

In the Beginning . . .

In 1850, Father Leo Meyer, S.M. purchased the Dewberry Farm in Dayton from John Stuart. In promise of full payment, he offered the Scotsman a St. Joseph's medal as collateral. That first act of faith has characterized the efforts of the Society of Mary and their collaborators as the University of Dayton seeks to become a national leader in Catholic higher education.

THE MARIANIST TRADITION

The Society of Mary, a religious congregation of Priests and Brothers, which established and sponsors the University of Dayton, was founded at Bordeaux, France in 1817 by Father William Joseph Chaminade. The Society is a part of a larger Family of Mary which includes the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, Marianist Sisters, who were founded in Agen, France in 1816 by Adele de Batz de Trenquellion in collaboration with Father Chaminade, and dedicated individuals and communities of lay men and women whose work is inspired by this encompassing Marianist vision.

The spirit of the Marianist Family is identified by these five characteristics: education for formation in faith; an integral quality education; educate in family spirit, educate for service, justice and peace; and educate for adaptation and change. Open to people of all backgrounds, Marianist education seeks to develop in students not only competence but also a sense of community: people living, working, and praying together to focus their energy and attention beyond the boundaries of their immediate community, serving as witnesses to the Gospel in the world. For inspiration and guidance in all these tasks, Marianist communities look to and celebrate the relationship between Jesus and Mary.

At the University of Dayton, students will experience the different branches of the Marianist Family and the Marianist spirit in various ways. Vowed and non-vowed Marianists collaborate at every level of the university life and structure. These men and women are undergraduate as well as graduate students; they are faculty, staff, and administrators. From the ranks of the students to the executive level, Marianists are present everywhere. In the midst of the predominantly student neighborhood, the majority of the vowed religious employed at the University live in houses of four to six members. This housing situation is done purposefully in order to provide an opportunity for on-going interaction among teachers and students, staff and co-workers. Because our learning village is composed of diverse peoples, this mingling is one of the ways in which the academic, social, spiritual, and physical lives of members are drawn into the University community.

The University of Dayton is part of a global Marianist network. UD graduates are involved in communities of the Marianist Family throughout the world. Each January, focused around the celebration of Chaminade Day on the 22nd, this international dimension and the vision of the Marianist Founders are highlighted during the many events of Marianist Heritage Celebration.

THE UNIVERSITY SEAL

The flaming torch on the seal of the University symbolizes the light and guidance of Faith. An open book represents the College of Arts and Sciences and its liberalizing influence on the professional schools of the University. The gear conveys the idea of the School of Engineering, a professional unit of the University. Strongly lighted over the flame of the torch the letter "M" proclaims the Marian spirit of the Society of Mary (Marianists), the religious order of men which conducts the University. The "M" likewise recalls the original name of the University, Saint Mary's Institute. "Pro Deo et Patria" (For God and Country), the motto of the University, expresses the ideal of service and the proper order to be followed in that service.

The figure "1850" in the outer rim of the seal is the foundation date of the school. The name, UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON, was adopted in 1920. The combination of red and blue, the school colors, repeats the theme of loyalty toward country and love of Mary, the Mother of God. The blue may also stand for truth and the red for charity to all.

The idea of completeness of education, religious, moral, intellectual, aesthetic, social and physical, is revealed in the circular shape of the seal itself. The circle likewise symbolizes continuity of purpose and the perpetual service of the Society of Mary.

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

The members of the University of Dayton Corporation retain for themselves the right to make final determination over those matters related to the private character of the University and have delegated full governing authority over the University to the Board of Trustees. The primary function of the Board of Trustees is to evolve and evaluate the basic objectives and broad policies of the institution. The Board has delegated executive authority to the President and the right to formulate academic policies in areas of its competence to the University faculty.

COUNCILS, BOARD AND COMMITTEES

Participation in the decision-making process of the University is encouraged on all levels of policy making. Students, faculty, staff and administrators serve as members of committees and councils in the University. A large number of councils, boards and committees assist in advising and recommending University policies and procedures or are involved in due process in the University.

If students wish to serve on committees which are not composed solely of elected members, they are encouraged to submit their name to the Office of the Provost (St. Mary 212). To be chosen, students must be in good standing, i.e., not probation of any kind, with the University and its policies.