



**SJC**  
ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## Fall Message from the President's Office

September 16, 2026

*Memorial of  
Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian*



**Dear St. Joseph's College Community,**

A warm welcome to each and every one of you, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members, as we begin the 2026-2027 academic year!

My name is Matthew Kostelecky and I'm Acting President at SJC for the 2026-2027 academic year while Dr. Shawn Flynn is on sabbatical. Dr. Flynn will return and begin his second term as SJC President on July 1, 2027. I write to introduce myself to the community and to provide a fall update, reflecting on recent accomplishments and continued growth here at SJC, the challenges we face, and the exciting initiatives coming in the future.

### **Buildings are full of life**

With the fall term now underway, our buildings are full of life: more than 340 students have recently moved into our near-capacity men's and women's residences; academics is thriving with very strong enrollment, including more than 3200 enrollments in courses this academic year; Campus Ministry is back to its vital work with student retreats, ministries, and outreach underway; and the Worshipping Community continues to thrive. As Acting President, I am humbled to see the variety and complexity of our College's efforts and activities.

### **A genuinely remarkable place**

Last year (2025-2026), the College had many successes. From transformational student experiences to important research by faculty, from record course enrollments to near record numbers of students entering the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program, and being welcomed into the Catholic Church, much good work occurred. I'm grateful to see the College continually changing and growing while remaining faithful to its extraordinary mission. SJC is a genuinely remarkable place.

### **Repairs and renovations remain a continual concern**

The College also continues to face its share of challenges. Our historic building is lovely, but needed repairs and renovations remain a continual concern. This summer's record rainfall caused several floods, resulting in damage to rooms in the men's residence, and our basement. Additionally, a leaky kitchen steam line required substantial remediation and closed the dining hall kitchen for a good part of the summer. Considering our College hosts many groups in our residences in summer, this placed additional strain on staff. Thankfully, we were able to deal with each of these building issues - all while keeping our summer guests fed (even without a kitchen!).

### **Embarking on two substantive projects**

As we look forward with hope and anticipation to the coming year, we are embarking on two substantive projects, marking significant and historic milestones for the College - the launching of SJC's Diploma in Liberal Arts and the celebration of St. Joseph's College's 100th year anniversary.



# Fall Message from the President's Office



## Our own academic program

Following the update of our Act of Legislation a few years ago, SJC is preparing to launch, for the first time, our own academic program, the **Diploma in Liberal Arts**. Rooted in Catholic engagement with the world, this two-year program fully embodies SJC's mission, and introduces students to a broad range of disciplines that foster personal discernment and educate the whole person. The Diploma offers full transferability to the U of A's Faculty of Arts, guaranteeing admission into the third year of a Bachelor of Arts program. Enrollment will open this October for an inaugural Fall 2027 cohort.

## Honouring our past, present and future

St. Joseph's College is at a most momentous milestone with its **100-year anniversary**. While the original Act of Legislation and construction that brought our College into being dates back to 1926, the first SJC classes and first Mass in our chapel were held in 1927. We have decided to celebrate our anniversary in the 2027-2028 year, marking the year we came together in community. Building on the work started last year by Dr. Flynn, we will spend this year further developing the many ways we will joyfully celebrate SJC's centennial year from September 2027 to April 2028, honouring our past, present and future, while laying strong foundations for SJC's next 100 years!

## Mission that extends beyond the walls

We will continue to update you on our work with seasonal letters from the President's Office. In the meantime, my door is open, and I would very much welcome any and all to drop by, send a message, or arrange to meet over coffee to discuss SJC's impact on your family and life.

As a Catholic institution of higher education, SJC is part of a mission that extends well beyond the walls of our buildings. On September 16, this memorial feast day of St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian, we pray that the witness of these two leaders and martyrs of the early Church will inspire all of us as we move forward, seeking to be faithful witnesses to the Gospel in every part of our daily lives.

All good things,

Dr. Matthew Kostelecky

**Diploma in  
Liberal Arts**

**Discern your  
future**

**Find out who  
you are meant to be**



*Applications open October 2026*



*Welcome BBQ, SJC Courtyard, Sept. 2, 2026*



*Matt taking part in SJC's Welcome BBQ*