

NEWS RELEASE

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University of Saint Mary Ushers in New Class of 'Saint Marians' At Commencement Ceremony

1 p.m. Saturday, May 13, 2006

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The culmination of years of hard work will finally be rewarded for the University of Saint Mary Class of 2006 at Commencement, 1 p.m. Saturday, May 13 in McGilley Field House. The Class of 2006 will officially become life long “Saint Marians” at Commencement, as they receive their degrees and prepare for the next chapter of life.

University of Saint Mary President Sister Diane Steele believes Commencement is a special time for graduates and their families. This, she said, is their moment to shine. “Commencement is that special time our graduates have been waiting years to attain. For all their hard work, dedication and desire to get to the top, our community at Saint Mary is proud to provide that platform to shine for our graduates,” she said. “They’ve all earned the applause, cheers and smiles from their family and friends, but most of all the degree. That’s going to take them places.”

Of the 233 members of the Class of 2006, 95 are undergraduates and 138 are master’s level graduates. Before Steele confers the degrees making it all official, three students will present reflections about their time at USM. Graduates Rachel Carpenter, Brian DeMarea and Jessica Hazen will discuss how they have changed while at Saint Mary. The 2006 Mother Mary Ancilla Award Winner, Sarah Winders, will deliver the opening prayer, the invocation.

The Class of 2006 has several unique distinctions to its credit. As freshmen in 2002, the Class of 2006 knew Saint Mary then as Saint Mary College. The group will be the last graduating class to assert they attended both SMC and USM. The class becomes just the third to graduate from Saint Mary since it transitioned from college to university in June 2003. Graduates have received degrees at Saint Mary, then Saint Mary College, since 1923. The class is also truly global, with representatives from across the world, including Brazil, Germany, Australia and Canada.

The University of Saint Mary is a private, co-educational applied liberal arts university founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations at 11413 Pflumm in Overland Park and inside Providence Medical Center at 8929 Parallel Parkway in Kansas City, Kan.

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