



December 2023

Dear St. Joseph's College Community,

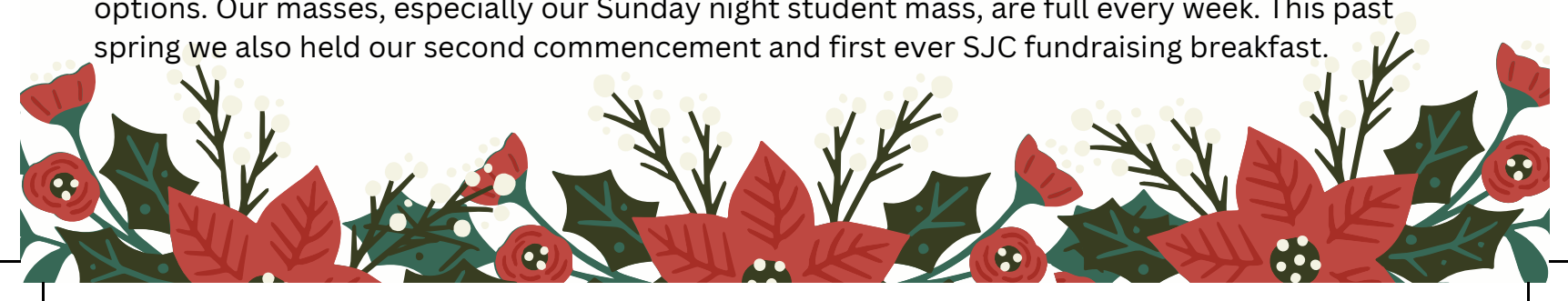
At our Spring Fundraising Breakfast last April, I shared with attendees what a single day is like at SJC – specifically, the bustling activity in our buildings and the hope it sows in students' lives. That inaugural event (our 2nd Fundraising Breakfast will occur on April 20!) sparked many more partners to join our mission. Whether you have been supporting us since that day or for over sixty years, I hope you know how much it means to our community. Thank you!

Last Spring, the College was just starting to come to life again. The years leading up to COVID and the impacts during and after had put SJC under considerable stress. Your support as donors and friends of SJC sustained us. Thus, I have much good news to share.

The pressures we have weathered successfully come in a very specific moment in Canada. Catholic Higher Education is under pressure for a number of reasons. You may not know, but the last five years saw the closure of various Catholic Colleges and Universities in Canada. Alberta has multiple options for Catholic Higher Education, and SJC is proud to be the oldest and only one that has a relationship with a premier research University. It is against this backdrop that I share news about the health and future of SJC, while asking for your increased support to ensure we thrive in our mission.

Since my presidency started in 2020, we have pledged operational effectiveness and a responsible use of resources while living our mission. This year I am proud to report that SJC has seen the highest enrolments in our College's history at 2782 students – a 26% increase over the last 7 years! In addition, occupancy is now 97% across both our men's and women's residences. Furthermore, our dining services have exploded this term. On average, we offer 100 more meals per day than this time last year. To fully leverage our facilities to support our mission, we open our buildings for summer groups, now earning over \$500,000 per summer. Given all we have been through, SJC has managed to stay within 1-2% of our budget thanks to our amazing community and your support.

Balancing our budget and increasing student numbers are not our only achievements; we are growing the impact of SJC students and staff. Among several new scholarships is the President's Scholarship. The recipient is required to live, take courses, and provide community service at SJC. One of our professors won the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal and another gained Professor Emeritus status after 39 years of teaching. SJC now sponsors the Edmonton chapter of the Society of Catholic Scientists and hosts an annual Gold Mass. The Basilians celebrated their 200th anniversary, and we have made significant efforts in supporting truth and reconciliation. Importantly, we are also working with the Alberta government on future academic programming options. Our masses, especially our Sunday night student mass, are full every week. This past spring we also held our second commencement and first ever SJC fundraising breakfast.





I am also proud to announce our new mission statement built through a year of community consultations and passed by our Board this September: “St. Joseph’s College is a University community of Catholic higher education rooted in the Gospel, dedicated to helping all people discern truth and build the common good.” With this foundation, in the coming year we will also form a new strategic plan.

None of this happens without your support, and here are three ways you can help:

- **Share** our message: We need your continued support to share the good news about SJC to all you know. We must celebrate the whole College, and all it offers. We are one community; our future will be strong if we celebrate and advocate for all that SJC gives.
- **Engage** new supporters: Like many post-secondaries with focused missions, we are in need of additional donors. We continue to offer new events like this month’s SJC Alumni & Friends reception to expand our fundraising network, and from these we hope to increase the number of SJC donors. At present, only 70 supporters have committed to monthly donations. Might this be the year when you commit in this way? Former students who lived, took courses, or worshiped here are better for their SJC experience, and are now well into their careers. We hope they (and perhaps you?) will choose to support us financially, as we will need them to move forward.
- **Improve** our infrastructure: We fulfill our daily mission in two buildings on campus, and one is nearly 100 years old. Likewise, the record enrolments result in needing more space. Infrastructure investments will be key to supporting the students in our care in the next 50 to 100 years. It is time to set those foundations, and donations to general operations will allow us to continue creating funds for those future needs until a capital campaign is underway.

**How can you support SJC for those students coming after you, and ensure the next generation gets all that you have received and more?** Share the SJC story, and regularize or increase your own financial support. For anyone interested, I will personally meet with you and your friends, and walk you through SJC needs and strengths to help you make the decision of financial support that best works for you.

I am proud to serve as President, and to help build this community through our own family’s monthly donations. Join us.

In Christ,



Dr. Shawn W. Flynn  
President  
St. Joseph’s College

