

Dr. Garibaldi named president of UDM

BY LISA SOCARRAS

Gannon University President Antoine Garibaldi has accomplished a great deal in his ten years in office. He has raised nearly \$40 million in private and public donations, increased enrollment to the highest level in 17 years, and created national recognition for the Erie, Pennsylvania, school. In July, he will assume leadership of another Catholic college, University of Detroit Mercy, making history as the first lay president of the Jesuit school.

“My goals will be similar to those we had at Gannon,” Dr. Garibaldi said. “We want to increase and promote enrollment, increase alumni giving and elevate the profile of the school. It’s a top tier school. A big aspect of my job will be connecting the college with the revitalization of Detroit.”

Dr. Garibaldi said that throughout his 35-year career, he has used many valuable lessons learned from his upbringing in New Orleans, taught by his parents, the Josephites, and the Sisters of the Holy Family at St. Joan of Arc School.

He learned a strong work ethic from watching his parents and it was “enforced by the Sisters.” His father worked three jobs as a Pullman porter, custodian and longshoreman to provide for the nine children, while his mother worked as a homemaker, raising the three boys and six girls, all attending Catholic school.

“The Josephites and the Sisters taught us to work extra hard so that we would get jobs,” said Dr. Garibaldi who experienced segregation firsthand as a child in the South.

Students were taught virtues, goal setting and to make the most of themselves.

“Discipline was a hallmark of education,” Dr. Garibaldi said. “Not a negative thing. In a positive sense, we were taught organization, deadlines, how to speak and write well. We were taught the attributes and characteristics that a successful person would have.”

These lessons served him well. He also learned a spirit of service which motivated him to spend his life working to improve and advance the quality of lives of others through higher education.

“The service ethic was modeled by the Josephites and the Sisters,” he said. “We were trained to give back.”

Dr. Garibaldi considered a vocation to the priesthood and attended Epiphany Apostolic College, a Josephite minor seminary in New York, for six years before



Dr. Antoine Garibaldi

going on to attend Catholic University and Howard University in Washington, D.C. He earned a bachelor’s in sociology from Howard University, and a doctoral degree in educational psychology from the University of Minnesota in 1976. He served in administration at Xavier University and Howard University before his appointment at Gannon University.

He is known for his respect for others, his leadership ability, and his incredible gift of remembering names.