

MARIANIST CULTURE, FAITH AND COMMUNITY

ALIVE

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University of Dayton students experience Marianist life in India, page 4

A MESSAGE

from the Provincial

Dear Friends of the Marianists,

As I write this, I am sitting in a very simple, but welcoming, Marianist community residence in Budakata, a city in northeastern India. I have been visiting the Marianist communities in our District of India, helping them plan for the future. This is a vibrant and growing unit of the Society of Mary, with about 95 professed Marianists.

Yesterday, I visited the Chaminade Rural Development Project near the community residence. Brothers Libin Minj and Pratap Guria run a wonderful educational program for post-primary students, teaching English, computer skills and sewing. For poor youth in rural India, these are excellent skills that will help them throughout life.

We then went to Budakata Mission School run by Brothers Dilip Tirkey and Binod Bahla. The school has an enrollment of more than 350 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. All dressed in uniforms with their hair neatly groomed, the children were full of life and enthusiasm. Their songs

and dances were beautiful. Like children everywhere, but especially among the very poor in rural India, an educational opportunity is a rich blessing.

Finally, we celebrated the Eucharist at the local parish that is served by Father Rajesh Kandulna and the Marianist brothers. The vibrancy of the Eucharist reminded me of similar celebrations in rural Africa.

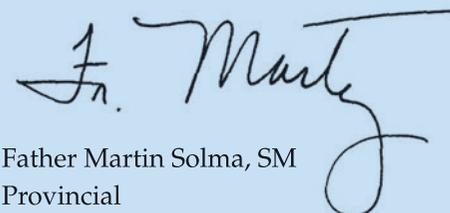
This is a snapshot of what the Marianists are doing all over India: formal and informal education and pastoral ministry. In the larger cities of Bangalore and Ranchi, the Marianists operate REDS (Ragpickers Educational Development Scheme), offering educational and support programs for street children, orphans and single mothers. Marianists are making a difference here by serving people living in extreme poverty.

Some people think of India as a developed country and a growing economic powerhouse. That may be true in some respects, but even if half of the 1.2 billion population were poor it would equal about twice the population of the United States.

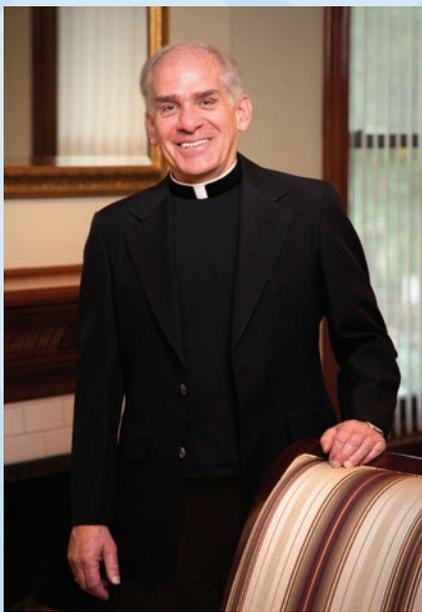
We are happy when members of the Marianist Family visit our Indian ministries. In the past, students from Chaminade University of Honolulu and, more recently, students from the University of Dayton, have experienced firsthand the beauty and tragic poverty of this complex and fascinating country. In this issue of *ALIVE*, you will hear students from the University of Dayton tell their stories about a recent immersion experience in India. It's an experience that changes a person's perspective forever.

The Indian Marianists are important to the Province of the United States, and we are working to endow this unit so that it can take its rightful place among the provinces and regions of the Society of Mary.

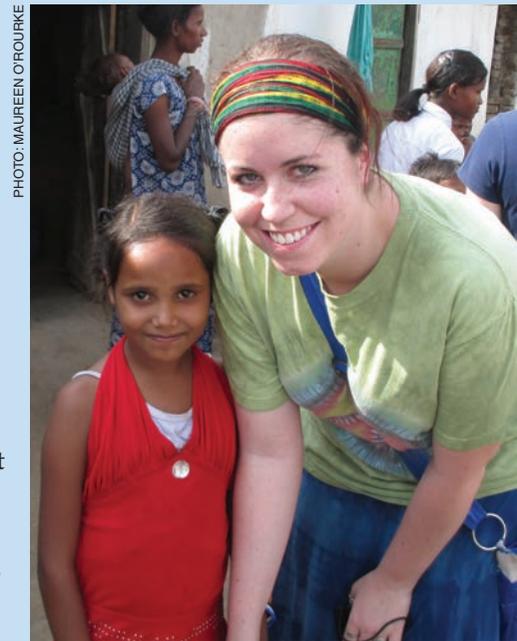
We are deeply grateful for your good support. We pray, as always, for you and your families.



Father Martin Solma, SM
Provincial



Father Martin Solma, SM



Gina Calabrese, one of eight University of Dayton students who visited Marianist ministries in India

PHOTO: MAUREEN O'Rourke

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Jake Scara, a sophomore at the University of Dayton and a participant in an immersion trip to India, gets acquainted with a student from a Marianist skills training center in Deepahalli, India, page 4.

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The Society of Mary (Marianists) is an international Roman Catholic religious congregation of priests and brothers. More than 300 serve in the Province of the United States, which includes India, Ireland, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. In the United States, they sponsor three universities: University of Dayton in Ohio, St. Mary's University in San Antonio and Chaminade University of Honolulu, as well as 18 secondary/middle schools, seven parishes and several retreat centers. The order has been present in the United States since 1849 when the Marianists came to Cincinnati. Blessed William Joseph Chaminade founded the Society of Mary in 1817.

INSIDE ...

4 ONE DEFINING MOMENT
Undergraduates from the University of Dayton, immersed in Indian culture and Marianist spirituality, uncover the most important lesson of all.

8 MARY'S YES: ACCEPTING GOD'S CALL
Members of the Marianist Family talk about critical junctures in their lives, when saying 'yes' changed everything.

10 BUILDING HEARTS AND MINDS: INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S CHURCH
A program at Chaminade Julianne Catholic High School helps students develop a heart for social justice while honing leadership and academic skills.

14 EVERYBODY MAKES THIS WORK
How one Marianist school's ministry of serving meals to homeless men woke an entire community to the call of service.

20 GROWING UP WITH THE MARIANISTS
From an early age, Marianist Father Paul Landolfi found comfort and a calling through the Marianists.

DEPARTMENTS

Provincial Letter.....	2
Unsung Marianist Heroes	13
The View from Here	18
In Remembrance	21
Making a Difference	22



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ONE DEFINING MOMENT

Undergraduates from the University of Dayton, immersed in Indian culture and Marianist spirituality, uncover the most important lesson of all.

BY JAN D. DIXON

Late one evening in May, eight students from the University of Dayton, along with a staff leader, boarded a plane in Washington, D.C., for a 21-hour transcontinental flight to India. Upon liftoff, feelings of exhilaration gave way to reality: They had just taken one giant leap into the unknown. It's exactly what immersion trips are designed to do, says Marianist Father Jack McGrath, assistant district superior of India, who has led several UD immersion groups. "You learn so much from experience — things you could never learn from a book," he says. "An immersion trip opens new worlds and challenges students to reflect on who they are and what they value."

India is a big leap for many. To help the students prepare for their five-week trek, the group's leader, Maureen O'Rourke, UD's coordinator of Marianist activities and scholarship, met with them weekly for several months. Sponsored by the campus ministry

"We are all one human family, but even more so, we are all one global Marianist Family."

— Maureen O'Rourke,
UD's coordinator of
Marianist activities
and scholarship

department, the trip was designed to be more than a cultural immersion.

"I wanted it to be an intentionally Marianist experience," says O'Rourke. That meant coordinating with Marianist brothers and sisters in India so students could attend their daily prayer services and accompany them on the daily rounds in ministry.

But all the planning in the world could not have prepared them for their first few hours after debarking in Ranchi, India. "I grew up near Detroit," says

JaVon Hansknecht, a senior and religious studies major. "I've seen poverty before, but nothing like this. It blew me away."

CULTURE SHOCK

It's one thing to read about India's 700 million people living at or below the poverty level. It's another to drive from the airport in Ranchi into the heart of the city and see firsthand what that means. Open pit fires burn as people cook their meals outdoors. Trash is everywhere. The stench of raw sewage and pollutants is overwhelming. Housing is meager, at best.

"People don't have electricity. They live in mud houses or sometimes tarp-like tents with little or no furniture or food," say JaVon. "It was almost too much to take in at once."

Boyd Newman-Caro, a sophomore in pre-med, agrees. "I was overwhelmed," he says of that first day. From what he'd read, Boyd had assumed that India was a developing country and on the rise. "I didn't expect this level of poverty."

Although parts of India are developing, much of the country lags behind. Especially lacking are things that most Americans take for granted: clean tap water, electricity, sanitation systems and easy access to food. "It's hard for us from the West to make sense of this," says Maureen.



A UD student ceremonially washes her hands — a gesture of Indian hospitality.

Opposite page: Boyd Newman-Caro, a sophomore at UD, takes a walk with a group of boys in the slums of Ranchi, India.

ALL PHOTOS: MAUREEN O'ROURKE

Amy Fox and JaVon Hansknecht, seated at right, work with boys from the Marianist Deepahalli skills training center.



Still harder in those first few hours after arriving in Ranchi was adjusting to the constant noise and hyperactivity that are hallmarks of India. “It’s a country that doesn’t sleep,” says Maureen, acknowledging how exhausted they were from their flight and the extreme heat and humidity that engulfed them.

MORE SURPRISES

Later that day exhaustion turned to wonder. With the brothers guiding the group, they walked into a slum near the Gyan Deep Marianist community. This is an area where the Marianists offer skills training programs for women, along with play schools and after-care programs for children. “People began to follow us,” says Maureen. “The children were especially excited. We soaked up their joy.”

As the week went on, the immersion group noticed people’s vitality and love for life. “The kids wanted to hold my hand, and everywhere people would smile and wave,” recalls Boyd. “They couldn’t wait to invite us to their homes. They were so proud. By the end of the week, I began seeing life from their perspective. They value their families and homes, however simple, as much as I value mine.”

As their days turned into weeks, the students were touched by another surprise: Indian hospitality. As is

a custom in much of India, they were showered with leis made of jasmine and roses, or offered flower bouquets while women washed their hands and feet. Treating guests with great care and dignity is a time-honored tradition in India. But it was the kindness offered by the Marianist brothers and sisters that told a bigger story.

“Seeing a snapshot of what they do each day — the immense amount of work and care they put into their ministries — was inspiring,” says Amy Fox, a senior religious studies major. It confirmed something she’d been considering. “I’d like to do volunteer service work, maybe internationally, for a year or two after I graduate.”

‘ALL IN’

After two weeks, the immersion group left Ranchi for other parts of India, ending their sojourn in Bangalore. They accompanied the Marianists on their rounds in city slums and spent time at a skills training center in Deepahalli where boys — street children from slums — can learn a trade.

Each evening after prayers and meals, the group gathered to process what they had experienced that day. Their reflections reveal a deeper awareness of life’s choices.

"I'd like to be more hospitable and welcoming when I meet someone new," says Amy. Being in India also made her think about material possessions and how much she needs to feel comfortable or at peace. "I want to be more intentional about my life, how I spend my money and time. When I am with someone, I want to be totally present. While in India, we were 'all in' no matter what we did. I want to be present and alive in that way."

For JaVon, who also intends to do service work for a year or two after graduation, India offered new role models, including Marianist Brother Kuldeep Ekka, who runs the Marianist Ragpickers' Education and Development Scheme program in Ranchi. "He impressed me with his dedication and how much he cares for the children and mothers in the slums. I want to do something like that with my life."

The experience made Boyd rethink American culture and values, especially "our easy access to food," he says. "When I go to the grocery store, I can pick out anything. Kids in India are sick or dying because of lack of food. I'm more conscious now of what I eat and how blessed I am."

ONE DEFINING MOMENT

For Maureen and the immersion students, the defining moment took place four days into the trip. The brothers took them to visit Morning Star School, a Marianist-sponsored school in the village of Singhpur. The school has more than 1,500 students in kindergarten through high school. As the group toured the classrooms, they stopped to visit a class of high school students. "I asked Marianist Brother



Jyoti Prakash Minj, in charge of our tour, if he could share with the students that we attend a Marianist school like they do," says Maureen. "He turned to them first and spoke in Hindi and then turned with a wide gesture to us and everyone in the room and said: 'One Family.'

"I started crying," says Maureen. "That moment captured the most important lesson from our India experience: We are all one human family, but even more so, we are all one global Marianist Family. Everyone in our group instantly got the importance of that moment. It's one I'll never forget." ■

Back row from left: Boyd Newman-Caro, Kim Murray, JaVon Hansknecht, Jake Scara, Amy Fox, Anna Adami, Gina Calabrese, Anna Kinnen and Maureen O'Rourke visit a Marianist play group in Ranchi, India.

A LITTLE BIT GOES A LONG WAY

Your donations make a difference.

"We take a high school education for granted. In India, they don't know if they'll get past primary school," says UD sophomore Boyd Newman-Caro. "For many families, it comes down to a choice: paying school fees or buying food for the family."

Adds JaVon Hansknecht, a senior at UD, "You don't have to travel to India or go overseas and do service work to make a difference. The biggest contribution anyone can make is fundraising. A little bit goes a long way."

One way you can help is through sponsoring a child at Morning Star School. Through the student sponsorship program, donors are asked to give \$125 – a gift that covers uniforms, books and tuition fees for one year for a student. Once



a donation is made, donors receive a photo and name of the child they are sponsoring. During the year, the student will send a letter to update their sponsors on how they are doing. "It's more than making a donation. It's about establishing a friendship with a young boy or girl whose future greatly depends on your love and support," says Marianist Father David Paul, director of development for ministries in developing countries.

To fund a sponsorship: Send your donation to: Marianist Mission, 4435 East Patterson Road, Dayton, Ohio, 45481-0001. To send a donation now, please use the enclosed envelope or go to marianist.com/donate. For more information, contact Father David Paul, SM, at 314.533.1207 or dpaul@sm-usa.org



Danny O'Regan, director of campus ministry at Chaminade University of Honolulu (center), believes he was called to work in ministry among young adults. PHOTO: DERREK MIYAHARA

Mary's 'Yes'

Accepting God's Call

Members of the Marianist Family talk about critical junctures in their lives, when saying 'yes' changed everything.

BY JAN D. DIXON

Mary's unconditional "yes" to give birth to Jesus is one of the most striking examples of being called by God into ministry. Mary accepted this invitation with a trusting heart. It was a pivotal moment in her young life, one that set the stage for the unfolding of God's redemptive love.

ALIVE magazine spoke with four members of the Marianist

Family about pivotal moments in their lives, when saying "yes" was clearly the way forward, despite fear, and the lessons that followed. Most agree that accepting a call is accompanied by two phenomena: You don't know what you are getting into, and you must rely on faith and the encouragement of people who support your decision to find your way.

Saying 'yes' to life

Daniel O'Regan, director of campus ministry, Chaminade University of Honolulu

Danny O'Regan clearly recalls the moment he felt called to ministry. The native-born Brit was volunteering at a high school in London after graduating college. "A friend asked, 'What do you plan to do next year?' I said I'd like to travel, maybe go to America and work in ministry." Within 20 minutes, the chaplain of the school handed him an application to work in the United States in youth ministry.

Danny was offered the job, moved to the United States and later earned an advanced degree in theology. That was 15 years ago. Three years ago, he found himself working in campus ministry at Chaminade University of Honolulu. How did he know this was a calling? "I ask myself — and to keep the question alive — I keep asking: Is this flowing? Is it something my community says 'yes' to? It's not about whether I am good enough for the job, but rather: Is it a good fit? Is it holy? Is it something I can authentically say 'yes' to?"

"Mary's 'yes' was her way of saying 'no' to fear. That's the challenge. Mary had fear, but she kept moving forward with faith. Faith and support from your community is what keeps you saying 'no' to fear and 'yes' to life."

Nudged in a new direction

Marianist Father Tom Schroer, pastor, Queen of Apostles Parish, Mount Saint John, and campus minister, University of Dayton



Father Tom Schroer, SM

Father Tom Schroer vividly remembers giving communion to an elderly woman at his aunt's funeral Mass. As she held out her wrinkled, feeble hand, "it struck me that her hand had special meaning," he recalls. "It was an epiphany" — one of those spiritual moments that he didn't quite understand at the time.

Two years later he was asked to become director of the Mercy Siena community, a Marianist community located in a healthcare and assisted living facility near Dayton, Ohio. That invitation started to shed light on the woman's outstretched hand.

Still not certain this was his calling, Father Tom said 'yes' anyway. But it didn't take long to realize God was nudging him in a new direction. How did he know? "It felt right," says Father Tom. "Those years I worked at Mercy Siena were transformative. It opened a new world to me. It had never occurred to me to work among the elderly. In some ways it was scary. I had to relate in a more intimate manner with fellow Marianists at the end of their journeys. But there is something holy in working among the elderly, who are often marginalized."



Molly Heineman

Passionate about a vision

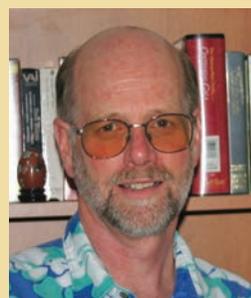
Molly Heineman, University of Dayton alumna and a Marianist volunteer, Malawi, 2008-2010

It was January 2007. Molly Heineman, a junior at the University of Dayton, had just returned from an internship in Uganda where she worked with street children. She was giving a presentation to her parish in Illinois when people began asking what she planned to do as a result of her experience. "I said it would be great to start a nonprofit to fund scholarships to help these kids get a college education," says Molly.

To her surprise, people began pulling out their checkbooks and writing checks. A man came up after the talk and volunteered his expertise to help her set up a nonprofit.

"That was a moment when I had to say 'yes,'" says Molly, "but I was scared. I was only 20 years old and had no experience in the nonprofit world."

Since its inception seven years ago, the organization she founded, called CROSO, has seen 10 students graduate with post-secondary degrees and is currently assisting 17 students. "I've learned that if you are willing to say 'yes,' despite your fears, and when you have people who are passionate about your vision — a vision that makes a difference in the lives of others — anything is possible."



Brother Dennis Schmitz, SM

Doing the right thing

Marianist Brother Dennis Schmitz, office of special ministries, Marianist Center of Hawai'i, Honolulu

Brother Dennis Schmitz remembers looking out the window of his plane as it took off from Seoul's Incheon International Airport after his first visit to Korea in 1980 and thinking: "This is not the last time I'll be here." It was a spiritual inkling. He would spend the next 12 years in Korea working in Marianist formation ministry.

"I didn't know what I was getting into when I said 'yes' to this assignment. It was a life-transforming experience. I had to understand and embrace Marianist spirituality at a deeper level to share it with others. It called a lot of things out of me," he says.

Brother Dennis enthusiastically accepted his call to Korea. Often, however, saying 'yes' hasn't been so easy. In 2013, he was called back to Korea when Marianist Father Joe Lackner became gravely ill. "I had to tell Father Joe he was going to die," recalls Brother Dennis. "In that moment, our relationship fast-tracked into something much deeper. It was hard, but a privilege to be with him in his last hours."

Saying 'yes', in spite of how one feels, isn't easy. "You still have fear," says Brother Dennis, "but there is an inner peace that comes with knowing you are doing the right thing." ■

BUILDING HEARTS AND MINDS:

Investing in Tomorrow's Church

A program at Chaminade Julienne Catholic High School helps students develop a heart for social justice while honing leadership and academic skills.

BY CAROL DEXTER

Earthworms and mulch. Conflict minerals in Africa. Female body image.

It's a disparate assortment to be sure. And it's only a small part of a long list of elements that have comprised challenging social justice projects at Chaminade Julienne Catholic High School.

Each fall, seniors at Chaminade Julienne embark on year-long "Capstone Projects" that challenge them to tie their academic learning to promoting social justice in the Catholic tradition. Along the way, things like earthworms

"High schoolers are our future Church. They need authentic experiences as servant leaders."

— Molly Bardine, Senior Capstone coordinator

and conflict minerals have come into play as students seek to make a positive impact on their community.

"The Capstone Project is a way we tap into students' creativity and build on both their education and service experiences," says teacher Molly Bardine, the program's initiator and coordinator. "It's a tangible reflection of our mission as a Catholic high school."

Chaminade Julienne (CJ), located in Dayton, Ohio, is sponsored jointly by the Marianists and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. The school began the Capstone Project in the fall of 2012 as a cross-curricular

Molly Bardine, Senior Capstone coordinator, with several of last year's seniors, Claire Meyers, Alyssa Young and Isaac Renner



PHOTO: SKIP PETERSON



process that challenges seniors to become servant leaders. This year’s seniors are in the early phases of the project.

Students work in groups of two, three or four to identify social justice issues that interest them and are connected to Catholic social teaching. Group members research the topic, gather input from professional mentors in the community and establish quarterly goals. Ultimately, they put their plans into action and later present their project to an audience of parents, faculty, community members and CJ students.

It’s an ambitious project, but that didn’t scare Molly, an English teacher with more than 24 years’ experience in the classroom. “I was looking for a way to push our seniors a bit more,” she says. “I was confident they would rise to the challenge.”

She hasn’t been disappointed.

Tying it together

Last year’s projects spanned a broad range of topics (see sidebar on page 12), and pushed the teens to work cooperatively, tackle long-range planning and interact with professionals in the community. The term *capstone* comes from architecture, referring to a stone cap that ties together a masonry wall. Capstone Projects are not uncommon as a graduation requirement at universities, but are less typical in high schools. Success requires students to have — or quickly develop — a certain level of maturity.

“For some seniors, having a long-term, open-ended project is a bit unsettling,” says Molly. “As they work

through it, though, they begin to see the value. They are limited only by their own creativity.”

While the Capstone Project is relatively new, Christian service has long been enmeshed in the culture at CJ. Freshmen and sophomores participate in at least four service opportunities during the school year. In their junior year, students serve at least 25 hours outside of school with a Dayton community agency, confronting issues such as aging, disabilities, homelessness, hunger and animal welfare.

All hands on

These past service experiences help some students define their Capstone topic. For Ryan Menker’s group, this resulted in a local, hands-on effort with the Mission of Mary Farm, an urban farm cooperative run by Lay Marianists. The farm provides fresh produce for low-income Dayton residents. Ryan’s group recruited and scheduled a steady stream of student volunteers from CJ to help at the farm plots, and they got their own hands dirty as well.

“We brought in soil, mulched, weeded and helped incorporate earthworms into the gardens,” says Ryan. Along the way, the seniors met some of the people who would benefit from their efforts. “It was great to know that all the food grown in the gardens would go to families in the neighborhood,” Ryan says.

Claire Meyers’ team chose a Capstone Project with both local and global impact. The group was inspired by news about war in the Democratic Republic of

Ryan Menker and Scott Stoermer, left, worked with CJ student volunteers Noah Meyers and Austin Fuchs on a Marianist urban farm project.



PHOTO: SKIP PETERSON

Claire Meyers shares a website she and her team created.

Congo that has been sparked by first-world demand for minerals used in cell phones and computers. To raise awareness of the topic, Claire and her teammates created a website about these “conflict minerals.” In addition, they teamed with a local nonprofit in an electronics recycling event. “Our recycling drive was the coolest part of our project,” Claire says. “By the end of the day, we had collected 15,000 pounds of old computers and electronics.” The effort kept these materials out of landfills and, in a small way, helped reduce the demand for conflict minerals.

Learning life skills

The Capstone Projects connect students with social justice issues in tangible ways, and help them realize their own capacity to drive change. Along the way, they learn valuable lessons.

“We discovered that many things you do in life — even things you have a passion for — you can’t do on your own,” says Matthew Dudon. “It’s okay to reach out to those who have expertise. We also learned that you’re going to have failures, but the failures are good because they get you going in the right direction.”

Matthew’s engineering-minded team worked on a design for a more efficient car engine. It was a complex project that forced his team outside their comfort zone, which is another positive outcome of the Capstone process.

“This taught my team, and our whole class, how to deal with issues bigger than ourselves,” says Will Howard, whose team was successful in establishing CJ as a certified fair trade school. “We learned how to deal with situations as adults. There are a lot of basic life skills we’re taking away from this project.”

In addition to life skills, CJ seniors may gain a fresh appreciation for the Catholic Church. “This project has definitely broadened my views of Catholic social justice teachings,” says Alyssa Young. “Having to actually do social justice work versus learning about it gave me more respect for Church teachings.”

Alyssa’s group mentored young girls to help them build confidence and a positive body image.

For teacher Molly Bardine, the Capstone Projects are a vision fulfilled. “Our students learn that they have the ability to move forward confidently and enthusiastically. They can make a difference in their world.” ■

CAPSTONE PROJECTS: A SAMPLER

Senior Capstone Projects showcase a variety of interests.

The Senior Capstone Project invites students to pursue social justice topics that interest them. Here are examples from the Class of 2014:

Building a positive body image in young girls: Concerned about the unrealistic ways beauty is portrayed in society, this group mentored underprivileged young girls to help them build confidence and embrace their inherent worth.

Raising awareness of conflict minerals: The need for the raw materials used in cell phones and computers has ignited war in the Democratic Republic of Congo. To raise awareness of this issue, the group created a website and helped host an electronics recycling drive.

Becoming a fair trade school: Fair trade programs seek to use products made by companies that treat workers fairly and operate in an environmentally sustainable manner. Through this group’s efforts, CJ was named one of only 12 schools in the country to meet fair trade standards.

Engineering cars for a greener planet: This group redesigned a car’s piston to generate electricity as it moved, thus making a hybrid car even more efficient. The concept was evaluated for real-world use by engineers at Honda Motor Company.

Intrigued? You can read about these and other Senior Capstone Projects on the school’s website at cjeagles.org/senior-capstone.

Mackenzie Boyer, Mariah Harlow, Leighanna Schwab and Rachel Rogers sponsored a Capstone Project to improve literacy.

PHOTO: CHAMINADE JULIENNE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



GIVE & TAKE

Volunteers John and Mary Claire Bowie and their children have provided leadership and found family renewal at a Marianist retreat center in New Jersey.

BY DEBBIE JUNIEWICZ

Twenty in nearly 20 years. That’s the number of retreats John and Mary Claire Bowie and their children, Robert, Rebecca and Jay, have voluntarily staffed or directed in the last two decades at the Marianist Family Retreat Center in Cape May Point, N.J.

“There hasn’t been a year when one of us wasn’t directing or assisting a retreat. I can’t say enough about Cape May,” says John, acknowledging the significance the retreat center has played in their family life.

The Bowies first heard about Cape May from friends in their church choir who raved about the center.

“They told us about Marianist spirituality,” John says, and the positive effects the retreat had on their children. The Bowies, Philadelphia-area residents, wanted to know more. Their children — then 11, 10 and 7 years old — also were on board.

On their first retreat, the weather was dismal. “It rained almost nonstop,” recalls Mary Claire. But it could not have gone better for the Bowies. “The first time we set foot on the property, everyone was so welcoming,” she says. “The hospitality was incredible. We were thrilled.”

Each year after, the Bowies didn’t miss a retreat. Not that they didn’t experience their own family growing pains. “Nothing about raising teenagers is easy,” Mary Claire says. “There is so much you don’t control — when they are out with friends, the decisions they make — you’re just praying that they make the right choices.”

That’s where family retreats can make a difference. “The families are challenged during the course of the week through various activities — pushed outside their comfort zone,” John says. “They must face their relationships with each other and with God.”

That means moments of awkward silence, as well as long, meaningful conversations, tears of frustration and comforting hugs.

“It’s rewarding when you see the differences in the families from the beginning of the week to the end — the connections they make — it’s so wonderful,” Mary Claire says.

Behind the scenes, the Bowies have played important leadership roles at the center. John, an architect, has helped with building projects and maintenance. Both John and Mary Claire, a teacher, have served on the center’s board. John has been so inspired by the retreats that he is studying to become a deacon. “I firmly believe that we have to carry on Christ’s work here,” he says. “As Mary said in John’s Gospel, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’”

While they are now officially empty nesters, their parenting is far from over.

Says Mary Claire, “I think parenting young adults is the most challenging time.”

“We need to be there when they ask questions, or when they’re angry, to be a sounding board,” says John. “We keep our doors open and the lights on and are there whenever they need us.”

Of course, the retreat center isn’t far away, either. ■

To learn more about retreats at the Marianist Family Retreat Center, visit capemaymarianists.org or call 609.884.3829.

PHOTO: CATHY LAFFERTY



John and Mary Claire Bowie on the beach at Cape May

Debbie Juniewicz is a freelance writer from Dayton, Ohio.

“EVERYBODY MAKES THIS WORK”

How one Marianist school's ministry of serving meals to homeless men woke an entire community to the call of service.

BY AMY GEORGE RUSH

Dave McCoy's plate is full. He is a married father of four children and several months into his twenty-third year as an educator at his alma mater, Chaminade College Preparatory School, a Marianist-sponsored school in St. Louis. But every Saturday he makes sure homeless men — whose plates may otherwise go empty — have plenty of good food to eat.

He doesn't feed them alone. Rather, the nourishment is generated with the help of the broader Chaminade community. The common call, “it takes a village,” has been answered here.



ALL PHOTOS: JERRY NAUNHEIM

Chaminade student Dylan Long swaps stories with one of the residents at Father Dempsey's Charities; at right, Chaminade student David Kapatsa serves breakfast.



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The volunteers meet at 8 a.m. to begin breakfast preparation.

An idea takes hold

About eight years ago, Dave visited St. Joseph's College, Chaminade's sister school in Brisbane, Australia, where he witnessed students providing daily breakfast to area homeless. He returned to St. Louis inspired, and wondered if Chaminade could adopt a similar ministry.

Dave connected with Father Dempsey's Charities, a transitional home for men run by the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Since 1906, it has provided a safe home for men who need food, medical treatment, job counseling and help accessing government benefits. The residents pay monthly rent and are given a room equipped with a bed, dresser, nightstand, lamp and bedding. The home provides breakfast and dinner Monday through Friday. But on Saturdays, the meals look different.

"Our students are full of energy and compassion. Father Dempsey's is a great outlet for that. The bonus: We are doing the work Christ called us to do, and we are doing it together."

— Dave McCoy, physical education teacher, Chaminade College Preparatory School

"Everybody makes this work"

For seven years running, members of the Chaminade school community have planned, prepared and served Saturday meals to Father Dempsey's residents — all year long, even when school is not in session. "We started out slowly in 2008," says Dave. "But thanks to a couple of faculty members who got behind the project, interest and commitment grew."

These days, fresh, home-style Saturday dinners are assigned to Chaminade families who sign up for the effort through campus ministry. "Our dads can whip up some pretty great barbecue," Dave says. Since 2011, Dave and the roster of volunteers he

manages also have provided Saturday breakfast to the residents.

As the food ministry grew, so did its support from the Chaminade community. Nearly everyone at the school touches the project at one time or another. School-sponsored food drives generate the necessary pantry goods, like boxes of pancake mix. Different groups of students take turns providing the perishable items, like orange juice and eggs. Entire sports teams — coaches included — sign up to serve as a group. On Sunday mornings, students who live in dorms on Chaminade's campus provide breakfast.

Chaminade's service to Father Dempsey's has inspired projects across the school campus. One student created pencil drawings of a resident for



Since 2011, Dave McCoy and his roster of volunteers have been serving breakfast every Saturday.



an art project. A journalism class created a book of the men's life stories. Students dedicate service hours to painting rooms at the home. Last Christmas, the student body gave gifts to all 75 residents, a tradition that will continue this year thanks to Chaminade's alumni mothers group. "Everybody at the school makes this work," says Dave.

From the heart

Over time, the volunteers and residents have forged relationships with each other that extend well beyond the buffet line. "After we serve breakfast, we take time to hang out with the guys, swap stories," says senior Dylan Long, who has been volunteering regularly at the Saturday breakfast for four years. Bob, a three-year resident of Father Dempsey's, chimes in, "We talk about school, sports, girls — it's not rocket science." Everyone within earshot laughs.

Jokes aside, Martie Aboussie, executive director of Father Dempsey's since 2001, calls Chaminade's volunteers invaluable. "They are sensitive, they have respect for the men and they collaborate with us," he says. The school's widespread commitment to the home "sends a clear message about the importance of service and how critical building character is. These are vital lessons for our men — for all of us."

Jim, a seven-year resident of the home, explains how deeply he appreciates what the school community provides. "The Chaminade people show up from here," he says, pointing to his heart. "Not everyone does that, not everyone has that ability."

Dave, too, is profoundly touched by what he witnesses from the student volunteers week after week. "Our students are full of energy and compassion. Father Dempsey's is a great outlet for that. The bonus: We are doing the work Christ called us to do, and we are doing it together." ■

Amy George Rush is a freelance writer from St. Louis.

Part of the Saturday morning crew: Alex Hammel, 18, Dylan Long, 17, teacher Dave McCoy, David Kapatsa, 16, and Brendan Thro, 18



Dave McCoy enjoys getting to know the residents.

Drawn to a *Life*

Marianist Brother Tom Wendorf shares his early encounters with the Marianists and how personal connections draw people to religious life.

BY JOHN SCHROEDER

Marianist Brother Tom Wendorf's work is not a one-man job. As director of vocations for the Marianist Province of the United States, "I'm often a cheerleader for the Province, to encourage our members to engage in vocation ministry."

Not that he's trying to add items to anyone's to-do list. He knows that attracting others to the religious life requires a personal touch. "It's about sharing our lives with others," he says, noting that it's critical for young men interested in religious life to spend time with professed Marianists. "It's also about helping

ALL PHOTOS: SKIP PETERSON



Brother Tom Wendorf, director of vocations (third from right), with Sister Nicole Trahan, director of vocations for the Marianist Sisters (second from left), and men and women in Marianist formation: Novices Allen Pacquing and Justin Quiroz, Korean aspirant Joo Sung Hyuck Choi, Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch and Gabby Bibeau, prenovices for the Marianist Sisters, and Korean aspirant Peter Sueng Cheol Choi

prospective Marianists consider: ‘How is God calling me? How do I keep God in the picture as I decide what I’m doing with my life?’”

It’s an approach that Brother Tom knows works. He points to his own vocation as evidence.

A visible presence

Growing up in Cleveland — in a family that was “marginally Catholic”— Brother Tom never gave much thought to religious life. Still, he enrolled at the University of Dayton because of a desire to explore his faith more deeply.

Brother Tom knew UD was Catholic, but had no sense it was Marianist until he noticed a curious daily ritual from his dorm room window: “There’d be this long train of brothers walking to and from meals at Kennedy Union.”

That visible presence was the first time he realized religious congregations existed, and it intrigued him enough to dig deeper. He joined the UD Sodality, a student faith-building organization where he and other students met Marianist brothers and sisters. He went on retreats with them and learned about the importance of community. Slowly, he began viewing his life “in the light of faith,” he recalls.

One sodality member, a Marianist aspirant at the beginning of the profession process, invited him to visit a Marianist community at UD. After sharing in a few evening prayers and meals there, he realized he was drawn to the brothers, what they did on campus, and to the community of faith they cultivated. “I started to love the life I experienced with them.”

The attraction deepened as Brother Tom entered and progressed through each stage of formation — from aspirancy to the novitiate and profession of vows. He never experienced a “lightning bolt” moment, confirming a vocation to religious life. But he does remember how a particular question resonated when one of the brothers asked him to consider, “What makes you most deeply happy?”

“It was just an ordinary day,” Brother Tom recalls. “I remember sitting on the porch, reflecting on that question — and it hit me. I realized how God often calls amid the ordinary.”

After professing first vows in 1988, Brother Tom served as an English teacher, starting off at Msgr. Hackett Catholic Central High School in Kalamazoo, Mich. He eventually earned a doctorate and taught English at UD for 10 years before taking the position as director of vocations in 2010.

Among equals

In this role, Brother Tom coordinates the efforts of vocation teams throughout the Province, including the three

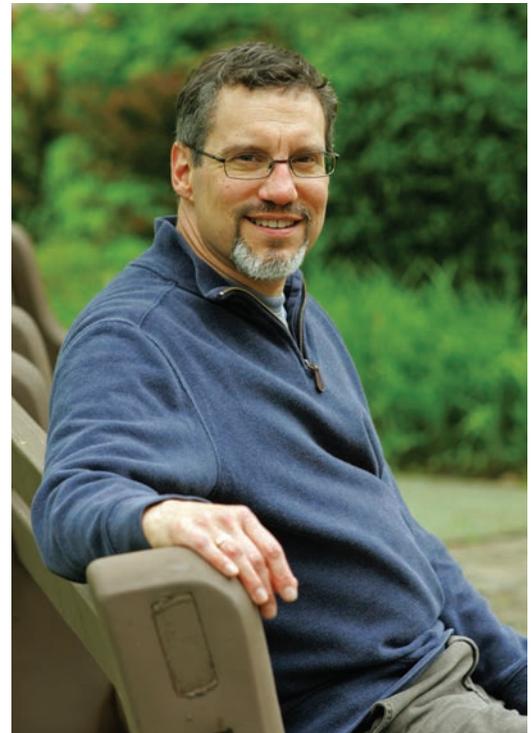
Marianist universities. He also works directly with Marianist “contacts” who are considering religious life.

Among the things he wants contacts to understand are the unique gifts the Society brings to the church. “One is our mixed composition — brothers and priests living, working and ministering together as equals,” he says. “That is unusual in religious communities. As Marianists, our foundational vocation is brotherhood.”

It’s a gift that extends throughout the Marianist Family — to religious sisters and laity, as well. “Collaborating is when we’re at our best,” he says. “People feel they have a voice in our ministries and communities.”

Respect and support among equals are values that animate family spirit and draw people to the Marianists. “It was real enough to draw me in, and real enough to hold and sustain me,” he says. “Now I’m part of sustaining it.” ■

John Schroeder is a freelance writer from St. Louis.



Brother Tom Wendorf, SM

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Growing up *with the* Marianists

From an early age, Marianist Father Paul Landolfi found comfort and a calling through the Marianists.

BY JOHN SCHROEDER

When Father Paul Landolfi, 88, first professed vows in the Society of Mary 70 years ago, he'd already had nearly a decade of Marianist community life under his belt. That's because he'd been living at Saint John's Home, an orphanage in Brooklyn, N.Y., since his mother's death in 1931. He vividly recalls when the Marianists assumed responsibility for the home in 1937.

"The brothers made many good changes. I couldn't help but be drawn to them," he says. Boys got their own lockers to store personal items. They started marking names in their clothing, so that it could be identified as theirs after laundering. "Little things like that meant a lot: We became individuals again."

Even daily prayers grew more appealing through an opt-in system for early-morning Mass. "You'd tie a towel around the bedpost if you wanted to go, and the brothers would then know to wake you," he says. "It was your choice, and that felt great."

To a young teenager, the brothers' concern and encouragement "were tremendous influences," says Father Paul. "People would ask, 'what would you like to be when you grow up?' I'd answer, 'I want to do what the brothers are doing.'"

He began exploring that desire in high school, becoming a postulant at Mount Saint John in Dayton, Ohio, and entering the novitiate in 1944. After finishing college, he taught high school in Covington, Ky., and then for several years in Dayton. Feeling a call

PHOTO: BROTHER RICHARD HARTZ



Father Paul Landolfi, SM

to the priesthood, it came as a shock when his first two requests were denied. "The third time, I asked in the right spirit: It's not about me, but about what God wants," he says.

Ordained in 1950, Father Paul spent the next decade as a high school teacher, community chaplain and principal. Then an assignment as chaplain at the novitiate provided a chance to delve deeply into Marianist spirituality. "I didn't fully understand the Marianist Family before then — that we are all one: brothers, priests, sisters, lay groups."

Father Paul also worked at the Marianist Center in Philadelphia, an initiative that focused on education, counseling and spiritual renewal, for close to two decades before returning to New York in recent years.

Now residing at a Marianist community in Mineola, N.Y., this octogenarian keeps active with faith-sharing groups long associated with Saint John's Residence, the orphanage where he lived. He also serves as liaison to the

Procurator General for Marianist causes — promoting knowledge of candidates for sainthood through articles he writes for *FamilyOnline*, the Marianists' national online newsletter. He's also exploring e-book publishing as a way to garner attention for these candidates.

Father Paul is sanguine about his life, even though his early years were rife with tragedy. He has no reason to fear. "Mary has been leading and guiding me, even when I didn't know it. I trust her," he says. ■

John Schroeder is a freelance writer from St. Louis.

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In Remembrance

For a complete obituary of these Marianists, visit marianist.com/obits



Father Paul Marshall, SM

Father Paul Marshall, SM, 66, died July 17, 2014, in Ranchi, India. Father Paul served on the Provincial Council as assistant for temporalities (finances). He was a committed advocate for social and racial justice and held leadership roles with national black Catholic organizations. Father Paul began his ministry working in youth programs for the City of Dayton as director of the Urban Corps Program. He attended seminary at the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto and was ordained in 1976. Father Paul served as a chaplain and religion teacher at high schools in Ohio before accepting an assignment as pastor of St. Aloysius, a Marianist parish in Cleveland where he served 17 years. In the late 1990s, Father Paul completed studies at Chicago Theological Union and then accepted a position at the University of Dayton as a professor of religious studies. In 2005, Father Paul was named rector of the university, where he remained until his last assignment at the Provincial headquarters.



Brother Thomas Oster, SM

Brother Thomas Oster, SM, 81, died July 12, 2014, in Dayton, Ohio. Brother Tom spent more than three decades in ministry at Matero Boys' School in Lusaka, Zambia. He began his ministry as a working brother, where he served as a cook at the Marcy novitiate and Marianist Preparatory School in Beacon, N.Y. Throughout most of the 1960s, Brother Tom ministered at a variety of Marianist facilities as a cook and maintenance worker. In 1968, he accepted a call to work at Matero Boys' School, a newly formed Marianist school in Zambia, doing maintenance work and groundskeeping. In 1981, he returned to the United States to work in maintenance at Marianist facilities in Baltimore. Brother Tom took a six-year hiatus from Marianist life to discern whether he was suited to life as a Benedictine brother. In the end, he returned to the Marianists and resumed his work in Zambia at Matero Boys' School until poor health required his return to the United States.

Brother Richard Roesch, SM, 91, died Sept. 2, 2014, in San Antonio. Brother Richard began his ministry as an educator, teaching in high schools in Iowa, Maryland and Ohio. In 1946, he moved to Hawai'i and taught at St. Mary's School in Hilo and Saint Louis School, a Marianist school in Honolulu. While in Hawai'i, he earned a master's degree in history. In 1952, he moved to California and taught at Archbishop Riordan High School, a Marianist school in San Francisco. While teaching there, he completed a master's degree in library science. For the remainder of his career, he worked as a librarian at high schools in Hawai'i, Washington and Ohio. In 1981, Brother Richard also earned a master's degree in media. He retired from full-time academic work in 2002 and five years later moved to the Marianist Residence in San Antonio.



Brother Richard Roesch, SM

Father Paul Vieson, SM, 74, died Aug. 8, 2014, in Dayton, Ohio. Father Paul began his Marianist career as a teacher in Ohio before attending seminary in Fribourg, Switzerland. He would wait nearly 14 years to complete additional studies before being ordained in 1984. After seminary, he completed a degree in sacred theology. He continued his studies at the University of Chicago and Saint Louis University, earning master's degrees at both schools. While working on his degrees, he taught at a high school in Michigan. For a period of four years, he continued his studies at the University of Chicago and the University of York in England. In 1981, he served as a professor at the University of Dayton and earned a doctorate in history from the University of Chicago. In 1998, Father Paul was named director of archives for the Cincinnati, Pacific and New York Provinces of the Society of Mary. Beginning in 1987, he also served as an assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish near Dayton, Ohio, a position he held for nearly two decades.



Father Paul Vieson, SM

Memorial: To make a memorial donation in the name of a Marianist, use the envelope enclosed and provide the name of the brother or priest you wish to honor, or go to marianist.com/memorial.

A Retreat on the Move

River cruise pilgrims Mike and Janie Saxe find peace and community on their 11-day Marianist adventure.

BY JOHN SCHROEDER

They'd been to Europe several times, so Mike and Janie Saxe fully expected to see gorgeous sights and meaningful shrines during their river cruise through the Normandy region of France last spring. This time the couple came away with something far more valuable: a deepening appreciation of their faith.

"I feel blessed to be a Catholic, and trips like this bring it home for me," says Janie. "I realized that I'm not alone — our faith spans the whole world." For Mike, the cruise was relaxing and peaceful. The added highlight was "how grateful I am for my Catholic faith and the Marianists," he says.

The Saxes credit Marianist Father David Paul with setting the tone for the experience throughout their 11 days on the River Seine. "He has a special way of bringing us together as one big family," says Mike.

The Marianist group, comprising about a third of the tour's 110 passengers, began most days with Mass in one of the riverboat's two dining areas. The pilgrims typically shared evening meals together, too. By the time the journey ended, "we were like old friends," says Janie.

Scheduled stops provided the chance for day excursions. Among the highlights: A trip to artist Claude Monet's gardens at Giverny; joining the congregation for Mass in French at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris; and the liturgy Father David celebrated for the Marianist

group at the Church of St. Joan of Arc in Rouen. Completed in 1979, the distinctive modern structure incorporates stained glass windows preserved from the city's 16th century church that was destroyed in World War II.

The Saxes were especially touched by the Mass at Rouen, looking out over the site where the saint was martyred in 1431. Both also say they had one of their most spiritually moving encounters at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial overlooking the bluffs on Omaha Beach.

"Mike was one of many veterans on the trip. You could tell the cemetery was very meaningful for all of them. You could read it on their faces," Janie says. "That's also where I found myself praying the hardest."

Part pilgrimage, part vacation, the river cruise turned into a perfect way for the Saxes to celebrate 46 years of marriage — and reconnect with the Marianist culture that has been a valued part of Mike's life since his student

days. "It was like a retreat on the move," says the alumnus of two Marianist schools: McBride High School in St. Louis and St. Mary's University in San Antonio. "I strongly recommend it." ■

John Schroeder is a freelance writer from St. Louis.

PHOTO: CURT DENNISON



Janie and Mike Saxe

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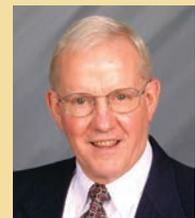
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