President's Message
Season of Giving 2026

November 4, 2026



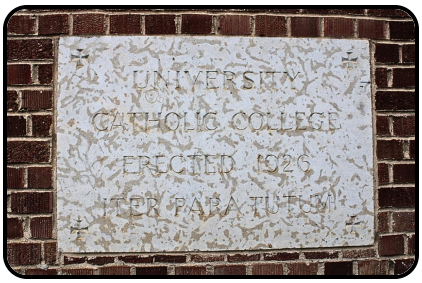
Memorial of
St. Charles Borromeo

Dear St. Joseph's College Community,

Iter para tutum

These words are carved on the cornerstone of St. Joseph's College (SJC), which was laid 100 years ago on September 22, 1926, as a permanent testament to SJC's purpose. Those who planned, organized, and sacrificed to bring this remarkable place into being chose an apt phrase for its foundation. Borrowed from an ancient Marian hymn, it means "Prepare a safe journey", and has been a quiet anchor for our work for the past century.

Expectation and Joy



As Advent and Christmas approach, we wait with expectation and joy to celebrate the good news that was announced so long ago but is ever new and fresh. I encourage all of us, especially at this time of the year, to reflect on SJC, on the impact that this place has had on your own journey, on the journeys of your family and friends, and on the journeys of countless others.

May we all hear and tell the story of how the College has made real the promise inscribed on our cornerstone.

Transition and Transformation

The students who live, study, and worship here are going through a period of transition and transformation: from high school to university to the world of work; from their families to our community to the possibility of families of their own. SJC's task within this period of change is to be a community of learning, a safe home, and a community where the deepest questions of meaning and purpose are welcome, where lifelong friendships are born, and where young adults can make their faith authentically their own. SJC strives to prepare a safe journey for so many. Your prayers and support make you a part of this shared, noble, and life-changing project.

SJC's Impact

It is an honour, as Acting President for this academic year, to hear stories of SJC's impact on students and the larger community.



Academics*:* Past and present students often say that the courses at SJC are unique, with a greater freedom of inquiry than in their other classes. For instance, a recent alumnus recalled that their SJC professor explicitly encouraged intellectual openness and courage, telling the class, ***"Argue any thesis you wish. I don't need you to agree with me. I only care that you pursue truth, reason rigorously, and write compellingly."***

Many students note that the College cultivates both open minds and mature faith, and that their SJC courses were the most important to them personally. One student recently noted that the course they took at SJC was ***"One of my favourite classes I've taken at the U of A. It was honestly the best course I've taken so far."***



Residences: Our men's and women's residences have a rich history, and are remembered as a place where students quickly feel welcome and part of a community, and where enduring friendships are made. ***"Community within a community"*** is an oft-repeated refrain. Students happily refer to SJC as their *"**home"*** and former residents say their friendships have lasted long after graduation.

*"**A community and a place that I'll treasure for a lifetime"*** is how one recent resident described it.



Campus Ministry: Through individual spiritual guidance, outreach, student retreats, discussion groups and Bible studies, a thriving RCIA process, twice-weekly adoration, and a packed-to-capacity 7:00 p.m. student Mass, Campus Ministry continues to be the heart of student spiritual life at SJC.

Students frequently describe this ministry as providing opportunities where they feel seen, supported, and accompanied on their personal journey of faith. They experience ***"spaces of encounter where students become more intimate with Christ than anywhere else."***



Worshipping Community: Our historic Chapel remains an anchor not only for students, but for generations of alumni, parishioners, and neighbours who gather here each week. The Worshipping Community breathes life into our liturgical celebrations and embodies the warmth of Christian fellowship that defines SJC.

An Extraordinary Blessing Requiring Ongoing Care and Resources

A century of daily life, study, scholarship, and worship at SJC is an extraordinary blessing. But the work we do here cannot be sustained by goodwill alone. It requires the ongoing care of our historic home and the financial resources to maintain a safe and vibrant community. The College is facing substantial challenges with the aging infrastructure of our historic building, requiring hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair and remediate this year alone. It is not simply a matter of maintaining an old building. It is much more than that. We must preserve the place where students form lifelong friendships; where they learn, study, and debate; where they discern their future.

Just as our founders sacrificed to establish the College a century ago, this generation has a responsibility to ensure that students today and tomorrow can benefit from what has been built, so that future generations may also find a safe journey through their university experience.



100-Year Anniversary Celebrations

It has now been 100 years since the sod was turned and the cornerstone of our building was laid in 1926, but it was in 1927 that the first Mass in the SJC Chapel was celebrated, the first residents entered our building, and the first students took classes at SJC. To mark 100 years since we first came together in community, we are preparing to celebrate our centennial anniversary during the academic year 2027-2028. We recognize we are honouring not just an historic building, but an ongoing century-long journey of community, faith, and learning.

Our centennial celebrations will include opportunities for worshipping, reflection and celebration, and a legacy capital campaign. Details on all our plans will be forthcoming, to be announced at **SJC's annual Spring Breakfast on Saturday, April 17, 2027**.

As we prepare for our 100-year celebrations, we want to hear from you. My door is open, and I would love to hear your stories of camaraderie and fellowship, of SJC's impact on you and your family. We hope you will join us in

celebrating SJC's legacy and help set the foundation for the next hundred years. Please reach out to us at **sjcadmin@ualberta.ca** if you would like to be involved or to share your story.

Thank You for Your Support

On this memorial of St. Charles Borromeo, who spent his energies and resources on the formation of the young and care of the suffering, we are reminded that Christian education has always depended on the generosity of those who came before us. **Thank you for being part of the SJC community. Your support today and in the future will help prepare the way for St. Joseph's College for the next hundred years.**

May this letter find you well, as darkness descends and winter approaches, with an expectant and hopeful eye to the light that will come at Christmas.

Wishing you and your families a happy and blessed Advent,



Dr. Matthew Kostelecky
Acting President



Give a Gift Today!

As we enter the season of giving, St. Joseph's College
invites you to show your support
with a gift to our **annual fundraising campaign**.

Your support will ensure St. Joseph's College
continues to provide students with opportunities
for transformative learning,
resources for personal development,
and a safe home in the heart of the University of Alberta.

Make an immediate difference
in the lives of students and SJC
by clicking the GIVE ONLINE button
to submit your gift securely via Canada Helps.

GIVE ONLINE

For more information on other ways to give,
please check the SJC website at GIVING.

Donations to SJC can be made by
Phone . Online . Directly by Bank . In Person . By Mail

GIVING

Gifts to St. Joseph's College are tax deductible
and a charitable tax receipt will be issued for your gift.

Charitable Registration No 8876 10194 RR0001

If you have questions or require assistance, please contact:
Debbie Buchynski, Director of Advancement
at 780.492.9447 or by email at sjcdev@ualberta.ca

Thank you for your support!

SJC
ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Donor Privacy and Compliance Statement

St. Joseph's College respects your privacy. We protect your personal information and adhere to all legislative requirements with respect to protecting privacy. We do not rent, sell or trade our mailing lists. The information you provide will be used to deliver services to keep you informed and up to date on the activities of St. Joseph's College, including programs, services, special events, funding needs, opportunities to give, and more, through periodic contacts. If at any time you wish not to receive this communication, please contact Advancement directly at (780) 492-9447 or email sjcdev@ualberta.ca and we will gladly accommodate your request. St. Joseph's College Office of Advancement plans to raise $200,620 through donations and fundraising by April 30, 2027 and it will cost approximately $119,572 to do this. Funds raised will allow SJC to continue providing students with opportunities for transformative learning, resources for personal development, and a safe home in the heart of the University of Alberta. For more information contact Debbie Buchynski, Director of Advancement at (780) 492-9447 or by email debbie.buchynski@ualberta.ca.

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

Unsubscribe | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email & social marketing for free!