



# IMPACT OF GIVING

FALL  
2023



**MISSION  
MOMENTS**



*“University of Detroit Mercy, a Catholic university in the Jesuit and Mercy traditions, exists to provide excellent student-centered undergraduate and graduate education in an urban context. A Detroit Mercy education seeks to integrate the intellectual, spiritual, ethical and social development of our students.”*

## DEAR SUPPORTERS OF DETROIT MERCY,

It's only 43 words, but our University mission supports everything we do at University of Detroit Mercy.

From the content of our classes to the way they are taught, from our service work in the community to the way our graduates lead in their fields, and from the decisions made by our Board of Trustees to those made by our student organizations, these 43 words guide, inspire and challenge us to do more.

It isn't always easy and, sadly, the right path isn't always the most traveled. And yet it is the path to which Detroit Mercy is committed. That commitment helps build well-rounded people of character and integrity, who transform the world.

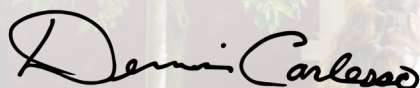
Your support is instrumental in making this mission happen every day. It enables us to allow students to participate in mission-led extra-curricular projects, enhance academic programming and maintain welcoming campuses where everyone feels at home.

We believe our mission is an important reason the University

was ranked No. 2 in the state and No. 52 in the nation in the recent Wall Street Journal/College Pulse rankings of the 400 top colleges in the nation. We are the second-highest ranked Catholic college in the Midwest, the third-highest Jesuit school and the only Mercy school. These rankings are based on student outcomes.

I hope you continue to stand with us in this important endeavor and ask how you can be part of this movement. Together, we can continue to empower students to become compassionate leaders, critical thinkers and titans of tomorrow.

With gratitude,



Dennis Carlesso '90, '97

Interim Vice President for University Advancement  
[carlesdm@udmercy.edu](mailto:carlesdm@udmercy.edu)

## WE ARE BOTH JESUIT AND MERCY

### A MESSAGE FROM FR. CHARLES ODUKE

Vice President for Mission Integration

When I was appointed vice president for Mission Integration here at Detroit Mercy, some of my friends — who had never heard of such a position — wanted to know what Mission Integration is all about.

Mission Integration has to do with appropriation, expression and celebration of the animating spirit of the founders of our University. This spirit sustains us, providing meaning and purpose for everything we do at UDM.

In addition to the wellspring of Catholic Intellectual Tradition, the distinctive Catholic DNA of our mission, like the confluence of a river with two tributaries, has two major sources: The rich spiritual heritage of both the Religious Sisters of Mercy and that of the Jesuit order.

At the heart of mission is our shared human dignity and worth. Our mission animates our diverse and inclusive learning community, inspiring our students and graduates in their respective careers and professions to be ethical global citizens who are responsible stewards of creation.

As you are well aware, the history of UDM is intertwined with that of the city we call home. The urgent task of transforming and revitalizing Detroit is also part of our mission.

Some of initiatives the Office of Mission Integration undertakes include mission formation orientation for members of the University's Board of Trustees, staff and faculty; creating community by promoting a culture of

dialogue, synodality and belonging; providing more opportunities for students to engage in experiential learning through international service immersion trips and also to participate in the celebration of hope-filled liturgies.

Our shared mission is communicated in and through the work of UDM's amazing faculty, operations and services delivered by our generous staff and administrators; and above all, the excellent professional commitment and work of our alumni and supporters. You are the living embodiment of the fruit of the integrated Jesuit and Mercy mission of Detroit Mercy.

What I find deeply consoling is that, through the leadership of lay persons who live and breathe the mission and in collaboration with Mercy Sisters and Jesuits, the future of UDM is assured.

We invite you to continue to partner and journey with us in this task of healing and transforming our neighborhoods and city. Thank you again, for your continued generous support which helps to keep our shared mission alive.

*To read more about Fr. Oduke, visit [udmercy.edu](http://udmercy.edu)*



## RAISING FUNDS TO SUPPORT MISSION WORK



Detroit Mercy has named Patrick Dorsey, S.J., to the position of director of Development for University Special Projects.

Dennis Carlesso, interim vice president for University Advancement, said those special projects will include University priorities that are not attached to a specific academic unit, including University Ministry,

the Institute for Leadership & Service and other mission-based programming.

Since his ordination in 1996, Dorsey has worked at Marquette University, Loyola University of Chicago, and the University of San Francisco in Campus Ministry and Advancement. He also provides a strong pastoral presence for those on campus as well as alumni.

While at Marquette, he worked in campus ministry and started chaplaincy programs in several schools, ROTC programs, women's basketball, and a residence hall. He also organized service trips for students, which impacted their experience of the mission and identity of the university. Building on this experience, he moved to Loyola University Chicago, where he was director of Madonna Della Strada Chapel. His duties as director of the chapel continued for six years, after which he moved into university advancement. His work at the University of San Francisco was primarily with the major gift team in the Office of Advancement.

"These past experiences have helped prepare me to serve God through the people I meet on a daily basis," Dorsey said. "From what I have read, University of Detroit Mercy is no exception to how God is revealed in the lives of students, faculty, staff and alumni. I look forward to the opportunity to meet you."

*To reach Fr. Dorsey, email [dorseyjpj@udmercy.edu](mailto:dorseyjpj@udmercy.edu).*



# IN THE COMMUNITY...

Detroit Mercy provides many ways for students, staff and faculty to engage in Detroit and its neighborhoods.



Nearly 100 students from 14 high schools in southeast Michigan participated in the GM Student Corps/UDM College Experience, which provided a walkthrough of a typical day in the life of a college student. Students learned about the significance of navigating the higher education journey through topics like financial aid, class schedules and more. By collaborating with Detroit Mercy, GM aims to inspire and empower these students by highlighting the transformative power of education and equipping them with the knowledge and tools necessary to pursue higher education.

Freshmen students learn about the University's mission of service even before they start classes. Prologues, Transitions and Viewpoints — known as PTV — is the final part of freshman orientation, a three-day dive into Detroit's social and cultural environments. It is designed to help students begin to understand the needs of the city and its residents, and work with social service agencies and community residents — big and small — in and around the McNichols Campus.



In what's becoming a new and beloved tradition, University staff, faculty and administrators come together twice a year to spruce up the McNichols Campus with flowers and other yardwork. It demonstrates the University's commitment to the Livernois and Six Mile neighborhoods and inspires an *esprit de corps* among employees who learn that their duties should sometimes take second place to the more important work of getting to know each other.



Students from sixth through 12th grades participated in a free Youth Health Exploration Camp over the summer hosted by the College of Health Professions & McAuley School of Nursing. The participants were introduced to various health professions, learned CPR, worked in the College's Simulation, Technology and Research (STAR) Center, were introduced to some fun chemistry experiments and met with Detroit Mercy student mentors, staff, faculty and administration.



# ... AND AROUND THE WORLD

Immersion trips are unique learning experiences for students who spend time living with and learning from a community that is often foreign to them. Some of these trips are part of a class, others are extracurricular, but important to the spiritual, ethical and social development of Detroit Mercy students. Many students are able to attend these often life-changing experiences through scholarships or grants set up by donors.



Steven Howard, who is in the Health Services Administration program, has participated in two service immersion trips sponsored by University Ministry. One to El Paso, Texas, where he witnessed the complexities of the U.S.-Mexico border crisis and a second was to sites in the American South where the fight for civil rights took place. "What inspired me to do this is that I have this need or want to be able to see the world from an objective viewpoint and to do that you need to see the world from various viewpoints at various times," he said.

Mission trips, often focused on an injustice, are not meant to be times where something is "fixed," he said. "You can experience an injustice by serving those impacted by that injustice. And what I learned is that listening can be service, because listening leads to learning and learning leads to understanding, and that understanding becomes a part of you."







Various colleges and schools within the University sponsor intense travel experiences where students, faculty and staff immerse themselves as a group in different cultures. The School of Architecture & Community Development regularly sends students to Volterra, Italy, and Warsaw Poland for a more traditional study abroad program. Last year Detroit Mercy marked 10 years of travel to Cuba, where students focus on person-to-person engagement, student cultural and historic preservation, the arts, history and contemporary issues. Another educational journey — to India — begins with a class in the history of India and ends with a nine-day journey to that country's Golden Triangle, the cities of New Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. A Mercy Heritage Tour of Ireland offers an international nursing experience in Cork and Dublin, Ireland, where students, faculty, staff and alumni explore the significance of the role of Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy.





The *Wall Street Journal*/College Pulse ranked University of Detroit Mercy No. 52 nationally on its list of top institutions of higher education in the United States for 2024. The ranking was based on student outcomes, learning environment and diversity of the institutions.

THIS RANKING MADE DETROIT MERCY:

**NO. 1**  
**CATHOLIC**  
UNIVERSITY IN MICHIGAN

**MICHIGAN'S**  
**SECOND**  
HIGHEST-RANKING  
UNIVERSITY ON THE LIST

**THIRD-  
HIGHEST**  
**JESUIT UNIVERSITY**  
& ONLY MERCY INSTITUTION RANKED

**FOURTH**  
**AMONG CATHOLIC**  
**INSTITUTIONS NATIONALLY**  
*(Behind only Georgetown University, Boston College and University of Notre Dame)*



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Cover photo of Youth Health Exploration event