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University of Dayton

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NEWS RELEASE

AS ANNIVERSARY NEARS, UD PLANS MEMORIALS FOR SEPT. 11 VICTIMS, ADDS CLASS ON BIOTERRORISM

DAYTON, Ohio — The University of Dayton’s new president, Daniel J. Curran, will visit alumni in the two cities hit hardest by last year’s Sept. 11 terrorist attacks when he attends remembrance services in New York and Washington, D.C. the weekend before the first anniversary.

And a candlelight vigil expected to draw thousands will take place on the anniversary on campus.

Six graduates of the University were killed in the World Trade Center attack, and students, faculty members and alumni lost friends and relatives.

“After Sept. 11, many individuals sought to renew the spirituality they experienced as students at the University of Dayton, and we intend to support them,” Curran said. “Although Marianist tradition and philosophy have always stressed community, the University has tended to focus on current students. Reactions to the tragic events of last year point to the need to extend that sense of spiritual community beyond the time our students spend on campus, however. There is a need to maintain a lifelong spiritual connection.”

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at Kellenberg Memorial High School in Uniondale, N.Y., with the Rev. Thomas Cardone, S.M., presiding and at 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 8, at the Union Station Columbus Club in Washington, D.C., with the Rev. Patrick Tonry, S.M., presiding.

Curran will speak at both services, which will also feature prayers, music and readings.

On campus, events will begin Tuesday, Sept. 10, with a 24-hour prayer wall on the Humanities Plaza where students, faculty and staff can write a prayer or leave flowers or other symbols of remembrance. The site will be staffed so donations to relief funds can be accepted.

Bells will toll for one minute on campus at 8:45 and 10:30 a.m., signaling when the first airplane struck the World Trade Center and when the second of the towers collapsed, encompassing the full time span of the morning’s damage.

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Campus groups have banded together to sponsor a candlelight vigil at 8:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 11, with a candle representing each of the 3,189 victims of the attacks. The chapel bells will again toll as groups of students gather at their residence halls to process to the Humanities Center, beginning 30 minutes before the events. ROTC students will present the colors, prayers will be offered and Curran will address the students, faculty and staff members who take part.

Sarah Grover, president of SGA, envisions a large screen near the plaza to show the events taking place in New York and Washington, D.C. "It's going to be such a huge day for a lot of people," she said. "We don't want to do too much, but we do want to have a respectful observance for everyone to unite and commemorate the occasion. We want to show our strength and support."

Also on Sept. 11, through campus ministry service clubs, UD students plan to volunteer for community service projects that reflect the interests of the victims with UD ties. Campus ministry will offer three Masses in the Immaculate Conception Chapel, at 8 a.m., 12:05 and 4:30 p.m. The pre-health honor society, Alpha Epsilon Delta, plans to hold a blood drive on campus Sept. 18.

The attacks have influenced the academic offerings at UD too.

Vernellia Randall, law professor, has created a new course on bioterrorism, public health and the law that she will offer for the first time this fall. An expert on health care and the law, she intends to focus on the extent of the state's police powers to protect public health in addressing an epidemic caused by terrorism. "To what extent can a state quarantine, force immunizations or destroy private property or take human life in order to protect the public from disease and death after a successful bioterrorist act?" Randall asked.

Among those killed were six UD graduates who were all at the World Trade Center towers on Sept. 11, 2001. They were:

- Al Niedermeyer, a 1983 graduate, who was a Port Authority officer involved in the rescue efforts at the World Trade Center.
- Kristy Irvine Ryan, a 1993 communication graduate, who was working on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center's tower 2.
- Joseph Zuccala, a 1968 graduate, who was working at the World Trade Center.
- Mary Katherine Lenz Wieman, a 1980 graduate and wife of 1978 graduate Marc Wieman, who was working at the World Trade Center.
- William Eban Wilson, a 1965 graduate, who was in the World Trade Center Sky Lounge.
- David Wiswall, a 1969 graduate, who worked on the 105th floor of tower 2.