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Cover photo: New fountain at the Circle, Chalon Campus

President Ann McElaney-Johnson (left) and President Emerita Jacqueline Powers Doud
Message from the President

Dear Friends,

I bring you greetings and words of thanks from the faculty, staff, and students of Mount St. Mary’s College. Under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Jacqueline Powers Doud and with the hard work and support of the Mount community, the 2010–2011 fiscal year was a significant time in the history of the Mount! The college’s 2007–2012 Strategic Plan challenged us to increase enrollment to 2,300 full time equivalent students (FTE) by 2012. In Fall 2010, we exceeded that goal by over 300 students, with 2,660 FTEs, and are proud to announce a record enrollment of 2,694 FTEs at the college for Fall 2011. I am also thrilled to report that this past spring, the college reached its 2012 goal to increase the endowment to $100,000,000 — a year early!

This is an extraordinary community and I am thrilled to be a part of it. I often think to the words of Seneca who wrote: “Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.” Each beginning at the Mount represents another step, another moment in the journey that began 86 years ago with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and of the vision of President Emerita Jacqueline Powers Doud and her leadership during the last 11 years.

I came to Mount St. Mary’s College because of its mission, and I intend to remain faithful to our core identity as a Catholic women’s college committed to providing our students superior education. We have a great future in front of us!

It is my privilege to serve as your president. I thank you for your support as we look forward to this year of great beginnings.

Ann McElaney-Johnson
Cultivating Leaders

GOAL 1: The College will provide an education that enables students to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and character essential for socially responsible leadership in a democratic society.

The core of a Mount St. Mary’s education is academic excellence which builds leadership skills and fosters a spirit to serve others in its graduates. So it should come as no surprise that Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan is focused on strengthening this foundation.

A key strategy to help ensure the College meets this goal is to continue to offer rich and challenging curricula, expanding the current offerings to meet the emerging needs of the times.

“This was the first full year of operation of the healthcare policy major,” said Provost Eleanor Siebert. “Not only did it gain notice in the LA Times, but it attracted 15 majors to the program.” A minor in musical scoring for media was also developed through collaboration between faculty in music and the Film and Social Justice Program.

Investing in faculty development also pays rich dividends in improving classroom pedagogy. Last year several learning communities were created to allow professors to examine and revise the teaching methods used in one of their courses. This new coursework will be further developed in the coming year.

A second strategy is to support high standards for student performance and development. One indication of high academic standards is to consider the large number of students across the disciplines who were able to share their scholarly work at regional and national professional meetings. Also, in order to be accountable, the College is continually assessing student learning.

“We have ongoing assessment in the associate, baccalaureate and graduate programs, so this year we focused on outcomes related to the library, the academic advisement offices and the learning centers,” said Karol Dean, assistant provost. “These are vital support services that improve student performance and ensure students are receiving an outstanding education.”
Fostering Beauty

GOAL 2: The College will cultivate beauty within ourselves, the Mount St. Mary’s community and the greater society.

“Beauty plays a role in many aspects of our lives,” said Jane Lingua, vice president for student affairs and chair of the Mount’s Beautification Committee. “Our committee was charged to explore and integrate the physical, aesthetic and spiritual dimensions of beauty on campus as a response to Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan. This includes showcasing our stunning views, beautiful buildings and grounds, and rich history.”

Formed in 2009 with members from each division of the College, the committee released its final report in May. One of the recommendations that came to fruition this past year was the revitalization of The Circle at Chalon. Students suggested adding a fountain for peaceful reflection and President Emerita Jacqueline Powers Doud lent her support. Complete with fresh landscaping and furnishings, The Circle was dedicated in her honor in April 2011.

In addition to the physical aesthetics of the Mount, many beautiful traditions were celebrated, including the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the pinning of Fleur de Lis on incoming freshman, the Lighting of The Circle and Mary’s Day.

“We had the opportunity to highlight the Mount’s intellectual and spiritual history when the College was chosen to host the national exhibit Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America in June,” said President Emerita Jacqueline Powers Doud. “Not only was Drudis-Biada Hall and art gallery transformed, but College Archivist Victoria McCarger created panels that highlight Mount history for visitors to enjoy.”

The Mount also believes that part of cultivating beauty is to teach environmental responsibility. “The College’s ‘green team’ hosts an annual Earth Day Fair as a reminder that there is much we can do to establish and maintain a green community,” said Marcy Newman, assistant director of career services & internships and green team member.
Remarkable Service

GOAL 3: The College community will provide remarkable service to one another and all those we serve through competence, integrity and respectful communication.

“Serving our students and College community members is a top priority at Mount St. Mary’s,” said Chris McAlary, vice president for administration and finance, and chair of the Remarkable Service Advisory Committee. The committee, which was formed in 2008, developed a review process to assess the level of service provided to students and the campus community. The purpose was to help achieve the third goal in the Strategic Plan. The committee also engaged an outside consulting firm to assist with developing a remarkable service program for the College.

“When the Mount purchased the 745 W. Adams property adjacent to the Doheny Campus last year, it provided the perfect pilot program for the remarkable service initiative, before we take it College wide,” said McAlary. “This year, we were able to move six departments that serve students under one roof, streamlining our operations and providing an opportunity for the staff to work collaboratively.”

The new student services building (pictured at left), which houses admission, the registrar, financial aid, business services, academic advising and information technology opened its doors in May 2011. By centralizing these offices, students now have easy access to key departments they utilize most frequently while on campus.

Staff members are happy with the new arrangement. “There are many benefits to the move,” says Patricia Barberie, Pre-ADN advisor and ADN transcript evaluator. “There is a new sense of camaraderie between departments and it is so convenient for students to have the various service offices in one primary location. For example, if a student needs to visit the registrar after meeting with advising, it is downstairs instead of across campus.”

After the success of the pilot program, the College plans to expand the remarkable service initiative.
Integrating Technology

GOAL 4: The College will embrace technological advances that will strengthen academic programs and administrative services.

“This was an important year for Mount St. Mary’s College in terms of technology,” said Larry Smith, vice president for information support services and enrollment management. “We are in the second year of a two-year upgrade across both campuses to help meet Strategic Plan Goal 4.”

One of the most noticeable changes this fall will be the new studio classroom at Chalon. The first of its kind at the Mount, the room has 26 computer stations, so that as faculty lecture, students can participate by projecting their work on the smart board, or on one of the large-screen panel televisions above their stations. Faculty can also use the room for collaborative meetings and training seminars. The transformation was provided for by a Title V Grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

“The classroom is designed for project-based learning and enables students to research, explore, share and engage more deeply into course topics,” said Sande Harte, chair of the sociology department and Title V activity director. “Teachers become learning guides rather than just lecturers.”

Also new this year is MyMSMC Portal, an online workspace for faculty, staff and students that serves as the College’s primary communication vehicle. It provides access to Mount e-mail, calendars, course materials, College-wide announcements, on-campus event listings, the business office, even the local weather, from any online browser. Additionally, the College rebuilt the fiber-optic network on both the Chalon and Doheny campuses, increasing internet capability from 45 MB to 200 MB. This network was last upgraded in 1997.

“The purpose of our upgrades is to help the College meet all the strategic plan goals,” said Smith. “Technology supports both the administration and academic sides as we work together to serve out our mission.”