

# **Liturgy and Prayer**

## **Purpose**

The founders of the University of Mary, the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery, established the university as Christian, Catholic and Benedictine with the mission to serve the religious, academic and cultural needs of the people of the region and beyond. The sisters' vision for the university was that it would be a place where students would experience formation in Christian community with a full liturgical life on campus. The purpose of this policy is to invite all students, faculty and staff to participate in that vision.

## **Statement of the Policy**

Students, faculty and staff are invited to participate in the spiritual life of the university. The presence and participation of faculty and staff at liturgical celebrations and spiritual activities serves as an expression of Benedictine hospitality to invite students to an active spiritual life. Members of the community are especially invited to participate in and support the following religious traditions which express the Benedictine values of community and prayer as a faith community and which have been observed at the university from its earliest days:

- Classes, meetings, and assemblies at the university begin with prayer.
- The Wednesday 10 a.m. period at the university is reserved for celebration of Eucharistic Liturgy or an ecumenical service. The 8 p.m. hour is reserved each Sunday evening for the Eucharistic Liturgy in Benet Chapel. All members of the community are invited to attend. Those who choose not to attend are asked to support the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy at the University of Mary by refraining from scheduling classes, meetings and other activities at these times.
- Daily Eucharistic Liturgy is offered at daytime hours Monday through Friday during the academic year.
- Special occasions on which students, faculty and staff are encouraged to gather to celebrate the Eucharist as a community include such days as the first day of class each semester, the bishop's annual visitation, holy days of obligation and Ash Wednesday.
- Students, faculty and staff are also invited to celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays at 11 a.m. at Annunciation Monastery.

Students, faculty and staff from all faith traditions are invited to the Eucharistic Liturgy. The Eucharist is a ritual form of community worship, often called Mass, which includes prayer, song, scripture, a homily and Eucharist (communion).

## **Approved**

May 2009 by the President of the University of Mary

November 2009 by the Executive Committee of the University of Mary's Board of Trustees