



A LASALLIAN TRADITION

Dear «Salutation»,

In the 1960s when I was in school at Saint Mary's, the campus was in the middle of an academic explosion. To accommodate growing numbers of eager young learners, Saint Mary's significantly expanded its building footprint. First came the sleeping halls, Benilde and Saint Ed's in 1960, followed by Saint Yon's in 1962 for the Christian Brothers. Fitzgerald Library was completed in '61, the gymnasium in 1965, and the college center (now called the Toner Student Center) capped the decade of expansion in 1969.

Suffice it to say, many foundations were poured during my time on campus, but the *true* foundation of the Saint Mary's experience was the quality of the education perpetuated through fantastic faculty like Brother K. Basil O'Leary FSC and Dr. Svetozar Pejovich. During my time at Saint Mary's, they were both professors in Economics, and they were both wonderful for very different reasons.

Brother K. Basil, in particular, was well known for his esoteric exam questions on economic theory, then asking the simple questions, "If so, why so? If not, why not?" Students had but half a page to respond, and the tight space forced us students to use critical thought to develop our answers, and express those answers clearly and concisely.

The aptitude for critical thinking and clear communication served me well during my law school days and career that followed. Time and again, the foundations these professors worked to instill have proven more than useful. I am immeasurably grateful for that gift, knowing it has set me ahead in my life pursuits.

As true today as it was then, the foundation of an exceptional Lasallian education at Saint Mary's lies in its educators. The faculty and staff take the time to connect with students, challenge them, and help them learn and grown in ways that truly empower them to ethical lives of service and leadership.

**Making a gift at the leadership level to the Saint Mary's Fund is the strongest investment we can make in strengthening the foundation of a Saint Mary's education.** The more we invest in building this foundation, the higher the quality of education provided, the greater the propensity of each generation of Saint Mary's students to succeed and thrive as we have.

While current circumstances have affected all of us, I count myself blessed to be able to help lead the way and continue to help where I can. If you are able, I welcome you to join me in making a gift to Saint Mary's at the «If\_yes\_ask\_for\_how\_much» level. If now is not the time, I thank you for serving Saint Mary's and its students in other ways.

Thank you for to helping to continue to set a Saint Mary's education apart.

*Merle Wilberding*

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