

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Mary's Reveals Newly Design Altar and Ambo



Calgary, AB (March 12, 2013) Two years ago the St. Mary's Altar Committee, made up of staff, faculty and members of the community, met for the first time to discuss the idea of building an altar for its weekly liturgies. Until now, St. Mary's did not have a formally designated altar and as the university and community continue to grow, the committee identified a need for something more permanent. On Wednesday, April 17th, the new altar and ambo were revealed to the St. Mary's community at a lecture given by the designer, Dr. David Pereyra.

The Altar Committee worked with Dr. David Pereyra, a liturgical designer who has an academic focus on sacred space, to help implement the principles that were important to the school's community and that supported the vision statement of St. Mary's. Dr. Pereyra is a preeminent scholar, architect and liturgical consultant on the study and design of the ambo. He is uniquely qualified in his study of the ambo from a liturgical, theological, and hermeneutical perspective. He has a Master's degree in Architecture from the University of Buenos Aires and a PhD in Theology from the University of Toronto.

The new altar and the ambo are designed as an artistic pair that symbolizes the unity between Word and Sacrament in the celebration of the liturgy. Both the altar and the ambo are made of basic materials of the earth in recognition of the sacramental vision of reality that is central to Catholicism. The metal, wood, and glass that comprise the fabric of the ambo and altar serve to ground the community in three dimensions of reality: the minerals under the earth (metal), the vegetation that the soil produces (wood), and the light that brings everything to life (glass). The materials are intentionally organic and rough in nature symbolizing how God meets us just as we are—with all our imperfections and rough edges.

"As a faith community we come together to celebrate at the table of the Eucharist and the table of the Word," said Nancy Quan, Director of Campus Ministry and Chair of the Altar Committee. "The newly designed altar and ambo allow all who are in attendance to have the feeling of coming home, where all who are present are welcome and belong."

About St. Mary's University College

St. Mary's University College is a Catholic post-secondary, liberal arts and sciences teaching and research institution open to students of all faiths and traditions. St. Mary's offers Bachelor of Arts degrees, a Bachelor

of Education (Elementary) degree and university courses in 34 academic disciplines. For more information, visit www.stmu.ca.

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For media inquiries, contact:

Mackenzie Cann

Communications Coordinator
St. Mary's University College
Direct Line: (403) 254-3705
Cell Phone: (403) 998-1081
Mackenzie.cann@stmu.ca

Nancy Quan

Director of Campus Ministry
St. Mary's University College
(403)254-3724
Nancy.quan@stmu.ca