

12-28-2011

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Recommended Citation

"A Marianist Leader" (2011). *News Releases*. 757.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/757

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A Marianist Leader

12.28.2011 | President, Catholic, Campus and Community

Brother Thomas Giardino, S.M., has been named executive director of the Association of Marianist Universities, an organization of the three U.S. universities founded in the Marianist tradition.

For the past 10 years, Giardino has served as executive director of the International Center for Marianist Formation. He also recently completed a lengthy tenure on the University of Dayton's board of trustees, where he chaired the mission and identity committee.

"The three Marianist universities have already made significant contributions to Catholic higher education and beyond," Giardino said. "But our founder, the Blessed William Joseph Chaminade said: 'If we intend to do business by halves, it will not be worthwhile to take so much trouble.' As Marianist universities, we take the 'trouble' to work together because our collaboration brings a fruitful synergy to social transformation. I want to be a part of that."

The Association of Marianist Universities is a collaborative effort of the University of Dayton, Chaminade University of Honolulu and St. Mary's University of San Antonio, Texas, which were all founded by the Society of Mary. Daniel J. Curran, president of the University of Dayton, currently serves as chair of the association.

The association helps support the three universities in sustaining the Marianist educational tradition on their campuses through information sharing, mutual enrichment and development, and shared learning on the Marianist tradition of higher education. Board members include the presidents and rectors of the three universities.

Giardino's new position will include assisting in the formulation of the association's strategic plan and budget; working with committees; supporting board meetings; developing relationships with related groups; and sharing resources. He also will work with the Marianist Educational Associates, a shared program that helps develop lay leaders for the three universities in the Marianist tradition.

His appointment begins Jan. 1, 2012. He will be based on the University of Dayton campus.

Giardino succeeds the Rev. Jack McGrath, S.M., who served as the association's executive director for the past two years before being appointed a three-year term as assistant district superior for the Marianists in India.

Contact Br. Thomas Giardino, S.M., at giardinot1@udayton.edu.