



**Father Brian Eilers '97
Alexis Thibodeau Dobson '98**

on behalf of St. Mary's Catholic Center at Texas A&M

August 11, 2008

Dear Classmates of the 1990s,

When you remember that special time at St. Mary's in Aggieland, what comes first to mind? Is it attending Mass on Sunday with Father Kitten, Father Mike, Father Dean or Father David—the great and dedicated priests who served our spiritual needs? Is it the anticipation and preparation for each upcoming Aggie Awakening? Maybe it's trying to figure out where your group would have its next meeting-- when we were at the Old Student Center. The library? The Upstairs Chapel? The cry room? Is it the Newman Mass and the fun-filled end-of-the-year Raft Trip? Maybe it was hiking up to the Upstairs Chapel for daily Mass? Or could it be all the fundraisers (like those great date auctions) we had in raising the funds necessary for the wonderful, new (now 10 years old) Student Center?



Left to Right: Father Mike Sis, Father Brian McMaster '95, Me (Father Brian Eilers '97), Sister Mary Claire '00 (Kristy Cranley), Father David Konderla, Father Patrick Ebner '94, Deacon David Reed, Bishop Gregory Aymond.

And thanks to our hard work along with the commitments and generosity of many others, the dreams of the Student Center became a reality! St. Mary's is a "home away from home," where the approximately 11,500 Catholics at Texas A&M can enjoy many fun and safe social activities and meet friends who will influence them in positive ways. As of Spring 2008, there were more than 80 organizations, activities and programs, encompassing everything from student-led retreats to Sunday choirs to the booming pro-life movement.

In order to help St. Mary's continue to be a rich environment for future generations of Aggies to grow in faith and leadership, it is up to us to help.

The concept of class gifts started with the Class of 2005, which has committed \$52,000 to the St. Mary's permanent endowment. Individual students pledged at least \$1,000 to participate in this gift. Inspired by these young Ags, a member of the Classes of the 1940s helped develop the concept of decade class gifts. To date, the Classes of the 1940s have committed more than \$70,000 to create their permanent fund. Most recently the Classes of 2007 and 2008 have collectively pledged nearly \$100,000 to continue the important work at St. Mary's.

Now it is our turn, the members of the Classes of the 1990s, to add our commitment to a permanent endowment fund, the proceeds of which will support Catholic ministry for future

generations of Aggies--our children and grandchildren (not Father Brian's!) and beyond. Presently, \$12,000 has been committed to the Classes of the 1990s gift, and we know that you are just as excited about supporting St. Mary's as the older and younger Ags!

Please join us in making a significant gift to St. Mary's. Just as our participation made a difference during our college years and helped build a Student Center, we can make a difference now and help secure the future of Catholic campus ministry at Texas A&M.

If you were like us, it was hard to rub two pennies together when we were in college. We pray those lean years are behind us all, and we all have the means to give back. So, following the lead of the older and younger Ags, we would like to encourage you to join us now in the Classes of the 1990s Gift.

As you can see by the photo, the 1990s were a great time for Aggie vocations, and the Classes of the 1990s still have a big influence on Catholic life at A&M with Father Brian McMaster '95, Marcel LeJeune '95, and Mike Macicek '97, on staff at St. Mary's. Let's support their efforts and sacrifice by our prayers and gifts!

In remembering those great four, five, six or seven years we spent at St. Mary's, we hope they hold as fond a place in your hearts as they do in ours. I hope you share those great memories with your family and friends and will join us in enabling St. Mary's to continue forming the future leaders of the Church and society.

To the greatest decade - the '90s! Whoop!

Gig 'em and God bless,



Father Brian Eilers '97



Alexis Thibodeau Dobson '98

P.S. Please save the date! The Classes of the 1990s Aggie Catholic Reunion will be the weekend of October 17-19 (Aggies vs. Texas Tech). Please join your classmates for dinner and fun on Friday night and a reserved seat at 11:00AM Mass on Sunday!

Call Andrew Robison (979) 846-5717 or visit www.aggiecatholic.org/reunions to RSVP!

