

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Catholic and Marianist Learning and Living

C2C PRINCIPLES AND HABITS

Principles of Community Living

COMMUNITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR LEARNING

Living in community is essential to the full development and education of the whole person. The Marianist tradition values community living as the practical way in which Christians learn to live the Gospel, striving to love God, neighbor and self in daily life. All people, regardless of religious belief or faith tradition, learn essential life lessons such as self-awareness, communication, cooperation, mutual respect, courage, forgiveness, patience and trust from living in community with others.

*The climate of acceptance that Marianists call family spirit presumes an attention to the quality of relationships among the people in the community. At the level of daily interaction, all members of the community treat each other with respect and speak with simplicity and openness. Over the long term, these daily habits acknowledge the value and dignity of every member of the community, and create the ground in which genuine friendships can flourish.*³

However, building community requires more than friendliness and is certainly about more than following rules. Genuine community requires maturity, commitment, self-sacrifice and hard work.

*Such a vision of community and friendship runs the risk of being romanticized. It must therefore be recalled that friendliness and hospitality are genuine expressions of a process that necessarily includes conflict, division, and all manner of human suffering and failing. Yet, those grounded in the Marianist vision of education recognize that only precisely out of this mix of joy and sorrow can genuine communities be formed.*⁴

Through learning in community at UD, you are more able to become a person of great character and integrity. You are better prepared to assume responsible membership in communities throughout your lifetime and to make a positive difference in the world.

THE DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON

This Marianist vision of community living is based on the conviction that every person has innate dignity because all people are made in the image and likeness of God.

*All women and men are endowed with a rational soul and are created in God's image; they have the same nature and origin and, being redeemed by Christ, they enjoy the same divine calling and destiny; there is here a basic equality between all and it must be accorded ever greater recognition.*⁵

This awareness calls us not only to respect ourselves and others, but to love ourselves and all people because of the human dignity each of us receives from God. Respect and love for self include making personal, social and academic decisions that preserve and improve one's own dignity and well-being.

Loving others includes the particular challenge to love and to respect those who are different from us. The presence of a wide range of perspectives, opinions, beliefs — and the diverse people who represent them — enhance the depth of our community and your ability to integrate the academic, religious, cultural and social elements of your life. The University Statement on Dignity states clearly:

*A primary assertion of both our religious and civil traditions is the inviolable dignity of each person. Recognition of and respect for the person are central to our life as a Christian and educational community and are what allow us to pursue our common mission while being many diverse persons.*⁶

THE COMMON GOOD

*The Catholic emphasis on the common good emerges from the conviction about human dignity. The common good is "the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily."*⁷

Emphasis on the common good shapes values very differently from secular culture, which typically gives the freedom of the individual greater importance than the needs of others. A concern for the common good leads us to make choices as individuals, groups or organizations in light of how these choices affect other people and the community as a whole. Our decisions and actions affect people in our classrooms, residence halls, houses, neighborhood, campus, city, country and ultimately the world community.

Furthermore, we are called to work actively to create and promote the common good at the University of Dayton and beyond. This may involve challenging behavior that is harmful to others or working.

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Habits for Community Living

UNIVERSITY of
DAYTON

TREAT YOURSELF WITH RESPECT

- Seek relationships that bring out the best in you and others.
- Make choices which are safe, healthy and consistent with your faith tradition and values.
- Follow the law. Don't abuse alcohol or controlled substances.
- Develop a sense of reverence for the dignity of your own sexuality.

*Do I respect myself?
How does my behavior show it?*

TREAT OTHERS WITH RESPECT

- Demonstrate dignity and respect in your communication with others.
- Develop relationships with people who are different from you.
- Honor the dignity and sexual integrity of others with your actions and words.
- Pay attention to the safety, comfort and health of others.
- Learn to handle conflict with respect, dialogue, understanding and forgiveness.

*Does my behavior show respect
for the people around me?*

BE HONEST, TRUTHFUL & LIVE WITH INTEGRITY

- Model moral behavior and virtue.
- Practice behavior that is not insulting, demeaning, destructive or harmful to you or others.
- Exercise academic integrity. Follow the UD Honor Code.
- Respond truthfully and respectfully when your behavior is questioned.
- Accept the consequences of your behavior, while learning to forgive and to accept forgiveness.

*Am I becoming the kind of
person I want to be?*

DEVELOP YOUR FAITH LIFE

- Develop a capacity for silence. Pray — alone and with others. Participate in worship.
- Reflect on how faith contributes meaning to and challenges your everyday life.
- Study your religious tradition to deepen your understanding, practice and commitment to it.
- Learn about and show respect for the religious traditions of others.
- Live gratefully, show appreciation and give thanks to God and others.

*Am I willing to be part of a faith tradition
that is larger and wiser than me?*

INTEGRATE LEARNING & LIVING

- Learn about Catholic and Marianist views of life, which shape UD's values.
- Inform and integrate your faith and beliefs with your academic learning and moral living.
- Seek truth and wisdom, not just knowledge and job skills.
- Seek mentors and models who will affirm and challenge you.
- Consider your life's path not just as a career, but as a vocation, a calling from God.
- Grieve losses, embrace challenges and celebrate successes: live fully and joyfully.

*Are all of the dimensions of
my life in harmony?*

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELF & COMMUNITY

- Exercise self-discipline as an individual and in group situations.
- Be aware of the weakest and most vulnerable around you and seek to serve them.
- Challenge groups and organizations to respond to community problems and needs.
- Speak up when you witness alcohol abuse, drug use, violence, vandalism and behaviors that harm or demean people and damage community.

*What does it mean for me to
contribute to the common good?*

PRACTICE SERVANT LEADERSHIP

- Listen first. Learn from others. Consider the needs of all.
- Practice humility and generosity of spirit when using your gifts and skills.
- Lead for the good of the community, not for advancing your own image.
- Speak up for those in need and those who have no voice.
- Encourage your student organization to make a positive contribution to UD and to the city of Dayton.

*How do I learn from others and
encourage them to use their gifts?*