



DIVINE MERCY
UNIVERSITY

20 Annual Report 20

Celebrating 20 Years



Past, Present, Future

COVER IMAGE: NEW ON-CAMPUS PRAYER GARDEN WITH MARIAN GROTTO

Like the beloved Apostle John, DMU has been blessed to take Mary into our new home! (Jn 19:27) Thanks to the generosity of a DMU benefactor, a Marian prayer garden was installed adjacent to the entrance of the University's campus building. The 5 foot 6 inch statue of Our Lady was shipped from Florida in July and installed within the garden's stone grotto during the week before the Feast of the Assumption. The statue, the focal point of the prayer garden, is surrounded by flowering trees, shrubs and perennial plants. This new prayer garden provides a sacred space for prayer and contemplation for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

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A Mission for Today!

According to Johns Hopkins University, more than 26% of Americans over the age of 18 currently suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. Many of those suffer from multiple disorders such as, depression that leads to alcohol abuse and increased anxiety. As one might expect, the current pandemic threatens to exacerbate these situations as individuals are more isolated than at any time in our country's history.

In addition to these growing threats to mental health, we live in a culture struggling to answer life's biggest questions. Who are we? What is the meaning of life? Does God exist? Does living a virtuous life even matter? Behaviors that were once widely agreed upon as the foundation of a healthy society are now called into question. Many grow up in a melting pot of insecurity, confusion, and indifference, longing for transcendent love and purpose.

Studies show that in as much as 66% of mental health consultations patients desire to discuss spiritual matters with their providers, while less than 30% of practitioners feel competent or prepared to discuss faith related topics. According to the most recent Gallop poll on faith in America, 65% of citizens regard their faith as important in their lives. If this disconnect between mental health solutions and patients' faith and guiding moral principles continues, millions of individuals will remain in distress and needlessly suffer.

In an address to members of the American Psychiatric Association, St. John Paul II spoke of the need to blend the best of science with the best

of faith in healing the whole person: "By its very nature your work often brings you to the threshold of human mystery. It involves sensitivity to the tangled workings of the human mind and heart, and openness to the ultimate concerns that give meaning to people's lives. These areas are of the utmost importance to the Church, and they call to mind the urgent need for a constructive dialogue between sciences and religion for the sake of shedding greater light on the mystery of man in his fullness."

Divine Mercy University, formerly known as The Institute for the Psychological Sciences, with its graduate degree programs, research projects and cutting edge partnerships, was founded to fill the "urgent need" mentioned by St. John Paul II. We are dedicated to the renewal of the Catholic-Christian intellectual tradition and the integration of the theoretical and empirical bases of psychology. As one of the only authentically Catholic, fully accredited international centers for scholarship and professional education in the field of mental health, DMU is dedicated to the study of the mind and soul grounded in an integral Catholic-Christian view of the human person.

DMU has the expertise and a record of accomplishment which positions it uniquely to fulfill its vital mission. This is the time for which Divine Mercy University was founded. Now, more than ever, our culture and society need Divine Mercy University to bring its blend of the best of science with the best of Christian thought regarding the human person and human flourishing to a world that clamors for hope, love, and truth.



Uniting Faith and Science to Heal with Dignity

For over twenty years, DMU has blended the best of science with the best of Judeo-Christian thought about the human person in developing the following programs:

- Our doctoral program in Clinical Psychology (Psy.D.) which has earned the prestigious accreditation of the American Psychological Association.
- Our fast-growing Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, which is available online.
- Our online Master of Science in Psychology program, which prepares non-therapists for work in education, human services, and pastoral work.
- Our online Spiritual Direction Certificate program, which gives both clergy and lay people the training they need to lead others in their spiritual growth.

Influencing the Study of Psychology at the Highest Levels

Strategic Partnerships to Unite Faith and Reason

In 2020, DMU entered into a strategic collaboration agreement with McLean Hospital, the largest psychiatric affiliate of Harvard Medical School. Both institutions have experienced these collegial interactions in an overwhelmingly positive manner, learning from each other and developing a strong and friendly rapport. In the coming years, we plan to impact the field of psychological study through:

- Training and education in Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD);
- Joint research efforts to better understand the relationship between spirituality and mental health disorders; and
- Worldwide dissemination of the knowledge and evidence acquired during the collaboration.

Letter from the President

It is an honor for me to present you with this Annual Report as Divine Mercy University concludes the celebration of our 20th anniversary year!

This has been an unusual and unexpected year, to say the least. Amid the current social climate, we have seen how the world needs the fruits of our mission more than ever before. The fear, isolation, and suffering caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the compelling aspirations for justice and social harmony can only be addressed by hearts that are ready to accompany and heads that are equipped to heal. Our students and alumni, educated in an integrated and holistic vision of the person, offer solace to those who are feeling disconnected and alone in our world. I am continually impressed by their dedication and expertise—and you will be able to read some of their stories in these pages.

We began the 2020-21 school year with 123 first year students—and a total enrollment of 550 students, up from 375 students last year. This past year we awarded 84 degrees to masters and doctoral students, many of whom are now out bringing hope and healing around our country and, indeed, throughout the world.

Thanks to our dedicated and talented staff and faculty, we were able to reopen our campus safely in August, and continue to offer remote learning opportunities for all those who need to remain off campus for health and family reasons.

In Summer 2020, we achieved a huge milestone when our faculty released the book *A Catholic-Christian Meta-Model of the Person*. This work was developed over two decades at our Institute for the Psychological Sciences and, more recently, by professors at our School of Counseling. Visit the website for more information and instructions on purchasing your copy:

www.divinemercypress.store

Whether you are a student, alumnus, benefactor, friend or advocate of our work — I want to thank each one of you for participating in our mission. Please know that you play an important part in our lives as part of the DMU community.

Thanks to people like you we are well positioned to meet the many challenges brought on by the current environment and we have the opportunity to impact more and more lives with the freedom, purpose and love that comes from God. We hope that we will be able to continue to receive your support, prayers and friendship and look forward to hearing from you and seeing you sometime soon. May God bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

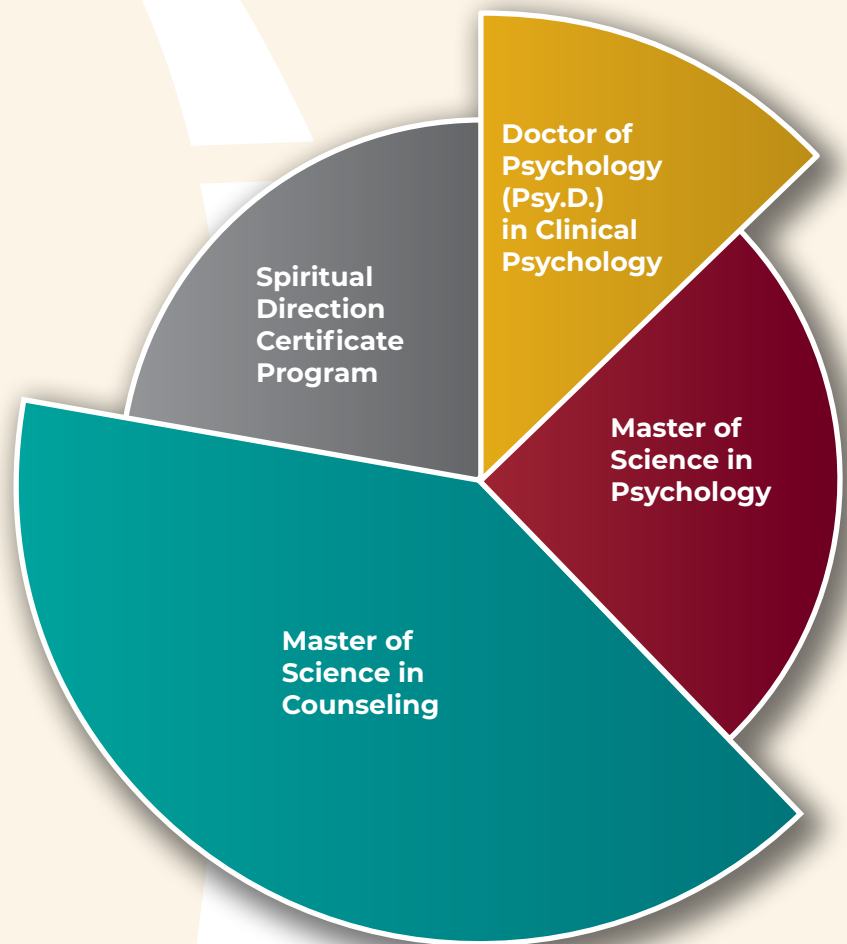


Fr. Charles Sikorsky, L.C.,
J.D., J.C.L.
President, Divine Mercy
University

Current Student Population

550 TOTAL STUDENTS
ENROLLED FOR
2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR

72	Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology
134	Master of Science in Psychology
221	Master of Science in Counseling
123	Spiritual Direction Certificate Program





Alumni Population

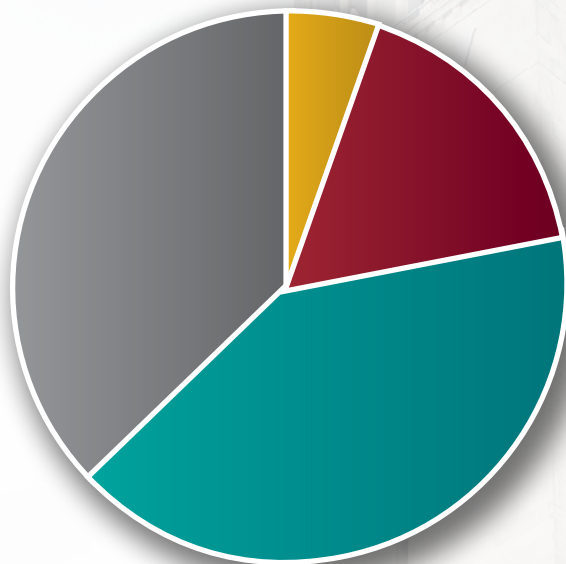
378 TOTAL ALUMNI

70	Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology
126	Master of Science in Clinical Psychology
138	Master of Science in Psychology
44	Master of Science in Counseling

Academic Degrees Awarded in 2020

(Academic Year 2019-20)

84 TOTAL GRADUATES



4	Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology
14	Master's in Clinical Psychology
35	Master of Science in Psychology
31	Master of Science in Counseling

AN AWARD-WINNING BOOK

that Integrates a Catholic Christian Vision of the Person with Mental Health Practice was Published by Divine Mercy University Press

www.divinemercypress.store/purchase



In July 2020, Divine Mercy University Press (DMU Press) published the textbook entitled *A Catholic Christian Meta-Model of the Person: Integration with Psychology and Mental Health Practice*. The volume employs the insights of three wisdom traditions—the psychological sciences, philosophy, and theology—to provide a framework for understanding the person and for application in mental health practice. The book received a 2020 Expanded Reason Award given by the Vatican Foundation Joseph Ratzinger / Benedict XVI and Universidad Francisco de Vitoria Madrid.

The editors of the volume are professors at Divine Mercy University: Dr. Paul C. Vitz, Dr. William J. Nordling, and Dr. Craig Steven Titus. Other contributors to the book include a multidisciplinary team of scholars that have worked together on the Meta-Model for 20 years.

To learn more about the volume, visit the DMU Press website at www.divinemercypress.store. The volume can be purchased via Amazon and Barnes & Noble. You can also watch a full interview of the editors speaking about the book by going to the DMU YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/user/IPSciences.

For media requests or more information, contact DMU Communications at 703-719-4278 or communications@divinemercy.edu.



**EXPANDED REASON
AWARDS**



Universidad
Francisco de Vitoria
UFV Madrid

VATICAN FOUNDATION
JOSEPH RATZINGER
BENEDICT XVI



WHERE IS OUR CURRENT STUDENT BODY FROM?





INSTITUTE FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

PSY.D. IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Graduates of the Institute for the Psychological Sciences' (IPS) Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in Clinical Psychology program are trained to address today's mental health challenges by utilizing advanced psychotherapy skills, psychological testing, and a focus on specific pathologies and concepts within the field of psychology.

Our Psy.D. graduates are working in a variety of settings and positions: private practice, outpatient clinics, diocesan consultation, with the military, and as faculty for clinical psychology programs.

The Psy.D. program consists of 122 semester credit hours of coursework: 103 credit hours of psychology, 10 credit hours of integrative studies in philosophy and theology, and a minimum of 9 credit hours of dissertation research. Students must also complete a minimum of 1,800 hours of clinical externship (with the initial year of practicum training occurring in the IPS Center for the Psychological Services and additional training occurring in both secular and nonsecular off-site clinical settings), pass a comprehensive examination, author and defend a doctoral dissertation, and complete 2,000 hours in an APPIC-member pre-doctoral internship.

The Psy.D. program includes a Master of Clinical Psychology (M.Psy.) degree, which is awarded to students who have maintained a GPA of at least 3.00 in all course work and completed the first five semesters of study.

The IPS Psy.D. program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association (APA).*

*Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation: Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002 Phone: (202) 336-5979 /E-mail: apaaccred@apa.org
Web: www.apa.org/ed/accreditation

MEET THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

As we enter this new academic year, we do so with immense gratitude to the students, faculty, staff, and alumni who have established this outstanding Psy.D. program. That gratitude is also extended to all of those who continue to be so instrumental in growing our exceptional Psy.D. program.

As one of the major reasons for our existence is to relieve human suffering — wherever we find it — we go where we are called. Thus, our students and alumni continue to serve those in need in a variety of settings, both Catholic - Christian and secular. In addition, our students are repeatedly placed in training sites across the U.S. that offer the highest levels of training in clinical psychology and which meet the needs of the suffering.

As we find ourselves in the midst of great suffering during the 2020 academic year, we believe it is important to approach that suffering with a holistic view that includes the potential for growth and an awareness of the challenges faced by those around us. As such, IPS continues to build upon the foundation of an integrated understanding of the whole person. This integrated

view will ultimately lead to a significant contribution to the field of mental health. As we move forward, we are equipped with the powerful forces of centuries of Catholic faith tradition, access to the latest scientific research and techniques in psychology, and the grace of God.

It is with great humility and an overwhelming sense of purpose that we make ourselves available to this world as instruments of both faith and science. We remain oriented toward leaving those we meet with an increased capacity to find meaning and hope in the midst of adversity, now more so than ever before.



Dr. Lisa Klewicki, MAT, Ph.D.
Program Director — Psy.D. in
Clinical Psychology
Associate Professor
The Institute for the
Psychological Sciences



▶ STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



When I first dreamed of attending DMU, I did not give much thought to my future classmates. Now I know that the students are the best part of this school. Never have I met people more motivated to show care and empathy not only to their clients but to other members of their cohort. It has been such a blessing to watch my fellow future PsyDs grow in holiness and compassion as we lift each other up amidst the challenges of graduate school!

Mairead Bogley, Psy.D. in
Clinical Psychology, Class of 2022



INSTITUTE FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

M.S. IN PSYCHOLOGY

The Master of Science in Psychology is a 36-credit hour, 100% online graduate program that has traditionally been designed to be completed in two years of enrolled study. However, this year we are excited to be able to accommodate busy working professionals with two FAST TRACK options – one completed in 16 months and the other completed in 20 months. Both programs are eligible for a 50% tuition reduction on all courses taken in the second term during the program. This accumulates to a savings of up to \$3,000 in tuition, which can be combined with other scholarships and financial aid.

The online M.S. program provides graduates with professional competency in psychology while developing an integrative understanding of the human person in application to service delivery.

The program seeks to promote advanced professional skills such as communication, interpersonal dynamics, leadership, budgeting, program evaluation, and cultural awareness in order to enable growth as a transformational leader in a service-delivery setting.

This degree prepares students for a wide variety of opportunities in the helping professions and in education, especially those which require graduate training.

Through DMU's unique curriculum, alumni will become transformational leaders, strengthened by Catholic-Christian teachings on human dignity and informed by foundations in modern psychology. DMU specializes in a psychology curriculum that roots every course in a Catholic-Christian understanding of the human person.



MEET THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR



I joined the faculty of the Master of Science in Psychology (MSP) in 2015, when courses were still being developed and the program was just being launched. From the beginning, I was impressed with the team approach to develop courses. Faculty from psychology and integrative studies joined together to ensure that every course was grounded in the Catholic-Christian view of the person. Being part of the course development process was an incredible experience.

One of my greatest joys in teaching in the MSP are the interactions with students from all continents of this world. I help equip students from various cultures and walks of life to grasp psychological topics from a Catholic-Christian view of the person. Some of our students have been priests and sisters from around the globe, businessmen from the USA, doctors from the Caribbean, or heads of pregnancy centers. Through their studies in the MSP, graduates are uniquely prepared to excel in their future careers and ministries.

While the MSP already reaches a broad, international body of students, our goal is to expand this student body even further by adding more specific areas of psychological studies. Our hope is that individuals trained in psychology grounded in the Catholic-Christian view of the person will be able to apply these skills in a variety of settings, such as business leadership and management, diocesan ministry, service environments for individuals of all different age, and culture groups, education, law enforcement, and many more.



Julia Klausli, Ph.D., LPCA
Program Director — M.S. in Psychology
Assistant Professor
The Institute for the Psychological Sciences

▶ STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“

I have learned, and from now on, I will always remember that we've inherited a culture of so much deconstructionism, compartmentalization, and reductionism. What integration is doing is putting back together different parts which never should have been so isolated from each other to begin with. This will be my new role in the society as a new helping professional.

Fr. Longin Buhake,
Master's in Psychology, Class of 2020

“

DMU was exactly what I was looking for to finish my Master's in Psychology. Combining science and theology together to heal others is what this world needs. The University has been the best I have dealt with by having the resources needed and the support staff to help us flourish in our area of study. I love the school and people.

Shannon Yarrington,
Master's in Psychology, Class of 2022







SCHOOL OF COUNSELING

M.S. IN COUNSELING

The students enrolled in the Master of Science in Counseling degree program gain professional competency while developing an integrative understanding of the human person in application to the counseling profession. Students acquire the necessary counseling knowledge, skills, and dispositions to engage in communities as effective community leaders and advocates for justice informed by Catholic-Christian social teachings.

The online counseling degree program requires 66 semester credit hours of coursework, a practicum experience of 100 hours with a minimum of 40 hours of direct services and an internship of 600 hours with a minimum of 240 hours of direct service. Students are also required to travel to complete three extended weekend residencies in the duration of the program.

Graduates of the M.S. in Counseling program will be prepared to:

- exhibit a vibrant professional counselor identity with the foundational knowledge and skills of the profession,
- enter the client's life narrative with compassion and respect,
- develop person-centered, comprehensive case conceptualization for effective treatment planning,
- employ basic social and behavioral sciences, a habit of evidential reasoning, and the multiple roles of professional counseling to promote human flourishing, and
- embody a vision of the flourishing person that inspires them, as professional counselors, and their clients to have the courage to trust, hope, and love.

FACULTY PROFILE

"I joined the School of Counseling faculty at DMU in 2018, after having taught at another graduate institution for 13 years. Working at DMU has been such a breath of fresh air and a wonderful experience all around! The administration and my co-faculty are supportive, intentionally oriented towards strengths and virtue development, hardworking, and have a great sense of humor! The academic caliber and spiritual depth of the students have been exceptional -- kudos to the admissions team for their skill at selecting candidates! The best part of my experience at DMU has been the attention it shows to integrating human and spiritual development, not only academically but in personal encounters as well with staff, faculty, and students."

Gabriel S. Dy-Liacco, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor, School of
Counseling
Member, Vatican Commission on
Clergy Sex Abuse

MEET THE DEAN

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Past

As I write this year's annual report, I am simply amazed at where the School of Counseling is at today and deeply grateful for the students, faculty, staff, administration, board members, and donors who had the vision, adventurous spirit, and trust in God for going on this journey together in creating the online Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program.

The journey began for me on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, as I sat down for lunch with Dr. Barry Sugarman, then the Provost at Institute for the Psychological Sciences (IPS). My mind was puzzling over what, would be the topic of this lunch as it was a last minute invite. He told me that the board had proposed that IPS should have an online master's degree in counseling to be more accessible to those students who wanted to be trained in counseling individuals, couples, and families and asked would I be willing to lead this initiative with a start date of Fall 2016. The journey had begun.

In a two-day conference near the end of November 2015, Dr. Stephen Grundman and I with nationally known Counselor Educators, board members, IPS faculty, and staff met to develop the broad outline of the new Master of Science in Counseling degree with the heart and soul of the program being our Catholic-Christian vision of the human person flourishing. In another two-day conference, with our Counselor Education consultants, we developed the basic outline of the curriculum and the content and learning objectives for each course for the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program in the M.S. in Counseling degree.

The Spring and Summer of 2016 saw Drs. Benjamin Keyes, Matthew McWhorter, and Stephen Sharp hired as our first full-time faculty, Laura Mayers hired as Academic Assistant, 27 applicants interviewed, the development of courses with each course embedded with an integration of how humans develop, grow, and heal from a Catholic-Christian worldview, and the first cohort of 21 students in our first 8-week course. This course, COUN 510 Foundations and Ethics of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, ended with a Wednesday through Sunday residency at the Sheraton Suites in Old Town Alexandria, VA. We were off the tarmac and flying, but still building the plane!

Present

Thankfully most of the plane has now been built, with modifications along the way, and no major crashes! We have a few courses to finish for recent students whose states require additional courses for licensure. From our initial 21 students, we have grown tremendously. We will end this academic year with around 185 active students, including a full cohort of 36 students this fall. Our small band of four fulltime faculty has grown to 13 for this fall, with over 25 adjunct faculty and facilitators assisting in courses, small groups, and residencies. We have been blessed with a close-knit team focused on our mission in supporting students to become counselors who, informed by a Catholic-Christian vision of the flourishing person, inspire themselves and others to have courage to trust, hope, and love.

While thankful for our growth, our joy has been in the amazing students the marketing and admission teams have brought our way and the success they have already achieved. The “proof in the pudding” has been the positive feedback from the students’ supervisors at their clinical placement sites, with many students offered a professional counseling position at their site. While the licensing procedures vary from state to state, from a temporary form of licensure required for postgraduate supervision to no licensure until after the postgraduate supervision is over, all graduates have been able to be registered for state licensure as required by their individual states.

Future

We anticipate continued growth with a 20% increase in student enrollment this year. With our growing number of graduates and alumni, we hope to develop a supportive alumni association that would include mentoring of new students and ongoing benefits and collaboration with alumni and the university.

While this time of COVID-19 remains a unique and uncertain time for all, the online training of counseling skills and advanced interventions has proven a significant advantage for many of our students as telemental health services has dramatically increased. This change in service delivery format is more likely to increase than go away after this pandemic. Our students will be more ready than most for this ongoing intervention in the mental health field.

With a thankful heart to all who have helped make this journey so successful, we trust God for the grace to continue training students who counsel with the honor and respect due each person supporting their innate and indelible dignity regardless of their struggles during this time and the future.



Grace and peace,

Harvey Payne, Psy.D.
Academic Dean
School of Counseling

▶ STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



DMU continues to teach me the importance of being in the present, whether that be as I study or ministering to a client during a session. I am grateful for the ongoing formation that my DMU professors continue with me to develop me into the best version of myself and an effective minister of God's mercy to the world. It is an honor to be a DMU student.

Anna Meier,
Master's in Counseling, Class of 2021



DMU taught me things about the counseling field that most people don't learn until they experience it. The people I met not only became close friends, but valuable colleagues, always supportive and insightful for the school and faculty that set me up to make a positive difference in the field of counseling.

Nicole Caselman, LPCC,
Master's in Counseling, Class of 2019



My first semester at DMU was intense but a good experience. It was great getting to know other students in my class. I learned a lot about myself and who I can become as a counselor. The best part was the residency even though it was online. Hopefully I will get an in person residency experience in the Spring!

Adrianne Niall,
Master's in Counseling, Class of 2024



IPS CENTER

FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

After closing in March of 2020 due to the global pandemic, The IPS Center for Psychological Services has reopened and is now offering telepsychology services. By expanding our services, we have been able to continue to pursue our mission of serving the mental health needs of our community and training doctoral level students.

The IPS Center is now accepting new telehealth clients for adult residents of Northern Virginia seeking individual psychotherapy. Through telepsychology, we are able to provide the community with high quality, affordable mental health services that take into account all aspects of a person: emotional, biological, social, cultural, spiritual, and psychological. We offer a sliding scale fee based on annual income and household size (typical fees range between \$20-50 per session).

Prospective patients are encouraged to reach out to us by phone (703-418-2111) or email (ipscenter@divinemercy.edu) to learn more about our services and complete a brief phone screening. They are also welcome to learn more about the IPS Center by visiting our website: ipscenter.org.

The IPS Center has also expanded our staff. Dr. Kristi Stefani, an alumna of IPS, has completed her post-doctoral training at the Center and is now serving as the Associate Director. We also have an immediate opening for a full-time master's level therapist. This position will involve overseeing client referral and intakes, assisting in the management of the IPS Center through various administrative duties, conducting marketing and outreach projects in Loudoun County, as well as providing individual therapy to adults, adolescents, children, and couples.

Please keep the Center in mind if you ever need a referral for affordable mental health care in the Northern Virginia area. If you are interested in further information about our services or the job opening, please contact the Center's Director: Dr. Helena Orellana (horellana.ips@divinemercy.edu or 703-418-2111 x 123)



BECOMING ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE

Center for Trauma and Resiliency Studies



The Center for Trauma and Resiliency Studies (CTRS) at Divine Mercy University opened in the fall of 2016, offering a training program through Green Cross Academy for Traumatology for students, faculty, alumni and interested community professionals. It is targeted toward certifications as Mental Health First Responders in times of disaster and traumatic situations.

In 2020, over 300 professionals received training to strengthen their skills for providing services to those in need of trauma intervention for matters such as PTSD, sexual trauma, domestic violence, human trafficking, grief.

As part of the Center, there will be a development of an ongoing Response Team of students, alumni, and interested community professionals capable of deploying in times of significant disaster or crisis anywhere in the United States. The goal is to assist recovery efforts with first responders to prevent compassion fatigue, collaborate in working with survivors in the field, and provide counseling services in the aftermath of disaster or crisis.

DMU is committed to providing the best education available in fields that are of particular relevance in the world today!

Visit our website to learn more:

divinemercy.edu/ctrs/



SPIRITUAL DIRECTION CERTIFICATE

DIVINE MERCY UNIVERSITY

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Spiritual Direction Certificate (SDC) program prepares students with a transformational experience that will enable them to be spiritual directors with the heart and mind of Jesus Christ.

The program is designed to provide knowledge, skills, and supervision for future spiritual directors. Participants seek to respond to the ongoing need for the followers of Jesus Christ to assist one another on their path of becoming, every day, more faithful disciples of the Lord.

Made up of six online classes, the program includes two four-day onsite residences and a practicum.

The online classes are offered three times a year, in eight-week segments. The pillars of the program include: integration of theological and human sciences as they relate to spiritual development; learning the art and skills of human interactions; and the fruitful experience of supervision. During the two years the program has been offered, 175 students have enrolled and are active in the six different courses.



MEET THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It gives me great happiness to be part of the Spiritual Direction Certificate Program, now in its second year at DMU. Having had the opportunity of serving as the project lead in the early planning stages of the program, I feel blessed to now be able to be part of its daily operations. Spiritual direction itself has been a great gift to me in my personal life and serving as a spiritual director myself is something that I really enjoy.

The team here at DMU has done an incredible job of completing the development of the courses. Now, we will continue to develop pieces that have to do with the mentoring of each student and personalizing the training experience for each. I do want to thank Father Robert Presutti, L.C., and Victoria O'Donnell for getting the program up and running here at DMU.

The certificate is growing and reaching different people—not just in the U.S., but around the world: Canada, the Philippines, Italy, Mexico, the Caribbean, Hong Kong, Spain, and Peru. Currently, we have 175 students enrolled in the program. We look forward to reaching out to the greater Catholic-Christian audience this year in working to make the program better known. Our students continue to be the best promoters of the program. For our part, the SDC administrative team will continue to solidify operations here at DMU, positioning the program for future growth.



Maria Brackett, M.A.
Executive Director
Spiritual Direction Certificate Program



Divine Mercy University's Spiritual Direction Certification Program is just what I'd been searching for. As a mom of school age children, the online format with two in-person residences gave me the opportunity to pursue certification without compromising my obligations to my family. With asynchronistic learning, the two year program fit into my busy lifestyle. Both academically rigorous and spiritually transforming, the SDC program equipped me with the knowledge, training, and confidence to accompany others on their spiritual journey. In a world desperate for connection with God, we need lay spiritual directors more than ever. The world needs your gift.

Jeannine Peters, Member of the Board,
TOB Foundation; Diocese of Philadelphia



SDC 100 was an unforgettable experience. I not only enjoyed SDC 100 but I learned so much. It was intense, challenging, grace filled and the spiritual transformation and growth continues. Thank you for building up SDC. May the Lord bless each of you abundantly.

Sr. Gabrielle Cornelio, SDM;
Diocese of Calgary





2020 GRADUATION CEREMONY: A VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

Divine Mercy University celebrated its twentieth anniversary, which included the university's 19th Graduation Mass and Commencement Exercises, by holding a virtual ceremony on June 20th, 2020. This year, DMU students faced unique circumstances; due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in the middle of March, all Psy.D. classes for the spring and summer semesters transitioned to online instruction, while all on-campus residencies scheduled for May and July were scheduled instead for online format.

Fr. Charles opened the ceremony by welcoming and congratulating 84 new masters and doctoral graduates from the Institute for the Psychological Sciences (IPS) and the School of Counseling.

“While mental health, human service, and pastoral workers have always been in short supply, the coronavirus and its consequences have created an even greater need. Whether it’s helping families grieve the loss of loved ones, helping those who’ve lost employment and hope, those who’ve suffered abuse or trauma, marital and family difficulties, or the many other emotional and mental illnesses that have been exacerbated, your skills and your gifts are truly needed.”

Father Richard Gill (one of IPS’ founders, served as its president from 2002-2005)

“It’s so beautiful to see that the vision has stayed the same and yet expanded over the years, that there’s a way to do psychology that serves the human person and helps him flourish, that starts from the vantage point that he’s made in the image and likeness of a good God.”



2020 Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient—Stephen F. Auth, executive vice president and a chief investment officer with Federated Global Equities, and author of *Missionary of Wall Street*.

“This year will always be marked on the calendar as a very special one, perhaps as one of those great turning points in human history – or at least as a big asterisk on history’s timeline. Somehow, within the eye of the storm, you’ve completed your studies here at Divine Mercy University, you’ve earned your degree, and now your job – which you’ve already accepted – is to help make that turning point one that leads to a better future for all of us.”

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient—Sister Mary Patrice Ahearn, RSM, Psy.D. Graduate, 2013

“Go out, not afraid to be truthful and integral in who you are as a Christian, as a Catholic, and have great courage in doing it, because our world is very hungry and you have a great education and formation now that has just made you more equipped to serve.”

Excerpt taken from “DMU Graduates Equipped to Bring Healing in a Time of Unprecedented Need” (<https://www.regnumchristi.org/en/dmu-graduates-equipped-to-bring-healing-in-a-time-of-unprecedented-need/>)



Support Our Students!

Our students depend on scholarships for their education and this is not possible without our generous donors.

Last year, we awarded over **\$1.6 million** in awarded scholarships to our students.

Please consider supporting our fundraising goals through the following scholarships and funds:

DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

\$50,000

Will pay for the annual tuition, room and board and living expenses for one of our doctoral students.

COUNSELOR SCHOLARSHIP

\$25,000

Will pay for the annual tuition for a student in our online Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program.

FIRST RESPONDER SCHOLARSHIP

\$15,000

Will pay for the annual tuition for a student in our online Master's in Psychology program.

FAITH AND HOPE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This fund supports priests, religious, and consecrated men and women with tuition assistance. We hope to grant \$300,000 in aid during 2021.

PATRIOT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This fund supports veterans, active duty military, and retired military and their families. We hope to grant \$250,000 in aid during 2021.

CHRIST IS THE CENTER OF ALL HEALING

Planning the completion of the St. Dymphna Chapel at Divine Mercy University

Christ as the divine physician inspires our mission and vision at Divine Mercy University. The future chapel at DMU will play an integral role in developing our Christ-centered mission and vision. The chapel will provide the spiritual, as well as geographic, center of our community with access for prayer and worship from every floor. This new chapel will be dedicated to St. Dymphna, the patron saint of mental illness, whom we turn to often for guidance and intercession as we work to increase DMU's reach and impact. Please consider helping us complete this project, and memorialize a loved one with your gift.

Your donation to support our students is greatly appreciated.
DivineMercy.edu/SupportDMU



NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN HONOR OF ERIC TRAVIS SCHILLING

As many of you know, Eric Travis Schilling passed away in June of this past year. A graduate of Baylor University, he was completing his coursework in the Master's in Counseling program at Divine Mercy University and he was on pace to finish his studies by fall 2020.

Travis's obituary poignantly explains that he lived to love and serve the Lord. He sought to help those who were suffering and felt great responsibility to take care of his family. He was always smiling and happy, never taking himself too seriously. Goofy, hilarious and kind beyond measure, Travis enriched the lives of those he knew. He was 29 years old.

To honor Travis's memory and help students with financial needs, we would like to set up the Eric Travis Schilling Scholarship Fund at Divine Mercy University. Our goal is to raise at least \$10,000 from students, alumni, faculty and staff to be awarded in the coming months. The more we raise, the more we can help students in need.

Please consider making a donation by visiting divinemercy.edu/supportdmu and choosing the Scholarship option on the donation page. Then, specify your gift is to honor Eric Travis Schilling.

Thank you very much and may God bless you for your generosity!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Charles Sikorsky, LC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

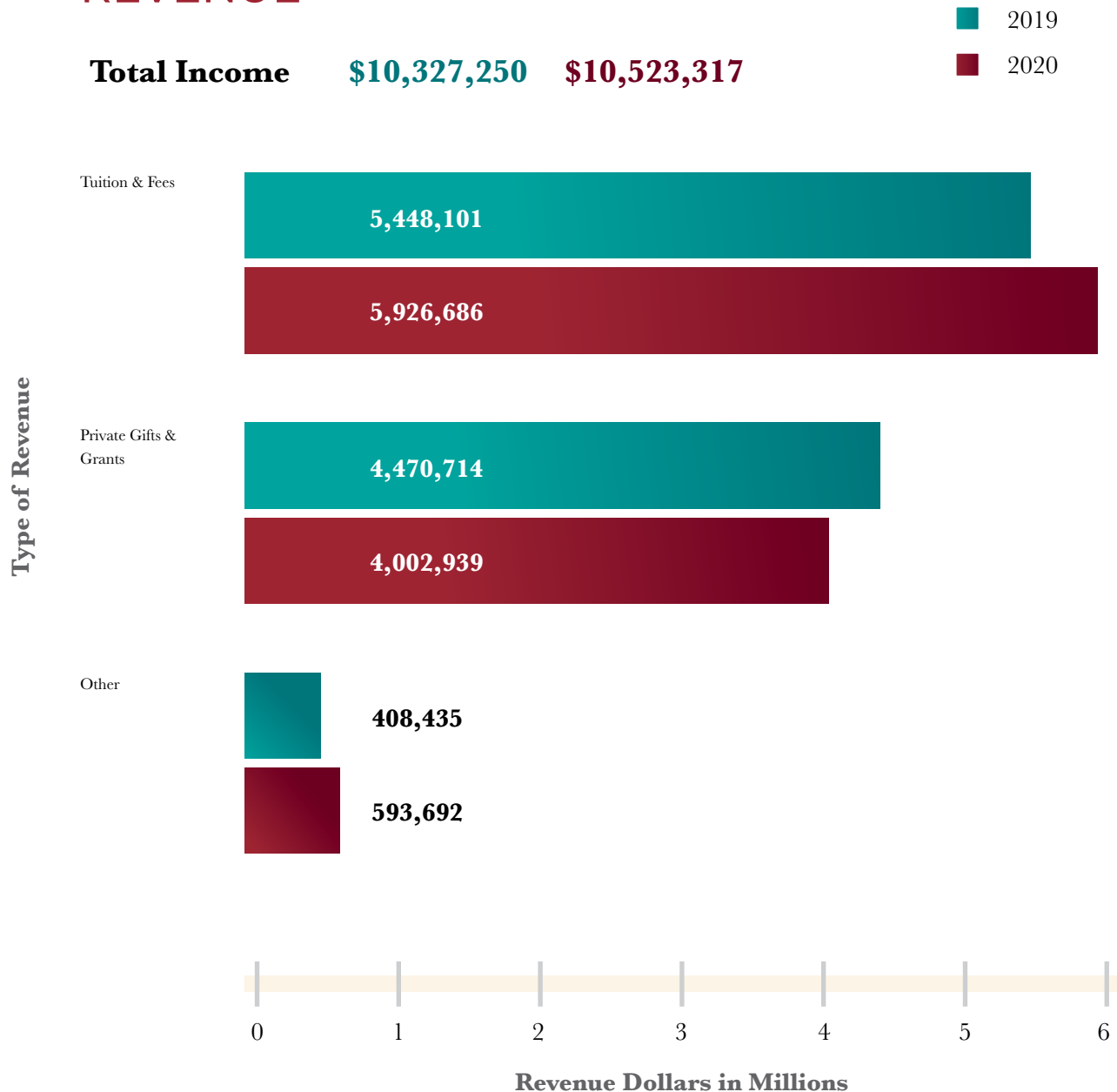
Fr. Charles Sikorsky, LC, JD, JCL
President, Divine Mercy University



Travis is pictured second from the right in the back

Financial Statements

REVENUE



EXPENSES

		<div>2019</div>	<div>2020</div>
Total Income	\$10,327,250	\$10,523,317	
Total Expenses	\$9,040,962	\$10,216,734	
Net Income	\$1,286,288	\$306,583	





ACCREDITATION

Divine Mercy University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award masters and doctorate degrees. Questions about the accreditation of Divine Mercy University may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

The IPS Doctoral Program (Psy.D.) in Clinical Psychology is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association (APA). Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation: Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation American Psychological Association 750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002 Phone: (202) 336-5979 / E-mail: apaaccred@apa.org Web: www.apa.org/ed/accreditation

Divine Mercy University was formed, chartered, and established in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1998, is accredited by a U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agency, and is therefore exempt from the requirements of certification or approval by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV).