

Christmas on Eye Street

Quinn McGee

It is just as I remembered.... From not having school the day before the gala to the tree in the Library, Christmas on Eye Street remains one of the highlights of the year. It was always a nice thing as a student to just walk in one Monday morning in December and see the school decorated for Christmas: the tree in the commons, the wreaths on I street and the garland donning the railings. As a faculty member however, these simple decorations seem to have a much bigger impact. Aside from it just looking good it seems to remind everyone on campus about the coming celebration and attitudes seem to reflect that. The birth of Jesus is upon us and the students notice.

The men of Gonzaga seem to have a different air about them during this joyous season, just as I remember feeling when I was here. They are more engaged, excited to learn and generally happy to be here, even if they are not so excited for the impending exams. The Christmas season has an effect of the people here and it took me five Christmases to notice it. Yes, of course Christmas was always an exciting part of the year when I was student but I did not realize how people change for the better during the season, especially 17 year old boys. Being a faculty member has allowed me to see what this time of year is really about on Eye Street and it isn't about rushing home to your Dad's freshly baked Yorkshire Pudding (although that is nice.) Christmas on Eye Street is about much more than that. It is about reflecting on the year we have had so far, the ups and down, the loses, the new friendships formed... etc. This is a time that I believe the boys have taken to heart. They are able to look back and see all that they have accomplished and it is a noticeable change among many of them. This has already been a difficult year for many at Gonzaga with the lose of our beloved Mike Pakenham, but this season has brought together this community in more ways than it first appears and I am truly blessed to be just a small part of it. I never noticed what Christmas did to this family we call Gonzaga when I was a student; however, now I have the opportunity to look at it in a different light and everything seems a little brighter here on Eye Street. It has been an exhausting end to the semester and just like the students I cannot wait to have the time off, but I will miss this place and the community that it fosters. Until the New Year Gonzaga.