

For Immediate Release
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**Fr. Michael J. Graham To Be Featured Speaker At
Upcoming Interfaith Prayer Breakfast
*'Together We Light The Pathways For Our Youth' is theme***

March 2, 2009 -- Fr. Michael Graham, S.J., president of Xavier University, will be the featured speaker for this year's annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast presented by the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati and the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati. *Together We Light The Pathways For Our Youth* will be the theme for this year's event, Thursday, April 2, from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. at Xavier's Cintas Banquet Center. Reverend Damon Lynch Jr., pastor of the New Jerusalem Church, will give the convocation.

Through his leadership capacity as president of a well-respected Jesuit university and as a priest, Fr. Graham's work has impacted the lives of young people from Greater Cincinnati and beyond. He has invigorated Xavier's 177-year old tradition of serving society by educating students intellectually, morally, and spiritually, with rigor and compassion, toward lives of solidarity, service, and success. Emphasizing academic excellence and integrated learning is just one component of his strategic plan. Fr. Graham has a vision of the *University as a citizen*, and to that end, some significant goals include partnering with other organizations, and for Xavier faculty, students and staff to become more active participants in the community.

Cost for the breakfast is \$20. Registration is required and should be made by Thursday, March 26. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati at 513-362-YMCA (9622).

With more than 83,000 members across the Tri-State, the **YMCA of Greater Cincinnati** has grown to operate 111 program child care, CincyAfterSchool, and 21st Century Community Learning sites in addition to its 17 branches and summer camp locations. The Association is the largest non-governmental, non-profit community services organization in this area that is committed to helping everyone reach their God-given potential in spirit, mind, and body – regardless of their ability to pay. Each year tens of thousands of people from children to seniors are able to participate in YMCA programs and services because of financial assistance, including health and wellness, active older adult programs, youth and teen camp, swimming and water safety lessons, teen achievers, college readiness, and job preparedness.

MARCC, Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, enables 17, and growing, Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Muslim and Protestant Judicatories (denominations) to work together on a few, agreed upon social concerns to make life better for people in metropolitan Cincinnati. MARCC works on the concerns that are most important, urgent, and doable by the religious community. Judicatory delegates selected Homelessness/Affordable Housing and The Collaborative Plan/Justice Reform as their two social concerns at the annual Judicatories' Shared Planning Conference in November 2008 while celebrating their 40th

Anniversary of working together. Judicatories are able to speak in one voice and act as one through MARCC because of a shared mission.

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