

FOR YOUR INSPIRATION

A Publication of the Office of Residence Life, Division of Student Affairs

HIGHLIGHTS

Remove the Blindfold:

Feb. 9-10

Love Your Body Week:

Feb. 13-17

Mission Week:

Feb. 19-24

FEBRUARY THEMES

Black History Month

Candy Month

Dental Health Month

Friendship Month

Groundhog Day

Library Lovers Month

Superbowl XLVI

Year of the Dragon

CONTEST WINNERS

BULLETIN BOARD of the MONTH

Megan Goeden

Schroeder Hall

Bridesmaids Life Lessons



DOOR DEC of the MONTH

Kelly Verstat

Schroeder Hall

Cards of Hearts from Alice in Wonderland



COMMUNITY

Development Ideas

BELONG

National Marquette Day

Feb. 11, 2:00 pm

Marquette fans across the country are organizing viewing parties for National Marquette Day. If everyone else is watching the Golden Eagles take on Cincinnati, you should too!

Consider organizing a viewing party in your hall for those who don't have tickets to this event. You could also try to take the most spirited picture for the phot contest.

More Info at <http://nationalmarquetteday.com>

DISCERN

Do We Know It All?

Feb. 23, 4:00pm, AMU Ballrooms A & B

As part of Marquette's annual Mission Week, Dr. Phil Nyden, professor of sociology and Director of the Center for Urban Research and Learning at Loyola University Chicago will present his ideas and research about the importance of incorporating community engagement in research projects.

How do you collaborate with those in your community to make change?

<http://marquette.edu/missionweek>

ENGAGE

Remove the Blindfold

Feb. 9, 3-7pm & Feb. 10, 12-2 & 3-7pm

Remove the Blindfold is an annual social justice exhibition that provides members of the Marquette community with the opportunity to learn more about topics relating to "Unity in Diversity."

Many student organizations contribute to this event, so it's likely some of you residents will have displays there. Attend if you can and encourage them to do the same. This event will be held in AMU 163.

Brought to you by the Residence Hall Association.

THRIVE

Love Your Body Week

Feb. 13-17, 2012

The 14th annual Love Your Body Week is set to take place the week of February 13th. Look for upcoming publicity on events intended to provide interactive discussion related to positive body image, self-esteem, and overall wellness.

Highlights include keynote speaker, Robin Hussa, who will present on awareness through the arts and the "GREAT Jeans Giveaway."

<http://marquette.edu/missionweek>

MAGIS - THE MORE

MAGIS MONTH - February 5-March 5, 2012

In keeping with Marquette's mission, the Residence Life Program Assistants are proud to present you with Magis Month. From February 5-March 5, you are encouraged to incorporate the mission of our university into your programs and community builders and to be intentional in your program planning and implementation.

Often times, the expectation of magis is that one will do more. While doing more can be beneficial, we would like to encourage you to be more—that is, to focus on quality over quantity.

FAITH • LEADERSHIP • EXCELLENCE • SERVICE

THE CHALLENGE

Your individual challenge is to:

1. Plan for your floor or wing to attend **ONE** campus program that directly relates to Marquette's mission (events may include Remove the Blindfold, Mission Week, or Love Your Body Week events).
2. Plan **ONE** program for you floor or wing that directly relates to Marquette's mission.

Note: These events and programs will likely fall into the Discern, Engage, and Thrive categories of the Community Development Model and will be set apart in the Community Development Database by typing "Magis Month" into the program description box.

GOOD LUCK AND HAPPY PROGRAMMING!

CONTEMPLATION in ACTION

Signs of Life: Cultivating Love in a World of Fear by Kirsten Laurel Guidero, Schroeder Hall Minister

As we kick off a new semester, it may be easy to feel stuck. It is cold outside, the homework is piling up, our roommate or friend is still engaging in that really annoying habit, we can't seem to shake those difficult holiday memories. . . Every year at this time, I myself mark the anniversary of the death of a friend, and I enter the new year bowed down with that sorrow.

But in the economy of God, new life always remains possible. One of my favorite writers, Catholic priest Henri Nouwen, faced more than his fair share of deprivation. He often struggled with feelings of disappointment, inadequacy, and fear. Yet out of his pain he crafted some of the most life-giving spiritual wisdom of the last fifty years.

When I struggle to see goodness, I turn to my favorite book of his, *Lifesigns*. In it, Nouwen asks how we can all move from living in a state of withdrawal, anxiety, and shame (what he calls the house of fear) into the fullness of life we find in healthy relationships, missional living, and joyful living (the house of love). For Nouwen, the challenge that moves us from one house to the other is the call we can each answer to live a more rooted, still, and honest life.

As we choose to say no to certain distractions and to the constant fearful questions that our society throws at us, we find ourselves seeking out instead the still small voice of God speaking within us and drawing us into authentic relationships with others. Here, we are loved. We receive love and give it in return. Out of these vulnerable bonds springs the fruitful life of solidarity. We can honestly journey with others and work on behalf of others once we have come face to face with our own true selves and begun to share that in relationship. As we take up meaningful solidarity with others, serving out of our deepest selves and not out of busyness or an obsession with results, we receive joy. Joy is not a Pollyanna-ish refusal to face painful reality but instead a manner of living that flows out of peace, honesty, and communion with God and others.

Nouwen's discussion helps me re-evaluate where in my life I want to hide in a place of fear rather than step out into the light of relationships, mission, and joy. Even when we face difficult questions, painful losses, or challenging situations—things that make it seem reasonable to hide ourselves away in fear, busyness, or cynicism—the promise of new life can be ours as we open our lives to God's voice and to the voices of others around us. When we face new opportunities, how much more important it is to make those decisions, too, based on authentic relating, habits of honesty and solidarity, and the priority of joyful love.

As we engage in the opportunities offered us this semester, let us also take advantage of resources enabling us to do so based on relationship rather than on busyness. Take extra moments to seek the stillness needed to listen for God's voice calling and directing us. Take a risk to seek deeper levels of honesty with trusted friends so that relationships are built on authenticity and shared vulnerability. And then take the opportunity to serve with great joy—looking for and helping create new life.