

THE FAITHFUL LEADER

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from the heart of the Church

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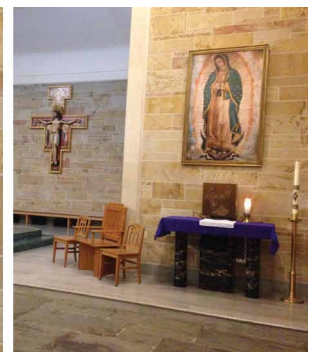
Religious Campus Art Involves and Inspires

By Jackie Crone, Office of Marketing Communications

Marian University's campus—rich in landscape, art, and architecture—is known for its beauty. Also known for its identity as a Catholic and Franciscan university, the campus is the perfect canvas for inspiring religious art. Just months after the installation of the stunning Nativity Scene Relief Sculpture on Alumni Hall, Marian University is proud to announce its most recent acquisition: An official reproduction of the original Our Lady of Guadalupe Tilma is now on display in the Bishop Chartrand Memorial Chapel in Marian Hall.

On December 12, the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe to mark the miracle of the Blessed Mother's appearance to Juan Diego, a poor Aztec Indian, and her remarkable image on the now 484-year-old tilma (cloak). The tilma, on display in the Basilica de Santa Maria de Guadalupe, Mexico, has become the most popular Catholic shrine in the world.

The story is as beautiful as the image. In 1531, the Virgin Mary asked Juan Diego to build a church on the hill where she appeared to him. He immediately took this request to the bishop who instructed him to first return with some proof. Upon returning to the site, Mary reappeared to Juan Diego, asking him to climb to the top of the hill, gather the flowers there, and bring them back to her. She wrapped the out-of-season Castilian roses in his cloak and told him to deliver them to the bishop. When the cloak was opened, the roses fell to the floor, revealing the image now known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. The image, rich in detail and symbol, continues to mystify as its quality has remained unharmed by the elements or catastrophic events.



Our Lady of Guadalupe reproduction in the Bishop Chartrand Memorial Chapel in Marian Hall.

Religious Campus Art Involves and Inspires, continued

The story behind the acquisition of this miraculous image is particularly fitting for an institution whose background and progress are often referred to as the Marian Miracle. Adam Setmeyer, director of campus ministry, recounted, "We had great difficulty getting it to the states. There was the language barrier, the phone numbers given did not work, and then we were told it would be impossible to ship to the United States."

But prayers were answered in the form of Anthony Shull's in-laws. Shull, the McKinney chair of international programs and executive director for global initiatives, is married to Jeniffer Shull who happens to have relatives in Mexico who happened to already have travel plans to come visit their daughter. So she appealed to her parents Moises Gutiérrez and Eva María Trejo and brother Jonathan Gutiérrez for help. "It was definitely a family effort," Jeniffer explained. Her brother even designed a special carrying case out of PVC tubing that her parents brought on the plane as carry-on luggage.

Marian University is committed to its Catholic and Franciscan identity and the importance of religious art on campus to emphasize this mission and potentially profoundly affect the student experience. Corey Bruns '16, a Bishop Simon Bruté Seminarian and Marian University student, recently shared a photo of the Blessed Mother Mary statue in Marian Hall on Instagram. In his post, he tells a moving experience of his first tour of campus.

"I was nervous as all get out, but the first building we entered was Marian Hall and I immediately saw this beautiful statue of our Mother in front of me. The beauty and love that she exhibits set my heart at ease and helped me get over my nerves." Most would agree that, when it comes to art, beauty is within the eye of the beholder, but sometimes it is also within the heart.

Consider coming to campus for a tour of all the religious art. Stop by the Office of Mission Effectiveness in Oldenburg Hall to pick up a Religious Art on Campus brochure. And, definitely, visit the Bishop Chartrand Memorial Chapel in Marian Hall to spend some special time with Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Left: This stained glass cross on the front of the Michael A. Evans Center for Health Sciences borders the Snyder-Watt Boardroom on the third floor.

Top: Blessed Mother Mary Statue, first floor hallway, Marian Hall. This statue is right inside the main, front entrance to Marian Hall near the administrative offices.

Bottom: Local artist Karen Glanders designed this mosaic representing reconciliation, one of the four Franciscan sponsorship values emphasized by Marian University. The mosaics representing dignity of the individual, peace and justice, and responsible stewardship can be found in the main first floor hallway of the Evans Center as well.

Great Universities Help Humans Flourish

By Daniel J. Elsener, President of Marian University



Human flourishing is the ultimate purpose of every great university. When all is said and done, great universities stand for the success of the individual human person and of society as a whole.

Notice that “flourishing” means much more than incremental growth. It means a genuine blossoming of all the gifts and

talents that individuals and groups have been given by God for the benefit of others. That’s why we invest so much time, effort, and money in the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, the arts and sciences, health care, business, political science, athletics, and diverse forms of extracurricular learning. We want every student—and the university community as a whole—to take the gifts we have received from a generous God and cultivate them so that they blossom into magnanimous forms of human flourishing.

Marian University’s Strategic Plan 2025 proposes an ambitious agenda for the next decade. Building on the incredible successes of the past (which many are calling the Marian Miracle), we want to ensure that all areas of our academic program and campus life promote human flourishing.

In order to be successful, we’ve chosen to respond to today’s critical need for transformational leaders in education, health care, business, church ministry, civic life, and every other profession. Transformational leaders are not necessarily people in positions of authority (chief executive officer, principal, governor, pastor, chief nurse, etc.). We believe that transformational leaders are women and men who are so well-educated, experienced, and trustworthy that people freely choose to follow them as mentors, guides, and inspirational leaders. Leaders can be classroom teachers, firefighters, physician assistants, accountants, church musicians, and much more. Transformational leaders are agents for positive change wherever they are. This is especially true in the areas we call mission and identity—campus ministry, mission effectiveness, and our San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership.

Some have looked at our plans and asked, “How can you possibly accomplish this in only 10 years?” Our response: “By ourselves, it would be impossible. But with God’s help and the active engagement of trustees, alumni, donors, and friends, we’re confident that this aggressively ambitious plan will become reality!”

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, our patroness, and Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi, bless us abundantly in our efforts to cultivate this great Catholic Franciscan university as a source of human flourishing for individuals and for our society.



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

Campus Ministry Pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families with Pope Francis in Philadelphia

“Being able to travel with the Marian University pilgrims to Philadelphia was a once in a lifetime experience. Seeing Pope Francis three times in two days was awe-inspiring. Seeing Pope Francis hug and kiss babies and people on the street is an example of Christ in our midst. His off-the-cuff homily about the family on Saturday evening was so human but also inspiring. It continues to motivate me to be a better husband and dad and to work harder at helping my family get to heaven. For me, the pinnacle of the event was the closing liturgy. As soon as he started with the sign of the cross, to hear close to a million people become unified in word and sacrament was truly a universal celebration.”

Mark Erdosy
Director of San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership Office of Mission Effectiveness

“The entire trip was a spiritual journey. We prayed the rosary together on the bus and shared personal stories about the rosaries we each carried with us. I was so impressed with the harmony at each event and stage of the pilgrimage, in spite of the large multi-generational and multi-cultural crowds. There was a lot of waiting around as people held their spots for the Mass and for the parade, but everyone was cheerful and friendly. Some of our students even gave their lunches to a family, so they wouldn’t have to give up their spot, and another family shared their food with our students. I was initially disappointed that we would be listening and watching the Mass on large video screens from the street outside, but that ended up not mattering. The attentiveness and reverence of all in attendance made it a beautiful and moving experience that I’ll never forget.”

Theresa Roberts ’15
Administrative Coordinator Office of Mission Effectiveness

“Receiving communion at Mass was one of my favorite moments. I really felt God’s presence in the Eucharist, and the experience was so special because we did not expect to be able to receive it. Instead of a communion line at Mass, it was more like begging for the Eucharist amidst a huge crowd of people.”

Mary Carper ’16
San Damiano Scholar



Top: Marian University pilgrims were blessed to get a close glimpse of Pope Francis during the parade and later during a surprise drive-by before the Mass.

Bottom: Each pilgrim shared the story of his or her rosary during the bus ride to Philadelphia.

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Wise Leaders Needed Now More Than Ever

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

Marian University President Daniel J. Elsener frequently speaks about the three qualities that define true leaders. He says they have: 1) intelligence, 2) experience, and 3) character. Whether we are speaking about health care professionals, educators, business people, church leaders, civic leaders, or politicians, these three characteristics must be present if good leadership is desired.

Intelligence is critically important, but is not enough. Smart people can fool themselves and deceive others if they don't balance what they know intellectually with what they have experienced firsthand and what they believe about the world.

Experience says a lot about a person's abilities and his or her performance under pressure or in crisis situations. But experience or skill alone isn't enough for leaders who must guide us through unknown territory. A real leader must be able to "cast vision" and imagine scenarios which are untested. This requires intelligence and a profound sense of what is right and true in challenging circumstances.

Faith grounds leaders in a system of values that goes far beyond practical day-to-day experiences and intellectual pursuits. It affirms that there is more to life than what we find on the surface of things—to be women and men of character, leaders must be able to anchor their policies and programs in a set of beliefs that define who they are as human beings.

President Elsener believes all three characteristics are critical. Without any one of these, the three-legged stool of leadership will collapse under the weight of office. Unless our leaders are smart, skilled, and trustworthy, they will be unable to exercise wise leadership when we need it most.

President Elsener frequently observes that while all three virtues are necessary to make leaders wise, character is the most important of all. Unless leaders can be trusted, people will not freely choose to follow or collaborate with them.

We need leaders who are smart, experienced, and trustworthy. We need women and men whose ability to lead flows from—and is reinforced by—their character. Above all, we need our leaders to be agents of change who are "doers of the word, not hearers only who delude themselves" (James 1:22-25).

Wisdom does not demand perfection, but it does require intelligence, experience, and, above all, good character.



ASSOCIATION OF FRANCISCAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (AFCU) SYMPOSIUM

By Sister Jean Marie Cleveland, OSF '64, Vice President for Mission Effectiveness



Marian University hosts the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) Symposium June 7-9, 2016. Faculty and staff from the 24 AFCU institutions in the United States gather every other year to refresh their Franciscan ideals, renew acquaintances, make new

friends, and discuss common issues. This year's symposium is titled "The Franciscan Courage to Venture: A Symposium on Preparing Outstanding Leaders for the Modern World." One of the symposium goals is to provide the opportunity for participants to explore ways of collaborating in many areas of collegiate life and administration.

Main speakers are: Sister Margaret Carney, president of St. Bonaventure University; Father Thomas Nairn, senior director of ethics at the Catholic Medical Association; John C. Lechleiter, Ph.D., chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Eli Lilly and Company; and a panel of major superiors of the founding and sponsoring religious congregations.

Breakout sessions will be provided for those interested in mission, identity, and campus ministry; academic affairs; finance and administration; marketing, communications, and institutional advancement; student success and engagement; and governance and boards. Representatives from each school are being invited to participate in phone conference calls to help plan the events.

This year, Board of Trustees chairpersons and major superiors of religious communities are encouraged to attend the general sessions to discuss ways they can collaborate. More information is available at www.marian.edu/afcu2016.

Left: Marian University awarded diplomas to 652 candidates at its 78th Commencement on May 9, 2015 at St. Vincent Field on campus. Dennis Bland, president of the Center for Leadership Development, delivered the commencement address and also received an honorary doctor of arts and humane letters degree.

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