

## NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 31, 2010

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### University of Saint Mary to Install Veteran Professor as Holder of First Fully-Endowed Faculty Chair

*1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, Annunciation Chapel*

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary will install English Professor Sister Susan Rieke as the holder of the university’s first-ever fully endowed faculty chair at a special liturgy celebration at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, in Annunciation Chapel on USM’s Leavenworth Campus, 4100 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

The esteemed position—the Sister Mary Janet McGilley Endowed Chair in Liberal Studies—is backed by a \$1 million endowment raised through generous donations and is designed to help the holder promote USM’s long-standing tradition of the liberal arts. The chair-holder will have the position for a three-year term, renewable.

“Establishing an endowed faculty chair is a hallmark of a great university,” said Dr. Bryan Le Beau, USM’s academic vice president and dean. “It shows we’re building momentum toward even greater accomplishments, and it establishes a certain permanence and creates an endowment to consistently fund a particular program.”

Sr. Rieke, chair of USM’s language and literature department, is a 1968 graduate of Saint Mary and has taught at USM since 1980. She went on to earn her master’s and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. Sr. Rieke is also a published poet, and began her teaching career at the high school level in the 1960s.

The chair was established in 2008, and named in honor of the late Sister Mary Janet McGilley, beloved former president of Saint Mary who served at the school’s helm from 1964-1989. Sr. McGilley died in 2003 and was posthumously inducted into the Mid-American Regional Education Hall of Fame in 2007.

“It’s a deep honor to be in any way connected with Sr. Janet’s career,” Sr. Rieke said. “On a personal note, I love writing, I love poetry, and I love Saint Mary. If I can do something through that that makes us—and our humanities programs—more visible and more attractive, I’d very much like that.”

Call (913) 758-6165 for more information.

*The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit [www.stmary.edu](http://www.stmary.edu) for more information.*