



BROTHER TOM PIEPER

Campus Minister, UD Campus Ministry

Brother Tom has been an integral member of Campus Ministry and the University of Dayton community for 19 years. He serves as a residence life campus minister in Stuart Complex, coordinates the University of Dayton Summer Appalachia Program (UDSAP) and supervises graduate assistants. He also advises several student groups, creatively plans faith programs for first-year students — including first-year retreats and faith sharing groups — and ministers to his colleagues through empathy and prayer. Collaboration is at his core, and he serves on several University committees.

Brother Tom leads UDSAP each summer, building relationships in Kentucky through service-learning for students. He not only mentors the students in the UDSAP program, but he also gives up nine weeks of his summer to live and work with them.

As a nominator states, "I do not know of any other staff member at UD who would give the energy to the program that he has given and engender the positive feelings among participants which lead to life-long relationships that continue long after the program is over." Brother Tom's commitment to this program is one example of his dedication to social justice. This year, he also helped students organize silent protests around the racial climate in this country and then stood alongside them in protest. Many faculty and staff were inspired to participate as a result of his example. Brother Tom is not afraid to ask difficult questions in hopes of inspiring growth and understanding.

In addition to championing social justice and empowering student leaders, Brother Tom welcomes students to his home and dinner table to explore the Marianist charism, serves the city of Dayton through his partnership with the Mission of Mary Cooperative, creates a warm and welcoming environment by decorating our chapel for liturgical celebrations, and mentors numerous graduate assistants who have pursued roles in ministry. A student describes him as "the kindest, most humble and awe-inspiring man I know." Another nominator writes, "Tom has a charisma that draws people in and keeps them together. He addresses the hard topics of faith, relationships, community, racism, sexism, death, injustice and faith with grace. He is both sage-like and accessible. He leads as a servant and lives out the principles and convictions of his heart in all he does."

We are so grateful for Brother Tom's dedication, generosity and spirit of collaboration. It is with immense pleasure and appreciation that we present Brother Thomas Pieper with the 2015 Presidential Staff Achievement Award.