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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

St. Mary's University 2016 Graduating Class the Largest Ever

University celebrates graduates, receives university Mace, and presents an Honourary Fellowship

CALGARY –St. Mary's University will celebrate the largest graduating class in its history, 166 students, at the 2016 Convocation on Friday, June 10, at St. Mary's Cathedral. Degrees will be conferred by the university's Chancellor, the Most Reverend Frederick Henry.

This year, the university has much to celebrate. It is honored to use its new St. Mary's University Mace, proudly display its Coat of Arms, present an Honourary Fellowship to a long-standing St. Mary's supporter, as well as mark 30 years as an educational institution. "St. Mary's prides itself on putting students first, and convocation is an opportunity to offer congratulations and celebrate their outstanding accomplishments," said Dr. Gerry Turcotte, President and Vice-Chancellor of St. Mary's University.

At convocation, St. Mary's University will invest John Francis Cordeau, QC, with the title of Honorary Fellow in recognition of his years of service at the University. Mr. Cordeau's service and support began in 1995 when he became a member of our Foundation. In 2003, he joined the St. Mary's Board of Governors, and subsequently served as Chair of the Audit, Development, and President's Dinner Committees and as a member of the Finance Committee.

In September, St. Mary's University celebrates its 30th anniversary, and it is the passion and support of individuals such as Mr. Cordeau that have made this institution one of the best in Alberta. Mr. Cordeau, a tireless supporter of St. Mary's, and his wife, Madam Justice Carolyn Phillips, made possible the acquisition of Volume 5 of the Saint John's Bible, Wisdom Books.

Mr. Cordeau has always advocated for social justice causes and exemplifies the spirit of St. Mary's in his leadership, community service, and dedication to his family and his faith. We are humbled and proud to welcome our friend and supporter, John Cordeau, to the rights and privileges accorded to an Honorary Fellow of St. Mary's University.

St. Mary's University Mace is being used for the first time at this year's convocation ceremony. The Rose Family Memorial Mace was dedicated on June 9, 2016. It is a gift to celebrate St. Mary's 30-year history from the descendants of Harold Henry Rose, who personify the same passion, vision and perseverance as the founders of St. Mary's, and the supporters, administrators, staff, faculty and students who have made, and continue to make, St. Mary's University a reality. The Rose Family Memorial Mace was designed by Dr. Linda J. Henderson, granddaughter of H.H. Rose, currently Associate Professor of Sociology at St. Mary's University. It was crafted by the prestigious British firm of Thomas Fattorini Ltd. The mace features the St. Mary's Star and Coat of Arms as well as a small "compass rose" (the directional icon indicating north, south, east and west found on maps.) The compass rose is symbolic of the many origins and destinations of the diverse individuals who include St. Mary's University as part of their life journeys. The motif of the compass rose was inspired by the work of the late Janet Rose C.C. (Chartered Cartographer), granddaughter of H.H. Rose. Janet was a visionary and pioneer in the geomatics industry. She completed a comprehensive mapping project of St. Mary's in 2011-2012, making it the first university in North America to be scanned and photographed with revolutionary LiDAR-based indoor mapping technology.

About St. Mary's University:

St. Mary's University is an innovative teaching and research university that provides affordable, accredited and highly valued degrees in the Liberal Arts, Sciences and Education located on a historic site in Calgary, Alberta. The students at St. Mary's are inspired to combine academics with a passionate commitment to ethics, social justice and respect for diversity of opinion and belief.

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