

# Inauguration at La Roche College - Lighting the Way for a New President



Presidential inaugurations emanate thoughts of change, hope, possibility and the future. Whenever any president takes office, whether for a country, company or college, the institution and those people whom he or she represents are filled with anticipation and an expectation of what their new leader will bring forth. Such excitement encapsulates the customary celebration that is a presidential inauguration.

On Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9, 2005, La Roche College inaugurated its seventh president since its founding in 1963. President (Sister) Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., was the focus of this celebratory tradition as she follows in the footsteps of those who have led the college before her.

The installation ceremony served as the public acknowledgement of Sister Candace taking over the presidency and was a celebration of this exciting new period in La Roche's history. Kenneth P. Service, vice president for Institutional

Relations, explains, "The inauguration was an opportunity for the campus to come together and coalesce around the new president and, more importantly, to shine the regional spotlight on La Roche College and to show the great things that are happening here."

La Roche's strong presence in the North Hills began when the Sisters of Divine Providence founded an independent, private Catholic college for religious sisters. The College was named after Marie de la Roche, the first superior of the Congregation of Divine Providence.

Beginning over 40 years ago with only a handful of local students and graduates, La Roche is now an institution that offers more than 50 undergraduate majors, 20 undergraduate minors and three graduate programs to more than 1,800 students from all over the country and the world. The College's academic areas of excellence include graphic and communication design, the sciences, education, nursing

and a graduate program in human resources management.

Sister Candace is well-versed on the facets of La Roche's academic, historical and spiritual mission and officially began her administration on July 1, 2004. So why did the College hold her inauguration nearly a year later? Said Service, "In higher education, any time within the first year [of a president's appointment] is a typical time to have an inauguration. Even though Sister Candace has been in office for nine months, this formal ceremony publicly recognizes the change of leadership."

In addition to being a member of the Congregation of Divine Providence, Sister Candace has also been a member of the La Roche College Board of Trustees since 2001. She recalls that her love of teaching and her dedication to the mission of Catholic education were first developed at La Roche.

Sister Candace assumed her first presidential role after a seasoned history





and wide range of experience in higher education and administration. From 1986 to 1991, she worked at La Roche College, first as director of Grants and then as Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs. Her other educational administrative positions include: Vice President for Planning and Assessment at Barry University in Florida and Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at Heritage College in Toppenish, Washington. But it seems that Sister Candace's heart has always remained here in the North Hills. "I was very excited when I was appointed the President of La Roche," she states, "it's a bit of a homecoming for me."

Introcaso's strong connection to her congregation and her congregation's strong connection to the North Hills definitely influence her presidency and her future vision for La Roche. "Just as the Sisters of Divine Providence are a visible part of the North Hills community, I want to increase the visibility of the College. I intend to strengthen its image locally and have it seen as more of an asset to the wonderful people who live in the North Hills community – of which we have been a part for over 40 years."

This renewed local emphasis is also extremely important to the new president as she continues to push La Roche into its next phase of growth. She concludes, "We've done a wonderful job of expanding the curriculum and vision of the college to a global and international perspective. But I think the time has come to now balance those same global principles with a new focus on our regional contributions, domestic agenda and domestic student body."

The theme of Sister Candace's presidential inauguration, as well as her determined vision, can be summarized with La Roche's motto, To Light Through Love. In other words, during difficult times or during times of change, the way to light is through love and grace.

Sister Candace embodies this motto with a real love of education and a true passion in her belief that such education can change lives, enlighten minds and raise people and society to a better existence. This may sound like an almost unrealistic goal, even for a newly appointed president, but it's certain that Sister Candace's dedication, love, passion and grace will see her through.

Last month's inauguration was an opportunity for President Introcaso to reaffirm her dedication to La Roche, acknowledge their accomplishments, and most importantly, provide a point of reference, vision and plan to lead the College into its immediate future. For more information about La Roche College, visit: [www.laroche.edu](http://www.laroche.edu) or call: (800) 838-4LRC. To learn more about the presidential inauguration, visit: [www.laroche.edu/inaugural/index.html](http://www.laroche.edu/inaugural/index.html). ❖

