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Stephanie Russell: Rick Abert, George Winzenburg. The late Bill Pauly. Bill was a wonderful guy, he—he was one of the hall ministers at McCormick which was at that time all male. And he was actually the person that introduced me to spiritual exercises. And introduced them to me in Eastern form through the work of Anthony de Mello, the Jesuit, Anthony de Mello, who sort of merged Eastern prayer and

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time we talk about mission for that to be part and parcel of what we mean. I have occasionally heard people try to separate the strands of mission and a commitment to inclusion by assuming that everybody who's Catholic is not necessarily a person of color and therefore what are we doing kind of committing ourselves to diversity on campus and they're not quite that pointed about it but close. And that is very concerning to me. That the—the kind of Catholicity that Marquette historically has embraced is a very inclusion Catholicity—the inclusion of Jewish students from the very beginning and all of that and so, if we can—if the university can hone

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practical and that some losses in my life and some opportunities to be with people who I really consider to be spiritual giants have taught me a lot about patience and interdependence. There's a Messiah and I am not he, and that's okay.

Michelle Sweetser: Yeah.

Stephanie Russell: So.

Michelle Sweetser: You mentioned some of these giants and—were they people here or these are opportunities that through Marquette you met others?

Stephanie Russell: Yeah, some were here and some were some of the big names you would expect. You know when I was working at Marquette the first time at Campus Ministry in the late '80s, you know we had the first Martin Luther King Day, that—that we sponsored and you know so Martin Luther King III was here, I think the next year Cesar Chavez was here. You know I mean there were just people of—Shirley Chisholm you know people that were very moving to me and of course later Archbishop Tutu in particular of everyone was—was and continues to affect me in very important ways but they weren't all big names, I mean they, you know, people like my mother in law—my late mother in law, who was a person of tremendous faith and spirit and courage, you know there are women in particular, that have had deep influence on me, who—certainly Dorothy Day, you know not all women that I met but, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, you know women of the history of the church who have been very important in my life as well, so I—you know, spending time with sort of the communion of saints living and dead, and staying attuned also to small voices of wisdom. You know there have been people on the Marquette campus—there was a woman here I directed on a retreat a number of years ago—a retreat in daily life—who was in maintenance, who had a number of kids and some cognitive disabilities, who was probably one of the most faithful, loving human beings I have ever met. And, you know those are people that set examples for me of what it means to be a person of light. And so I—I'm really grateful—

Michelle Sweetser: Sure.

Stephanie Russell: For that opportunity as well.

Michelle Sweetser: Yeah, it's really moving.

Stephanie Russell: They're gifts to me, teachers.

Michelle Sweetser: Sure, sure. What was it like for you as both a woman and as a lay person, kind of taking on a leadership role, kind of being responsible for Mission and Ministry or Identity here at the university?

Stephanie Russell: Yeah, well you know it's funny, I—I did not set out to work for the Church [laughter].

Michelle Sweetser: [laughter]

Stephanie Russell: Nor did I set out to work in higher education.

Michelle Sweetser: [laughter]

Stephanie Russell: And—and I have found myself over my life in a spot on many occasions where the sentence starts with "the first woman." So when I was—I was working on the Wisconsin Province staff it

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was as the first full time woman on a province staff or, you know the first woman to—to, like I used to run Province Days and so you had hundreds of Jesuits and I would be the only woman and—and had set up the meeting and speakers and emceed and all those kinds of things and it just is odd—I also had four sons at home—

Michelle Sweetser: [laughter]

Stephanie Russell: —and a husband so every once in a while I just needed to get away and go be with women for a while.

Michelle Sweetser: Sure.

Stephanie Russell: And—and I was also the youngest person on that province staff so, it

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finished the Heartland Delta meeting they had unanimously approved it as an initiative they wanted to engage which I'm told is the first time they unanimously—

Michelle Sweetser: Wow—

Stephanie Russell: approved of anything and I wasn't even bringing it as a proposal. So there was a group of people put on it and—anyways, not to belabor that but a program was developed that continues to this day to be, according to the HSU presence their—their premier formation program for senior leaders, in the schools both academic leaders and operational leaders. So I'm very proud of that, there are local echoes of that in smaller six and eight week programs at Marquette and at the other schools that mirror those puzzle pieces. Other things that I'm really, you know the—the move of the Faber Center into the University—was not called the Faber Center at that time. But the Society had already made a decision that, it wanted the Center for Ignatian Spirituality either to incorporate independently or to come under the University so, that was something of a complicated and difficult move but, something that the Society had asked for and so, Marquette

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So you know moving mission into something that was a cabinet position and not—not for its own self aggrandizement but as a service function to the rest of the institution has been really important to me.

Michelle Sweetser: Sure, great. You mentioned Mission Week, so

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Holthusen Hall as though it's something other than who we are. These are our students and we want them all running into each other engaging in service, engaging in deep conversation about questions of faith on a regular basis.

Michelle Sweetser: Sure. I'm sorry I'm kind of jumping all over the place.

Stephanie Russell: That's okay, that's fine. I'm probably not helping the line of questioning.

Michelle Sweetser: No, no, you are totally fine. Earlier you have alluded to your, well you didn't allude to you just noted that the presence of Jesuits has declined, the number of

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Stephanie Russell: Yes.

Michelle Sweetser:

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Stephanie Russell: Four hundred and fifty years since the birth of Ignatius—or since the founding of the Society and five hundred

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to address this particular issues but his tremendous goodness and good will and essential attitude of mercy and love have done a lot to reopen doors that had seemed to be slammed shut. I also served for six years on the clergy sex abuse review board for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and I left it when I started doctoral studies cause I just needed to get off all of the boards that I was on but that was sort of my way of dealing with it. Those were hard meetings to attend.

Michelle Sweetser: I bet.

Stephanie Russell: And not anything I would choose to do—the bishop asked me and I said yes. But I felt as though if—if I were going to try to hold out Catholic as something loving and hopeful and—and you know to, how—shine light on the beauty and mercy of the Catholic tradition, then I also needed to do that fully aware of the trials and the ugliness that was there so that I wasn't being Pollyannaish. So it was important to me to serve the local church in that way along with companions who were just excellent on that board and I have to say that Archbishop Dolan now Cardinal Dolan you know, had his own style in the archdiocese but was never anything but supportive of the work of that commission. That's a longer answer than you wanted.

Michelle Sweetser: No. That's fine. [laughter]

Stephanie Russell: [laughter]

Michelle Sweetser: I don't set lengths of time for any of this. But I am mindful of the time and we're right at ten o'clock. So I just wanted to ask if there was anything you wanted to add or things that maybe I didn't ask about that you might like to talk about, in the few remaining minutes?

Stephanie Russell: Well, I guess I would just add a couple brief things.

Michelle Sweetser: Yeah?

Stephanie Russell: One is that one of the reasons that I'm doing this work with AJCU now is that I'm realizing two things that are—that are true at the same time. Number one: out of my own experience, presidential and senior leadership is really important in terms of sending signals to the rest of the uni
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