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## Joan Secchia Address, delivered on September 20, 2010

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Joan Secchia Address  
By Arend D. Lubbers  
September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Honoring Joan Secchia reflects well on Aquinas College. She has many fine qualities that Aquinas and other colleges want to hold before their students and graduates to emulate. As I searched for words to describe Joan, they come to me in sets of three. The first set is grace, charity, and beauty.

Grace implies an inborn courtesy. When receiving or giving, while listening or talking, respect and warmth are shown to the individual or individuals involved. The Book of Common Prayer describes the qualities as an outward and invisible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. That captures Joan.

Charity is an active companion in Joan's life. She combines thought, time and money in the objects of her charity, and she and they are made whole. The Proverb states "charity is the scope of all God's commands. She believes it and acts on it."

In her demeanor, dress, and countenance she is simply beautiful. Her countenance gives us the ready smiles and laughter. Her dark eyes sparkle with amusement and pleasure.

The second set of three is comprised of loyalty, humor, and steadfastness. Loyalty, even when misplaced, has a kernel of redemption. I am unaware of any misplacement by Joan, but I know her friends can count on her loyalty. She has a

husband with intense loyalties, and her capacity for it is something they share and understand.

Humor, people don't understand themselves very well unless they have a sense of humor. Joan understands herself very well. We all have foibles and they are best dealt with with humor. R.M. Milnes wrote "the sense of humor is the just balance of all the faculties of mankind." When you observe all the balance and ease Joan exhibits as she moves through life, you know she sees some things with a twinkle in her eye, and maybe has a belly laugh or two.

Steadfastness; how do I describe it? A person is steadfast when she holds on to essential beliefs, when she is committed to lasting relationships. She stands by what is important. A person who is steadfast has a core to her being. There's and there, there. That's Joan.

I come to my \_\_\_\_\_ set of \_\_\_\_\_, but the Aquinas three minute clock prevents me from sharing them with you. Instead I close with this attempt at a limerick:

There is a fine lady names Joan

She's accomplished much on her own

In thick and in thin

She helps everyone win

She's on a pedestal or ever a throne.