Dear Members of the Class of 2020:

Jesuit's summer reading program is designed to develop a love of reading among our students. In this program, members of the incoming freshman class read the same book, in order to build community and get an exposure to humanity beyond Portland. This year's freshman selection is *Tattoos on the Heart*, written by Jesuit priest Fr. Gregory Boyle, which recounts stories from Fr. Boyle's decades of working with gang members at Homeboy Industries.

Summer reading is a requirement of all students. At the beginning of next school year, the freshmen will discuss *Tattoos on the Heart* in their English classes. This is a wonderful exercise in community-building and shared stories, both very important to the life of Jesuit High School.

We want you to <u>read actively</u> and consider topics you may look forward to discussing with your class in September. Active reading means that you are thinking about the themes of the book as you read, underlining examples in your book, perhaps even talking about the themes in the book with others or writing about them in a journal. Remember that we read differently when we know we're going to talk and write about a book than we do when we read purely for enjoyment.

In preparing for discussions about *Tattoos on the Heart*, we suggest that students respond, in writing, to their impressions of plot, characters, and theme(s) of the book (e.g. 2-3 pages of a writing journal is sufficient). The journal is not required, but will be helpful for students as they prepare to discuss the book. Students should bring their ideas and the book with them to English during the first week of classes.

Thanks for your participation in Jesuit's summer reading project. We look forward to a lively sharing of ideas and an early chance for the Class of 2020 to get to know each other and to begin their journey through Jesuit High School.

Sincerely,

Jesuit High School English Department