



CATHOLIC IDENTITY AT BENEDICTINE COLLEGE

ATCHISON, KANSAS

Ten-Year Review of Ex Corde Ecclesiae in America





*“The mission that the Church, with great hope,
entrusts to Catholic universities...
concerns the very future of humanity.”*

BLESSED JOHN PAUL II

October 22, 2011

Your Excellency, Archbishop Joseph Naumann,

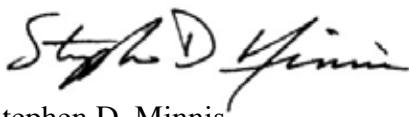
Greetings on this first-ever feast of Blessed John Paul II. As you know, this is the anniversary of the day Blessed John Paul II became pope, and spoke the words “Be not afraid! Open the doors to Christ!” Thirty-three years later, it feels right that Benedictine College is celebrating the beatification of the late great pontiff by reporting to you about our progress with the apostolic constitution for higher education that he gave the Church, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*.

This report responds to the “Ten-Year Review of the Application of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* for the United States” requested by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Catholic Education and your office earlier this year. We hope this report is not merely an account of objective criteria met, but a picture of a place that produces men and women who will transform the world through their commitment to intellectual, personal, and spiritual greatness. We hope to show why we are the flagship college of the New Evangelization.

In recognition of his beatification, Benedictine College has made one of the late pontiff’s favorite phrases, “Be Not Afraid,” our theme for the year. At our August convocation, Princeton’s Dr. Robert P. George challenged our students: “The love of Christ that demands the impossible also emboldens and empowers us to do it. So do it!” At our May Commencement ceremonies, George Weigel will end our year by pointing students again to Blessed John Paul II.

I have challenged our community this year to follow John Paul’s example and “Be not afraid” to be a truly Catholic college, fully in step with the Church and fully engaged in our contemporary culture. I hope you will see his spirit in the report that follows.

Yours in Christ,



Stephen D. Minnis



EX CORDE as MAGNA CARTA

“I then felt obliged to propose an analogous Document for Catholic Universities as a sort of ‘magna carta’, enriched by the long and fruitful experience of the Church in the realm of Universities and open to the promise of future achievements that will require courageous creativity and rigorous fidelity.”

— Blessed John Paul II

When Blessed John Paul II called *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* “a sort of ‘magna carta’” he no doubt envisioned a scenario in which a Catholic college could use his Constitution on Higher Education to help reaffirm its identity, clarify its mission, and renew its quest to become a truly great Catholic college.

There is perhaps no better example of the successful application of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* than Benedictine College.

Over the last two decades, we have not only experienced objective proofs of success, but undeniable signs of God’s blessing. From the classroom to the residence halls to our new art and architecture, the fruits of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* are everywhere on campus. In this report, we want to share with you how the Pope’s words have taken on flesh and dwell richly in the life — and lives — of Benedictine College.

*Give your hands to serve
and your heart to love*
- Mother Teresa



Inaugural nursing class in the Mother Teresa Center for Nursing and Health Education, which was dedicated on the centenary anniversary of Mother Teresa's birth.

I CATHOLIC IDENTITY & MISSION

The USCCB Education Committee’s document “Ten-Year Review of the Application of Ex corde Ecclesiae for the United States” (Nov. 14, 2010) asks:

“1. In what ways have the Catholic identity and mission of the institution been clarified and enhanced during the first 10 years of The Application of Ex Corde Ecclesiae in the United States? How has the support of the bishop and the engagement of the president been beneficial?”

Since the year 2000, Benedictine College has clarified and enhanced our Catholic identity and mission in several ways.

In this section, we describe how our Catholic mission is alive in our:

Academics & Faculty



Campus Life & Traditions



College Ministry & Spiritual Emphasis



Leadership & Administration



Art & Architecture

“Catholic universities cherish their Catholic tradition and, in many cases, the special charisms of the religious communities that founded them.”

— *The Application of Ex Corde Ecclesiae for the United States*



ACADEMICS & FACULTY

Prospective Faculty

All prospective faculty and senior staff members have a “mission interview” with the president and dean of the college. The president and the dean explain the nature and significance of the mission in the life of the college, and prospective employees are asked how they envision themselves contributing to this mission. This interview is a crucial step in the hiring process.



Orientation for new faculty includes both an orientation to the mission and specific exploration of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*.

Faculty and Curriculum

The Catholic identity of the institution is expressed throughout the curriculum.

Students are required to take three philosophy and three theology courses as part of their graduation requirements.



Courses in departments as diverse as English, sociology, political science, economics, and mass communications include encyclicals and other Church documents.



Departments across the college curriculum regularly offer whole courses that reflect the Christian inspiration of the college, including

Catholic Social Teaching (economics and theology), Spirituality in Literature (English), Medieval Lay Religion (history), Liturgical Choir (music), and Christianity and Mass Media (journalism and mass communications).



Various programs in the college have specific requirements that reflect our Catholic identity. Our business school requires students to take Ethics from the philosophy department and Christian Moral Life from the theology department as graduation requirements. Our nursing program requires students to take a Christian bioethics course from the theology department.



Our philosophy and theology departments cooperate with each other, with other departments, and with the Archdiocese to maintain the strong Catholic identity of our curriculum.



The chairs of philosophy and theology jointly offer a three-semester great books course called “Faith and Reason,” explicitly fulfilling the call of *Ex Corde* to “promote dialogue ... so that it can be seen more profoundly how faith and reason bear harmonious witness to the unity of all truth”.



The philosophy department centers its curriculum on the teachings of St.

Thomas Aquinas; it offers a special program (called a co-major) tailored specifically to allow students to combine a philosophy major with a major in some other field of study, thereby providing students an opportunity to integrate knowledge across areas of specialization.



After years of being known as the religious studies department, our theology department heeded the call of *Ex Corde* that all Catholic colleges have a department of theology, and reclaimed its proper name. In cooperation with the Archdiocese, the theology department has joined with the education department to develop a certification program for prospective high school theology teachers.



We are the only school in the country that offers a theology methods course in the Education Department for those who want to teach high school.

Fellowships

Benedictine College launched a new academic program on its Atchison campus in 2010, the Gregorian Fellows program. Named for St. Gregory the Great — the first Benedictine to become Pope — the new fellowships provide unique educational opportunities to advance intellectual culture on campus and in the world.



CAMPUS LIFE & TRADITIONS

Catholic Atmosphere

Since 2001, nearly 1,200 Benedictine students have participated in our Leadership Seminar. It provides foundational leadership principles to students considering formal and informal leadership positions, engages students in active learning outside the classroom, and allows the staff selecting the student leaders an opportunity to meet and observe the students before the selection process. The students who attend the Leadership Seminar will then serve as cultural agents who educate new students about the mission and values of the college.



All students are exposed to presentations on emotional and physical chastity at our new student orientation.



Nearly 250 student leaders return to campus early in the fall for a student leader Mass before they begin move-in and orientation for all new students.



Catholic identity informs details of campus life; for instance, the cafeteria serves no meat on Fridays during Lent.



Every year, we adopt spiritual themes to set the tone for campus life and ministry. Past themes have included “Do Something Beautiful

for God,” “Hope Does Not Disappoint,” “Ignite Your Spirit,” and “Forward. Always Forward,” which was inspired by Archabbot Boniface Wimmer’s words, “Forward. Always forward. ... Man’s adversity is God’s opportunity.” Our 2011-2012 theme is “Be Not Afraid,” as we celebrate Blessed John Paul II.



In addition to the regular college ministry offerings, we provide various special spiritual opportunities for the entire campus community. In the past year, for instance, we sponsored “John Paul the Great Days,” “Eucharistic Miracles of the World,” and “The Life of Mother Teresa.”

Campus Traditions

In 2002, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve an alma mater for the College. The lyrics and music of the hymn, “O Lord of Ev’ry Blessing,” were composed by alumni of the college and begins: “O Lord of ev’ry blessing, we praise you for the place that sits above the river and under heaven’s grace. We call her Alma Mater from hearts with love aflame and proudly go rejoicing with Benedictine’s name.” This hymn is regularly used as part of all-school Masses and official college activities.



Each year on the first Sunday in May, women students who have de-

clared their intent to enter religious life are chosen to crown the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Students who have decided to become seminarians serve at a Mass which precedes the crowning. In the past 10 years, 87 men and women from Benedictine have gone on to seminary to prepare for the priesthood or the religious life.



Benedictine College has instituted a prayerful new Commencement weekend event: the March of Light. Graduating seniors take a class picture at a prominent campus location and then process with candles to Mary’s Grotto, where they place their candles before processing on to the Baccalaureate Mass. It is a moment for faculty, staff and students to briefly unite and honor the school’s Catholic identity before students graduate and leave campus.





COLLEGE MINISTRY & SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS

Sacraments

Four daily Masses are offered on campus.



A priest is available in the confessional at regular times twice a day, at campus Masses.



On move-in days at the beginning of the school year, we offer a “family send-off Mass” where families can worship together before parents head home. At the close of this Mass, parents are given a chance to bestow a blessing on their child.

Prayer and Discipleship

Perpetual Eucharistic adoration is offered on campus in a program shared by the Atchison Catholic community, in addition to weekly student-only Eucharistic adoration.



Every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. during the academic year, our president, Stephen D. Minnis, and the Dean of the College, Dr. Kimberly Shankman, lead a Rosary open to the entire Benedictine College community.



Monks, Sisters, and other leaders from our sponsoring communities lead invocations and benedictions at major galas, games, dinners and events.



In 2009, our College Ministry created the annual Interior Life Program. It is a monthly mini-conference on the interior life taught by a theology professor. The goal is to create a

clear path to prayer so a student can live it in his or her daily life.



The campus holds 24-hour vigils to promote the sanctity of life; the vigils include Eucharistic adoration, are held in cooperation with the Knights of Columbus, and are led by Ravens Respect Life.



About 600 students participate in weekly Bible studies.



More than 120 students participate in weekly one-on-one discipleship mentoring.

Pilgrimages

Our Florence campus leads pilgrimage to Norcia, Italy, the birthplace of our founders, St. Benedict and St. Scholastica.



Each Spring Break our College Ministry leads a pilgrimage to Monte Cassino, Subiaco, and Rome, Italy.



Each May our College Ministry leads a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Promoting Vocations

We offer multiple opportunities for vocational discernment, such as the annual Nun Run and Monk Run over spring break, the annual vocation fair, Samuel Group, and spiritual direction by one of the seven campus chaplains.



For years, the college has a tradition called Partners in Prayer where cur-

rent Benedictine College students pray with the Benedictine Sisters.



Our annual vocations fair attracts over 30 diocese and religious orders that come to recruit candidates to the religious life. In the past ten years, 87 students have pursued the priesthood or religious life.

National Scope

In 2010, our College Ministry created the John Paul II Speaker Series to bring prominent Catholic intellectuals and cultural leaders to campus.



The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) was founded at Benedictine College. Our chapter is widely considered a national standard. In the past two years alone, 25 Benedictine graduates have gone on to serve as FOCUS missionaries. Over 400 students have attended a FOCUS National Conference in the last two years.



Several other international, national, and local Catholic associations are active on campus, including the Knights of Columbus, Varsity Catholic, Lifeteen, Communion and Liberation, Partners in Prayer, and Daughters of the King.



Nearly 70 student athletes participate in weekly Varsity Catholic Bible studies.

Social Justice

All student clubs and organizations

are required to complete an annual service project. Other student organizations are specifically committed to respond to the needs of the community, for example, Hunger Coalition's Skip-a-Meal program, tutoring, and Project Concern. (Over 420 students skip a meal every Wednesday and 70 students tutor in the local elementary schools.)

Ravens Respect Life has more than 300 members.

Last year, four busloads traveled more than 48 hours to attend the March for Life. Our March for Life group was featured on EWTN in the documentary *Thine Eyes*.

Social Justice Week annually brings in a diverse array of speakers to address the needs of the poor, underprivileged and vulnerable members of society.

College ministry's extensive service to the poor and advocacy efforts are described in the "service to the wider society" section.

Residence Life

All residence halls are single-sex.

Residential living policies follow the Church's teaching on human sexuality by upholding the dignity of the human person. Policies on alcohol usage, visitation, and cohabitation reflect a Christian anthropology.

Residence life integrates faith and reason through daily discipline meetings, our residence life policy and procedures, and our staff members who try to exemplify this principle.

Resident assistants are required to have two programs per semester, one of which is spiritual. For example, residence halls often host a Rosary or Morning Prayer.

Room blessings are held every fall after move-in day.

There are crucifixes in all dorm rooms.

Resident directors sponsor hall Masses or celebrate the feast days of their hall's namesake.

Halls send student representatives to serve, usher and read at Mass on a rotating basis.

Resident directors and resident assistants invite residence hall members to go to Eucharistic adoration as a group once per semester.

Themes for hall programs often reflect or support the liturgical season.

Student Services

The Counseling Center Staff operate by high ethical standards and act in conformity with Church teaching.

Each campus department acts in accordance with the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church first and foremost through its recruitment and hiring of staff, incorporating Catholic identity into job descriptions, training manuals, and professional development opportunities.

The Student Health Center provides health care in conformity with the Church's ethical and religious teaching and directives. In particular, the Health Center supports the Church's teaching on life from conception to natural death and on issues related to human sexuality. The Center does not make referrals or provide information for services that conflict with Catholic teaching.



Sister Thomasita Homan, OSB, and Benedictine College student, Sister Presentasia Chipeta, from Tanzania, who stayed at Mount St. Scholastica.



LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION

President and Board of Directors

Our president, Stephen D. Minnis, is a sought-after commentator on Catholic identity and public life. He delivered an address on academic freedom at a Catholic college to the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C.; has spoken at regional Legatus society meetings; delivered speeches on the importance of spiritual values in the workplace; addressed the Kansas City Catholic Legal Association; been interviewed on Catholic radio; addressed the regional association of college career counselors on the relevance of the principles of the *Rule of Saint Benedict* for contemporary students; and contributed a chapter on the importance of mission in a successful organization for a book on leadership directed at business leaders.



President Stephen Minnis also launched the Memorare Army prayer campaign, which is a group of students, faculty, staff, and friends of the college who serve as prayer warriors to seek the assistance of the Blessed Mother for special campus intentions.



Orientation for service on our Board of Directors includes a detailed presentation on Catholic identity and mission. The Monks and Sisters who are part of the board provide spiritual guidance in a variety of ways, including the celebration of Mass before each board meeting and the opening and closing of meetings in prayer.



School policy requires that we grant honorary degrees or confer other commendations only to those candidates whose public positions are compatible with our Catholic mission and identity.



Priests and religious Sisters occupy key positions of leadership in our college community, including six board members, five chaplains, faculty members, the Director for Mission and Ministry, and the associate dean of the college.

President's Cabinet

Dr. Kimberly Shankman, Dean of the College, is the Thomas Aquinas Fellow for the Center for the Advancement of Catholic Higher Education and chair of the Kansas State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She recently spoke at Columbia University about Pope Benedict XVI's *Caritas in Veritate*.



Charles Gartenmayer, Athletic Director, was featured on Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) for his role in Varsity Catholic, a prayer initiative for student athletes.



Joe Wurtz, Dean of Student Life, is a member of the board of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students and one of its first missionaries.



Tom Hoopes, Vice President of College Relations, is the former editor of the *National Catholic Register* and *Faith & Family* magazine. He and his wife's "User's Guide to Sunday" column appears weekly in the Register. He is a frequent contributor to *Our Sunday Visitor*, CatholicVote.org, the Knights of Columbus' Fathers for Good and other Catholic media outlets.



Father Brendan Rolling, OSB, Director for Mission and Ministry, is a member of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association and has written for *Our Sunday Visitor*.



We developed and expanded our College Minister position into the current cabinet-level Director for Mission and Ministry position.



We make use of external benchmarking tools such as the Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College and the National Catholic Register's Catholic Identity Survey is used to identify key identity/mission indicators.

THE STORY OF MARY & BENEDICTINE COLLEGE

In 1856, Fr. Henry Lemke, who founded our St. Benedict's Abbey, found himself in a life-threatening situation. He had traveled a distance to visit the sick. Without food or adequate fluids, he began the walk home. That night he lost his bearings in a frightening thunderstorm. Lemke found himself disoriented, weak, surrounded by darkness, in fast rising waters, with no idea which direction to go.

He directed his prayer for protection through Mary — something the Lutheran convert had rarely done before. As soon as he said the prayer, a light appeared on the horizon. He stumbled toward it and found that it was a lantern hanging in the window of a cottage.

A mother and daughter lived there, and they sheltered him from the storm. He asked why the lantern was hanging in the window at all. The daughter said, "A lady dressed in white appeared to me in a dream and told me to put it there."

Two years later, in 1858, Benedictine College was founded nearby the place where Fr. Lemke was rescued — the same year a lady in white appeared to another little girl in a small town; St. Bernadette in Lourdes, France.

Benedictine College built Mary's Grotto in 2008 to commemorate the appearance of Our Lady in Lourdes and our founding 150 years before. We put a rosary blessed by Pope Benedict XVI and mixed Lourdes water into the foundation, and later featured two stones from the original Lourdes grotto.

The grotto is in the heart of campus. The grotto is the center of several Benedictine traditions: Incoming Freshmen begin their convocation there, and graduating seniors end their time on campus there. Each year on the first Sunday in May, women students who plan to enter religious life crown the statue of Mary. Students who have decided to become seminarians serve at Mass before the crowning.

The *National Catholic Register* and Kansas City, Kan., Archdiocese's *The Leaven* have published stories about the grotto, chronicling how the prayers of the college's Memorare Army built it, how it has become a destination for prayer (and marriage proposals) on campus, and how, according to an airport weather watcher, Grotto prayers stalled a storm from entering Atchison for hours during its dedication.



AWARDS

We recognize Catholic identity through six awards.

The **Humanae Vitae Award** is presented to individuals who have made the Catholic Church's teaching on life, bioethics or human sexuality better known and appreciated.

The **John Paul II Distinguished Speaker** award is presented to individuals for their outstanding contribution to the new evangelization called for by Blessed John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

The **Do Something Beautiful for God** award is presented to individuals or organizations that exemplify what Mother Teresa described; "Every day on awaking, my desire and my enthusiasm is this: Today I must do something beautiful for God."

The **Offeramus Medal** is awarded to women alumnae who exemplify service. Recent recipients include Biblical scholar Sister Irene Nowell, OSB, and pro-life activist Sherry Mefford Lange.

The **Kansas Monk** is awarded to male alumni of the college for exemplary service to the community.

The **Cross of the Order of St. Benedict** honors those who have lived the Benedictine values of our country. A recent recipient is Cardinal Christoph Schönborn of Vienna.



Top to bottom:
An icon of Sts
Scholastica and
Benedict with the
campus Abbey by
College Ministry
director Fr.
Brendan Rolling,
OSB. Blessed
Teresa of Calcutta,
by Dawna Gardner,
commissioned by
Benedictine College
president Stephen D.
Minnis. Students visit
Pope Benedict XVI in
Rome.



Statuary

In addition to our grotto (mentioned above) and Frederick Hart statuary (mentioned under Ecumenism) new campus statues include the following.

We unveiled the latest addition to campus, an eight-foot-tall bronze statue of Saint Benedict — fashioned by Kansas City artist and Benedictine alumnus Tim Mispagel.



The St. Scholastica Plaza on campus features bas-relief and statues commemorating the influence of the Benedictine sisters on our community.

Painting

The first floor of the Haverty Center on campus is organized around a floor-to-ceiling mural by Anthony Gude that depicts the influence of the Catholic Church and the Benedictines on Atchison, Kansas. In addition, key virtues emphasized in the *Rule of St. Benedict* are inscribed on the walls of the Center's rotunda.



An Icon of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica supporting our own Abbey is featured throughout campus. The icon was written by our director of college ministry, Father Brendan Rolling, OSB.



We established the Institute of Divine Art with noted artist Elizabeth Zeller. The institute trains students to provide works of art for public worship spaces, has been endorsed by Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, and is a member of the international sacred art association Imago.

Campus Architecture

With the blessing of the Missionaries of Charity, we dedicated the Mother Teresa Center for Nursing and Health Education, the facility housing the Benedictine College nursing program in 2010. The building was dedicated on the 100th anniversary of Mother Teresa's birth, August 26.



Our newly built Ferrell Academic Center visually emphasizes our four pillars: Catholic, Benedictine, Liberal Arts and Residential, and will feature statues of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica.



We have renamed several buildings on campus to emphasize the Catholic identity of the college:

- St. Benedict Hall, our main administration and academic building.
- St. Scholastica Hall, a new freshman women's residence hall.
- St. Martin's Memorial, renamed freshman residence hall.
- Kremmeter and Wolf Halls, two dorms on campus named after Benedictine founders.
- Schirmer House and Hartman House, two new campus townhouses.



The school has opened eight new residence halls since the year 2000, as well as our Nursing Center and Academic Center. We have placed a St. Benedict Medal in the foundation of each building with a special blessing, following a centuries-old Benedictine tradition.



Bishops, archbishops and our abbot
open the 2009 school year at
Benedictine College.

II COMMUNION WITH THE CHURCH

The U.S. Bishops' "Ten-Year Review of The Application of Ex Corde Ecclesiae for the United States" next asks:

"2. How has communion with the Church been strengthened, both by initiatives coming from the institution and by initiatives coming from the bishop / local church?"

Benedictine College is thankful for the strong bond that exists between our campus community and the local parish, archdiocese, bishop, and universal Church. In this section, we describe our communion with the Church in:

The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas



Service to Other Dioceses



Bishops Who Have Visited Campus



Curia and College of Cardinals Visitors to Campus



Notable Campus Benedictines



Benedictine College's Alma Mater



Forward, always forward,
everywhere forward!

...Man's adversity is
God's opportunity.

Benedictine College installed a new
8-foot statue of St. Benedict in the
center of campus in 2011.

“Every Catholic university, without ceasing to be a university, has a relationship to the Church that is essential to its institutional identity.”

— *Blessed John Paul II*



COMMUNION *with the* CHURCH

Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kan.

We welcome the archbishop onto campus multiple times a year; he regularly celebrates our Baccalaureate Mass and participates in special occasions including dedications and blessings.



The archbishop has initiated a yearly “Fireside Chat” meeting with our senior theology and philosophy majors discussing significant issues in the Church. Our students and professors are benefited greatly by seeing the episcopate as partners with them.



We collaborate with various offices in the archdiocese, as well as with other Catholic organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, Kansans for Life, and Catholic Charities, to sponsor events on campus and support archdiocesan efforts involving the Right to Life, youth, evangelization, and liturgy.

Service to Other Dioceses

We engage in significant outreach to bishops in the five state area (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas).



With our training and organization, our students give dozens of retreats for more than 1,000 high school students yearly.



Several orders of religious sisters, following the encouragement of their bishops, have chosen our campus as the site for their professional development. These include the School Sisters of Christ the King; the Marian Sisters of Lincoln, Nebraska; the Franciscan Sisters of the Martyr Saint George; and Benedictine Sisters from Tanzania.



We remain committed to the internal goal of preparing students to become active parish leaders when they return home.



We lend support to Church outreach efforts, including the archdiocese’s faith development effort for teachers and Fr. Robert Spitzer’s evangelization effort to reach Catholic students at public colleges and universities with philosophy distance courses.



Bishops who have visited campus in the past 10 years include:

Kansas City, Kan., Archbishop Joseph Naumann

Omaha Archbishop George Lucas

Oklahoma City Archbishop Paul Coakley

Baltimore, Auxiliary Bishop Denis Madden

Cristalandia, Brazil, Bishop Herbert Hermes

Dodge City, Kan., Bishop John Brungardt

Kansas City-St. Joseph., Bishop Robert Finn

Phoenix, Ariz., Bishop Thomas Olmstead

Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr.

Wichita, Kan., Bishop Michael O. Jackels



Visitors from the curia and college of cardinals include:

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, Cardinal Archbishop of Vienna, delivered the lecture “Pope Benedict, Regensburg, and the Controversy of Creation and Evolution,” at Benedictine College. The college also presented him with its prestigious Cross of the Order of St. Benedict award.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican’s Ambassador to the United Nations, visited February 18, 2009, and delivered the lecture “The Role of the Catholic Church in the United Nations.”

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, celebrated the school’s opening Mass and Convocation on Sept. 1, 2009. He noted that “The Lord’s ‘indwelling’ on the campus of Benedictine College nurtures the faith and promotes the sure path to peace, now, as it has done for over 150 years.”

Church Leaders

To strengthen ties with the worldwide Church and to guide our institutional direction, officers of the college have met off-campus with several church leaders, including in New York with **Cardinal Renato Martino**, a Cardinal Deacon and President Emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and in the Vatican with **Archbishop Michael Miller**, then Secretary for the Vatican Congregation of Education.



Two of our theologians, Dr. Jamie Blosser and Dr. Matthew Ramage, met in Washington, D.C., with U.S. bishops as part of the “Intellectual Tasks of the New Evangelization” conference.

Notable Campus Benedictines

Father Meinrad Miller, OSB, the Subprior of St. Benedict’s Abbey and Chaplain at Benedictine College, is a much sought-after retreat leader for the Missionaries of Charity around the world. In addition, he gives retreats for Communion and Liberation and various religious congregations.



Sister Paula Howard, OSB, a former professor and administrator at Benedictine College, is a respected iconographer whose 170 icons have been purchased by individuals and institutions across the country.



Father Matthew Habiger, OSB, former theology professor at Benedictine College, has served as president of Human Life International, has done two series for the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) and has been a guest on various shows. Since 2003 he has been a full-time member of NFP Outreach.



Father Justin Damien Dean, OSB, the assistant campus minister, is known for his marriage support program which has been featured on Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).



Sister Mary Irene Nowell, OSB, a member of the Benedictine College board of directors, is a noted biblical scholar, respected theologian, and prolific author.



Sister Paula Howard, OSB

BENEDICTINE COLLEGE VALUES

Along with a crucifix, a copy of these values is displayed in every classroom and in each staff department.

JESUS CHRIST

“The love of Christ must come before all else.”
RB 4:21

COMMUNITY

“They should each try to be the first to show respect to the other.” RB 72:4

CONVERSION OF LIFE

“Your way of acting should be different from the world’s way.” RB 4:20

LOVE OF LEARNING

“We intend to establish a school for the Lord’s service.” RB P:45

LISTENING

“After hearing the advice, ponder it and follow the wiser course.” RB 3:1-2

EXCELLENCE THROUGH VIRTUE

“That in all things God may be glorified.” RB 57:9

HOSPITALITY

“All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ.” RB 53:1

STABILITY

“Never swerving from his instructions, we share in the sufferings of Christ to also share in his kingdom.” RB P:50

STEWARDSHIP

“Regard all utensils and goods as sacred vessels of the altar.” RB 31:10

PRAYER AND WORK

“We believe that the divine presence is everywhere... They live by the labor of their own hands.”
RB 19:1-48:8

President Stephen D. Minnis conducts a tour of our Mother Teresa Nursing Center for the Missionaries of Charity.





III

INCORPORATION OF THE NORMS

Next, the U.S. bishops' review document asks:

“3. Incorporation of the Norms. In the following categories, for example, how has it been possible to incorporate the norms of *The Application of Ex Corde Ecclesiae* for the United States within the actual situation of the institution?”

Benedictine College has incorporated the norms of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* and canon law regarding higher education throughout the institution. In this section, we examine the ways we have done so regarding:

Setting out the Catholic character in the guiding documents of
the university



Strengthening of the Catholic identity by members of the
university community in accordance with their specific roles



Granting of the mandatum



Communicating Gospel values, service to the poor, social
justice initiatives, and ecumenical and inter-religious activities



Pastoral care of the university's students, faculty,
administration and staff



Above: College Ministry's trip to Rome and mission work.

BENEDICTINE'S ALMA MATER

In 2002, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve an alma mater for the college.
The song is regularly sung at college activities.

By Ruth Krusemark, Stacy Neidbalski, Fr. Andrew Hoffer

O Lord of ev'ry blessing, we praise you for the place
That sits above the river and under heaven's grace.
We call her "Alma Mater" from hearts with love aflame
And proudly go rejoicing with Benedictine's name.

O hear your ravens calling; in faith we fly to you.
For you alone are holy, and you alone are true.
Just as the river flowing, you always will provide.
So in all things forever may you be glorified.

Surround her with your goodness
and keep her in your peace.
May Benedictine flourish, her family increase.
Like dappled trees in autumn or flowers fresh in spring,
Your glory casts its beauty where souls in wisdom sing.

This school of your own service has set us on our way
To follow you in knowledge unto the endless day.
Let fear not daunt our movement toward hope of
promise bright
As now we run in courage with love's untold delight.

“These General Norms are based on, and are a further development of, the Code of Canon Law ... They are valid for all Catholic Universities and other Catholic Institutes of Higher Studies throughout the world.”

— *Blessed John Paul II*



INCORPORATION of the NORMS

Following the specific categories suggested by *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, we have diligently attempted to strengthen norms that already affirm our Catholic identity and mission, as well as implement new initiatives that will enhance and expand that identity and mission. Those norms are incarnated not only in programs and policies that constitute “the actual situation of the institution,” but ultimately in our people. Here are some of our accomplishments in the areas designated in the document.

Setting out the Catholic character in the guiding documents of the university.

Since the beginning, the relationship between Benedictine College and the Catholic Church has been an organic one. From the Lease Agreement entered into by the sponsoring institutions, the Basic Agreement states, “[the] Convent and the Abbey acknowledge that the success of the College will depend to a great extent on their support, and each agrees that the College will be and remain one of its major apostolates.” The college was established by monks and sisters to serve the Catholics in

our area. It currently exists within the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and receives recognition as a Catholic College with the consent of the Archbishop.

In the past 10 years:

We created a Vision and Values statement to promote 10 focal points of our Catholic, Benedictine identity and have posted it in every classroom and every staff department.

We have systematically integrated Catholic identity and mission into wording of all governing documents: the mission statement in the catalog, strategic plan, vision, and values statement.

The president works through the handbook of the Association of Benedictine Colleges to identify hallmarks of Benedictine education and incorporate them into our vision and mission.

Strengthening of the Catholic identity by members of the university community in accordance with their specific roles.

See Section I above for several examples of college practices. In

addition:

Our orientation of new faculty includes training on the Catholic, Benedictine mission, with specific reference to *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*.

We developed the curriculum for the nursing program according to the archbishop’s norms for Catholic healthcare facilities.

Our Dean of Student Life has incorporated Catholic Theology of the Body teaching into dormitory orientation and student development.

Granting of the Mandatum

The *National Catholic Register*’s article “Benedictine College Embraces Mandatum” (Aug. 17, 2003) proposed the school as a model of canon-law compliance with regard to the mandatum.

Our advertisements for positions in the theology department specifically require applicants who “enthusiastically seek the mandatum.”

All of our theology faculty have received the mandatum.



SOCIAL JUSTICE & ECUMENISM

Communicating Gospel values, service to the poor,
social justice initiatives, & ecumenical and inter-religious activities

See the College Ministry and Spiritual Emphasis section above. Additionally:

Social Justice

Sister Barbara McCracken, OSB, one of our Benedictine Sisters, was a principal organizer of the event celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Churchwomen of El Salvador, commemorating their Christian service to the poor and oppressed.



The Hunger Coalition has committed an average of 400 students to the weekly Skip-A-Meal program. Students donate their Wednesday evening meal to benefit the less fortunate. With the help of faculty and staff, students package and deliver meals. Students are deeply moved by the humanity of the people they meet.



Over the years, the Hunger Coalition has branched out to include tutoring students at local schools and clothing the homeless in Kansas City in cooperation with the organization Uplift.



In 2005, Benedictine College granted an honorary degree to Sean O'Brian because of his service as the head of the Death Penalty Representation Clinic at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, as well as his pro bono work for prisoners awaiting execution.



Benedictine College has responded annually to the Vatican Nuncio's invitation for two students to attend the "Path to Peace" summer program at the United Nations; the program was established by the Catholic Church and seeks to foster projects of a religious, conciliatory, humanitarian and charitable nature with a view to promoting fundamental human rights by calling attention to specific emergency needs arising in different parts of the world.

Environmental Stewardship

The Benedictine Academic Center will be the first new LEED-certified (green) building on a college or university campus in the state of Kansas. LEED is an internationally recognized certification system providing third-party verification that a building was designed and built to improve energy savings, water efficiency, and other environmental stewardship benchmarks.



In 2004, alumna Dr. Wangari Maathai became the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She received the award for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace." In the 1970s, Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, an environmental non-governmental organization focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights. Maathai was an elected member of Parliament in Ke-

nya and served as Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources in the government of President Mwai Kibaki between January 2003 and November 2005. She is the only Nobel Peace Laureate to graduate from an American Catholic College.

Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Outreach

About 60% of college ministry activities are ecumenical in nature.



We offer dozens of yearly alcohol-free events for students of all faiths like "Jam for the Lamb" that are attended by several hundred students over the course of the year.



The college offers a variety of praise and worship opportunities. Our students lead and participate in various on-campus praise and worship events, including a passion play and Rave-N-Worship.



The campus prominently displays Frederick Hart's religious statues, including St. Peter, Adam, and St. Paul, as well as castings of Hart's "Ex Nihilo" (Out of Nothing), arguably the most important work of religious sculpture in the 20th century.



The school hosts International Students from our sister school in Japan, served Hong Kong with a Masters in Business Administration program, and facilitates the educa-

tion special students from overseas, welcoming students of other religions. Recently, a Benedictine College student from Iraq was chosen by *USA Today* as a collegiate feature writer.



The ecumenical Ravens Respect Life, with 310 members, is one of our most popular campus clubs. Every year, we travel to the National March for Life; in 2011, we recorded the largest number of student participants in Benedictine College history. Our group of 237 was joined in Washington, D.C., by Archbishop Joseph Naumann. In addition, a small group of students regularly prays and offers counseling outside the nearby Fox Hill abortion clinic in Kansas City.

Promoting Gospel Values

Father Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., former college president and current president of the Magis Institute, has partnered with Benedictine College to offer an online course entitled Physics and Metaphysics; the course is offered via Newman Centers and through FOCUS chapters at public colleges and universities. Students who successfully complete the course may receive credit from Benedictine College, that can be transferred to their institution.



Our faculty regularly attend *Fides et Ratio* conferences. As an outgrowth of that experience, faculty reading groups have been formed to explore different aspects of the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Pastoral Care of the University's students, faculty, administration, and staff

Six monks serve the spiritual needs of the campus, and sisters at Mount St. Scholastica provide pastoral services.



See Section I for many examples of pastoral care.

BENEDICTINE COLLEGE GUIDING DOCUMENTS

VISION

Building One of America's Great Catholic Colleges

"Building a great Catholic college requires a community-wide commitment to excellence. We dedicate ourselves to educating students to become leaders in the Benedictine tradition, who will transform the world through their commitment to intellectual, personal, and spiritual greatness."

MISSION

Community Faith, and Scholarship

"Our mission as a Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts, residential college is the education of men and women within a community of faith and scholarship."



Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR, one of several John Paul II Distinguished Speakers who have visited campus.



IV

SERVICE TO THE WIDER CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The U.S. bishops' "Ten-Year Review" document next asks:

"4. Service to the wider Church and Society. How does the university contribute to the life of the local and universal Church and of society? How does the university, which as a Catholic university is essential to the Church's growth and to the development of Christian culture and human progress, seek to address contemporary issues and their ethical and religious dimensions by drawing on the Catholic intellectual tradition?"

Benedictine College sees its mission to serve others and teach Christ as integral to its Catholic character. In the following section, we show how the College is a service to the wider Church and society through its:

Service programs



Fundraising assistance



University outreach

A Catholic university “prepares men and women who, inspired by Christian principles and helped to live their Christian vocation in a mature and responsible manner, will be able to assume positions of responsibility in the Church.”

— *Blessed John Paul II*



SERVICE to the WIDER CHURCH & SOCIETY

While we are located in Atchison, Kansas, we want to positively impact the whole world. From the many miles our students travel on pilgrimages, mission trips or to give retreats, to the conferences we host, there are countless ways that Benedictine College serves the Church, society, the family, and each individual person.

Service

In 2011, we carried out 15 mission trips with over 558 participants, traveling over 1.4 million miles. Service trips included canned food and money drives for the poor on Native American reservations and such locations as Kansas City, the Bronx, New York, and New Orleans; a program called Project Uplift to bring clothes to the homeless; participation in the ministry of the Sisters of Charity in Saint Louis and Calcutta; evangelism in Argentina, England, and Russia; and building houses and schools for the poor and oppressed in Belize, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and El Salvador.



We maintain a very high percentage of ministry event participation among our student body. Eighty percent of our students participate in weekly ministry events, from Mass to service projects. In 2010, we had 62 student Bible study leaders, 211 service team volunteers, 213 liturgy program volunteers, and over 18,765 cumulative participations in events.



Since 2006, we have faithfully provided annual updates and detailed reports of the retreats we host within a three-hour driving radius, during which our student-led campus retreat team serves hundreds of youth. From 2008 to 2011, the number of retreats increased from eight to 42. In 2011, we served 1,189 youth through 34 retreats in 93 parishes.

Fundraising

Every year, students personally raise 100 percent of the cost of their pilgrimages and service trips. In 2010, we raised \$216,358.65 to

benefit the poor, protect the unborn, and evangelize locally and internationally.



Every year, we assist Archdiocesan charities in their efforts to benefit the poor and others. In 2010, we provided volunteers to serve at the Snowball Gala for Catholic Charities, Gaudeamus event for Catholic Education Foundation, and the Souper Bowl fundraiser for Knights of Malta.



Since 2006, ongoing volunteer evangelization in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas diocese; students serve as CCD teachers, volunteer youth ministers, and counselors with Catholic camps such as Camp Tekakwitha or summer programs such as Totus Tuus.

University Outreach

For more than 1,000 years, Scriptural literacy has been a pillar of Benedictine spirituality; since 2006, we have motivated an increasing number of students to

participate in regular Bible study. In 2010 alone, 197 freshmen signed up for FOCUS Bible studies on their first day on campus.



The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) has designated Benedictine College a “flagship school” and identified the local chapter as a national standard. Ten percent of all active FOCUS missionaries are Benedictine alumni and the quality of our program is so strong that FOCUS sends all their campus ministry leaders to Benedictine prior to sending them out into the field.



We sponsor the annual Kansas Catholic Student Convention. Since the convention came under our leadership in 2010, we doubled the number of college and university participants, from 180 to 368.

Benedictine College Ministry

MISSION

The mission of the Benedictine College Ministry St. Martin Center is to form the students, faculty and staff of the college in the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the Catholic tradition of sacramental union, spiritual formation, scriptural literacy and social mission.

VISION

"Transform lives in Christ" - John 15:5. Benedictine College Ministry exists to transform lives in Christ through His Church, by living in community with the students and those affiliated with Benedictine College and guiding them on their journey of intellectual, personal, and spiritual formation.

“Benedictine College Ministry aims to form men and women who are joyful in their vocation, leaders in their communities, competent in their profession, mature in their faith, virtuous in their decisions, and dedicated to serving the global human family by building a culture of life and civilization of love for the glory of God.”

– *From Benedictine College Ministry's Impact Statement*

Top to bottom: Benedictine Students help the Atchison community, serve as missionaries in Belize, and unite in prayer with the Mount St. Scholastica Dooley Center.



V CONTINUING COOPERATION

Finally, the U.S. bishops' "Ten-Year Review" document asks:

"5. In what specific ways has this conversation yielded an appreciation of the positive developments and the remaining challenges? What is the best way to continue this dialogue between the bishop and an individual president or a group of presidents from the diocese?"

After 150 years of history, Benedictine College's mission of partnership with the Church has seen, with the grace of God, multiple fruits in alumni and works of charity throughout the years. In this section, we will show ways in which our commitment to the Church will last into the foreseeable future.

The Catholic Church is our heritage, our home, our community, our partner, the tie that binds us to so many employees and supporters, the mother that has aided and sustained us for years. Our Catholic identity is our deepest identity.

“Every Catholic university is to maintain communion with the universal Church and the Holy See; it is to be in close communion with the local Church and in particular with the diocesan Bishops of the region or nation in which it is located.”

— *Blessed John Paul II*



CONTINUING COOPERATION

We recognize that we cannot rest on our successes or take our victories for granted. We have adopted as our motto the quote from Archabbot Boniface Wimmer, “Forward. Always forward. Everywhere, forward. . . . Man’s adversity is God’s opportunity,” because we understand that it is not enough to start well, or even to perform admirably in the middle of the race. The aim is to finish — and to finish strong.

Some signs of future cooperation with the Church include:

The required presence of monks and sisters on our board of direc-

tors represent mandatory ties to the Church in our by-laws.



The hiring of committed Catholics in key positions across the faculty and staff will help insure future commitment to the Church.



Our alumni bishops, our many alumni priests and sisters, and the 87 students who in the past 10 years have pursued priestly and religious vocations are living bonds of unity with the Church.



Even as we are committed to applying the norms of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* in ever-increasing scope and fuller measure, we realize that

we will not be successful without the continued guidance and support of the Church. We want our Archbishop and the Benedictine monks and sisters to know that their presence on our campus is important to us; their influence is critical to our academic and spiritual vitality.

For this reason, we welcome continued cooperation with the leadership and servants of the Catholic Church. By God’s grace working through all of us, we are confident that Benedictine College will be one of America’s great Catholic colleges.

Dodge City, Kan.,
Bishop John Brungardt,
Benedictine class of 1980.



"BE NOT AFRAID."



UT IN OMNIBUS GLORIFICETUR DEUS

