



LEADERSHIP SOCIETY NOVEMBER UPDATE

You are receiving this letter because you are a member of Saint Mary's Leadership Society, a family of givers who generously contribute \$1,000 or more annually to the university.

Greetings!

These are challenging times, on campus and in the world around us. Our students, although settled into the semester, are discovering and overcoming obstacles in their coursework and in their lives. They are children of God, and as their teachers, families, and benefactors, they need us to shepherd them toward God's love.

In higher education more broadly, the challenges abound. Potential students have more choices to consider, and at the same time, many families are struggling to support their children and to help them find their path to higher education. Teachers, alumni, and benefactors are needed to encourage young people to attend Saint Mary's and to help ease the financial costs for their families.

Amidst these and other challenges, let me offer some good news. I've seen Christ alive in the lives and hearts of students and faculty at Saint Mary's, and that is a wonderful thing!

For more than 50 years, my life has been touched by Saint Mary's in too many ways to count: as an undergraduate, an alumnus, a De La Salle Christian Brother, a faculty member, a department chair, and in various administrative positions. Today, as senior vice president for university initiatives, it is my honor to celebrate the generous philanthropic gifts that make our mission possible.

This fall, I joined 200 Saint Mary's benefactors who gathered for our annual recognition of philanthropy celebration dinner. At this dinner, our president, Father James P. Burns, IVD, Ph.D., launched the public phase of a \$125 million comprehensive campaign: "**Rooted in Faith: Growing Our Future.**"

The campaign — the most ambitious in Saint Mary's history — includes four initiatives from the university's strategic plan.

- **Student Success** ensures the success and well-being of every student, encompassing both their academic journey and their personal growth. Support for our First Generation Initiative and Career Services helps equip students to thrive as they lean into their future.
- **Academic and Co-Curricular Experience** creates a holistic learning environment that empowers students to grow academically, personally, professionally, and spiritually.
- **Lasallian Catholic Mission** is the essence of our institution's identity, guiding every one of our interactions and commitments.
- **Operational Vitality and Endowment Growth** ensure the delivery of an exceptional Lasallian Catholic educational experience through the Saint Mary's Fund while effectively managing costs and adapting to ever-changing circumstances.

To learn more about the campaign or to make a gift, I invite you to visit smumn.edu/rooted-in-faith.

On that same evening, Father Burns honored two benefactors with the Heritage Award for Transformational Philanthropy for their exceptional philanthropy that has transformed the university.

The Slaggie Family Foundation

The Slaggie Family Foundation, led by Stephen and Barbara Slaggie, has been a transformative force in supporting Saint Mary's University of Minnesota through its philanthropic gifts. The family's deep ties with Saint Mary's date back to the 1950s. Steve Slaggie's two brothers, Tom and Michael Slaggie B'60, also attended Saint Mary's. Tom Slaggie was expected to be a member of the Class of '58, but instead received an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

Deeply rooted in their Catholic faith, the Slaggies' commitment to philanthropy stems from their humble beginnings and a shared belief in the importance of helping others. Barb, raised on a farm with 13 siblings, was taught by her parents to always look out for those in need. Steve, shaped by his Catholic education and his service in the U.S. Army, developed a deep sense of responsibility to give back. Through the Slaggie Family Foundation, their four children — Mike '93 (whom I taught three decades ago!), Matt, Shelly, and Sara — are also continuing to share their time, talent, and resources to benefit those in need. I am personally grateful for the warm and faith-filled relationships I share with members of the Slaggie family.

Brother I. Patrick Hayes, FSC

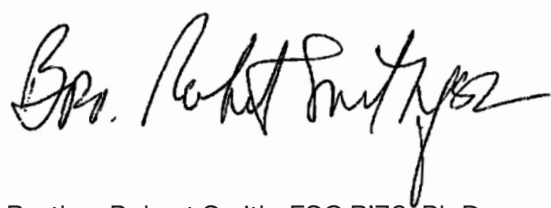
Brother I. Patrick Hayes, FSC, a native of Chicago, was posthumously honored for his exceptional contributions to building a lasting culture of philanthropy at Saint Mary's. Dedicating over two decades of his life to Saint Mary's, he served as director of public relations, secretary of the alumni association, and vice president of development.

Brother I. Patrick joined the Christian Brothers in 1927. Throughout his 47-year career as a teacher and administrator, he served schools across the Midwest, including Kansas City, Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Winona, Chicago, and Evanston. His retirement in 1978 marked the conclusion of a career of service, innovation, and unwavering devotion to the betterment of others.

And just like the legacy of the Slaggie family and Brother I. Patrick Hayes, you are a blessing to us — through your prayers, friendship, and financial support. If you have not yet made an annual gift to Saint Mary's, you will be invited next month to make a year-end gift. Consider increasing your annual gift this year as part of our history-making \$125 million campaign. Please be on the lookout for that mailing, or get a head start at connect.smumn.edu/leadership-society.

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!

Warmly,



Brother Robert Smith, FSC B'76, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President for University Initiatives and Special Advisor to the President
Executive Director, Hendrickson Institute for Ethical Leadership