

At Niagara University, our mission statement guides us to inspire students to serve all members of society, especially the poor and oppressed, in local communities and in the larger world.

For that reason, I am honored to join my colleagues in The Presidents' Pledge Against Global Poverty.

I am pleased to say that this pledge is a continuation of Niagara's service work in Western New York and around the world. Thirty-four Niagara students recently completed a B.A.S.I.C (Brothers and Sisters in Christ) immersion trip, where they spent Christmas break ministering to the underserved in the Republic of Panama, Camden, N.J., and the Germantown and Huntingdon Valley sections of Philadelphia, Pa.

Niagara is deeply involved in the locally community as well. Through the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Institute for Civic Engagement, Niagara students contribute more than 1,000 hours of weekly community service during the academic year, including work at Heart, Love and Soul, a food pantry and community service organization located in downtown Niagara Falls, N.Y.

At Niagara, we will continue to draw our inspiration from St. Vincent de Paul, who organized his contemporaries to respond compassionately to people's basic needs. Through The Presidents' Pledge, I am pleased to join my contemporaries in advancing this important commitment.

Sincerely,
James J. Maher, C.M.
President