

THE FAITHFUL LEADER

from the heart of the Church

FALL 2014 INAUGURAL ISSUE

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2 » Lay Leaders Learn about Marian University's Commitment to Catholic Identity, Franciscan Sponsorship Values
- 3 » Creating Leaders of Faith » From the Office of Campus Ministry
- 4 » Saint Francis and Pope Francis: Men of Surprises » Franciscan Corner



Marian University: A Seat of Wisdom, From the Heart of the Church

By Daniel J. Elsener, President of Marian University

The official motto of Marian University is *Sedes Sapientiae*, which means Seat of Wisdom. This image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who provided the lap on which Jesus (the Truth) sat and learned, inspires everything we do at Marian University.



Mary is considered wise because her deep faith allowed her to accept God's will for her without fully understanding it. She is also called wise because she continually reflected on her experiences—"pondering in her heart" both the joys and sorrows she experienced during her lifetime (Luke 20:19).

At Marian University, we believe that the human heart is the seat of all wisdom. Wisdom integrates faith, reason, and human experience. It allows us to make mature decisions and to act responsibly—even courageously—as women and men whose hearts are shaped by what we know, experience, and believe about God, ourselves, and the world in which we live.

Especially today, we believe that leaders need to be wise. Smart, by itself, is not enough. Practical experience, all by itself, cannot guide leaders who often must make critical choices "in uncharted territory." Even a strong faith cannot sustain leaders if what they profess to believe is separated from reason, science, and the pursuit of truth.

Leaders have to know, experience, and believe. They must have hearts that transcend emotional or sentimental feelings in order to achieve true

wisdom. They must be able to examine carefully, reflect deeply, and judge wisely—from the heart—in order to lead others boldly and selflessly.

Marian University's bold vision is "to provide an education that profoundly transforms lives, society, and the world." The university's Franciscan sponsorship values, which we received from our founders, the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, are informed by prayer. They include: the dignity of the individual, peace and justice, reconciliation, and responsible stewardship.

In a meeting earlier this year, Pope Francis discussed the missionary dimension of Christian discipleship, which he believes should be reflected in a special way in Catholic universities because, "by their very nature, they are committed to demonstrating the harmony of faith and reason and the relevance of the Christian message for a full and authentically human life."

"Essential in this regard," the Holy Father said, "is the uncompromising witness of Catholic universities to the Church's moral teaching, and the defense of her freedom, precisely in and through her institutions, to uphold that teaching as

A Seat of Wisdom, continued

authoritatively proclaimed by the magisterium of her pastors.”

At Marian University, we take these words to heart. In fact, we just completed a year-long process initiated by our Board of Trustees to articulate our vision for the future. There is strong consensus among board members, faculty, staff, students and their families, alumni, donors, community leaders, and friends that Marian University should continue, and strengthen, our identity as a Franciscan Catholic liberal arts university distinguished in its ability to “educate and form transformative leaders for service to the world.”

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said that the preservation of a university’s Catholic identity “entails much more than the teaching of religion or the mere presence of a chaplaincy on campus.” We wholeheartedly agree. One of the unique features of a Catholic university is the ability to integrate “who we are and what we believe” into all aspects of campus life.

At Marian University, we celebrate our Catholic identity, and we invite everyone who becomes part of our university community—regardless of their religious, ethnic, racial, social, or economic backgrounds—to grow in their understanding and appreciation of what it means to be truly wise in mind and heart.

In the spirit of St. John Paul II’s apostolic exhortation, “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” (“From the Heart of the Church”), Marian University seeks to continue, and grow, its ability to provide leaders for the Church and for society who are women and men of wisdom and integrity.

To be successful, we rely on the intercession of our patrons, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Seat of Wisdom, and Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi. We also give thanks for our collaboration with Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin and the pastors, Catholic school leaders, and agency directors of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. May we do God’s will always!

Lay Leaders Learn about Marian University’s Commitment to Catholic Identity, Franciscan Sponsorship Values

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

On July 22, 2014, a group of lay leaders in the Catholic community gathered at Marian University to hear the results of the university’s year-long “visioning process” and to offer suggestions and support for our efforts to strengthen its mission as a Catholic university in the Franciscan and liberal arts traditions.

The gathering began with Mass celebrated by Rev. Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel ’70, pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist parish, who is a Marian University alumnus and a member of the university’s Board of Trustees. “It’s been said that great cities have Catholic universities,” Rev. Msgr. Schaedel said. “I’m excited about the role that Indianapolis’ Catholic university is playing in our community. Thank you for your willingness to join me in praying for the students, faculty, and staff here at Marian University and for your willingness to learn more about how you can help us carry out the university’s mission to educate leaders who will transform lives, society, and the world!”

Marian University President Daniel J. Elsener shared with the group the results of a thorough visioning process begun a year earlier that asked the entire community (board members, students, alumni, faculty, staff, donors, civic leaders, and friends of the university in diverse regions of the United States and beyond) questions such as: *What does it mean to be a great Catholic university? What role do our Franciscan sponsorship values play in distinguishing us from other colleges and universities?*

As outlined by President Elsener, the visioning process demonstrated strong consensus, and broad, enthusiastic support, for strengthening Marian University’s mission and identity as a Catholic university in the Franciscan and liberal arts traditions. “Marian University is committed to carrying out this directive, which we have received from the Church, but which has now been affirmed by civic and business leaders, alumni and friends, and all who value the unique role that a faith-based institution of higher education can play in educating transformational leaders in health care, education, business, and in all areas of life—including the family and the Church.”

The president went on to explain that real leaders do not necessarily have titles such as chief executive officer, principal, or chief of staff. Great teachers are leaders in their classrooms. Faithful, productive employees who inspire

and motivate their colleagues are recognized as genuine leaders. Active members of parish communities, and women and men who volunteer their time and talent for worthwhile nonprofit organizations, can all be seen as great leaders. What is needed is integrity, a strong sense of mission and values, and the willingness to give-of-self in order to serve the greater good.

“This is what Marian University is called to do,” President Elsener said. “Our mission is to educate women and men of integrity who can be transformational leaders wherever they happen to be and however they are called to serve our Church and our society.”

To fulfill this mission, we are determined to foster a vibrant community of faith on campus. Mass and the sacraments, ecumenical and interfaith prayer services, Catholic and Franciscan studies and faith sharing, opportunities to participate in ministry on campus and in a broad range of services off-campus in the surrounding communities are all vital to the development of leaders who can serve the Church and the world.

Funding for Marian University’s efforts to educate leaders for Church ministry and to foster a vibrant community of faith on campus will require a minimum of \$3.5 million over the next two years—\$2 million for academic scholarships for seminarians who attend Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary and for students participating in Marian University’s San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership. An additional \$1.5 million will be needed to support campus ministry projects such as student retreats, peer ministry and “alternative spring break” service projects, as well as efforts to enhance the religious art on campus and provide faith development opportunities for faculty and staff. During his remarks after lunch, President Elsener announced that the university has received two anonymous gifts of \$250,000 each—one as a



Daniel Conway addresses a group of lay leaders in the Bishop Chartrand Memorial Chapel.

challenge to encourage others to help fund scholarships and the other as a challenge to individuals and groups who can help fund campus ministry and outreach programs.

“Advancing Marian University’s commitment to become distinctly effective in educating transformative leaders is an aggressively aspirational challenge,” President Elsener said. “But our Franciscan heritage and rich Catholic tradition have prepared us well for the increasingly important work of preparing leaders for service to the Church and the world!”

Creating Leaders of Faith

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

“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” St. Francis of Assisi’s quote is great encouragement as we begin our twelfth year in the “Rebuild My Church” Program.

When the program started in 2003, the goal was to intentionally recruit, educate, and form future priests, religious, lay ecclesial ministers, and help all of our students, faculty, and staff find their life’s work through exploring their beliefs. To transform the campus culture, it was necessary to recruit a core group of students, faculty, and staff to be “leaven” on campus.

During Mass on the weekend of July 16, I was struck by two familiar parables in Matthew’s gospel comparing what the kingdom of heaven is like. The first is the mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds that in time becomes a large bush. The second is leaven mixed with three measures of wheat. I found myself thinking of the disciples gathered in the upper room and the 15 or so men and women who gathered monthly when the “Rebuild My Church” Program began 12 years ago.

Many times we left meetings after asking and dialoguing amongst ourselves, “What do we do next?” I’m sure the first disciples in the upper room might have asked that of themselves, “Lord, to whom do we go next?” I know as a gardener, baker, and formator the necessity of not only having the right ingredients, but even more importantly of being patient. As a formator I have learned faith always starts small and evolves like my cucumber plants or a loaf of bread.



Where do we see the growth of our program? The San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership has almost tripled its enrollment in the last decade. We have record enrollment again this year. There will be nearly 120 San Damiano Scholars from around the United States, plus our first international student Paula Angarita. She comes from Columbia and wants to be a youth minister when she graduates in 2018.

This past January, we hired Patrick Verhiley to expand our recruiting base. Besides being a man of deep faith, he is a Marian University alumnus. Moreover, he was a member of our very first San Damiano Scholar class. While the program has changed since he was a student, what hasn’t

changed is the commitment to recruiting high-caliber students passionate about deepening their faith and preparing themselves to be transformational leaders.

Our alumni are ministering in close to 20 dioceses across the country. Rev. Eric Boelscher, was ordained a transitional deacon in April 2014 for the diocese of Covington. He is our first alumnus to be ordained. Five other men are attending seminaries in the United States and at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy. On August 14, Sr. Mary Gemma Kissel, FSMG will profess her final vows as a Franciscan Sister of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois. One other alumnus, Brother

continued on page 4

FROM THE OFFICE OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

By Adam P. Setmeyer, Director of Campus Ministry

New Student Day of Service

This summer, the Office of Campus Ministry is preparing two important initiatives for our incoming first-year students that make accessible and real our Franciscan sponsorship values. First, the New Student Day of Service (NSDS) is a Marian University tradition which invites all new students into a day of reflective service, both here on campus and throughout the greater Indianapolis community. Embracing the Franciscan sponsorship values, along with our vision to educate students who will transform the world, NSDS exposes students to agencies which align with the underserved and with those who have minimal access to basic resources. As students grow in awareness, they also offer their time and energy to support the initiatives of these organizations, to include Second Helpings, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Gleaners Food Bank, Peaceful Grounds, a city park, and our own Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab. In the past, approximately 200 students participated in NSDS. This year, we are prepared for 300 students at the Saturday, August 16 event. NSDS is a collaborative effort between the Offices of Campus Ministry, Student Activities and Orientation, and the 21st Century Scholars Program.



Connections: A First-Year Gathering

Our second new initiative will be on Saturday, August 23, when campus ministry will host Connections: A First-Year Gathering. This program will take place at the end of Welcome Week and is being organized by a group of six student leaders along with campus ministry staff. Through this program, campus ministry aims to create a dynamic community, present a radically hospitable form of spirituality, and demonstrate that campus ministry will be “with you” all four years of college. We do so by reflecting on the four Franciscan sponsorship values through personal reflections offered by the student leaders and engaging activities in the setting of White River State Park. For example, students will reflect on dignity of the individual (our first value), by asking the questions, “What are my values? Who do I want to be? What type of community do I want to be a part of?” When reflecting on the value of reconciliation, students will role-play how difficult college situations may transpire differently when they act upon our Franciscan sponsorship values. The event will conclude with a spirited prayer experience and a bonfire that is open to the entire student body.



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

Creating Leaders of Faith, continued

Jason Salisbury, OFM Cap '10, continues in temporary vows with the Detroit Province of the Capuchin Friars. Vocations to married life abound. This year, more than 20 San Damiano Scholar alumni got engaged or were married.

St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi are models of what transformative leaders can look like in the 21st Century. In June 2015, our sophomore San Damiano Scholars will make a 14-day pilgrimage to Assisi, Venice, and Rome. The pilgrimage will help steep the students further in the Franciscan intellectual and spiritual traditions as it relates to the call of leadership.

Leaders who integrate their well-balanced religious values into their leadership are needed now more than ever. St. Teresa of Avila summarized our task well in her poem "Christ Has No Body." In effect, she says we are to become Christ's body, hands, feet, and eyes, but ours.

This is precisely how we are forming college-aged young adults through the San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership. We are forming leaders who are well-prepared intellectually, spiritually, and pastorally. Their callings are discerned through prayer, sacraments, service to others, and study of lives of the Saints and other great spiritual masters.

Saint Francis and Pope Francis: Men of Surprises

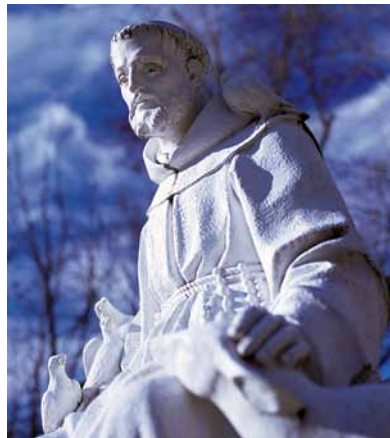
By Daniel Conway, Senior Vice President for Mission, Identity, and Planning

Cardinal Francis George says that a little more than a year ago the new pope's choice of name was "his first surprise." All the surprises that have come afterward—and are yet to come—can be traced back to Jorge Mario Bergoglio's desire to align himself with Francesco Bernadone, the saint from Assisi who was a man full of surprises. Saint Francis presented himself to the world as *Il poverello* (the little poor man), and he strove to be God's jester, poet, and ambassador of peace. Pope Francis seeks to imitate his namesake and he urges all of us to do the same.

We don't think of popes as "spontaneous" or "unconventional." We don't expect them to tell jokes during their homilies or to confront Mafia members and unceremoniously pronounce their excommunication. We don't expect the pope to live in a hotel or drive an old Ford. "Who am I to judge?" is not the kind of papal pronouncement we're used to hearing.

Pope Francis surprises us. He unsettles us. He challenges us while forgiving and encouraging us. He really is like the little poor man from Assisi—full of paradoxes (apparent contradictions) and beaming with the peace and joy that can only come from Christ! When we look at these two men together, their many differences dissolve and the ways they are alike stand out in bold relief. These are men of the Church wholly dedicated to humility, charity, poverty, peace, and joy. They are unconventional but fully aligned with Catholic tradition. They are spontaneous—eager to move beyond their "comfort zones"—but they never stray from the program outlined in the Gospels, especially the Beatitudes and the parables of Jesus. They can, and do, question the way priests, bishops, and even popes preach (and practice what they preach), but they never doubt the authority given to Peter by our Lord to bind and loose, comfort and heal, challenge and forgive the People of God, the Good Shepherd's wandering flock.

In the end, it is the cross of Christ leading inevitably to the joy of Easter that unites the saint from Assisi and the pope from Argentina. Both sing of Jesus. Both seek to imitate him, to live as he did, as poor little men who are rich beyond all measure in the abundance of holy joy.



Left: Statue of Saint Francis at the St. Francis Colonnade on the campus of Marian University.

FRANCISCAN CORNER

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

This is one of the most exciting times of the year in the Franciscan calendar. We celebrate the feast days of our founders and remember two of the holiest places in our history.

August 2 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels. This small chapel, often called the *Portiuncula* or Little Portion, is called the "cradle of Franciscanism." It is the third chapel Saint Francis repaired after he heard the call "Francis, go repair My house for it is falling into ruin." Here he began to understand his service to God. Here he greeted Clare and accepted her into a life of following the Gospel. Here he died!

August 11 is the Feast of Saint Clare, the young noble woman who heard Francis preach and left her home to respond to the call she heard. Clare lived at San Damiano with other women who wanted to follow the Gospel and live lives of dedication to Jesus.

September 17 is the Feast of the Stigmata of Saint Francis which celebrates his receiving the wounds of Christ in his hands, feet, and side. This happened on Mount LaVerna—a rugged mountain in Italy.

October 3 is the anniversary of the death of Saint Francis. It is celebrated with a *Transitus* service—a service to remember his passing from life to death. Franciscans world-wide celebrate this solemn event the evening of October 3.

October 4 is the Feast of Saint Francis. As a young man, he wanted to become a knight in the Crusades. He and his group of knights were captured and imprisoned. Later he left for the Crusades again but decided that was not what he should do with his life. Gradually, he realized that he was called to follow the Gospel. His new life caught the attention of other young men who joined him. Today he has followers in three orders: The First Order is priests and brothers; The Second Order is Poor Clares, women who follow Clare; The Third Order is made up of priests, brothers, and sisters in the "Regular" Order and men and women from every branch of life in the "Secular" Order.

We Franciscans consider ourselves followers of Francis and Clare who followed Christ in His mission of love and service.

MARIAN UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis

3200 Cold Spring Road
Indianapolis, IN 46222-1997

www.marian.edu

