



Rev. James J. Maher, C.M., D.Min.

President Niagara University

The Rev. James J. Maher, C.M., D.Min., a member of the Vincentian community, was appointed the 26th president of Niagara University on March 13, 2013. He assumed office Aug. 1, 2013, and was formally inaugurated on April 4, 2014, following a comprehensive listening tour with numerous members of the campus community.

As president, Father Maher serves as the university's chief executive officer and ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees, charged with the execution and administration of all university matters. He is responsible for overseeing an operating budget that exceeds \$75 million, and implementing the vision for the university's academic colleges and divisions, including the President's Cabinet, University Planning Council, and senior management. Niagara's estimated annual economic impact on the surrounding area is nearly \$230 million.

Since coming to Niagara, Father Maher has spearheaded a master plan to develop the physical character of the university's campus and its 21st century approach to interdisciplinary teaching and learning. His vision is to effectively utilize the sustainable tools of teaching, research and service to address the needs of those living on the margins. He remains steadfastly committed to the economic and social development of the communities within Niagara Falls, Niagara County and all of Western New York.

Father Maher's inaugural address, titled "The Miracle of Niagara University: Action is Our Entire Task," focused on the university's living-learning community embracing the eternal mission of St. Vincent de Paul by making central the lives of the poor and marginalized. He stated that Niagara University would be inventive with the times, continuing to transform the lives of its students, and inspiring them to make a difference in the lives of others through their professional and service endeavors.

Drawing on his background as a Catholic priest and Vincentian, and as a scholar on social justice, Father Maher served as a national media correspondent during Pope Francis' visit to the United States in the fall of 2015. He appeared on The Tavis Smiley Show, which airs on PBS, Telecare TV, a 24-hour Catholic news network, and several ABC, CBS, and NBC affiliates.



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Before coming to Niagara, Father Maher served for 23 years at St. John's University in New York City. While there, he acted as the executive vice president for mission and student services, vice president of student affairs, vice president of university ministry and campus minister, and executive director of the Vincentian Institute for Social Action (VISA). As executive vice president for mission and student services, Father Maher administered a \$26 million budget while leading the Division of Student Affairs, the Department of University Ministry, VISA and the Vincentian Center for Church and Society.

Father Maher also previously served as chairman of the board of directors of the St. John's Bread & Life Program. During his tenure, he worked very closely with the executive director to expand services to the poor, raising over \$1 million, growing the donor base from 800 to 2,500 and completing 11 New York City marathons in the establishment of the Run Against Hunger, while leading a team of dedicated runners to raise funds and awareness of hunger and poverty in New York City.

Father Maher earned his doctor of ministry from the Immaculate Conception Seminary and Graduate School of Theology. He earned two master's degrees in theology from the Mary Immaculate Seminary, and a bachelor of arts in sociology from St. John's University. He has also completed professional leadership and management programs at the Harvard University Institute of Educational Management and Management Development Program, the Stevens Institute and the Scott Academy's Senior Student Affairs Officers Institute, among others.

Father Maher is a Trustee of DePaul University and a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I board of directors. Additionally, he sits on the boards of the Darwin Martin House Complex and the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, a privately-funded, economic development organization and the largest regional chamber of commerce in Western New York. He previously served on the University and Collegiate Executive Committee of the Fair Labor Association, and was a leading member of the Global Alliance for Workers and Community.



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A frequent instructor and lecturer, Father Maher has written and presented the following: Pope Francis: A Model of Leadership and Management at Catholic Institutions and a Guide for Senior Student Affairs Officers, Student Life in Catholic Higher Education: Advancing Good Practice, Association of Colleges and Universities (2017); Advancing the Vincentian Tradition through Strategic Service and Research, Catholic Education: Journal of Inquiry and Practice (with Sinatra, R.) (2012); Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility, Association of Colleges and Universities, 96th Annual Meeting Integrating Academics, Washington, D.C., (2011); A New Transformational Role for Youth Volunteers: Cultivating Constituency Voice, National Conference on Volunteering and Service, NYC (2010); The Essential Components of Student Affairs in the University, Hanoi National Education University, NYC (2009); St. John's University School of Law (guest lecturer), Corporate Responsibility and Global Labor Issues, (2005-Present); Foreign Trade University, Hanoi, Vietnam, Globalization and Corporate Social Responsibility (2005); Vietnam net Bridge: Nike in Vietnam, A New Labor Model (2005).

Father Maher's awards and honors include Buffalo Business First's "Power 250" (2014-2017); the Trey Whitfield Foundation's Adult Honoree (2015); the Pietas Medal from St. John's University (2009); Madison's Who's Who, Outstanding Leader in Education (2008); Student Affairs' Outstanding Administrator Achievement Award from St. John's University Student Government Inc. (2005); Epsilon Kappa, Sigma Delta Phi, the National Hispanic Honor Society (2005); Top 100 Irish-Americans in the U.S. by Irish America Magazine (2004); and New Yorker of the Week, New York 1 News (1995).

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