

FAREWELL COMMENTS: FR. PAUL MARSHALL

By Joan McGuinness Wagner

Recently I was walking across campus and coming around the corner I could hear the murmurs of a conversation between two people. I couldn't see them and their voices were muffled. Suddenly I heard, "Really? Really?" followed by a burst of laughter and I knew immediately it was Paul Marshall. I had to smile and realized at that moment we would miss that laughter and miss the man.

Five years ago Fr. Paul assumed the responsibilities of Rector with enthusiasm and seriousness – for we know this is an important job. During that time he has chaired our staff meetings, worked with the newly created development team for the MEAs, overseen the growth of the Marianist Leadership Scholars, initiated the second year retreat for the faculty, participated in the Marianist formation process of over 120 students, and collaborated with faculty and staff across the campus. We have seen the results of his labor and are grateful for his efforts.

When I think of his tenure as rector there is one image and experience I always treasure – that is when Fr. Paul is present at the breaking of the bread. We at UD have been enriched by his passion for his sacramental gifts, his desire to share the Scriptures and his understanding of community. The many liturgies he has shared with the lay formation communities, the MEAs and campus celebrations have been times of profound spiritual experiences and joy. For this we give thanks.

In the gospel of Luke we hear that when Mary visited Elizabeth, she could not contain her joy and awe in what God had called her to and exclaimed, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior!" Fr. Paul gives life and being to this Good News.

Thank YOU for your ministry, and your willingness to share with us your commitment to your faith and your zeal for this mission. Our time together has been brief yet meaningful. Blessings to you as you journey on in this leadership role.

In the words of Brother Steve Glodek, "We are formed and gathered in community as Marianists to be SENT." As so it is that you are sent from this place to a new ministry.

May your transition be seamless and we pray you remember the words of the prophet Jeremiah, "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your future, not for woe! Plans to give you a future of hope!"

And the people say, "Amen."