

A New Look

The following letter announces some structural and organizational changes at our institute, The Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute.

November 10, 2009

Dear students, colleagues, and friends,

With this letter I would like to announce a number of changes implemented recently at The Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute.

It goes without saying that our mission has not changed. Our present and future activities continue to be guided and marked by the maxim, to know, love, and serve Our Lady. You will find more specifics about our mission in the colorful brochure added to this letter. Our mission is further explained on The Mary Page ([About Us](#)), and in some administrative documents such as the updated version of the Student Guide.

The major changes operated deal with structure and organization. Past understanding of our organization suggested two separate entities: a library and an academic program (IMRI), each headed by a director (Father Thompson, Father Roten), and each having its own budget. The new organization presents a unified structure under one head coordinating all activities and representing the whole institution in dealings *ad extra*.

Thus, general leadership is now assumed--and for the duration of five years--by Father François Rossier. A Marianist priest and Swiss native, Father Rossier is familiar to most of us. He has been with the institute since 2003 offering his many talents for tutoring and teaching as well as for research related activities. Multi-lingual and multi-cultural, he will concentrate his efforts on strengthening ties with the [University of Dayton](#), the [Marianum](#) in Rome, and the [Society of Mary](#).

Changes in our organizational structure further highlight the importance given to the academic program as the primary mission and activity of the institute. In order to consolidate and expand its outreach, the Council of the Institute and the Director's Council were reconstituted, and the number of administrative staff increased. Mrs. Clare Jones, known to us as *Mater et Magistra* of the institute, will be seconded by Sister Danielle Peters. Clare will continue dealing with

specifically social (from housing to photocopying) and administrative matters (f.ex. registration). Sister Danielle's role will be that of an academic coordinator and advisor. In this capacity she will--among other things--establish the annual program and act as student counselor. Her activities include also and mainly teaching and doing research. Still another novelty concerns student representation. Our updated Statutes make provision for an elected student representative to be the ear and voice of the students enrolled in the program. This role is presently assumed by Mrs. Elizabeth Farley. You will find *in annexe* a more detailed and visual presentation of these structural and personnel updates.

The ML/IMRI and its history are closely linked to and dependent on its library, one of the most comprehensive of its genre in the world. It deserves special attention and leadership. We are very happy to announce that Father T. Thompson continues to be the director of The Marian Library and so oversees the manifold activities leading to the continual expansion of this now 65-year-old jewel. I will devote my time to teaching and directing dissertations, as I did before. One of my special responsibilities will be to promote research in its various forms, an activity which represents an integral part of any academic institution. As in the past I will be involved in the arts, an expanding activity as you know, and in the overall direction of The Mary Page, as well as in other special projects. The structural adaptations will be accompanied by slight modifications in the study program. These changes will apply to students admitted into the program beginning in the Fall of 2009. They are stated and explained in the updated version of the Student Guide. I would like to conclude with a simple word of thank you to all of you for a shared sense of mission, strong and enlightened Marian convictions, for patience and a sometimes tested disposition for the long haul. May there be new blessings on our common road.

Maria duce,

Rev. Johann G. Roten, S.M.
The Marian Library/IMRI