



Advancing the Vision

SAINT MARY
of
THE WOODS
COLLEGE

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March 15, 1993

Wilma P. Mankiller
President
Cherokee Tribal Council
Post Office Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Dear Ms. Mankiller,

As we come closer to the time of our commencement at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, I am delighted to think that you will be able to be with us and to address a few remarks to our graduates. I ask that you be prepared to speak for about 10 minutes. Present with you to receive an honorary doctorate will be Susan Bayh, wife of Indiana Governor Evan Bayh. I will ask her to respond in about a 10 minute greeting to the graduates as well.

For twenty years now, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College has been graduating women who range in age from 22 to 70. Therefore, remarks about being on campus for four years, or remarks about going out into the world, or beginning a career are not appropriate. Many of our graduates have been in the world for a long time, many have had careers, but they share one thing in common. All of them are women and all of them are proud to obtain a baccalaureate degree no matter the amount of time or the circumstances of their lives that preceded getting the degree. We will have as graduates a few Master of Pastoral Theology degree candidates. These graduates are both women and men.

Your remarks to the graduates, then, can proceed out of your own assessment of the world in which we live and the way in which each one of these diverse women, and a few men, will find themselves inserted meaningfully into that world. I pray God, of course, that the education they have received at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College will be such that they will know a firm foundation in the liberal arts as well as in their career majors and that they will feel a common sense of purpose and mission in a world which badly needs

Office of the President

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