

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***St. Mary's University College Celebrates 10th Anniversary
On Historic Father Lacombe Home Site***

Calgary, AB (April, 2009) – St. Mary's University College continues to make history. Spring 2009 marks the 10th anniversary of St. Mary's moving its campus to the original Father Lacombe Home site. A historic landmark and valued piece of Albertan heritage, the Home was destroyed in a blaze April 1, 1999 just days before St. Mary's made it's move.

"This is a perfect time to reflect upon the significance of the history of our current site and of the Fr. Lacombe Home," says Dr. Terry Downey, President of St. Mary's University College. "It is also a perfect time to celebrate St. Mary's University College as it continues to grow, contributing to the community and overall story of our current site."

Built in 1910, the Fr. Lacombe Home offered support and care to orphans and elderly without family. In the 1960's the Home was sold to the Diocese. It acted as a provincial headquarters for the Sisters of Providence until nearly forty years later. At this time, the site switched roles once more becoming home to students, faculty and staff of what started as St. Mary's College.

"Whether it be the original Fr. Lacombe Home building, the water tower, or the St. Mary's star, our site has been and continues to be a familiar landmark for Calgarians driving along Macleod Trail," says Dr. Downey. "We have made a conscious effort in developing our campus to preserve the site's unique history and to continue telling the story of our past."

In July 2008, St. Mary's University College received a Lion Award from the Calgary Heritage Authority for the renovation and restoration of the Le Forte Centre. Constructed in 1913, this was the original Fr. Lacombe classroom building. The renovation of this space is one of many that have helped accommodate St. Mary's continued growth.

St. Mary's University College is a Catholic post-secondary, student-focused liberal arts and sciences teaching and research institution in Calgary. Since moving onto its current site, St. Mary's has grown into a university college that has expanded programs offerings to include five Bachelor of Arts degrees, a Bachelor of Education (Elementary) degree and university transfer courses in 33 academic disciplines including the Arts, Sciences and Management. For more information, please visit www.stmu.ab.ca.

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