Impact of GIVING
Fall 2021

Mission Matters
Dear Friends and Supporters of Detroit Mercy,

Place matters.

That is a phrase I learned from a mentor, colleague and friend, Fr. John Staudenmeier, S.J., at Detroit Mercy. It means that our presence in the city of Detroit is important to what we do as a Jesuit and Mercy university and how we do it. Our place represents who we are today and tomorrow.

Detroit Mercy is making significant investments in “place.” The Corktown Campus recently completed a major renovation of its clinic that resulted in a soaring and beautiful atrium that greets everyone who enters. The Riverfront Campus is redesigning its courtyard to make it a welcoming place for community members, students, alumni and those in the law field who come to share their expertise with students.

A major renovation is under way at the McNichols Campus, the most obvious of these projects is the expansion of our Student Union. This project is moving quickly and will be completed in phases beginning early next year. Projects in the Engineering & Science Building, the College of Health Professions Facility, Calihan Hall, the Briggs Building, the Ford Life Sciences Building and others are in various stages of planning and completion. When concluded, this campus renovation will permanently change the footprint of the McNichols Campus.

These projects are becoming a reality through the generosity of our supporters. This effort is an opportunity for you to make your mark through a donation. We hope many of you will take this opportunity to show that these places matter to you too. What we do today will determine the university students will have tomorrow.

What happens in those places matters too. And that’s what this issue of Impact of Giving is about. Detroit Mercy educates the whole student, intellectually, ethically and spiritually. This education is guided by our founders, the Religious Sisters of Mercy and the Jesuits.

The Sisters of Mercy have five Critical Concerns they seek to address and the Jesuits have four Universal Apostolic Preferences that guide their actions. As a Mercy and Jesuit university, we are encouraged to act on these important concerns and preferences. They act as guideposts as we navigate the future.

Alumni and friends of the University can be confident that work undertaken by Detroit Mercy aligns precisely with these concerns and preferences. Many of these programs are made possible by generous donations to the Annual Fund. We hope you are inspired by reading about this work to make your own donation so that it may continue and expand.

Thank you for your support,

Arnold D’Ambrosio
Vice President for University Advancement
As a Catholic university in the Jesuit and Mercy traditions, University of Detroit Mercy looks to its religious sponsors to inform how we live out our mission. The five Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy and the four Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus invite us to consider how we are called to live and teach today.
In September, more than 500 students, staff and faculty members from four campuses attended Celebrate Spirit!, the Catholic Mass that welcomes the new school year. Hosted by University Ministry, the Detroit Mercy community was invited to return to the campus community, renew their spirit, and reignite the flame of hope inside them.
As a Catholic university in the Jesuit and Mercy traditions, University of Detroit Mercy looks to our religious sponsors to inform how we live out our mission. The five Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy and four Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) are entry points that invite us to consider how we are called to live today.

- **Nonviolence**: To work for peace through prayer, education, personal and communal practices of nonviolence, and legislative advocacy to reduce armed conflicts, gun violence and human rights abuses.

- **Earth**: To support both an environmentally sustainable lifestyle and legislation that acknowledges everyone’s right to water and the need to address climate change.

- **Racism**: To accompany the young in the creation of a hope-filled future. To walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice.

- **Immigration**: To advocate for just and humane immigration laws, address policies that push people to flee their countries, and examine the global impact of migration, reverencing the dignity of every person.

- **Women**: To give special attention to women’s education, health and spirituality through our institutions and through legislative advocacy.

The mission of the TRiO Upward Bound program is to prepare low-income, potential first-generation students from Frederick Douglass Academy for Young Men and Osborn High School for the rigors of higher education. These young men are given cultural experiences, opportunities for service learning and leadership experiences, which transform them from students to leaders. Students are academically supported with services, experiences and opportunities that help them in achieving their dreams.
Detroit Mercy Law students, guided by faculty, represent immigrants seeking help and in trials before the U.S. Immigration Court and hearings before the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in the Immigration Law Clinic. In one recent case, students represented an imprisoned asylum seeker through all the steps of his immigration court case, culminating in an exhausting all-day hearing that resulted in the client winning asylum. He then spent his first day of freedom speaking with law students about his experiences.
Each year, hundreds of students and climate activists from across metro Detroit gather at Detroit Mercy for the Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit conference. This conference focuses on the climate crisis, with lectures and hands-on experiences led by Detroit Mercy faculty, along with networking opportunities with those committed to action to save the environment. But the Bioneers conference is about more than just the environment. It is driven by a concern for the human community, an end to racism, an increased awareness of the wisdom of the often unheard — immigrants, women, indigenous peoples, African American farmers and others who fight for a just world for everybody.
Three of Detroit Mercy’s seven deans, the University’s provost and 60 percent of the student body are women. This is an institution that not only celebrates the unique gifts they bring to the campus, it finds ways to make it easier for them to be actively engaged in the University. An annual retreat offers female staff and faculty a chance to support each other and a yearlong program called Amplifying Women’s Wisdom provides opportunities for men and women to learn about and contemplate the lessons of the life of Catherine McCauley, RSM. Generous donors have provided funds for scholarships specifically for female students. In some cases, these scholarships were created by alumnae who attended this University on a scholarship and understand the importance of giving back.
Earlier this year Detroit Mercy devoted an afternoon to a wide-ranging discussion of what the Catholic Church calls “the evil of racism” and the continuing struggle against it. The Racial Justice Teach-In brought together University leadership, community members and students to work toward understanding the current state of racial relations and how to make things better in the future. Detroit Mercy used the event to reinforce the University’s personal and institutional commitment to overcome racism.
Founders Week, a new event celebrating the Religious Sisters of Mercy and the Society of Jesus, offered events, days of service and Masses designed to show the reach of our founders. One unique evening featured a presentation by three activists, including a Detroit Mercy professor, who participated in an international delegation in Honduras called Vamos a la Milpa (Let’s go the Cornfield). The event brought together students, faculty, staff and the neighboring community to hear about the numerous ways violence affects world issues from poverty to immigration and how we can find ways to address these problems.
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1. **To give special attention to women’s education, health and spirituality through our institutions and through legislative advocacy.**
2. **To support both an environmentally sustainable lifestyle and legislation that acknowledges everyone’s right to water and the need to address climate change.**
3. **To work to recognize and dismantle the evil of institutional racism in order to become an anti-racist multicultural community.**
4. **To collaborate in the care of our Common Home.**
5. **To show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment.**
6. **To advocate for just and humane immigration laws, address policies that push people to flee their countries, and examine the global impact of migration, reverencing the dignity of every person.**

Everything we do at University of Detroit Mercy is focused on educating students who will make a difference in their chosen fields. Each year, Detroit Mercy graduates more than 1,400 young adults with the understanding that what they have learned on our campuses will help them change the world.