



THE COUNCIL OF
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

June 25, 2007

Thomas H. Powell
President
Mount St. Mary's University
16300 Old Emmitsburg Road
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

Dear President Powell:

As Mount St. Mary's University embarks on the celebration of its 200th anniversary, joining only 40 other U.S. colleges and universities that have achieved this milestone, I am delighted to offer my heartiest congratulations to a truly special institution.

The Mount's challenges and successes over two centuries have enriched the nation's higher education and religious landscape. Founded in 1808, Mount St. Mary's is now the nation's second oldest Catholic college, and is home to the second largest seminary preparing priests for the Catholic Church. And the Mount's famous national shrine—a replica of the Grotto of Lourdes shrine in France—is a unique place of pilgrimage for all Americans.

With best wishes for a joyful Bicentennial celebration!

Sincerely yours,

Richard Ekman
President