

# *Ceremony of Commitment to Learning*

## **NEW UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS:**

Will all new undergraduate and graduate students please rise. Will you commit yourself to learn and to reflect, to accept challenge and change, to serve and to strengthen the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, including all members of our community, regardless of race, religion, sexual or gender identity, by your presence as a student?

### *We will.*

By the authority vested in me by the common boards of trustees, I welcome you all as full members of these institutions in the Benedictine tradition of our founders and sponsors. May you flourish and grow together in wisdom.

## **RETURNING STUDENTS:**

Will you affirm your commitment to provide an inclusive and authentic welcome, friendship, good example, and advice to all new students?

### *We will.*

## **FACULTY:**

Will you affirm your commitment to inclusion within and outside of the classroom, to challenge, inspire, and mentor all students through their life and work in this community?

### *We will.*

## **ADMINISTRATION, STAFF, AND MONASTIC COMMUNITY:**

Administration, staff, and monastic community please rise. Will you affirm your commitment to sustain the inclusive and equitable educational work of these institutions and members of this community through your labor and leadership?

### *Everyone: We will.*

## **EVERYONE:**

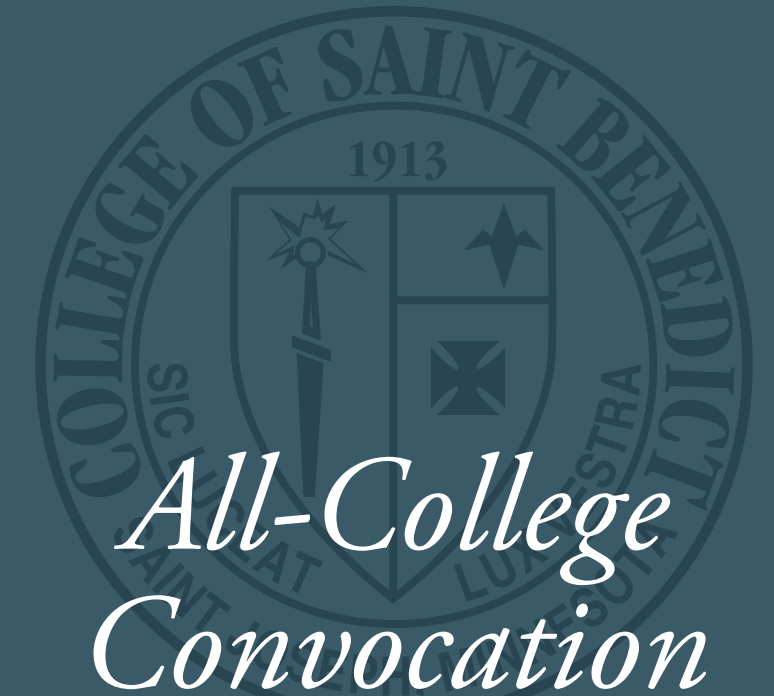
Will you commit yourselves to creating a welcoming and inclusive community for all, to support and nurture our Benedictine values as we engage with all students, faculty, staff and friends, regardless of race, religion, political, sexual or gender identity, and to continue your own pursuit of learning? Please respond with "we will."

### *Everyone: We will.*

## **BLESSING:**

May God, who has gathered us together as seekers of knowledge, confirm us in our purpose and bring us to that wisdom for which we long, both now and forever.

### *Everyone: Amen.*



# *All-College Convocation*

11 a.m. Friday, August 25, 2023

Benedicta Arts Center, Escher Auditorium

COLLEGE OF  
Saint Benedict



Saint John's  
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF  
Saint Benedict



Saint John's  
UNIVERSITY

# Order of Exercises

PROCESSIONAL\* ..... Faculty and Administration

INVOCATION .....Ms. Jessie Bazan  
*SJU Interim Director of  
Campus Ministry*

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME.....Dr. Brian J. Bruess  
*President, College of Saint Benedict  
and Saint John's University*

STUDENT SENATE WELCOME .....Ms. Clair Moonen  
*College of Saint Benedict  
Student Senate President*  
Mr. Wesley Kirchner  
*Saint John's University  
Student Senate President*

CONVOCATION ADDRESS.....Dr. Erica Stonestreet  
*Associate Professor of Philosophy*

CEREMONY OF  
COMMITMENT TO LEARNING.....Dr. Brian J. Bruess

ALMA MATERS..... College of Saint Benedict Alma Mater  
*Led by Dr. Gye Hyun Jung,  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Music*  
Saint John's University Alma Mater  
*Led by Dr. Bradley Miller,  
Associate Professor of Music*

BLESSING.....S. Michaela Hedican  
*Saint Benedict's Monastery*

RECESSIONAL\* ..... Faculty and Administration

MUSICIANS ..... Dr. Amy Grinsteiner, piano  
*Associate Professor of Music*  
Dr. Justin Zanchuk, trumpet  
*Associate Professor of Music*

*\*Audience stands during Processional and Recessional*

## Saint Benedict's Ever

Lyrics By S. Enid Smith, OSB

S. Firmin Escher, OSB

With dignity ♩=96

Staunch guar - dians of truth, dif - fus - ing your light to  
all who love wis - dom and hon - or the right. Saint  
Ben - e - dict's ev - er, your prais - es we sing, our  
love and our loy - al - ty glad - ly we bring! With  
you as our guide, we fol - low the quest of  
learn - ing that frees us but binds us no less to ac -  
cept what is true, to do what is right: the  
sword of the spir - it, our light and our might! Saint  
Ben - e - dict's ev - er, your prai - ses we sing, our  
love and our loy - al - ty glad - ly we bring!

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## Alma Mater

High a - bove the Sa - ga - ta - gan tow' - ring o'er the oak and pine,  
Proud - ly stands our Al - ma Ma - ter e - ver let her bea - con shine.  
Al - ma Ma - ter we'll be lo - yal e - ver love and praise thy name.  
Hail, all hail St. John's our mo - ther, we thy hon - or will pro - claim.

Words: Eldred Cleare, SJU '43

Music: Innocent Gertken, OSB, and Dominic Keller, OSB arr. Axel Theimer, SJU '71

*Both the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University occupy the original homelands of the Dakhóta and Anishinaabe peoples. We honor, respect, and acknowledge the Indigenous peoples forcibly removed from this territory, whose connection remains today. Saint Benedict's Monastery and Saint John's Abbey previously operated boarding schools for Native children. Now, students, faculty, and staff are working to repair relationships with our Native Nation neighbors.*