



April 23, 2025

Dear Saint Mary's Alumna:

Our California January winter started out tragically and unexpectedly. Club members have all known Saint Mary's alumnae affected by the fires; whether they lost their homes or have had to move out, and are still waiting to return, we pray for them and offer help. Our own Kristin Crowley, SMC '93, former Chief of the Los Angeles Fire Department, maintained leadership and integrity on behalf of the firefighters of the city of Los Angeles.

While picking up the pieces in the face of life's changes, we hope all can join us as we celebrate 100 years of club history. From the time a few Saint Mary's ladies sent invitations to 70 alumnae to gather at the Ambassador Hotel for a luncheon in 1925, our club has continued to maintain ties to local alumnae residing across six counties!! In those days they didn't even consider a long drive from California to Indiana: it was the train or nothing!

This past year we responded to the College's request to cheer our soccer players at a game in Pasadena. (See photo!). We also entered the tenth year of our Christmas tree ornament project. The theme of Riedinger House followed the successful Nursing Program anniversary memento. Many Saint Mary's alumnae across the country are collectors, and we rely on their repeat sales! To purchase an ornament, go to www.saintmaryslaclub.com/ornament.



In the fall we continued to acknowledge the founding role of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. First, by coming together over Mass and brunch in Long Beach, and later, by supporting needy families at the Brother Andre Center founded by the sisters at St. Agnes Parish, where they had taught and served since 1914.

Thanks to Beth McPherson, we shared an evening Advent retreat, which was much appreciated by all participants. And, our two book clubs, one virtual in Orange County and the other in person in Los Angeles, continue to thrive and grow.



Coming up for 2025 is a yearlong celebration of our club's existence in LA. If you

would like to organize several alumnae from your neighborhood for a casual, informal event ‘Centennial Salon’ to honor our Saint Mary’s heritage, contact Susan Rice ’61 (310-286-0606) for a map highlighting locations of your neighborhood Belles. A large planning committee meets monthly to plan our October 26th Founders’ Day celebration in Long Beach, our culminating event. Plans for Salons in Claremont, Ladera Ranch, Solvang, Burbank and Manhattan Beach are already in the works! Watch your email for more information.

We are currently looking for a SMART liaison from our club to help coordinate outreach with the prospective students at local high schools. AND if you are interested in joining our Club’s Coordinating Council, please contact Katy Penna 949-201-9514.

Your yearly dues help support these efforts and we value your continuing commitment.

We wish you good health, a lovely Easter Season, and hope to see YOU October 26, 2025, in Long Beach for our Founders’ Day/100th year anniversary celebration party!

Your Los Angeles Alumnae Club Coordinating Council

Maureen Cassidy ’71, Lucy DaGiau ’83, Shaianne Chavez-Fields ’18, Jingqiu Guan ’11, Mary Braet-Hurley ’82, Beth McPherson ’81, Moira Michiels ’88, Katy Penna ’88, Susan Rice ’61, MaryKay Scheid ’88, Laura Schmidl ’07, Amy Sinclair ’72.

Mark Your Calendars		
OC Book Club (via zoom)	3 rd Mondays 7-9 pm: February, April, June, September, and November	Colleen Monahan ’72 smcmonahan@gmail.com
Century City Book Club	2 nd Tuesdays in person 5-7 pm March, June, September, and December	Susan Rice ’61 310-286-0606
Centennial Summer Salons	Contact us if you’d like to organize a salon in your area.	Susan Rice ’61 sfrice@sfrconsulting.com
Salons are already in the works in the following areas:		
Ladera Ranch Area June 5 th at 6:00 PM katy.penna@gmail.com Manhattan Beach Area June 26 th at 6:00 PM rglucia@yahoo.com Solvang Area August 2 nd or 3 rd sfrice@sfrconsulting.com Claremont Area June 10 th at 6:00 PM marybraet@gmail.com		
Founders’ Day/100 th Anniversary Celebration Party	October 26, 2025 Long Beach Yacht Club	See Saintmaryslaclub.com for more information
Retreat Planning	Spring and Winter	Beth McPherson ’81 bethmcph@gmail.com
Christmas Family Sponsorship Project: Brother Andre Center at St. Agnes Parish	November/December 2025	Maureen Cassidy ’71 mcassidy08@gmail.com

If you haven't received our emails, send us your address, and we'll add you to the list. Join Us. Annual Club dues help offset costs such as: Club mailings, website, care packages for students, event costs, as well as Club donations to the Brother Andre Center and the LA Club Endowed Scholarship fund. January is the time to pay annual Club dues. Please fill out and return this form with check payable to Saint Mary's College Los Angeles Alumnae Club or pay online at: www.saintmarysLAclub.com. Regular dues are \$45 a year. BOLD dues are \$25. (classes of '15-- '24). Dues and event fees are waived for alumnae in religious orders and the class of 2024. Dues are valid through December 2025. Prices for events are reduced for dues-paying alumnae.

Name: Class Year: Phone: Address: City: Zip:

Email: Dues: \$45 If you wish to make a gift to the Los Angeles Alumnae Club Scholarship Fund, enclose a separate check payable to Saint Mary's College, with LA Club Scholarship Fund in the memo section. It is tax deductible. (Dues to the Club are not tax deductible.) Your contact updates, your separate contribution check for the LA Scholarship Fund, and your dues payment may be sent to the Club Treasurer: Laura Schmidl '07, 62 Adelfa Street, Rancho Mission Viejo, CA 92694, lbschmidl@gmail.com. If you prefer to pay online, access the College website: saintmarys.edu. Select Give → Make a Gift Today → Saint Mary's Fund Priorities/Other and enter under designation Los Angeles Club Endowment Scholarship.