Since its founding in 1920 by the Sisters of Charity, Mount St. Joseph University has served the community for more than 100 years. Its initial programs were focused on nursing and education, both needed to ensure a strong body and mind, and provide training to serve all, especially marginalized and underserved populations. The School of Education has kept this mission at the heart of their recent innovations.

These innovations are inclusive of the school’s efforts to uphold the ethics and values of the Sisters of Charity as reflected in the school’s service to non-traditional students and many first-generation college students through academic support, flexible scheduling, and online learning. The School of Education has been working with Cincinnati State Career and Technical College to provide community college students pathways to complete their bachelor’s degrees and earn their teaching credentials.

To make sure that all candidates are the best-prepared teachers possible, the School of Education offers the first and only dual education licensure program in special education (mild/moderate and moderate/intense) K-12 and early childhood education P-5 in the State of Ohio. Students earning this dual licensure degree at the Mount will be qualified to instruct all students in P-5 classrooms, including those with special education needs, as well as students with disabilities in grades 6-12. This innovative program, helped by a $200,000 grant from the Ohio Deans Compact, illustrates an important shift in education that suggests educators should be equipped to teach all students in inclusive settings, including students with disabilities.

Dual licensure programs are just one example of how education can serve as the “great equalizer” in our society, providing opportunity and understanding to all people, rich and poor, including those who are marginalized and underserved. Preparing teachers to use high impact and evidence-based practices in teaching reading can close the existing opportunity gaps that exist due to a child’s arbitrary circumstances such as their race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. The School of Education has made sure that the tenets of the Science of Reading are embedded in all its undergraduate and graduate initial teacher preparation programs. These efforts have been recognized by the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) who awarded the School of Education an A+ rating for teacher preparation in early reading; only 18 universities across the United States have received this designation.

Through innovation and foci on inclusive and evidence-based practices, as well as individualized attention provided to their students, the School of Education continues to change lives, impact communities, and transform the world.
Furthering the Mission

As Bayley is now a Laudato Si’ community, we are continuing to expand our sustainability efforts as we care for all God’s creation. We also strive to continue to help those in need by sharing our resources. We have a growing committee of staff members who meet regularly to develop ways to reduce waste, increase recycling and reuse, reduce energy use, and encourage staff to continue these practices at home. As part of these efforts, we recently removed many fixtures from a small building we own that was being demolished and took a truckload of these items to donate to Habitat for Humanity. This is part of an ongoing process, which occurs whenever we have materials that can be repurposed or valuable to those in need.

DePaul Cristo Rey High School’s President Siobhan Taylor announced that James Schurrer will begin his new role as principal of the high school on July 1, 2022. Mr. Schurrer is currently the Dean of Faculty, an English teacher, and a coach at Cincinnati’s St. Xavier High School. Ready to begin his new role at DPCR, he says, “DePaul Cristo Rey’s mission lives at the intersection of faith and action, and I am humbled to help lead this school into the future. With our dedicated faculty and staff, we will strengthen our students’ experiences as we create transformational opportunities and build the kingdom of God in Cincinnati.”

There were some sweet St. Patrick’s Day surprises from Seton High School for the Sheakley Boys and Girls Club thanks to the Seton Helping Saints philanthropy club. Students made treat bags to put smiles on the kids’ faces who attend the club after school. “Seton is full of spirit and it is always great to share that spirit with others,” said Seton senior Olivia Mohs, who is also the president of the Seton Helping Saints club. “Being able to do this small act of service for the Boys and Girls Club not only brought smiles to the faces of those involved, but grew my appreciation for Seton and the surrounding communities.”

Two years after being forced to close by COVID-19, the Harold C. Schott Respite Center, on the campus of St. Joseph Home, is again open, though on a limited basis at first. The Center serves families who care in their homes for a loved one with developmental disabilities and complex medical support needs, providing short-term care for children and adults who may stay two to 14 days and receive 24/7 care in a bright, homelike environment. The Center serves about 100 families a year from throughout the Tri-State area and beyond.

St. Joseph Home President and CEO Dan Connors said, “Every day during the pandemic we had calls from families who urgently needed this assistance. We are grateful that conditions have improved so we can begin to resume this service. As COVID conditions permit, we anticipate gradually expanding both the length of stay, and the number of guests we can accommodate over the coming months until we are at full capacity again.”

Words of Wisdom

“When God wants an undertaking to succeed, God causes all these obstacles gradually to disappear.”
- St. Vincent de Paul

“I say things a hundred times better than I do them.”
- St. Louise de Marillac

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