



Briar Cliff University embodies its Catholic and Franciscan identity by...

Actively engaging the Roman Catholic intellectual, spiritual and cultural heritage.

The Roman Catholic heritage promotes a sacramental world view that appreciates the goodness of what God has made and responds to the way that all of creation reveals God's loving concern. That revelation is expressed most fully in the mysteries of Incarnation (God's taking on flesh in the person of Jesus) and Redemption (God's offer of saving grace in and through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ). This revelation of God's love is conveyed to us through Scripture, especially the Gospels, and through the Tradition of the Church as each generation seeks to understand and live out that Revelation in its own time in fidelity to the unchanging truth it contains and in continuity with those who have gone before.

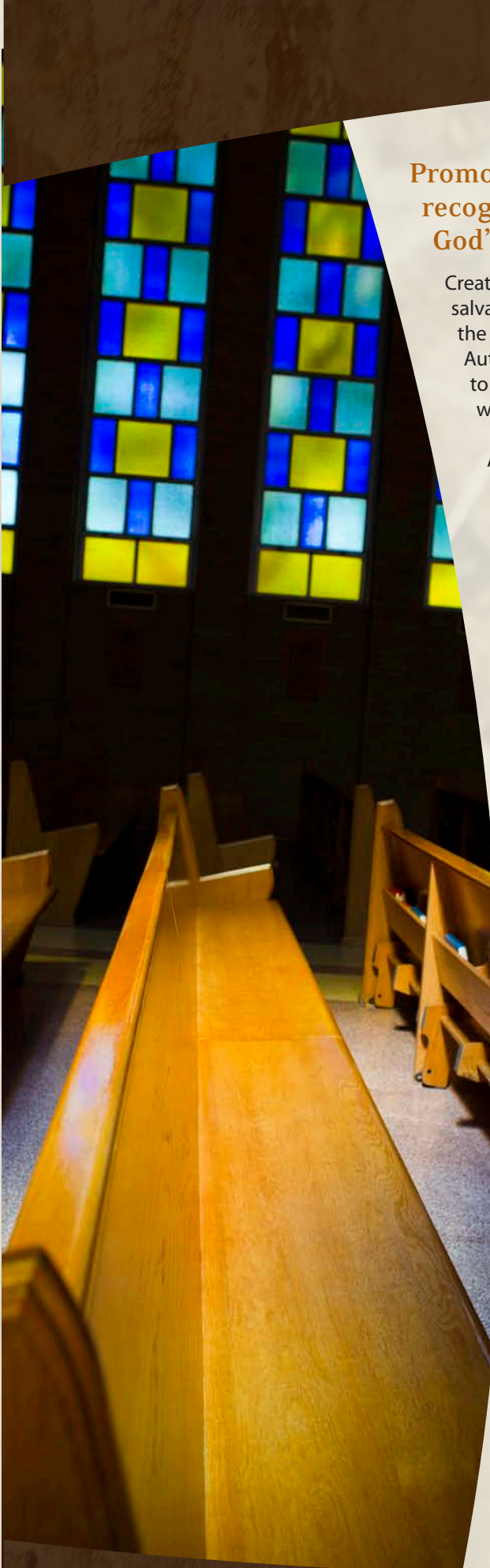
At Briar Cliff University, the Roman Catholic sacramental vision of God's presence in each person and in the whole of creation permeates the life of the University. That vision finds expression especially in the Eucharist and in the Church's long tradition of teachings regarding social justice and moral living. Members of the Briar Cliff community encounter this rich heritage in the classroom, where faculty and students enter into dialogue within the Tradition of the Church and with respect for the authority of the Magisterium. The encounter with our rich heritage is not limited to the classroom, but continues in the extra-curricular life of the University, where guest speakers and other programs encourage continued dialogue, and especially in the liturgical life of the University, where students, faculty and staff encounter the real, sacramental presence of Christ.

Remembering and passing on our foundational stories

The foundational story for all Christians is the Gospel, the Good News of salvation in and through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus announced the in-breaking of God's Reign of justice and mercy and taught his followers how to live so that God's Reign becomes ever more present, especially in the lives of the poor, the vulnerable, and the outcast. Following Jesus' example, Francis of Assisi came to see the person of Christ in the most despised of his time. He brought the good news of God's loving concern to the poorest of the poor and taught his followers to do the same. The Dubuque Franciscans followed in St. Francis' and St. Clare's footsteps by providing access to education at a time and place where it was not available to women. In cooperation with the Diocese of Sioux City, the Sisters founded Briar Cliff in the midst of the Great Depression, offering young women an opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their families.

At Briar Cliff University, we remember our foundational stories so that we may live the values they teach. The Gospel values that shaped Francis' and Clare's response to God's call and that shaped the founding of the school also become part of the day-to-day life at Briar Cliff through service learning, through the many volunteer opportunities, and, most importantly, through the respect for each person that permeates every aspect of life at the University.

the catholic franciscan learning place



Promoting the transcendent dimension of each person and recognizing each person's dignity and worth as created in God's own image.

Created in God's own image and lifted beyond the confines of sin by God's gift of salvation in Jesus Christ, each person, especially the poor, the marginalized, and the vulnerable, deserves all that is necessary for full, authentic human existence. Authentic human existence means developing one's own gifts so that one may learn to live for others in order to fulfill Jesus' dual command of love: loving God with one's whole being and loving others as one loves oneself (cf. Mk 12: 28-31, Mt 22:36-40).

At Briar Cliff University, all are encouraged to develop their own particular gifts and to learn how those gifts might be used to bring about the flourishing of all, especially those who live at the margins of society. An intentional focus in the curriculum and in many campus activities on such Franciscan values as inclusive community, care for creation, joyful service, and peace-making fosters such development.

Fostering positive, productive engagement in the public forum by all members of the Briar Cliff community.

The purpose of education is to prepare students for positive, productive engagement in the public forum. No matter what form that participation takes, members of the Briar Cliff community are equipped to make a passionate defense of the God-given dignity and value of each person, especially those who have been pushed to the margins, and to work for justice in the world.

At Briar Cliff University, all members of the community are encouraged to be aware of the world around them, to rejoice in the diversity of the people who live in it, and to lament the injustice that afflicts so many. Following Jesus' teaching and the example of Francis and Clare, members of the University community, individually and collectively, strive to use their particular gifts in ways that foster justice and promote the flourishing of all, especially those who have been pushed to the margins of society.