

UIW Mission News

Volume 2 Issue 4

January-February, 2005

Mission Calendar

January

- 16 Mass of the Holy Spirit
- 20 Mission Committee meeting
- 26 "Meet and Greet" Ad Bldg

February

- 3 Mission Journey Retreat
- 7 Pierre Lecture: Dr. Devoy
- 9 Ash Wednesday
- 10 Mission Committee meeting
- 15 "Share the Word," Headwaters Presentation

March

- 10 Mission Committee meeting
- 14 Spring Break
Lusaka Conference on Early Childhood Education
Juarez Spring Break trip
- 19 Spirit and Life Series: Joyce Rupp—"Embracing the Paschal Mystery"
- 22 "Share the Word," Heritage Walk
- 23 Incarnate Word Day—
transferred from March 25th
which is Good Friday
- 30 Mission Journey Retreat

April

- 5 Meet and Greet in Generalate
- 6 Mission Committee meeting

May

- 5 National Day of Prayer
Mission Committee Meeting
- 7 Commencement

Financial, HASS and Graduate Offices Sponsor Successful "Meet and Greet"



Rebecca Silvas, Comptroller's Office, sees to details for the spring "Meet and Greet" community spirit builder.

ACCU Explores "Faith, Scholarship and Wisdom: Making the Mission Statement Operational"

The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, meeting in Washington, D.C., in January, devoted its annual meeting to discussion of how Catholic universities can make their mission statements operational in daily life.

Dr. Jeffrey from Baylor opened the conference by rooting the Christian educational mission in the words of Deuteronomy: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments...are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children."* He spoke about a scholarship of knowledge

and a scholarship of wisdom. The latter, he said, needs a community of scholars seeking wisdom who can offer a rich foundation to train students to be a fit within the church and the world.

St. Joseph's College, IN, presented a four-year core curriculum that cultivates a habit of integrating knowledge, of building a community of seekers after truth. Neumann College, believing with PJPII that sports are the "nerve center of contemporary culture" are creating a national center to research ways to integrate mission into individual athletic programs.

Dean Carolyn Woo, Notre

Dame School of Management, believes that Mission has to be **"up close and personal."** It happens in the daily small decisions. The individual intention must become collective, hence, the importance of hiring those who can buy into Mission values.

She emphasized embedding **social justice, ethical conduct and common good** themes in all courses. Citing Aristotle, she said: "We are what we do repeatedly" so schools must develop cultural systems which model for students ways of winning, leading, working, praying and living one's faith. Faculty witness to mission in action.

Earth Charter: Call to Build a Just, Sustainable, Peaceful Global Society in the 21st Century

At its January meeting, the UIW Mission Committee undertook the study of the *Earth Charter*, whose mission is to **"inspire in all peoples a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the human family and the larger living world."**

The Committee hopes

to use the Charter as a guide to action in Mission-inspired projects, curriculum activities, and personal sensitivity to issues of social justice and ecology.

The Charter grew out of a call by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development to set forth fundamental principles for global sustain-

able development.

The four major principles are (1) respect and care for the community of life; (2) ecological integrity; (3) social and economic justice; and (4) democracy, non-violence and peace. Detailed information is available at <http://www.earthcharter.org>



Mission In Action: Alumni Reflect on their Experience of the Mission at Incarnate Word

The following excerpts from notes sent by alumni to various people indicate their lasting impressions of what it was like to be a student here at UIW.

One graduate writes: “an education at the University of the Incarnate Word is much deeper than knowledge, much richer than text. It is a warm blanket of intellectual, spiritual, and social experience that shines a

communal light on our world.”

Another student wrote: “I don’t think I can put into words how life changing my experience at UIW was. It’s not for everyone, but I wouldn’t trade my experiences at UIW for all the money in the world. I remember sitting in Dr. O’Connor’s class as a freshman and she was talking about existential experi-

ences. I wondered if I would ever have one and what it would be like. Now, I realize my entire experience at UIW was existential. To this day I continue to feel the presence of that university and everyone associated with it in my life.” —*cont. below.*

“In a Catholic university, research necessarily includes (a) the search for an integration of knowledge, (b) a dialogue between faith and reason, (c) an ethical concern, and (d) a theological perspective.” ECE 15

News Briefs...

- Dr. Loretta Devoy, OP, will lecture on the “Eucharist and Its Role in a Theology of the Environment,” February 7th in Marian Hall.
- UIW and OLLU joined forces to raise money for the tsunami relief fund. Go to www.uiw.edu/relief.
- UIW has established the first Presidential Teaching Award. For information on nominations, see www.uiw.edu/teacher.

Mission Journey Retreat Council Hopes to Bolster Community Spirit

The Mission Journey Retreat Council, formed in 2003 to actualize some of the suggestions coming from retreat participants, initiated two activities designed to build community.

“Meet and Greet” is an effort to help disparate segments of UIW to know one another personally rather than as a voice at the other

end of the telephone. Departments are invited to open their offices for an hour, host visitors and encourage conversation over refreshments.

“Share the Word” addresses a request for spiritual growth opportunities by scheduling speakers to present reflections on a wide variety of spiritual topics.

UIW Vocabulary...

The symbol of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word is a crown of thorns encircling a heart with cross and nails, all associated with Christ’s crucifixion.

IHS signifies the Greek name for Jesus and suggests Jesus’ presence in the hearts of those who become His presence to others.

Jeanne de Matel, founder of the



Incarnate Word Order in France, saw in a series of visions the religious habit to be worn by the Sisters, including this symbol worn as part of the scapular.

Alumni Reflect....continued

A third alumna says: “Our lives have changed dramatically because of people at UIW. Whenever I feel miracles don’t happen, I stop and think about the community at UIW and realize how wrong I am. God is at work there.”

Writing to thank Dick McCracken for his birthday greetings, a graduate expresses appreciation “for the personalized touch. Sometimes when we attend school we feel like we are just out there on our own. It’s good to know that we are thought of as more than students but as members of a community.”