



SALVE REGINA
UNIVERSITY

The Heritage and the Promise

THE STORY OF
SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY



Our Heritage

Salve Regina's story reaches back almost 200 years to an Irish Catholic laywoman named Catherine McAuley. Deeply aware of the pressing challenges facing Catholic

women in 19th century Ireland, Catherine built a House of Mercy in 1827 where those in need could find shelter, an education, and community. In 1831, Catherine founded the Sisters of Mercy to continue this work, taking a unique fourth vow of service to the poor, the sick and the uneducated. This vow of service continues to find expression today in the mission of Salve Regina University, where students are encouraged to work for a world that is harmonious, just and merciful.



The first House of Mercy on Baggot Street, Dublin, Ireland

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THE WALKING SISTERS

Catherine McAuley was committed to her faith and ministering to those in need but had no intention of founding a religious community. However, upon advice from diocesan colleagues regarding the sustainability of her ministry, she founded the Religious Sisters of Mercy at the age of 52.

“

We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us.

Catherine McAuley,
Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy



Dance students perform at Salve's 75th anniversary opening celebration, 2022.

Under the patronage of Mary, our Lady of Mercy, the new community devoted itself to alleviating the suffering and misery that was devastating Ireland by reaching out in every direction to minister to the sick, the poor, the uneducated, and those in prison. These new Religious Sisters of Mercy carried out their arduous work among the people and became known as “the walking sisters” because they were seen out of their convents walking on the streets and serving in the community, unlike other religious women of the time. The Sisters provided the poor not only with immediate help, but also with valuable tools of education to disrupt the structures of poverty.

For nearly two centuries, the Sisters of Mercy have been a strong presence throughout the world. They have nursed the wounded on the battlefields, cared for orphans, and have been deeply involved in education, health care, and social services. Globally, the Sisters of Mercy continue to live dedicated lives of commitment to prayer, service and advocacy, and advancing the work of mercy throughout the world.



Nursing students participate in a simulation laboratory demonstration, 2018.



Students and Sisters of Mercy during summer session, 1949

The enduring vision of Salve's founding Sisters of Mercy has guided the institution since its conception and subsequent charter, which was granted after approval by the Rhode Island Governor and General Assembly in 1934. Following Catherine's example of resolute persistence, the Sisters were "imbued with the charism of Mercy," in which "need was the touchstone, ministry the response and courage the vitalizing force" (*With Courage and Compassion*, p. 9).

In 1947, local resident Robert Goelet gifted Ochre Court, his family's spectacular Gilded Age "cottage" that sits oceanside along Newport's famed Cliff Walk, to Salve Regina College. Made in memory of his father Ogden, the gift enabled the founding Sisters to open the gates of Salve Regina, and welcome the first 58 students on September 24, 1947—Mercy Day—as the Class of 1951.

Salve Regina Hymn

*Hail holy Queen, enthroned above -
Oh Maria!
Hail Mother of Mercy and of love -
Oh Maria!
Triumph all ye cherubim,
Sing with us ye seraphim,
Heaven and earth resound the hymn,
Salve, Salve, Salve Regina*

*Our life, our sweetness here below -
Oh Maria!
Our hope in sorrow and in woe -
Oh Maria!
Triumph all ye cherubim!
Sing with us ye seraphim!
Heaven and earth resound the hymn,
Salve, Salve, Salve Regina*

"Salve Regina, Mater misericordiae" is the beginning of an ancient Latin hymn that translates today to "Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope." It was under the protection of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Mother of Mercy, that the Religious Sisters of Mercy founded the University, and it is mercy that informs and pervades all facets of the Salve Regina experience.

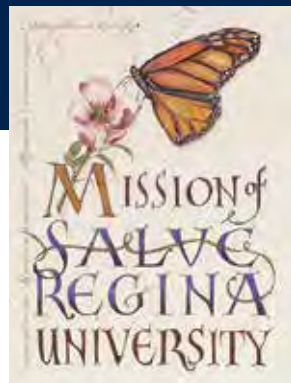
It is in the inspiration of Mary that Our Lady of Mercy Chapel is so named, which houses multiple Gilded Age stained glass La Farge windows reclaimed from a Sisters of Mercy convent in Fall River, MA. The most recognizable of the stained glass being the "Madonna and Child." The Mercy Center for Spiritual Life can be found in the garden level of Our Lady of Mercy Chapel and provides students with meaningful ways of connecting through retreats, liturgies, and "Mercy in Motion." The Center for Community Engagement and Service, in nearby Gerety Hall, also advances the University's mercy mission through service advocacy programs, immersions, and student fellowships that address the expressed needs of our local and global community.

Today, more than 75 years after the gates of Ochre Court were open to Salve's first students, the University's mercy-inspired education is needed now more than ever. With a mission anchored in the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy, it is also visionary in purpose for students and graduates. Dynamic and innovative programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels are essential to the development of responsible citizens who are prepared to face the challenges of an evolving and increasingly interconnected global society as they work for a world that is harmonious, just and merciful. It is in the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy that the University's first lay president, Dr. Kelli J. Armstrong leads Salve Regina into its next generation.



Stained glass artwork by John LaFarge in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel.

The Mercy Promise



Salve Regina University strives to integrate academic excellence in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition with our core mercy values and mission to deliver a transformative educational experience for each student. As they cross the Commencement stage to receive their degree, students will have learned and lived amidst a campus community working with a shared purpose to ensure that each individual benefits from foundational values and guiding principles that are the hallmark of a Salve education.

Through a **purpose-driven education** rooted in liberal arts, academic rigor and experiential learning, Salve students gain deep knowledge that

MISSION STATEMENT

As a community that welcomes people of all beliefs, Salve Regina University, a Catholic institution founded by the Sisters of Mercy, seeks wisdom and promotes universal justice.

The University, through teaching and research, prepares men and women for responsible lives by imparting and expanding knowledge, developing skills, and cultivating enduring values.

Through liberal arts and professional programs, students develop their abilities for thinking clearly and creatively, enhance their capacity for sound judgment, and prepare for the challenge of learning throughout their lives.

In keeping with the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy, and recognizing that all people are stewards of God's creation, the University encourages students to work for a world that is harmonious, just, and merciful.



Students volunteer at the Norman Bird Sanctuary.

prepares them for career success and a journey of life-long learning. At Salve, we regard all humanity as being worthy of **respect** and honor the uniqueness and **dignity** of each individual as God's creation, embracing differences in the beliefs, experiences, cultures and traditions of others, with kindness and curiosity. We recognize the sacredness of our **mercy community** and pride ourselves on being a welcoming, inclusive and collaborative environment, with a sense of companionship and belonging for all.

We seek to develop leaders with **integrity** and a strong moral compass, who are committed to making a positive difference in their communities. With a focus on **faith and spirituality**, we promote the intellectual and spiritual exploration of faith for people of all beliefs, guided by our Catholic heritage, and seek to support all members of our community on their

spiritual journey. Like Catherine and the first Sisters of Mercy, we advocate on behalf of those in need through **compassionate service and solidarity**, attentive to the needs and experiences of others, accompanying them with mercy, acceptance and understanding.

These are the University's foundational values that form the framework for its mercy-inspired and transformative educational experience.



We can no longer be quiet about who we are. This is our time to show the world what a mercy education means because the world needs us now more than ever. The world is tumultuous, but Salve Regina has what the world needs.



– President Kelli J. Armstrong, Ph.D.
Inaugural address, September 2019



The Salve community is invited to reflect together on "What Matters to Me and Why?" through the Voices of Mercy luncheon series.

THE CRITICAL CONCERNS OF MERCY

In the same year Salve Regina achieved University status, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas was founded, guided by a Direction Statement that developed into the Critical Concerns that continue to inform the Sisters' work and sponsored ministries. Through prayer, attention to personal, communal and institutional choices, education, advocacy, research, and service, Salve Regina University, as a Catholic institution sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, seeks to address the five Critical Concerns of Mercy – **the Earth, immigration, nonviolence, anti-racism and women**. These Critical Concerns are woven into academic coursework across disciplines and inform co-curricular programs and institutional priorities.



McAuley Institute scholars gather to celebrate the work of the Mercy Interdisciplinary Faculty Collaboratives on Race and Earth.



Salve achieves an AASHE STARS Bronze rating for sustainability efforts across campus, 2023.

In 2020, the McAuley Institute for Mercy Education was founded to advance the vocation of Salve Regina through the development of interdisciplinary research, teaching and leadership initiatives that foster an ethic of dialogue and action around the tradition and Critical Concerns of Mercy and contribute to the development of mercy, Catholic higher education into the 21st century.

THE NEXT CHAPTERS

Following Salve's 75th anniversary celebration in 2022-2023, the University is well-positioned to embark on its next chapters as a higher education institution of distinction. The **guiding principles** of Salve's Strategic Compass ensure a continued commitment to providing a **rigorous transformative education** grounded in liberal arts and professional programs, personalized to support each student's needs in the pursuit and development of their unique best self; an **inclusive community** that values diversity and welcomes every individual with kindness, dignity and respect; the development of **adaptive resilience** nurtured by faith, hope and optimism and supporting each individual's ability to adapt and thrive in the midst of adversity and changing circumstances; and **compassionate mercy leadership** cultivated through the lived experience of our mission and all we do at Salve.

The Ochre Court Gates

The Ocean Waves

The Compass

The Mercy Cross

SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY

The Ochre Court Gates

The open gates of Ochre Court, the iconic heart of our campus, symbolize the start of Salve students' academic journey and the celebration of their achievements at graduation.

The Ocean Waves

The ocean waves symbolize Salve's amazing ocean-side location and deep connection to its home in Newport, Rhode Island.

The Compass

The compass symbolizes the University's mission to prepare students to navigate their lives with enduring values, address complex critical concerns, and work for a world that is harmonious, just, and merciful.

The Mercy Cross

Embedded in the compass, the Mercy Cross symbolizes the University's commitment to its Catholic heritage and the vision of its founders. Welcoming people of all beliefs, Salve is dedicated to creating a community of belonging, compassion and mercy.

Salve Through the Years



The pioneer Class of 1951 graduates on the oceanside lawn of Ochre Court, 1951.

1934



The State of Rhode Island grants a charter to the Sisters of Mercy of Providence to establish Salve Regina College.

1947



Robert Goelet gifts Ochre Court in Newport, R.I., to the Sisters of Mercy to open Salve Regina College.

1973



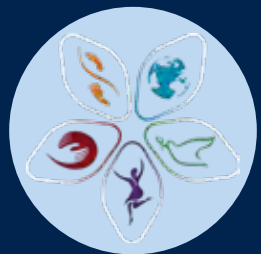
Salve Regina College becomes coeducational.

1991



Salve Regina achieves University status in formal recognition of its graduate studies programs and the substantial development of its curriculum.

2005



The Sisters of Mercy form a commitment to focus on five Critical Concerns of Mercy - Earth, immigration, nonviolence, anti-racism and women.

2010



Our Lady of Mercy Chapel opens. Catholic Masses are celebrated here and the Mercy Center for Spiritual Life occupies the garden level.

2020



McAuley Institute for Mercy Education is established to advance the vocation of Salve Regina University and the development of mercy, Catholic higher education into the 21st century.

2023

SALVE COMPASS

Salve Regina University launches the Compass program, a four-year experiential framework connecting college to career, equipping students to build lives of purpose and meaning while addressing the most pressing critical concerns facing our world.

