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**ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER WELCOMES RENOWNED CONGENITAL
CARDIAC SURGEON DR. MICHAEL BLACK TO ITS MEDICAL STAFF**

*Congenital Cardiac Surgeon Dr. Michael Black Brings Innovative Minimally Invasive
Techniques to the Children's Hospital at St. Mary's New
Pediatric Open Heart Surgery Program*

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (August 2011)- St. Mary's Medical Center is proud to announce that Dr. Michael Black, fellowship trained congenital cardiac surgeon, is joining the hospital's medical staff to develop the new Pediatric Congenital Heart Program at St. Mary's. Dr. Black's extensive experience, family-centered approach and advanced minimally invasive pediatric open heart procedures will set the foundation for St. Mary's pediatric open-heart surgery/pediatric cardiac catheterization programs and bring much needed advanced cardiovascular surgery options to the Palm Beaches and the Treasure Coast.

"St. Mary's welcomes Dr. Black and looks forward to developing its pediatric heart program with more innovative congenital heart surgery options," says Davide Carbone, St. Mary's Medical Center's chief executive officer. "Congenital heart defects are fairly common and the need for surgical intervention can affect anyone at any age from a newborn to a child and even an adult. Palm Beach County residents once had to travel far in search for the advanced treatment of congenital heart defects. Now, St. Mary's can offer a very unique minimally invasive treatment option right here in the local community."

Dr. Black is joining the St. Mary's medical team as part of the pediatric open heart surgery/pediatric cardiac catheterization program, which was approved by Florida's Agency for Healthcare Administration. No other hospital in Florida has received such approval in over 15 years.

The arrival of Dr. Black will be a significant asset to the pediatric open heart program at St. Mary's. Dr. Black is renowned for developing highly specialized minimally invasive robotic procedures and techniques for performing complex congenital heart repairs. He has successfully operated on adults, children and infants weighing as little as 400 grams (less than one pound). These minimally invasive procedures can allow for smaller incisions and faster recovery times. For many children and adults, this means less pain and a quicker return to daily activities. In addition, minimally invasive procedures can reduce scarring, which for many children and adults, means improved self esteem and body image.

Dr. Black comes to St. Mary's Medical Center from California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, where he was chief of the pediatric cardiac surgery and the adult congenital heart program. Prior to that, Dr. Black served as the chief of cardiac surgery at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford University and associate professor in the department of surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine.

About St. Mary's Medical Center

St. Mary's Medical Center is a 463-bed acute care hospital located at 901 45th Street in West Palm Beach. The hospital has been serving the medical and health care needs of the greater West Palm Beach area for more than 70 years. St. Mary's Medical Center offers a broad array of services, including medical, surgical, obstetrics, pediatrics, orthopedics, trauma and emergency services. St. Mary's specialty services include a pediatric trauma center, 24-hour children's emergency department, pediatric intensive care unit, comprehensive stroke center, high-risk obstetrical unit, Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Children's Hospital at St. Mary's, the Rehabilitation Institute, and the Memory Disorders Center. St. Mary's Medical Center is fully accredited by the Joint Commission, the nation's oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency.

St. Mary's Medical Center is also home to the Paley Advanced Limb Lengthening Institute at the Joint Preservation and Bone Reconstruction Center. Led by Dr. Paley, a

board-certified, fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeon who is nationally and internationally recognized for his expertise in deformity correction and limb lengthening, the PALLI includes operating rooms, physician offices and a physical therapy center.

To learn more about St. Mary's Medical Center, visit www.stmarysmc.com or call 561-844-6300