

THE blarney stone

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OF NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL
AND MARIST ACADEMY

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Campus ministry goes for peer-to-peer

Recent moves in Notre Dame's campus ministry department aim to bring students closer to school mission and the 'Marist Way.'

Changes within Notre Dame's campus ministry department are having a big effect on the students in all three divisions, says Cathy Zuccaro, campus ministry director. No longer are the students of Notre Dame content with just being "ministered" by Zuccaro and her department colleagues.

"Because students play a vital role in the faith formation of their peers, it is necessary that we provide an opportunity

for our students to minister to each other in the school and to those outside of school." So says a line from a new mission statement that helps define a new focus on peer ministry at Notre Dame this year.

"We no longer just 'do' retreats in campus ministry," Zuccaro says. "Instead they are just a part—still an important part—of a comprehensive plan for each grade in the upper division. We emphasize more going into religion classes and prepping the kids before their retreats and then solidifying the message, atmosphere, and purpose of the retreats afterwards."

And now with a focus on peer ministry, Zuccaro says campus ministry activity also is much more involved in the students than what it used to be. She says that within the new organization, which has a six-student board, there are now liturgy,

retreat, service and mentor commissions, each having different committees under them and each having leadership positions as well.

This model also seems to fit well with what has been trending at the university level when it comes to campus ministry. In a recent book written by Stephen Lutz, a campus minister at Penn State University, he notes that "traditional campus ministry treated mission or outreach as something we 'do,' while a missional focus is something we 'are.' Mission shifts from an activity focus to our identity."

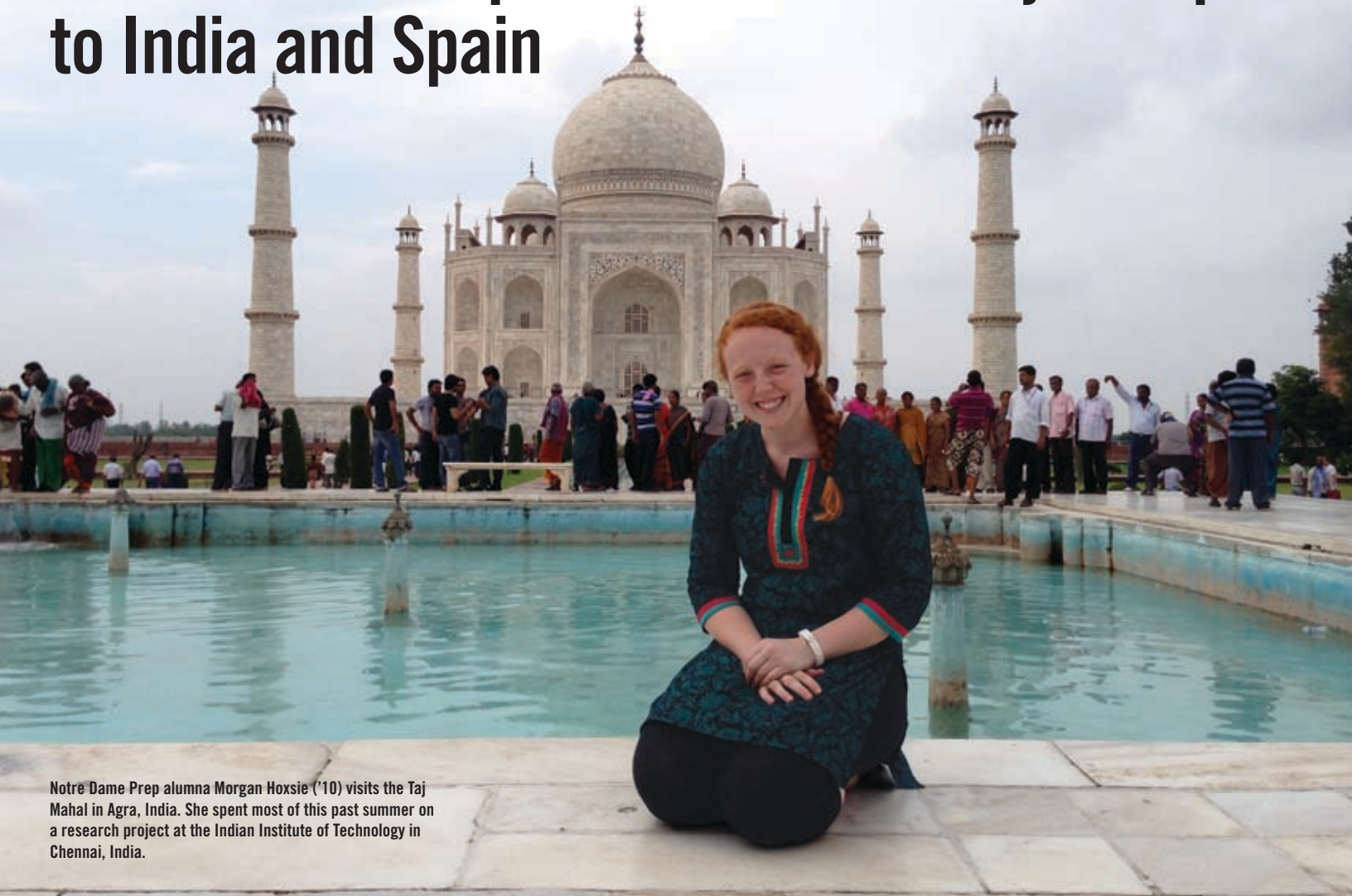
Identity for NDPMA students, Zuccaro says, is best defined and represented by what is called the Marist Way. "Encompassing all that we do here is the overarching

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Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy provides its diverse student body a Catholic and internationally recognized college-preparatory experience of lasting value.

NOTRE DAME PREP ALUMNA FILLS OUT HER
UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE OVERSEAS (See page 2)

Notre Dame Prep alumna takes ‘major’ trips to India and Spain



Notre Dame Prep alumna Morgan Hoxsie ('10) visits the Taj Mahal in Agra, India. She spent most of this past summer on a research project at the Indian Institute of Technology in Chennai, India.

It isn't too often that a college student can help fill out a double major at Michigan State University by traveling abroad. But that is exactly what 2010 Notre Dame Prep graduate Morgan Hoxsie did during the last two summers.

This past June and July, Hoxsie worked in international research in Chennai, India, at the Center of Non-Destructive Evaluation at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Madras. Her main project consisted of working with glass-epoxy samples to determine the effect an impact on the material has on its performance and stress/strain.

"I traveled to India with five other students from MSU," Hoxsie said. "We worked alongside graduate students and undergraduate students at IIT." She says it was fulfilling, educational and overall a good experience except for a bit of a health scare. "The toughest part of the trip to India was when I got food poisoning," she says. "But I was able to recover in a week after a trip to the hospital, a few meds and lots of water."

Hoxsie said her typical research day in India started around 10 a.m. "We took the IIT campus bus to the lab everyday because it

was too hot to walk. In the morning we read articles and prepped our samples. Once we were all set up, we tested samples and recorded data. I worked closely with another student from MSU as well as an IIT graduate student."

During her stay in India, Hoxsie was able to find time to take a number of weekend trips around India. She visited the Indian cities of Pondicherry, Mahabalipuram, Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Delhi.

"It was interesting to see how each city had a little different culture and feel to them," she says. "The highlight of my travels around the country, however, was definitely visiting the Taj Mahal."

FROM ASIA TO EUROPE

After her research program finished, she had the opportunity to travel in Europe for about a week and a half. She visited Paris, the Swiss Alps, Munich, Venice and Amsterdam, all of which provided a much different experience than her experience in India, Hoxsie says, but still a great one.

"The views of the Swiss Alps were spectacular. It was fairly cool and snow was on the top of the mountains, which was a nice change from the heat of India."

Meanwhile, Hoxsie's now back closer to sea level and continu-

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PEER-TO-PEER, from page 1

ing Marist Way,” she says. “Together with Notre Dame pastoral minister Fr. Jim Strasz, s.m., campus ministry will be one of the avenues through which programs will be developed and implemented not only to educate our community on what it means to be Marist, but also give them opportunities to live that out.”

In the upper division, a step-by-step plan was designed to help students live as a Marist. For freshmen, it’s “Learn Marist,” with a religion curriculum focused on the “Revelation of Jesus.” For sophomores, it’s “Live Marist,” and a curriculum centered on “Christ’s Mission continuing in the Church.” Juniors will “Love Marist,” and study “Morality” in religion and how to be a “true man and woman in Christ,” and seniors will zero in on a “Lead Marist” focus and study how to live and lead a “Life in Christ.”

All this does not stop at the school’s upper division. Campus ministry also has greatly expanded its presence at the middle and lower divisions this year. “We are fostering more collaboration between divisions,” Zuccaro says. “And we’re looking at a comprehensive program for all students that promotes the Marist Way—a continuum of ministry from junior-kindergarten through high school.”

To help with this expansion of activity, a few changes were made within the department. Della

Lawrence, who had been part time in campus ministry, is now in a full-time position as assistant campus minister. At the beginning of the year, the school also hired Mary Watson, also as an assistant campus

minister, to work with younger students and help provide them with mentors aimed at modeling the type of values and behaviors expected of every NDPMA student.

Also, previously, campus ministry’s biggest commission, the service commission, used to be a “club” moderated by campus ministry. Zuccaro has removed the word “club” from all of its commissions, including retreat and liturgy. “They really are commissions with defined missions, not merely clubs,” she says.

For her part, Zuccaro will continue to lead the department, but now with additional help and with students hopefully carrying some of the load as peer ministers, she is looking forward to growing the department into becoming an even more vital part of student life at Notre Dame.

“As I said when I first started here, I get so much pleasure from seeing our students ‘walk the talk.’ Our focus always is on creating a safe atmosphere within the school where students feel completely comfortable sharing their faith with each other,” she says. “Closely aligned to that is ensuring that our students maintain the order of our NDPMA mission statement, ‘Christian person first, upright citizen and academic scholar,’ and that they make decisions based on that order. We want our kids to understand the value of developing and nurturing their spiritual being as well as their physical and intellectual being.” 🙏



NDP junior Mary Margaret Payne, left, and a fellow volunteer helped beautify Detroit for a week this past summer as part of “Summer in the City,” a two-month season of service in which young people from the city and suburbs get together to paint, plant and play together. Payne and her Notre Dame classmates spent those eight weeks painting murals (see cover page), planting community gardens and mentoring children in the neighborhoods of Detroit.



CAMPUS MINISTRY VISION AND MISSION

Campus ministry developed a specific vision and statement of purpose and mission for its new peer-ministry activity:

“Because students play a vital role in the faith formation of their peers, it is necessary that we provide an opportunity to our students to minister to each other. A peer minister lives out his or her call to discipleship by sharing Gospel values in everyday life. A peer minister at NDPMA relies on the example of Notre Dame, Our Mother, the first disciple of Christ. Students are part of a team, with their peers, who will depend on their talents, leadership, faith and support to build up our faith community through service, retreat, liturgy and prayer.”

More than a thousand bosses

Office employees vital in keeping Notre Dame machine going strong

“If they aren’t working, you might as well shut the whole joint down!” (overheard in a recent conversation)

There likely aren’t any employees in the entire Notre Dame organization who are as critical to the daily operation of the school as Mary Jane Pasko and Carrie Lytle, who work in the upper-division main office, Kathy Bowers, who works in the lower-division office and Deb McCormick, the middle-division secretary. From answering sick calls about missing students and teachers to greeting visitors and handing out hall passes and band aids, these four women are the gatekeepers to most everything Notre Dame.

Take it from Notre Dame Prep Principal Fr. Joe Hindelang, s.m., who technically is Pasko and Lytle’s boss, although they say they really work for the more than

1,200 students and teachers on campus. “Mary Jane and Carrie are so important because they are the first contact with students, parents or the public in the office or by phone,” Hindelang says. “They are both very welcoming and helpful and a great face for the school.”

Middle-division principal Jill Mistretta says she cannot count the number of parents who, unsolicited, will say to her, “That Deb McCormick is just terrific! Honestly, parents use the word ‘love’ a lot. They say things like, ‘Don’t you just love Deb McCormick!’”

Diana Atkins, who is the principal of Notre Dame’s lower division, says secretary Kathy Bowers is a kind and compassionate person, “who greets and takes care of every person, no matter what may be going on around her. She definitely is a shining star at the lower division.”

Both Pasko and Lytle officially are

titled “secretary” on the school org chart, and they are OK with that. But even though, as a professional title, “secretary” doesn’t quite carry the cachet it once did, NDP’s secretaries know in their hearts that



Kathy Bowers is the secretary at NDPMA’s lower division.

what they do goes beyond cachet—it’s much more important to them to do what’s best for Notre Dame and “for the kids!”

When asked about the most enjoyable part of their jobs, both

NDP secretaries do not hesitate: “Dealing with the kids by far! They are in my heart,” Pasko says.

“I love working with the kids and getting to know all of them,” Lytle adds,



Mary Jane Pasko, left, and Carrie Lytle are the calm in the storm of a typically hectic school year at Notre Dame Prep. School office secretaries at all three divisions of NDPMA keep the school operating at maximum speed and efficiency.

with emphasis.

Pasko has been an employee since 2003 when she started as part-time in the counseling department. When a retirement and employee transfer opened up a main-office position, Pasko jumped. “I ran down to see Fr. Joe about [Carol Belkowski’s] job in the office,” she says. “So I soon became a full-time, 10-month employee who also worked with Greg Simon in the admissions department. Then, after secretary Marie Place’s retirement and Carrie was hired, I turned into the full-time, year-round employee that I am today.” Before Notre Dame, Pasko says she was a stay-at-home mom, and prior to that held positions at a hospital, a dental office and a department store.

Pasko and her husband, Randy, saw their three children graduate Notre Dame: Jacqueline in 2006, Christine in 2007 and John in 2010. The family lives in Rochester Hills.

Lytle, who lives with her husband,

Jon, and two children in Waterford, has been working at NDPMA for nearly seven years now. She spent three years as secretary in the lower-division office and two in the high-school counseling department before taking over Marie



The middle-division secretary is Deb McCormick.

Place’s position when she retired. Prior to Notre Dame, Lytle was a stay-at-home mom, and before that she spent 14 years in pharmaceutical sales for Pfizer Corporation. Her son, Ben, who is a freshman at NDP, has attended Notre Dame since junior kindergarten, and daughter, Erin, currently is in eighth grade at Eton Academy in Birmingham.

Both Lytle and Pasko are effusive

when talking about how much they enjoy working at Notre Dame, but they admit there are challenges. “Not knowing what the day will bring with emergencies,” says Pasko, when asked about what she worries about on the job. She also says they get so busy, it’s often “hard to even get to the cafeteria for lunch.” Lytle says one challenge for her working at Notre Dame actually occurs at home. “Honestly, it’s sometimes challenging to be as patient with my own kids after school as I have been during the day with all the kids at school.”

So, add patience as a virtue one definitely needs to do the job Lytle and Pasko do. But Hindelang probably puts it best when summarizing what these two women do for the school. “While Mary Jane and Carrie are both amazing at multitasking, I really appreciate that they know and live the mission of NDPMA and care so deeply about our students and staff.”

Super Raffle grand prize winner picks up \$50,000 check



The NDPMA Super Raffle \$50,000 grand-prize winner Tim Burke, left, is with sons and Notre Dame students Casey, a second grader, and Kellen, a sixth grader. NDPMA Vice President for Advancement Andy Guest is at right.

The Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy’s 2013 Super Raffle culminated October 5 with the drawing of four prize winners: \$50,000, \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$1,000. On October 11, grand-prize winner Keith Burke, a current NDPMA parent and Rochester Hills resident, picked up his check for \$50,000 at the school’s Pontiac campus.

School Vice President Andy Guest says the annual Super Raffle is a big fundraiser for the school. “More than \$350,000 was raised

this year for Notre Dame,” he says. “The proceeds will go toward financial aid, technology upgrades and other classroom enhancements.”

Volleyball wins Catholic league title, 13th in 20 years

Notre Dame Prep clinched the CHSL “AA” division title October 15 as they defeated Ann Arbor Fr. Gabriel Richard in straight sets, 25-17, 25-17 and 25-21. For ND Prep, it was its 13th title in the school’s 20-year history.



NDMA middle division ‘guardian angels’ help new students



A group of 12 eighth graders chosen by their teachers met with the middle division’s new students—94 in all—at orientation to get them comfortable with the school layout, schedules, lockers, and welcome them to the Notre Dame Marist Academy family.

The members of the middle-division “guardian angels” are:

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Grand time at Notre Dame's big anniversary celebration



A weekend of celebration ended Sunday, Oct. 20, as the caterer tucked away the last of the table linens for his next event. But it might be hard for his next event to top what happened at Notre Dame during the two days of its “Grand Anniversary Celebration.”

NDPMA’s head of school Fr. Leon Olszamowski’s vision for a “grand” celebration of a number of milestones came to life October 19-20 on Notre Dame’s Pontiac campus after much planning, hard work and accommodating weather. Hundreds of alumni, parents, children and staff enjoyed food, drink, music and a general good vibe on the grounds of a school that continues to flourish and grow.

The event celebrated five different important milestones in the history of

Notre Dame: the 150-year anniversary of the Marist Fathers Apostolate in the United States; the 60-year anniversary of Notre Dame High School; the 45-year anniversary of Pontiac/Oakland Catholic; the 20-year anniversary of Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy; and the 10-year anniversary of Notre Dame Marist Academy - Lower Division.

The two days of celebration kicked off with an alumni event Saturday night, Oct. 19, featuring a catered dinner and music supplied by a blues-rock band fronted by two Notre Dame High School alums, and an all-family Mass and pig roast on Sunday.

“Today is a day of fulfilled mystery and great joy to many, including our loving God,” Olszamowski said during the Sunday celebration. “Please enjoy our Marist hospitality. We thank you all for your wonderful support of this great Catholic school founded in honor of Our Lady 20 years ago.” 🇺🇸



Clockwise from top: Hundreds enjoy great food and the NDP jazz band on Oct. 20 under the big top. At the Oct. 19 alumni event, NDHS graduates Gerry Mattei, left, from the class of 1973, and Gary Ferro, a 1976 alum, performed with their blues-rock band, “The Real Deal.” Fresh caramel corn and kettle corn were available at the family-fun day. Frs. Joe Hindelang and Jim Strasz concelebrated a Mass Oct. 20 in the school gymnasium.



MORGAN, from page 2

ing her studies in East Lansing. She is in the school's College of Engineering pursuing an engineering degree, along with a separate major in Spanish. Getting to that degree track for Hoxsie, however, was not



Morgan Hoxsie '10 (NDP) in the Swiss Alps at Jungfrauoch, which is the top of Europe at 3,454 meters above sea level.

by traveling on a straight and narrow path or through one or two doors.

"After graduating from NDP, I chose to attend MSU because I thought becoming a Spartan opened so many doors of opportunities for me," she says. "But maybe I explored too many doors during my first

two years at MSU. I tried out eight, yes eight(!) different majors, from pre-dental to human development to hospitality business. I landed in the College of Engineering because of the rigor and challenge I thought it would provide me. I had been taking Spanish classes and always planned on having the additional major in Spanish."

She says that being heavily involved in the Spanish Honor Society at NDP "showed me that Spanish can be fun. I've just stuck with it ever since!"

SPAIN, HERE I COME

During the summer of 2012, Hoxsie had the opportunity to study abroad in Valencia, Spain, for eight weeks to earn credits for her Spanish major. "I took nine credits at a school in Valencia, and lived with a host family in the city. That actually was the best way to improve my Spanish proficiency."

Though currently she's not traveling as much as before, it appears that Hoxsie is staying busy, as if studying for two majors isn't enough. At MSU, she's taken full advantage of the numerous extracurricular activities available to students. "I am currently the president of the MSU chapter of Chi Epsilon, which is the Civil Engineering Honors Society," Hoxsie says. "I also participate in the Society of Women

Engineers and serve on the executive board as community service chair. In addition, I maintain the website and social-media pages as webmaster of the MSU chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and I continue to be active within the Greek community on campus with the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority."

She is a very busy young lady, and one who is very appreciative of how her high school alma mater prepared her for the many challenges and opportunities she's had since graduating in 2010. "The rigor of the curriculum at NDP instilled in me a constant need for a challenge," says Hoxsie, who was part of Notre Dame Prep's first International Baccalaureate class. "Coming to MSU, I explored many majors and decided on engineering because I thought it would constantly challenge me and take me to new heights."

After finishing up at MSU, Hoxsie hopes to become a successful civil engineer working in the transportation field. "I hope to receive my Professional Engineering certification after graduation and wouldn't mind staying in Michigan because my family is here and this is home for me. But I am open to moving elsewhere if my job requires it," she says. 🇺🇸

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Nathan Audia, Mitchell Ballew, Patrick Convery, Anthony Pangori, Thomas Ridge, Brendan Weaver, Kendall Gassman, Gretel Keller, Lia Mastroianni, Anna Miklas, Malini Mukherji and Mary Yanik.

These "angels" met with the new students at lunch during the first couple of weeks of school to introduce them to other new students, the lunch routine and introduce them to the many clubs, activities and sports available at Notre Dame. These leaders also planned the "Welcome Back to School" dance for all students. The angels will be available throughout the year to answer questions, give support and help the new students navigate Notre Dame. 🇺🇸

Two Notre Dame Prep football players named homecoming king and queen



Two key members of Notre Dame Prep's varsity football team were crowned king and queen of the school's homecoming court Sept. 27. Senior placekicker Taylor Timko and senior linebacker Aidan Cullen earned enough votes from classmates to get the coveted

honors, which were announced at halftime of the football game between the Fighting Irish and Loyola. The Irish fought a very

tough Bulldog team during the homecoming game, but came up short, losing 36-29 in the CHSL divisional matchup. 🇺🇸

iPads in full use at lower division

Notre Dame took another big step in its plan to make digital devices in the classroom as ubiquitous as desks. Students at the school's lower division last month went "totally iPad," as first through fifth graders took possession of their own Apple iPads.



According to Joanne Widmaier, NDPMA's registrar and academic technology coordinator, tablets are now available to all lower-division teachers and students. "Besides the 1:1 deployment for grades one through five, we have two carts of Apple iPads for junior-kindergarten and kindergarten students, and two Apple MacBooks, one for each of the carts," she said. "The MacBooks are used to configure iPads and create iBooks."

Widmaier says this new technology helps Notre Dame students acquire the skills they need to survive in a complex, highly technological, knowledge-based world. "Curriculum integration with the use of technology involves the infusion of computers and tablets as tools to enhance the learning in a content area or multidisciplinary setting," she said. 🇺🇸



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Grand Anniversary Celebration

Notre Dame's Grand Anniversary Celebration included a blessing of its new lower division facility. The anniversary event was held October 19-20 and celebrated five different milestones related to the school and to the Marist Fathers and Brothers, who operate NDPMA. See page 6 for more on the celebration.