



Mary Joyce Farrell Gormally
Distinguished Lasallian Staff Member
2015-2016

Mary Joyce Farrell Gormally is the epitome of a true LaSallian.

Joyce has been at Manhattan College for more than 40 years. During this time, she has shown us all what a LaSallian should be. She understands the importance of Manhattan Colleges' traditions, and she has a wonderful work ethic.

Because the Library is open 24/7, we employ more than 30 student workers. Joyce supervises all of them, and she's the person students' contact if they're seeking a job in the Library. Because new student workers arrive all the time, her role as a teacher and mentor never ends.

She demonstrates excellence in teaching and service, not least by making sure students understand the broader implications of their work. Something as basic as shelving books and periodicals may not seem vitally important at first, but your perspective is different if you're the student who can't find a misshelved item the day before your paper is due.

Joyce trains the students in the Library's procedures, but she also tries to show them the importance of reliability, a strong work ethic, and a willingness to help patrons with whatever they might need. She insists that her student workers are on time for work, that they do what is asked of them — even when there's no supervisor around — and that they contact her if there's any aspect of their work they don't understand.

Joyce creates an easygoing environment where more than 30 students are able to function as adults. As she has said, [quote], "After all is said and done, their future boss is looking for a reliable and effective employee that will make his company proud."

She places great emphasis on ethical conduct by insisting that her students adhere to the code Manhattan College has set for all of us. She leads by example. She is unfailing courteous, and she demonstrates how something as basic as politeness can help students reach their goals.

Joyce lets each student know that his or her reputation as a good worker, and a good person, is being built every day — not starting the day he leaves Manhattan College, but starting right now.

Joyce understands that her students often struggle with both academic and personal issues. When her students are running low on work study or financial aid money, Joyce is right on the phone to the Controller's office to see what can be done. Her commitment to social justice is expressed through her commitment to the welfare of her students.

Joyce has a deep respect for human dignity. When staff are out sick or if a loved one has died, Joyce is the first one to send Mass cards or get well cards. She lets her coworkers know that they're part of a community in which these things matter.

In years past, Joyce has organized library parties, including the Library Christmas Party. She has also organized trips to Atlantic City for Library R & R. (I didn't realize Atlantic City was known for its great libraries, but I guess it is.)

Joyce understands that there are no shortcuts to success. You need to persevere, do an honest day's work, and remember that you are always in the presence of God.

God bless you, Joyce. Thank you for the work you do, and for the being the LaSallian you are.

William H. Walters, Pd.D.