



March 1, 2024

Dear Saint Mary's Alumna:

Our winter of sunshine intermittently mixed with heavy rains and winds has been unlike the snowy winter back at Saint Mary's, but enough for us to be grateful for our California sun!

The Coordinating Council of your Los Angeles Alumnae Club of Saint Mary's College sends you the very best of our Catholic culture and our sisterhood. We hope an early Easter and the rest of 2024 will bring good health and safe travel for all.

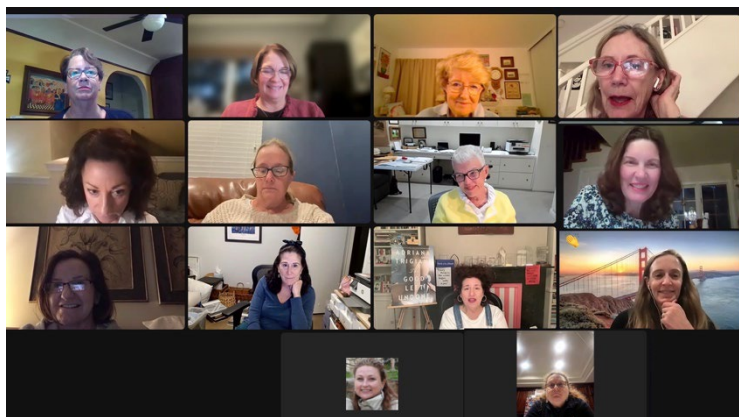
You are welcome to join in the activities made possible by our alumnae. Last year our club had a very successful year of sales with our 2023 Christmas ornament -- the Church of Loretto.

Besides distributing images of our campus with our ornaments each year, we continue to seek annual support for the Scholarship Endowment. Right now, with highly skilled investments at the College, it pays out \$4500 a year. Ornament sales, our club's annual contribution, and individual alumnae gifts have tripled the scholarship size in the last 10 years. The southern California recipients are grateful!

We also communicate with Saint Mary's students from southern California at the start of the year, Christmastime, and commencement.

Closer to home we have brought Christmas joy to families in need through the Brother Andre Center at St. Agnes Parish. The Center had been a recipient of ministry from the Sisters of the Holy Cross since 1984 and we are committed to continue that relationship, even though the Sisters have departed. This year our Club's annual contribution was presented to the pastor of St. Agnes at Lucy and Bob DaGiau's Manhattan Beach home when we celebrated the Founders of Saint Mary's. During the holidays, more families in the parish benefited through our doubled alumnae participation in Christmas gift giving.

LA and OC Book Clubs kicked off the 2024 year with a dynamic virtual session in January with best-selling author Adriana Trigiani SMC '81. She shared her inspiration for her novel *The Shoemaker's Wife*; then we moved to her memories of SMC, her experiences in the publishing world, and her joy in creating her podcast "You Are What You Read." See page 2 for details to join one of our two book clubs.



Coming up are springtime in-person events! And in the fall, we will celebrate our Founders' Day at the Long Beach Yacht Club **November 9, 2024**. Mark your calendar and watch for details.

Our Lenten Day of retreat February 28 provided time for reflection and reverence. Alumnae who participated appreciated the value of virtual sessions: one of the positive aftermaths of the pandemic!

Even farther ahead, 2025 represents 100 years of our alumnae club in California! Should we just let it go by, or should we celebrate in some way? Do you have ideas? Contact Katy Penna [katy.penna@gmail.com](mailto:katy.penna@gmail.com), 949-201-9514 or Susan Rice [sfrice@sfrconsulting.com](mailto:sfrice@sfrconsulting.com), 310-286-0606.

We are currently looking for a SMART liaison from our club to help coordinate outreach with prospective students at our local high schools. Our Coordinating Council meets once or twice a year to plan for the year of activities and to help distribute the ornament. If you are interested in joining our Club's Coordinating Council, please contact **Katy Penna**.

Your annual dues support really makes a difference! And joining us at a Club event will reignite good memories of our time at Saint Mary's. We recognize time is precious, but it is a treasure to share it with other alumnae, in real life or virtually.

We wish you good health, many blessings, and happiness in '24!!



Your Los Angeles Alumnae Club Coordinating Council,  
 Maureen Cassidy '71, Lucy DaGiau '83, Shaienne Chavez-Fields '18, Jingqiu Guan '11, Mary 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:**

3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays: April, June, September & November	OC Book Club (Virtual via Zoom) Contact: Colleen Monahan '72 <a href="mailto:smcmonahan@gmail.com">smcmonahan@gmail.com</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays: March, June, September & December	LA area Book Club In person meeting in Century City Area Contact: Susan Rice '61 <a href="mailto:sfrice@sfriceconsulting.com">sfrice@sfriceconsulting.com</a>
Sundays March 17, April 20, May 12 (Mother's Day) 2:00 p.m. Matinee	Noon Lunch in DTLA, and/or 2 pm Disney Hall Concert. Contact: Susan Rice <a href="mailto:sfrice@sfrconsulting.com">sfrice@sfrconsulting.com</a> 310-286-0606
Fall	1. Founders' Day ~ November 9, 2024 ~ Long Beach Yacht Club ~ <a href="http://SaintmarysLAclub.com">SaintmarysLAclub.com</a> 2. November Notes to Students ~ Contact Maureen Cassidy <a href="mailto:mccassidy08@gmail.com">mccassidy08@gmail.com</a> 3. Christmas Family Sponsorship Project: Brother Andre Center at St. Agnes Parish Contact Maureen Cassidy at the email above.

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 & the Endowed Scholarship Fund. January is the time to pay annual Club dues. Please fill out and return this form with your check payable to **Saint Mary's College Los Angeles Alumnae Club** or pay online at: [www.saintmarysLAclub.com](http://www.saintmarysLAclub.com). Regular dues are \$45 a year, **BOLD** dues are \$25 (classes of '14-'23). Dues and event fees are waived for alumnae in religious orders and the class of 2024. Dues are valid through December 2024. Prices for events are reduced for dues-paying alumnae.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:lbschmidl@gmail.com))* If you prefer to make a scholarship donation online, go to [Saintmarys.edu](http://Saintmarys.edu) and select **Give** on the **Give** page, select **Make a Gift Today**, on that page, choose: **Saint Mary's Fund Priorities/Other** and under Designation, type **Los Angeles Club Endowed scholarship.**