



CURIA PRAEPOSITI GENERALIS  
SOCIETATIS IESU  
ROMA - Borgo S. Spirito, 4

April 12, 1996

Dr. William F. O'Hearn  
Executive Director of Information Services  
John Carroll University  
Cleveland, Ohio U.S.A.

Dear Doctor O'Hearn,

Word has reached me that you will soon be leaving John Carroll University, retiring after forty years of service to this Jesuit institution. I do not want this occasion to pass without a word of thanks from me, writing on behalf of the Society of Jesus.

There is no need for me to give a detailed account of your accomplishments, as professor of physics, as assistant dean in the College of Arts and Sciences and, most recently, as Executive Director of Information Services. You and your colleagues know better than I the number of students whose lives you have touched both in the classroom and in the office, the number of changes you have made for improved communication and computer utilization on the campus, the influence you have had on all Jesuit institutions of higher education in the United States through your active participation in the AJCU Conference on Information Technologies Management.

My own thanks goes beyond your accomplishments to touch the spirit that has motivated your life. The 31st General Congregation of the Society of Jesus in 1965 urged Jesuits to "foster the cooperation of the laity in our own apostolic works." Thirty years later, the 34th General Congregation spoke about Jesuit cooperation with laity in much stronger terms, and insisted that lay persons "have access to and be trained for positions of responsibility" in Jesuit institutions. Your presence at John Carroll University has more than spanned those thirty years, and your dedication to its objectives and ideals has made you a model of the type of lay person with whom we are happy to cooperate, with whom we gladly share the responsibility for our institutions.

One of your colleagues has written that you could sometimes be mistaken for a Jesuit; what is more important to me is that you be known and remembered as a dedicated lay person who has shared in and promoted Jesuit educational goals.

With my thanks, I promise my prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely in Our Lord,

*Peter-Hans Kolvenbach*  
Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J.  
Superior General