MSJU Builds Loving Relationships in Many Ways

By S. Mary Ann Flannery

Upper-class student leaders at Mount St. Joseph University have initiated a program with first-year students examining topics designed to “build loving relationships” at the start of university life.

Both groups meet overnight at a retreat center and examine three topics through discussion and reflection: Transitions, Moving Forward, and Taking Chances. The topics encourage students to analyze how they relate to parents, siblings, friends, and teachers. Student leaders share how they have developed relationships within the Mount community and the importance of developing these relationships for a successful collegiate career and for lifelong friendships.

Metanoia and Agape retreats are offered for upper classmen in which relationship with God is contextualized in how one gets along with others. An exciting new venture called Camino is getting underway for students eager to form small faith communities. These communities will be student led but under the guidance of a campus minister for weekly meetings. S. Nancy Bramlage of campus ministry says, “The hope is that they (students) will create community among themselves and find support … in their faith journey.”

Faculty and staff have participated in a mission trip to New Orleans where they worked with the Sisters of Charity at the House of Charity rebuilding homes damaged during Hurricane Katrina 10 years ago.

The pilgrimage to Emmitsburg, Maryland, covered by a two-year grant and led by S. Judy Metz has brought faculty and staff to the sacred grounds where St. Elizabeth Ann Seton began her ministry in education and care for the sick poor.

Participants in both programs have returned with a more profound appreciation for the charism of the Sisters of Charity in which the Mount is deeply rooted.

In the past two years, the Mount community has faced the untimely deaths of several staff, students and faculty. Memorializing these persons and offering comfort to families and friends—as only the Mount can do—reinforces the genuine “building of loving relationships” that characterizes Mount Saint Joseph University.
**Good News From ...**

**DePaul Cristo Rey High School** following the success of the school’s fourth annual Golf Classic. One-hundred golfers participated to raise more than $62,000 in tuition assistance for DPCR students.

On Aug. 6, DPCR students paired with local professionals for brief introductory sessions to help the students practice “soft skills” such as handshaking, making introductions and appropriate eye contact. The skills are important for students to enter the Greater Cincinnati professional community.

**Mount Saint Joseph University** where an open house was held on Aug. 19 at the new Center for Health Sciences on Neeb Road. The building was remodeled from physician offices to accommodate the Mount’s programs in physical therapy, physician assistance, and nursing. Not all health classes will be held there but the building helps immensely.

A “Charity Learning Community,” initiated by Dr. John Trokan, will afford faculty, staff and board members an opportunity “…to deepen their understanding of and their commitment to the Charity heritage, values, traditions that make MSJU a special educational community.”

**St. Joseph Home** following record-breaking proceeds from the 2015 St. Joseph Home Golf Classic on Aug. 24. Sponsors, donors, friends, families, volunteers, staff, board members, community ambassadors, vendors, in-kind supporters, participants and committee members were all responsible for the sold-out crowd and successful outing.

**Seton High School** where a group of students and faculty went on their sixth annual mission trip to Guatemala this summer. Students donated over 1,000 pounds of clothing, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and shoes to the children’s home; they also took sweatshirts to be given to them at Christmas. In addition, some faculty and students also went on mission trips to New Orleans, Louisiana, and Liberty, Kentucky. Several students spent time at Stepping Stones with children of disabilities. Staff and students will continue with the community garden throughout the year working with neighbors and other students from various schools.

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**Words of Wisdom**

“If you grant asylum to refugees, your house may be sacked by soldiers. The question is, however, whether because of this danger, you should refuse to practice such a beautiful virtue as charity.”

- St. Vincent de Paul

“The gate of heaven is very low; only the humble can enter.”

- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

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