

NEWS RELEASE

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**University of Saint Mary to Build
New "Apartment-Style" Residence Hall
*\$4.7 million Building to be finished in August 2009***

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— The University of Saint Mary is building a new "apartment-style" residence hall on the north end of main campus at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan. The new dorm is needed to accommodate the growing number of students on campus. This year, the university has the highest enrollment of full-time students it has seen since the 1970s.

The new residence hall is the first dorm to be built on the main campus since Maria Hall opened in 1964. The new \$4.7 million residence hall is expected to open in August 2009.

"This is a very exciting chapter for the University of Saint Mary," said Sister Diane Steele, university president. "College students today prefer apartment style dorms. They've grown up having their own rooms and bathrooms. Our new 100-bed residence hall is designed in the apartment-style layout, with a kitchenette and common area."

"These rooms are cool," said senior Kate Schebaum. "You share a bathroom with just one other person. And you have a private bedroom with a door you can close when you need time to yourself."

Eighteen of the units will have four private bedrooms, two bathrooms, two vanities with two sinks next to the bathrooms, a shared common area, kitchen sink, refrigerator, individually controlled heating and air conditioning, cable and high speed internet access. There will also be 14 semi-private rooms, in which two students share a bedroom space and all the features listed above.

USM is also spending over \$1 million to renovate Maria Hall, which can accommodate up to 208 students. The school's oldest residence hall, Berchmans Hall, which opened in 1931, currently houses 25 students. Once the new dorm is complete, Berchmans will be re-purposed for classrooms and offices.

The new residence hall project developer is Student Suites of Blue Springs, Mo. Like all university projects, USM sought proposals and bids from area companies. You can watch the progress of construction of the new hall on the university's website www.stmary.edu.

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