



Dear Mount Alumni,

The countdown has begun...

This fall, we welcomed a group of Mount students to our campus who represent the Class of 2020! This is, indeed, a significant milestone as we begin preparations to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Mount St. Joseph University. It was in 1920 that the Sisters of Charity had the wisdom, foresight, and divine inspiration to launch Ohio's first Catholic college for women. Their mission was—and remains—to advance the great work of their founder, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who dedicated herself to helping others, especially the poor, by using education as a means to improve communities and empower others through learning and service.

The Sisters of Charity have successfully persevered in carrying on St. Elizabeth's teachings and philosophy. Their ongoing influence, vision, values, and charisma ensure that the Mount continues to thrive and graduate professionally trained students, who not only know what to do but also how to do it with humanistic fervor. This issue of *Mount News* features a story about the founding of Mount St. Joseph University, and is the first of several magazine retrospectives we will share as the Mount begins to celebrate a century of progress and institutional pride.

Also in this issue, you'll read about the School of Education and its continued commitment to the countless teachers—current and future—who serve communities and help shape lives. Another feature story on our research programs shows how we offer students professional development opportunities that also enrich our and their understanding of the world and lead to the creation of new knowledge, all of which are essential roles of any 21st-century university. St. Elizabeth would be proud—her philosophy of changing the world through education continues to inspire the Mount community and our graduates.

As we move forward with our 100-year anniversary preparations, we will reach out to you, our alumni, who are fundamentally the substance of our legacy. We want you to be involved in all of the upcoming centennial events honoring the Mount. Your dedication to your alma mater fuels our passion to tell even more faculty and student stories that showcase the power of a Mount degree and its resounding impact on society.

We will keep you updated as 2020 approaches. Until then, on behalf of the entire Mount community, I wish you much joy and a hearty Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Indeed, we wish all of you a world of peace and happiness, and our prayers are with your families and friends during this joyous season!

Best regards,

H. James Williams, Ph.D.