

# The Mission of Saint Mary's College

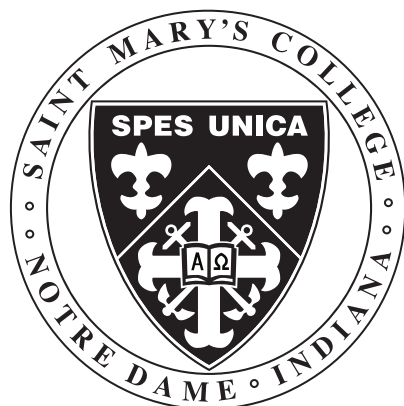
*Faithful to the Heritage  
and Philosophy of Education  
of the Sisters of the Holy Cross*



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SAINT MARY'S  
COLLEGE  
1844 - 2019





The purpose of this booklet is to introduce the heritage, sponsorship, mission, philosophy, and core values of Saint Mary's College to all members of the campus community.

It is our hope that this booklet will be a guide for you, as together we carry out our mission.



## MISSION STATEMENT

Founded by the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1844, Saint Mary's College promotes a life of intellectual vigor, aesthetic appreciation, religious sensibility, and social responsibility. Saint Mary's is a Catholic, residential, women's, liberal arts college offering undergraduate degrees and co-educational graduate programs.

A pioneer in the education of women, the College fosters an inclusive, academic community where students discover and develop their talents as they prepare to make a difference in the world. All members of the College contribute to this mission in their response to the complex needs and challenges of contemporary life.

## STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

As a center of higher education, Saint Mary's fosters an academic climate of scholarship and learning for faculty and students alike. Through excellence in teaching and the example of its own active scholarship, the faculty challenge students to expand their horizons and support them in their intellectual pursuits. A broad-based course of study invites students to think critically and creatively about the natural world and human culture. Acknowledging the need to prepare women for an array of careers, the College provides a liberal arts foundation for all students. Through their years at Saint Mary's, students acquire depth and breadth of knowledge, competence in quantitative skills and modern languages, the ability to think clearly about complex problems, and the capacity to communicate with precision and style.

As a Catholic college, Saint Mary's cultivates a community of intellectual inquiry, liturgical prayer, and social action. The College creates an open forum in which students freely and critically study the rich heritage of the Catholic tradition, raising the questions necessary to develop a mature religious life. The celebration of liturgy encourages students to explore the fullness of life and its mysteries. The College nurtures awareness and compassion for a troubled world and challenges students to promote human dignity throughout their lives. In preparing women for roles of leadership and action, Saint Mary's pays particular attention to the rights and responsibilities of women in the worlds of work, church, community, and family.

Dedicated to the personal and social growth of its students, Saint Mary's cultivates a community of students, faculty, and staff, which responds to the needs of women. In order to offer the richest educational experience possible, the College strives to bring together women of different nations, cultures, and races. It provides a residential environment where women grow in their appreciation of the strengths and needs of others. Through a host of co-curricular programs on campus and in the local community, Saint Mary's initiates students in the habits of civic responsibility. Engaging in all aspects of the college experience, students acquire the hallmarks of a liberally educated woman: keen self-knowledge, lively imagination, lifelong intellectual and cultural interests, and the ability to make socially responsible choices about the future.

# SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE CORE VALUES

## LEARNING

We commit ourselves to academic excellence and foster an environment where all members of the community learn with and from each other. The liberal arts tradition forms the foundation for learning.

*The value of **LEARNING** encourages us to be an intellectual community. It directs us to plan creatively for education that meets the needs of a changing, pluralistic society. We engage in a wide variety of critical perspectives in an ongoing search for truth.*

*The diversity of the individuals that comprise a learning community provides our students with a wide range of human experiences and relationships.*

## COMMUNITY

We sustain a vital community where each member is valued and where all are bound by a common purpose. In an atmosphere of mutual respect, we are called to share responsibility for the success of the College's mission.

*The value of **COMMUNITY** inspires us to create an authentic body within society, formed by individuals who understand, honor, and celebrate diversity as a necessary prerequisite to unity. It is this unity that leads the College toward a common vision and the fulfillment of our mission.*

## FAITH/SPIRITUALITY

We commit ourselves to meeting the spiritual needs of members of all faith traditions. We encourage and support members as they grow spiritually and as they lead lives of faith.

*The value of **FAITH/SPIRITUALITY** strengthens us to be intentional in providing an environment in which community members can live out their personal spiritual journey. This becomes a basis for integration of the spiritual and intellectual lives of the College community.*

## JUSTICE

We respect all persons because of their God-given dignity. We act as responsible stewards of resources both on and beyond the campus. We advocate social action and practice principles of justice and compassion.

*The value of **JUSTICE** challenges us to reaffirm our commitment to overcome prejudice and change systems that oppress. Justice also challenges the College to continue to develop programs which affirm human dignity in the workplace. It invites us to make an active commitment to diversity.*

# GUIDES FOR LIVING THE CORE VALUES AND MISSION AT SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

## LEARNING

## COMMUNITY

## FAITH/SPIRITUALITY

## JUSTICE

These interrelated values guide the College community in fulfilling its mission. Each member of the Saint Mary's College community shares responsibility for the mission and core values by performing her/his specific role in the best way possible. In addition, members:

### **DEMONSTRATE THE COLLEGE'S COMMITMENT TO WOMEN'S EDUCATION BY:**

- Making themselves aware of women's issues and letting that awareness inform their actions
- Using language that is inclusive and reflects sensitivity to women
- Being alert and responsive to programming, curriculum, and policies that reflect women's interests and accomplishments
- Instilling confidence in students and preparing them for responsible roles in Church and society

### **CONTRIBUTE TO THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION BY:**

- Fostering an academic climate of scholarship and learning for students, faculty and staff
- Being familiar with and committed to the liberal arts tradition and the Sophia Program for Liberal Learning which are a foundation of study at the College
- Recognizing and honoring outstanding achievement by any member of the community
- Supporting and participating in opportunities that enhance personal and professional growth



### **DEMONSTRATE A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY BY:**

- Responding respectfully to all community members and valuing differing opinions
- Supporting and participating in College events, functions and committees beyond one's designated role
- Helping implement policies of racial and ethnic diversity on campus
- Engaging in regular, open communication and dialogue throughout the institution
- Being familiar with the heritage and mission of the College
- Practicing hospitality

### **LIVE OUT THE RELIGIOUS DIMENSION BY:**

- Fostering a spirit-centered atmosphere conducive to prayer, development of a relationship with God, and attainment of authentic self-knowledge
- Encouraging gospel-based service opportunities for members of the campus community and taking part in these when possible
- Supporting and participating in events and experiences that enhance the development of one's spiritual self
- Upholding the Catholic identity of the College while welcoming the diversity of faith traditions

### **CONTRIBUTE TO A CARING ENVIRONMENT BY:**

- Utilizing the Catholic social teachings as a basis for decision-making at every level
- Being responsible and accountable for the stewardship of human, financial, and environmental resources
- Promoting an appreciation of cultural and individual differences within the College community
- Assisting in implementation of policies and procedures which are non-discriminatory, equitable, and respect the dignity of each individual



## SPONSORSHIP

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAY THAT THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS SPONSOR SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE?**

Sponsorship describes a relationship between the congregation and the sponsored institution. The relationship calls for mutuality between the sponsor and institution. It both allows the founding congregation to expand its mission and helps give direction to the mission of the sponsored institution.

At Saint Mary's, the basic expectations of the sponsors are spelled out in the Bylaws of Saint Mary's College. These direct that the "College will continue to be identified with:

- A. Excellence in both liberal education and professional preparation,
- B. A commitment to the best expression of the Catholic tradition, and
- C. A special emphasis on and proficiency in the education of women."

*Adapted from the presentation by the President of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross to the Board of Trustees, 2003.*

## FOUNDERS AND SPONSORS; THE CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS

The Sisters of the Holy Cross trace their origins to the Congregation of Holy Cross, founded in the nineteenth century by Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau in Le Mans, France.

In 1843, Father Moreau sent four Holy Cross sisters to northern Indiana to assist the Holy Cross priests who had established a school for boys and young men, the University of Notre Dame du Lac.

Just over the Michigan-Indiana state line in a river town north of South Bend and Notre Dame, the sisters started to teach the local girls. The resulting school moved in 1855 from Bertrand, Michigan, to its present site and grew to become Saint Mary's College, a recognized leader among Catholic women's colleges in the United States.

Throughout the twentieth century, the sisters also found colleges in Salt Lake City, Utah, Washington, DC, and Brookline, Massachusetts. The sisters also operated schools and orphanages from California to New York and South Dakota to Texas. The Academy of the Holy Cross in Kensington, Maryland continues as a sponsored institution of the Congregation.

Today, Sisters of the Holy Cross from diverse cultures and backgrounds bring health, education, and advocacy services to assist and empower people around the globe. Sisters serve in eight countries on four continents:

Africa - Ghana, Uganda

Asia - Bangladesh, India

North America - Mexico, United States

South America - Brazil, Peru

The initials CSC refer to the Latin words, *Congregatio Sanctae Crucis*, Congregation of Holy Cross. They are used after the signatures of professed members of the Congregation.

## CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS: MISSION STATEMENT

We, Sisters of the Holy Cross throughout the world, are called to participate in the prophetic mission of Jesus to witness God's love for all creation. Compassion moves us to reflect on the signs of the times, discern needs, and respond. We stand in solidarity with the poor and the powerless. Our life together enriches and strengthens us to foster community wherever we are.

### CORE VALUES

LEARNING

COMMUNITY

FAITH/SPIRITUALITY

JUSTICE

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### PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION: SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS

We, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, are committed to the teaching ministry of the Church. Because our biblical faith shapes the understanding of all that we do, our educational ministry is rooted in the most important fact of history: God sent his Son to bring us life, to reveal to us the personal love of God for all people, to call each person to the building up of the Kingdom of God. We participate in the Church's teaching ministry through a variety of educational endeavors.

We recognize the purpose of these educational endeavors is to foster the intellectual, moral and physical development of the whole person within a community of faith which invites and encourages a deepening relationship with God and others and a firmer commitment to the creation of a society founded on justice, love, and peace.

Together with family, Church, and society, we contribute to the development of a spirit of intellectual inquiry and a desire for truth, and at the same time assist in the search for an assumption of responsible roles in society.

We believe that each person is a unique human being created by God and endowed with a variety of talents and abilities which can be discovered and nurtured within a learning environment in which all are challenged to personal growth and mutual responsibility. We strive to provide a community of learning in which each person is helped to reach maturity by developing interior freedom and by contributing to the transformation of society.

Our ministry as educators demands that we aim at both the breadth of vision and the creativity necessary to address the challenges of our day and that we commit the time and energy necessary to facilitate the integration of the many dimensions of the learning experience in a Christian vision of life.

We strive to develop an eagerness to learn, a disciplined approach to intellectual growth and an appreciation of truth, goodness, and beauty.

We strive to form a community in which proclamation of the Gospel in word, action and worship leads to deeper faith and a commitment of service to others.

We try to provide an understanding of Catholic theology and a spirituality that is rooted in the call of all baptized persons to holiness and ministry.

We foster a commitment to world justice and international peace through study of the causes of injustice and through application of the Gospel and the social teachings of the Church.

We reverence all persons and promote respect for and appreciation of cultural and individual differences. We reverence God's creation by striving to keep development and ecology in balance through a critical use of science and technology.

We seek to improve our professional competence and the quality of our educational programs.

We acknowledge our responsibility to educate the poor, to expand our services to them, and to join with others in providing these services.

We seek to preserve and enhance the Catholic identity of the institutions with which we are associated, contributing both to their educational programs and to their responsible governance according to Christian social principles.

## SAINT MARY’S COLLEGE MISSION COUNCIL

The Mission Council is a group of faculty, staff and student representatives of the Saint Mary’s community, actively committed to ensure that the mission of the College is understood and exemplified.

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### SAINT MARY’S COLLEGE MISSION RESOURCES

Guide to Interviewing .....	Human Resources, Facilities Building
Procedures for Hiring.....	Human Resources, Facilities Building
Religious Symbolism Guidelines .....	College Mission Office, 131 Le Mans Hall
Campus Ministry .....	161 Regina Hall
Office for Civic & Social Engagement (OCSE) .....	220 Student Center
Center for Spirituality.....	101 Spes Unica Hall
CSC Sponsorship Policies.....	College Mission Office, 131 Le Mans Hall



The seal of Saint Mary's College was originally designed in the shape of a shield by Dom William Wilfrid Bayne, OSB. Dom William used as the basis of his design, three elements of the seal of the Congregation of the Holy Cross: the cross, the anchors, and the motto, "Spes Unica", which together signify the cross as our only hope. To this he added an open book with scriptural Alpha and Omega, symbolizing Christian education, and two fleurs-de-lis indicating the French heritage.



The seal of the Congregation is formed by a coat of arms surrounded by a periphery. The coat of arms consists of a French blue shield bearing two golden anchors crossed. Placed above these anchors is a silver Latin cross with a small margin above and below. Beneath the shield, a silver scroll displays the motto "Spes Unica" in blue letters. This coat of arms is encompassed by a periphery bearing the words "Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross" and in the base of fleur-de-lis.



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