

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Michael Duggan Appointed to the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies

Calgary, AB (August 17, 2010) – St. Mary's University College is pleased to announce today the appointment of Dr. Michael Duggan to the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies.

This is the inaugural appointment to the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies, which is funded by an endowment created by the Catholic Women's League. It is the first endowed chair of its kind in Western Canada and the first in St. Mary's history. The permanent, senior academic position was founded to encourage and foster the advancement of Catholic knowledge and education through exemplary teaching and pre-eminent research.

"I am honoured to accept the appointment to the Chair for Catholic Studies," said Dr. Duggan. "I am grateful to the Catholic Women's League for their commitment to Catholic higher education. Such support from the Catholic community makes it possible for St. Mary's University College to become a leader in post-secondary education. I look forward to collaborating with my colleagues in my new position to enhance the distinctive approach to liberal arts education at St. Mary's."

Dr. Duggan is an associate professor of theology and religious studies at St. Mary's University College where he has taught full-time since 1998. He holds a BA with a major in philosophy from the University of Saskatchewan; a STB (Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology) from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy; a SSL (Licentiate in Sacred Scripture) from The Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, Italy; and, a PhD in Biblical Studies from The Catholic University of America. He is an associate editor of the Catholic Biblical Quarterly and a member of The Society of Biblical Literature, The Canadian Society of Biblical Studies and The Society for Old Testament Study. His scholarly work includes articles, chapters in books, commentaries and two books. A third book, *The Consuming Fire: A Christian Guide to the Old Testament* (Our Sunday Visitor Press) is forthcoming in the late summer 2010.

"Dr. Duggan's distinguished record at St. Mary's as a scholar, teacher and valued colleague make him a worthy appointee to this historic position," said Dr. Terry Downey, President of St. Mary's University College. "I look forward to working with him to develop the full potential of this Chair, the very first Chair for Catholic Studies in the history of Western Canada."

In addition to classroom teaching responsibilities, Dr. Duggan will be a source of intellectual leadership for St. Mary's and for the broader Catholic and local communities through an annual public lecture, guest lectures, invited presentations and regular publications. The position is in the Humanities Area and reports directly to the Vice-President Academic and Dean.

About St. Mary's University College

St. Mary's University College is a Catholic post-secondary, student-focused liberal arts and sciences teaching and research institution open to people of all faiths and traditions. St. Mary's offers Bachelor of Arts degrees, a Bachelor of Education degree and university courses in 33 different academic disciplines and programs. For more information, visit www.stmu.ab.ca.

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