

Saint Mary's College

History

In 1843, four Sisters of the Holy Cross came from Le Mans, France, to share in the apostolate of education with the priests and brothers of Holy Cross who had been sent by the bishop of Vincennes to open a college in northern Indiana. One year later, the sisters opened their first school in Bertrand, Michigan, a few miles from Notre Dame. In 1994, Saint Mary's celebrated its sesquicentennial, a time when the College's founders and the College's traditions and many pioneers were honored.

Significant Events

- 1844 Establishment of school at Bertrand, Michigan
- 1848 First commencement
- 1850 Charter granted by State of Michigan
- 1855 Saint Mary's transferred from Bertrand, Michigan to its present campus and was Chartered by the State of Indiana
- 1879 Alumnae Association founded
- 1899 First successful non-commercial wireless message in the United States received at Saint Mary's College from the University of Notre Dame
- 1913 Two Sisters of the Holy Cross, Saint Mary's College teachers, took their Master's degrees from the University of Notre Dame and became the first women graduates from the University
- 1922 Accreditation by North Central Association
- 1925 Accreditation by Indiana State Board of Education for four-year collegiate courses
- 1933 Day students accepted
- 1943 Graduate School of Sacred Theology founded by Sister Madeleva offering a Ph.D. to women (first of its kind in the United States)
- 1946 Saint Mary's became the first women's college in the United States to offer Theology to undergraduates as a regular college major
- 1952 Board of Lay Trustees established; By-laws adopted
- 1959 Full accreditation for preparation of elementary and secondary teachers by national Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)
- 1965 Official beginning of co-exchange program with Notre Dame
- 1972 Nursing program accredited by Indiana State Board of Nurses Registration and Nursing Education
- 1994 Established new governing structure and redefined its relationship with its sponsoring Congregation, the Sisters of the Holy Cross
- 1997 Appointed first lay woman president, Dr. Marilou Eldred
- 2000 College receives \$12 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to support the Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership
- 2004 Dr. Carol Ann Mooney appointed as first lay alumna president of the College