

**PEDRO ARRUPE, S.J. AWARD
PRESENTED TO WMA MEMBER**

June 2016

Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J. served as Superior General of the Society of Jesus from 1965 until 1983. Fr. Arrupe gave one of his most famous speeches in 1973 when he proposed the educational objective to form “men and women for others.” Jesuit High School initiated the Arrupe Award in 1998 to honor and recognize those whose service is a model of what it means to be a person for others. This year we are pleased to present the Pedro Arrupe, S.J. Award to Jeff Johnson.



Jeff Johnson

Jeff grew up in an idyllic Eastmoreland neighborhood in Portland with his parents and sister. “I grew up on a block where everyone helped everyone else,” says Jeff. “It was a way of life.” Jeff’s paper route and lawn service work helped teach him the value of hard work. Jeff was also involved in community service from an early age, joining the Boy Scouts until he became an Eagle Scout (his project was to rebuild the amphitheatre at Reed College) and giving back to the community in various ways. His father was involved on a few boards, and his mother freely gave her time to a variety of community service endeavors. “From my parents, I learned that if you worked hard, you could create your own destiny,” says Jeff. “They gave me the tools to do well for myself and others.”

After graduating from La Salle High school in 1981, Jeff attended the University of Puget Sound. He graduated with a degree in business in 1985 and began working at Hillsdale Sash & Door in Seattle a division of Lone Star Door and Plywood, a building materials business for new home construction. Jeff met Krissy, his future wife, his first day on the job. The two were married in 1988 and have three children: Taylor ’11, Brooks ’13, and Morgan ’15.

Jeff and Krissy moved to Portland, Oregon, in 1991. Jeff and his father-in-law, Bob Harrison, founded Western Pacific (“WestPac”) Building Materials to serve the architectural needs of the new home construction and remodeling industries. WestPac is now the top distributor and one of the largest of finished building materials in the Northwest and has six locations in four states. Jeff has been president and CEO of the company since 2007 and is devoutly focused on the company’s mission: “I am the keeper of our mission,” says Jeff. “It’s extremely important that we provide a great customer and employee experience.” Most of his 260 employees have worked at WestPac for 10-15 years, with many having been there for 25+ years.

A good friend of Jeff, Greg Specht, first introduced Jeff to JHS president John Gladstone a few years before Taylor began attending Jesuit. “We had an instant connection,” says Jeff of his first meeting with John. Greg also introduced Jeff to Fr. Bill Hayes, S.J., who became his great friend and spiritual leader and eventually sponsored Jeff and Krissy when they converted to Catholicism in 2011. “We always liked the Jesuit High School mission, and giving back to others really resonated with our family,” says Jeff. “We felt it was important to have a greater spiritual aspect in our lives.”

Jeff has freely given his time to Jesuit and served on the school’s Board of Trustees from 2009-2015, in addition to serving on numerous committees, including the Building Committee, Finance Committee, Executive Committee, and the Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee (which he chaired for two years).

“The satisfaction of seeing the school continue to move ahead and stay on path with the mission and the board’s ability to continue to push the goal of affordability have been great,” says Jeff. From a facilities standpoint, Jeff was involved with the construction of the Elorriaga Center and with the purchase of Valley Plaza.

In addition to his work with Jesuit’s board and committees, Jeff volunteered on the Senior Pilgrimage for several years, where he spent much time cleaning up around the church with his tools. Jeff and Krissy sponsor a bus that provides much-needed transportation for students from St. Andrew’s Nativity School so they can ride to and from Jesuit each day. Krissy worked as a Hot Lunch Mom in Jesuit’s cafeteria for numerous years.

Jeff’s spirit of service extends into his professional life as well. At each of WestPac’s locations, Jeff ensures that the company regularly donates building materials to Habitat for Humanity to help them build homes for those in need. WestPac also donates materials to job centers for youth in Clark County and for injured warriors (veterans) who need to build a house or need to refurbish a house.

Jeff and Krissy are also active in the broader community, with Krissy volunteering at Women of Good Samaritan to support and enhance lifesaving care and the couple supporting such endeavors as Active Children Portland, JOIN, and the Knight Cancer Center.

In appreciation of his lengthy and outstanding commitment and contributions to Jesuit High School over the years, we are proud to present Jeff Johnson with the Pedro Arrupe, S.J. Award for 2016.