

## SMALL TALK WITH *Antoine M. Garibaldi*

BY KIM KOZLOWSKI  
The Detroit News

Michigan's oldest and largest Catholic university on Friday named Antoine M. Garibaldi the first lay president of University of Detroit Mercy.

Garibaldi, 60, is president of Gannon University, a Catholic university with 4,200 students in Erie, Pa. On July 1, he will begin his tenure at UDM with its 5,600 students. He will succeed Gerald Stockhausen, a Society of Jesus member who will leave UDM in June to take a national position with the Jesuits in Washington, D.C.



University of Detroit Mercy

Antoine M. Garibaldi

### **What are your goals?**

It's very important to continue with the strengthening of the university's Catholic identity, increase student enrollment and alumni donations and continue to build on the university's national profile. What's also a priority is building on the strength of the university to work with the renaissance of Detroit.

**During your nine-year tenure at Gannon University, the enrollment has increased from 3,401 to 4,238 students, the highest in 17 years. How did you do that?**

I spent a lot of time going to high schools and getting to know principals, teachers and students. When I am at schools I try to meet as many of the students and parents who are looking at Gannon. Those kind of relationships go a long way.

**How were you able to complete Gannon's largest fundraising campaign in its history, raising more than \$31.5 million in private gifts and \$8 million in foundation and government grants in 2008?**

By going out and cultivating alumni. When you get people to come back to the campus, they see things happening and are pleased with the direction of the university, then they tend to put their money where their mouth is.

**You've written 11 books and monographs and more than 80 research articles and chapters. Can you highlight a few?**

I wrote a book about black colleges and universities and a number of articles about the importance of getting assistance to low-performing students ... African-American males and the growing gender disparity in higher education.