



## Choice of Superior General Seen as a “Bridge to All Parts of the World”



*Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, SJ, superior general of the Jesuits, met with Fr. Giuliatti in July, 2007, to discuss his new assignment as president of Wheeling Jesuit University.*



*New Superior General Adolfo Nicolás, S.J. accepts congratulations.*

After four days of prayer and personal conversation known as *murmurationes*, the 217 Jesuit electors gathered in Rome from around the world have chosen Adolfo Nicolás, S.J. as the 30th Superior General of the Society of Jesus.

He was the president of the Jesuit Conference of East Asia and Oceania and the former provincial of Japan. He is now Father General to nearly 20,000 Jesuits worldwide, including 2,900 in the United States, and the 29th successor to St. Ignatius Loyola who founded the Jesuits in 1540.

Jesuit Conference of the United States President Fr. Thomas Smolich, S.J., who served on the Coetus Praevius (a planning committee for GC 35) with Fr. Nicolás, said, “The electors chose the man God had in mind.” Smolich added, “Our new Father General is profoundly spiritual; when you talk to him there is a depth that is striking.”

In an age where diverse cultures, religions and ways of life interact on an unprecedented scale, Fr. Nicolás is widely viewed as among the leading Jesuit experts on inter-religious dialogue. “His history as a scholar and theology professor, educated in both Tokyo and Rome, and his multiple language skills of east and west were also important to this international body of educators,” said Fr. Fred Kammer, S.J., provincial of New Orleans and one of the electors. “His experiences of the dynamic emerging Church in such countries as India, Japan, China, Korea, and the Philippines and his vision for spreading the Gospel appealed to many – reminding them of the great missionary St. Francis Xavier,” Kammer added.

Fr. Nicolás was born in Spain, earned a degree in systematic theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, taught at the Sophia University in Tokyo, directed the East Asia Pastoral Institute in the Philippines, served as presiding secretary of the 34th General Congregation in 1995, and speaks five languages. His visits to the United States have included stops at the Arrupe Experience, an annual preparation program for American Jesuits nearing ordination.

The Provincial of Maryland Fr. Tim Brown, S.J. sees the election of a man with this breadth to be a “sign of unity and peace.” New England Provincial Fr. Tom Regan, S.J. adds, “We are delighted that such a holy man, one who has such a vision of the world, has been selected to lead us.”

