

THE FAITHFUL LEADER

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from the heart of the Church

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St. Francis Colonnade—Jewel of Indianapolis Becomes Monument of Faith

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

Marian University will restore the St. Francis Colonnade and Riverdale Gardens to both its architectural excellence and its tradition as a reflection of our Catholic Franciscan identity. The St. Francis Colonnade has a unique history and has become a special landmark on campus, so plans are in place to restore and enhance the feature. By now, the story has been told and retold so many times that it almost seems to be legend, but it's true—all of it. On October 10, 1936 Mother Clarissa Dillhoff made an offer to the Fletcher Trust Company in order to purchase the Allison Mansion at Riverdale. She gave them 24 hours to accept the offer or the deal was null. Of course, as we all know, the deal was accepted, and Marian College relocated to Indianapolis in 1937.

Riverdale, the estate of automotive entrepreneur James A. Allison, is located on Cold Spring Road, once known as "Millionaires Row" and home to the lavish estates of Allison, Carl Fisher, Frank Wheeler, and Charles Sommers, among others. The estate was constructed from 1911-14 for Allison and completed at a reported cost of \$2 million. The Riverdale estate is one of the few rare Indianapolis examples of the type of country home built by wealthy citizens during the American country house era. At the time, Allison Mansion was dubbed the "House of Wonders" because it contained many state-of-the-art conveniences for the time, including a telephone intercom system, an indoor pool, and an elevator.

The landscape surrounding the mansion is equally extraordinary. Allison chose master landscape architect Jens Jensen to design the grounds. Jensen, known affectionately as the "Prophet of the Prairie," created a uniquely American style



The grounds around the St. Francis Colonnade provide a peaceful, inspiring spot for group activities and ceremonies.

of landscape architecture, much as his contemporary Frank Lloyd Wright did with the design of structures. Although Jens Jensen designed more than 350 private estates during his career, fewer than 10 percent of them remain intact today.

St. Francis Colonnade, continued

During the beginning of the fourth year of Marian College in Indianapolis, the community was faced with tragedy. Sister Mary Giles Whalen recorded, "A sophomore, Georgiana Feldman from Millhousen, Indiana, died suddenly on campus, October 24, 1940. A year later her parents donated a life-size terracotta statue of St. Francis of Assisi in her memory."

Additionally, that same year, the Stations of the Cross were erected on the inside of 14 of the pillars from the Jensen design. A dedication plaque, still attached to one of the pillars reads, "To Foster Love of the Way of the Cross – The Donors, 1941." From this time forward, this key area within Jensen's design

became known as the Franciscan Colonnade, and served as an important place of prayer and reflection on campus. Additionally, for many years, the green space near the Franciscan Colonnade served as the location for commencement ceremonies.

By renovating the pergola, adding religious sculptures, creating seating for reflection, and creating a maintenance endowment, we will ensure that the St. Francis Colonnade and Riverdale Gardens continue to promote our values for years to come.



Artist's rendering of the St. Francis Colonnade and Riverdale Gardens after restoration is completed.

The Legacy of Leadership

By Daniel J. Elsener, President of Marian University



On many occasions, I have articulated the makeup of a transformational leader. This leader must possess a high level of inquisitiveness, skill, trustworthiness, and stamina. In fact, Marian University was founded on the transformational leadership of the Oldenburg Sisters, specifically Mother Clarissa Dillhoff. Upon purchasing the Allison Estate, she wrote to her community, "It is this very spirit of united effort to keep our schools in the limelight of educational

endeavor: to do the best that can be done—which has induced us to undertake what may seem a preposterous project at this particular time; namely, the opening of a day college in Indianapolis. This new adventure has been thrust upon us with a speed never-before-experienced...and...it is worth the venture" (Whalen, 1966). Sounds familiar, does it not?

We are now—even while some see this as a preposterous journey—building a great Catholic university in this great American city. As we continue this "preposterous project" begun in 1936, our mission to educate transformational leaders for service to the world continues. In order to cultivate our culture of

leadership, we recently hosted *The Global Leadership Summit* on campus. I was particularly struck by Bill Hybels' (senior pastor, Willow Creek Community Church) presentation, in which he described four "lenses of leadership: the passion lens, the people lens, the performance lens, and the lens of legacy. On this last lens he asked, "When you look in the rearview mirror, do you like what you see? Is it God-honoring?"

When I look in the rearview mirror of Marian University, I see the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg providing bold leadership, and women and men—educated in the Franciscan and liberal arts tradition—making profound impacts on society in education, health care, pastoral ministry, and the sciences. That is a truly God-honoring legacy—a legacy that calls us to invest a very generous effort in developing students' intellects, skills, character, and good stewardship of their gifts, so that they become the transformational leaders so needed in our country and beyond.

Thank you for your past support in this "preposterous project," and please, I pray, continue your prayers, generosity, and support.

2016 Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities Symposium

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

Over 350 faculty, staff, board members, and religious leaders from 22 schools around the country gathered on Marian University's campus from June 7-9 for the 2016 Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) Symposium.

This year's gathering, "The Franciscan Courage to Venture: A Symposium on Preparing Outstanding Leaders for the Modern World," was kicked off with a liturgy from Indianapolis Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R. Keynote speakers included John C. Lechleiter, chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Eli Lilly and Company; Father David Couturier, OFM Cap, dean of St. Bonaventure University; and Reverend Thomas Nairn, OFM, senior director of the Catholic Health Association of the United States.

The symposium offered participants the chance to network and collaborate in general large sessions as well as in small interest groups. The chief academic officers group discussed study abroad, undergraduate research, online course delivery, and the medical school admission track. The recruitment and communications group examined ways to promote Franciscan schools.



Symposium participants took every opportunity to share with and learn from each other during and between sessions. Campus tours and a downtown social outing were also highlights of the event.

Since the original meeting to determine the symposium's theme in the late spring of 2013, faculty and staff have devoted countless hours to planning and preparation for the event.

"To make our guests feel welcome on campus, we knew we would need all hands on deck. Faculty, staff, and students from all departments volunteered to do everything from introducing keynote speakers to driving golf carts to morning Mass," said Maggie Kucik, manager of event marketing and sponsorships. "It was an exciting time to be able to see the entire campus community come together to host our peers from other AFCU institutions."

From the beauty of the grounds to the cheerful smiles, Marian University established a reputation of being a very hospitable place and received many heartfelt thanks.



Among other duties, the student pilgrims prepared and served lunch with a smile for the children and staff of the Valley of the Angels Orphanage.

Alternative Break Guatemala: Valley of the Angels Orphanage

By Jeanne Grammens Hidalgo, Campus Minister and Coordinator of Social Justice

Early in the morning of May 28, 2016, nine Marian University students and two faculty/staff advisors, laden with luggage and one guitar, met outside the check-in counter of American Airlines at the Indianapolis International Airport. They were destined for Finca El Pulte, Guatemala to serve at Valley of the Angels Orphanage. But the journey began a year prior when sophomores Clare Thompson and Thomas Sheridan applied to be leaders for this trip. Being selected meant a significant commitment involving a leaders' formation retreat, interviewing candidates for their team, monthly board meetings with six other leaders, bi-monthly meetings with their campus ministry advisor, serving during Martin Luther King Jr. day of service, and five pre-trip gatherings with their team for prayer, reflection, cultural education, not to mention securing passports and immunizations for all!

“The Alternative Break formation process seeks to prepare the students to approach service as a starting point for transformation,” said Jeanne Hidalgo, campus minister and coordinator of service and social justice. “We intend to break open minds and hearts with grounding in the beautiful gospel of Jesus, Catholic social teaching, and our Franciscan sponsorship values. The face-to-face interaction with those who have less access to resources along with the staff who serves them, provides transformational yeast.”

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

Alternative Break Guatemala, continued

Students were welcomed warmly at Valley of the Angels Orphanage where they engaged in various work projects, tutored orphans, harvested in the abundant garden, cooked lunch for 300 orphans and the Valley staff, and made home visits to those living in the Red District surrounding the orphanage. Every evening ended with prayer, reflection, and often liturgy.

“We learned a lot about poverty, lack of access to clean drinking water, societal discrimination against women, and lack of class fluidity,” said Thomas Sheridan '18, student leader. “We were able to look at how solidarity and subsidiarity played a role in Guatemala, which is actually a lot bigger role than in other places. We also explored the dignity of the individual.”

Margaret Verhiley '19, student team member who will lead the trip back to Valley of the Angels Orphanage next May, articulates the beauty of the paradox of serving.

→ “I have become aware that as a Catholic, I am called to be that helping hand. Yes, I think I touched their lives, but they touched mine even more, making me aware of my vocation, and making me live out my call to love and to have joy,” said Verhiley.

Alumni Profile : Annie Wolfley

Name: Annie Wolfley

Position: Coordinator of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

Parish: St. Bernard, Crawfordsville, Indiana

Years of Service: 13 Years in Ministry

Marian University Graduation Year: 2007

Major: Pastoral Leadership

Why Marian University: The professors, campus ministry, and just the atmosphere that Marian University radiates pulled me in. Standing at the St. Francis statue and colonnade and hearing about the Franciscan sponsorship values for the first time—I just knew I was home.

Favorite Marian University moment: Bubbles in the fountain. The fountain being turned back on in the spring, going for “walk and talks” around campus in the evening after bible study with friends, and then seeing bubbles spilling over the sides. Also, all campus liturgies when the whole community would come together as one.

Why the San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership: Other people believed in me enough that I began to believe in me, too. Being surrounded by that support system to explore ministry professionally and then be educated, formed, and challenged has me, in turn, showing the same example to youth I encounter today. Everyone needs someone to believe in them, and the San Damiano Scholars Program for Church Leadership was that for me.

Highlight of your San Dam experience: Watching the program grow. The first year with just the few of us, we could have our monthly meetings in old Padua Hall or at someone's house. Even after the second class joined, we were a tight-knit community that, when working with upper classmen, began to make big changes. Seeing our original group grow to what it is today, and now having some of my former youth ministry kids in the program or seeing siblings of people I went to college with, shows the lasting legacy of the program. That, and learning the “I bow to the God in you” song at our retreat that first year!

How are you “Rebuilding Your Church” as God requested of St. Francis: Francis was challenged to see beyond just the crumbling walls of San Damiano to change the culture and atmosphere he encountered, through whatever means he could, all while maintaining a simple life. That's



the same challenge we have all heard. We are called to look at the communities we are in and see how we can push, challenge, and cultivate those on this faith journey with us to see Christ in new ways.

Recent accomplishments/awards/events: I am most proud of stepping outside my boundaries for something new! Accepting a position last November in a faith formation role has stretched me and furthered my career in ministry.

If you have visited Marian University recently, what struck you the most about campus: The growth has struck me the most! Alumni Hall is huge (with a Starbucks!) and seeing all the new residences, buildings, and changes to departments has been astounding. I love seeing all the additional faith aspects that have been incorporated into the campus, as well.

Advice to current San Dam Scholars: Four years slips by quickly, but the friendships and foundation you set at Marian University and with other San Dams becomes the foundation for your young adult and adult life. I'm still connected with many of the people I met at Marian University and have moved from college friendships to professional relationships with colleagues. Enjoy every moment, show up to meetings and retreats on time, and turn in your service hours and projects! San Dam invests so much in each scholar, it's important to have fun, but give back when you can.

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