

**St. Mark's Theological College**  
**Annual Report to the University Senate**  
**December 2007**

St. Mark's College is currently celebrating its 52<sup>nd</sup> year on the campus as an affiliated theological college chartered by the provincial government. Several important developments have taken place recently at the College, all of which point to new relevance for the St. Mark's both on the campus and throughout the province.

In 2005, the Basilian Fathers, the founding order of priests at St. Mark's, officially took their leave from the College after many years of service to the campus community and Vancouver. Outgoing Principal, Fr. Jim Hanrahan, CSB, who originally came to campus in 1957 and taught for many years in the University's department of History, has now retired to the congregational community at St. Michael's at the University of Toronto. In 2005, the Board of Management of St. Mark's appointed Dr. David Sylvester Principal *pro tem* and Vice-Chancellor.

The departure of the Basilian Fathers has not meant the end of St. Mark's, however, and the College is experiencing new life in its academic programs in theology, and in its campus ministry programs serving the U.B.C. community. Enrolment at the College has risen dramatically and St. Mark's is now offering three degrees at the Master's level (in Religious Education, Theological Studies and Pastoral Studies). The College continues to offer graduate certificates in theological disciplines and has added non-graduate diplomas in Spirituality, Theology, Religious Education, and Pastoral Studies. Unlike the other theological Colleges on campus, St. Mark's was never a seminary for the training of priests. Its students are teachers and administrators in Catholic schools, as well as employees, volunteers and leaders in parish or health ministries. The College is also responding to the educational needs of adult learners interested in furthering studies in philosophy and theology. As the need for non-clerical leadership in the Catholic Church continues to expand, so will the academic programming and enrolment at St. Mark's.

The College also continues to provide a centre for Catholics on campus, and the St. Mark's Chapel (completed in 1998) offers daily mass, three weekend liturgies and regularly hosts, weddings, baptisms and funerals for students, faculty and alumni of both the College and the University. The St. Mark's Campus Ministry team also coordinates a multitude of programs for social justice and community outreach, hosts study groups and AMS clubs, and works with the interfaith UBC Chaplains' Association to help meet the material and spiritual needs of students, faculty and staff across the campus.

St. Mark's also continues to explore mutually-beneficial partnerships on campus. The College provides infrastructure for Corpus Christi College, which offers a two-year humanities university transfer program. Most recently, St. Mark's has entered into dialogue with the other affiliated theological colleges on the campus to explore the benefits of formalizing a consortium to facilitate shared course offerings and transferability, conferencing, joint faculty appointments, and improved communication with the University.