



NEWS RELEASE
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University of Saint Mary Sees off Successful Class of 2012 at USM's Commencement Ceremony

(Leavenworth, Kan.)—The University of Saint Mary marked the close of another academic year and the completion of this leg of the class of 2012's educational journey at USM's Commencement ceremony Saturday, May 12, in McGilley Field House on the university's main Leavenworth campus.

"Today, we recognize what you have strived to do," USM President Sister Diane Steele told the graduates in attendance. "We are proud of you, we are proud of what you've accomplished, and we are proud to send you forward in our name."

About 150 graduates—representing a portion of the university's total 2012 graduating class—walked at Commencement 2012. Members of the graduating class hail from Kansas to South Korea, from multiple countries and every geographic region of the United States. They came from a wide variety of backgrounds and are headed toward an equally wide range of bright futures. In reaching their God-given potential, USM's graduates overcame obstacles of all kinds.

The Commencement ceremony was preceded by a traditional Baccalaureate Mass in Annunciation Chapel. And during the ceremony, reflections were provided by student speakers Leticia Ochoa, a history and political science major from Donna, Texas; George Crossland of Overland Park, Kan., who studied applied psychology at USM's Overland Park Campus, and Matthew Riffel, a USM MBA student from Overland Park.

"I am the first one in my entire family to graduate from a university and also the first one to travel hundreds of miles to study. If it weren't for my father's support, I would never have been able to attend Saint Mary," Ochoa told the crowd. "But it was the faculty, staff, and my friends that ultimately made this day possible. I have learned important lessons that I will always carry in my heart. My experiences here have taught me to value life, to have compassion toward others, and made me think about the meaning and purpose of my own life."

The University of Saint Mary is a Catholic co-educational applied liberal arts university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations in Overland Park and Kansas City, Kan. Visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

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