

# 166 Years of Gratitude, Passion, and Hope

By Sr. Maureen Irvin '70, OSF, Congregational Minister, Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana

On the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 1851, Mother Theresa Hackelmeier, the foundress of the Sisters of St. Francis, arrived in Oldenburg from Austria. Fr. Francis Joseph Rudolf, the parish priest, was eager to have German-speaking Sisters to teach his German immigrant parishioners. He was expecting at least two Sisters, but Mother Theresa arrived alone. Her Sister companion had never left Europe. Thus began the courageous history of the Oldenburg Franciscans. Before long, the Sisters were teaching children and educating future teachers. These were the humble beginnings of what later became Marian University.

Through the sponsorship values of the Sisters of St. Francis, Marian University has embraced the vision, which continues to grow and flourish. The good news of God's love is being shared in countless ways and lives of faith are consistently being nurtured.

When Pope Francis called for a Year of Consecrated Life in 2015, he declared that the year would have three major aims. I believe these three aims have also been important in the 166th anniversary celebration of the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg. The first aim was to look to the past with gratitude; the second aim was to live the present with passion; and the third aim was to embrace the future with hope.

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## Monsignor Joseph F. Schaedel Tribute



Marian University proudly claims Monsignor Joseph F. Schaedel, M.S., M. Div. '70 among our alumni who has for many years given back as a long-standing member of our Board of Trustees.

For over 34 years, as a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis,

Monsignor Schaedel has served the people and Catholic Church of central and southern Indiana, touching and inspiring lives everywhere he has served.

We will gather in celebration at a special tribute to Monsignor Schaedel on Sunday, May 21—one day prior to his 35th anniversary of his priestly ordination. Please join us as we all take this opportunity to recognize and thank him. Contact Ken Scheer at kscheer@marian.edu for more information.

## 166 Years of Gratitude, Passion, and Hope, continued

In order to embrace the future with hope, we acknowledge the aging of our Sisters. So, in the spirit of proactivity which we have always practiced, we have determined that now is the time to pursue changes in our sponsorship model for Marian University.

Therefore, we are proposing the creation of a Marian University Franciscan Society in the form of a public juridic person (a Catholic canon law term similar to the incorporation of a business). Under this model, the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana would be represented by a small group of individuals (seven to 10), some of whom would be our Sisters. This group would take over the responsibility of ensuring Marian University's Franciscan identity and values, as well as its Catholicity and tax exempt status.

Chosen for their knowledge and expertise, the members will serve terms of office and be eligible for successive terms (rather than a council that must completely change every six years) and participate in an extensive formation

process including the history of the Sisters, Marian University, Franciscanism, Catholicism, and Catholic higher education.

This process may take several years, but when the Marian Franciscan Society is completely operational, little difference will be noticeable. Marian University will not be losing the Oldenburg Franciscans as founders, supporters, alumni, or as a powerhouse of prayer. We are confident that Marian University will continue to grow in its mission to uphold and promote our sponsorship values.

As members of the Marian University community, you can help us celebrate by living the three aims in your own lives. Live our Franciscan values in the present with energy and passion, helping to transform our world. And, embrace the future God has in store for you and for Marian University with boundless hope based on our faith in a loving God.

Let us continue to pray for one another.

## Profile: Catholic School Educator Preparation Program

**Purpose:** The Catholic School Educator Preparation Program parallels the traditional education program while emphasizing the faith-based teacher's role in helping children develop their spiritual lives.

**Participants:** The program is open to any education major or minor and is part of Rebuild My Church, a program that promotes faith and vocation at Marian University. The program is endorsed by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

**Distinguishing Components:** The Catholic School Educator Preparation Program requires a concentration in faith-based teaching. Marian University education students complete an additional 10 hours of coursework in theology that focuses on: the creed, liturgy, and sacraments of the Church; moral response; Old and New Testaments; the person of Jesus Christ; praying with children; the catechism of the Catholic Church; the teaching of religion; and the mission and history of Catholic schools.

The program also provides opportunities for pre-service teachers to learn about teaching in a faith-based school from a mentor teacher. Lifelong learning practices are modeled by the mentor teacher with faith development as part of ongoing life in the classroom.

**Implementation:** The Catholic School Educator Preparation Program is a four-year program.

Year 1 is an introduction to the program with visits to schools along with reading and reflecting on becoming a Catholic school teacher.

In Year 2, the focus is on how faith permeates inclusion, mathematics, the arts, technology, and moral development and also understanding the school and relationships.

Year 3 addresses how faith permeates reading and language arts, social studies, science, moral development, and, if applicable, participation in sacramental preparation.

In Year 4, the emphasis is on how the faith-based school impacts the whole development of the child, teaching religion, planning a prayer service and/or a service project, and a clinical internship that includes the planning of a Mass.

### Results:

“The coursework and practicum experiences of the education program gave us the tools to lead in the classroom. Marian University was our first experience in a Catholic school as both students and educators. We feel blessed with the opportunities provided by Marian University to explore our calling to become Catholic school teachers.”



“We love that we have the opportunity to openly share our Catholic faith with our students and colleagues. Our students inspire and challenge our spiritual lives daily with their faith, hope, and spirituality. We have a deeper understanding of our faith because of our leadership roles as educators. We are eternally grateful for the blessing of Marian University.”

Casey Zaberdac '16 and Stephanie Hostetler '16  
Kindergarten and second grade teachers at St. Joan of Arc Catholic School

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Marian University is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana.

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### 80TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE 1937-2017

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## How the Sisters of St. Francis community, their charism, history of service, and continual presence inspire me as president of Marian University

By Daniel J. Elsener, President of Marian University

Since my very beginning years of service to Marian University, the Sisters, both individually and as a community, have remained a great source of inspiration in my daily work. The source of this inspiration comes first of all in their personality of service—the selflessness in service to others that flows from our Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana. The mission of Marian University to educate leaders began as far back as the late 1800s and was inspired by the Sisters' idea that the first commitment of the best leaders should be to the people they serve and not themselves. This sense of good stewardship and service to others is a foundational Christian notion, one that we saw in Jesus and one that is certainly enlivened in St. Francis and St. Clare. Through the Christian inspiration of these Saints, the Sisters came to this underdeveloped country in 1851 and began to offer tremendous service to humanity, which has made a dramatic difference in the world.

I am also inspired with the Sisters' service because it has been so entrepreneurial—bold and courageous. What many people believed to be impossible for a young Theresa Hackelmeier in a highly undeveloped country with many challenges, she and her community accomplished. The need for orphanages and education and basic services to humanity was great in 1851 in Indiana, especially in the areas surrounding Oldenburg. Without resources, corporate structure, or wealth, Mother Theresa Hackelmeier moved forward with what we often call “the courage to venture.” She did this through great personal sacrifice and hard work, but also a great deal of strategy. Mother Theresa Hackelmeier and the other Sisters knew that it was through education, not only of the intellect, but the skills, spirit, and character of the human person, that great things could be accomplished, whether it be in education, enterprise, church work, or healthcare. This strategic priority to develop smart, skilled, healthy, and trustworthy leaders for service to humanity is a vision that we continue today. The spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation in this service is also alive today and has certainly been inspired by the Sisters.



The Sisters have often traveled from Oldenburg, Indiana to visit campus for update tours or lunches with President Daniel J. Elsener in the Aviary of Allison Mansion. The recently produced *A Sign of the Cross* documentary featured several of the sisters and was produced by Andy Murphy of Ever Film Productions and aired on PBS last year. The film tells the story of how the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg came to be and founded Marian University. Copies of the DVD may be checked out from the Mother Theresa Hackelmeier Memorial Library on campus.

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# Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg

## Celebrating 166 Years of Servant Leadership in Education, Ministry, and Social Justice

**If you want results, look to the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, Indiana and let them do their thing.** Whether it's 166 years as an order or 80 years as a university, these amazing women have been a force of commitment, inspiration, and adaptation from the very beginning.

From service and leadership to perseverance and perspiration, their actions and progress are evident and, likely, taken for granted. After all, women religious are expected to dedicate their entire lives to their communities and world. But most of us can't have any idea just how hard they have worked.

They've studied and taught and cooked and cleaned. They've cared for others. They've traveled countless miles to heal, minister, and to earn advanced degrees. They've had to sleep on fold-up cots in the hallways and even the restrooms in Allison Mansion. And they've prayed—countless hours beyond their required devotions—for all of us, and, let's hope, for each other.

Join us as we celebrate these anniversaries. Look at these photos and facts and think not only of the accomplishments but of these very real, amazing women.

### Sisters of St. Francis Inspiration, continued

Finally, the greatest inspiration the Sisters provide me and the rest of the Marian University community is their loyalty. The Sisters have never been self-interested in their service to Marian University. It's always been other-centered, courageous, innovative, and a reflection of God's love for the people they serve through the example of Jesus, St. Francis, and St. Clare. This consistency in being prayerful about the values of dignity of the individual, peace and justice, reconciliation, and responsible stewardship continues today at Marian University.

Yes, the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, Indiana inspire me in my service to Marian University as president, but what I always find most edifying is how so many colleagues in the Marian University community strive fervently and with great creativity to keep the Sisters' spirit alive. Enlivening the inspiration of the gospel through the work of a religious community like the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg is a profound message, which inspires all of us to not only keep it alive, but also to project it even further in new and exciting ways. This projecting forward happens with each new class, sports team, initiative, building, and invitation to others to be generous and invest, and that invitation is always met with a generous response.



### The first 50 years

#### 1850-1900

In 1851, Sr. Theresa Hackelmeier, 24, arrives in Oldenburg, Indiana, from Vienna, Austria to teach German-speaking children as requested by Fr. Francis Joseph Rudolf of Vincennes.

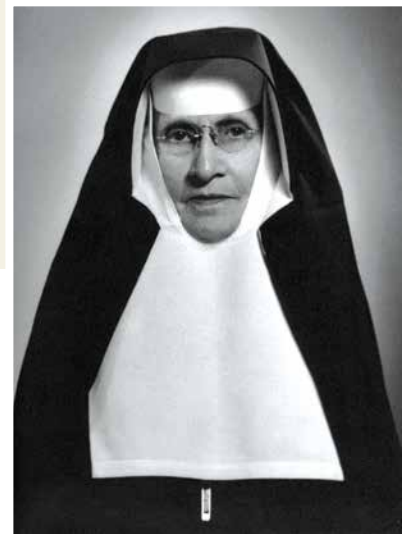
Within a year, the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis founds and establishes a boarding school for six and a village school for 20. Soon neighboring towns were asking for help with the staffing of their schools. Under Mother Theresa's leadership, the convent at Oldenburg becomes the motherhouse supporting the Sisters with the training and spiritual renewal needed to continue their educational mission.

The Sisters begin caring for the children orphaned by the 1847 cholera epidemic and then New York's overcrowded Founding Hospital in 1898.

A devastating fire destroys the facilities in Oldenburg in 1857. But the Sisters prevail and rebuild, as well as establish schools in St. Louis, Cincinnati, and other cities in Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Kansas, and Indiana—including St. Mary Academy in Indianapolis in 1883.

Mother Theresa dies in 1860 after just nine years in this country. Under the leadership of Mother Olivia Brockman, the Sisters continue to be pioneers in education and the social issues of the times.

The Sisters qualify for teaching by passing the state's education examination.



Mother Mary Clarissa Dillhoff, OSF, is instrumental in founding Marian College and serves as its president until 1948.

came to this country is still so very relevant to the needs of humanity today and is vigorously lived out by the Marian University community. It's motivating to know that certain things are timeless. The Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, their charisma, their service to humanity, their commitment to education, and their love of people are timeless, inspiring, and ever-present here in the Marian University community and in my service as president. Through the intercession of Saints Francis and Clare and our patroness, Mary the Mother of God, I pray that the Sisters' example always remains and flourishes in the Marian University community and throughout the world.

### 1910s-1940s

**1910:** The Sisters' St. Francis Normal School is accredited by the Indiana State Board of Education. And as early as 1911, the Oldenburg community sends its Sisters to Marquette and other Catholic colleges for academic degrees.

**1936:** St. Francis Normal merges with Immaculate Conception Junior College to become a four-year, state-approved institution called Marian College.

**1937:** Mother Mary Clarissa Dillhoff, OSF takes the preposterous step of moving Marian College to the site of the former James A. Allison estate in Indianapolis to provide college education for lay women.

**1944:** Marian College is accredited by the Indiana State Department of Education.



On September 15, 1937, the Sisters open Marian College in Allison Mansion in Indianapolis with 15 students.

### 1950s-1960s

In 1954, Marian College becomes the first co-educational Catholic college in Indiana.

The Marian University campus expands to include the estates of Carl Fisher and Frank Wheeler.

Doyle Hall is built to house the male students who were formerly not allowed to live on campus.



Sr. Miriam Clare Heskamp, OSF teaches home economics in Allison Mansion in 1951.

### 1970s-1990s

**1976:** Teacher education programs are formally accepted by National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

**1986:** Curriculum for baccalaureate in nursing is approved.



Some of the first male students move into Doyle Hall.

### 2000s

**2000:** Marian's Adult Programs launch to serve new population of students.

**2001:** Daniel J. Elsener is inaugurated as eighth president.

**2009:** Marian College becomes Marian University.



The Sisters perform with Sacred Choir at the 2016 Rooted in Education Gala. 1,800 Marian University friends and family celebrated the announcement of The Educators College.

### 2010s

**2011:** Marian University breaks ground for the Michael A. Evans Center for Health Sciences to house the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine and Leighton School of Nursing.

**2016:** Historic record enrollment grows to more than 3,000 students.

**2017:** College of Osteopathic Medicine graduates first class of doctors.

### A HISTORY OF MISSIONS

**1918:** The Sisters establish a mission in New Mexico.

**1934:** The Sisters begin ministry to the Crow Indians, which continues for the next 30 years with no financial remuneration.

**1939:** The Sisters begin a mission in China until 1945 when unrest from World War II required their return to the United States.

**1950s:** The Sisters begin ministry in Papua New Guinea and eventually co-found the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in the native community.

### Then and Now – Enrollment



A few German children began their education in a log cabin in Oldenburg, Indiana with Mother Theresa Hackelmeier in 1850.

The 2016 freshman class of 390 is the largest in Marian University's 80-year history. These students boast the highest GPAs and SAT scores on this campus as well. The class has 61 21st Century Scholars, 186 student-athletes, and represents 25 states and 18 nations.

### Then and Now – Full-Circle Destiny of Medical Service



The very first faculty in 1937 included Sr. John Joseph, a medical doctor. Perhaps this foreshadowed Marian University's destiny as a future medical school?

In 2011, Sr. Christa Franzer, OSF '70, Sr. Jackie McCracken, OSF '72, and Sr. Miriam Kaeser, OSF '71 break ground for the new medical facility, the Michael A. Evans Center for Health Sciences, and on May 7, 2017 the Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine graduated its first class of doctors.

### Then and Now – Presidential Goals



In 1966, President Monsignor Francis J. Reine announced a new 10-year \$7 million master plan for development "to double and strengthen the faculty and expand facilities to accommodate 1,500 students by 1975."

In 2015, President Daniel J. Elsener announced the goal that "by 2025, Marian University will double the number of annual graduates to 1,500 men and women who are prepared to serve as transformational leaders in education, healthcare, business, ministry, and other professional fields."