FAQ – Marquette’s First Layperson President

How will the president be addressed?

The president will be addressed as President-Elect until he officially assumes presidential duties on Aug. 1, 2014.

Where will the president live?

Dr. Michael R. Lovell and his family are committed to living on Milwaukee’s East Side, and will purchase a house this summer.

How will the university afford to pay his salary?

The university has always paid the president a competitive salary, in line with other top Jesuit, Catholic universities. In the past, the salary has been paid to Marquette’s Jesuit community. Although the salary will now be paid directly to the president, the university’s overall salary pool will not be affected. Marquette will continue to support its Jesuit community, as evidenced by the recent $15 million fundraising campaign led by Father Wild to create a new on-campus residence for Marquette’s Jesuit community.

Who will preside at Baccalaureate Mass and other major, campus-wide liturgies?

Marquette’s Jesuit community currently presides over the majority of liturgies and Masses on campus, and that will not change. The president will have a role at all major campus events, including liturgies.

Does this mean the university is moving away from its Catholic, Jesuit roots?

No, Marquette University remains committed to its Catholic, Jesuit mission and to delivering a transformational education for our students. The election of our first lay president is an historic moment in the life of the university, and is a sign of the changing times in Catholic higher education. The number of Jesuits in the United States has dropped by nearly 2,000 in the past 20 years. Nine of the 28 Jesuit universities in the United States and more than 70 percent of Catholic universities in the nation are now led by lay people.