

THE FAITHFUL LEADER

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from the heart of the Church

SUMMER 2015

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Following Saints Francis and Clare

By Daniel Conway, Senior Vice President for Mission, Identity, and Planning

In June, 16 pilgrims from Marian University traveled to Italy to follow in the footsteps of Saints Francis and Clare. Guided by Franciscan scholars from diverse regions of the United States, the Marian University pilgrims (comprised of faculty, staff, several spouses, and a member of the Board of Trustees) spent eight days in Assisi and three days in Rome before returning to Indianapolis on June 16. Their itinerary included lectures, visits to historic Franciscan sites, daily Eucharist and common prayer, shared meals, and opportunities for reflection and discussion.

According to Mark Henninger, Marian University's head football coach, "When I was asked to go on this pilgrimage (which I consider a huge honor) and was given the reading assignments, I started to become fascinated with the stories of Francis and Clare. However, after reading the books, they were still just stories. It wasn't until I was able to walk through the streets of Assisi (or should I say walk up the streets of Assisi—as it seemed all the streets went up), hear the birds singing, see the ruins of the castle above the city, feel the cool rock walls of the buildings on a 90 degree day, was I able to appreciate the lives and the sacrifice of both Francis and Clare."

Seeing with the eyes of Saints Francis and Clare brought into focus their commitment to poverty, simplicity, and wholehearted love of all God's creation. Byrum School of Business Dean Russ Kershaw, Ph.D. observed, "Through the deeper understanding of the lives that Francis and Clare led, gained during the pilgrimage, I believe that I will be better able to infuse their values into the classroom. Not only will I be able to do this on an individual basis as I teach in our curriculum, but as dean of the Byrum School of Business, I will be able to influence our entire program as we continue to implement and improve our experiential approach to teaching business."



Marian University pilgrims gather outside the Basilica di Santa Chiara in Assisi, Italy where Saint Clare is entombed and the original San Damiano cross is housed.

Marian University's pilgrims speak freely about how their experiences will benefit their work at the university. "As we develop curriculum," says Sr. Jeanne Hagelskamp, SP, Ed.D., associate professor and director of the Marian University Academy of Teaching and Learning Leadership, "I will also be sharing some of the experiences with others so that the lives of Francis and Clare become real to them and so that they can breathe life into our Franciscan sponsorship values."

Following Saints Francis and Clare, continued

Karen Klabunde, wife of Richard Klabunde, Ph.D. who teaches in the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine, notes, "I was encouraged in my faith in Christ by daily Eucharist, by readings, reenactments, as well as our excellent teaching by our leaders, our growth together as pilgrims, the camaraderie of new friends, and the prayers of everyone. I came to understand concepts I had struggled with, but had not fully grasped before this trip. Truly, 'Where you stand determines what you see.' My faith has grown."

The four Franciscan sponsorship values, informed by prayer, that Marian University received from the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, Indiana, took on a new vibrancy for the group. As Trustee David Haire '71 observed, "For most of us, religion and values are very personal; we have to break out of our comfort zone and become evangelists for the pilgrimage and the Franciscan values. Like Francis, we have to spend some time in quiet prayer, and spend much time in preaching the Word."

Professor of physiology Richard Klabunde, Ph.D. says, "Words cannot express how much I learned about Francis' and Clare's spiritual journeys and the world in which they lived. They abandoned all the comforts of life in order to serve people in the love of Christ. What a testimony for me today! I was reminded of how little I have given up and the limits of my faith. I understand more clearly how faith must go beyond beliefs and be expressed in our actions toward others. As a non-Catholic Christian, I was deeply moved by daily participation in the Mass and by the teaching and example of the Franciscan leaders of our pilgrimage. I now understand more clearly the importance of the Franciscan movement not only for the Church, but also for all humanity."

Susan Kershaw, wife of Dr. Kershaw, notes "St. Francis' dedication to Christ has inspired me to pray daily in everything I'm involved in. Spending time with God on a regular basis and yielding to His will is a new goal for me. 'Abba, may your will be done unto me' is my new mantra that is repeated several times throughout the day. In addition to prayer, I more fully appreciate the importance of relationships in our lives and the value of every soul."



Basilica Papale di San Francesco in Assisi, Italy.

The 2015 pilgrims have committed themselves to sharing their experiences with the Marian University community through a variety of means. Jennifer Waning '94, who represents Marian University to prospective students and their families in southwest Ohio, says, "Sharing the experience, to whomever we can tell, bringing it up in conversation, talking about the things we learned and how it has influenced us to do things differently will go a long way in spreading the message. Our actions and attitudes will certainly be contagious."

Coach Henninger sums it up beautifully when he says, "The pilgrimage is an amazing experience. Marian University prides itself on teaching and displaying Franciscan values, and what better classroom to deepen one's understanding of these values than the streets and hills of Assisi."

Preparing Transformational Leaders in the Spirit of Saints Francis and Clare

By Daniel J. Elsener, President of Marian University



In June 2016, leaders from nearly two dozen Franciscan colleges and universities will gather on the Marian University campus in Indianapolis, Indiana, for the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities' (AFCU) biannual symposium. A significant element of this AFCU symposium will include focused discussion of opportunities for ongoing collaborations among faculty, staff, and administration from Franciscan institutions. This

collaboration will not only preserve, but enrich and dramatically advance our individual and collective missions in Franciscan higher education.

The changing world around us requires us to venture forward courageously in new collaborative arrangements, paradigms, and entrepreneurial efforts in the spirit of our respective founders. We believe that in the current economic, religious, and social climate there is a strong need for dynamic, growing Franciscan institutions. Our forerunners recognized the critical value of Franciscan higher education in their own times, and we are called to continue these foundational efforts with an ever greater dedication and fervor today.

Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi are the models for all our efforts to develop transformational leaders for service to the world. They inspired thousands of men and women—in their own time, and in succeeding generations down to our own day—to live the Gospel by embracing simplicity, purity of heart, and service to everyone in need, especially the most vulnerable social outcasts. As AFCU institutions, we want to work together to make authentic Franciscan values available to our students and to the communities they will serve, especially in the fields of education, business, health care, and church ministry.

With that in mind, it is our vision that the 2016 AFCU symposium allow for meaningful dialogue among presidents, congregational ministers, religious superiors, board chairs, faculty, and staff about leadership, governance, and collaboration. Top leaders from several AFCU institutions have agreed to work with me to coordinate the high level conversations that need to occur to ensure that the symposium is a truly collaborative affair from beginning to end. We are especially eager to promote fruitful dialogue in the critically important areas of academics, institutional advancement, finance, information technology, marketing communications, and strategic planning.



During the coming months, pre-symposium conversations will take place among leaders of representative institutions about agenda items, speakers and presentation topics, and break-out sessions. Future issues of *The Faithful Leader* will report on our progress. In the meantime, please pray for the success of this courageous venture. It is our fervent hope that this historic opportunity for collaboration will strengthen our respective missions as Catholic Franciscan institutions and enliven the spirit of Saints Francis and Clare on our individual campuses and throughout the global community.

Thank you for all that you do to support and advance Marian University and Franciscan higher education. May God continue to bless you, today and always.

CAMPUS MINISTRY UPDATE

By Adam P. Setmeyer, Director of Campus Ministry

Marian University Sponsors 2015 National Catholic Youth Conference

By Mark Erdosy, Director of San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership

Marian University is taking a major leadership role as a Diamond Level sponsor for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) which will be hosted by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis at the Indianapolis Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium, November 19-21, 2015.

The NCYC is the largest national gathering of Catholic high school youth in the country. Close to 25,000 high school students, youth ministers, chaperones, bishops, priests, and youth serving organizations attend NCYC. The young Church gathers for liturgy, prayers, adoration, reconciliation, workshops, and singing. This year's theme is *Here I am Lord/Aquí Estoy Señor*.

Since 2011, Marian University has sponsored the NCYC youth animators program. During this three-day camp, more than 100 highly talented and enthusiastic high school students learn music and choreography while praying and worshipping together. Members of our San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership led prayer services and liturgies for the youth animators during their stay on campus in July.

The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry selects youth animators based on their singing, dancing, artistic, and theatrical abilities. The animators provide a leadership role during NCYC general sessions. They lead music, worship, and have significant speaking and acting roles during the opening and closing sessions of NCYC.

Members of the San Damiano Scholars Program also help plan the prayer services for the youth animators. This gives the San Dams an opportunity to meet and work with high school students who may one day be Marian University students. Marian University also maintains a large presence throughout the event in the exhibitor hall and as workshop presenters. In 2013, more than 40 students, including Bishop Simon Bruté College seminarians, faculty, staff, and administrators, volunteered in the exhibitor hall and throughout the event.

Several students have decided to attend Marian University based on their positive experiences of the youth animator camp. The atmosphere in Lucas Oil Stadium is electric at the opening session, but even more so at the closing Mass.

During San Damiano Scholar interviews, it has become commonplace for prospective students to talk about the impact NCYC had on their faith lives. Participants repeatedly share that being united in Christ with 25,000 kids the same age for the closing ceremony in Lucas Oil Stadium is an awesome experience.



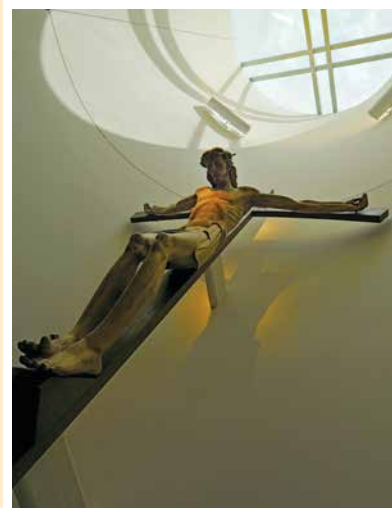
Left: NCYC Youth Animators complete a challenge during a team-building and communications skills workshop at Marian University in July 2015. Right: Over 50 high school students from across the country participated in this year's NCYC Youth Animators program. Marian University San Damiano Scholars helped lead campus tours and interacted with the students during their stay on campus.

In the *Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio)*, issued at the Second Vatican Council, the Bishops of the Catholic Church stated, "Today, in many parts of the world, under the influence of the grace of the Holy Spirit, many efforts are being made in prayer, word and action to attain that fullness of unity which Jesus Christ desires. The sacred Council exhorts, therefore, all the Catholic faithful to recognize the signs of the times and to take an active and intelligent part in the work of ecumenism." Marian University, in the tradition of Saints Francis and Clare and the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana, has long embraced this ecumenical spirit as they have served the needs of diverse populations in central Indiana, throughout the United States, and, the world.

This fall, we begin our next great venture in promoting ecumenism through the *Women and Men of Faith Program*. On June 24, 2015, Marian University was awarded a \$20,000 NetVUE Chaplaincy Implementation Grant from the Council of Independent Colleges. These funds will be used to:

1. Provide academic, spiritual, communal, and pastoral formation opportunities for students preparing for Christian ministry.
2. Create a rich worship experience which honors the diversity of the Christian traditions present on campus and provides a place for the prayerful exploration of vocation.
3. Empower faculty and staff to interpret the signs of the times and address the questions of our age through the dialogue of faith and reason.

Doing so will have a culture-shaping impact as conversations of faith and substance become more frequent and widespread, and we are able to become a hub for ecumenical dialogue among Indianapolis institutions.



Crucifix and skylight in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel located in the Michael A. Evans Center for Health Sciences.



To learn more about faith at Marian University, visit www.marian.edu/epiphanies.

Marian University Annual Gala: Elements of Excellence

By Ken Scheer, Development Officer and Director of Rebuild My Church Outreach

In the fall of each year Marian University holds a special gala in which we: recognize remarkable leaders in our community; raise funds for scholarships so that we can continue to provide meaningful support to students of all economic backgrounds; and highlight Marian University's role in educating transformative leaders for business, education, health care, sciences, ministry, and civic life through an ever-expanding number of programs and initiatives.

MARIAN UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis



On November 13, we will once again gather at the JW Marriott in downtown Indianapolis for this joyful occasion, *Elements of Excellence Gala*. In a room filled with remarkable leaders from corporate and non-profit institutions alike, we will honor:

- **Sarah and John C. Lechleiter, Ph.D.** for their tremendous work to advance STEHM (science, technology, engineering, health, and mathematics) education in Indiana and beyond. The Lechleiter's have been generous supporters of Catholic causes here in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and beyond.
- **Raul Zavaleta** for his entrepreneurship which has breathed new life into our community through the creation of new opportunities and the stimulation of new ideas. Zavaleta's leadership has been instrumental in Marian University's efforts to recruit and retain outstanding students from the Hispanic community. He has helped us to build strong relations with Latino leaders throughout the state of Indiana.
- **Bill Eckman '74** for his distinguished service to his alma mater. Eckman has served on the Board of Trustees since 2002 and as chairman since 2009. He is deeply committed to teaching ethics to students in health care, business, education, and all professions.
- **Dennis Donahue '62** for his distinguished professional achievement. Dennis has spent his life embodying the Franciscan sponsorship values as a transformative leader throughout the world, to include his 30-year dedication to the United States Foreign Service.

We are working hard to raise \$1.7 million for scholarship support, and expect to have 2,000 guests at this year's gala. As of early August, over \$1 million has been raised.

This year's gala carries a STEHM theme. At Marian University, we are integrating our Franciscan sponsorship values into all areas of the curriculum, with particular emphasis on science, technology, engineering, health care, and mathematics (STEHM). The dollars raised during our annual gala benefit all scholarship programs, including Rebuild My Church. Annually, we provide over \$2.3 million in scholarship assistance to the San Damiano Scholars and the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminarists. (The Seminary is owned and operated by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, but the seminarists receive their academic formation here at Marian University.) Marian University greatly appreciates your past involvement and support, and we look forward to having you with us at the gala as we celebrate our community's achievements and bolster critical scholarship support for our students—the future leaders of our city, state, and nation.

Learn more about the *Elements of Excellence Gala* and the honorees by visiting www.marian.edu/gala. Contact Ken Scheer at kscheer@marian.edu or 317.955.6204 with any questions regarding your attendance at and/or support of the 2015 gala.



Top: Over 1,600 Marian University friends and supporters attended the Rising to the Challenge, Creating Leaders Gala in 2014. **Bottom:** One highlight of the night was a moving performance of the benediction by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana and the Marian University Sacred Choir.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Rebuild My Church Strategic Fundraising Plan 2015-25

Grow the Rebuild My Church Endowment to \$25-50 million
(from \$6 million currently)

Elements of Excellence Gala

\$1.7 million goal
In excess of \$1 million raised to date

Rebuild My Church Raised (Fiscal Year July 2014-July 2015)

\$1,863,338

2014-15 Rebuild My Church Scholarship/Financial Aid Awarded

Over \$2.3 million in scholarships awarded to students in the San Damiano Scholars Program and seminarists in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary

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