

Dear Friends of the MVP:

In light of economic hardships faced by the Society of Mary, the Province of the U.S. recently had to make the difficult decision to close the doors of the Marianist Volunteer Program at the end of the current session (July 2010). The closure of the MVP is due solely to the financial situation present in the U.S. and worldwide. We have had wonderful, dedicated volunteers pass through the program and will have one last group of volunteers beginning July 2009 and concluding July 2010.

My five year anniversary with the Marianist Volunteer Program will be Sept. 20, 2009. In some ways, it is difficult to imagine that so much time has passed. On the other hand, the program has come so far since those first days at the Marianist Provincial offices in St. Louis. I have had two assistant coordinators without whom the program would have been incomplete, a steering committee that guides the vision of the program and has been fun to work with, as well as just shy of 30 volunteers serving in various ministries and reflecting on that experience with their volunteer community, local community and Marianist family. So many people have been involved in bringing the program to where it is today, and for that I am grateful and proud.

I want to thank the Marianist family – especially the Society of Mary, our various ministries and the networks of universities, retreat centers and many other collaborators for their continued support of the Marianist Volunteer Program. Most importantly, I want to thank the MVP volunteers who served or will serve with and through the program. I trust that it is/was a transformative experience for them, one that they continue to deconstruct and respond to every day whether they are current or former volunteers.

I can honestly state that it has been this for me – an experience in which I invested my whole person, made mistakes along the way (and hopefully learned from) and met amazing individuals and communities, to name a few. I have provided a structure through which volunteers could transform the lives of others, have their own life transformed and to walk beside each of our volunteers during that journey.

Thank you again for walking this path with me ...it was a transformative experience walking this path with each of you! For all this and more, I am grateful. I look forward to commissioning our fifth and final group of volunteers

– an amazing group of individuals who will do much good and change in ways that they never imagined – on Aug. 1, 2009!

Peace,

Dan