

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 2010 Honourary Fellow bestowed upon Fr. James T. Mulligan

**Calgary, AB (June 25, 2010)** – Fr. James T. Mulligan, whose expertise in and passion for Catholic education helped shape the Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree program, was today named Honourary Fellow of St. Mary's University College at the historic 2010 Convocation where the first BEd degrees were awarded.

Fr. Mulligan was recognized for his contributions to the development of the BEd program, which was introduced at St. Mary's in 2008 as the only education program in Canada specifically designed to prepare teachers for Catholic school systems. Deliberations that led to the BEd degree program were informed by Fr. Mulligan's thesis that the appropriate formation of teachers is at "the heart of the matter" of a vibrant Catholic education system. The BEd degree program approaches "the heart of the matter" by focussing on teaching as a vocation and is designed to achieve what Fr. Mulligan called the "something more" of Catholic education - a belief that education extends beyond the transmission of knowledge and the development of various skills; it includes the notion that good teaching is directed to the integral formation of the whole person, promotes respect for the God-given inherent dignity that defines each individual and promotes disciplined habits of mind, body and spirit.

"It's a privilege to welcome Fr. Mulligan to our campus on this historic occasion and to recognize the fact that his impact as a Catholic educator extends well beyond his home province of Ontario," said Dr. Terry Downey, President of St. Mary's University College. "It's appropriate to celebrate the great gift he is to Catholic education in this country."

Fr. Mulligan is a member of the English Canadian Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross and pastor at St. Kevin's Parish in Welland, Ontario. He studied philosophy at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, theology at the Gregorian University in Rome and holds a doctorate from the University of Toronto. His ministry as a Holy Cross Father includes outstanding contributions to Catholic education throughout Canada as an inspiring, award-winning leader, teacher and scholar. He is the author of four books on Catholic education, the most recent of which is *Catholic Education: Ensuring a Future*, one of the textbooks in the St. Mary's BEd degree program.

By naming honorary fellows, St. Mary's honours those individuals who have demonstrated significant and sustained commitment to the building of the University College through teaching and/or research, distinguished service on the Board of Governors or Academic Council, donation of major gifts or by exemplifying the values, principles and vision of St. Mary's University College through career or volunteer service to the greater community.

#### 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 in Calgary. St. Mary's offers Bachelor of Arts degrees, a Bachelor of Education (Elementary) degree and courses in 33 academic disciplines. For more information, visit [www.stmu.ab.ca](http://www.stmu.ab.ca).

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