

Salve Regina University

Digital Commons @ Salve Regina

Press Release Archive

Archives and Special Collections

6-1-1973

Sister Mary Christopher Resigns College Presidency of Salve Regina, June 1, 1973

Salve Regina College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/releases>



Part of the [Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Salve Regina College, "Sister Mary Christopher Resigns College Presidency of Salve Regina, June 1, 1973" (1973). *Press Release Archive*. 881.

<https://digitalcommons.salve.edu/releases/881>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Special Collections at Digital Commons @ Salve Regina. It has been accepted for inclusion in Press Release Archive by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Salve Regina. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@salve.edu.

NEWS RELEASE
Salve Regina College
Newport, Rhode Island 02840
Office of Development & Public Relations
For Further Information Contact:
Mrs. M. Patricia Thornton
Public Relations Director
College - (401) 847-6650, ext. 45

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sister Mary Christopher Resigns
College Presidency of Salve Regina

The Board of Trustees of Salve Regina College, Newport, R. I., today announced the resignation of Sister Mary Christopher, R.S.M., after five years as College President.

Effective June 15, 1973, Sister Mary Christopher's resignation climaxes an administration which brought many "firsts" to the ocean front campus.

The retiring president, appointed July 1, 1968, officially inaugurated Salve Regina's Community Education Program (1967-68), in which some 450 persons were enrolled last semester on the main campus and 10 satellite campuses in Barrington, Cranston (2), Lincoln, Pawtucket (2), Warwick, West Warwick and Attleboro, Mass.

Her administration was responsible for the start of the College's Law Enforcement Program in 1968-69, which has graduated 298 policemen from throughout the State since 1970, and in which better than 200 police officers are currently enrolled.

Expansion of programs in cooperation with the U. S. Navy are another of her contributions, especially "Project Transition" which allows Navy men to complete high school, or begin a college education, at Salve Regina, while still in the Service, with all credits earned transferable to any college in the country, upon discharge.

Acquisition of property suitable to the College took place in October of last year, when "Wakehurst," the former Van Alen estate, became the new center of the campus. Sister Mary Christopher was also in charge in 1969, when the former Rogers Hamel estate was purchased by the College and renamed "Conley Hall." Roughly one-third of the existing campus of today (approximately 50 acres) has been acquired during the President's five years in office.

The abolishing of 17 departments at the College and the incorporation of a new concept of a core curriculum in the areas of empiric, symbolic and reflective knowledge --- a multi-disciplinary approach, originated by Academic Dean, Dr. Beverly Miller --- is the

(MORE)

NEWS RELEASE
Salve Regina College
ADD ONE

most recent innovation for which Sister Mary Christopher is responsible. Coupled with the new 4-1-4 Program begun this year (which allows for accelerated education, with a combination of interim study and summer study), the core curriculum will begin on Campus with incoming Freshmen in the Fall of 1973.

Sister Mary Christopher inaugurated the first formal Board of Trustees at Salve Regina (1968); the State's first program in Urban Psychology (1968); cooperated with the start of the R. I. Legislative Internship Program (1968); offered the Region's first Workshop in Liturgy and Song (1970); and first offered Salve Regina as residence for performers and artists of the Newport Music Festival, as a College contribution to the Newport Community. These residence arrangements, begun in 1969, continued through the 1972 Metropolitan Opera Summer Festival.

Her community mindedness, since first coming to Salve Regina in 1949 to start its Sociology Department, earned for Sister the Newport Chamber of Commerce "Woman of the Year" award in 1967.

The first woman of a religious community to be so honored, she has also been a pioneer in secular community work, one of the originators of Operation Head Start in Newport County (1964) and President of New Visions for Newport County, Inc., from 1964 to 1967.

The first religious to be invited to Global Strategy sessions at the U. S. Naval War College; the first Nun to speak before such groups as B'Nai Brith, the Newport Ministerial Alliance or at Trinity Church, Newport, Sister Mary Christopher is living proof of the true spirit of ecumanism within the Catholic Church.

She has been active in the Newport County Council of Community Services; Board of Advisors, Newport Children's Home; American Red Cross; the Conference of Intergroup Relations; Council of Social Work Education; Girl Scouts of America, R. I. Executive Board; Diocesan Human Relations Commission; Governor's Commission to Study State Scholarships; Educational Advisory Committee of Butler Hospital and Newport Hospital; R. I. Advisory Council on Vocational and Technical Education; and presently serves as Secretary of the Rhode Island Higher Education Council.

Named to "Who's Who In American Women" in 1969, she is also among those educators recognized by "Who's Who In American College and University Administration" since 1970-71.

(MORE)

NEWS RELEASE
Salve Regina College
ADD TWO

As Mary Frances O'Rourke she received her A.B. degree from Pembroke College and was a social worker in Woonsocket, R. I., before joining the Religious Sisters of Mercy.

Since becoming a Religious, she earned her M. A. degree in 1955, and her Ph.D. in 1962, both from Notre Dame University. She spent the six months previous to her college presidency (1967) as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Michigan, Center for Studies in Higher Education.

Sister Mary Christopher has not yet determined her future plans, beyond a Sabbatical Leave, for which she is currently "looking over options." She expects, however, to continue her future career in religious, academic and public service.

#