Memorial Endowment: A Memorial Endowment has been set up within the Catholic Foundation for the purpose of continuing and expanding the legacy left to us by Fr. Ignatius M. Roppolo (July 12, 1928 – April 29, 2014).

Life and Ministry of Fr. Roppolo: Fr. Roppolo was a humble servant of Christ and His people. This was manifested in the self-sacrificing and generous way in which he ministered to the sick and the poor. It was also manifested in the way he exercised leadership as pastor of a parish and in other prominent positions in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. He was committed to lay leadership formation and collaboration between priests and lay leaders. He was constantly pursuing further pastoral training for himself and promoting pastoral training for seminarians, permanent deacons, laity and priests, always offering his vision of a more inclusive church.

His Pastoral Vision: An Inclusive Church
Influenced by the Second Vatican Council, Fr. Roppolo envisioned a church:
- that was more collegial than hierarchic,
- that was more collaborative than authoritarian,
- in which decisions were shared by clergy, religious and laity on the basis of an equality rooted in the sacrament of Baptism,
- in which clericalism was replaced with an attitude of humble loving service.

His Motivation: He was motivated by the words of Jesus:
- “The Son of Man has come not to have service done to him but to serve.” (Matthew 20:28)
- “You know the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.” (Matthew 20: 25-27)
- “Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.” (John 13: 13-15)

His Vision Affirmed by Pope Francis: He would have experienced his vision of an inclusive church affirmed by Pope Francis:
- “Christ summons the church ...to that continual reformation of which she always has need in so far as she is a human institution here on earth.” (P. 15, quoting Vatican II)
“The renewal of structures ... is part of an effort to make them more mission-oriented, to make ordinary pastoral activity on every level more inclusive and open....” (P. 15)

In some situations lay people do not have a clear awareness of their responsibility “because in their particular Churches room has not been made for them to speak and act, due to an excessive clericalism which keeps them away from decision-making.” (P. 52)

**Work of the Memorial Endowment:** To promote this vision of a more inclusive church, the Memorial Endowment will:

- conferences that will feature nationally recognized theologians and pastoral leaders
- work in partnership with Loyola’s Institute for Ministry and any other interested groups
- sponsor workshops and courses for clergy, religious and laity and
- show special concern for the poor

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