LAGOS: “Politics is not a very nice world today.”

She implored Providence College students to “take a trek across the city” and take advantage of the great events the Watson Institute at Brown University hosts.

On Thursday, President Lagos delivered the first ever Rev. Edward Cleary, O.P., lecture at Providence College in ‘64 Hall. Fr. Cleary was a scholar of Latin American studies. A published author, his books were on sale at the lecture.

Pugh introduced a range of speakers leading up to Lagos’s lecture. Ethan Gentles ’13 offered an opening tribute to Fr. Cleary. He introduced Rev. David Orte, O.P., professor of Latin American studies and Development of Western Civilization at the College. Orte gave a brief background on Lagos’s legacy and its impact on Latin America before introducing the president himself.

Dr. Hugh Lena, provost of the College, also spoke at the event. Lagos explained that Chile’s transition to democracy was according to Pinochet’s constitution, which was an obstacle encountered.

Lagos clarified that the process of bringing those responsible for the atrocities in the Pinochet regime, Lagos made it known that “there is no tomorrow without yesterday.”

The president took questions from the crowd following the lecture. Students and faculty participated in a discussion moderated by Pugh.

To conclude the event, Esteban Rojas ’14 presented a gift to President Lagos. He opened the gift and said he looked forward to bringing it back to his home in Chile.

The lecture was followed by a private dinner with members of the College.

Lagos spoke with The Cowl following the event and said, “It is spectacular to speak with students. They are the ones that form the ethics of the future.” He continued, “When in office, it is hard for a president to speak at events like these, but I encourage all heads of state to do this after their tenures.”