The chairs of the 2012 President’s Dinner will be Chris and Mary Ross, both members of Niagara University’s Class of 1982. Please come forward. Thank you for taking on this very important role.