

DIVISION OF

**Mission +  
Ministry**

# EXECUTIVE ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

 **DEPAUL UNIVERSITY**

# DEPAUL UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

As an innovative Catholic, Vincentian university anchored in the global city of Chicago, DePaul supports the integral human development of its students. The university does so through its commitment to outstanding teaching, academic excellence, real world experience, community engagement, and systemic change. DePaul prepares graduates to be successful in their chosen fields and agents of transformation throughout their lives.

Guided by an ethic of Vincentian personalism and professionalism, DePaul passionately upholds the dignity of all members of its diverse, multifaith, and inclusive community. Through education and research, the university addresses the great questions of our day, promoting peaceful, just, and equitable solutions to social and environmental challenges. Since its founding in 1898, DePaul University has remained dedicated to making education accessible to all, with special attention to including underserved and underrepresented communities.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON MARCH 4, 2021



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# INTRODUCTION

Dear friends,

It is with great joy that we share with you the highlights of the DMM Executive Annual Report. In this document you will get a peek at some of our accomplishments and challenges for the academic year 2022–2023.

It is always wonderful to effectively contribute to mission integration at all levels at DePaul through direct programs that impact the formation and development of our faculty, staff, and students; through meaningful collaborations with many departments that require our expertise and understanding of the mission; and through institutional initiatives around our common mission.



Recently, Pope Francis said the role of the university is to train “social poets.” This is something that Mission and Ministry has been trying to do intentionally, developing a social poetry in which nonviolence, equity, and sustainability are the very foundation of that new world described in sacred books.

We are here to work with all of you. We are open to dream together and to use all our human financial and structural resources to really make DePaul an institution that is driven by its mission.

May the original intuition and spirit of in the heart of Vincent and Louise always guide us as we try to understand and respond to the complexity of the times.



## **DIVISION OF MISSION AND MINISTRY (DMM)**

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

# BY THE NUMBERS

**4,587** unique participants in  
DMM STUDENT-FOCUSED PROGRAMS, with  
**15,907** touchpoints

**1,035** unique faculty and staff  
participants in FASE PROGRAMMING

**9,364** total hours of service  
completed by **1,462** students through  
DMM PROGRAMMING

**28** percent of all undergraduates  
participated in DMM PROGRAMS/SERVICES

**1 in 3** full-time staff participated  
in FASE PROGRAMS

**28,107**  
Number of "VINCENTIAN HERITAGE"  
PDF ARTICLE DOWNLOADS this year  
[from **163** countries and territories worldwide]

**765** hours of PASTORAL CARE  
provided by DMM staff

**\$971,152** provided in  
direct scholarships to **151** students

**45** percent of students served through  
CCM are LATINÉ

**2,708** participants  
engaged in MMATM WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS  
(**33% increase** from AY 21-22)  
with a total of **1,752** unique participants

**1,100** participants and **51** DePaul partners  
at LPC VINNY FEST and Loop Mini Vinny

**1** VIA REFLECTION TOOLKIT completed  
as a resource for direct service engagement:  
<https://blogs.depaul.edu/via/>

**105** DMM STUDENT LEADERS engaged in  
year-long leadership formation

**4** university-wide SUSTAINABILITY  
NETWORK WEAVING events held

**\$87,000** principal grants (over \$2,000)  
and **\$15,068** Discretionary Grants awarded  
by the VINCENTIAN ENDOWMENT FUND  
during FY23

**208** new employees onboarded  
to mission by FASE

**606** unique students attended  
MUSLIM LIFE events

**708** community members participated in  
VINCENTIAN SERVICE DAY (VSD), a **34% increase**  
in student participation from VSD 2022

**97** percent of those who completed  
the VSD EVALUATION agreed the experience  
connected them to the **mission of DePaul** and  
the greater Chicago community

**314** number of attendees  
at the VINCENTIAN HERITAGE WEEK LUNCH  
and PRAYER BREAKFAST

**31** faculty and staff went on the August  
VINCENTIAN HERITAGE TOUR

**1,406** unique students participated in  
ORDPC PROGRAMMING

**83** students participated in CATHOLIC CAMPUS  
MINISTRY's small faith groups: Women's, Men's,  
Latiné, Scripture, Social Justice, LGBTQIA

**5** retreats held by  
CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

**528** students participated in Tepeyac's  
collaboration with the Latinx Cultural Center:

**La Feria**, an event to celebrate  
LATINÉ HERITAGE MONTH

**92** students engaged in  
SERVICE IMMERSION TRIPS, completing  
**3,483** service hours with **9** domestic and  
international destinations

**40** Chicago Quarter courses  
with **771** people participated in CHICAGO  
QUARTER SERVICE DAY

**39** seniors completed the  
MMATM CERTIFICATE PROGRAM and  
**20** students learned about Vincentian heritage  
and living legacy on the Paris Vincentian  
Heritage Tour 2023



*"I learned that community  
and a safe space is very important  
in one's daily routine, and that is  
something we created here  
as a collective."*

—CCM FAITH BASED  
COMMUNITY PARTICIPANT







# 2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS



# Sustainability and University Task Force

Sustainability and equity are signs of the times critical to the global Vincentian mission that we share as a Vincentian educational institution. Both intersect in many ways and impact individuals, institutions, and the social fabric as we seek to respect life in all its forms and cultivate a just and peaceful coexistence in our human family. Here are two institution-wide projects led by DMM related to sustainability and equity.

## SUSTAINABILITY AT DEPAUL



The comprehensive review and revision of the university mission statement in AY 21 made clear that DePaul stakeholders considered sustainability a mandate of our mission. DMM continued to lead the President’s Sustainability Committee (PSC), a group commissioned by then-President Esteban in the fall of 2021, for the second year. President Manuel approved its continued work as a committee ultimately reporting to him and met with the group several times.



Under the leadership of the director of Just DePaul, Rubén Álvarez Silva, the PSC continued to report as a *Laudato Si’* University and joined the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), through which any member of the university community can do research and take relevant webinars.

The PSC also conducted a best practices analysis of university sustainability offices nationwide as part of a process to recommend an ideal office design at DePaul, designed a sustainability website, and participated in institution-wide initiatives including Earth Week, the Hale Sustainability Conference, and Migration Network Weaving with the DePaul Migration Collaborative. The PSC will continue to advocate for and educate about sustainability, directed by the Designing DePaul guidelines.



*“We do not change overnight and neither does the world. We slowly have to take steps to draw ourselves closer to the people we want to be and the change we want to see.”*

—SERVICE IMMERSION TRIP PARTICIPANT

## TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS VINCENTIANS' RELATIONSHIP WITH SLAVERY

The Task Force was established in fall 2021 following new awareness that early members of DePaul's sponsoring organization, the Western Province of the Congregation of the Mission, enslaved people in the 1800s. In June 2023 the dedicated 17-member Task Force completed its charges: (1) leading the renaming of the former Rosati Room in Richardson Library after a person of African descent, (2) employing a mission lens to identify learning initiatives, documentation, and research to educate our community, (3) giving voice to the community to express their concerns and proposals to respond to issues of equity at DePaul in the present time. The Task Force later added a task to rename a residence hall to honor a person of African descent.

Research efforts included unearthing additional names and establishing a list of enslaved individuals mentioned in records, creating a searchable database of relevant notes from the archival sources, and educating the community on [Aspasia LeCompte](#), a woman formerly enslaved by Bishop Rosati. Educational efforts included regular updates to the DePaul community and establishing a permanent [website](#).

Efforts culminated in May with two powerful public events. The first was *Confronting our History: Vincentian Slaveholding, an Apology and Commitment to Atonement*, a service attended by 200 people at which the Provincial of the Western Province apologized for the Congregation's history of enslaving people and committed to take action to atone. The second was a public renaming ceremony of both the former Rosati room and the Belden-Racine Residence Hall after LeCompte. When concluding its work, the Task Force made suggestions for the future to the president of DePaul.





# Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM)

The mission of Catholic Campus Ministry proceeds from the heart of the Church and remains grounded in the values and life of Jesus of Nazareth. CCM seeks to cultivate the integral human development of our students through synthesizing the knowledge of “head, heart, and hands.” This is achieved by fostering authentic community, nurturing spiritual growth, educating in the Catholic Vincentian tradition, and forming leaders for mission.



## HIGHLIGHTS

CCM reinvigorated small faith sharing groups led by students based on different identities or topics of interest: Latiné, Scripture, men’s, women’s, seeking and questioning, social justice, and LGBTQ+. The CCM ministry coordinator met weekly with student leaders to form them and assist with planning and execution, and the groups were a success.

A new weekly Community Night program was introduced, whose presenters included Sr. Helen Prejean, Catholic Studies Faculty, and DMM colleagues. Bishop Bartosic led a Lenten Lecture series and CCM hosted the Bishop in the CCM Student Center space for four Mondays.

Student participation in the spiritual companioning Lenten Retreat program quadrupled, and CCM partnered with ORDPC on an Ecumenical Lenten Retreat Prayer Series.

CCM successfully leveraged new collaboration with Vincent de Paul parish on Sunday 5:00 p.m. Mass to increase participation, establishing a weekly Liturgy Team meeting consisting of both students and parishioners. CCM also held Taizé Prayer weekly during Lent at St. Vincent de Paul Parish Church.

*Cafecito con Tepeyac* continued to expand its departmental and student organization collaborative partners to serve Latiné students at DePaul, as did the 3-day *Cultura y Comida* program.



*“I learned that allowing yourself to be vulnerable changes the way that you see life. When you really open yourself up to God, you allow God to come into your life, even in its darkest place.”*

—BISHOP BARTOSIC LENTEN SERIES PARTICIPANT



# Office of Religious Diversity and Pastoral Care (ORDPC)

The Office of Religious Diversity and Pastoral Care guides, supports, and advocates for the diverse religious and spiritual communities at DePaul by nurturing spiritual and faith development of individuals and communities and fostering interfaith and ecumenical dialogue and cooperation, inculcating Vincentian values throughout the university through the lens of diverse faith and worldviews. The office also provides and cultivates diverse pastoral presence and care throughout the university.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Focus areas within ORDPC had a very fruitful year. Sankofa Black Student Formation Program celebrated 10 years and organized the second annual Black Excellence Awards Ceremony. Muslim Life saw increased attendance at all its many educational, religious, and community building events, and the UMMA student group and Muslim Life Center sponsored a food-packing program for an international food relief program. The Jewish Life Office was quite active in securing a Torah for DePaul, held a reception for Jewish faculty and staff in the Jewish Life Center, and continued its advocacy and religious, social, and educational programming with Jewish students on campus.

As students from many worldviews seek to live out their Vincentian values, ORDPC staff developed resources (quotes, anecdotes, stories of life and work) taken from diverse spiritual leaders who exemplify Vincentian values and added them to existing Vincentian resources within the division.

ORDPC staff developed and led a moving interfaith blessing for DePaul's new president as part of the Inauguration Week celebration, and its ministry coordinator for Christian and interfaith engagement led a powerful institution-wide service titled "Confronting our History: Vincentian Slaveholding, an Apology and Commitment to Atonement." Staff also organized the popular "Can We Talk" discourse event at DePaul with actor Penn Badgley and developed three subsequent "Can We Talk" events on campus.

ORDPC made great strides this year with collaborative partnerships. These included working with the Student Government Association and the Women's Center around antisemitism and interfaith dialogue, developing a program for kosher and halal food accommodation with Chartwells and Student Affairs staff, working with the library in developing meeting and prayer space for Muslim students and others, and collaborating with the Grace School of Applied Diplomacy in preparation for dynamics around a controversial speaking event. Ongoing collaborative partners include OMSS, OIDE, CSD, UCPS, HPW, DOS, DPUBLIC, and OSI.

The ORDPC team is also actively involved in teaching at DePaul. The director taught a mindfulness meditation class for the College of Education and all staff regularly do guest lecturing throughout the year. Three of the ORDPC team members teach a Discover/Explore class while the fourth served as staff professional on the ORDPC director's course, World Religions and Spiritualities.



*"I found lifelong friends in the Interfaith Scholars group. These dynamic and kind people shaped not only the way I view religion but also the way I view friendship."*

—DEPAUL INTERFAITH SCHOLAR

# Vincentian Service and Formation Office (VSFO)

Inspired by the legacy of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac, Vincentian Service & Formation (VSFO) empowers students to uphold the collective liberation and dignity of all, particularly historically marginalized communities. VSFO cultivates Vincentian leaders through communal formation rooted in direct service, faith and spirituality, and transformative justice.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Meet Me at the Mission not only engaged 1,752 students and 284 faculty and staff with their Vincentian leadership programs, they also partnered with the Office of Student Involvement to create a new DePaul Tradition, the Shared Coin, to celebrate individuals living DePaul's mission and help bring the mission to life. Nearly 900 coins were distributed across campuses.

DCSA weekly student volunteers served for 1,736 hours this academic year through 12 community partnerships. This was a 366-hour increase from AY 21-22 and contributed to the 8,847 total service hours provided through VSFO. DCSA also hosted 3 Vincentians in Action (VIA) social/hospitality events to create spaces of community and hospitality for nearly 200 engaged students.



To enhance service offerings to nontraditional students with families and other commitments, the Service Immersion Program expanded to three 1-day immersion events in addition to its longer winter and spring break service trips. The 1-day Immersion themes were fighting to end homelessness, interfaith service and justice, and intentional communities in Chicago

To improve the Vincentian Service Day process, VSFO's Program Coordinator worked with IS to create a dashboard to help facilitate faster check-in and enable the Service Day Team to track volunteers per site in real time in order to smoothly redeploy volunteers to other sites if necessary.

*"I feel like I am Vincentian in the way that I interact with others. I try to use every interaction with someone as an opportunity to learn from them and honor their unique experience. This is not what society teaches us and I am constantly working to be countercultural and question oppressive systems and I think being Vincentian aligns with this goal of mine."*

—VSFO STUDENT PARTICIPANT



# Faculty and Staff Engagement (FASE)

With the completion of the 2022–2023 academic year, Mission and Ministry’s Faculty and Staff Engagement (FASE) for mission integration has completed five full years of work to grow, support and sustain a consistent and committed network of mission leaders among DePaul’s faculty and staff. During this time, the FASE team has developed a menu of core programs and initiatives that directly engages over 25 percent of DePaul’s faculty and staff in mission engagement programs and initiatives while continuing to develop new mission-oriented resources and tools to support a model of distributed leadership for mission across the university.



*“It was so nice to hear how folks in departments other than mine are seeing the university’s mission be enacted, so I’m grateful for learning about that. I think it was a good reminder that good things are happening across the university, and so many of us are actively working toward those good things happening.”*

—LIVING THE MISSION PARTICIPANT

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Interdisciplinary engagement of 675 faculty and staff, representing nearly every academic and non-academic area in the university and allowing for meaningful mission-related interaction and dialogue across “silos.”
- Launched two new initiatives focused on mission engagement:
  - The *Vincentian Pedagogy Project* involved a group of 18 faculty selected from across all colleges to develop the concept of a Vincentian-mission inspired pedagogy. The program will target the participation of adjunct faculty in the coming year.
  - *Quarterly Vincentian Management Forums* were launched in the spring quarter, hosting 68 DePaul managers in discussing the integration of mission in the work of managing people and teams and will continue in the coming year.
- Organized and gathered 190 DePaul faculty and staff for a reception honoring 48 of our departing members of the community, leaving because of the VSIP, retirement, or both.
- Introduced DePaul’s Vincentian history and mission to 208 new employees through the New Employee Orientation and Living the Mission programs.
- Continued to see substantial engagement of faculty and staff with core program offerings such as Lunch with Vincent (averaging 48 participants for six programs during the year) and retreat programs (averaging 43 participants).
- Two Vincentian Heritage Tours involving 22 senior leaders of the university took place in the spring and summer of 2023.





# Just DePaul

Just DePaul seeks to increase awareness of mission-integration by collecting and disseminating information on Social and Environmental Justice (SEJ)-focused initiatives, organizations, and events throughout the university. Just DePaul builds connections for collaboration by facilitating network-weaving activities to foster student/faculty/staff SEJ-focused partnerships, fostering mission-integration reflection throughout the university, and supporting resource channels for SEJ collaborations.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Just DePaul's main focus of the past year, working in close cooperation with the President's Sustainability Committee, was to convene a diverse set of faculty, students, staff, alumni, and community partners to explore how DePaul University can become a global leader in sustainability. This was achieved through the activities below.

## NETWORK WEAVING

Through quarterly institution-wide events, Just DePaul and co-collaborators sought to activate stakeholders at all levels of the university to identify pain points and resource potential projects. Town halls were held in October (with 67 participants), February (with 72 participants), and as part of the Hale Sustainability Conference in April (with over 100 conference participants). In addition, student staff created a spreadsheet of all sustainability-focused programs, courses, and student groups at DePaul. In AY 24, Just DePaul plans to deploy a Network Weaving train-the-trainer model across all colleges and schools and continue to facilitate quarterly Netweaving events as well as regular university-wide sustainability events.



## CURRICULUM, OPERATIONS, RESEARCH & ENGAGEMENT (CORE) PROJECTS

With the support of network stakeholders, Just DePaul supported CORE projects in the following ways:

1. Compiled best practices for sustainability offices in the Future Directions for DePaul's Sustainability Network document.
2. Coordinated university-wide sustainability events such as a screening and discussion of "The Letter," as part of [Laudato Si' Week 2023](#) and the Second Annual Hale Sustainability Conference co-hosted with the Coleman Entrepreneurship Center.
3. Designed the first university-wide sustainability website which will launch in July 2023, in partnership with students from WRD 532: Content course and the HumanitiesX Student Fellows.
4. Committed, with various stakeholders, to co-host the *DePaul Faculty Sustainability Learning Community: Building a Sustainable Curriculum* and to tag sustainability-related courses in the course catalog starting from AY 23-24.

*"At DePaul University, we define sustainability as affirming the interdependence of natural and social systems. Being sustainable means acting in ways that respect the Earth's ecological limits while promoting environmental and humanitarian justice. It is critical that we acknowledge past injustices and unsustainable practices in order to shape a way forward from within the current escalating crises."*

—PRESIDENT'S SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

# Vincentian Studies Institute (VSI)

The mission of the Vincentian Studies Institute is to promote a living interest in the historical and spiritual heritage and contemporary experience of the Vincentian Family under the patronage of Saint Vincent de Paul (1581–1660) and Saint Louise de Marillac (1591–1660). The VSI publishes *Vincentian Heritage* and a series of academic monographs, and supports collections, research, presentations, external publications, and other forms of scholarship that advance the study of our Vincentian heritage.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Current volumes of *Vincentian Heritage*, our peer-reviewed scholarly journal published biannually, are available free-to-download on the Division of Mission and Ministry's website at: [Download Vincentian Heritage E-Book](#). Our latest issue, Volume 37, Number 1, was published in spring 2023, and features articles that touch upon the theme of Vincentian words and voices.

Included in its sizable [Vincentian Heritage Collections](#) online, the Institute hosts a repository on *Digital Commons* that houses every [Vincentian Heritage](#) article published over its 43-year history. For the year 2022–23, this archive recorded 28,107 unique PDF article downloads from 163 countries and territories worldwide. Over our entire history online, there have been 354,123 PDF article downloads from 208 countries and territories worldwide.

The VSI, along with the Division of Mission and Ministry, cosponsored the conference [Becoming a Church of the Poor: The Vincentian Charism and Reform](#) with the university's Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology (CWCIT). Held April 13–15, 2023, the event featured speakers from the Philippines, Chile, Haiti, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Nigeria, Argentina, the U.S., and Europe discussing reforms inaugurated by Pope Francis through a Vincentian lens.

In partnership with Special Collections and Archives, the VSI began support for a digitization and access project for Vincentian materials which includes the purchase of Quartex Digital Platform software. This software will allow us to deepen engagement with existing research materials, with a particular interest in assisting the research of the university's Task Force to Address the Vincentians' Relationship with Slavery.



The VSI Board awarded \$26,300 over two years to Alan R. Sweeten, PhD, adjunct professor of History at California State University, Stanislaus, for his research project “Vincentian Missions in North China and Chinese Reaction: The Massacre of Priests, Religious Sisters, and Local Catholics at Tianjin, 1870.” Sweeten will critically reexamine the massacre and the reasons it occurred through first-hand research in archives across North America, Europe, and China, and will publish his findings.

# Scholarships and Financial Assistance

Mission and Ministry scholarship programs build leadership capacity for selected groups of mission-engaged undergraduate and graduate students to form the next generation of Vincentian and Catholic leaders in the Church and in the world.

## SCHOLARSHIPS ADMINISTERED BY DMM

VSFO oversees the DePaul Leadership Scholarship (DeLS), Vincentian Service Scholarship (VSS) and Arthur J. Schmitt Scholarship programs that involved 92 students who focused on acting as socially responsible leaders dedicated to justice. These students received mentoring, engaged in Vincentian service and reflection, participated in common DMM student leader formation, and more.

## DIVISION OF MISSION AND MINISTRY DIRECT SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIP	NO. OF STUDENTS	DOLLARS
Catholic Learning Community Scholarship	4	\$11,552.00
Center for Public Interest Law Summer Scholarship	2	\$10,000.00
DAX Program	7	\$27,355.00
Faith in Action Scholarship	7	\$15,750.00
Frederic Ozanam Scholarship	6	\$113,760.00
General Mission and Ministry Scholarship	3	\$86,933.00
International Vincentian Scholarship	7	\$114,648.68
Marillac-St. Vincent's Scholarship	4	\$54,966.00
Mission and Ministry Summer Scholarships	16	\$94,040.76
Monarch	4	\$80,000.00
Vincentian Assistance Scholarship (one time scholarships to support degree completion)	59	\$254,782.37
Vincentian Dependent Scholarship	1	\$44,604.00
Vincentian Heritage Tour Scholarship	21	\$57,760.00
Vincentian Study Abroad Scholarship	10	\$5,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>\$971,151.81</b>

The Vincentian Assistance Fund (VAF) provides one-time, non-tuition emergency assistance grants to currently employed or enrolled students, faculty and staff. In 2022-23, VAF assisted 30 individuals and supported 10 refugee students with funds for short-term financial emergencies such as medical bills, rent, utility service, funeral expenses, and food insecurity.

# Marketing Communications

The Division of Mission and Ministry maintains 15 social media accounts to keep our target audiences informed, maintains a divisional blog, and manages several email lists to keep our stakeholders informed and to engage new people. DMM seeks to coordinate posts, shares, and promotions so that our reach increases dramatically. This approach is crucial on larger projects and weeklong event promotions.

Below are social media figures and some highlights from analytics data in AY 2023:

	IMPRESSIONS	ENGAGEMENT	ENGAGEMENT RATE	PUBLISHED POSTS
Facebook	60,446	6,456	8%	466
Instagram	280,843	10,467	3.67%	467
Twitter	14,094	229	1.26%	111
LinkedIn	1,653	109	5.07%	58
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>357,036</b>	<b>17,261</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>1,102</b>



## MISSION AND MINISTRY BLOG

The [Way of Wisdom](#) Blog received 33,703 page views. This compares to 23,435 page views for the 2021–2022 Academic School Year; a 43% increase. The highest performing blog posts were: [“How Can Vincentian Discernment Anchor Us in Uncertain Times”](#), [“Transforming DePaul University”](#), and [“DePaul University Class of 2023: A Final Invitation Before You Depart from Us”](#).

## YOUTUBE CHANNEL

The DMM YouTube channel has 1,560 subscribers. DMM videos received 37.8K views for 4.3K hours of watch time. This is a 5% decrease from the previous year, but DMM released fewer videos in AY 23. We have plans in the upcoming year to add to our video library to increase views.

## NEWSLETTERS

SEA sent 104 email campaigns to 126,208 recipients, with an average open rate of 44% and click rate of 1%. SEA plans to undertake digital hygiene in the coming year to clean its lists. FASE sent 11 newsletters to 50,453 individuals. These marketing efforts resulted in an open rate of 44% (23% above industry average) and a click rate of 4%.



# Ombuds Office

In keeping with its Vincentian and Catholic identity, DePaul University seeks to ennoble the dignity and respect of every member of its community. It also expects the same from individual members of the community in their relations with each other. DePaul chose to situate the Ombuds Office within the Division of Mission and Ministry to stress the importance of the university's mission and values in influencing management decisions.

Given confidentiality, the Ombuds did not keep records on behalf of the university but did maintain a case management system based on guidelines developed by the International Ombudsman Association to help track the progress of work with each visitor. No permanent files were kept, but anonymous statistical data was. For 2022-23, data included that the Ombuds had 415 visitors last year, 22% of whom were faculty and 62% staff. The top concerns presented were organizational issues, strategic- and mission-related issues, evaluative relationships, as well as employee compensation and benefits.

At the end of the 2023 academic year, Ombuds Rev. Craig Mousin retired from full-time employment at DePaul after 20 years in his position. As of June 30, 2023, the university decided to pause offering the services of the Ombuds Office. For the time being, inquirers are being referred to other resources within the university for assistance.

We offer many thanks for Craig for his work in establishing the Ombuds Office and providing a safe and confidential environment outside formal channels for faculty and staff to discuss issues, concerns, and problems relating to the university that they deemed to be inconsistent with DePaul's mission and values. Craig was highly respected in the institution and truly exemplified Vincentian values at work and in his personal life.



# 2022–23 SELECTED STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS + COLLABORATION PARTNERS

## ACADEMIC DEGREES AND PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

- **Carolina Perez** graduated with her master's degree in justice ministry from Catholic Theological Union in May 2023.
- **Dr. Jen Goldberg** completed her rabbinical studies and was ordained in June 2023.
- **Rev. Dr. Diane Dardón** completed certification as a spiritual director in June 2023.
- **Rev. Jené Ashley Colvin** completed one quarter of Clinical Pastoral Experience in June 2023.
- **Tom Judge** obtained his license as a professional counselor in July 2023.

## AWARDS

- **Joyana Dvorak** was featured as one of the 125 Faces of DePaul for the 125th Anniversary and received the Office of Student Involvement Golden Gnome Award, given to campus partners who excel at collaboration
- At the Black Excellence Awards, **Minister Jené Ashley Colvin** received an *Excellence in Mission* award and **Abdul-Malik Ryan** and **Joyana Dvorak** received *Excellence in Solidarity* awards.

## RECOGNITIONS

- **Abby Rampone** presented a breakout session on “1-Day Local Service Immersions” at the Ignatian Solidarity Network’s Service Immersion Coordinators Summit. She also had a Lenten spiritual reflection published in [U.S. Catholic](#) and her zine, *Left Catholic*, has reached a significant audience.
- **Dr. Mark Laboe** was appointed to the Catholic Theological Union Board of Trustees in September of 2022 and serves on the Board of Directors of Chicago Survivors.
- **Gina Leal** served on the Excellence in Leadership Awards selection committee, the First Generation Committee led by OMSS, and supported VSFO students to share experiences as part of the 2023 *Service Speaks Conference* and chapbook.
- **Karl Nass** served on the 2023 DePaul University and Australian Catholic University *Conference on Community Engagement, Service-Learning and Solidarity*, DePaul’s Experiential Learning Committee, and the 2023 Association of Catholic Colleges & Universities (ACCU) Community Engaged Scholar-Practitioner Network (CESPN) Conference in Washington, DC in February 2023.





## RECOGNITIONS (CONT.)

- **Rubén Álvarez Silva, M.Ed.**, co-authored “University-Community Collaborations: A Vehicle for Capacity Building and Mutual Learning within an Immigrant Mental Health Coalition” in *Collaborations: A Journal of Community-Based Research and Practice*, 2/27/2023.
- **VSFO staff** created the [VIA Reflection Toolkit](#), a resource for those engaged in direct service and community engagement at DePaul University, in the Vincentian Family and beyond.

## SELECTED NEW COLLABORATIONS

- Division of Mission and Ministry cosponsored **World Catholicism Week**, *Becoming a Church of the Poor: The Vincentian Charism and Reform*, with CWCIT and Catholic Studies.
- MMATM collaborated with the Office of Student Involvement (OSI) for the Foundations Day to create a **new DePaul Tradition**, [the Shared Coin](#).
- In celebration of the 125th anniversary of DePaul, MMATM partnered with the Office of Student Involvement to pilot **Mini Vinny Fest** outside the Loop DePaul Center at which 350 participants engaged with 11 new Loop partners to engage underrepresented loop-based student communities (including international students).
- PAX became a new partner for the **VHT PAX 250** classes.
- New partners for the **Service Immersion Program** 1-day local Service Immersions: Inner-City Muslim Action Network, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, Interfaith America, St. Francis Catholic Worker House, ICA GreenRise, The Fireplace Community, and the Covenantal Community Housing Cooperative.
- Just DePaul co-organized the **2nd Annual Hale Sustainability Conference** in partnership with the Coleman Entrepreneurship Center.
- Catholic Campus Ministry collaborated with the Latinx Cultural Center and others on **La Feria**, an event to celebrate Latiné Heritage month.
- Catholic Campus Ministry collaborated with the Archdiocese of Chicago on **Bishop Bartosic’s lecture series**.
- Division of Mission and Ministry co-sponsored the **Christmas at DePaul video project**.
- ORDPC collaborated with the Office of Student Involvement on the **“Can We Talk” discourse event** with Penn Badgley and Dr. Nura Mowzoon.

## GRANTS

- ORDPC received an **Interfaith America Grant** for developing an interfaith service component to Interfaith Scholars program.



“If you had asked me four years ago to list even one value of the Vincentian mission, I would be lying if I told you I could, but being able to name things and concepts I had been practicing since I was young like showing hospitality and acknowledging the human dignity of others made me realize how much of a Vincentian I had already become. I no longer feel lonely because of how simple it is to form a connection with others and be able to cultivate it into something great.”

—VSFO STUDENT PARTICIPANT



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