

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARD

**Toni Moore '68,
Bachelor of Arts
Economics**

**Master of Science
Interdisciplinary Studies in Education '87**

**Ph.D.
Educational Leadership '99**

As a student studying economics at UD, Louise “Toni” Moore had no intentions of pursuing education as a career.

Even though she took a classroom job after graduation, Moore considered it a stopover on the path to a different goal — teaching was simply something she felt comfortable doing in the meantime since she’d grown up the eldest of six siblings.

“I feel like I was always a reluctant disciple,” she said. “I never dreamed of being a teacher.”

What was supposed to be a short-term position turned into a life’s work for Moore, and she became a national leader in Catholic education during the four decades she worked as an educator, much of it as principal of Holy Angels School across from campus. In recognition of her work, the National Catholic Education Association honored her in 2001 with its Distinguished Principal Award.

She might have been satisfied spending the rest of her life as a teacher after discovering how much she loved it, but former UD education dean Ellis Joseph pushed her to do more. Because of his encouragement, she decided to pursue a master’s degree in inter-disciplinary studies in education, and later, a doctorate in educational leadership. In the process, she found her calling in recognizing the need for religious and spiritual support for Catholic school teachers.

Moore focused her doctoral dissertation on spiritual formation for Catholic school leaders, and in 2006 helped develop the St. Remy Initiative, a collaboration between UD and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to provide such support. She also created and serves as the director of the Catholic Leadership Institute Project for Catholic school leaders.

“Back at UD, I was a cheerleader, and I still feel that’s what I am,” Moore said. “I’m a supporter of people and a believer in people.”