

Junior creates companions on retreat



Serve It Up. Juniors Emma Wagner and Claire Crane with Sr. Joan Houtekier, OSM serve lunch to the guests at the Open Door Mission during Junior Retreat. The main dish for that day was pizza.

Photo courtesy of Faith Wilwerding.

Alex Eilers

Junior Claire Crane's soft voice wafted across the table, barely audible over the other chatter in the room. The palm supporting her neck dropped, and she looked up through her oval rimmed glasses.

"My favorite part was getting to know more people because I am new," Crane said.

Junior retreat created an opportunity for Crane, along with seven other juniors and Sr. Joan Houtekier, OSM to spend a Monday making connections with each other and affecting the larger community by preparing and serving food at the Open Door Mission.

Located just south of Eppley Airfield, the Open Door Mission provides basic needs for the community and the working poor. This includes 1,700 meals a day, 7 days a week, access to clothes and furniture through the Timber Lake Outreach Center and a place to sleep, all for free with the help of donations.

More importantly the Mission reaches out to the homeless with education and religion, intending to stop the cycle of homelessness in Omaha. The Christian-based Mission offers Bible studies, celebrates education and holds AA meetings.

"We believe God is first and education is second. Those two things will bring man

out of poverty," Cris Morris, Volunteer and Partner Director at the Open Door Mission said. Her confident voice filled the room with precise words and statistics.

"We have managed over 600 volunteers in the building at once," Morris said.

Every Monday, a group of juniors ventures to the Open Door Mission to become those volunteers.

"We made pizza with homemade dough, and it was really good. Then we served the food. It was fun too because we were with our Marian buddies. I did not know them that well, so I got to meet some people and talk," Crane said.

After everyone was served, juniors Jackie Tondl, Emma Wagner and Crane sat at the round cafeteria tables with their pizza. No one approached them, and they were reminded of Houtekier suggestion to try and eat lunch with the people they were serving. The three girls stood up and joined an older man sitting by himself. Silence followed until they introduced themselves and stuck out a friendly hand.

"His face just lit up, and he was so happy that someone was talking to him. Charley was his name," Crane said.

Still, the conversation lacked words. It was evident that the man did not carry on many conversations. However, a connection formed out of the man's gratitude.

"He didn't seem like a big talker. He was just happy we acknowledged him as a person, not just 'here's your food,'" Crane said.

"People [at the Mission] are thankful and [volunteers] see that," Morris said.

The appreciation of the less fortunate highlights basic necessities taken for granted and spreads gratitude throughout the community.

"[Serving at the Open Door Mission] was humbling because I do not have to worry about those things every day. My mom would have food ready for me: breakfast, lunch and dinner. I have a home at night. My parents have jobs. I thought that was what every child has, and it's just not true," Crane said.

Poverty separates Crane from the people at the shelter, but she still has much in common with them.

In the entry way of the Lydia

House, moms wait for their children. The school bus pulls up, and the kids race to hand off their blue envelopes holding their school pictures. The forms are visible through the clear plastic, but the mothers do not wait to pull out the full image of their beautiful children. The same act of affection happens throughout homes across the community, no matter the financial circumstances.

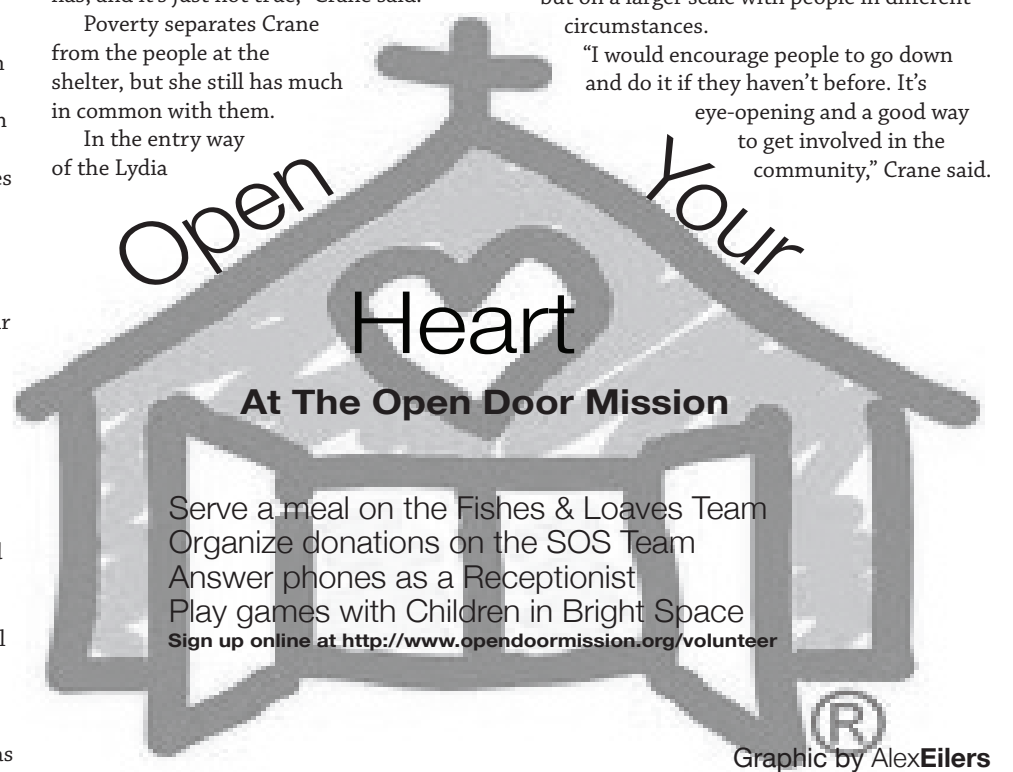
"I think volunteers have an insight to the working poor. They are able to look people in the face, see the need and meet the need," Morris said.

The Open Door Mission allows retreat groups to see the big picture. The groups relate to the homeless and provide a service. They gain an appreciation for their gifts and see their place in the world from a different perspective. They look outside themselves.

"That is how you change: focusing on something bigger than you, being in something bigger than you. That is what Open Door is about," Morris said.

The experience at the Open Door Mission was bigger than Crane, bigger than the retreat group, bigger than Marian. It gave her an opportunity to unite with the Marian girls but on a larger scale with people in different circumstances.

"I would encourage people to go down and do it if they haven't before. It's eye-opening and a good way to get involved in the community," Crane said.



Faith NOT Broken

Marian stands together after vandalism

Liz Berigan

She was lying in a flowerbed, with her head decapitated and her hand broken off.

Marian's beloved statue of Mary was vandalized on Nov. 3.

Standing humbly on the brick wall near the north drive, the statue of Mary has been a constant figure in the Marian community since Marian opened in 1955. Jesuit priest, Father James Hannan, carved the statue out of marble in celebration of Marian's opening.

"I was very angry at first because I had a hard time understanding how anyone would think that vandalizing a statue of Mary was funny," Head of School Mrs. Susan Toohey said.

Many Marian students were appalled and surprised at the actions that happened to the beloved statue of Mary.

"I thought it was super disrespectful. I was really surprised that someone would go to that kind of extreme. I wouldn't expect it to happen at Marian," junior Taylor Haag said.

Sr. Marianna DeSimone, OSM has been part of the Servants of Mary since 1955 and was here at Marian when the school was first given the statue.

"I felt like a part of me had died. Ever since I had entered the order in 1955, that statue has been the symbol of the Servants of Mary and my home," DeSimone said.

As the pitch black blanket of night protects the identity of the people who vandalized the statue, Assistant Principal Mr. Jim Miller is determined to uncover the identities of the mysterious vandalizers and to find out how someone was able to push a 700-pound statue off of the marble platform it was standing on.

"Some assumptions can be made since the statue weighs about 700-pounds. It would take some strong individuals to damage the statue and probably a group of people was needed," said Miller.

"The police are not very confident that they will be able to find who did this. There is not any real 'evidence,'" Toohey said.

Toohey does have a series of hypotheses about how the statue was vandalized.

"One is that more than one person stood on the platform where [the statue of Mary] was and jumped, breaking the stone ledge and then [the statue of Mary] fell. Another thought is that someone tied a rope to the base and pulled her off. The way she fell tells

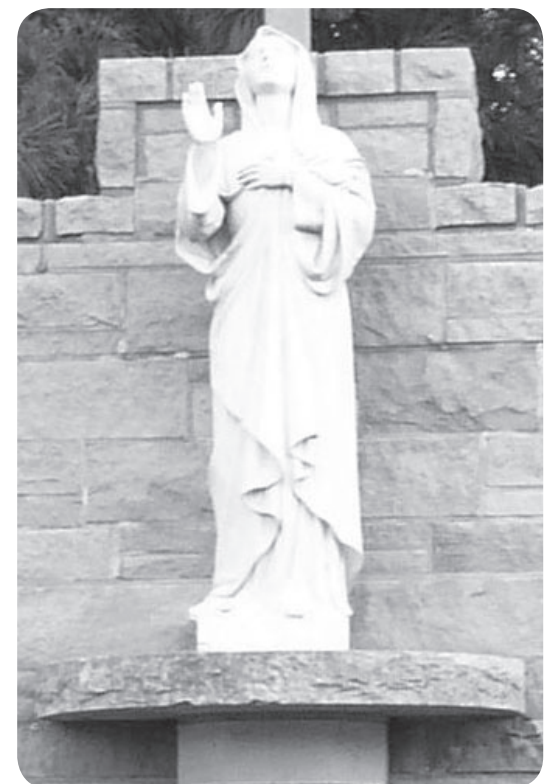
us that she could not have just been pushed off. A third idea was that they were throwing pumpkins at her and then she tipped back, then 'slid' off," Toohey said.

Although the statue of Mary has been broken, she has not broken the compassion of the Marian community.

"The positive news in this is that there has been an incredible outpouring of assistance offered by alums, parents of alums, friends of Marian and others who have offered to assist with the cost of getting her back and in good shape," Toohey said.

The statue of Mary is more than just a statue; she is a symbol of the Servites, the Marian community and Marian's six core values.

"I walked over to see her [the statue of Mary] when we heard it had been vandalized. As we walked up to the shrine I felt like I was going to see someone in my family dead, but I had to go see it," DeSimone said. The statue may be broken, but the Marian community still stands strong.



Standing Tall. The statue of Mary stood near the north drive for 55 years before being vandalized on Nov. 3. The Marian community plans to fix the statue and return Mary to her post. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Shaela Wepfer

Golf, Bravery and Kidnappings: Marian girl turned **FBI** agent

Brittany **Hytrek**

“The FBI is made up of people just like you and me,” 1975 Marian graduate Ms. Sharon Slattery said Nov. 16 during Marian’s first “Lunch with a Leader.”

It has never seemed that way, has it? We see FBI agents from the movies wearing navy blue jackets with the gold lettering embellished in the corner, moving in well-practiced rhythmic strides, with self-confidence practically dripping out their ears. The career choice seems so distant from average life that it appears unattainable.

At some age, every child has his or her head filled with this dream: to look just like the agents in the movies and be able to say that they work for the FBI. But as time goes on, the dream floats past until it is nothing more than a memory. This was never the case for Slattery.

“It was a funny story,” Slattery said. “It wasn’t like I had given it thought for years. I dated someone who knew several FBI agents, and he just encouraged me and kept saying that I would be a good agent. He took me to lunch with some of his FBI agent friends.

“Quite frankly, I am an extremely competitive personality, and I liked the idea of the challenge. They told me, at that time, that less than one percent of the people who apply would actually become agents. It’s kind of like dangling a carrot in front of me when you say something like that.”

She didn’t start working for the FBI fresh out of Marian. After attending the University of Nebraska at Lincoln for four years, studying physical education on a golf scholarship, she taught P.E. and health at Brownell-Talbot School. She then returned to school, this time at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, to achieve her Masters Degree in

Physical Education and Research.

Her next job was writing research books and essays for the Professional Golf Association (PGA). It was during this time that she decided to apply to the FBI.

By 1987, Slattery was working in Tallahassee, Fla. in a resident agency. A resident agency is a very small office; hers contained only seven agents total. Her main focus was on criminal violations.

“That would be white collar, violent crime. We didn’t have any terrorism at that time down there, and we didn’t have cyber crime, or computer crimes, that we worked. True, we barely had computers then,” Slattery reminisced.

And just like that, Sharon Slattery was no longer Ms. Slattery. She was Agent Slattery.

Five years later, Slattery was transferred to Chicago.

“I worked all the violent crime work there, specializing mostly in kidnapping, bank robbery and fugitives,” Slattery said.

“I actually had a specialty in sexual exploitation of children and gangs.

“You have success in one area, and it opens up more doors. So, I was successful as a female working violent crime. I was the only female on the squad, which gave him [the special agent in charge] the thought that he would want me to train the new agents. He wanted not only the women to have that role model, but he wanted the men to see that women could succeed in violent crimes,” Slattery said.

“That opened the door for me to train new agents. I trained new agents for a while, and trained the police officers that worked with the FBI as well,” she said.

“From there I went to headquarters in Washington, D.C., and I worked in internal affairs,” Slattery said. “Some success in that area led me to starting up a new

unit in internal affairs. While I was there, 9/11 happened, so I had some assignments that related to 9/11. Some exceptional

assignments that make you proud to be an American.”

“From there, I transferred to the Los Angeles division. I had mostly violent crime, but I basically had all criminal work. I had a couple different squads. One squad was a crime squad, while one did all criminal work,” Slattery said.

Although most of her career was centered on crime, her favorite part of the job was the people.

“You have a bond that is like family. To this day, I am in contact with [fellow agents] on a regular basis,” Slattery said. “One of them said I replaced her mother when her mother passed away.”

“The second favorite part for me would be the variety of experiences. Every day is a new day. What intrigued me was that you really could make a difference in people’s lives. You are challenged every day with something new. I knew it was the greatest law enforcement agency in the world,” Slattery said.

“The challenge of getting into such an elite

organization is what opened that door. But once I became an agent, I realized it was so much more. It was the people. It was making

a difference in our communities; it was making people safer. I recovered several children that had been kidnapped and turned them back over to their families. The things you do to make a difference are just enormous,” Slattery said.

And the one thing that got her to this point? Leadership.

It got her out of a job and into a career. It moved her up in the ranks and got her to where she is now, happily retired in Palm Springs, Cal.

“We are not born leaders. It is a progress,” Slattery said.

“What makes a leader are your experiences you have, challenging yourself so you have success with experiences. When you have success, you are going to have confidence. When you have confidence, you are going to challenge yourself with an even greater experience, a more challenging experience.

“Eventually, you are going to step outside your comfort zone. The more you do that, the more success you have. The more success you have, the more experiences you have. That’s what makes a leader.”



Reunited. Ms. Sharon Slattery chats with English teacher Ms. Connie Cavel after speaking during Lunch with a Leader. Cavel was Slattery’s golf coach at Marian. Photo by Brittany **Hytrek**.



An Active Marian Girl. Ms. Sharon Slattery in her senior picture from 1975. She was involved in various activities during her time at Marian, including Yearbook, Drama Club, Chess Club and four different sports.

If you have any questions for Ms. Slattery, e-mail her at sslatts57@yahoo.com

Getting into the

FBI

Requirements

- ◆ most require college degree
- ◆ must be U.S. citizen
- ◆ at least 23 years old
- ◆ rigorous background check
- ◆ good writing skills

Positions

- ◆ Linguists
- ◆ Special Agents
- ◆ Professional Staff
 - ◆ analysts
 - ◆ engineers
 - ◆ managers
 - ◆ investigative support & surveillance

Special Agents

- ◆ must be younger than 37 when starting
- ◆ good physical condition
- ◆ can qualify under one of five categories: accounting, computer science, language, law or military/intelligence

Source: fbi.gov Graphic by Erin O’Brien

Spring Break trips cancelled

Becky **Fuqua**

Imagine going back in time to our country's first permanent settlement, walking around the wooden structures, wondering how they stayed warm in the winter and safe from attacks. Up the road is the glass blower, where hand-made glass is for sale. Over in the harbor are the ships the settlers arrived in.

A few miles away is Williamsburg, with its cobblestone streets and horse-drawn carriages. People dressed in breeches and floor length dresses with five layers, greet travelers as they come into their homes or their taverns.

This place is real. It still has that same charm it had back in the 1700s. Marian girls were almost able to go on this school sponsored trip over spring break or the Sociology trip to New York. But, sadly, not enough students were interested.

Marian trips have been going on for many years. Oddly, that interest seems to have dwindled, causing trips, like the one to Williamsburg, to be cancelled.

Marian goes on an overseas trip every summer. These trips vary from smaller trips like this summer's trip to Germany to more than 120 girls that went to Thailand in 2000. There are also trips over spring break, usually for juniors and seniors who are either in a foreign language, or have taken or are currently taking sociology.

This year there were two choices for spring break: New York with Mr. Tom Baker or Washington, D.C. and Williamsburg, Va. with Mrs. Kim Remmick. The D.C./Va. trip was open to anyone who wanted to attend, as it was a history trip, not a specific trip for one class. Parents and alums were also able to sign up for it.

Over the past nine years, students that have traveled to New York have enjoyed seeing Broadway plays, exploring museums and

touring Ground Zero. The Sociology trips to New York have been going on since the mid-1990s. The largest group was last year when 44 girls went.

"This is the first time there has been a problem getting enough girls to go," Baker said.

Students were unsure if the New York trip was still happening this year because it was cancelled at one point, then rescheduled. Since they assumed that the trip was cancelled for a while, this may have caused girls to make different spring break plans.

"I decided two days before the permission forms were due," senior Alisa Dubbelde said. "I decided, after much deliberation, that I would stay home for my spring break."

The New York trip was cancelled because of the short notice for the down payment.

"I should have made it \$50, but it was kind of late in the game," Baker said. According to Baker, he had to tell Head of School Mrs. Susan Toohey right away if the trip was happening. With such short notice, the down payment had to be larger than it normally is.

"About two weeks before it was cancelled, Mrs. Genoways talked me into it," junior Kelsey Genoways said. "I don't really have any plans made for spring break anymore."

"Over the past three or four years, trip sizes have been getting smaller and smaller. Since Marian offers multiple trips, fewer girls are going on each one. This increases the cost of the trip," Remmick said.

Both teachers said that they could not think of another trip girls would be more interested in going on. "I think New York still has a draw, with the shopping and Broadway plays," Baker said.

This lack of interest also plagued the D.C./Va. trip. The trip would have been five days with stops at the Smithsonian

The Five Year Plan	Summer 2011	Germany
	Summer 2012	Galapagos Islands
	Summer 2013	Greece, Greek Islands & Euphesus, Turkey
	Summer 2014	England, Ireland, Scotland
	Summer 2015	Japan

The five trips listed above are five of more than 25 school sponsored trips Marian will be taking in the next five years. For additional information, contact Mrs. Kim Remmick in Room 208 or visit the Study Abroad Survey on Marian's website!

Graphic by Kaitlin Johnson

Museum, Mt. Vernon (George Washington's home), Jamestown, York Town and Colonial Williamsburg.

Only 12 girls came to the meeting about the trip, and not enough were interested in going.

"We needed 24 travelers. They could have been teachers, students, parents or alums," Remmick said.

These are not the only trips Marian has taken over spring break. Mr. Michael Schadendorf took girls on spring break trips from 1967 to 1984.

"They were great fun. We went to Disney World, Disney Land, New York, New Orleans and Mexico City," Schadendorf said.

There were even skiing trips in addition to the spring break trips.

According to both Baker and Remmick, there has never been a problem with getting enough girls to go on these trips before. It could be that, since the plans for the next five years are available, girls are saving their money for the trip they really want to attend. Another factor is the economy. Girls may have to choose between school, camps or spring break trips.

"I encourage Marian girls to take advantage of these trips. Even if you just go on a domestic trip, it can help broaden your experience. You never get your teenage years back," Remmick said.

News-worthy NOTES

Open house opens doors

Molly **Rakoczy**

Mimers, tour guides and many other student volunteers showed prospective Marian girls all that Marian has to offer at Open House on Nov. 21. Sophomores, juniors and seniors on Recruitment Team, moderated by Mrs. Molly Woodman, led over 200 families around the school to talk with teachers about various classes. They then headed to the Cafeteria to see the 37 clubs, activities and sports that were represented. Junior Cassie Thompson has been a tour guide for two years. "My favorite part of being a tour guide was telling someone something about Marian that they didn't know and impressing them," Thompson said.

Sophomores bond on retreat

Kyra **Lindholm**

The sophomore class traveled to either Camp Kitaki, 4-H Center, Camp Calvin Crest or Camp Carol Joy Holling on Nov. 30 for their retreat. The sophomores spent the day reflecting on their relationships with themselves, others and God in small group settings led by a junior or senior retreat leader. "I really liked Sophomore Retreat because it helped me open up to the people around me," sophomore Lauren Gornall said.

Computer Apps competes

Molly **Rakoczy**

Jones Soda is holding a competition. People across the nation can submit photos to the company, which is known for having photos on the bottles' labels, and one of those photos will be picked to be on the label. Mr. Joe Menendez's Blocks F and G Computer Applications classes took photos and posted them in the Quad. Marian students may e-mail the photographers comments on their photos, but they must email their votes to Menendez (at jmenendez@omahamarian.org) by Dec. 14. The photo that receives the most votes from the student body will be submitted to the national competition, so vote now!

Finals Schedule

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
F	G	F
A	H	C
E	B	

Burn

Here is something just for you,
And I'll explain what **you** should do.

Marian just got a **new attraction**,
It's hoped to arouse quite a reaction.

Marian has a new **literary magazine** full of works,
Next issue you should submit all your works and quirks.

It's full of **stories, fiction, non-fiction, and poetry**, too.
Don't forget **artwork and photography**; show what you can do!

The first issue of "Burn" comes out the **16th of December**,
The second will come out in the spring weather.

To submit just give to **Allison Dethlefs or Mr. Ostrander**,
Then subscribe, open it and take a gander.

Many students are involved to help you know what to do and say
A. **Dethlefs**, A. **Dovali**, H. **Grace**, A. **Baumer** and J. **May!**

A magazine we had in the past under a different name,
Will come back again and receive **great fame**.

Get **excited** because it will be grand,
It will be artistic and far from bland!

So bring **forms and money** to your homeroom where you learn,
And receive the first feature of the literary magazine **"Burn"**!

Graphic by Anna **Woods**

Mistakes Made, Lessons Learned

Erin **Reed**

Every month, the newspaper staff puts forth its best efforts to bring our readers another edition of the Network. Every once in a while, our best efforts falter. Our moment of shame came along with October issue of the Network. There was a photo located in the Indepth section of the paper that featured various "haunted" locations around Omaha. It pictured a barn that we had thought to be abandoned.

Not even an hour after the distribution of the paper, it was learned that the barn is neither abandoned nor public property. The owner of that barn, Mr. Rick Zaiss, was informed that a picture of his barn was in our newspaper with a false caption resting underneath it. He then called the journalism

department and voiced his concern.

Since it was too late to retract the paper, the issue was eventually settled through an administrative announcement to the student body to stay safe on Halloween and to not trespass on private property. Along with that announcement, we promised a printed retraction in the next issue.

We would like to make sure that the student body is aware this barn does not have evidence of devil worship, nor was it a sight for cult gatherings. It is a private barn on private property adjacent to Hummel Park.

To Mr. Rick Zaiss and Network readers, we, as a staff, are deeply sorry for this error. We take full responsibility for this mistake and insist that it will not happen again.