

Office of Mission and Values Annual Report 2006-07

Executive Summary and Goals

In fulfillment of its mission, and in support of the goals of VISION twenty12, the Office of Mission and Values highlights the following major accomplishments during the 2006-2007 academic year:

- The creation of a Vincentian Higher Education Mission Institute together with St. John's and Niagara Universities. The purpose of this new collaborative effort is to educate and form senior leaders at our institutions for the roles they must play in sustaining and advancing our institutions' Vincentian and Catholic identities.
- The transition of sponsorship of the Vincentian Studies Institute of the United States from the ten provinces of the Vincentians and Daughters of Charity to DePaul University. The Institute will be housed within the Office of Mission and Values. Our sponsorship of the Institute solidifies the university's position as the premiere international site for Vincentian studies. The V.S.I. comes to DePaul with the promise of a \$1,000,000.00 endowment.
- The doubling of the International Vincentian scholarship program providing opportunities to Vincentians from developing countries to receive graduate degrees from the university. Through their presence in the classroom, and through their part-time service at the university, these Vincentians will also help enhance the Vincentian presence at the university, and demonstrate the diverse and global nature of the Vincentian mission.
- The creation of a new, widely-acclaimed, weekly pod cast series: "Let's talk about Vincent de Paul."
- The establishment of a new Vincentian Mission Fellows cohort program for undergraduates. Beginning in the fall of the 2007-08 Academic Year, the Office of Mission and Values will be offering a two-year Vincentian Mission Fellows program for a select group of diverse students who are entering their Junior year. The new program will allow highly engaged students to form a life long commitment to Vincentian values via study, service, reflection, Vincentian Heritage trips, and mentoring.
- The next phase of the DePaul Mission and Values institutional assessment project successfully conducted a study of the university's most highly engaged undergraduates. The purpose of this study was to discover what characterizes these students, and what motivates them to achieve their exemplary level of engagement with the university's mission and values.
- Co-sponsoring with University Ministry of a pilot in-service program on the university's Catholic identity.

- The establishment of an ongoing public lecture series to explore the Catholic Intellectual tradition, as well as other efforts to engage faculty and selected academic units in these conversations. This is a collaborative effort with University Ministry, and the Catholic Studies Program.
- The first stages of planning for the establishment of a virtual museum showcasing the university's *Vincentiana* material culture and special collections.
- The Office's second Vincentian Heritage tour for Senior Leadership brought 25 university administrators to Paris during Spring Break.
- The Office, together with the McNair Scholars Program, successfully piloted a Vincentian spring break service trip to Los Angeles. This trip will be incorporated into the new Vincentian Mission Fellows program.
- Mission and Values staff spoke on some aspect of the university's mission and values to 513 faculty, staff, and students on 59 separate occasions. The average participant rating for these sessions was 4.2 on a 5 point scale.
- The DePaul Reads Together program attracted 150 community members to participate in Vincentian themed university wide reading groups. This year's novel was Victor Hugo's immortal *Les Miserables*.
- The Vincentian Endowment Fund provided \$93,727.00 in funding to 21 new grant projects designed by faculty, staff, and students to enhance the university's Catholic and Vincentian identity. Also, 15 projects this year were aided by discretionary grants (\$1,500 or less) for a total of \$20,228.90. Since 1992, a total of 358 grants have been funded amounting to \$1,062,939.
- The Vincentian Assistance Fund continued to provide emergency personal assistance to students, faculty and staff. This year 30 grants were provided totaling 25,144.03 in assistance. The average grant was \$888.13. Since 1986, 436 faculty, staff, and students have been aided. The total of assistance awarded has been \$219,566.81.
- This year the Office's program to enhance the Vincentian library, special collections, and material culture collections continued. A total of 112 volumes were purchased or donated making an eight year total of 671. A total of 583 items were added to the material culture collections at a cost of \$8,412.91. Since 2001, 4,825 items have been added to the collections at a total cost of \$55,064.56. This program is administered in collaboration with the Archives and Special Collections Department.
- The online digitization of the Vincentian postcard collection, done in collaboration with the Library's digitization department and the Archives and Special Collections department resumed late this year after a hiatus caused by personnel changes. Over 600 historic Vincentian postcards are now posted online. Tracking software is being explored that will enable us to track online hits to this collection.

- The Office of Mission and Values submitted proposals for funding opportunities in the upcoming Capital Campaign. These proposals include doubling the size of the Vincentian Endowment Fund, the Vincentian Assistance Fund, and the new Vincentian Studies Institute Endowment.
- This year the Office sponsored a wide variety of educational programming events. This year the total of events was 17. Attendance was 175. Average attendance per event was 10. Average cost per event was \$495.22. Average evaluation of the event was 4.5 on a 5 point scale.
- The Church/State Center sponsored its 24th Annual Lecture and celebrated the publication of its major research project: *Religious Organizations in the United States, A Study of Identity, Liberty, and the Law*, with two public functions.
- The Ombudsperson office continued to offer individual support to faculty and staff while also presenting workshops and trainings on conflict resolution to several departments and individuals.
- A revamped Mission and Values website showed increases in almost every area of web traffic.
- The Office took over sponsorship of the Staff Emeritus Society, and began plans for merging the Society with the Emeritus Professors Association.
- The various reward and recognition programs continued sponsored by the office on behalf of the university continued. In collaboration with the Special Events area increased funding was made available to supplement and expand these programs including an annual Christmas event.
- The Office's public art program placed numerous examples of Vincentian art in various locations on the campuses.

As the Office prepares for the 2007-2008 academic year a major challenge will be recovering from the university's unfortunate decision to eliminate the long-standing and highly effective budget savings program. Over the years, the Office was able to make strategic, long term decisions to support new initiatives and special multi-year projects using the budget savings program. The disappearance of this spending flexibility hampers the Office's effectiveness. It is hoped that a promised future review of the impact of the elimination of the budget savings program will lead to a reconsideration of this decision. In the meantime, the Office will work with the President's Office to find ways to provide lost funding and fiscal flexibility.