THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUMMIT:
RE-IMAGINING, SPIRIT-FILLED

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.
Acts 2:1-4

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit...
Fear of the Lord, Piety, Fortitude, Knowledge, Understanding, Counsel, and Wisdom

The good news described in Acts and reflection on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit began the Catholic Education Summit with nearly 200 on-campus participants and 13 participants via the internet. Acts 2:1-4 provided inspiration as we set out to re-imagine Catholic education with specific emphasis on partnerships between Catholic colleges and universities and P-12 Catholic schools. Clearly, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of Catholic educators ignite an atmosphere where faith will be nourished and academic excellence for each child achieved.

Dr. Thomas Groome, internationally known author, theologian, and Boston College professor was the keynote speaker and began his presentation, Catholic Schools: Educating from and for Faith, by reminding the audience of the last words of the Risen Christ, “go make disciples” and “teach.” His reminder to university personnel, superintendents from many dioceses and archdioceses, principals, teachers, and philanthropists drew attention to the common mission shared by all present. Dr. Groome helped frame the curriculum of a Catholic school as “an anthropology through which all people are made and can grow in Divine Likeness.” Catholic schools “must educate the whole person, engage the soul, and develop all their capacities for life for all.” “Catholic schools should create a cosmology that nurtures a positive outlook on life in the world as meaningful and worthwhile — as sacramental.” “A sociology that promotes community and the common good of all and a Catholicity that forms people in concern and care without borders must also be hallmarks of Catholic schools.” Dr. Groome reminded Catholic educators of Jesus’ pedagogy, His overall dynamic to lead people from life to faith to (new) life. More specifically, Jesus engaged the everyday of people’s lives; fishing, farming, home. Jesus helped those who listened to reflect on their own reality, often to “see” in a whole new way. He taught His Gospel

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With his apostolic letter on October 17, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI declared a “Year of Faith” in the Catholic Church. Its beginning on October 11, 2012, marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, and its conclusion on November 24, 2013, will be the 20th anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Within his letter, Pope Benedict wrote that “the Year of Faith is an opportunity for Catholics to experience a conversion – to turn back to Jesus and enter into a deeper relationship with Him. The ‘door of faith’ is opened at one’s baptism, but during this year Catholics are called to open it again, walk through it and rediscover and renew their relationship with Christ and His Church.”

The month of October 2011 was a very busy time in the Lalanne office. Peggy Brun, Coordinator of Lalanne, was recruiting on college campuses, I was continuing conversations with the Diocese of Lansing in anticipation of two new communities, and both of us were visiting Lalanne teachers in their classrooms. At the time, neither of us were thinking about the Pope’s apostolic letter, but looking back on the Lalanne events of the past year I can see God’s grace at work because it was surely a Year of Faith!

Lalanne had undergone some changes and we were unsure of the impact. We were no longer going to participate in AmeriCorps, we were operating under a new strategic plan that encouraged us to work with smaller dioceses and establish new Lalanne communities, and we were recruiting with a newly created website designed to meet our needs. Would we get any applications? If so, would the applicants be strong candidates for Lalanne? We prayed. We prayed a lot, and God answered. By the February deadline we had 47 applications on file, the largest number of applications to Lalanne in the program’s history.

Also by February, many principals with whom we already have a relationship were calling with openings for teaching positions during the 2012-2013 academic year. Several new principals called to inquire about working with Lalanne because of our reputation and their desire to become a Lalanne partner school. A record 12 vacant teaching positions were presented to us.

During March we held six full days of interviews. The interview teams consisted of principals from elementary and high schools that we already partner with, principals from Lansing, and the assistant superintendent from the Archdiocese of Lansing who represented Lansing and Flint, the two new cities we would soon be serving. The interviews produced 32 candidates that we felt would make strong teachers and be a great fit for the Lalanne program. It took from late March to early June to match teachers with available positions. Again, we were amazed at God’s grace as everything fell into place.
The Urban Child Development Resource Center (UCDRC) has been graced with strong, inspired leadership. In 2002 Sandy Szczegiel, as the first director of UCDRC, launched the program along with Linda Russell who was serving as a school counselor in an urban Catholic school. Sandy Eisenhut, another urban Catholic school counselor, joined the team part time during the second year. This inaugural team met the needs of children and families through creative, caring, committed work. In 2007 Linda Russell assumed the role of director with a clear mission and vision for growth and excellence. Under Linda’s steady, focused, forward thinking and guidance, UCDRC gained recognition in the community as a responsible, impactful program that mitigated the non-academic barriers to learning. One of Linda’s first tasks as director was to hire a new counselor. She demonstrated her intuition and recognition of talent in hiring Rhonda Mercs. Soon after Linda’s initiation in the role of director, principals not being served by UCDRC clamored for service from the counselors of this transformational program. As Linda continued as director, the program moved to more schools with additional counselors and family advocates. One of Linda’s greatest accomplishments was to demonstrate the worth of the program to generous philanthropists who have offered support and resources. Life brings changes and these changes have moved Linda to consider a new role as development director and clinical advisor for UCDRC. While she relinquishes her role as director, those of us on the Center for Catholic Education team are so pleased to know Linda will remain as a grant writer and reporter and as an advisor.

Having experienced Rhonda Mercs’ leadership as she served as site coordinator of UCDRC, all were in agreement that the last five years of Rhonda’s work and commitment evidenced her skill and ability to become the third director of UCDRC. With continued mentoring from Linda, the transition of leadership has been smooth, filled with hope, and once more inspired.

Earning both a B.S. in Psychology and an M.S. in Mental Health Counseling from Wright State University, Rhonda has been a licensed professional clinical counselor in the state of Ohio since 1996. Before coming to the University of Dayton she served as a therapist for children with mental health challenges in a variety of settings. As a member of the UCDRC team, Rhonda has developed the very successful Peacemakers program created by Linda eight years ago and has grown it to where it is today. A select group of 7th and 8th grade students, chosen by their peers and staff, the Peacemakers focus on promoting peace in their schools and communities through service and leadership. A valuable component to the Peacemakers program is a partnership with the Marianist Leadership Scholars (MLS) of UD who serve as mentors, a partnership which Rhonda was instrumental in creating. MLS have developed training sessions to enhance leadership skills and have visited schools to assist the Peacemakers in many of their fundraising activities.

Excited about her new role, Rhonda is looking forward to growing the wonderful partnership between UD’s Center for Catholic Education and local Catholic schools in under-resourced neighborhoods. When asked about her vision for the program, Rhonda responded, “UCDRC is a phenomenal program which I would like to see touch the lives of more children and their families in the community. UCDRC will continue to provide quality services to all of our schools.”

We had placed a record 21 new teachers into 6 communities, the largest incoming group of first-year teachers in the history of the program. With our eight returning teachers, this fall we will be 29 teachers strong serving 25 different schools in 4 Catholic dioceses.

As this year of faith continues and the Lalanne teachers move into their service cities and schools, I pray that they will discover more opportunities to walk through doors of faith to encounter Jesus and share His love with everyone they meet.
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Haley Todd, graduate of the University of Dayton’s Urban Teacher Academy (UTA) who has been named Teacher of the Year in a contest sponsored by Denver’s KBCO radio station. Haley was nominated by a co-worker and recognized for her outstanding work as a GED Specialist with Urban Peak, an organization that works with homeless at-risk youth in the Denver area.

While a student at UD, Haley was a lead peer advisor to fellow teacher education students as well as an intern with the Center for Catholic Education. After earning her teaching degree, Haley’s career path led her to Colorado where she completed a year of service at a shelter. It was during that assignment when she learned of the available GED Specialist position at Urban Peak, a position that would allow her to help homeless youth earn the equivalent of a high school diploma. With Haley’s passion for education and desire to work with urban youth, it was a perfect blend for a career that would be satisfying and rewarding. Referring to herself as a “pusher,” Haley’s focus is to keep this population off the streets and push them toward an education necessary to be productive and successful members of society. She takes great pride in her work as her educational skills come into play while building relationships with at-risk youth. She is humbled to see their progress, to know that they are able to pass the tests, and to watch them graduate with a GED, which on average consists of about 80 youth each year. Many who complete the program continue their education at a post-secondary level.

“Being awarded Teacher of the Year is a tremendous testament to the work of Urban Peak and the power of our mission. Each staff member is a teacher in his/her own way in non-traditional settings, and I am honored to serve alongside such a fabulous group of individuals who have all taught me how to best do the work we do daily.” When asked to describe how it feels to be recognized for the work she is committed to, Haley invented the word “heartwhelming”, a term that best describes her feelings of this heartwarming and overwhelming honor.

Haley was awarded an iPad for being a finalist in the contest, and for winning the prestigious title she receives the CSU Global Scholarship in order to pursue a Master’s degree in teaching from Colorado State University.

Our most sincere congratulations and well wishes to Haley as she continues to have a positive impact on young lives.

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON EDUCATION PROFESSOR CO-EDITS TWO-VOLUME BOOK

(Written by Cameron Fullam, Assistant Director, UD Media Relations)

An upcoming book co-edited by education professor and Center for Catholic Education fellow, Thomas Hunt, is being described by publisher ABC-CLIO as the “definitive work” on faith-based education in America. The Praeger Handbook of Faith-Based Schools in the United States, K–12 is a two-volume handbook which discusses government regulations and outcomes of faith-based schooling. It covers 30 major faith-based school groups and associations that govern or support them from the Catholic, Muslim, Orthodox Christian, Protestant and Jewish religions. Included is a comprehensive report of U.S. Supreme Court and state supreme court decisions on faith-based schools as well as an examination of American faith-based schools and schooling issues from an international perspective. "It really covers the whole spectrum of faith-based education, which plays an important role in our nation’s history and its future," said Hunt.

Scheduled for release in August, the Handbook is co-edited by James C. Carper, professor of social foundations of education at the University of South Carolina. It is Hunt’s 26th book and comes hot on the heels of his 25th book, At the Heart of the Church: Selected Documents of Catholic Education, a collection of church documents on Catholic education that affirm the Catholic school as integral to the church’s mission and evangelization efforts. The Rev. Ronald J. Nuzzi, senior director of the Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program at Notre Dame, is co-editor.

Hunt has written more than 100 articles and books on education, many of them with a focus on Catholic issues and education. He joined the University of Dayton faculty in 1996.
MARIANIST EDUCATIONAL SUMMER WORKSHOPS

The summer was a busy one for formation activities of the Office of Education of the Marianist Province of the United States. Two workshops, involving over 70 educators from Marianist schools across the province, were coordinated by the office of Marianist Educational Studies and Partnerships.

The Marianist Education Consortium (M.E.C.) Summer Workshop: Marianist Education in the 21st Century took place at the University of Dayton June 25-28, 2012. The program began with a keynote address by Sr. Carol Cimino, CSJ, a nationally known speaker and frequent NCEA presenter, on Ageless Wisdom: What should the Marianist high school be in this age?, and concluded with remarks by Bro. Ed Brink, SM, Provincial Assistant for Education.

In between there were a variety of sessions on topics representing both current issues in educational practice and a Marianist response to them: Technology and Social Media, Google in the Classroom, and Pitfalls of Online Resources by John Skees of Nolan Catholic High School, Ft. Worth, TX; The Year of Faith through the Marianist Lens in a Digital Milieu by Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, MHSH of the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives at the University of Dayton; STEMM Learning by Meg Draeger of Chaminade Julienne High School, Dayton, OH; Great iPad Apps for Education and How to Set Up Your Own Intelligent Classroom by Desiree Avila of Chaminade-Madonna College Prep, Hollywood, FL; Images in (and out of) the Classroom by Christine Peirce-Coleman of Nolan Catholic High School, Ft. Worth, TX; Finding Balance by Mallory Green of Saint Louis School, Honolulu, HI; and Project Based Learning and The Flipped Classroom by Amanda Ooten of Chaminade Julienne High School, Dayton, OH. A panel discussion: Marianist Perspectives on 21st Century Learning, included Una Cadegan, Associate Professor of History, University of Dayton; Bro. John Habjan, SM of the Marianist Archives, University of Dayton; Lisa Kloppenberg, Professor of Law, University of Dayton; and Bro. Tom Oldenski, SM, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, University of Dayton.

The M.E.C. Summer Workshops have been held annually at UD since 1987. They are sponsored by the Marianist Province of the United States to provide opportunities for faculty and staff from Marianist high schools and universities to come together for learning and sharing on topics of mutual interest.

Thirty-four Marianist educators representing 13 of the 18 M.E.C. schools across the Province of the United States attended the Growing in Commitment to Marianist Education workshop at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, TX, July 9 – 13, 2012. This workshop is designed to provide a significant formational experience for administrators, faculty, and staff of Marianist-sponsored schools who have already demonstrated experience with, involvement in, and commitment to Marianist Education.

Participants must be willing to make a commitment to:

- grow in knowledge and appreciation of the Catholic and Marianist educational traditions, their deep stories and symbols, their core beliefs and passions, and their important practices and norms;
- be a positive influence in the school and engaged in reading the signs of the times and learning to utilize the Catholic and Marianist educational tradition in forging responses to these signs; and
- spend time with others at the school in order to support one another in their personal commitments to enliven the Marianist charism in their schools and to challenge each other to grow in that commitment.

Presenters included: Bill Raddell of Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School, Cleveland, OH; Bro. Tom Giordino, SM, Executive Director of the Association of Marianist Universities; Carol Ramey and Patti Gehred of the North American Center for Marianist Studies (N.A.C.M.S.); Bro. Tom Wendorf, Vocations Director for the Marianist Province of the U.S.; and George Lisjak, Marianist Educational Studies.
“with authority” (Mk 1:22). He encouraged people to “see for themselves” with conviction and invited them to make a decision for life, to follow His way as disciples.

Dr. Groome set the tone for the twelve concurrent sessions which included dynamic presenters sharing their research, daily work, knowledge and wisdom. Each presentation included a reverence for what was shared as God’s work. The Gift of the Holy Spirit, Fear of the Lord, is described as having reverence and respect for God’s will. Dr. Hunt’s description of the history of Catholic education and the themes that emerge through different cultures and times demonstrated the Lord’s consistent watch and attention to the institution created in many instances to preserve culture and, more importantly, the faith of people in a new place.

Various presenters described their involvement in Catholic education as a call to serve others as the Gift of the Holy Spirit, Piety, is described. A sense of the Gift of Fortitude is also needed as challenges and obstacles must be overcome to fulfill the mission of Catholic schools. Drs. Dolph and Moore and Bro. Tom Oldenski, S.M. described leadership and mission and the integrated nature of these in the daily work of the Catholic school. Both presentations made clear the need to transform the hearts of Catholic educators and leaders and be certain they are armed with the needed skill and familiarity of the chosen mission.

Ryan Allen and Sister Angela Ann Zukowski called all to the Gift of Understanding. Each of their presentations brought to mind the need to hear God’s voice in every age and to creatively utilize new inventions for the good of our Catholic schools and individual students attending them. New means to develop faith and to achieve academically can be found through the world of technology that allows Catholic school educators the way to re-imagine connections, shared information, and necessary individual student attention.

Cindy Currell and other members in the Family Cafe presentation and Linda Russell, who discussed non-academic barriers to learning, connected with the Gifts of Counsel and Wisdom. The programs described offer support to students, families, teachers and leaders through collaborative community efforts at the school and regional levels. The Urban Child Development Resource Center brings trained experts to the life of the school to systematically infuse educational prevention programs and direct counseling and material resources to those in greatest need in Catholic schools. The Family Cafe project brings together community partners from public schools, Catholic schools, a community center, social agencies and the University to network parents and to empower them through social gatherings that ask critical questions about parenting and guidance.

The Excellence Initiative, the Community Partners group, and Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators presentations offered examples of the Gift of Knowledge. Each of these initiatives is an example of shared information, best practice and feedback that moved the education of students and/or care for their families forward.

The Catholic Education Summit concluded with remarks by Dr. Groome and responses from Dr. Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association; Dr. Kevin Kelly, Dean of the School of Education and Allied Professions; and Mrs. Karyn Hecker, Principal of Immaculate Conception School, Dayton, Ohio. Participants were asked to consider the impact of their day on their own faith lives and professional lives. Many agreed the day was inspiring and offered new means to re-imagine Catholic education to endow the common good in faith to life and new life to faith.

The Catholic Education Summit was generously supported by the Better Way Foundation. Their support and the support of other foundations enable programs highlighted at the Summit to have been established, to flourish, and to serve many who would not otherwise be served.

The next Catholic Education Summit at the University of Dayton will take place on July 12, 2013. Our topic will be urban Catholic education. We hope you will save the date and join us next summer!