

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Do you have to be Catholic to work at Saint Mary's College?

Because we are a Catholic college in the Lasallian tradition we welcome people of all faith traditions.

Hiring for Mission at Saint Mary's college means hiring diverse faculty and staff who will commit to deepening their understanding of its Liberal Arts, Catholic and Lasallian heritage and will contribute to its mission. Included in that diversity are faculty and staff who especially identify with the Catholic and Lasallian identity of the College.

What does Lasallian mean?

St. John Baptist de La Salle, the Founder of the Christian Brothers, a Priest in the Roman Catholic church, and the Patron Saint of Teachers, promoted a human and Christian education as a means of achieving personal wholeness and a more just society. The dignity of the human person is central to the Catholic and Lasallian traditions of Saint Mary's College.

Education as Social Justice – Lasallian Education can be understood by who we educate, how we educate them, and for what “ultimate” purpose.

For whom?

All admitted students to SMC, with special concern for marginalized populations (e.g., economically poor, first generation in their family to college and students of color, etc.).

How we educate?

The Lasallian spirit must be manifest in a strong spirit of community. Students, administrators, faculty and staff must, to the extent possible, know one another and evidence mutual respect and active concern for developing the “whole person” (adapted from Br. John Johnson, former Superior General, essay *Lasallian Mission: Promoting the Reign of God through Education*).

For what purpose?

For the betterment of both the individual and society (Common Good).

What are some of SMC core values?

Five Core Principles of Lasallian Education include the following:

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.

Respect for all Persons – We honor and respect the dignity of all individuals.

Inclusive Community – We celebrate diversity and welcome all members of our community.

Concern for the Poor and Social Justice – We are in solidarity with the poor and advocate for those suffering from injustices.

Faith in the Presence of God – We believe in the living presence of God in our students, in our community and in our world.

How does the SMC Mission align with diversity and inclusion initiatives?

Because we are liberal arts, Catholic and Lasallian community, we have strong diversity and inclusion initiatives, including “[hiring for mission.](#)”

We of Saint Mary’s College of California are dedicated to treating all people with dignity and respect in ways that acknowledge and engage diverse backgrounds and ideas. Our policies, practices, and behaviors foster a safe and inclusive community and promote learning that is equitable, collaborative, and inspired by the presence of God in and among us (College Committee on Inclusive Excellence, CCIE).

Hiring for Mission at SMC means hiring diverse faculty and staff who will commit to deepening their understanding of its Liberal Arts, Catholic and Lasallian heritage and will contribute to its mission. Included in that diversity are faculty and staff who especially identify with the Catholic and Lasallian identity of the College (President’s Hiring for Mission statement, Hiring for Mission Task Force report).

Are there opportunities to learn about SMC Mission?

There are many mission education opportunities beginning with orientations and continuing throughout the year—lunch discussions, retreats, De La Salle week activities, speakers, international immersions, Institutes and workshops. Contact the [Office of Mission](#) (cswain@stmarys-ca.edu or sjamison@stmarys-ca.edu) for more information.