

7-1-2019

1.1 Saint Mary's College Mission Statement

Saint Mary's College of California

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Recommended Citation

Saint Mary's College of California (2019) "1.1 Saint Mary's College Mission Statement," *Faculty Handbook*: Vol. 2019 , Article 5.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.stmarys-ca.edu/faculty-handbook/vol2019/iss1/5>

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1. MISSION, HISTORY, GENERAL ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE OF SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

1.1 SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Mary's College in the twenty-first century celebrates the three traditions which have sustained it since its earliest years: the classical tradition of liberal arts education, the intellectual and spiritual legacy of the Catholic Church, and the vision of education enunciated by Saint John Baptist de La Salle and developed by the Brothers of the Christian Schools and their colleagues for more than 300 years.

The Mission of Saint Mary's College is:

- ❖ to probe deeply the mystery of existence by cultivating the ways of knowing and the arts of thinking.

Recognizing that the paths to knowledge are many, Saint Mary's College offers a diverse curriculum which includes the humanities, arts, sciences, social sciences, education, business administration and nursing, serving traditional students and adult learners in both undergraduate and graduate programs. As an institution where the liberal arts inform and enrich all areas of learning, it places special importance on fostering the intellectual skills and habits of mind which liberate persons to probe deeply the mystery of existence and live authentically in response to the truths they discover. This liberation is achieved as faculty and students, led by wonder about the nature of reality, look twice, ask why, seek not merely facts but fundamental principles, strive for an integration of all knowledge, and express themselves precisely and eloquently.

- ❖ to affirm and foster the Christian understanding of the human person which animates the educational mission of the Catholic Church.

Saint Mary's College holds that the mystery which inspires wonder about the nature of existence is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ giving a transcendent meaning to creation and human existence. Nourished by its Christian faith, the College understands the intellectual and spiritual journeys of the human person to be inextricably connected. It promotes the dialogue of faith and reason; it builds community among its members through the celebration of the Church's sacramental life; it defends the goodness, dignity and freedom of each person; and fosters sensitivity to social and ethical concerns. Recognizing that all those who sincerely quest for truth contribute to and enhance its stature as a Catholic institution of higher learning, Saint Mary's welcomes members from its own and other traditions, inviting them to collaborate in fulfilling the spiritual mission of the College.

- ❖ to create a student-centered educational community whose members support one another with mutual understanding and respect.

As a Lasallian college, Saint Mary's holds that students are given to its care by God and that teachers grow spiritually and personally when their work is motivated by faith and zeal. The College seeks students, faculty, administrators and staff from different social, economic, and cultural backgrounds who come together to grow in knowledge, wisdom and love. A distinctive mark of a Lasallian school is its awareness of the consequences of economic and social injustice and its commitment to the poor. Its members learn to live "their responsibility to share their goods and their service with those who are in need, a responsibility based on the union of all men and women in the world today and on a clear understanding of the meaning of Christianity." (From: The Brothers of the Christian Schools in the World Today: A Declaration).