

## **A MARIANIST MOMENT: REFLECTION ON INTEGRAL, QUALITY EDUCATION**

The recent Inaugural Mass & Ceremony of Installation for Br. Bernie as CUH's new President was a most inspiring event in the life of our institution. Listening to the many and varied distinguished speakers from the academic, ecclesial, and civic communities, I was moved to a tremendous sense of awe and admiration for the Marianist charism at work in our midst. Time after time mention was made of how the Marianists have attained standards of excellence in the realm of education for men and women here in the Pacific Region. Such remembered and celebrated excellence in education certainly bespeaks the enduring Marianist mission of providing integral, quality education for all those who come, seeking knowledge and wisdom – in the full range of disciplines that comprise our graduate and undergraduate programs of study.

All who are associated with the Marianist Community here in Hawaii should radiate the dedication and pride of so noble an endeavor: to help in the formation of student-scholars, yes – all those saints-and-citizens-in-the-making, who will become “intellectually enriched, globally aware, spiritually alive and ethically engaged” both here at Chaminade and in the wider world where all our alumni live out their personal and professional lives.

Integral, quality education is the dream of all academia, but especially realized through programs of study that bring together the energies and visions of both mind and spirit. Education here is integral because it relentlessly addresses the ultimate questions of human existence, as they arise in each and every sphere of human thought and action. Education here is integral because it bridges the immensity of human peoples and places, languages and cultures, races and religions. Education here is integral because it seeks to excite the human imagination, and have all its students, faculty and staff come to form and know and live their dreams, dreams which focus our human purpose, energies, and talents. Education here is quality because, as it has done, so it continues to aspire to promote human authenticity and intellectual engagement in the realms of practical reasoning and committed action – all of which enriches our human living, locally and globally. Education here is quality because it is valued and pursued by a multitude of men and women, who seek to draw upon the wisdom of the ages and the elders, to know the minds and lives of the powerful and powerless, to pursue the insights and ideas of human genius in all the arts and sciences, to understand the accomplishments of human history and the needs of the human future. Education here is quality because it addresses the depths of our human souls, and speaks to us about our needed transformations and future possibilities.

Integral and quality education in the Marianist tradition is a providential gift of God in our time and place. It is comprised of the real and gifted persons we see and work with every day of every year. Despite human foibles and institutional limitations, ends beyond our imagining daily emerge from our so humble a beginning. To excite our human imagination through courses of academic study and noble pursuit foretell a

future of personal happiness and social enrichment for those within as well as those beyond our academic halls. As a Catholic and Marianist institution of higher learning, we must press on with advocating that academic excellence which produces needed transformative leaders and a rational community of men and women, willing to live and learn and work with human intentionality and divine grace.

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