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Brother Mitch Schweickart
Marianst Center
118 Findlay St
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Dear Br. Mitch:

On behalf of the University and the Center for Social Concerns, I would like to extend my gratitude to you and others within your community who supported our students on the 2006 Urban Plunge.

The Urban Plunge program is an important first step for our students. We have found that the program acts as a gateway into other service and social action experiences within and outside of Notre Dame. After this experience, our students undertake new service commitments and about 10 percent go on to perform postgraduate service. Based on this experience, we hope to plant the seeds for further social change as our students take their knowledge beyond Notre Dame.

Moreover, the Urban Plunge experience resonates on campus as students analyze and reflect on the experience in our residence halls and classroom. Tom Harvey, Director of the Master of Nonprofit Administration program at the Mendoza College of Business, made this reflection on his time spent with students after the plunge:

For a short, intense experience, I found they discovered great insights into themselves, the disenfranchised and our society. I only wish I had their summaries on newsprint to use to teach others.

I greatly appreciate your willingness to serve as a host site for the Urban Plunge program. We are working to ensure that we will make the community our classroom and that this immersion experience becomes an invaluable component of the Notre Dame education. It is my hope that witnessing those who live in urban poverty, in addition to those who chose to serve there, will motivate students to act for a more just and humane world.

Best,

Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.
President