Dear College Community,

What a beautiful time it is to gather as a College community, with family and friends, and to share the fruits of many harvests. Whether you are a monthly donor that visits SJC consistently or a friend we have not heard from in some time, I wanted to provide you a brief update and thank you for your continued support.

St. Joseph’s College, rooted in our faith, is alive this fall with the buzz of students studying hard, while they take time for recreation and relaxation. The College is filled with future leaders learning to live their faith in the real world. Students are the heart of what we do at SJC. By exploring the Liberal Arts through our Catholic tradition, students are challenged, renewed, supported, sustained, and transformed to serve their community and build the common good.

In a single day, our faculty and staff are blessed to witness the impact of SJC on our students. Students gather for meals together in our dining halls, study in our lounge and library, engage in activities together, learn through Campus Ministry and the Catholic Students’ Association, are supported in their whole development by our expert faculty and staff, are welcomed into their Catholic tradition through mass and prayer with our worshipping community, are challenged in our courses to think deeply, and make the faith their own as they prepare to serve the world. We offer this SJC community daily and can only provide it with your generous support as donors. Thank you!

This year, I am pleased to announce that SJC has renewed our relationship with the Basilian Fathers as an essential part of our mission. We have negotiated and signed a Basilian Endorsement Agreement. This secures continued Basilian presence in our chapel, secures Fr Warren Schmidt as a Basilian Academic with a pastoral appointment, and expresses shared goals between the College and the Basilian Fathers. This is a long-established relationship, and I am pleased to ensure they remain at the College in the future of lay presidencies. Thus, the chapel community remains an essential part of our mission, and because of the College, we are able to provide Basilian chaplaincy and their academic presence to the community.

We have worked hard at the College to transform our organization for responsible stewardship, without affecting the care of our students. This fall, myself and our Advancement lead have been busy with 1:1 meetings with many of our donors and SJC supporters. We are actively thanking and encouraging everyone to be a renewed part of our mission, and we hope that you continue building this legacy with us. Commit to regular, monthly giving at SJC, or offer your annual gift this Christmas season. Your impact and support matters regardless of the size of the gift; never underestimate how it changes lives.

As we join to build SJC and support the students in our care, I extend a personal invitation to you. I invite you first to our Advent reception (Thursday, December 8th at 5pm in our Newman Centre).
Also, I am happy to announce a new annual Fundraising Breakfast for St. Joseph’s College. This will become the major fundraising event for SJC and will showcase our SJC community. It will be your chance to support the College, meet old and new friends, fill a table, hear about the good work we are doing, and celebrate with your fellow community members. Please plan to attend on Saturday morning, April 22nd at 10am, held at the University Club on the UofA’s campus. I look forward to seeing you there, and I have included an invitation to reserve your spot.

Continue to support our amazing College, its students, and community. Renew your giving, come to our College events, and show your support for this community that gives so much to so many.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas,

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

Some of the faces your contributions help support!