**“Madeleva: A Play in Several Voices” Premiers March 20**

“Madeleva: A Play in Several Voices” premiers March 20 at Saint Mary’s College. This new production marks the 50th anniversary of the passing of Sister Madeleva Wolff, CSC (1887-1964). Sister Madeleva was a distinguished poet, medieval scholar, leader in Catholic higher education, and president of Saint Mary’s College from 1934-1961. At the time of her death, she was described by one journalist as “the most reknowned nun in the world.”

Saint Mary’s alumnae submitted memories of Sister Madeleva for the production and students contributed to the script. In fall 2013, members of English Professor Laura Haigwood’s Writing Proficiency Course “Saint Mary’s Women” as well as those in Professor Susan Baxter’s Playwriting I course wrote essays and dramatic monologues about Sister Madeleva. Using these materials and other sources, Baxter wrote the script, which she describes as a “work in progress” that can be revised as conversations about Sister Madeleva continue with those who remember her.

A staged-reading of the play in its current form will take place at Saint Mary’s O’Laughlin Auditorium on Thursday, March 20, at 7 p.m. The reading will feature Kaitlyn Baker as Mary Evaline Wolff (age 5-17); Eva Cavadini as Mary Evaline and Sister Madeleva age 18-60; and Susan Baxter as Sister Madeleva age 70. Supporting roles will be read by Michele Guernsey, Morgan Carroll, and Richard Baxter. Tickets are $10 for the general public and $5 for seniors. Complimentary tickets will be issued to members of the Congregation of the Holy Cross and students, staff, and faculty of Saint Mary’s College, the University of Notre Dame, and the College of the Holy Cross.

“Certainly,” comments Professor Baxter, “Sister M. Madeleva Wolff was a complex, flawed, and brilliant individual. What we came to appreciate as we worked on this play, however, is that she was less extraordinary than—and more exemplary of—the beautiful Holy Cross Order that created her. With all our hearts, we believe she would concur.”

The play is part of Saint Mary’s Center for Spirituality spring series “The Life and Leadership of Catholic Women Religious” marking the 50th anniversary of Sister Madeleva’s passing.