

Thank you for those kind words. I want to thank the committee for selecting *me* to be inducted into the Signum Fidei society. I am honored and humbled. I want to congratulate the other inductees, and I acknowledge the great accomplishments. And to all of you – thank you for coming.  
Welcome.

As some of you know, my wife Mary Elaine and I do a lot of driving, but we don't use a GPS. Instead, we find our way the old fashioned way – we use signs and maps to get where we want to go. Tonight we are celebrating signs of a different kind– the signs of our faith. For me, the signs of my faith are the people around me, my friends and my family

First, I want to talk about you -- my friends. I have witnessed many signs of faith over the years by witnessing your kindnesses and your acts of friendship.

When I was in high school, I never realized how important my St. Joe's friends would be to me for the rest of my life. But now I know. And you do too. You have seen these signs of faith, as your friends and classmates relentlessly show up to help you celebrate the weddings, births, baptisms, the award ceremonies – the good times.

And they come to help in times of sorrow. We have all experienced the pain of the loss of dear classmates and loved ones, gone to soon ... but we take strength from one and another, and try to act in a way that would make our loved ones proud of us.

For me, my friends *are* my signs of faith, as is my family.

My mother and my father have been signs of faith for me. They have showered me with love, and have shown me the way by their generosity, kindness, and good example. And Mom, I am so happy that you could be here with us tonight. You and Dad realized better than I the value of the Catholic education that you provided for me and for my sister and my brothers.

All my life, my sister and brothers have encouraged me, supported me, and loved me. They have helped shape me into the man I have become.

My aunts and uncles are good-to-the-core people who lead by example – examples strong enough **not only for their own children**, but for their nephews and nieces as well.

And the same is true of my sisters and brothers-in-law. The signs of faith that they have demonstrated are many and varied. The courage with which they have faced illness, their compassion for the disadvantaged, and the way they have raised my nieces and nephews, are constant reminders to me that I can always do more.

And my sons. I am blessed with four sons who, every day of their lives, have brought me nothing but happiness and love. I was so very pleased when they chose to continue their Catholic education at St. Joes. They have grown up to become signs of faith to those around them, and I continue to learn from them every day.

And I am so happy that our sons have chosen such wonderful women to spend the rest of their lives with. These four women are truly my daughters, and the joy they bring me is beyond measure.

My newest sign of faith is my granddaughter. And I so look forward to welcoming two more signs of faith this summer when our two new grandchildren will be born.

And my wife Mary Elaine – what a sign of faith she has been for me! She has supported every endeavor I've undertaken, never wavering in her deep love for me. For that I am, and will always be, eternally grateful.

So, just as Mary Elaine and I relied on road signs to lead us to our destinations, I look around at you – my family and friends – my signs of faith – to lead me to my destination.

God bless you all, and good night.