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The University of Dayton
 UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON ANNOUNCES
 ST. JOSEPH HALL RENOVATION PROJECT

News Release

DAYTON, Ohio, December 22, 1988--On the one-year anniversary of a fire that destroyed a historic, 104-year-old landmark on the University of Dayton campus, UD officials are appealing to alumni and friends to "step forward" and help the University raise \$2.5 million to restore and modernize St. Joseph Hall, the future home of UD's social and behavioral sciences departments.

"We're calling on all our alumni and friends who care about this historic structure to step forward and help us," said Patrick M. Joyce, vice president for University Advancement. "St. Joseph Hall is a cornerstone of this campus and one of our most important academic buildings. Three-quarters of all alumni have taken classes in the building, thousands have lived in the building, thousands more can appreciate the tradition and the promise the building embodies.

"When we rededicate the building at Homecoming '89," Joyce said, "it will be with an extraordinary sense of accomplishment at having saved, renovated and improved a truly historic landmark both for UD and for the city of Dayton."

Alumni and other supporters have committed approximately \$300,000 toward the restoration project, including \$100,000 from "an anonymous athlete." Total renovation and landscaping costs are estimated at \$6.75 million, of which approximately \$3.8 million will be covered by insurance, \$2.5 million through fund raising and the rest by University funds. Of UD's 58,000 alumni, 15,000 live in the Dayton area.

Jerry VanderHorst, a 1951 University of Dayton graduate who lived in St. Joseph Hall from 1947-50, has volunteered to chair the 14-member St. Joseph Hall Renovation Project Steering Committee. "We are grateful to Jerry and the other leaders of the committee who are willing to give their time and money to help on

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such an important project," Joyce said.

VanderHorst, who received a B.A. in psychology from UD, is the vice chairman of the board and chief marketing officer of PennCorp Financial, Inc., an insurance management and marketing firm. He and his wife, Janet, reside in Washington Twp. They are the parents of seven children, including three UD alumni.

"As a football player playing on Baujan Field, I remember looking over to St. Joseph Hall and seeing brothers and priests and students hanging like rows of crows from the upper floors of the building. It really was the best seat in the house," said VanderHorst with a laugh.

VanderHorst said he volunteered to lead the fund-raising effort out of a sense of debt to the University of Dayton and because he wanted to see the historic integrity of St. Joseph Hall maintained. "I think there are certain things in life that you owe something to, and everyone has to make a determination exactly what those are," he said. "You're tied to some things in your past, and it's only fair that you honor what you receive. I think those four years I spent at UD were the greatest four years of my life because they were the formative years."

During VanderHorst's college years, St. Joseph Hall was used primarily as a dormitory and housed mostly student athletes. Chuck Noll, head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers, and some of UD's most memorable basketball players, including Donald "Monk" Meineke, Jim Paxson, Bill Uhl, Arlen "Bucky" Bockhorn, Don Donoher, Tom Frericks, Chris Harris and Bobby Flynn, lived there during the 1950s. At other times during its history, the building has housed laboratories, classrooms, the University's printshop and academic programs, including the School of Engineering.

St. Joseph Hall was constructed in 1884 to replace St. Mary's Convent, which burned down the previous year on the same site. The architectural plans of Marianist brother Joseph Senentz called for two-foot-thick supporting walls and dividing walls 16 inches thick. The facade included decorative brickwork along the roof's edge and an elaborate roofline featuring dormer windows, a cross and 16

chimneys to vent the building's fireplaces. The builders added sand between each floor and the ceiling below for insulation--and to help douse fires.

From the outside, the reconstructed St. Joseph Hall will look much the same except for four-and-a-half feet of added height to the fourth floor and a formal entry that faces a planned Nazareth Courtyard Plaza between St. Joseph Hall and the Immaculate Conception Chapel. The painted zinc statue of St. Joseph and Jesus, donated in 1901 by the mother of two Marianist brothers and salvaged from last year's fire, will be repositioned more prominently on the west side of the building, where it will be illuminated at night. Pillars from the classrooms, also saved from the fire, will be used to construct a portico.

The academic departments of communication, sociology and anthropology, social work, political science and a new tenant for the building--psychology--will be grouped together. The hall will again house the Center for International Studies, the Center for the Study of Family Development, the Women's Studies program and UD's Printing and Design shop.

A four-alarm pre-dawn fire on Dec. 22, 1987, believed to have been caused by faulty electrical wiring, destroyed most of the third and fourth floors and heavily water damaged the lower floors. No one was hurt in the blaze. In February, University officials restored approximately 400 crates of water-damaged books and research papers through a freeze-drying process. The faculty, staff and students displaced by the fire have been relocated to scattered campus offices and classrooms.

Temporary steel girders currently are stabilizing the building's brick walls--unharmed by the blaze--as construction workers prepare to place the roof trusses and pour concrete for the first floor. Edge & Tinney Architects, Inc. has designed the building's new layout. Concourse Construction, Inc., the contractors who recently built the William S. Anderson Information Sciences Center and the Virginia W. Kettering Residence Hall on campus, began reconstruction of St. Joseph Hall in July. The building will be reopened for classes by August 1989.