2019 Mary Across Our Campus: A Self-Guided Tour of the Beautiful Statues of Mary on the University of Dayton Campus

University of Dayton. Marian Library

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OUR LADY OF THE PINES
Location: Serenity Pines, south of Marycrest Hall

This original statue was erected in 1890 in thanksgiving that no life was lost in the fire that damaged much of campus in 1883. The garden and sitting area were added in 2000 to honor a beloved campus administrator, Joe Belle, who envisioned a garden that would offer a contemplative place for students.

MARY, SEAT OF WISDOM
Location: Marianist Cemetery

Notice the graves of the early Marianists who lived and worked at UD. This statue, which depicts Mary as a mature woman, was created by Brother Joseph Aspell, S.M.

MARY OF CANA
Location: Marianist Hall

The Marianists have a special fondness for Mary’s advice to the servants at Cana: “Do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5).

This concludes the self-guided tour. You are invited to circle back to Roesch Library and visit the Marian Library on the seventh floor. The Marian Library is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed holidays).

Also of interest:
Mary, the Mother of Enduring Love, by Janet McKenzie, can be found in the side devotional chapel nearest to the altar on the north side of the chapel.

Along the north wall hangs the Fourth Station of the Cross: Jesus Meets His Sorrowful Mother. These copper stations were created by Michael Bendele.

Each stained glass window in the chapel’s nave displays a medallion (top) illustrating an event from Mary’s life. The windows above the choir loft contain Marian images; the letters stand for “Sancta Maria” and “Society of Mary.”

(Exit the chapel through the main doors. Head left to Nazareth Courtyard between the chapel and St. Joseph Hall.)

HOLY FAMILY
Location: St. Joseph Hall, Nazareth Courtyard

This sculpture by Dorothea and James Kennedy illustrates the scene where Joseph and Mary find Jesus in the temple with the teachers.

(Continue past Liberty Hall to Humanities Plaza.)

Also of interest:
St. Joseph Trusting in Dreams, by Kettering Laboratories south of the Humanities Plaza, depicts Mary’s husband and child in a loving and playful moment. It was created by Brother Joseph Aspell, S.M.

Also sculpted by Aspell, the statue of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, on the Central Mall, was commissioned to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Chaminade’s birth.

(Continue heading east past the Central Mall toward Marycrest Hall.)
Begin at the Immaculate Conception monument on the lawn outside the east entrance to Roesch Library. Please refer to the map as you progress.

1 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Location: Roesch Library lawn

The University of Dayton was founded in 1850. Four years later in 1854, the Catholic Church confirmed the teaching that Mary was conceived without sin and remained sinless her entire life. As the Immaculate Conception, Mary was filled with grace while in her mother’s womb. Christians are also filled with grace at their baptism.

This pillar was erected 50 years later on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, 1904, to honor and celebrate Mary. Notice that the words “Hail Mary” face north, and the statue, also known as Our Lady of Grace, faces south. When the entrance to campus was moved, the statue was turned to face those coming onto campus.

Also of interest: Look over at Miriam Hall and notice the abstract image of the Madonna and Child near the top of the building. This image shows up in various locations on campus including the gates to Marianist Cemetery.

2 OUR LADY OF THE MARIAN LIBRARY
Location: Albert Emanuel Hall façade

In the mid 1960s, this relief was commissioned of artist Robert Koepnick as a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Aloysius A. Roesch, whose son, Father Raymond Roesch, S.M., was president of UD (1959-1979). Albert Emanuel Hall was the original home of the Marian Library. Founded in 1943, the Marian Library is the largest dedicated collection of books and materials on the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This depiction of Mary is often given the title Seat of Wisdom. Mary is sitting, but she is herself the seat, the holding place, for all wisdom that stems from the Word, who became her son, Jesus Christ.

3 OUR LADY OF THE PILLAR
Location: Immaculate Conception Chapel façade

This statue of Our Lady of the Pillar was installed on July 4, 1949, to celebrate 100 years of the Society of Mary (Marianists) in the United States. Father William Joseph Chaminade received the inspiration for founding the Marianist Family — priests, brothers, sisters, laity — at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Pillar in Saragossa, Spain, while he was exiled there during the French Revolution.

Also on the chapel’s façade is a statue of Chaminade, commissioned to celebrate UD’s 100th anniversary (1950). The statue was installed on Jan. 22, 1950, the 100th anniversary of Chaminade’s death.

The words of Chaminade to a confrere are given below the statue: “My son, let us be, in all humility, the heel of the woman.” He was referring to Genesis 3:15, when God promised that someday a woman and her child would crush the head of the serpent — a prophecy fulfilled by Mary and her son, Jesus.

Also of interest: Brother Don Smith, S.M., was commissioned to create a mosaic Marian shrine reminiscent of wayside shrines.

The circular metal sculpture by Hamilton Dixon commemorates the Three O’Clock Prayer, which is said daily at 3 p.m. by Marianists around the world in solidarity and in honor of Mary at the foot of Christ’s cross.

(Enter the chapel.)

4 MARY, THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Location: Back of altar

In the reredos between statues of St. Joseph, left, and St. John the Evangelist, this statue stands above the entrance to the Eucharistic reservation chapel.