

# NBA Star Returns to His Roots



**Shannon Brown visits with patient Jordan Rodriguez in the Loyola Outpatient Center.**

As a guard for the Los Angeles Lakers, Shannon Brown knows a thing or two about sharing on the basketball court. Off the court, this Maywood native is no different.

Brown returned to his hometown on Tuesday, Dec. 15, to share with some of Loyola's youngest patients. Brown, who graduated from Proviso East High School and whose parents still live in the house that he grew up in, stopped in the Ronald McDonald® Children's Hospital (RMCH) and Loyola



**Shannon Brown gathers with nurses and physicians at Ronald McDonald® Children's Hospital.**

Outpatient Center to give gifts to children who spent the holiday season at Loyola.

"This basketball superstar has not forgotten his roots," said Megan Gray, child life specialist, RMCH. "The kids were so excited that he took the time to stop by and share Christmas presents with them. This special visit brightened their day."

Brown signed autographs and was photographed with the children. He also

donated tickets for former pediatric patients to attend the Los Angeles Lakers-Chicago Bulls game later that evening.

**Dr. Whelton entertains some of Loyola's youngest patients in anticipation of Shannon Brown's arrival in December.**



# Ultimate Gift Honored at Stritch School of Medicine



**Rev. John O'Callaghan, SJ, blesses the cadavers after they are used to educate SSOM students.**

After 10 weeks of intense study during gross anatomy class, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (SSOM) students

bid farewell to their greatest teachers during a blessing ceremony where they gave thanks to those who gave the ultimate gift.

"The men and women who dedicated their bodies to education have given you the opportunity to experience learning in a special way. Today, we gather to give thanks to God and them for all that you've learned these past weeks," said Sister Brenda Eagen, director, SSOM Department of University Ministry.

During the ceremony, Rev. John O'Callaghan, SJ, asked God's blessing on the bodies one last time. Shoulder-to-shoulder the students who together took this important step in medical education paused for a moment of silence and reflection.

"Someone some time ago, before you arrived at medical school, made a decision

on your behalf and you became a benefactor of that gift from a total stranger," said Fred Wezeman, MD, director of the structure of the human body medical course. "The knowledge that you have as a result of that gift leaves this room with you. Always remain appreciative of the gift."

The ceremony was an opportunity to give thanks to those who, even in their death, bring life to others through the education of future physicians.

"These bodies are gifts of knowledge and I wonder if they knew that their gift would transform our lives and open a whole new chapter in our medical education," said Mona Patel, first-year medical student. "We all can say 'thank you' by applying the knowledge we have gained to help serve the many people we will encounter in our clinical practice."