



#114 Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J.
October 2007

Father Schlegel's installation as a "Face" was a heavyweight event with civic star power assembled to salute the Creighton University president. During Schlegel's seven years of leadership, Creighton has become nationally recognized as the premier comprehensive university in the Midwest and is experiencing an era of growth and prosperity. His vision has led to the most ambitious campus expansion in its then-129-year history, keeping his name and visage in the news continually. Since his arrival, the university has added more than 20 acres to its campus and invested more than \$190 million in new construction, renovation and campus improvement. In 2005, Schlegel announced a \$350 million capital campaign designed to secure Creighton's place as one of the nation's premier Jesuit Catholic universities. Renowned for his fund-raising ability, Schlegel drew this compliment from emcee Ken Stinson, chairman of Peter Kiewit Sons' Inc.: "He may have made all of us a little poorer, but Omaha is far richer for having a leader like Father Schlegel." Two Creighton graduates were among his roasters: Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey and Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein. Schlegel arrived at Creighton following nine years as president of the University of San Francisco, returning to Creighton where he served as assistant academic vice president from 1978 to 1982. A native of Dubuque, Iowa, Schlegel entered the Society of Jesus in 1963 and was ordained in 1973.