

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**TO:** Assignment Editors/News Directors

**WHAT:** St. Mary's graduates will celebrate their remarkable accomplishments with family, friends, faculty and staff on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at St. Mary's Convocation held at St. Mary's Cathedral. This will be the first Convocation ceremony since dropping "College" from the University's name, and the 10<sup>th</sup> ceremony as a full-fledged University.

**WHERE:** St. Mary's Cathedral, 219 18 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta

**WHEN:** **Friday, June 12, 2015, Ceremony at 2:00pm**

**Why:** A total of 85 St. Mary's University graduates will receive university degrees at a convocation ceremony at St. Mary's Cathedral on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Degrees will be conferred by the university's Chancellor, the Most Reverend Bishop Frederick Henry. This is the first Convocation

St. Mary's is proud to designate Dr. Ernest John McCullough as this year's Honorary Fellow. Dr. McCullough is the thirteenth recipient of this designation which recognizes individuals for exemplifying the values, principles and vision of St. Mary's University. A native Calgarian, Dr. McCullough's career has spanned over 40 years, 25 of which were spent at St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan with the last 10 years spent at St. Mary's University.

A gifted athlete, one of Dr. McCullough's major achievements was to represent Canada at the 1948 Olympic Games in London, England, where he competed in both the 400-metre and the 4 x 400-metre relay track events. This experience inspired him to help establish the Calgary Olympic Development Association (CODA) in 1956. As CODA's first President, and later Honourary Director, he worked tirelessly to bring the Olympics to Calgary, a dream which became a reality in 1988

Dr. McCullough and his wife of 56 years, Sue, have devoted a significant portion of their lives to helping improve the circumstances of individuals left disadvantaged and vulnerable by our society. St. Mary's is proud to bestow the university's highest honour on Dr. McCullough at this year's Convocation ceremony.

St. Mary's began offering degrees in 2004 and is the only unaffiliated, degree-granting, Catholic, post-secondary, liberal arts and sciences institution in Western Canada. St. Mary's offers the only BEd degree program in Canada that is specifically directed to the formation of teachers to serve in Catholic schools.

St. Mary's is a dynamic university with competitive tuition rates, including free on campus parking, and degrees that are fully accredited by the Government of Alberta. Students who attend St. Mary's receive high quality teaching in small classes with personalized attention where professors know them by name.

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