

Saint Mary's University selects Brother Robert Smith as new head of graduate schools

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Brother Robert Smith, FSC, Ph.D., selected as vice president of the Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota as of June 1. In his new role, Brother Robert leads the university's graduate schools, which have campuses in Minneapolis and Nairobi, Kenya, and centers in Apple Valley, Rochester, Oakdale, Minnetonka, and numerous other locations in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Jamaica.

"My vision is to continue and enhance the extraordinary work Saint Mary's has done in the Twin Cities for the last 30 years," said Brother Robert. "We will utilize our strong Lasallian Catholic tradition to continue providing quality, accessible, affordable and creative educational opportunities to our adult students."

Brother Robert, a Saint Paul native and 1976 graduate of Saint Mary's, has held many roles at Saint Mary's Winona campus, including associate professor and chair of the Theology Department, associate dean for the School of Education, vice president of mission, and director for the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching. He also served as dean of Christ the Teacher Institute for Education at the Saint Mary's campus in Nairobi, Kenya. Most recently, Brother Robert was granted a leave of absence from Saint Mary's to serve as vice president for academic affairs at Bethlehem University in Bethlehem, Palestine.

Brother Robert will fill the position previously held by Dr. Marcel Dumestre, who retired after holding the role since June of 2010. Dr. Dumestre was instrumental in the creation and development of Saint Mary's first national online programs.

Brother Robert holds a Ph.D. in moral theology from Marquette University, an M.A. in religious studies from United Theological Seminary, and bachelor's degrees in psychology and theology from Saint Mary's University.