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In Deed: A Survey of Programs and Activities Related to Identity and Mission: Loyola Marymount University

Editorial Board

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tics, education, family and medical care provided to Hispanic communities as well as on current needs and future directions for ministry.

- The Marymount Institute for Faith, Culture and the Arts at Loyola Marymount University works to encourage acceptance and appreciation of other cultures through the arts and religion. The institute was established in 1991 to promote dialogue between religion and the arts and to explore the cultural diversity of America. The institute supports visits by prominent artists and scholars and sponsors conferences and presentations. Its first conference focused on "Religion, Literature, the Fine and Performing Arts in Mexico Before and After Columbus."

- Loyola Marymount students collected food and clothing for victims of the floods in Northern Mexico in January. Students worked with Industrial Freight Systems, which has a terminal in Tijuana. The company parked a trailer on campus for the donations students collected from individuals, restaurants, grocery stores, hospitals and community organizations and then drove the emergency supplies down to Mexico.

Spring Hill College

Mobile, Alabama

Each fall, Spring Hill introduces new faculty to the Jesuit ideals in an orientation session offered by the Office of Academic Affairs. The director of campus ministry explains how the rich Jesuit heritage links spirituality to academics. The teachers also receive the booklet, "Go Forth and Teach," describing Jesuit education. The vice president and assistant vice president of academic affairs address expectations, the mechanics of teaching and, the "characteristics of the Spring Hill College professor." New teachers comment that this introduction bonds them to the college and makes them feel that the college has a mission and purpose for its students. As part of orientation week, Spring Hill president Father William J. Rewak SJ also addresses the faculty. His talk always blends the words of Ignatius, the college's mission, and the challenges of the new year.

Another approach to the identity question comes from the Basic Values Task Force. Composed of a cross section of Spring Hill faculty and staff, it met six times from September 3 through October 27, 1992, in an attempt to articulate "who we are" at Spring Hill College as well as "who we want to be." The members of this task force discussed their perceptions and experiences of Spring Hill's "institutional culture" in the light of documents from Spring Hill as well as documents on the Jesuit tradition and mission in higher education.

Father Christopher Viscardi SJ is in charge of promoting Jesuit identity at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama; he is chairman of the division of philosophy and theology as well as being rector of the Jesuit community. The campus ministry department at Spring Hill also plays a leading role in promoting the school's Jesuit identity. For the past few years, campus ministry has sponsored a lecture series for faculty and staff held once a month during each semester and each week during Lent. Topics for this program, called "Table Talk," have ranged from theological subjects to current social issues. The purpose of these luncheons is to build community, provide an open discussion of values, and perpetuate Jesuit ideals. Talks are lead by faculty members from a broad range of disciplines. Topics this fall included "Jesuit Education: Information and Formation," by George Gilmore, theology professor, and "Is Morality Unprofitable?" by Michael Johnson, chairman of the Division of Business and Management.

The Foley Center, a human relations program which directs student volunteer services to the community, provides another way of promoting Jesuit identity. It seeks to reinforce Jesuit ideals by intervening in the life of the Mobile community in a significant way, reflective of the "preferential option for the poor," and to recognize the increasing fracture in American society between rich and poor, especially along racial lines.

The center utilizes the present skills of Spring Hill students to help them develop a capacity for sustained and intelligent outreach into the life of their community and help them gain perspective on the service in which they engage by integrating it with academic work. The center commemorates Father Albert "Steve" Foley SJ, a civil rights leader who established day care centers in low income areas of Mobile and administered a program where the disadvantaged, minorities and the handicapped were trained for jobs.

The Metropolitan Service Grant (MSG) is funded by Spring Hill scholarship programs and is part of the Foley Center. It helps students with tuition in exchange for weekly community service. The program currently involves approximately 45 Service Grant students and five non-Service
Grant students who devote several hours a week tutoring middle school students in the public school system. Since education is one of the greatest needs in Mobile, this program joins skills and needs. Seven Service Grant students are members of an entertainment troupe which performs musical programs at local nursing homes. The remaining Service Grant students either visit nursing homes or run a sports program on Sunday afternoons at St. Mary's Home, an orphanage near Spring Hills campus.

**Other Programs**

- Campus Ministry sponsors several programs for our students. One of the more popular activities is the "SHAPE Retreats." More than 80 students are involved twice a year in the Spring Hill Awakening Program (SHAPE), a retreat organized by students for students. It is designed to move students from the passive to the active role in helping to develop their own personhood in light of the Jesuit educational ideal.

- Each fall students, faculty and staff show their compassion for the hungry of the world by participating in Oxfam America, America's annual Fast for a World Harvest. Spring Hill students have responded to the call for community service through their participation in Habitat for Humanity.

- Since 1987, Spring Hill has been involved in an exchange relationship with the Universidad Rafael Landivar, the Jesuit University in Guatemala City. In these years, six groups of professors from Landivar have visited Spring Hill to give talks and classes, and several groups of Spring Hill students and professors have visited Guatemala to study Spanish and to learn about a third world country and the mission of the Jesuits of Central America. The students who participate live with Guatemalan families and are totally immersed in the Spanish language and culture.

- In recent years, the College was the recipient of two Ford Foundation grants. The first grant of $100,000, awarded in the late 1980s, supplemented federal financial aid to 24 African-American students, enabling them to attend Spring Hill and major in education. Many of those students will graduate this year.

- The other grant of $100,000, awarded in 1990, allowed the College to place a new and stronger emphasis on local culture, African-American studies, Asian studies and women's studies. The grant helped the college diversify its curriculum to keep pace with demographic and cultural changes under way in American society. It also provided faculty members release time to develop new courses.

The main emphasis of the grant reshaped the sophomore core curriculum to serve as a multicultural contrast to the freshman core curriculum which focuses on Western culture.

- Spring Hill offers assistance to culturally disadvantaged high school students. For 25 years, the College has administered the local Upward Bound program touching the lives of more than 1,500 Mobile area students. This program brings talented disadvantaged students to weekend and summer classes on campus and prepares them for college. About 99.5 percent of all students who participate go on to college, many choosing to remain at Spring Hill.

- During the Ignatian Anniversaries Year from September 1990 through April 1991, Spring Hill offered more than a dozen lectures by faculty and visiting distinguished professors. Topics ranged from "Seismology: The Jesuit Science" to "The Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins." The culmination of the year was a major two-day conference, "Ignatius Understanding of the Jesuit University." Keynote speakers for the event were the Rev. Michael J. Buckley SJ, Professor of Theology at Boston College, and the Rev. Leo O'Donovan SJ, President of Georgetown University.