

THE FAITHFUL LEADER

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from the heart of the Church

SPRING 2016

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Preparing Leaders for the Church: Founding the Missionary Disciples Institute

By Adam Setmeyer, Interim Vice President of Mission and Ministry and Director of Campus Ministry

In his apostolic exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel* (EG), Pope Francis states, "Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries," but rather that we are always "missionary disciples." (EG, 120) In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis is building upon the missionary tradition of the Church, which was renewed at the Second Vatican Council in the promulgation of *Ad Gentes*, reaffirmed by both Pope Paul VI and Saint Pope John Paul II. This call comes from the very heart of the gospel, and "Universities are outstanding environments for articulating and developing this evangelizing commitment in an interdisciplinary and integrated way." (EG, 134) Marian University has responded, once again, to this call by creating the Missionary Disciples Institute (MDI), funded by a generous grant through Lilly Endowment's Youth Theology Institute initiative (\$600,000 over the course of four years).

The MDI is designed to prepare 50 high school students each summer to assume leadership roles as young missionaries in service to their communities and the world through their local churches. The purpose of the MDI aligns with Marian University's mission to be a great Catholic university dedicated to providing students with excellent teaching and learning in the Franciscan and liberal arts tradition.

Today, Marian University is uniquely situated to form transformative young pastoral leaders for service to the world in light of the Rebuild My Church initiative, the San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership, an excellent Department of Theology and Philosophy, and vibrant campus ministry.

By using *The Joy of the Gospel*, the *Acts of the Apostles*, and the writings of Ss. Francis and Clare as core resources during the MDI, students will be prepared to be missionaries now while also considering a lifelong call to ministry. Through theological education, spiritual formation, pastoral preparation, community development, and vocational discernment, students will explore pastoral ministry in a missionary key; discover the ongoing impact of the Franciscan charism; and develop a mission plan to be implemented upon return to their parish or congregation.

The MDI will take place annually for one week each summer beginning July 11-16, 2016. The primary content of the institute will be a theological understanding of mission that is experienced through prayer, reflection, and service. To make this content manageable and approachable, it will then be diffused through a five-fold understanding of ministry:

- **Kerygma** (the ministry of proclaiming)
- **Diakonia** (the ministry of service)
- **Koinonia** (the ministry of partnership)
- **Leitourgia** (the ministry of prayer)
- **Didache** (the ministry of teaching)



Preparing Leaders for the Church, continued

By calling attention to these five traditional dimensions of the Church's ministry, we will present to the students all aspects of ministry understood as essential functions of missionary discipleship. Guest presenters will deliver a keynote each day on one of these five dimensions with group tracks following. The tracks will be collaboratively instructed by a Marian University theology faculty with academic expertise in the topic and a Marian University staff alumnus/a with practical ministry expertise in the track. Additionally and importantly, undergraduate students, such as our San Damiano Scholars, will serve as mentors throughout the entire week.

The development of the Franciscan charism and practical mission skills will be defining characteristics of the MDI. The high school students will take a pilgrimage to the Motherhouse in Oldenburg, Indiana, and then apply the developed practical skills through an immersion experience. Finally, each student will develop a "missionary plan" in the form of a project to carry out at their home school or parish.

Obviously this is a huge undertaking, but one to which Marian University is committed. As a university, we continue to embrace our role in serving the Church of central and southern Indiana, however we cannot do this alone. First of all, we rely on prayer, knowing that our loving God is never outdone in generosity. Secondly, throughout the creation of the MDI, we have been working closely with the staff of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Finally, we have also received the support of national organizations like the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, and have received sponsorship support from both World Library Publications and St. Mary's Press.

For more information, please visit www.marian.edu/mdi.

Marian University: A Leader in Mission

By *Daniel J. Elsener, President of Marian University*



More so now than ever before, Marian University is an institution distinguished in its ability to educate transformative leaders for service to the world. Building on our rich tradition, we have achieved unprecedented growth in the last decade, and, through our Strategic Plan 2025, our advancement will continue in profound ways. Developed in consultation with alumni, board members, faculty, and current students, this aspirational strategic plan

charts a bold and courageous path into the future and establishes our Wildly Important Goal (WIG) to double by 2025 the number of women and men who graduate from Marian University well-prepared to serve as leaders in their respective fields.

As a part of the strategic plan, we aim to deepen and broaden Marian University's education of Church leaders, the vibrant experience of faith on campus, and our service to the Church in Indiana and beyond. Through the generosity of our alumni, friends, and supporters, we will endow scholarships for those students in greatest need and build and grow a Sisters Legacy Fund to support the Oldenburg Franciscans' unflagging commitment to serve the economically disadvantaged. We will work to double the number of San Damiano Scholars to 240 by 2020 and grow the San Damiano Scholar endowed fund to support these young lay women and men who employ their gifts and talents in service to the Body of Christ in education, ministry, and beyond. Finally, we will create a Hispanic leadership initiative to support Latino/a students on campus, provide financial aid for their education, and create more dynamic connections with the Hispanic community in Indianapolis.

Our first action, however, will be to restore the St. Francis Colonnade and gardens which have deteriorated with age. The statue of St. Francis, donated to Marian University in the first years of the college as a memorial to Georgiana Feldman, a student who unexpectedly passed away in Clare Hall in 1940, and the pillars which surround it, capture perfectly our past and our future, especially in regards to the first pillar of our strategic plan: Mission and Identity. The colonnade connects us to the earliest days of the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana in Indianapolis, reminding us of the Franciscan values that

lie at our very core. When it is restored to its former beauty, it will be a serene corner of our campus that offers prayerful respite, reflection, and an ideal place to memorialize beloved members of the Marian University community.

The aspirational vision of the Marian University Strategic Plan 2025 will be one brought to fruition through the dedication, commitment, and most critically, prayerful support of the entire Marian University community. As the beautiful religious artwork across our campus reminds us daily, the mission of our university is imbued with our Franciscan charism; through the education we offer, we form leaders who carry these Franciscan sponsorship values of dignity of the individual, peace and justice, reconciliation, and responsible stewardship into their businesses, classrooms, churches, and hospitals.

May Mary, the Seat of Wisdom, pray for us, and may Ss. Francis and Clare be our models as we follow Christ on this bold venture.



Right: The St. Francis Colonnade

Rising 3 Social Justice Retreat 2016

By Jeanne Hidalgo, Campus Minister, Service and Social Justice

“Then Jesus said, ‘What can I compare God’s kingdom with? It is like what happens when a woman mixes yeast into three batches of flour. Finally, all the dough rises.’”

Luke 13:20-21

Based on this scripture, the Rising 3 Social Justice Retreat strives to expand the yeast of gospel-based social justice awareness among Marian University students. Beginning with 12 weeks of spiritual formation, student leaders become grounded in the principles of Catholic social teaching in order to offer an educational and experiential retreat experience to their peers. The two-day retreat, held this year at St. Michael the Archangel Parish Life Center, incorporates reflection, direct service, student witnesses, social justice, stations of the cross, and a hunger banquet.

“I have learned so much on the retreat. I have learned that charity and justice work together, and that justice is the goal,” said Paula Angarita Rivera, a sophomore who attended the 2016 retreat. “I have learned about Tear Down the Walls and that we are all united in solidarity and need to serve and be there for our brothers and sisters.”

100%

All of the students who attended the 2015 retreat said they would encourage someone to attend the 2016 retreat.

As the staff of campus ministry, we intend to take our natural inclination to serve, to embody the corporal works of mercy, and explore the other part of social change, which is working for social justice. The Rising 3 Social Justice Retreat is an intensive, experiential, reflective, educational retreat aimed at raising our awareness of our Gospel mandate to be the change, be the yeast, in building the kingdom of God.



Rising 3 retreat leader Fletcher Kitchell '17 shares water with retreat participant Kate Timmerman '19 during a Hunger Banquet, where participants are divided up from first, middle, and third class, representing how the world's resources are allocated.

 www.facebook.com/MUMinistry



St. Francis and St. Clare are portrayed in the stained glass windows of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel in the Michael A. Evans Center for Health Sciences building on campus.

Faith within the Marian University College of Medicine: the Francis and Clare Physician Vocation Program

By John Shelton, Campus Minister, Spiritual Formation

In the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Office of Campus Ministry is answering a call that is both local and national in scope. In Fall 2016, the Office of Campus Ministry will begin the Francis and Clare Vocation Program (FCVP) for prospective doctors of osteopathic medicine.

The FCVP is a four-year, co-curricular vocation and formation experience within the College of Osteopathic Medicine, which will monitor the ebb and flow of our challenging osteopathic curriculum and clinical practice.

Vocation is derived from the Latin word *vocare*, “to call.” With “charity as its ordering principle,” the authors of *Christian Virtues in Medical Practice* (Edmund Pellegrino and David Thomasma) state that a physician is called to “a special way of love, of giving oneself in one’s daily works of helping, curing, caring, and healing.”

Formation addresses the human, intellectual, spiritual, and pastoral dimensions. All physicians, regardless of faith tradition, can benefit from this level of spiritual support. Formation activities include readings and discussions from Franciscan, spiritual, and medical sources, prayer, retreats, hospitality and fellowship, spiritual direction, and collaborations in clinical settings.

The Office of Campus Ministry is excited to offer this opportunity to form transformative faith-filled leaders in the College of Osteopathic Medicine. As the spiritual formation campus minister, I look forward to leading this new program in addition to my continued ministry in the Leighton School of Nursing, the development of a Chaplaincy Mentor Program, promotion of spiritual direction, and ongoing work with students of all faiths located in the Michael A. Evans Center for Health Sciences.



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

Student Assisi Pilgrimage Experience

December 27, 2015 - January 6, 2016

“Religious pilgrimage is a very ancient, deeply moving, surprisingly powerful religious work. Our students prepared well and partook of the pilgrimage humbly and enthusiastically. They bring back our living heritage, their own encounters with the living saints. We are profoundly grateful to the many donors who helped make this pilgrimage possible and hope and pray to return with more students next year.”

Andy Hohman

Assistant Professor of Theology and Philosophy

“The pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi blessed me with cultural, historical, and spiritual experiences. One of the most profound encounters I had was before the San Damiano cross. Overwhelmed by the blessing to pray before the crucifix that St. Francis and St. Clare loved, I wept tears of joy and amazement. I could sense God near, and I felt the same call St. Francis heard 800 years ago, to rebuild Christ’s Church. There were no words, only a quiet earnest beckon within my heart. Where this beckon will lead me remains a mystery; however, I know Marian University will guide me to be the transformational leader God calls me to be.”

Ruthann Gorrell '19

San Damiano Scholar

“This experience gave me different values and priorities. I used to picture the Kingdom of God as something external; however, in Assisi I felt this kingdom engulf me day by day internally. I was truly living in the Kingdom of God through the places, the other pilgrims and leaders, and the spirituality of St. Francis and St. Clare. I received the greatest compliment recently while sharing the wonders of Assisi with a friend who has been devoted to St. Francis for years. He told me he feels like he is there when he is with me. Besides showing people prayer, I want to live Assisi here.”

Natalie Butler '16

San Damiano Scholar

Top: On January 5th, the student pilgrims spent their last day in Assisi at the Basiliche San Francesco, which is actually three basilicas in one. The upper level is ornate with the large rose window and is covered in frescoes of Francis’ life by Giotto. The lower level includes a fresco of Francis standing with a Gospel book in his hand next to the Mother of God. This fresco of a 5’1” Francis is the most accurate depiction to date. The lowest level is the crypt of St. Francis and four of his closest brothers and includes an altar for Mass and prayer in complete intercession with St. Francis.

Middle: Natalie Butler '16, Ruthann Gorrell '19, and Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminarian Matthew Donahue '17 indulged in gelato from Tre Scalini before ending the day with Mass at Casa Tra Noi, their hotel where they received blessed tau crosses to symbolize the beginning of their journey to Assisi.

Bottom: The pilgrims represented different Franciscan colleges. Medieval Assisi resting on Monte Subasio is visible in the background. The group gathered at La Maddalena, one of the three leprosarios in Assisi where Francis, Clare, and the brothers would come to serve the outcast and to preach the Gospel to those in need. Here, the pilgrims performed a skit portraying how people in Francis’ time would have reacted to a leper.



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