A Message from the Provincial

Dear Friends,

In our last issues we featured Sisters in education and pastoral ministries. This time we focus on those who work at Marian High School, the school we founded and sponsor that is located on our Motherhouse grounds.

For years it was the dream of the Servants of Mary to establish a school for young women in the Omaha area. Their dream became a reality when in 1955, the new wing to the Motherhouse and Marian High School were opened. The Sisters founded the school, staffed it and even cleaned it in the early days. Marian has grown from its first graduating class of 43 to now approximately 680 students. It is a college preparatory school that has been recognized twice by the U.S. Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School of Academic Excellence. It is Nebraska’s only Class A girls’ high school and recently won for the fourth year in a row the Nebraska School Activities Association All-Activities Award.

As its founders, the Servants of Mary have a special relationship with Marian. We have a responsibility and active concern that goes beyond the concept of ownership. The education at Marian is carried on in the Servite tradition. In other words, the values, history and traditions of the Servants of Mary are passed on to the employees, students and broader Marian community. As is stated in their website (marianhighschool.net), “Devotion to Mary, the mother of God, compassionate leadership and service to others are at the core of Marian’s being. Because Marian is the living extension of our sponsors, the Servants of Mary, Marian girls become spiritually-grounded women of character.”

During the past school year, I worked closely with Mrs. Susan Toohey, Head of School, and the members of the Charism Committee to ensure that the tradition and values of the Servants of Mary filter through all aspects of a Marian education. Classes on Servite history were developed and will be taught to each grade level every year. New Board members and staff members are given an overview of the community and tour of the Motherhouse as part of their orientation. This past September 15, the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, each of the class hallways was dedicated featuring significant places in Servite history. We write monthly letters in the Parent Newsletter updating parents on community happenings and inviting them to events at our Servite Center.

We Servants of Mary take great pride in sponsoring Marian High School. As you will see on the following pages, a number of our Sisters are still present at the school. Many more Sisters are actively involved in such programs as the “Adopt a Senior Prayer Program,” or through the (Continued next page)
hospitality shown by the Motherhouse community to the Marian staff and students when they come to the Servite Center, chapel or Healing Garden. In turn, the Sisters are always acknowledged and welcomed at the liturgies and events at Marian.

The mission of Marian is to commit all its resources to the college preparatory education of young women, teaching them to be leaders and lifelong learners in a society where their talents and faith will give hope to the world. Throughout its history, Marian has reflected the values set forth by the Servants of Mary. Marian’s core values come from the mission and charism of the Sisters. Helping young women become faith-filled, confident, competent leaders in today’s world is what Marian is all about. These gifts are exemplified through the lives of the Sisters as well as through our partners on the Marian staff and countless benefactors and supporters. Together we empower Marian students to be successful in whatever walk of life they are called.

God bless you,

Sr. Mary

The American Province of the Order of Servants of Mary proudly opened the doors of Marian High School over fifty years ago and established a relationship that continues today. Sisters who taught, were principal, have ministered or are currently ministering at the school maintain a Servite presence.

Sr. Joan Houtekier, OSM (Sr. M. Corrine,) says she has been “recycled” at Marian High School three times. She has taught biology and religion, been in Administration and served as Alumnae Director. Currently she is a full-time Marian Minister, working with students, parents, staff and alumns of the extended Marian Community. She visits the sick and attends funerals of alumnae or student family members. She helps facilitate student retreats and assists in planning all-school and class Masses. Sister also plans opportunities for staff, parents and alumns including morning prayer, faith-sharing groups using spiritual books, and Lenten at-home retreats. “I work with lots of creative and faith-filled young women in this area. They are
great! I am very grateful to minister at Marian at this time of my life,” says Sr. Joan.

Sr. Mary Ellen Doyle, OSM began her ministry at Marian in 2001 assisting in the religion department and in campus ministry. As Community Minister at Marian High School, her current projects include coordinating lunch at the convent for senior religion class students (see photo) and planning parties with students and Sisters at the Motherhouse.

Sr. Suzanne Vandenheede, OSM is serving her sixth year as Marian Minister. She visits sick students, family members and alumns and attends funerals. Once a month she offers relaxing hand massages to teachers and Marian personnel. “I enjoy my time at Marian,” says Sr. Suzanne. “It is inspiring to witness the Marian Spirit.”

Sr. Marianna De Simone, OSM (Sr. M. Gemma,) Sr. Caroline Turnovsky, OSM, and Sr. Mary Anna Vintland, OSM minister in the Marian High School Advancement Office. Sr. Marianna
Marian High School Sponsorship

Sr. Caroline Turnovsky, OSM participated in a “Get to Know” project that matched journalism students with Servites. Students interviewed their Sisters and prepared presentation displays.

“Marian High School is my ‘home away from home,’” says Sr. Marianna De Simone, OSM (Sr. M. Gemma.) “The camaraderie among the members builds community.”

Lunch with the Sisters is a treat for lucky religion class Seniors. Sr. Mary Ellen Doyle, OSM invites the drawing winner and her friend to lunch at the convent. (left to right) Anna Rosenlof, Sr. Mary Ellen Doyle, OSM and Sarah Singer.

has taught Spanish and been a guidance counselor at the school. She has worked in the Advancement Office since 2006. Sr. Caroline taught Math and was the Math Department Head at Marian for many years. She is beginning her second year in Marian’s Advancement Office. “If it is true that ‘variety is the spice of life,’” says Sr. Anna, “then I have a very spicy life at Marian High School. I make telephone calls, help with mailings, work on current department projects and anything else that needs to be done.” Sr. Anna has aided the Advancement Office since 1990.

Keeping up with the many database revisions and report requests is a full-time job for Sr. Peggy Miller, OSM. An alum herself, Sister has managed the database in the Marian Advancement Office since 2004.

Three Servants of Mary serve on Marian High School’s Board of Directors. Sr. Ginny Silvestri, OSM (Sr. M. Renee) and Sr. Midge Petersen, OSM (Sr. M. Helene) have just begun their first three-year term. Sr. Margaret Stratman, OSM (Sr. M. Naomi) is beginning the second year of her first term on the Board.

Servite Sisters, Associates and lay staff of Marian High School comprise a Sponsorship Committee which oversees sponsorship activities. The Committee this year includes: Co-Chairs Sr. Mary Gehringer, OSM; Susan Toohey (Head of School;) Sr. Joan Houtekier, OSM (Sr. M. Corrine;) Servite Associate Rose Roeder; two Marian staff members, Mary Baker and Susie Sisson and Mary Zach.

“Sponsorship...conveys the deep sense of responsibility, that bond or promise, which unites sponsor to the operation of a school,” says Sr. Mary Gehringer. United with the Marian High School community, Servites share their charism in the mission and vision of Marian High School.
New Program Promotes Peace

Cultivating Peace Through Nonviolent Relating, a new offering of the Servite Center of Compassion, will “empower us to become persons of peace right where we live and work,” says Sr. Margaret Stratman, one of the program facilitators. “We are exposed to negativity and violence every day, yet we yearn for peace,” continues Sister. “Together we can cultivate it through greater compassion and understanding, the fruits of intentional awareness and practice.”

The four-part program, scheduled in March 2012, invites participants to:

- learn about how and why violence occurs
- discover what we often unconsciously contribute to our relationships
- study communication skills that promote peace and avoid violence
- explore how the dynamics of forgiveness affect our lives.

Program facilitators are Sr. Valeria Lewandoski, OSM, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, spiritual director and Assistant Director of the Servite Center of Compassion; Christine Basque Malloy, facilitator and conflict specialist based in the Omaha area; and Sr. Margaret Stratman, OSM, educator, spiritual director and Director of the Servite Center of Compassion in Omaha, Nebraska.

For more information about Cultivating Peace Through Nonviolent Relating, visit the Servite Center section of our website www.osms.org or contact Sr. Margaret Stratman, OSM at scc@osms.org or (402) 951-3026.

Earlier this year, Sr. Mary Ellen Doyle, OSM was inducted into Holy Name Church’s Hall of Fame. “There was a wonderful spirit of camaraderie and friendship during my fifteen years at Holy Name,” says Sr. Mary Ellen. “I taught in the grade and high schools and was Principal of the grade school, an enormous job with almost 1,000 students and three rooms of split sessions. Nevertheless, everything went well due to the wonderful spirit at Holy Name School.” (left to right) Fr. Frank Baumert, Sr. Mary Ellen Doyle, and two of her former students, Jim Donlan and Thomas Wade.

(left to right) Srs. Ruth Arnott, Mary Hogan (Sr. M. Paul,) Gabriel Lawler, Mary Stephen Durant, Zita Sharrow (Sr. M. Clement,) and Georgene Kyral (who helped organize the event) and Sr. Karen Brown (Sr. M. Claudia) enjoyed the All Class Reunion in September of St. Rose School of Omaha, Nebraska. Servants of Mary staffed the school for almost thirty years.

Sr. Iris Deprez, OSM (Sr. M. Gerald) spoke to former students, staff and friends of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School at their reunion this May in Denver, Colorado. “On behalf of all of our Sisters, I wish you much happiness and a life full of blessing, and a promise that you are in our prayers each day.” Servite Sisters staffed the school from 1926 until it closed in 1971.
Reunion Time!

In June of 2009, the Servants of Mary welcomed back to campus the first graduating class of Marian High School to celebrate its 50 year reunion. It has quickly become a tradition that subsequent classes have anticipated. We were excited to welcome back the Class of 1961 this year. So many reflected on the benefits of being educated in the Servite tradition, while sharing stories of their years at Marian. These first classes defined for future students what it means to be a “Marian Girl.”

We look forward to this June, when we welcome home the Class of 1962.

Servite ’11: Celebrating Partnership

The Servants of Mary recognized attorney Mark Enenbach and the law firm for whom he works, McGrath North, with the Servite ‘11: Celebrating Partnership Award on September 8 at the Omaha Country Club.

The annual event benefiting the Servants of Mary, brought together 140 guests to recognize McGrath North for providing legal services since 1925 and Mark for his 31 years of dedicated service and expertise.

Sr. Mary Gehringer, OSM, Provincial, presented the awards and invited the guests to enjoy the evening.

A special thanks to all of our sponsors and those who donated items for the silent auction. (See the complete list of sponsors and auction item donors on page 10.) Your partnership makes this event possible!

Planned Giving

As with so many major decisions we make in our lifetime, research plays an important role before a final decision is reached. Consumers will take months to research a new car purchase. Prospective home owners study housing trends before deciding whether it’s a good time to buy. And as individuals approach retirement age, they develop a financial strategy that will enable them to have a comfortable lifestyle.

The same can be true when making decisions regarding your philanthropic giving. When developing your giving plan, whether short term or through a planned gift, you may want to consider the following:

1. With whom should you share your gift? Think about your values and how you live your life. Which organization(s) closely embodies these same ideals?

2. How do you know if your choice is a “good fit”? Educating yourself is critical. Make arrangements to visit the organization or charity you are considering. Ask others that are already involved with the organization for their opinions and experiences.

3. Who makes the decisions regarding your gift now and in the future? Make sure to include family members if you want them to embrace your decision. To ensure that your wishes are carried out, be explicit when deciding who can make a change and what circumstances may warrant a change. Having this clearly defined will help the family through the decision making process.

4. How do you plan for the future? By consulting with your family and financial advisors, you will be able to determine the type of gift you wish to make. It may be a one-time gift during your lifetime, you may wish to set up a trust, or perhaps designate the charitable organization as a beneficiary of an insurance policy or retirement plan.

Contributing to the future of a charitable organization is a personal decision based on your life experiences. Take the time to learn about your favorite charity and how they will benefit from your gift.
We gratefully acknowledge the following donations received from April 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011.

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September 1, 2010-August 31, 2011

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In Memory Of

We gratefully acknowledge the following remembrances received from April 16, 2011 through August 31, 2011.

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Bill and Mary Katherine Helget appreciate the chance to meet other Servite benefactors from the Omaha area.

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Partnership Award recipient, Mark Enenbach, and his family take in the view at the country club. (left to right) Jon, Janis, Mark and Matthew Enenbach.
Memorials

Sisters enjoy the evening’s festivities at the annual wine tasting. (left to right) Srs. Justina Tsoku, Margarita Simon, Viola Miksch, Mary Ellen Doyle, Mary Stephen Durant, Roselma Legault, and Carol Kowalski (Sr. M. Julienne.)

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(Left to right) Servite ’10 Partnership Award winner Dr. Susan Scholer, Mikki Frost, and Steve Scholer attend this year’s award presentation.
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Memorials

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(left to right) Deena Murphy, Michele Gehringer, Diane Murphy reminisce about past Partnership events.
In Honor Of  We gratefully acknowledge the following remembrances received from April 16, 2011 through August 31, 2011.

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Ellen Jackson
Phyl and Gene Zimmerman
Sr. Carol Kowalski, OSM
1. _________ Marie Guyot leads a group of teachers to open a school in Cuves, France.
2. _________ Marian High School is opened in Omaha, Nebraska.
3. _________ First permanent mission in the United States, St. Matthew in Mount Vernon, Indiana.
4. _________ Three of Marie Guyot’s group form a missionary religious community following the Rule of the Servites.
5. _________ The congregation is aggregated to the Servite Order (the Servants of Mary.)
6. _________ Order of Servite Friars is founded in Italy.
7. _________ The congregation moves to London to mission to the poor.
8. _________ Servants of Mary Motherhouse (headquarters) opens in Omaha, Nebraska.

Extra Credit: How was Marian High School’s name chosen?

Extra Credit: Pope Pius XII set aside 1954 as a Marian Year in honor of Our Blessed Mother. The Servants of Mary dedicated their new school in her