

# NEWS • Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

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## **Saint Mary's students pay to give up cell phones for a good cause**

WINONA, Minn. — In honor of Blessed Brother James Miller, FSC, a Saint Mary's University alumnus, undergraduate students are committing the “ultimate sacrifice,” relinquishing their cell phones for one day, Nov. 25.

Brother James Miller, who earned his graduate and undergraduate degrees from Saint Mary's in 1966 and 1974, was only 37 when he was shot and killed as he was mending a wall outside a school where he worked in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, in 1982. It is suspected that Brother James was killed because he and the other De La Salle Christian Brothers fought to keep their young students from being forced into the military.

Pope Francis recognized the martyrdom of Brother James in 2018. Brother James will be the first De La Salle Christian Brother from the United States to be beatified. The date of his beatification ceremony will be Dec. 7, 2019, in Huehuetenango, and several members of the Saint Mary's community will be in attendance. Beatification brings him one step closer to sainthood.

Participating students are asked to also donate \$2. Funds raised during “No Cell Phone Day” Nov. 25 will be used for scholarships for Guatemalan students at Casa Hermano Santiago Miller, the school where Brother James worked that now bears his name. More than 75 percent of the population in Guatemala lives below the poverty line.

Participating students' cell phones will be on display in the Toner Student Center, along with their names. Money raised will be presented in person during Brother James' beatification ceremony.

To learn more about Brother James, go to [www.smumn.edu/brotherjames](http://www.smumn.edu/brotherjames).

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## **About Saint Mary's University of Minnesota**

Enriched by the Lasallian Catholic heritage, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota awakens, nurtures, and empowers learners to ethical lives of service and leadership. At Saint Mary's, students find in every classroom — whether in person or online — a relationship-driven, person-centered education. Through intense inquiry, students discover the truths in the world and the character within. Founded in 1912 and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota enrolls 5,600 students at its residential undergraduate college in Winona and its Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs, based in Minneapolis but extending worldwide. Saint Mary's offers respected and affordable programs in a variety of areas leading to bachelor's, bachelor's completion, master's, certificate, specialist, and doctoral degrees. Learn more at [smumn.edu](http://smumn.edu).