



# All Things Ignatian



## Magis Catholic Teacher Corps

*A Catholic Service Teaching Program in the Education Department*

Magis Catholic Teacher Corps is a two year program centered on community living, academic coursework and Ignatian Spirituality that prepares and supports highly motivated, faith-filled teachers to serve in under-resourced Catholic Schools throughout Nebraska and South Dakota.

Magis, a Latin term meaning “the more,” is the charism of the Society of Jesus that embodies St. Ignatius’ question in his Spiritual Exercises: “*What more can I do for Christ?*”

Magis Catholic Teacher Corps recruits college graduates who view education as their vocation and their ministry. In a spirit of service, our teachers respond to the question “what more can I do for Christ?” by making a two or three year commitment to teach in under-resourced Catholic schools. During these years, teachers live together in intentional Christian community as they pursue educational, professional, and spiritual development.

### Community, Spirituality & Academics

Magis teachers live together in *intentional Christian community*, offering support to one another as they experience the many challenges and rewards that come with teaching. Community living allows our teachers the opportunity to challenge and encourage each other as they develop personally, professionally, and spiritually.

The spirituality component of Magis Catholic Teacher Corps is guided by *the practices and traditions of Ignatian Spirituality*. Magis teachers value the growth of their own faith and spirituality and, in turn, offer spiritual support to members of their community. Magis offers group prayer and reflection, individual spiritual direction, regular chaplain meetings, retreats, and other modes of support to encourage the spiritual growth and development of each teacher throughout the duration of the program.



*Magis teacher James McDermott helps a student at Holy Name School in Omaha.*



Cohorts 8 & 9 at the Commissioning Mass, in July 2010 at St. John's Church

In preparation for their profession in education, Magis teachers engage in a *rigorous graduate program*. Courses are completed through intensive on-campus study during the summer and by on-line distance learning during the school year. Classes are taught by seasoned professionals who provide our teachers with the theoretical framework needed to achieve success in the classroom. Tuition for Magis participants is 100% subsidized.

During the school year, *Magis teachers serve as full-time teachers* in under-resourced Catholic schools. In the classroom, Magis teachers receive the support of a field experience supervisor. They are mentored in lesson planning, curriculum construction, classroom management, and assessment. This essential component of the Magis program allows our teachers to live out a spirit of service, while at the same time providing them with valuable work experience.

### A Quick Glance at Magis

#### Magis Teachers serve:

- In all 5 (arch) dioceses throughout Nebraska and South Dakota
- In 17 schools, in 10 cities, including two American Indian reservations
- In Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- As secondary science, social studies, English, Spanish, mathematics, art, language arts, theology teachers, as well as elementary school teachers.

#### Important Facts:

- Over 45 graduates by 2011
- Teachers come from all over the United States plus international students from Mexico, Canada and Nigeria
- High retention rate of alumni who remain in education and who stay teaching in Catholic schools
- An active member of the University Consortium for Catholic Education (UCCE), a national movement to strengthen K-12 Catholic education