

Dear Families,

Saint Mary's College High School begins its 156th year of educating the hearts, minds, and souls of students in the Bay Area this August. The school also celebrates the Sesquicentennial of the Christian Brothers in San Francisco, and their response to the invitation of Archbishop Joseph Alemany, OP to help save the struggling Saint Mary's College, founded in 1863. Finally, the international Lasallian Institute opens the worldwide commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the death in 1719 of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. All these anniversaries are significant and meaningful to the Lasallian World and, therefore, to all of us at Saint Mary's.

I remain personally motivated by the dedication and commitment of the Brothers who arrived on the West Coast in 1868, bringing their educational mission and pedagogy to Saint Mary's, inspired by their faith in God, the teachings of De La Salle, and abiding hope for young people, their futures, and their salvation.

As I begin my 38th year at Saint Mary's, and my first as President, I look forward to furthering the work of the many Brothers and lay educators who have believed in and advanced Saint Mary's Lasallian Mission for generations of students. Throughout Saint Mary's history, many remarkable men and women have devoted their professional lives to the students entrusted to our care. This year is no different. Your children are blessed to have wonderful Lasallian educators who choose to be at Saint Mary's, to teach and care for your child. I am honored to be a part of this community, and along with Dr. Pete Imperial, to lead this incredible group of people in moving Saint Mary's and its mission forward.

I am thankful for the commitment of our parents, families, alumni, and friends who partner with us in supporting Saint Mary's. Your financial contributions, the time you give in assisting with the success of events, and the treats you provide throughout the year for our students, teachers, and staff are greatly appreciated. I'm hoping that even more families will join us in this important work this year. We could not do this without you! Again, THANK YOU!

The administration, faculty, and staff are going to spend the year focusing on the importance of HOPE! Our faculty and staff retreat will give us the opportunity to reflect on our hopes as Lasallian Educators and how we can provide opportunities that inspire HOPE in our students. To that end, we will continue to emphasize Lasallian values such as *compassion, empathy, respect, inclusivity, and service for others* in our curriculum and programs. As you are the primary educators of your children, I ask that you keep the Saint Mary's community in your prayers as we begin the school year and throughout the days that follow.

Finally, we are blessed once again to be at full enrollment. Our community is comprised of students of various faiths, cultures, ethnicities, and economic realities. Our unique mission calls us to bring our individual gifts, talents, and perspectives together at one table centered on faith, Lasallian values, and finally, the call to live the Gospel message of Jesus to "Love one another."

Blessings to you and your family,

Lawrence Puck '78
President