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A Call to Lead and Serve

01.27.2010 | Catholic The Rev. Paul Marshall, S.M., rector at the University of Dayton since 2005, has been tapped for a national leadership role with the Society of Mary (Marianists).

Marshall, 62, has been named assistant for temporalities in the Province of the United States based in St. Louis. Nearly 600 Marianists serve in the province, which includes the U.S., Eastern Africa, India, Ireland, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

As part of an eight-person province leadership team, he will be assisted by treasurer Bro. Joe Markel, S.M., in overseeing finances for the province, which sponsors three universities, 18 high schools, eight parishes and five retreat centers. In addition, he will take an active role in social justice initiatives for the Roman Catholic order. His five-year term begins in July.

"I will be responsible for finances but also be a voice and an agent for justice and reconciliation in the world — a focus of our mission as Marianists," Marshall said.

As the University of Dayton's rector since 2005, he has focused the campus community on strengthening the University's Catholic, Marianist character. He's currently serving his second term on the University's board of trustees.

University of Dayton President Daniel J. Curran praised Marshall for the way he personifies Marianist spirituality and commitment to social justice. "Father Paul has worked hard to preserve and strengthen our mission as a leading Catholic university. As a Marianist university, we are called to prepare students to use their education and faith to make a difference in the world. He articulates that philosophy in all that he does. We will miss his presence on campus."

A Cleveland native, Marshall joined the Marianists in 1965 and was ordained a priest in 1976. He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Dayton and a master of divinity degree from the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto. He directed the Urban Corps in the Youth Services Office of the city of Dayton, ministered as a chaplain, teacher and pastor, and served as an adjunct and assistant professor of religious studies at the University of Dayton.

A member of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus since 1970, Marshall served as its president from 1993 to 1995. He also served on the board of Bread for the World in Washington, D.C., for six years.

A new rector is expected to be appointed this spring. The position is a joint appointment of the president of the University of Dayton and the provincial of the Province of the United States.

The Society of Mary is an international religious order characterized by a special devotion to Mary, mother of Jesus, and a faith that builds community through service. The University of Dayton, founded in 1850 by the Society of Mary, is a top-tier Catholic research university.

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