This year marks the 100th anniversary of Mount Saint Joseph University, known in the beginning as Mount Saint Joseph College on the Ohio. The kickoff for the year’s events was Sept. 14, 2019 with Archbishop Dennis Schnurr celebrating Mass in Mater Dei, the university chapel. Other events that day included an art show at San Giuseppe Gallery, a festival in the quad, and fireworks later in the evening. A full schedule of events throughout the year are on the university website, https://www.msj.edu/about/centennial/.

In 1920, 20 young women had enrolled in the first Catholic college for women in Southwestern Ohio whose classes were held in the current Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati and in the attached building, Seton Hall. The college remained all-women until 1986 and underwent an historic name change to Mount Saint Joseph University in 2014 based on the growing number of graduate courses being offered.

Since 1959 when the administration of the College was terminated as the responsibility of the Mother General of the Congregation, seven presidents have served, three of which were Sisters of Charity: S. Maria Corona Molloy, 1959-'67; S. Adele Clifford, 1967-'72; and S. Jean Patrice Harrington, 1977-'87. Ursuline Sister Frances Marie Thraillkill served from 1987-'08. Three laymen have served in this role: Robert Wolverton, 1972-'77; Tony Aretz, 2008-'15; and the current President H. James Williams. S. Maria Corona oversaw the creation of the new campus beginning with the construction of the first building in 1960 and its dedication on May 1, 1963. Several more buildings have appeared over the years, each one marking a particular need of the time. President Williams has energized his faculty, staff, and board to assure that our newest building, the Recreation and Fitness Center, has become a reality as construction began this summer purposely coinciding with the anniversary.

During these 100 years, the primary focus of the university has been the development and education of young people in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the charism of the Sisters of Charity, and respect for and education in other faiths and forms of spirituality. The school year began with the annual Mass of Holy Spirit for the entire campus. The former Sisters’ chapel has been reconfigured under the direction of S. Karen Elliott, C.P.P.S., director of Mission Integration, into a space for interdenominational prayer and reflection.

The current Mount facts include: 612 full and part-time faculty, 1,448 undergraduate students, 551 graduate students, and 169 doctoral students. There are 18 graduate programs and two doctoral programs. In a recent survey, more than 98 percent of the 2018 graduates with a bachelor's degree report they are successfully employed, in graduate school or volunteering within six months of graduation. With our visionary strategic plan, Transformation 2025, moving us into the future,“(we) will embrace, augment, and amplify student experiences … to ensure our graduates are well-prepared for (the 21st century).”

We are on a grace-filled trajectory to fulfill that vision for the next 100 years!
Bayley after the success of “Understanding Dementia Care” by Teepa Snow. The presentation was co-sponsored by Bayley, the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, and Mount St. Joseph University on Sept. 11. Teepa Snow is one of America’s leading educators on dementia. Her two programs, “Challenging Behaviors in Dementia Care” and “Creative and Practical Tips for Getting Through the Day,” were tremendously useful for both professional caregivers and those with a loved one with dementia. The Memory Support Care program at Bayley is staffed by professionals trained in Teepa’s methods. Sponsorships helped to make the event free and open to the public.

DePaul Cristo Rey High School as students are enjoying the new Bruin Café, performing arts space, gymnasium, locker rooms, and other new spaces in the Student Center that opened just in time for the start of the new school year in August. The Student Center construction was funded through DPCR’s successful first capital campaign. A second building phase is now underway with a three-story academic building under construction.

Seton High School where sophomores, juniors and seniors in AP Art, Advanced Drawing & Design, Painting and Photography classes are currently working on the “Wrap Up Warsaw” contest with the East Price Hill Neighborhood Enhancement Program and Price Hill Will. Saints, along with some other schools in the area, are creating artwork to submit for a contest in which the winning design will be digitized, enlarged and wrapped around utility boxes in Price Hill. “As a teacher and artist, getting our art students involved in the local community is always a wonderful learning experience,” said Seton art teacher Margie Meiners Metz ’94.

St. Joseph Home following the opening of its second Day Program in Sharonville, called DP – Sharonville. “The heart of DP - Sharonville beats for community involvement,” said Colton Mehlman, community connector site manager. The program’s mission is to facilitate participant-driven experiences that take place outside of the building 50 percent of the time. By consistently supporting community engagement and presence, staff hopes that all involved will gain a heightened sense of belonging and growth. SJH is grateful to the Sisters of Charity for their generous support of this new program’s launch! “People who want to volunteer or find employment, who can and want to be in the park for three hours, extroverts who desire more time devoted to building relationships – these are the people that will find this new program to be a great match,” Mehlman added.