

Landscapes of the Spirit



Question: How does a Catholic, Holy Cross education from Saint Mary's College form students as liberally educated women with keen self-knowledge, lively imagination, lifelong intellectual and cultural interests, religious sensibility and the ability to make socially responsible choices about the future? (*Mission Statement and Philosophy and Purpose Statement*)

Four markers of a Catholic Institution for Higher Education (*Ex Corde Ecclesiae*)

Unity of truth or the integration of knowledge

Dialogue between faith and reason

Concern for the ethical implications of learning throughout the curriculum

Emphasis on the role of theology and the theological disciplines in Catholic education

Quotes from the Founders and Sponsors of Saint Mary's College:

Blessed Basil Moreau: Quote about educating the heart and the mind. "We can state in a word the kind of teaching we hope to impart. Even though we base our philosophy course on data of faith, no one needs fear that we shall confine our teaching within narrow and unscientific boundaries. No, we wish to accept science without prejudice and in a manner adapted to the needs of our times. We do not want our students to be ignorant of anything they should know. To this end, we shall shrink from no sacrifice. But we shall never forget that virtue, as Bacon puts it, is the 'spice which preserves science.'" *Circular Letter, #36*

Mother Pauline: First President of the College, "Education stands for the highest development of mind and heart, and aims to make its student women of ideas rather than women of mere accomplishments, to bring them into personal relation with the wider worlds, larger life, by placing before them truth as it may be apprehended, truth in its various aspects—literature, science and art."

Sister Madeleva: Third President of the College, From an address given to parents of incoming students: "We will not promise you happiness. We will not wish you security. For we remember that 'security is mortal's chiefest enemy.' If your school has prepared you for this, it has been a good school. We promise you discovery, discovery of yourselves, the discovery of the universe and your place it.

Eight Characteristics of People involved in Holy Cross education: *Always being about preparing the world for better times than today.*

1. **Dedication to the Cross:** Trust in God's Providence, that God is always with us and trust in the hope of the Cross, even when we cannot not see the world improve.
2. **Humility:** Mother Mary of the Seven Dolors (first in leadership for Marianite Sisters) is quoted as saying "we must be humble as dirt". We must see no one of us can accomplish our objectives alone; we need each other—our individual strengths, skills, points of view and acknowledge our own limitations; we must have the humility to embrace each other and seek each other's support.
3. **Respect for the Individual:** We must embrace our diversity and celebrate it. This starts with respecting the individuality of each person and their uniqueness.
4. **Obedience:** We need to acquire obedience to a deeper power (for many, that is God). "We are called to "find the soul that is what I am called to be." (*Sister Ann Lacour, Marianite Sister*)
5. **Lived Poverty for one another:** Are we aware of the poverty that surrounds and is within us? How are we called to respond so as to live in solidarity both locally and globally?
6. **Kindness:** Words matter. Do we believe that what we say impacts the community in which we live? Are we people who say and do the right thing that invites the best out of the other?
7. **Joyfulness:** Joy is built on kindness and the other characteristics. Do we witness joy in what we do and who we are? Are we bearers of joy?
8. **Life of Prayer:** Do we prepare this world for better times than today by taking time to reflect on our lives in relationship to other, God, creation and within our heart?