

*"We want to make this our students' home for the next 100 years."
~ Dr. Shawn Flynn, President*



*President's Letter
Winter 2024
With Blessings and Gratitude*

Dear SJC Community,

It is an honour to continue serving this amazing community of St. Joseph's College, where **mission invokes the sacred duty of students in our care, and builds for them physical, intellectual, and spiritual spaces to discern truth and build the common good.**

Path Forward

We unveiled the St. Joseph's College Amendment Act, passed at the end of 2023, at our Spring Breakfast in April of this year. This means, while we remain fully affiliated with the University of Alberta and continue to offer all we do at the U of A, **we can now offer another pathway for students through SJC programs, completely owned and run by us.** I am pleased to let you know that our Faculty Senate has approved the curriculum for a 2-year Diploma in the Liberal Arts. With a target launch of September 2026, this entire program is being mapped onto years 1 and 2 at the University of Alberta. **Simply put, all SJC courses under our new diploma program will count for credit towards University degrees and allow us to work with other post-secondary partners on similar transfer agreements.** This will provide students with the first full two years of their undergraduate degrees, all infused with the Catholic tradition. Students will learn what it means to discern a life well-lived, assess where their professional pathways should go, and build foundations for their service to the common good, all while ensuring their smooth transition into University programs.

Current Success

While we have set our sights on the future and growth of our programs, **we continue to achieve amazing things by improving what we have always done by supporting students in academic and residence life.** We have experienced significant growth with high demand for our courses with over 3000 student course enrolments this fall and we are 100% full and managing waiting lists for our residences. Students increasingly make SJC their home and a substantial part of their journeys while at the University of Alberta.

Heart of What We Do

Our students and their journeys are **at the heart of what we do,** and students—as well as parents—see this impact.

"I've enjoyed every term I've lived here at SJC Kateri (Women's Residence) and I will always be thankful for the memories, friends, and moments made here. I'll treasure them for a lifetime. So, even though this is my last term living here, I thank SJC and the Kateri Islanders for bringing me into this wonderful community." ~ Student, Residence Survey

"I feel blessed to be a part of the Catholic community here at SJC... St Joseph's College is not just another building on the U of A campus, it is a home and a vessel in which my faith has been able to thrive." ~ Current Student

"One of my favorite things about having been a student here at St. Joe's is that being a Baptist was never an issue. Even though I might not share the Catholic perspective on all things, my perspective was always welcomed, and I had the freedom to ask questions and provide challenges, while also receiving the same in return which has undoubtedly sharpened my faith and help me grow as an academic. I feel quite confident in saying that the most spiritually significant time of my life thus far has been my time at St. Joe's." ~ Ethan Okken, SJC Student Commencement Speaker Spring 2024

"My son is a third-year elementary education student at the U of A, and St Joe's has been a real 'home' for him, even though he lives with us. He eats lunch at St. Joe's most days, does most of his studying there, has taken courses there and those courses have been the favorite of his whole B.Ed. program so far. And, he's recently started to worship at St. Joe's on Sunday nights as well. . . 'thank you' for providing such a great 'home' for Catholic kids while they're pursuing their degrees - it's really important!" ~ Parent, University of Alberta Student

Community of Faith

As these shared reflections show, **our community of scholarship and faith is active and alive.** SJC has seen packed chapels with 120 students consistently attending our 7pm Sunday night student masses, while eleven (11) students are presenting themselves for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in our SJC worshipping community. We create essential spaces for faith in the public sphere, and ways to discern truth and build the common good in Alberta and beyond.

What's Next?

So, what's next? **Where do our financial needs and priorities lie? After years of financial difficulty, we have righted the ship, but we have not yet gained the resources to fully build out our new academic program nor provide much needed long-term care for our buildings.** In order to ensure we continue to make an impact and provide benefit in students' lives we need to build programming and facility resources.

That is why our new strategic plan, *Foundations and Future Strategic Plan 2025-2030* focuses on these essential areas. For our new programs, investments in human resources and technology to manage data systems will be required. We will need to build awareness and market our program to a new cohort of students. We are also very aware we have an aging and historic building that has not received the care it has needed in

past years, and it will require our attention as we move toward our 100th year.

Assets to Meet Our Needs

Our historic College building dates from 1926, and was designed by Edward Underwood, a famous Alberta architect. It is designed in the Jacobethan revival style of the 1820's and combines classical elements like offset brick walls, gable ends, and has multiple historic and religious crests gracing the building. Combined with our Chapel and its stunning stained glass windows by Christopher Wallis (whose work also graces Rideau Hall in Ottawa), and our men's residence and newest addition the 284-bed, seven-storey women's residence, **we have a formidable set of assets to use as tools to advance our mission and deliver impact. But we must care for them. We want to make this our students' home for the next 100 years.**

We are Thankful

Know that SJC is immensely thankful for your support and generosity. We cannot exist without you. **You have helped us through some difficult years, and we have used the guidance and financial support entrusted to us to turn around and strategically plan for SJC's future.** This success makes us a sustainable Catholic post-secondary institution operating in the non-profit sector. **With your continued prayers and financial support we will be able to maintain and grow a place where in academic pursuit and in residential life, students can thrive in their spiritual lives and build the common good in the communities they will serve when they make their way into the world.**

In Christ,



Dr. Shawn Flynn
President

St. Joseph's College 11325 89 Avenue NW Edmonton AB T6G 2J5

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and the future of St. Joseph's College**

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Thank You for Your Support!

St. Joseph's College | 11325 89 Ave NW | Edmonton, AB T6G 2J5 CA

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