



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Today's Young Woman. Tomorrow's Leader.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Mary Ann Albright
St. Mary's Academy
1615 S.W. Fifth Ave.
Portland, OR 97201
www.stmaryspdx.org

Direct: 503.721.7715
Cell: 503.984.2777
Fax: 503.223.0995
maryann.albright@stmaryspdx.org
[@stmaryspdx](#) on Twitter

St. Mary's Academy's Founders' Day honors school's history, alumnae

Portland, Ore. – October 18, 2011 – St. Mary's Academy will celebrate Founders' Day on Friday, Oct. 21, and for one family with long ties to the school, the annual celebration is taking on special meaning.

Flora Rigotti, a Southeast Portland resident, graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1931. She will be honored by the school's president, Christina Friedhoff, at this year's Founders' Day. Escorting her at the event will be her great-granddaughter, Sophie Cettina, a freshman at St. Mary's Academy.

"I just couldn't let this (year's Founders' Day) go by without going back to St. Mary's Academy," Rigotti said. "It was always like home to me. I have a real soft spot in my heart for St. Mary's Academy. It is such a special place and was such a special time in my life."

Founders' Day is a time each year when St. Mary's Academy pays tribute to alumnae such as Rigotti who graduated 50 or more years ago. This year, 57 alumnae are expected to attend. The day also honors the 12 Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) nuns who founded St. Mary's Academy in 1859, as well as Blessed Mother Marie-Rose Durocher, who founded the SNJM order in 1843.

Along with Rigotti, two other alumnae will receive special recognition at this year's Founders' Day event: Marilyn Harris, SNJM, a 1936 St. Mary's Academy graduate, and Gloria Mastrangelo McEnry, a 1941 graduate. Sr. Harris will be escorted by Lucy Malloch, a St. Mary's senior with family ties to Mary Margaret, SNJM (born Mary O'Neill), one of the school's 12 foundresses. She and Malloch's great-great-grandfather, Hugh O'Neill, were first cousins. McEnry will be escorted by St. Mary's Academy junior Saskia Kuehl.

Rigotti and family represent three generations of St. Mary's Academy alumnae. Rigotti's four daughters, Christina Utter (class of 1968), Rita Magionos (class of 1962), Julie Cettina (class of 1959) and Linda Johnson (class of 1958), all graduated from St. Mary's, as well. Now Sophie Cettina is excited to carry on the family legacy, and to be on hand when Rigotti is honored at Founders' Day.

"I get to show her what it's like at St. Mary's now. I think it will be fun," Cettina said.

For additional information or questions, please contact Mary Ann Albright, Director of Communications, at 503.721.7715 (direct office), 503.984.2777 (cell), or maryann.albright@stmaryspdx.org.

###

About St. Mary's Academy

St. Mary's Academy is a Catholic high school for young women located in the heart of downtown Portland that provides a challenging college-preparatory education with a focus on developing the whole person. Founded in 1859 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, St. Mary's Academy is Oregon's oldest continuously operating secondary school and offers a supportive learning environment to a diverse student body from more than 30 urban, suburban and rural communities in Oregon and Southwest Washington. It is the only school in the state to have received three Blue Ribbon awards from the U.S. Department of Education. For more information about St. Mary's Academy, please visit www.stmaryspdx.org.