



Every autumn, I always feel a hint of excitement for another school year. As a student, I was excited for new school supplies: there was something about new pens, pencils, erasers, pencil crayons and markers that stirred hopeful creativity in me. I convinced myself I needed those be. Now that I am older and on the other side of the educational experience, my excitement is about other things. Being a Chaplaincy Leader, I am excited now not so much for the school supplies as I am to be a part of others' lives, and help them discover or rediscover their dignity and their talents.

Our new theological theme for 2017-2021 comes from the post-Resurrection setting where Jesus asks Peter three times, "Do you love me?" (John 21: 15-17).

There are many significant levels to understand this conversation. This dialogue comes after the darkness and despair of Good Friday and the exuberant joy of that first Easter experience. Peter is in a much better position of answering Jesus' question after seeing and experiencing Jesus' victory over death. However, it does not stop at "do you love me?" Jesus adds, "then feed my sheep." Loving Jesus entails an active response—there is much to do. And we *do*. We do a *lot!* We take of our students, our colleagues, our families, our friends, we organize social justice initiatives and programs. It is incredible how much we get done in ten months. In faith, we are invited into this dynamic with Christ, we see and experience many things about him and then we are sent out: if we love this man, then we must feed his people, whoever they may, however they may look, whatever their needs.

As we begin another year under the glow of the new theological theme, my prayer is that amidst all the doing, we are excited for the way we can take care of Jesus' sheep. May we remember why we do what we do—Christ first loved us and we are simply passing it on.

