

The University of Mary: Mission and Identity

Founded to prepare leaders in the service of truth, the University of Mary is distinctive in our education and formation of servant leaders with moral courage, global understanding, and commitment to the common good. *As America's Leadership University, we are deeply devoted to our mission:*

The University of Mary exists to serve the religious, academic and cultural needs of the people in this region and beyond. It takes its tone from the commitment of the Sisters of Annunciation Monastery. These Sisters founded the University in 1959 and continue to sponsor it today. It is Christian, it is Catholic, and it is Benedictine.

We cherish our Christian, Catholic, Benedictine identity; we welcome and serve persons of all faiths.

We are faithfully Christian.

As a Christian university, we strive to accomplish our mission in faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We regard each human person as created in the image and likeness of God, gifted with life and dignity. We seek to be agents of cultural renewal in our time and place, courageous advocates for justice and peace. Our Christian commitment is born from and sustained by the encounter of the Risen Lord, who came not to be served but to serve. As He humbly washed the feet of His disciples on the night before He died, so we seek to serve one another. We are faithfully Christian.

We are joyfully Catholic.

As a Catholic university, we joyfully draw our life from the heart of the Church, identifying with the ancient tradition which gave rise to the first universities in medieval Europe. This Catholic intellectual tradition proposes an integrated spiritual and philosophical approach to the most enduring questions of human life. Thus we seek to advance the vital dialogue between faith and reason, while acknowledging the proper autonomy of the arts, sciences, and professions. A university is a place for the free exchange of ideas, and so we warmly welcome students and faculty of many faiths and convictions. At the same time, our common discourse ever takes place in a spirit of authentic respect for Catholic teaching and practice. We acknowledge the Catholic faith as a path to moral integrity and personal holiness. We are joyfully Catholic.

We are gratefully Benedictine.

As a Benedictine university, we remember with gratitude the Benedictine Sisters who came to Dakota Territory in 1878, bringing ministries of teaching and healing. This community of Sisters would become our founders and sponsors and, through them, we share in the 1500-year-old heritage of the Benedictines. Inspired by lives of prayer, community, and service, Saint Benedict and his spiritual followers through the ages have been a stable source of tremendous good in the world: renewing the Church, preserving learning, cultivating wisdom, modeling humane virtues of balance and generosity. The life of our Sisters shapes our life. We are gratefully Benedictine.

The University of Mary, America's Leadership University:

Faithfully Christian

Joyfully Catholic

Gratefully Benedictine

Approved by the Board of Trustees, 3 December 2010

BENEDICTINE VALUES:

Although communal life inspired by the Rule of St. Benedict stores a vast treasury of Benedictine values, six of these are of particular importance for our life at the University of Mary:

COMMUNITY

Striving together for the common good and growing in relationship with God, one another, and self

Rule of Benedict 33 - "Let all things be common to all."

HOSPITALITY

Receiving others as Christ with warmth and attentiveness

Rule of Benedict 53 - "Let all be received as Christ."

MODERATION

Honoring all of God's creation and living simply with balance and gratitude

Rule of Benedict 31 - "Regard all things as sacred and do everything with moderation."

PRAYER

Attending to the mystery and sacredness of life, abiding in the divine presence, listening and responding to God

Rule of Benedict 4 - "Listen intently to holy readings. Give yourself frequently to prayer."

RESPECT FOR PERSONS

Recognizing the image of God in each person and honoring each one in their giftedness and limitations

Rule of Benedict 4 - "Honor everyone and never do to another what you do not want done to yourself."

SERVICE

Meeting the needs of others in the example of Jesus the servant leader

Rule of Benedict 35 - "The members should serve one another."