

HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

1844 The nucleus of the future Saint Mary's College began with a small group of Marianites of Holy Cross (later Sisters of the Holy Cross.) Arriving from France the year before, they began teaching girls in Bertrand, Michigan.

1855 Saint Mary's moved to the present site. The enrollment had increased to 70 boarders and 25 sisters. Mother Angela Gillespie, the first American-born leader, was named director of the newly transferred academy.

1895—1931 Mother Pauline O'Neill, leader, builder, educator, *par excellence*, served thirty-six years as president, assuring continuity of life and purpose during Saint Mary's formative years. Under her leadership Saint Mary's evolved from "an academy, that was always more than an academy", into a top-ranking college for women, one of the first Catholic women's colleges to confer a baccalaureate degree.

1934—1961 Sister Madeleva Wolff, poet, educator, humanitarian and builder served as president for twenty-seven years. She exercised all of those talents during her long tenure, and upon retirement said, "The essence of our college is not its buildings, its endowment fund, its enrollment, or even its faculty, the essence is the teaching of truth." That continues to be a mark of the College today.

1960—1970's The restlessness within the Church and society affected colleges and universities across the country, and Saint Mary's was no exception. During these years Saint Mary's had six presidents, two of whom were interim. In 1970 Sister Alma Peter established the Saint Mary's College program in Rome, one of the oldest and most academically respected study abroad programs in Italy today.

1975—1997 A more stable period returned to the college under the leadership of Dr. John Duggan and Dr. William Hickey. During these years the enrollment reached an all-time high of over 1800 students and the endowment became one of the largest among Catholic women's colleges.

1997—2004 Dr. Marilou Eldred was the first laywoman president of Saint Mary's College. During her tenure she made alumnae relations her highest priority, growing the endowment and adding the Welcome Center, Clubhouse, and the Noble Family Dining Hall and Student Center to campus facilities.

2004— President Carol Ann Mooney presently leads Saint Mary's College. She is its first lay alumna president. Her priorities include raising the College's standing as a premier women's college, increasing diversity among faculty, staff, and students, and creating a sustainable future for the College.



SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

Mission Statement

Saint Mary's College is a Catholic, residential, women's college in the liberal arts tradition. A pioneer in the education of women, the College is an academic community where women develop their talents and prepare to make a difference in the world. Founded by the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1844, Saint Mary's promotes a life of intellectual vigor, aesthetic appreciation, religious sensibility, and social responsibility. All members of the College remain faithful to this mission and continually assess their response to the complex needs and challenges of the contemporary world.

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 challenges students to expand their horizons and supports 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 insists on a liberal arts foundation for all its 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 form the foundation for learning.

*The value of **Learning** encourages us to become a community of learners. It directs us to plan creatively for education that meets the needs of a changing pluralistic society. A learning community engages in a wide variety of critical perspectives in its 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** helps us to create an authentic community within society. This community is formed by individuals who understand, honor, and celebrate diversity as a necessary prerequisite to unity. It is this unity that leads the community toward a common vision and the fulfillment of the College's mission.*

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE CORE VALUES

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 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 19th 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 20th century, the sisters would also found colleges in Salt Lake City, Utah, Washington, D.C., 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 institute 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

COMPASSION

FAITH

PRAYER

COMMUNITY

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.

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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 a 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.