

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Mount Community and Friends of the University:

As a Catholic liberal arts university of the 21st century, we at Mount Saint Mary's University in Los Angeles understand the transformational imperative of higher education and we stand ready to create new models of excellence to meet the changing needs of society. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to the liberal arts for **we believe that there is no education more practical and more aspirational than the liberal arts and sciences.** The liberal arts are at the heart of all we do. We call our students, regardless of program or career aspiration, to think across boundaries in their pursuit of knowledge and understanding. We challenge them to ask big questions that require complex answers. We educate them to think deeply and critically and to communicate their thoughts with clarity and confidence. And we press them to integrate their intellectual skills with an understanding of personal and ethical responsibility. We prepare them for lives of purpose.

Intellectual inquiry and academic excellence stand together as the cornerstone of our University. Inspired and guided by the charisma of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the Catholic intellectual tradition, **we celebrate the dialogue between faith and reason as central to the learning process,** and we acclaim our call to the service of others in the Catholic social justice tradition.

Our unwavering commitment to excellence calls us to be forward thinking. We must be innovators in our work with students across all of our populations. **We are guided by the example of the Sisters of St. Joseph** in their faithful responsiveness to the changing needs of society.

At Mount Saint Mary's University, we stand ready **to build a culture of innovation for excellence** to respond to the needs of our students and our communities, both local and global, in fulfillment of our mission.

The 2013-2018 Strategic Plan, Innovation for Excellence: Transforming Lives, ensures that the hallmarks of the Mount Saint Mary's University experience articulated in our five Pillars of Distinction serve as guides for the expression of our mission **as we lay the groundwork for the 21st century.**

Most sincerely,



Ann McElaney-Johnson
President

