



## **From the Office of Mission Integration**

Dear Parents,

For those I have not met, I am Ryan Hallford, and I am the executive director of Mission Integration at St. Joseph's Academy. During the Back-to-School Night events in August, I presented a very brief overview of my role in Mission Integration. I have the privilege to work with faculty and staff to further a culture of love, mercy and encounter at the Academy.

The work of the office of Mission Integration involves integrating Gospel values, Catholic faith and the Sisters' charism of unifying love that the faith may permeate every fiber that weaves through our school community. I introduced some formation goals that will help guide these efforts. I am orchestrating a school-wide formation for faculty and staff, and I'll also focus on opportunities for on-going formation and resources for the classroom. These efforts are about intentionally and systematically building a culture that makes it easier for our students, and all of us, to live out our call to Sanctity, Joy and Action.

### **Monthly Communication & Website**

This is the first of many on-going monthly communications that will invite you to participate in our mission and to share our efforts to create a culture around Gospel values and Catholic faith through the lens of the Sisters' charism. We have updated the website to include our formation goals and an overview of the formation curriculum for faculty and staff. More website updates and content are forthcoming. These monthly communications will provide you with charism formation, our progress on implementing our faith development strategic plan and other important resources.

### **Rooted in the Charism: Commitment Ceremony & Formation Goals**

During our start-of-the-year orientation for faculty and staff, we had a commitment ceremony to renew ourselves to serving your daughters as we participate in your parental authority to educate these young women.

On September 6, the faculty and staff had a Charism Day. More highlights from our time together will be shared in the next communication. At our Charism Day, we dove deeper into our formation goals and how these flow from an encounter of faith with Christ and help us live according to the spiritual rhythm of Sanctity, Joy and Action. I hope these formation goals will resonate with you, as well, as we consider what kind of culture we want for the girls and ourselves. Consider printing these goals, reading through them and keeping them as a reminder of our goals and commitment to the charism.

### **Reflections on the Maxims: There's a Maxim for That!**

Maxim 1

[Translated from French](#): "Keep always in mind the aim of your vocation which is sublime; and never do anything which contradicts the commitment to a life full of modesty, gentleness and holiness."

[Simplified](#): "Your call is sublime: Become what God dreams for you."

[Updated](#): "Dude! Stay focused on what's important in life. Don't let the crazy stuff distract you."

God has called you to a meaningful participation in the community. Often, we complicate the notion of vocation, but put very simply, your vocation is love. You have a responsibility to discover how God has called

you to love. Each of us has a unique way to communicate God's love through the circumstances of our life, the people entrusted to us and the work we do. We must stay focused on what helps us in our mission of love and avoid that which distracts. What does it mean to have a commitment "full of modesty, gentleness and holiness"?

Modesty is not primarily about clothing, as we tend to use the word. Rather, modesty first involves an attitude that seeks to protect the mystery of the person. Do we treat people as mysteries to be loved or problems to be solved? As such, modesty involves the patience, discretion, self-restraint and decency that always seeks to respect the dignity of others. Perhaps a helpful substitute for modesty is respect. How can we approach people with respect, gentleness and holiness?

Gentleness refers to the humble and tender way love compels us to approach each other. Try a little tenderness! We should offer mercy and empathy in our response to our dear neighbor. In doing so, we imitate Christ the good shepherd.

Holiness, sanctity, means we are set aside for love. Love is our identity and destination. Living holiness, right here and now, is not about never making mistakes, but persevering in love. Holiness is about staying in the relationship, with God and each other. This means we don't give up on love and mercy. We approach our vocation, our dignified calling to love, by encountering people with an attitude of respect, the tenderness of Christ and a firm resolve to never give up on love.

### **Formation Opportunities**

**Virtual Retreat:** Know, Love & Follow is a six-week virtual retreat by Becky Eldridge (October 3-November 13, 2022) based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Learn more and [register here](#).

In Christ,  
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