



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

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A Catholic university
in the Marianist tradition

Coming together

People come together at the University of Dayton. Faculty, staff and students gather in classrooms and laboratories, in residence

halls and houses, in atriums and on porches, in hallways and on plazas, in the University of Dayton Arena and in the Immaculate Conception Chapel.

From different continents and different cultures, they come to a Catholic school in Dayton, Ohio. They come together here to learn, to pursue truth, to pass on what is known and to advance knowledge across the frontier of the unknown.

The University of Dayton, as a community, dedicates itself to each individual member of that community so that each member can grow to learn, to lead, to serve — to make a difference.

To describe UD as “big school, small school” extends beyond slogan or cliché. In size and in attitude, UD sees itself as small enough to be a cohesive community and big enough to provide the resources so diverse members of that community may flourish.

Honoring our roots

Much of what is essential to the University of Dayton, including its emphasis on community, has roots in its Catholic, Marianist identity. The University of Dayton was founded in 1850 by the Society of Mary, a Roman Catholic religious order of brothers and priests, itself founded in France in 1817. The University uses the Catholic intellectual tradition to combine the strengths found in liberal arts colleges with those found in research universities to form a distinctive learning community.

Cultivating an educational tradition

The University of Dayton draws inspiration from the Marianist tradition of education, which includes the following characteristics:

- Educating the whole person in a learning community, one that challenges and supports, one that offers the opportunity for growth in religious faith
- Developing a family-like educational community
- Connecting learning to leadership and service
- Working together for adaptation and change

The ability to adapt has been a part of Marianist tradition from the start. The founder of the Society of Mary, the Rev. William Joseph Chaminade, declared, “New times call for new methods.”

To be human

All UD students pursue a general education curriculum that asks, “What does it mean to be human?” As students explore possible answers to that question, they benefit from the thousands of years of intellectual and spiritual tradition of the church and the academy; the curriculum’s inter-connected humanities base has religious studies and philosophy components as well as English and history.

Students also connect learning as they study their major fields. They explore the connections among disciplines, learn to integrate theory with the realities of professional practice, and come to see themselves as individuals connected by bonds of community.

Throughout their UD years, students connect, integrate and evaluate information. In doing so, they prepare for a life of leadership and service; they grow not only in knowledge, skills and professional competence, but also as morally responsible decision makers who are aware of the needs of the global community.

Students interact and thus learn in an environment

shaped by all who work at the University. All who work at the University teach students and each other by example, by competency in their jobs and by respect and care for one another. Those who work at the University can be living examples of how individuals coming together in community make connections between the world of work and the world of learning, between the practical and the theoretical, between their beliefs and their actions, between the University and the broader community.

To be a Catholic university

By tradition, charter and intent, the University of Dayton is a Catholic and Marianist institution.

In the Catholic vision of education, the universe is one. Thus, the human and the divine, knowledge and faith, are joined in the pursuit of truth. The freedom of the Gospel and the freedom of the academy enhance each other. If those at UD see conflicts between faith-based claims and the reasonable investigations of academic disciplines, they do not reject faith or reason but work to discover how to understand how the conflicts are to be resolved. Pope John Paul II has declared that a Catholic university pursues truth “without fear but rather with enthusiasm, dedicating itself to every path of knowledge.” The University of Dayton sees this dedication not as limiting but as inspiring.

Catholics believe that God is present in all persons. Seeing God in all people, members of the UD community respect the dignity of all individuals.

Because of its Catholic and Marianist nature, the University of Dayton welcomes the presence and work of people from other religious traditions (of all people of good will) in discovering what is true, cherishing what is good and enjoying what is beautiful.

Marianist facts

■ The Marianist Family: A community of communities is one way to describe the Marianist family. This community is composed of members of the Society of Mary, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and lay Marianists who recognize their common bond in the Marianist spirit.

■ William Joseph Chaminade: A diocesan priest who worked with lay men and women in communities (called sodalities) to re-establish the Catholic faith in post Revolutionary France. These communities were the forerunners of the Society of Mary (S.M.). Faith-sharing communities continue in the Marianist tradition.

■ Adel de Batz de Trenquellon: Chaminade’s contemporary who founded the Marianist sisters also known as the Daughters of Mary (F.M.I.). Several members of the Daughters of Mary serve as staff and faculty members at UD.

■ Lay Marianists: Women and men of all ages and backgrounds, who are inspired by the Marianist founders and committed to enflaming the Marianist charism.

■ Marie Therese de Lamourous: Chaminade’s closest collaborator for more than 40 years. Her model of servant leadership continues to be an inspiration to all the Marianist family.

■ Other Marianist-sponsored universities in the United States: St. Mary’s University in San Antonio and Chaminade University in Honolulu.

To be a welcoming people

For years, people coming to campus have remarked on how welcoming a place UD is. This is not by accident, for hospitality is a characteristic in the Marianist tradition. To keep the Catholic and Marianist flame alive is the principal charge of the rector, a vowed Marianist who reports to the president. In keeping with Marianist hospitality, the office of the rector collaborates with the office of human resources and the office of the provost in orienting new employees. The office also sponsors an annual Marianist Heritage Celebration, which

features educational, spiritual and social events. In addition to those events, the office of the rector host new employee dinners to introduce new employees to the Marianist history at the University of Dayton.

What does it mean for me?

For those working at UD, its Catholic, Marianist identity has different impacts for different jobs. For a campus minister or a professor of humanities, it can mean seeing that thousands of years of tradition daily affect one’s profession. For all at UD, it means being a part of a welcoming and supportive institution committed both to being a community and to seeing value in each of its members. It means being a part of a community with a tradition of seeking not only to educate but ultimately to transform the world into a place of justice for all. Each person who works at UD has an opportunity similar to that provided to its students — to learn, to lead, to serve.

On the Web

Web sites that contain information about UD’s Catholic and Marianist mission include:

■ The University of Dayton’s Strategic Plan 2006 approved by the Board of Trustees October 2006 is at <http://provost.udayton.edu>.

■ For more on the history of the Society of Mary, see <http://www.marianist.org>.

■ UD’s Marianist site, <http://marianist.udayton.edu>.

For more information:

Call the office of the rector, (937) 229-4122.