

# MISSION

as a sacred trust



#### **Mission Statement**

Urged by the love of Christ, and in the spirit of our founder, Elizabeth Ann Seton, we Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati strive to live Gospel values.

We choose to act justly, to build loving relationships, to share our resources with those in need, and to care for all creation.

#### Sisters of Charity Sponsored Ministries

**Bayley** – a continuing care retirement community that offers a full spectrum of health and wellness lifestyle options.

**Mount St. Joseph University** – a coeducational, Catholic liberal arts university.

### DePaul Cristo Rey High School –

a Catholic, college preparatory high school for young adults with economic need.

**Light of Hearts Villa** – an assisted living facility for senior adults.

**Seton High School** – a comprehensive, Catholic high school for girls.

**St. Joseph Home of Cincinnati** – a residential and respite center for children and adults with severe developmental disabilities.

#### DOING JUSTICE AT

# Mount St. Joseph University

By S. Judith Metz

ount St. Joseph University has, for many years, diligently sought to integrate an awareness of and action for justice into their culture. This effort is addressed to students within the curriculum, and through extra-curricular opportunities. The Office of Mission and Ministry offers opportunities for everyone on campus to be part of this climate and has recognized those who significantly contribute. In addition, members of the Board of Trustees and Alumni are invited to participate in activities oriented to this effort.



Working toward the common good is the focus of the recently adopted Core Curriculum. A "Justice for the Common Good" course is required for every undergraduate student. The Ethical Leadership Development Initiative is both curricular and extracurricular. It "calls individuals and groups into a process of responding with integrity and respect to the needs of individuals, organizations, and society by promoting the common good through their decisions and actions." The Service Learning program has been available for over 20 years. This enables students to confront justice issues on the local level, while mission trips provide this on the national and international level. Athletic coaches and faculty members are always on the lookout for opportunities to immerse students in situations that will broaden their sense of responsibility to act as mature Christians and citizens. For instance, physical therapy students have begun providing pro bono services in a clinic in Price Hill. "We wanted to provide services to those most in need," commented Dr. Karen Holtgrefe.

Institutional priorities such as adopting Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines and annually sponsoring the education of a religious Sister from a developing country are standard practices for the University. The faculty and staff participate in activities such as a Charity Learning Community, mission trips, and pilgrimages such as those described in the News 'N Notes section. New employee orientations are geared toward acquainting recently hired persons to the mission and ministry of the Sisters of Charity and of the University, while new student orientations have the same aim.

Always seeking, always striving, Mount St. Joseph University puts great effort in "doing justice."

## News 'N Notes



(From left) DePaul Cristo Rey students Kaniya Chapple and Noah Sherman.

Two DePaul Cristo Rey students participated in the Austin E. Knowlton Leadership Academy at the College of Mount St. Joseph this spring. Students selected for the academy exemplify the qualities of ethical leadership, integrity, social responsibility, and academic achievement. While learning leadership and communication skills, Kaniya Chapple and Noah Sherman were also able to network with Cincinnati business professionals and students from around the area.

Kaniya Chapple received the academy's highest honor, the Charles D. Lindberg Leadership Award. Another DePaul student, Londyn Logan, received rave reviews from her work-study supervisor at WCPO who praised her as an outstanding intern who, among other things, created a call log that is being implemented for a community outreach project.



St. Joseph Home broke ground in June for its first Community Home. Four individuals with complex medical needs will soon be able to enjoy residential services in a new home where each will receive the maximum level of support they need so that they are valued by, belong to, and fully participate in their community. Michael Rench, CEO/ president of St. Joseph, commented: "This is an exciting new venture for us and just the beginning! There are so many people within our community who are in need of these services and we are continuing to respond to those needs."

This new service will give new residents opportunities to reach their full potential – allowing possibilities to truly become realities!

Twenty Seton High School students and six chaperones recently returned from a mission trip to New Orleans. One student evaluated her experience: "This was my first time on a mission trip and I loved every part of it – whether we were exploring the city to learn about the culture of New Orleans, spending all day hard at work, or attending services at church. Doing all of this with my Seton sisters was a great bonding experience." This trip was part of a larger program that offers many Seton students the opportunity to provide community service locally, in other areas of the US and abroad. Besides assisting those in need, the students are also enabled to broaden their horizons through these experiences.



Faculty and staff of MSJU engaged in a pilgrimage/ retreat to Emmitsburg, Maryland, in June.

Being awarded a two-year grant from NetVUE has allowed Mount St. Joseph University to sponsor mission and pilgrimage trips for students, faculty and staff designed to deepen their understanding of the Charity charism. While a group of students traveled to the House of Charity in New Orleans to assist in restoring housing destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, faculty and staff engaged in a pilgrimage/retreat to

Emmitsburg, Maryland, the site of founding of St. Elizabeth Seton's Sisters of Charity. John Trokan, coordinator of the program, noted: "In terms of the meaning of a charity education, we all need to own it. We are the living link in terms of the charism and how it is lived out on campus." The group who visited the St. Elizabeth Seton Shrine as well as other sites associated with the life of the early Sisters of Charity were enthusiastic about the experience, feeling that it touched their lives and will make a difference in their ministry at the University.

#### **Prayer to St. Louise** de Marillac

Lord, help me to imitate your way of living and acting; you said that you have come upon earth to serve, not to be served. Teach me to show great gentleness toward all, to imitate



your goodness in welcoming them. Like you, I want to love tenderly, to be very respectful to all those I meet, to be affable and gentle to those in greatest need. Lord, teach me to maintain always great esteem for my neighbor.

Amen.

#### Words of Wisdom

"Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveler who has been attacked. It is Justice's role to prevent the attacks."

- Frédéric Ozanam (founder of St. Vincent de Paul Society)

Mission is the electronic newsletter of the Corporation Board for Sponsored Ministries of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. To unsubscribe click here.



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