The Office of Education of the Marianist Province of the U.S. sponsored a Teaching as Ministry (TAM) experience from July 12 – 15, 2011 at the University of Dayton. The 29 participants included faculty and staff members from 12 Marianist-sponsored schools across the province, from Hawaii to Ireland and from Ohio to Puerto Rico.

TAM provides participants the opportunity to network with other Marianist educators, share the good things at their schools, gain insight and perspective on the Characteristics of Marianist Education, and commit to making an impact on the Marianist character of their schools when they return home. George Lisjak, Director of Marianist Educational Studies and Partnerships and an affiliate of the Center for Catholic Education, facilitated the experience with assistance from Marianist educator Kathy Reece.

This year’s participants were overall very positive about TAM. “It has made me more excited to be teaching at a Marianist school,” wrote one. Another commented, “My perspective is better, my path clearer, my determination renewed.”

The 18 secondary schools of the Marianist Province of the U.S. include approximately 1,250 administrators, faculty, and staff members serving nearly 11,000 students.

Upcoming Events Sponsored by the Office of Education of the Marianist Province of the U.S.

Growing in Commitment to Marianist Education Workshop
Dates: October 16-19, 2011
Place: Bergamo Center
Participants: Faculty and Staff of Marianist Sponsored Schools

Annual School Administrators Conference
Dates: October 24-26, 2011
Place: Marriott St. Louis Airport
Participants: Presidents and Principals of Marianist Sponsored Schools
As most people enjoy some vacation and relaxation time in the summer months, Lalanne is busy with excitement! On June 22, our 13th cohort of teachers arrived on campus at the University of Dayton to begin 6 weeks of fellowship, graduate courses, and program events in preparation for the 2011-2012 academic year. Sixteen teachers, 8 new and 8 returning for year 2, will serve 12 grade schools and high schools in 4 cities. Our new teachers are Matthew Dominick, Ashley Laker, Caitlin McGlynn, Kelly Mullen, Michelle Perusek and Elizabeth Scott, all graduates of UD; Kelsey Ott from John Carroll University; and Sarah Tennant from Wheeling Jesuit University. Returning for a second year in Lalanne, having successfully completed their first year of teaching, are: Caroline Andary, Elise Balaj, Amanda Bracher, Andrew Clare, Natalie Leonhardt, Courtney Ryan, Ann Sacksteder and Amanda Valley. The graduate level courses will help each fine-tune their teaching skills making them effective classroom teachers. Fellowship and program events give them the groundwork necessary to build strong communities of faith as they live and work together during the school year.

Part of this summer’s excitement is the formation of a new Lalanne community to serve the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in Cincinnati! Lalanne has served the Archdiocese since 1999, but only in Dayton. In addition to Cincinnati and Dayton, Lalanne will have a community of teachers in Cleveland, OH and Indianapolis, IN. We look forward to serving Catholic schools and building relationships with our partners in each of the dioceses we serve.

Also launched earlier this year were discussions involving a strategic plan for Lalanne. A very dedicated committee of people has been working to propose ideas that will help Lalanne sustain its mission to help Catholic schools and overall enhance the program for beginning teachers. We anticipate having the strategic plan in place by October.

We are blessed with support and are grateful to everyone who helps to make Lalanne a success. Enjoy your summer and know that we keep all of you in our prayers.

News and Notes:
• The Center for Catholic Education has been awarded the Bonnie Campbell Hill National Literacy Award for 2011 through the National Council of Teachers of English Children’s Literature Assembly. Drs. Jackie Arnold and Mary-Kate Sableski will use this award to mentor a professional learning community of Catholic school teachers in the area of teaching language arts.
• Watch for the September 2011 book release of Selected Documents of American Catholic Educational History by Ronald J. Nuzzi and Thomas C. Hunt, editors. This is Dr. Hunt’s 15th book on the topic of education during his 15 years at U.D.
End of the year thoughts from UCDRC Counselor, Shari Zahn

As a UCDRC counselor, I often encounter parents who have at one time or another been incarcerated. I am honored that my office is a place where parents can come to talk about mistakes they have made, knowing neither they nor their family will be judged unfavorably. Naturally, children are greatly affected when a parent is or has been incarcerated, so I am fortunate to be able to offer them a safe place to share their thoughts and feelings as well. I have had children bring in photos and share memories of an absent parent. It is rewarding to know that I am often able to provide the comfort that they are unable to find anywhere else.

Having a supportive UCDRC team is critical, and a very important component of this team is the family advocate. This past year was difficult as we had to deal with some heartbreaking situations involving domestic violence as well as physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Obviously, having a clinical counselor in the building was vital in dealing with these situations from the very beginning. Often, the UCDRC counselor is the person making referrals to Children’s Services, so having a family advocate available to intervene with a parent angry about a referral is beneficial. The family advocate is trained to set limits involving safety during these potentially volatile situations and to help parents understand the importance of child protection issues.

The Rogus Lecture, sponsored by Dr. Kevin Kelly, Dean of the School of Education and Allied Professions, and established by former Dean, Dr. Tom Lasley, honors Dr. Joe Rogus’ work with Catholic schools. It continues to be a highlight of the partnership work of the Center for Catholic Education. This year, the lecture was graced by Dr. Lorraine Ozar, Director of the Center for Catholic School Effectiveness at Loyola University of Chicago. On March 28, 2011, Dr. Ozar informed and inspired educators from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the University of Dayton at the Pilarczyk Center, the new home for the Catholic School Office in the Dayton region. Dr. Jim Rigg, Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, welcomed all to the lecture. Dr. Ozar’s research painted the picture of the digital learner’s view of information gathering, analysis and implementation. Educators and administrators were intrigued by Dr. Ozar’s explanation of the very different means of information processing between the digital natives (learners who have always been exposed to computer technology)
and the digital immigrants (learners who came to technology after their formative years). Dr. Ozar provided an understanding of studies which demonstrate neuroplasticity of the brain, change in learning style for young students, and implications for best practice instruction. The Center is pleased that Dr. Ozar accepted our invitation, shared her wisdom, and graciously allowed us to grow in our commitment to young learners in Catholic schools.

The Center for Catholic Education at the University of Dayton surely shares a common mission, vision, and hope with the Center for Catholic School Effectiveness and Dr. Ozar. We are grateful for having had this opportunity and look forward to growing together in our work to serve Catholic schools.