IRELAND:
TWO LECTURES

1. What Tocqueville Saw in Ireland in 1835: Photographs from his Footsteps

By Douglas Kries
March 2, 7:30 p.m., Wolff Auditorium, Jepson Center

The French political thinker Alexis de Tocqueville is known primarily for his famous Democracy in America. Most people are unaware, however, that after finishing the first volume of the Democracy, and prior to beginning work on the second, Tocqueville visited Ireland. He kept a daily record of his travels there, which were discovered among his papers after his death by his friend and traveling companion Beaumont. Gonzaga political philosopher Douglas Kries has studied these journals and has written scholarly articles on their contents. With his wife Sheila, he has also visited and photographed many of the places that Tocqueville discusses in his Irish travelogue. In this lecture, Kries will discuss informally some of the highlights of Tocqueville’s travels, and particularly his reflections on faith, famine, poverty, and democratic politics as he witnessed their interactions in Ireland.

2. Irish-American Identity: Perspectives of an Immigrant’s Son

By Peter Tormey
March 9, 7:30 p.m., Wolff Auditorium, Jepson Center

Ireland's former President Mary Robinson said, “Emigration is not just a chronicle of sorrow and regret. It is also a powerful story of contribution and adaptation.” Gonzaga writer and leadership scholar Peter Tormey, a first-generation Irish-American, will draw from his lived experience and research to discuss the roles of faith, family, and humor in Irish-American culture. His father, William A. “Bill” Tormey, at age 24, bid a tearful farewell in 1948 to his mother, father and four brothers when he left Ireland and its beleaguered economy in hopes of a better life in America. Mary Robinson also spoke of an international Irishness irrespective of physical geography but united by shared cultural values. Tormey will explore why he agrees with Robinson that Irishness defies narrow and placebound definitions and ought to be made as inclusive as possible.