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Timothy E. Trainor, Ph.D. | Inaugural address
October 23, 2017

Thank you, Mary, Gracelyn and Archbishop Lori for presiding over this moving ceremony.

Ladies and gentlemen, the University Chorale and Brass Quidivium, directed by Drs. Andrew Rosenfeld and Mark Carlson are awesome and help us raise a joyful noise unto the Lord! Please join me in thanking our students and faculty for the tremendous music they provided for this special ceremony. I also want to thank our ROTC cadets for so professionally presenting the colors.

Thank you, Monsignor Mullelly for your inspiring invocation; I don't think I can go wrong with that kind of start! I want to sincerely thank all of our distinguished guests, members of our Board of Trustees, delegates, sponsors, staff and faculty, students, and members of the community for joining us on this day of celebration for the Mount.

To all of our distinguished guests who presented such wonderful greetings, thank you for your kind words. After I heard them I wasn't sure who you were referring to! The entire Mount community and I are honored by your presence here today and thank you for extending your best wishes for our bright future.

I would like to take a moment to recognize our wonderful faculty, staff and students. When I conducted my first town halls with students last year upon arrival, I asked them what has been the best part of your experience at the Mount. The most frequent response I heard was the individual care and attention they received from the faculty. Our faculty teach, guide and mentor students towards becoming ethical leaders armed with the critical thinking, AND creative problem solving skills needed to lead lives of significance.

Our staff works tirelessly behind the scenes to enable the Mount to meet its mission to serve students. Without your dedication to excellence and your commitment to this University, our students could not succeed. And we would not be able to enjoy the Mount's beautiful 1,400 acres that you keep looking so good; thank you.

And of course, I want to recognize our wonderful students and seminarians. You are why we are here, and you make it fun! Thanks for representing the Mount so well in everything you do. I want to thank you all for supporting me being named the 26th President of Mount St. Mary's.



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Donna and I feel so blessed to serve at the Mount. We both grew up in strong Catholic families so serving here certainly feels right. Donna went to Catholic schools until she entered West Point, while I was fortunate to attend Don Bosco preparatory high school, a Salesian order school before entering the Academy. I am very happy to have my Mom, Janet Trainor, and my brother and sister, Jim and Kathy Trainor, joining us for this celebration; thank you for gracing me with your presence, and thank you for your love and support over so many years. Mom, I think Dad is probably smiling now looking down on this ceremony, and I know he would be happy that I am serving at a Catholic University!

I mentioned that Donna and I both attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, and were lucky to do so. We met there when she kicked me in a co-ed phys-ed class ... ok, that's a story for another time! But I am so happy you did because I have been blessed to have you as my partner in life for over 33 years now; I am looking forward to the next 33!

We are fortunate to be the proud parents of three great kids; all of who chose to join the Army, which has become the family business so to speak for us! Our daughter Cory is a Captain serving as an engineer, and our son Danny is a lieutenant who is a Blackhawk helicopter pilot. Neither could join us today because they are serving temporarily now in Puerto Rico as part of the hurricane relief efforts. Our youngest son, Zach is a senior cadet at West Point so he was able to join us here. Zach, I am very proud of all three of you, love you all and am excited to see the good things you will all do in the future in service to God and our country.

Many of you probably know of the historical significance of West Point to the founding of our country in the Revolutionary War. There has been a garrison there since 1778, and the Academy started in 1802. The West Point motto is "Duty, Honor, Country." However, one of the favorite lines used at the Academy is "Much of the History we teach, was made by those we taught."

I think we could use that same line at the Mount. We've been around since 1808 and are still going strong. Throughout the 1800's, Mount St. Mary's College had significant influence on the Catholic Church in the United States. Several alumni "Mountaineers" established Catholic colleges, including St. John's College in New York (1840), now Fordham University, and St. John's University in Brooklyn (1870). Mount St. Mary's College and its alumni paved the way for small, Catholic colleges in the United States, rooting its history as second oldest in the entire country. In 1842, John Hughes, a Son of the Mount, was named first Archbishop of New York. He was the first of many who followed him, holding high religious offices in the Catholic Church. Mount St. Mary's Seminary is one of the largest Catholic seminaries in the United States, and is referred to as the "Cradle of Bishops," having produced over 2,600 priests, of which over 50 have become bishops.



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Two saints and one martyr have walked our grounds. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton lived on the grounds of our university before starting a school with her Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg. St. Theresa of Calcutta visited the Mount twice and spoke to our community. And of course, Blessed Fr. Stanley Rother, Seminary class of 1963 was just beatified as the first US-born martyr for giving up his life while serving his flock in Guatemala.

And recent grads are also making history. Nancy Abu-Bonsrah from Mount class of 2012 is the first African-American woman to earn a residency in neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Many of our graduates have also made history by becoming entrepreneurs. They saw a societal issue that needed to be addressed and then marshalled the **passion, advocacy** and **resources** of others to develop and deliver a solution.

I want to tell you the stories of two such alums who were entrepreneurs in addressing human and societal issues of their time. Father Flanagan attended Mount St. Mary's University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1906 and a Master of Arts degree in 1908. Fr. Flanagan did not like the reform school model in place at the time and started the first Boys Town just outside of Omaha, Nebraska in 1921 where boys between the ages of 10 and 16 could live and receive an education and learn a trade. The Boys Town tag line of 'He ain't heavy, he's my brother' is still popular today in song and folklore and is used by our men's Rugby team!

Another Mount graduate Dr. Bill Magee Jr. from the Class of 1966, is a leading plastic and craniofacial surgeon. He founded Operation Smile in 1982 with his wife and nurse Kathleen. Operation Smile is a worldwide medical charity that delivers safe, effective surgical care to children suffering from cleft lip, cleft palate or other facial deformities. Since its founding, the organization has performed more than 250,000 free surgeries. These are just two examples of thousands of Mount grads making a significant difference in the world by their commitment to serve others. So yes, I do think we teach history here that was made by those we taught.

However, I believe that the most significant history regarding the Mount is yet to be written; it will be that created by our current and future students and seminarians. And we will prepare them to do so by carrying out our new university mission statement, which is:

As a Catholic University, Mount St. Mary's graduates ethical leaders who are inspired by a passion for learning and lead lives of significance in service to God and others.



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We will develop them to be the ethical leaders of tomorrow, something our nation and world needs now. They will be ready to make a difference in the world, to boldly live significantly. I invite you to please turn your attention to our video board behind me to get a glimpse of what this means here at the Mount.

Our students are well on the way to being ready to live significantly. Last year five students earned some form of fellowship or grant from the Fulbright Program to study or work overseas. Three student-athletes earned U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) All-Academic honors; one was named the Northeast Conference of the NCAA Player of the Year in softball, and one was named the NEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year, a tremendous recognition.

More people are recognizing the goodness of the Mount and what we can help them become. This year we enrolled our second largest freshmen class ever – more than 100 more students than last year's freshmen class. We also have 30 more seminarians enrolled than last year. And we significantly increased the number of transfer students joining the Mount this year. We have a great thing going at the Mount and we want to share our goodness more broadly.

The nation is recognizing this goodness in the form of many college rankings. For the first time the Mount was selected by Money Magazine as a "Best Colleges for Your Money for 2017." In U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges 2018 list, Mount St. Mary's University is ranked 25th among Northern regional universities, and in the top 10 in Best Colleges for Veterans. The latest ranking to recognize our value is Forbes in its Grateful Graduates Index. This ranking measures support from alumni as a key indicator of how successful the school is at producing happy, successful graduates. We are Mount Proud to be included in all these rankings and more I have not mentioned.

Over the last year we evaluated our current state of the Mount including the strength of our educational, athletic, student and spiritual programs, facilities, and finances, and put that in the context of a changing higher educational environment. From this we developed, and our Board of Trustees just approved, our new strategic plan for 2018-23, *Creating Ethical Leaders Who Lead Lives of Significance*. As we look to a bright future full of opportunity, the success of our students has been our rallying cry in developing this plan. Our three top-level strategic priorities are student success, having a faith- and values-based campus environment, and financial sustainability and stewardship.

In terms of student success, we will continue to evolve our curriculum to ensure it remains the most relevant in preparing our students for the future. The newest major we are offering is in entrepreneurship, the first such major at a college or university in Maryland. Our core curriculum will continue to emphasize the best of the Catholic intellectual tradition developing the critical thinking and creative problem solving skills that people need for success in life. We will also define



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and assess the framework we use for holistically developing ethical leaders through integrated, sequential and progressively more developmental educational experiences.

In promoting our faith- and values-based campus environment, among other objectives, we seek to ensure a culture where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, and all feel they are valued and trusted members of the Mount team. This is something that requires our constant and cooperative efforts as unfortunately the evils of racism and bigotry still exist in our nation. We are taught in the Book of Genesis that God created everyone in His own image so it follows that we must treat everyone with dignity and respect. There is no place for the violence of, and hatred spewed by Neo-Nazi, white supremacy and similarly minded groups. Similarly, we need to work together to ensure our environment is free from sexual assault and harassment. This is a problem on college campuses nationwide and we all must be part of the solution. Our students are actively working on improved education and awareness by becoming peer educators in our EmpowerMount Sexual Assault and Misconduct Awareness program.

We are working many efforts to ensure our long-term financial sustainability and stewardship, and I am bullish on the Mount's future. We are growing our total student enrollment while also forming partnerships to bring additional resources to the Mount. Through these new initiatives in areas such as health care and energy, we also seek to support the development of our caring neighbors in the surrounding communities of Emmitsburg and Thurmont. We have engaged Johnson Controls in improving the utility systems for many of our buildings that will be funded by future energy savings. And we are embarking on a three-year capital campaign, called Forward! Together as One, to upgrade and expand our academic, athletic, seminary and grotto facilities.

So, the Mount is moving forward and I am excited by the new opportunities and programs we are pursuing in academics, athletics, student life, campus ministry, the seminary and at our campus in Frederick. Our National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes continues to serve as a beacon of hope on Mary's Mountain and as a source of inspiration for hundreds of thousands who visit each year. Our faculty and staff are motivated to help our students become the best version of themselves and prepare them to lead lives of significance in service to God and others. The Mount is an exciting place to be now, and we are poised to create the success stories that will become the next 200 years of our history.

Thank you for bestowing upon me the honor of leading this wonderful university into the future. I appreciate you joining us in this celebration today, God Bless and Go Mount!