

UIW Mission News

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News Briefs...

The Presa Community Education and Technology Center, made possible by a HUD grant and spearheaded by Dr. John Velasquez, officially opened its doors on November 10, 2004.

Archbishop Flores, Dr. Louis Agnese and other dignitaries were on hand to bless and honor the work that brought the center to fruition.

The grant facilitated the construction of the building and establishment of a service-learning partnership between UIW and the South Presa community that lives in an historically economically depressed area.



Dr. John Velasquez stands beside the Center plaque that recognizes UIW's participation.

The fall Mission Journey Retreat was held in the IWRC Garden Room on November 4th. Pat Kerwin and Beth Villarreal facilitated discussion of the theme: Service, Community and Social Justice. Using the "Our Father" as a framework, Beth wove the social justice principles of human dignity, the common good, and option for the poor into the dialogue, reflection and prayer.

Lourdes Grotto 100 Years Old

On December 7th, 2004, the CCVI and UIW community will commemorate the 1904 dedication of the Lourdes Grotto with a candlelight procession from the Chapel of the Incarnate Word.

According to Sr. Fink's history of the Congregation, all the communities contributed to the building of the Grotto as a souvenir of the jubilee year of the promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. The Grotto was planned by Rev. J.G. Bednarek, a priest from the Chicago Archdiocese, who lived and taught theology on campus. He is reputed to have helped quarry the stone, to have placed the big blocks in position and to have wired the Grotto himself.



The Grotto is a replica of the shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes in France.

Bishop Forest conducted the dedication ceremony on December 7th, 1904. On the 8th, the traditional feast of the Immaculate Conception, Mass was celebrated at the Grotto and in the evening a procession of children from St. Joseph's

and St. John's Orphanages, the Academy students, and the Sisters wound its way from the Motherhouse to the brightly lit Grotto.

Everyone is invited to a re-enactment of this devotional custom on December 7, 2004.

Lilly Workshop Focuses on Important Role of Department Chair in Hiring for Mission

The fifth annual Lilly Fellows Program Workshop, held at St. Olaf's in Minnesota, addressed the leadership role of department chairs in relation to the mission of their church-related institutions.

Dr. Doyle, Dr. Anderson and Sr. Audrey heard speakers address the following questions:

What role do department chairs play with respect to both faculty and administrative leadership at

church-related colleges and universities? What qualities and abilities are essential and how can they be fostered? What role should those who serve as department chairs play in

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Mission in Action: Peace and Justice Dialogue



Dr. Denise Doyle prepares for her presentation on social justice research in the curriculum.

Incarnate Word: Seeking Evidence in Support of Mission Effectiveness by Drs. Connelly and Doyle.

Dr. Julie Miller from the UIW Mission Committee organized the first in a series of dialogues on articles written by faculty and published in the anthology, *Mission Matters*.

For the first gathering, she chose *Social Justice at the University of the Incarnate Word*.

The authors' research into scores of syllabi indicates the need for faculty development on social justice and how to incorporate it into learning outcomes.

Dr. Paul Lewis, respondent, and other participants in the dialogue surfaced a few key points for further consideration: (1) As a compelling part of the Mission, "service" must be visible in the curriculum, faculty scholarship, student life activities and university publications. (2) The definition of "service" must include social justice as well as community service. (3) The community service requirement of the curriculum needs to be redefined to reflect that commitment to social justice.

(4) There is a definite need for a common vocabulary and common set of "tools" to talk about and put social justice into action. (5) Education in Catholic social tradition needs to be part of faculty development so that our Mission commitment can be seriously actualized.

The second dialogue in the series will consider *The University as Catholic* by Dr. Bernadette O'Connor.

"The Christian spirit of service to others for the promotion of social justice is of particular importance for each Catholic university, to be shared by its teachers and developed in its students." —*Ex Corde Ecclesiae*

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supporting and promoting institutional missions? How can Christian institutions identify, develop, and nourish a new generation of department chairs who will advance the distinctive mission of the church-related academy?

Some of the answers included:

- Start with the advertisement. Articulate who you are and what you expect.
- Follow up with prospective candidates by discussing a written statement of "who you are."
- Mentor new hires
- Department heads should be chosen for their receptivity to Mission. Hiring and mentoring are their most important responsibilities.
- Link budget and rewards to Mission hiring.
- Chairs should embody the Mis-

sion broadly understood and appreciate the religious identity of the institution.

- The vision of the institution begins at the top. Clear statements are needed to guide the chairs in choosing the kind of faculty that are a "fit" with the Mission and identity of the university.

A full text of the talks will be available at the Lilly site later in the semester.

Fall Activities...



Mendell Morgan and Sr. Luz Romay

Mendell Morgan hosted an October "Meet and Greet" to showcase the Library, particularly changes in the Media Center and the Audio-visuals area.



Students lead opening of Peace Day celebration.

Sister Eilish Ryan conducted a "Share the Word" tour of the Chapel of the Incarnate Word to explain the architectural, artistic, and historical aspects of this



major heritage symbol on campus.