

RESPECT DIGNITY FAITH
COMMON GOOD HONESTY
SERVICE COMMUNITY LIVING
COMPASSION HOPE INTEGRITY
TRUTHFUL PEACE
RESPONSIBILITY INTEGRATE
SERVANT LEADERSHIP MARTINIST
PEOPLE'S RECONCILIATION
FAMILY SPIRIT TRUST
SELF-AWARENESS
COMMUNICATION COURAGE
COOPERATION PATIENCE
FORGIVENESS HARD
WORK COMMITMENT
SELF-SACRIFICE HOSPITALITY
JOY SORROW CHARACTER
GOD HABITS CHOICES

**COMMITMENT TO
COMMUNITY**

Catholic and Marianist Learning and Living

UNIVERSITY of
DAYTON

*COMMUNITY IS
MORE THAN A
WORD. IT'S OUR
SHARED VISION.*



The Catholic and Marianist vision of education makes the University of Dayton community unique. It shapes the “warmth of welcome”¹ we first experience and the “family spirit” we treasure. It calls us to academic rigor integrated with faith and life. It challenges each person and group to take up the hard work necessary to build the intellectual, spiritual, religious, moral, physical, and social dimensions of our educational community.²

Behavior, expectations, policies and relationships at UD are guided by the Catholic moral tradition. This brochure highlights three Catholic and Marianist principles for learning and living in community and the key habits which are derived from them. Individuals and groups are called to understand these principles and to develop these habits. Doing so will strengthen the educational community at UD and will prepare students to live as mature members of society.



PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY LIVING

Community Living is an Essential Learning Experience

Living in community is essential to the full development and education of the whole person. The Marianist tradition values community living as the practical way in which Christians learn to live the Gospel, striving to love God, neighbor and self in daily life. All people, regardless of religious belief or faith tradition, learn essential life lessons such as self-awareness, communication, cooperation, mutual respect, courage, forgiveness, patience and trust from living in community with others.

*The climate of acceptance that Marianists call family spirit presumes an attention to the quality of relationships among the people in the community. At the level of daily interaction, all members of the community treat each other with respect and speak with simplicity and openness. Over the long term, these daily habits acknowledge the value and dignity of every member of the community, and create the ground in which genuine friendships can flourish.*³

However, building community requires more than friendliness, and is certainly about more than following rules. Genuine community requires maturity, commitment, self-sacrifice and hard work.

*Such a vision of community and friendship runs the risk of being romanticized. It must therefore be recalled that friendliness and hospitality are genuine expressions of a process that necessarily includes conflict, division, and all manner of human suffering and failing. Yet, those grounded in the Marianist vision of education recognize that only precisely out of this mix of joy and sorrow can genuine communities be formed.*⁴

Through learning in community, UD students are more able to become persons of great character and integrity. They are better prepared to assume responsible membership in communities throughout their lifetime and to make a positive difference in the world.

The Dignity of Every Person

This Marianist vision of community living is based on the conviction that every person has innate dignity because all people are made in the image and likeness of God:

*All women and men are endowed with a rational soul and are created in God's image; they have the same nature and origin and, being redeemed by Christ, they enjoy the same divine calling and destiny; there is here a basic equality between all and it must be accorded ever greater recognition.*⁵

This awareness calls us not only to respect ourselves and others, but to love ourselves and all people because of the human dignity each of us receives from God. Respect and love for self include making personal, social and academic decisions that preserve and improve one's own dignity and well-being.

Loving others includes the particular challenge to love and to respect those who are different from us. The presence of a wide range of perspectives, opinions, beliefs — and the diverse people who represent them — enhance the depth of the UD community and the ability of students to integrate the academic, religious, cultural and social elements of their lives. The University Statement on Dignity states clearly:

A primary assertion of both our religious and civil traditions is the inviolable dignity of each person. Recognition of and respect for the person are central to our life as a Christian and educational community and are what allow us to pursue our common mission while being many diverse persons.⁶

The Common Good

The Catholic emphasis on the common good emerges from the conviction about human dignity. The common good is “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily.”⁷ Emphasis on the common good shapes values very differently from secular culture, which typically gives the freedom of the individual greater importance than the needs of others. A concern for the common good leads us to make choices as individuals, groups, or organizations in light of how these choices affect other people and the community as a whole. Our decisions and actions affect people in our classrooms, residence halls, houses, neighborhood, campus, city, country and ultimately the world community.

Furthermore, we are called to work actively to create and promote the common good at UD and beyond. This may involve challenging behavior which is harmful to others, or working to change unjust social structures which inhibit people from reaching their fulfillment.



HABITS FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

Good choices made repeatedly over time develop into habits which have a positive lifelong influence. The following habits are essential for living the Catholic and Marianist vision of community. Individuals, groups and organizations are called to develop these habits.

Treat Yourself with Respect

- Seek relationships that bring out the best in you and others.
- Make choices which are safe, healthy and consistent with your faith tradition and values.
- Follow the law. Don't abuse alcohol or controlled substances.
- Develop a sense of reverence for the dignity of your own sexuality.

Do I respect myself? How does my behavior show it?

Treat Others with Respect

- Demonstrate dignity and respect in your communication with others.
- Develop relationships with people who are different from you.
- Honor the dignity and sexual integrity of others with your actions and words.
- Pay attention to the safety, comfort, and health of others.
- Learn to handle conflict with respect, dialogue, understanding and forgiveness.

Does my behavior show respect for the people around me?

Be Honest, Truthful, and Live with Integrity

- Model moral behavior and virtue.
- Practice behavior that is not insulting, demeaning, destructive or harmful to you or others.
- Exercise academic integrity. Follow the UD Honor Code.
- Respond truthfully and respectfully when your behavior is questioned by another.
- Accept the consequences of your behavior, while learning to forgive and to accept forgiveness.

Am I becoming the kind of person I want to be?

Develop Your Faith Life

- Develop a capacity for silence. Pray, alone and with others. Participate in worship.
- Reflect on how faith contributes meaning to and challenges your everyday life.
- Study your religious tradition to deepen your understanding, practice and commitment to it.
- Learn about and show respect for the religious traditions of others.
- Live gratefully; show appreciation; give thanks to God and others.

Am I willing to be a part of a faith tradition that is larger and wiser than me?

Integrate Learning and Living at UD

- Learn about Catholic and Marianist views of life, which shape UD's values.
- Inform and integrate your faith and beliefs with your academic learning and moral living.
- Seek truth and wisdom, not just knowledge and job skills.
- Seek out mentors and models who will affirm and challenge you.
- Consider your life's path not just as a career, but as a vocation, a calling from God.
- Grieve losses, embrace challenges, celebrate successes: live fully and joyfully.

Are the physical, spiritual, academic, social and personal dimensions of my life in harmony?

Take Responsibility for Self and Community

- Exercise self-discipline as an individual and in group situations.
- Be aware of the weakest and most vulnerable around you and seek to serve them.
- Challenge groups and organizations to respond to community problems and needs.
- Speak up when you witness alcohol abuse, drug use, violence, vandalism and behaviors that harm or demean people and damage community.

What does it mean for me or my organization to contribute to the common good?

Practice Servant Leadership

- Listen first. Learn from others. Consider the needs of all.
- Practice humility and generosity of spirit when using your gifts and skills.
- Lead for the good of the community, not for advancing your own image.
- Speak up for those in need and those who have no voice.
- Encourage your student organization to make a positive contribution to UD and to the City of Dayton.

How do I learn from others and encourage them to use their gifts?

The distinctive family spirit of life at UD is dependent upon the commitment each of us makes to the Catholic and Marianist vision of learning and living in community. In the struggles and joys of forming genuine community, students are encouraged to support one another and to draw upon the support of faculty and staff, advisors and mentors. Together, our commitment to these principles and habits will form us with life-long skills for making a difference in our world.

1 *Rule of Life of the Society of Mary*, (Dayton, OH: Marianist Press, 1984), article 8.

2 "A Vision of Excellence," University of Dayton. September 2005. Available at <http://provost.udayton.edu/Vision/index.htm>.

3 *Characteristics of Marianist Universities: A Resource Paper* (Chaminade University of Honolulu, St. Mary's University, University of Dayton, 1999), 36.

4 *Ibid*, 38.

5 *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* in Vatican II, the Basic Sixteen Documents, Austin Flannery, OP. (Northport, NY: Costello Publishing Company, 1996), 29.

6 "University Statement on Dignity," University Of Dayton. Available at <http://community.udayton.edu/student/handbook/specialnote.php>.

7 *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* in Vatican II, the Basic Sixteen Documents, Austin Flannery, OP. (Northport, NY: Costello Publishing Company, 1996), 26.

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Catholic and Marianist Learning and Living

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The University of Dayton's Catholic and Marianist mission calls us to develop our character and integrity as leaders committed to building community in our world. We accept this challenge and make the following pledge:

We commit ourselves to learn in and through community.

We commit ourselves to respect the dignity of every person in thought, word and action.

We commit ourselves to promote the common good.

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As a contributing member of this educational community:

I will treat myself and others with respect and compassion.

I will be honest, truthful and live with integrity.

I will develop a life of faith and/or reflection, and will respect the religious traditions of others.

I will integrate what I learn with how I live.

I will take responsibility for myself and for my community.

I will practice servant leadership.

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Together, we promise to strengthen our role in building communities of hope and respect, peace and reconciliation in our world.

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