



"I see a 'whole' College which embodies radical hospitality and generosity, for the benefit of the students in our care; this is the beauty of SJC that I wish you to see."

- Dr. Shawn Flynn, President

President's Letter

Fall/Winter 2025

Dear SJC Community,

As one season ends and another begins, we find ourselves reflecting on the past while looking to the future. We are thankful for the faith and dedication of students entering a new year and season of their lives at St. Joseph's College. In a College connected through community and learning, we witness students stepping forward in their personal, spiritual, and academic lives as they discern who they are, decide where their journeys will take them, and identify ways they will contribute to the common good.

Our mission is front and center

At SJC, students step forward both as community caretakers in residence and through involvement with the Catholic Students' Association. They develop camaraderie through community and shared activities, and establish friendships and a deep faith that will last a lifetime. Our Catholic mission at St. Joseph's College is front and center as students find their way at the University of Alberta. We have grown Campus Ministry under the guidance of a Director, and added a new student intern and a part-time staff member to help meet the spiritual needs of students. A recently held fall retreat saw over 50 student participants exploring their spiritual journeys, and our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program continually grows. Of the 300 in our worshipping community, 13 young adults were welcomed to the Church last Easter, and we have 16 RCIA candidates this year.

Our student worshipping community reflects this spiritual growth as we continue to see more than 120 students at the Sunday night Student Mass in the SJC Chapel adding to the vibrancy of our sacramental life.

We delight in this work of the Holy Spirit in our community.

Flourishing and growing

SJC is also flourishing and growing with positive year-end financial results. Enrolment numbers in SJC courses last year were once again the highest ever experienced with close to 3400 University of Alberta students enrolled in our classes. We are tracking towards these amazing results this year as well, approaching enrollments of 3300, and we are only at the halfway mark of the year. We continue to do what we have always done: delivering quality academic programming infused with the Catholic intellectual tradition. Added to this success, the use of our residences for short-term rental accommodations through the summer brought in much needed revenue to cover the costs of operating the College, and during the school year we continue to be at or near residence capacity in our men's and women's residences.

Quality of teaching, scholarship, and research

The demand for our courses has never been higher in large part due to the quality of teaching our faculty deliver day-in and day-out, as they both teach and pursue their own scholarship and research. The fruits of their work is shared with the community on a local level through initiatives like our faculty-led Academic Speakers Series and is recognized on a global level as demonstrated by a recently awarded grant from the Research Council of Lithuania (which is similar to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant in Canada) to Dr. Indre Cuplinskas as one of a team of five on an international research project.

Positive impact on students

We progress towards a new 2-Year Liberal Arts Diploma with a focus on discernment, delivered and owned entirely by SJC, targeted to launch September 2027. This program, made possible by our update to Legislation, will offer another pathway for students as they navigate their educational journey. It will count for transfer credit towards a University of Alberta degree and allow us to work with other post-secondary partners on similar transfer agreements. We are making progress towards its realization, and envision the positive impact this will have on students, the community, and on our historic relationship with the U of A and post-secondary education in Alberta.

Stewardship of our resources

Success in its many forms comes of course as a result of hard work, sacrifice, and deliberate decisions which pave the path forward as we work to steward our resources responsibly.

The positive financial scenario we have created is a realization of the journey we have been on the past few years. We have benefited from the increase in academic course

revenues, maximized revenue through the summer from short-term rentals of our residences, and continue to carefully monitor expenses as we operate on a daily basis. This has allowed us to accomplish many things including completing a number of deferred capital and building repairs and improvements, as well as enhancements to student residences like new windows on some floors, but it sets the bar high as we move into the future.

Continue this momentum

With the approach of our 100th anniversary and celebrations starting in the fall of 2027, we must reflect not only on our past and current successes but seriously consider our new reality of growth, and resource and infrastructure needs, so we can continue this momentum into the future. What needs to be done to continue on this positive path, to developing community, learning, and legacy as set out in our strategic plan? How do we continue to grow our mission as a university community of Catholic higher education rooted in the gospel? And where will we find the financial resources to do this while facing the continued needs of an almost 100 year-old building that is showing its age and requires significant work to maintain its structural integrity?

The answer is as simple as it is complex.

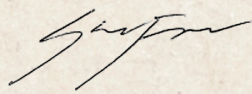
We do this together, moving confidently and purposefully as we continue to focus on student success in academic and residence life, ensuring students are prepared to build the common good in the communities they will serve, and to improve the spaces and supports from which they will set those foundations, at St. Joseph's College.

For all that has been given

As we enter this season of giving, I thank you and our entire community for all that has been given to St. Joseph's College and for all that is yet to be received. I see a 'whole' College which embodies radical hospitality and generosity, for the benefit of the students in our care; this is the beauty of SJC that I wish you to see.

With the guidance, prayers, and financial support of our faithful community we will continue to achieve great things.

In Christ



Dr. Shawn Flynn
President





"Kateri will always be a community and a place that I'll treasure for a lifetime. My university experience has been made all the better by it and I will forever be grateful to the residence team...who made my experience here a great one."

~ A Student's experience in the SJC Women's Residence



"The talks and adoration were the highlight for me. It was a really good way to grow in my faith and feel more a part of the SJC community."

~ A Student attending the SJC Campus Ministry Fall Retreat 2025



"My class at SJC was always a great start to my day. I gained not only educational insight, but spiritual insight as well."

"The professor took care to ensure every student from every position and background understood and could apply the information to their own daily lives."

"Such an incredible class! I had a wonderful semester and learned so much."

"Beautifully open class, very respectful environment."

~ University of Alberta Students reflecting on SJC Courses