

THE FAITHFUL LEADER

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from the heart of the Church

FALL 2017

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2 » Message from the President
- 3 » Marian University Welcomes New Chaplain
» Welcome Archbishop Charles C. Thompson
- 4 » Alumni Profile:
Michael O'Connell



Leading by Example: Missionary Disciples Institute

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

Marian University welcomed 35 students from Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky for the inaugural Missionary Disciples Institute (MDI) June 11-17, 2017. Made possible by the generous support of Lilly Endowment, Inc., the MDI is designed to prepare high school students to assume leadership roles as young missionaries in service to their communities and the world at large through their local churches. 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, San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership, excellent theology department, and vibrant campus ministry. Leading by example, these groups collaborated to provide the high school participants the perfect picture of life at Marian University, and a vision of life as a church leader.

In particular, the MU Mentors—current San Damiano Scholars—played a key role in helping the students hear God's call in their lives. T.J. O'Neil '20, marketing and pastoral leadership major, stated, "I always have loved leading retreats but this one in particular will have a special place in my heart. Not only did I lead the students but at times I felt that they were leading me. They were inspiring with their faith and the experiences I had with the students during the week humbled me to appreciate having the opportunity to lead such a fine group of students. It has really made me reflect on how I show off my faith to others in the other leadership positions I have on campus."



Left: MDI students and group leaders gather after the Friday evening banquet.
Right: MDI participants prepare to paint a mural at Dathouse, a ministry for at-risk youth in Indianapolis.

Leading by Example, continued

Echoing his thoughts, the MU Mentors also discovered their own gifts as leaders. Charity Jamison '18, nursing and pastoral leadership major, wrote, "I think I developed the skills of leadership by working in groups of different ages and backgrounds—especially with our kerygma group on the immersion experience at St Gabe's. I see these skills as helpful to my nursing career as I must minister to many groups of individuals." These immersion experiences took place throughout Indianapolis at locations such as St. Gabriel the Archangel, Cardinal Ritter High School, and Our Lady of Grace Monastery. Jeanne Grammens Hidalgo, associate director of campus ministry, believes, "Direct service and dialogue with communities outside of the university gave life to the development of missionary discipleship."

Marian University faculty and staff saw the impact MDI had on students first hand. One student reported back to Faculty Track Leader Donna Proctor, A.B.D., assistant professor of theology, that, "I am a totally different person. My values have changed and I don't do the same things I used to do any more. I live out my faith more and people have told me so."

In total, Faculty Track Leader Mark Reasoner, Ph.D., associate professor of theology, sees that, "MDI represents a new way that Marian University is partnering with Catholic parishes in preparing young people for service in the Church."

The next MDI will be held June 18-23, 2018. To apply, please visit marian.edu/mdi.

Follow on Twitter @MDI_MU and Instagram @missionarydisciples.



Top: Fr. Michael Della Penna, OFM, one of the institute's featured speakers, is a missionary at the Valley of Angels Orphanage, Guatemala.

Bottom: Jackie Francois, a traveling speaker, singer/songwriter, and worship leader from Orange County, California gave the opening keynote on the Joy of the Gospel.

Message from the President: Telling Our Story through Better Branding

By Daniel J. Elsener, President of Marian University



Over the past year, Marian University has been working with a creative agency with experience in higher education to identify ways to better communicate the benefits of Marian University to prospective students and donors. The work includes an effort to better define the Marian University brand, a process that included qualitative focus group research with current students, alumni, faculty and staff. Additionally, quantitative data was collected via phone and electronic

surveys with prospective students. The research phase of the project, which lasted more than three months, revealed perceptions about how these various stakeholders view our university. Not surprisingly, it revealed that our Catholic Franciscan values are distinctive, and clearly differentiate Marian University from other institutions of higher education.

We are now in the execution phase of the project. This fall, you may have seen a new advertising campaign in markets throughout the region, including major cities in Indiana, as well as Cincinnati, Louisville, and St. Louis. The campaign is built around the question, "What Are You Made Of?" which challenges prospective students to prayerfully consider their gifts and calling and how they will respond to make an impact on the world. The question also provides Marian a platform from which we can reveal to the students what we're made of. That's where our brand research comes into play. We are attempting to define our brand on: a challenging and supportive academic community, Franciscan values, engaged

and active learning, personal development, and service. These aren't new concepts to Marian; rather, they are the characteristics that Marian University has always pursued. But the campaign represents a conscious and more focused effort on our part to clearly communicate our Catholic Franciscan values and the advantages of the quality education we offer all our students, regardless of their faith tradition. The vision, mission, and attention our caring faculty and staff provide students create a powerful community that uniquely prepares Marian University graduates for leadership positions.

Marian University is celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2017, and this milestone causes us to reflect on our past, and then pivot to look toward our future. Much is changing at Marian University. We are currently constructing several new facilities, including classroom space, a dining hall, fitness facilities, and even a new arena/convocation center. We have record enrollment. Our student body is more diverse than at any previous point in our history. But amid all this change, there are constants. The Catholic Franciscan values that were first introduced to Marian by our foundresses, the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana, prevail. As the Marian community continues in our commitment to the firmly established values that have brought us the amazing progress we are experiencing today, be confident that those values will remain ingrained in our future. The Sisters' legacy is forever expanding at Marian University, and the values that will be passed along to our students are the basis on which they will explore their calling and share their inestimable talents with a world badly in need of the leadership they will provide.

Marian University Welcomes New Chaplain

By Sarah Storm '19

Marian University's new full-time chaplain, Rev. William J. Stang C.P.P.S., M.D., M.Div., M.A., known to many as "Fr. Bill", comes from St. Joseph's College, where he held a variety of roles throughout his 40 years there including: biology professor, academic advisor, head soccer coach, religious superior, the priest-in-residence for dormitories, and chaplain.

“I believe God called me to educational ministry. I have a gift for teaching, and I believe very strongly in the Catholic educational mission of teaching body, mind, and soul. I would like to contribute as a teacher, and I would like the faculty to be able to see me as a colleague,” Fr. Bill said.



One of Fr. Bill's specialties is pastoral counseling. As part of his Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), he served as a chaplain in training at a maximum security prison for juveniles in Wisconsin and later at a maximum security ward at Mendota Health Institute. He focused on combining the Christian principles of healing, forgiveness, and compassion with psychological knowledge of mental health and disorders.

Fr. Bill applied this experience to college students by becoming less critical of their mistakes. "I still believe in seeking perfection in order to achieve excellence, but now I realize students cannot excel in all of this at the same time. So I help them prioritize. I pick them up and encourage them when they fall. And I involve other helpers who can reach where I cannot."

For more than 25 years, Fr. Bill was chaplain of the Indiana Army National Guard, where his primary task was to assist soldiers in their rights to religious expression. He served as Indiana State Chaplain from 2006-2011, in the rank of colonel. His responsibilities included overseeing all chaplaincy operations in both the Army and Air National Guard of Indiana.

Continued on page 4.

Welcome Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

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

On July 28, 2017, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson was appointed the seventh archbishop of Indianapolis, and Marian University's mascot Knightro wasted no time in welcoming him with some spirit wear. While this gesture was in response to some friendly competition with the archbishop's alma mater Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky, the Marian University family does take our archbishop relationships seriously.



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and Knightro.

In fact, we are blessed to have had special relationships with previous shepherds of the archdiocese dating back to 1850. The Franciscan Sisters were regularly visited by the Right Rev. Jacques M. Maurice Landes d'Aussac de Saint-Palais (1848-1877); because of his love of and passion for the youth of our church, the primary chapel in Marian Hall is named after the Most Rev. Joseph Chartrand (1918-1933); and the Most Rev. Joseph Elmer Ritter (1934-1946) approved the move of Marian College to Indianapolis in 1936.

More recently, Marian University worked closely with the Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB to create the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, and the Most Rev. Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R. regularly visited campus to celebrate Mass with our students, was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2016, and supported the creation of the Missionary Disciples Institute.

We are excited to continue this tradition with Archbishop Thompson for three reasons:

- 1. Devotion to Mary** – In *The Criterion*, Archbishop Thompson wrote, "Mary helps us be touched by the love of Christ and to touch him in return by our fidelity to his words and example." Marian University is named after Mary, the Mother of God, as she is our perfect witness of faith and courage. Following her witness, our San Damiano Scholars led the effort to install the Blessed Mother Mary Shrine and Rosary Walk on campus in 2010.
- 2. Human Flourishing** – At his introductory press conference Archbishop Thompson stated, "Drawing on the Indiana Bishops' 2015 Pastoral Letter, 'Poverty at the Crossroads,' may we continue to see, judge, and act with the mind and heart of Jesus." Our students are highly engaged in local service, athletic team initiatives, academic service learning courses, and international medical missions. In 2015 Marian University received the distinguished Carnegie Community Engagement Classification.
- 3. Missionary Discipleship** – Under his leadership, the Diocese of Evansville created a pastoral plan focused on "missionary discipleship," a phrase coined by Pope Francis. This summer Marian University held the first annual Missionary Disciples Institute.

As faith leaders in this community, the Marian University family is excited about the role we can continue to play as servants to our faith community under the leadership of Archbishop Thompson.



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

New Chaplain, continued

“In the military, I learned the rich variety of religion as I worked with the worshippers and ministers of other faiths. We may be in different vehicles, but we’re driving for the same goal,” says Fr. Bill.

Adam Setmeyer, vice president of campus ministry, is excited about Fr. Bill’s impact.

“His diverse experiences allow him to develop relationships with students from all walks of life. When speaking to new medical students about the role of faith in the life of a doctor, he had those students hanging on his every word because they knew that he had gone through the same experience! It was really powerful to witness,” Setmeyer said.

When asked the top three goals he hopes to achieve while serving as Marian University’s chaplain, Fr. Bill has a plan.

“My first goal is becoming an integral, effective part of Marian University’s ministry of education, Fr. Bill said. “My second goal is to grow as a person, improving my knowledge and ministry skills and improving my ability to find God in our world. My third goal is to do goals one and two in a way that makes me, and the people around me, happy about being here, in these moments, with what God has given us.”

“Fr. Bill will be able to provide a presence and witness to our students on a regular basis,” Setmeyer said. “Students will see him all around campus—the dining hall, Alumni hall, football games, etc. It is really powerful to get to know a priest in these types of settings, and then be with him during the Mass and other sacraments. The relationships formed are more powerful and create more powerful liturgical experiences. We are truly blessed to add Fr. Bill to our ministry team.”

Alumni Profile: Michael O’Connell

Name: Michael O’Connell

Position: Pastoral Associate and Young Adult Minister

Parish: Holy Spirit at Geist Catholic Church, Fishers

Years of Service: Seven

Marian University Graduation Year: 2009

Major: Theology/History

Why Marian University: Providence. I was attending University of Indianapolis, involved in my parish, and playing in a Christian band when the San Damiano program reached out to me. I had never heard of Marian, but when I visited campus, I instantly felt at home and decided this is where I wanted to be.

Why the San Damiano Scholars for Church Leadership Program:

I was interested in studying theology and discerning a call to ministry, and this program was a wonderful community to support and encourage me in my discernment.

Highlight of your San Dam experience: The retreats were wonderful and provided the opportunity to connect with Marian’s roots at Oldenburg, Mt. St. Francis, and St. Meinrad. These retreats helped us grow in prayer and community and are some of my fondest memories.

God requested Francis of Assisi to “Rebuild My Church.” How would you interpret this request in your own life and for your own faith community?

Every generation of Christians has its unique set of issues, so Christians must constantly ask, “Where is the Holy Spirit present and working today?” This allows us to partner with God, like St. Francis did, to meet the needs of the church today. These needs may be physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual, but it is the charge of discipleship to trust that Christ is with us always (Mt. 28:20).

Recent accomplishments/awards/events that you are proud of:

I recently moved from youth ministry into starting young adult ministry at my parish. I am also a Pastoral Associate at Holy Spirit, working with marriage preparation, marriage enrichment, and annulments.



I earned my M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy through Christian Theological Seminary in December and am excited to bring that experience into the work I do at that parish as I continue to work towards full licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist. I also have a small therapy practice at Indy Counseling Professionals on Indy’s east side where I meet with individuals, couples, and families in a clinical setting.

If you have visited Marian recently, what struck you the most about campus:

I love the art that surrounds Marian now which speaks to our Catholic identity. From the beautiful Alumni hall nativity, to the San Damiano cross on the Evans Center, there are hidden gems everywhere on campus that create a beautiful and inviting atmosphere.

MARIAN UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis

3200 Cold Spring Road
Indianapolis, IN 46222-1997

marian.edu |    