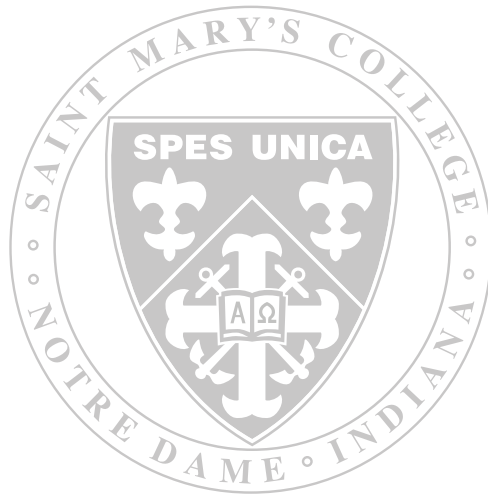


Saint Mary's College
Class of 2020

Commencement

May 28, 2022





Saint Mary's College
Welcomes you to the
Class of 2020
Commencement Celebration



Nancy P. Nekvasil, Ph.D.
Commencement Speaker

Nancy P. Nekvasil, Ph.D. was a beloved member of the Saint Mary's community for 37 years and most recently served as Interim President from October 2018 to June 2020.

A member of Saint Mary's Biology Department during her tenure as a faculty member, Nekvasil chaired the department for nearly a decade. Prior to being named Interim President, Nekvasil was Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Saint Mary's. She has received many College awards and honors, including the Maria Pieta Award for extraordinary teaching, the Spes Unica Award for exceptional service to the College, and the Carmi and Chris Murphy Faculty Award for Student Mentorship of the Senior Comprehensive. Affectionately known as "Dr. N" among her students, Nekvasil mentored generations of Saint Mary's students and had a lasting impact on their lives as students and their lives after graduation. During her time at Saint Mary's, she was a thoroughly dedicated and committed member of the community, and she continues to be deeply respected for her servant leadership.

At the 2021 Commencement, the College awarded Nekvasil a doctor of liberal arts, *honoris causa*.

Order of Ceremony

Academic Procession

National Anthem

Reagan Stohler '20

Invocation

Gretchen Flicker '93
Chair, Board of Trustees

Welcome

Katie Conboy, Ph.D.
President

Class Officer Remarks

Kassandra Acosta '20
Michelle Lester '20

Guest Speaker

William Svelmoe, Ph.D.
Professor of History

Commencement Address

Nancy P. Nekvasil, Ph.D.

Recognition of Graduate and Undergraduate Degrees in Course

Sharon M. Meagher, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Senior Vice President

Presentation of Graduates

Tracy P. White
Senior Academic Advisor

Charge to the Class

Katie Conboy

The Bells of Saint Mary's

Reagan Stohler '20

Recession

Guests are asked to remain seated until the recession is complete.

The Bells of Saint Mary's

arr. Sprague

Oh, Bells of Saint Mary's, We always will
Saint Mar - y's, Saint Mar - y's, We hear your voice

love you. With your in - spir - a - tion We ne - ver will
call - ing, Your old girls, your young girls, the girls you love

fail. Your chimes will for - e - ver - bring sweet me - m'ries
best. To you Al - ma Ma - ter, with beau - ty en -

of thra - you. So proud - ly our ring hearts out while we sing praise for
ling, we bring our hearts we sing our praise be -

1. you and for me. 2. lov - ed and best!

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.

