



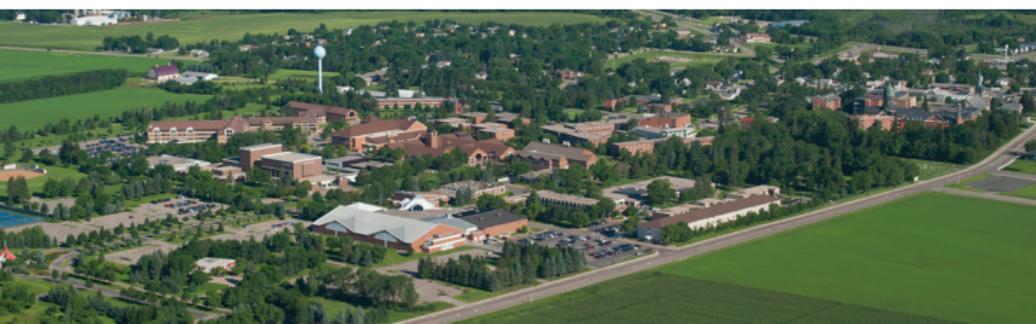
HIGHER EDUCATION  
IN THE CATHOLIC  
AND BENEDICTINE  
TRADITION

A SENSE OF PLACE

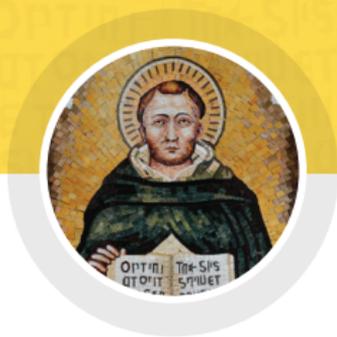
# OUR TWO INSTITUTIONS



The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University are Catholic and Benedictine, liberal arts colleges founded and enriched by Saint Benedict's Monastery and Saint John's Abbey. Our academic communities are dedicated to the intellectual, spiritual and ethical formation of all their members and to academic excellence in the search for truth. The founding and ongoing inspiration of our institutions is the Catholic intellectual tradition, in the context of Benedictine values and spirituality. The Catholic identity of these schools is more than just a matter of religious sponsorship or the personal faith of members of the community, important as these are. Our schools are a home for thoroughgoing engagement with the ideas and traditions of Catholic culture and thought. The intellectual life of our campuses affirms the harmony of faith and reason, honors the full dignity of each person, and seeks to promote justice and the common good, all of which are central to the Catholic intellectual tradition.



# THE CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL TRADITION



The Catholic intellectual tradition has developed over the centuries and has long held that truth is too vast for any one expression to fully encompass. It is a treasury of scriptural reflection, drama, literature, poetry, music, systems of philosophy, norms for living, as well as art, architecture, and science. It forms the whole person rather than the intellect alone. Catholic thought and tradition are always a potential aspect of our discussions and of our scholarly activities. They are carefully examined where they have a bearing. As participants in the Catholic intellectual tradition, our schools are animated by a sacramental awareness of the ways in which the divine is manifest in the created world; in history, ritual, and imagination; and in the human heart. CSB and SJU extend an ecumenical hospitality to all who enter the intellectual community open to conversation with the Catholic Benedictine tradition. Catholic thought is not a perspective into which students are indoctrinated, nor are faculty limited in their academic freedom of inquiry and expression. To the contrary, the integrated perspectives of faith and reason enrich our pedagogy and scholarly discussions. Those who stand in other faith traditions are no strangers here and are cordially invited to be witness to the truth as they see it. Likewise, we welcome those who do not consider themselves a part of any religious tradition, but who devote themselves with passion and integrity to their disciplines and to a transformative education of their students.

# BENEDICTINE IDENTITY



The Benedictine wisdom tradition is an expression of the Catholic intellectual tradition. This tradition was inaugurated by Saint Benedict, a sixth-century monk, who wrote a rule for communal living known for its humanity, balance, and moderation. The Benedictine way of life is animated by Christ who is encountered in Scripture, in the human person, and in the *Rule of Benedict* as it is lived in community. Thus, the Benedictine tradition is very much a living tradition. The members of our monastic communities provide ongoing witness to the values, including hospitality, community, and stewardship that distinguish Benedictine wisdom. Inspired by this living witness, these schools strive to “listen with the ear of the heart,” as the *Rule* directs, to the needs of each member of our communities. Benedictine education calls for a lively interplay between rigorous thinking and the development of practices for right living. CSB and SJU prioritize community building, the awareness that we are part of a larger ecology, and the just and sustainable use of resources. At the same time, there is a high level of respect for individual persons here. Living in community forms us to embrace difference and provides opportunities for mutual support. Ultimately, the education that is shaped by our Benedictine values sets its sights on the transformation of the human mind and heart. It encourages an active sense of belonging to our campuses and to our larger world community.

# BENEDICTINE VALUES



## AWARENESS OF GOD

To look for God not in the abstract but in the ordinary events of every day.

## COMMUNITY LIVING

To become who we are by our relationships with others.

## DIGNITY OF WORK

To appreciate the dignity of work in God's creation.

## HOSPITALITY

To offer warmth, acceptance, and joy in welcoming others.

## JUSTICE

To work toward a just order in our immediate environment and in the larger society.

## LISTENING

To hear keenly and sensitively the voices of persons and all created beings.

## MODERATION

To be content with living simply and finding balance in work, prayer, and leisure.

## PEACE

To strive for peace on all levels: with self, others, and God.

## RESPECT FOR PERSONS

To respect each person regardless of class, background, or professional skill.

## STABILITY

To cultivate rootedness and a shared sense of mission.

## STEWARDSHIP

To appreciate and to care lovingly for all the goods of this place.

# RESOURCES



A variety of opportunities to learn about the Catholic and Benedictine tradition, particularly as that tradition has developed at these institutions and among these two monastic communities, are available through dinners, book discussions, and speakers. The following websites provide additional access to development resources.

**COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT AND  
SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY**

[www.csbsju.edu](http://www.csbsju.edu)

**BENEDICTINE INSTITUTE**

[www.csbsju.edu/benedictine-institute](http://www.csbsju.edu/benedictine-institute)

**SAINT BENEDICT'S MONASTERY**

[sbm.osb.org](http://sbm.osb.org)

**SAINT JOHN'S ABBEY**

[www.saintjohnsabbey.org](http://www.saintjohnsabbey.org)

**ASSOCIATION OF BENEDICTINE  
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

[www.abcu.info](http://www.abcu.info)

**COLLEGIUM**

[www.collegium.org](http://www.collegium.org)