

# THE FAITHFUL LEADER

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*from the heart of the Church*

WINTER 2014-15

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## El Festival Mariano Celebrates Hispanic Heritage and the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

On Saturday, October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Marian University community and friends and neighbors from the Latino community in Indianapolis celebrated the first annual *El Festival Mariano* (The Marian Festival) in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15) and the special reverence given by the Church to Mary during the month of October. The weather was brisk and overcast, but much warmth and light were generated by the festival's participants as they processed from the Bishop Chartrand Memorial Chapel to the Blessed Mother Mary Shrine and Rosary Walk on the southwest side of the Marian University campus.

*El Festival Mariano* began with an inspiring talk given by Marian University alumnus Father Martin Rodriguez '09, associate pastor of St. Monica Catholic Church in Indianapolis. Father Martin spoke about Mary's role uniting diverse cultures, especially in the Americas. "Unlike many rich, famous, and popular people whose notoriety fades with succeeding generations," Father Martin said, "Mary remains a beloved figure in every age and culture. Her influence with her son, Jesus Christ, remains constant regardless of changing times and



**Left:** Our Lady of Guadalupe is revered during the mass' entrance procession to begin *El Festival Mariano*. The Church pays special respect to all depictions of the Blessed Mother during the month of October. **Right:** Banda Pluma Blanca entertains the crowd with high-energy renditions of Latin music.



circumstances, and her love for each of us—her children—can never be diminished no matter who we are or what we do."

A bilingual and multicultural Mass followed the opening talk. Father Michael O'Mara, pastor of St. Gabriel Catholic Church, and a frequent celebrant for Sunday and weekday Masses at Marian University, gave the homily. He emphasized the hope given to us by Christ and the courage and fidelity shown by *Santa Maria* (Holy Mary),

our mother. Alternating between Spanish and English in his homily and in the prayers of the Mass, Father Michael urged all present to give faithful witness to the kind of unity that our Lord prayed for when he celebrated the first Eucharist with his disciples the night before he died.

*El Festival Mariano* was a prayerful event, but it was also lots of fun. Outstanding music provided by Banda Pluma Blanca and great food prepared by local restaurants, including ClassicFare Catering,

## El Festival Mariano, continued

Restaurant Lauritas Shop Mexican Tacos, Novedades Deisy, Circle City Coffee Truck, and Sassy's Mexican Taco Fiesta Truck represented diverse cuisines from a variety of cultures.

Booths staffed by Key Bank, Walgreens Pharmacy, State Farm Insurance, and Lam Law offered helpful services to the Marian University community and

our neighbors and friends. This event was made possible by the following sponsors: 107.1 FM Radio Latina, EXITOS 1590 AM, Pescador Radio 810 AM, Indy Eleven, Pepsi, Flat 12, and Key Bank.

In his welcoming remarks, Marian University President Daniel J. Elsener said, "Marian University is committed to providing Hispanic students with an outstanding education that will prepare them

to be leaders in business, education, health care, church ministry, and other professions. We are partnering with leaders in the Hispanic community to help us recruit Hispanic students and raise money for our Latino Scholarship Fund."

*El Festival Mariano* was a grand celebration of this commitment.

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# Marian University: Dedicated to Catholic and Franciscan Faith and Leadership

By Daniel J. Elsener, President of Marian University



Here at Marian University, *faith* and *leadership* are two things we know a lot about.

Our Catholic Franciscan heritage teaches us to place *faith* first. It grounds everything we do—our curriculum, our campus life, and our service to the community. As a Seat of Wisdom university, we are faith-based. We place our trust in a loving God, and in keeping with the two commandments that Jesus

gave us, we seek to love God and our neighbor with all our heart and soul and mind. Here at Marian University, *faith* is not something we do on the side. It is at the heart of everything we do!

Our vision and mission statements, which were approved by the Board of Trustees after a full year of consultation with more than 1,000 alumni, faculty, staff, donors, students, and community leaders, commit us to the education and formation of transformational leaders for service to the world. "Creating leaders" is much more than a slogan. It is a response to the critical need in society today for leaders in health care, education, business, government, and the Church. Marian University is serious about forming leaders who are smart, experienced, and faithful to the ethical and moral values that are essential to women and men of integrity.

We are especially proud of our success in preparing leaders for service to the Church. Graduates of our San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership are now serving in more than a dozen Catholic dioceses as teachers, youth ministers, parish staff, nurses, and business leaders. Alumni of Marian University and the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary (our collaborative venture with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis) are being ordained to the priesthood and are giving back to God's people the gifts that were made possible by your generosity.

Most of you know Sister Norma Rockledge, OSF, Ph.D. '60 who has served the Marian University community for many years in many different capacities and who has won the hearts of thousands both on campus and throughout the community. Sister Norma recently made an observation that I believe says it all, "Wherever there is a Marian University alum, something changes. They are taking the education and values they learned here to really transform the world wherever they are."

As you read this issue of *The Faithful Leader*, I hope you feel a sense of genuine pride and hopefulness about the future of the Church and our society. We truly are creating transformational leaders! Thanks for everything you do to make Marian University a Seat of Wisdom university.

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## Faithful Stewards

By Fr. Robert J. Robeson, Chaplain, Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary

On September 8, Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary celebrated the 10th anniversary of our founding by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB. The entire initiative has been inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit. In 10 years, the seminary has grown to over 40 seminarians and has become one of the most respected college seminaries in the Midwest. Much of this is due to the vision and reputation of Archbishop Buechlein and the continued support by our new Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R. Marian University has been a valuable partner in the work of the seminary by providing the academic formation in philosophy required for college seminary studies and by generously providing a partial academic scholarship for each seminarian.

While the seminarians live, pray, and study primarily at the seminary, which is located in the former Carmelite Monastery one mile south of Marian University, they are also Marian University students, taking their classes on campus and receiving a Marian University degree in Catholic studies. The seminary, which is operated and funded by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, provides the human, spiritual, and pastoral formation required by the Program of Priestly Formation.



Fr. Bob Robeson and seminarians from Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary pose downtown in front of St. John the Evangelist Parish before attending the Indianapolis Right to Life Dinner on October 1, 2014.



Mass is celebrated for Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary 2014 Parents and Pastor Day in October.

### Faithful Stewards, continued

In my role as the seminary rector, I report to the Archbishop of Indianapolis and am responsible for ensuring that the formation of our seminarians conforms to the program established for college seminary formation by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

I also live and work with these young men every day, and every day I give God thanks for this ministry; because every day I am deeply moved by the extraordinary commitment our seminarians make to live their faith and to meet the high expectations our seminary formation staff has established for them. Each individual brings something unique and special to the seminary community, but the one thing they all have in common is their love for Christ, their commitment to live their lives rooted in the Eucharist, and their desire to serve the Church.

Of course, they are also ordinary college kids who love pulling pranks on one another and staying up late at night—sometimes making it difficult for them to make it to Mass at 6:45 in the morning. But while they are ordinary young men in many ways, they have made an extraordinary commitment to respond to God’s call to discern the priesthood and to live their lives for Him.

Among our graduates there are now nine ordained priests and two transitional deacons, representing four (Arch)dioceses in the Midwest. Over the next few years, that number will grow rapidly as the size of our graduating classes continues to grow. Please pray for the work that we do here at the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary. It is important work. It is God’s work. And please pray also for our seminarians. Pray that they may come to know and to live, in a holy and authentic way, the life that God is calling them to live.

## CAMPUS MINISTRY—VISION, MISSION, AND GOALS

By Adam P. Setmeyer, Director of Campus Ministry

As the new director of campus ministry in the fall of 2013, it quickly became apparent to me that campus ministry at Marian University needed a new mission and vision. While the department coordinated many fantastic programs, campus ministry lacked a cohesive set of goals. However, I did not want the mission simply to come from the staff who, locked away in a room, crafted something theologically beautiful, but, ultimately, only appealing to us.

Therefore, we worked with our campus ministry leadership team, a group of 12 student leaders, to reach out to students across campus while the campus ministry staff approached faculty and staff. In total, campus ministry logged over 70 hours of conversation, held town hall meetings in the residence halls, met with provost and deans, conducted an open forum for faculty and staff along with Sister Jean Marie Cleveland, met with all student affairs staff, and conducted an online survey which received over 200 responses.

Reflecting on our data, the vision of campus ministry provided by the United States Catholic Bishops, and the best research available on young adults, we created the following set of statements:

Through prayerful reflection on the life of Jesus, and in response to the mission and vision of Marian University, campus ministry uniquely lives out our Catholic identity and the Franciscan sponsorship values through our mission and vision.

**Mission:** To walk humbly with others, as Jesus Christ is God walking with us, to respond to the Spirit, following the example of Mary, and to cultivate a community in which all may discover the fullness of life.

**Vision (three years):** To be a ministry to campus, through faith-filled leaders, that is known for its missionary character, rich worship, and education for justice. As a result, we believe Marian University will become a campus community where every individual may encounter our loving God, discover his or her calling, and claim a role in restoring all of creation.

We believe this mission and vision is bold, and carries on the “courage to venture” of the Oldenburg Sisters. The statements are passionately Catholic, grounded in the Franciscan tradition, and present campus ministry as radically hospitable to all. Already the vision is affecting how we operate daily, and this can be seen in the new programs being created this semester.

To name only a few, campus ministry held a fall break Indy Urban Plunge to explore issues of poverty, initiated a new student ministry team focused on the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and is starting a new Residential Peer Ministry Program.



**Top:** Students pose with statue of St. Francis after annual back-to-school outdoor Mass on the grass. **Bottom:** Students and faculty travel to New Mexico for the Alternative Spring Break trip. The group expresses Marian University’s Franciscan identity by wearing the San Damiano Cross.



To learn more about faith at Marian University, visit [www.marian.edu/epiphanies](http://www.marian.edu/epiphanies).

# Archdeacon John Chryssavgis Visits Marian University

By Mark Reasoner, Associate Professor of Theology

On Monday, October 20, Marian University was pleased to host Orthodox theologian Rev. John Chryssavgis, Ph.D., who serves as Archdeacon to the Ecumenical Throne of Patriarch Bartholomew I. In his role as Archdeacon, he serves as advisor on ecological issues and has edited *On Earth as in Heaven: Ecological Vision and Initiatives of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew*.

While on campus, Chryssavgis discussed the theological foundations of ecological responsibility at a lunch meeting with Carl Lecher, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry; Stephanie Schuck, restoration ecologist in the Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab; and Andrew Semler, Writing Center staff. In the afternoon, Chryssavgis visited the class of Donna Proctor, assistant professor of theology and director of peace and justice studies, and talked with students about the relationship that Patriarch Bartholomew has with Pope Francis and about Orthodox-Catholic and Orthodox-Lutheran dialogues. He also fielded questions from the students.

That evening, to an audience of more than 120 people in Michael A. Evans Center for Health Sciences, Chryssavgis gave a moving presentation of Catholic-Orthodox dialogue, especially since Vatican II.



Archdeacon John Chryssavgis

The evening lecture began with a warm welcome from Archbishop Joseph Tobin, who himself is deeply invested in Catholic Orthodox dialogue by virtue of his position as co-chair of the North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation.

Archdeacon Chryssavgis' lecture, entitled "From Estrangement to Reconciliation: The Roman Catholic and Orthodox

Churches in Dialogue," offered an historical perspective that communicated what breakthroughs the past 50 years have seen in relations between Orthodox and Catholic Churches. His lecture detailed the steps that Popes John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis have taken toward improved dialogue. He showed pictures of Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras and many photographs of Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew in Jerusalem last May.

Besides a description of the steps toward dialogue, the lecture included honest identification of difficulties that hinder dialogue. The general tone of the lecture was one of respect for both Orthodox and Catholic Churches and hope for their unity. All present were encouraged by the steps toward unity that Chryssavgis outlined.

Several departments of Marian University were especially involved in Archdeacon Chryssavgis' visit. The Department of Theology and Philosophy made initial plans for the visit in collaboration with Holy Trinity Orthodox Church of Carmel. The Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary provided lodging and transportation for the archdeacon. Daniel Conway, senior vice president for mission, identity, and planning, hosted a dinner for Archdeacon Chryssavgis and Archbishop Tobin. Mark Erdosy, executive director of church relations and the San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership, provided the reception after the lecture.

## FRANCISCAN CORNER

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

December is one of my favorite Liturgical months, because we celebrate the Advent Season and much of the Christmas Season. Many of the feast days give us glimpses of real leadership.

We begin on **December 3** with the Feast of St Francis Xavier, who founded the Society of Jesus, a group of religious we call the Jesuits. He, with Mother Theodore Guerin, is a patron of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

**December 8** is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patroness of the United States and of Marian University. Her "yes" to God gives us a wonderful example of listening to God's word and acting on it.

Saint Juan Diego, a poor Mexican, listened to the Virgin who appeared to him at Tepeyac near Mexico City and approached the Bishop to build a church in her honor. Several times he had to go to the Bishop. The last time his cloak was filled with roses, and Mary's image was revealed there. We honor him on **December 9**, the day of her first visit to him.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is honored on **December 12**. She is named the Patroness of the Americas and is revered by many, especially Mexicans. Her image on the cloak of Juan Diego is that of a Mexican woman.

**Christmas Day**, the feast of the Nativity of the Lord, is one of the most important feasts to Franciscans and to the world. It is the day Jesus, God, came to be with us on earth. He chose to live among us and to share our humanity. Saint Francis so loved the feast that he celebrated it in the woods near Greccio by making the first crèche (a model or tableau representing the scene of Jesus Christ's birth, displayed in homes or public places at Christmas).

Saint Stephen, the first martyr, is recognized **December 26**. His example of faith and love of God inspires us all. Saint John the Evangelist is celebrated on **December 27**. John wrote the last Gospel and three letters.

This year, **December 28** is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. These three give us a wonderful example of faithful listening and responding to the Call of God in our lives.

On **January 4** we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Three magi saw a star and followed it to find the infant. Learning that Herod was planning to kill the child, they returned home by another route.

The Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on **January 11** this year. Jesus' baptism is said to be the beginning of His public ministry.

Enjoy these days of anticipation of Jesus' birth. Let your celebration continue into the New Year. Ask yourself, "*What would my life be like if Jesus had not come?*"

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