MISSION
as a sacred trust

Embracing Excellence
By S. Mary Ann Flannery

In 1920, Mount Saint Joseph College-on-the-Ohio began its first fall semester immediately following the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote. Founding a women’s college at the time, was a stroke of wisdom and a practical insight to the emerging need of an educated force once voiceless. While we are two years away from celebrating the 100th anniversary of these two momentous events, the Mount has begun strategically planning for the acknowledgement of a century of educating women and men to “… embrace excellence in academic endeavors … and service to others” (Mission Statement).

The plan, called Transformation 2025, includes constructing some new buildings beginning with a new Recreation and Fitness Center, and making renovations in existing ones all taking place between 2020 and 2025. Dr. Williams and his Advancement Staff are working to secure the funds needed to begin this project.

Recently, the Mount was recognized as a “College (University) of Distinction” by the National Colleges of Distinction which rates schools on “Engaged Students; Great Teaching; Vibrant Community, and Successful Outcomes.” Further good news celebrates the 98.5 percent of last year’s graduates who are either employed or in graduate school, and the 100 percent pass rate of students who took the National Physical Therapy Exam.

This year’s challenge from the Corporation Board for Sponsored Ministries is once again, Care for Creation, something the Mount has taken seriously in its classes and, now, in its planning of new buildings. For instance, the proposed Recreation and Fitness Center is on pace to become the first “net zero energy-use building” among the nation’s schools of higher learning. Other initiatives in caring for creation include faculty outreach activities such as volunteering at Imago Earth Center in Price Hill and, along with President Williams, joining the team of Mount students repairing and rebuilding homes in New Orleans.

The Environmental Science course, taught by Dr. Jamie Titus, Associate Professor of Chemistry, has focused on how to research for accurate information on environmental concerns from the scientific, ethical, and human centered perspectives. Students have visited the Richard Miller Water Treatment Plant, EarthConnection, The Main Sewer District, the Miami Fort Power Plant, and other places to learn how regional waste products are handled and recycled and how the Earth is damaged by reckless attention to profit over human, animal safety and care for the Earth.
Bayley following the recognition of those who work and volunteer to make the organization what it is today. In April, Bayley honored 165 volunteers who selflessly share their time and talents. Together they provided 15,999 hours of service by assisting residents, helping with office work and facilitating activities and events with staff. Bayley celebrated National Nursing Home Week during the third week of the month with special entertainment and programs. The Enrichment Center was transformed into Cincinnati’s famed Moonlight Gardens for family night and the ever-popular staff, volunteer, resident and member talent show took place.

DePaul Cristo Rey High School involving a major campus transformation. On May 22, school supporters, students and leaders, including S. Joan Cook, SC, broke ground in the ceremonial start of a major construction project. This summer work begins on the first phase, a new cafeteria/gymnasium. The transformation is possible thanks to the overwhelming support of DPCR’s first capital campaign, Building. Futures. Together. For a Greater Cincinnati. Within two years, there will be two new buildings, a reconfigured campus entrance, new parking, and the space and resources to support the academic, social and post-graduation needs of students.

Seton High School where students, including Mrs. Ann Jett’s Anatomy and Physiology class and AP Biology class, recently went to Beacon Orthopaedics for an upper extremity lab. “Beacon created an opportunity for me to experience possible careers that I am interested in, and I really enjoyed being able to get hands-on understanding of the complexity in the field,” said junior Morgan Maloney. The lab was engaging and gave students unique opportunities. “I am so grateful for the Beacon experience. I have always wanted to be in the healthcare field and this field trip has strengthened that interest,” said junior Shannon Cavanaugh. “We worked with an arthroscope and learned how to do stitches. This opportunity was so beneficial and I feel like I am a step ahead when it comes to college because of this exposure.”

St. Joseph Home’s Pediatric Ventilator Unit. Working with the staff physical therapist, Joseph uses a stander that allows him to improve his bone density, muscle tone, gastro-intestinal function as well as socialization. Joseph is able to interact with the world from another perspective rather than just his wheelchair. Recently, Ray, a retired engineer volunteering for a nonprofit organization known as May We Help, adapted a battery-powered race car that Joseph can operate by using a push switch with his hand. You can see by the huge smile on his face that he’s loving it! This amazing mobility device is just one example of the innovative technology and equipment that residents, respite guests and day program participants benefit from. Communication devices, mobility equipment such as standers, gait trainers and adaptive tricycles as well as life-enhancing medical equipment are provided only through the financial support from foundations, organizations and donors.

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”
- St. Louise de Marillac