On March 19, 2012, a beautifully sunny Monday afternoon, members of the Saint Joseph’s University Faith-Justice community met to celebrate the thirty-fifth anniversary of the institute’s founding. The events began at 4:30 pm with a celebration of the Mass in the Chapel of Saint Joseph by Father Kevin Gillespie, S.J (University President-elect) and nine other members of the SJU Jesuit community - Fathers Braverman, Byron, Clark, Farugia, Feeney, Genovesi, Lally, Moore and Stormes of the Society of Jesus. Following the celebration of Mass, a university-wide reception was held in the Doyle Banquet Hall. Faculty, students, staff, service-learning partners, advisory board members, administrators and alumni enjoyed the good company and go

good food including a 35th anniversary cake. Of special note was the attendance of our own “Brady Bunch”, a group of alums from the mid and late 70s who had the experience of working with the late Father Ed Brady, S.J. the Institute’s founding director.

After the reception, the Faith-Justice Institute staff and affiliated faculty held a program outlining the fundamental principles of the Faith-Justice Institute over the years. Father Daniel Joyce, S.J., Sister Elizabeth Linehan, R.S.M. and Dr. Stephen Porth spoke on the Institute’s grounding in Eucharist, Peace, and Solidarity respectively. Father Gillespie, S.J., and Maureen McCullough, an external Advisory Board member and Executive Director of Catholic Relief Services paid loving tribute to the work of Father Ed Brady, S.J., with memories and a video.

First Year Service-Learning students: A. Bartolomei, R. DeFilippo, E. Jablonski, A. Lanley, K. Malloy, and K. Worthington were recognized for their Service-Learning work. Freshman Jack Viere was presented the Curran-Renzetti award by Dr. Jim Boettcher. Former Institute Director, Dr. Frank Bernt presented two senior awards: the Ignatian Award to Maria Selde and the Assumption Award to Allie Sheaffer. Dr. Judith Chapman, Internal Advisory Board chair presented Dr. Ann Green, Professor of English, the Ed Brady, S.J. Faith in Action Service Award. Sister Nancy Fitzgerald, SSJ, and Sister Meaghan Patterson, SSJ, accepted the Community Partner Award for the Saint Martin de Porres School community.

The recognition of everyone’s contributions added to the festivities and the event.
Each week students from Dr. Raquel Bergen’s Service-Learning course, “Advanced Social Problems,” provide assistance in the classrooms at St. Martin de Porres, a Catholic school serving one of the least resourced neighborhoods in Philadelphia. The school addresses challenges in community resources while seeing its students as vital contributors to community success, educating through the academic curriculum, incorporating students’ culture into the school day, involving parents in programming, and valuing each student’s unique gifts.

In hosting Service-Learning volunteers, St. Martin de Porres provides real context and allows them to contribute in a tangible way to its daily work.

Students form relationships that allow them to witness community struggles while demonstrating for them the capacity for success through the love and hard work of teachers and students they meet. As a service-learner, Joanna Barlow assisted in Sister Meaghan Patterson’s classroom she currently works as Placement Liaison with Sister Meaghan, now Vice Principal, to facilitate Service-Learning. Joanna says, “St. Martin de Porres is one of the most welcoming places I have ever encountered. The teachers, the staff, the children and their smiles, make it a place where you are welcome to learn, to truly be yourself, to make new friends, and to be a part of a beautiful learning community.” Fr. Dan Joyce says “the long-term impact on the Service-Learning students at St. Martin de Porres is clear. This is no small matter for an educational partner as they help SJU accomplish one of the most difficult outcomes of Jesuit education.”

In its mission to the community and the students at its school and in serving as co-educators for Service-Learning students in a faith that does justice, St. Martin de Porres embodies values of transformational learning and social action that The Faith-Justice Institute promotes.

-Carrie Hutnick

My Experience at St. Martin de Porres: A Service-Learning Student Perspective

While at St. Martin de Porres I have had the privilege of witnessing the hard work and potential of the students while learning from extremely dedicated staff and teachers. The students demonstrate incredible creativity, motivation and determination, largely due to the teachers concerned with their success and development, often working to create lesson plans at home on their own time. Teachers guide students through individual self-expression and personal growth, viewing students as the life of the school, and as individual thinkers with powerful minds.

-Carlo Cinaglia, Service Scholar

My Experience at St. Martin de Porres: Service-Learning First Year Student Perspectives

I never imagined St. Martin de Porres would impact me the way that it has. Beyond a school, it is an opportunity for students to reach where they deserve to be through education of intellect, spirit, and heart. Students come from both difficult backgrounds and loving, support systems at home, but each student loves unconditionally and gives trust to those who treat them well and truly want them to succeed. Each staff member and teacher support their students with love, courage, and hard work. They are my role models of compassionate dedication, and I feel lucky to have met them.

-Katherine Worthington
Fe y Alegria

In 1966, Fr. Jose Maria Valez, SJ founded Fe y Alegria in Venezuela. Fe y Alegria is Jesuit-sponsored not-for-profit organization focusing on education and development of the poorest of the poor. Through a network of schools in 19 different countries in Latin America, Spain and Chad, Fe y Alegria works with marginalized populations to overcome poverty through transformative education.

Since 2003 a formal partnership between Saint Joseph’s University (SJU) and Fe y Alegria has developed to include faculty and professional immersions, faculty research, professional development workshops, professional language training and education degrees, financial and in-kind donations.

Fe y Alegria: Bolivia: www.feyalegria.edu.bo
Foi et Joi: Haiti: www.foietjoiehaiti.org/

-Ann Marie Jursca Keffer

Fe y Alegria: Bolivia and SJU Partnership Strengthened

Since 2007, Dr. John Neiva, Management and Miguel Angel Marca Barrientos, Fe y Alegria:Bolivia have been collaborating on a community-engaged research project aimed at assisting the Fe y Alegria:Bolivia network of primary and secondary schools in low-income communities increase education efficiency levels. This was achieved through application of a managerial technique called Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA). The content results of the research were published in the January 2012 edition of International Transactions in Operational Research. This paper received first prize in the triennial International Federation of Operational Societies Operational Research in Development (IFORS) best paper competition in July 2011 in Melbourne, Australia. Congruent with Dr. Neiva’s dedication to Fe y Alegria:Bolivia, he donated the prize money from this competition to Fe y Alegria: Bolivia. Dr. Neiva’s and Mr. Marca Barrientos’ research serves as a precedent for collaborative research that can strengthen the Fe y Alegria:Bolivia and SJU partnership.

-Ann Marie Jursca Keffer

The Sister Francis Joseph R.A. Spring Outreach Lecture

Every semester the Faith-Justice Institute has a particular course identified as the Faith-Justice Series highlight course. The Spring 2012 Faith-Justice Series Course is Poverty, Ethics and Social Policy. The two sections are taught by Dr. Susan Clampet-Lundquist and Jill amitrani-Welsh. The Sister Francis Joseph, R.A. Outreach Lecture Series presented by the Faith-Justice Institute compliments the designated Faith-Justice series course. This spring, Dr. Kathryn Edin, Professor of Public Policy and Management at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University presented The Diverging Destinies of America’s Children. The lecture focused on her research regarding how fatherhood impacts unwed men living in poverty and the overwhelming accepting and positive responses the fathers had upon learning about the pregnancy. The discussion also explored the moral, ethical and faith-related issues involved in society’s response to fatherhood and poverty.

-Jill Amitrani Welsh
Building on the established Fe y Alegria:Bolivia and SJU partnership, a collaboration with Foi et Joie:Haiti actualized a weeklong visit of six Foi et Joie:Haiti professionals to the United States. A committee, led by Dr. Terri Furin, of SJU faculty and staff in collaboration with Archmere Academy arranged a myriad of educational and cultural visits as well as pedagogical workshops for Foi et Joie:Haiti professionals from March 15-22, 2012. School visits included Archmere Academy, the International French School, Gesu School, Wyncote School and Merion Mercy Academy. Cultural experiences included the Franklin Institute, a presentation by well-known Haitian author Edwidge Danticott, Mass with the local Haitian Community at SJU’s chapel by Father Patrick Samway, S.J. and a celebratory dinner on Tuesday evening. Pedagogical workshop topics taught by Professors Cifelli, Furum, Goulding Johnson, and Terosky and included Deweyian foundations of leadership as well as active learning presentations in science and citizenship education.

-Ann Marie Jursca Keffer