

SMC lingo

“The Founder”: Saint John Baptist de La Salle (1651 - 1719), the founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, who operated in France originally, but are now in 82 countries all over the world. The Lasallian Heritage supports education that is truly transformative, both for individuals and the society around them, and is part of the essential nature of Saint Mary's College.

“The Three Traditions”: Liberal Arts, Catholicism, and the Lasallian Heritage—Saint Mary's College draws from these deep roots to nourish its mission and practices.

As a liberal arts college, we ask you to “cultivate the ways of knowing and the arts of thinking” so that your education prepares you for lifelong learning in which you seek fundamental principles as well as facts. As a Catholic college, we promote the dialogue of faith and reason, asking you to consider the search for truth in the light of Catholic social teaching and the Christian understanding that the intellectual and spiritual journeys of the human person are be inextricably connected. As a Lasallian college, we work to create a “student-centered community whose members support one another with mutual understanding and respect.”

“The Five Lasallian Core Principles”: To help students better understand the Lasallian Heritage, students are guided by these five principles:

- 1) **Quality Education:** “We engage in quality education together as students, staff, and faculty by thinking critically and examining our world in the light of faith.”
- 2) **Inclusive Community:** “We celebrate diversity and welcome all members of our community.”
- 3) **Respect for All Persons:** “We honor and respect the dignity of all individuals.”
- 4) **Concern for the Poor and Social Justice:** “We are in solidarity with the poor and advocate for those suffering from injustices.”
- 5) **Faith in the Presence of God:** “We believe in the living presence of God in our students, in our community, and in our world.”

The “SMC”: On the side of the hills overlooking the campus there are large letters spelling SMC. It is a tradition that the entering class “paints the SMC” during the Weekend of Welcome.

“The Cross”: On the top a different hill, toward the back of the campus,

“The Arcade”: In keeping with the architectural style of the campus, there is a long, covered walkway across the front section of buildings on campus, extending to either side of the Chapel and continuing all the way Ferroggiaro, the building that houses various offices for student government and organizations.

The Collegian: The SMC student-run newspaper that is published almost every week.

Oliver Hall [“Saga”]: The dining hall for students on one of the many meal plans provided by Sodexo. Most students refer to this as “Saga” (the name of the company providing food services many years ago, but the name lives on).

“The Townhouses”: Seniors (and some juniors) can live in apartment-style buildings with kitchens and common living rooms. These 6 buildings, collectively called “the townhouses” are tucked in a corner of the campus beyond the baseball field.

“Ascot”: Many juniors and seniors choose to live off-campus. The Moraga area of apartment buildings frequently used by SMC students is bounded by Ascot Dr. and Donald Dr. just over the hill from campus.

“Rheem”: There are two shopping areas in Moraga. The Moraga Center contains a Safeway, several restaurants, banks, and service stations. “Rheem” is the second shopping area, with a large Longs Drugs, several restaurants and service stations, a movie theater, and 24-Hour fitness. It is located on the corner of Moraga Rd. and Rheem Blvd., hence the name.

“BART”: Bay Area Rapid Transit. This is system that services Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco and other points with high speed electric trains. There is a station in Orinda and one in Lafayette where SMC students can board. There is a special, free shuttle to and from campus to serve students Thurs-Sun when the regular county bus service is not running.

CILSA (Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action): This office promotes, organizes, and supports service on behalf of social justice by members of the Saint Mary’s community. Over the past year, more than 1,000 students contributed approximately 48,700 hours of service in the local community, at the state level, and internationally.

SIL (Student Involvement and Leadership): Student Involvement and Leadership provides opportunities for academic, intellectual, personal, social and leadership growth through the coordination and implementation of co-curricular programs. SIL advises and mentors the Associated Students of Saint Mary’s College of California (ASSMC, the student government), media and student organizations and manages the Cassin Student Union.

Delphine Intercultural Center: The Delphine Intercultural Center, through co-curricular programs and support services, strives to create a safe and supportive learning environment that embraces diversity and fosters an inclusive community.

Women’s Resource Center: This office seeks to enhance the Saint Mary’s learning experience by fostering a supportive, inclusive environment for women and men of all backgrounds, ages and belief systems, while promoting and practicing acceptance and collaboration. It provides five main modules of service including: education, outreach, support, empowerment and referrals.

A “Gael”: Everyone wants to know what “a gael” is. In simplest terms, a Gael is an Irish person (the Irish speak Gaelic) though at Saint Mary’s College, especially for athletics, the Gael is often pictured as a knight on a horse.

“Gael Force”: The student athletic spirit organization that tries to rally student support at athletic events.

“WOW”: Weekend of Welcome, August 28 through September 1, the five days immediately before the start of classes on Tuesday, September 2, when students move into their rooms and campus and begin work on building the educational, social, and personal communities that will sustain them throughout the year.