Welcome (Back)!

As this new version of the "News from the Chaplain's Office" is sent into the ether, we mark the eighth anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001. As is the case with most momentous, earth-shattering events, we can probably recall where we were, or what we were doing, when we heard the awful news of what was going on in New York City, Washington DC, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Anger, outrage, sorrow, disbelief, shock -- all of us experienced some combination of those emotions. We were told that the world changed on that day. Well, certainly many things HAVE changed.

One change for which I'm grateful is the increased awareness that many of us have of the religious diversity that surrounds us. And it is not just a religiously diverse world, but a religiously diverse America, and a religiously diverse DU. We have learned that our neighborhoods, in many cases, don't look as homogenous as we thought. We've heard stories of religious discrimination based, primarily, on ignorance of practices. Interfaith gatherings, organizations, and even stores, are becoming more commonplace.

So we move forward. We hope we move forward stronger, better equipped to meet the challenges ahead of us (and they are still there!). As academic year 2009-2010 begins, it is my hope and prayer that the programs offered out of this office will be part of that learning/strengthening process. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Gary