



**Father Barry Fischer**  
**Rector, Saint Joseph's College**

**Marian University, Saint Joseph's College**  
**Press Conference, October 10th 2018**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Mayor of Rensselaer, the Honorable Steve Wood; the President of the Chamber of Commerce, Samantha Joslyn, and the Executive Director, Linda Comingore; Stephen Eastridge, the Executive Director of the Jasper County Economic Development Organization; and Johnny Balvich, President of the Rotary Club. Thank you for being here to share this very special moment with us.

Thank you, President Elsener, for your extraordinary vision and for your utmost confidence in Saint Joseph's College's ability to enhance the success of the new two-year college collaboration through our shared mission and values. I wholeheartedly echo your excitement and enthusiasm for this mutual endeavor and am profoundly grateful that Marian University has decided to name the new college "Saint Joseph's College of Marian University - Indianapolis."

We have come to know each other well over the last year, and our working relationship is one of mutual trust and respect. Given this experience, we look forward to working together as we continue this journey to reach underserved students, the driving force of the mission of both the Franciscan Sisters and the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Through this collaboration, Saint Joseph's College will thrive in both name and mission, which is extremely important to the generations of Alumni who called Saint Joseph their home.

The collaboration between our two Catholic Institutions with a shared mission and history will provide a brighter future for both Marian University and Saint Joseph's College because together, we can reach and improve the lives of many more students than we could ever do separately. Through our research and hard work over these months, we believe this collaboration is not only the most feasible way of ensuring that Saint Joseph's College lives on but it is also the pathway that allows us to most successfully continue our mission of Christian Humanist education. We hope that our Alumni will join us in supporting and fostering this exciting new chapter in Catholic higher education.

As a part of our mission to serve the underserved, Saint Joseph's College will be contributing scholarship funds over the next ten years for students of all backgrounds who can't effort to attend college. The success of students is a top priority of our shared mission collaboration, and we see these designated scholarship funds as an investment in the students of Saint Joseph's College in Indianapolis.

At this moment I would like to acknowledge two people who have supported the mission of Saint Joseph's College for fifty years and who want to continue to support us: Connie and Dr John Nichols. They are making a gift of \$50,000 to provide financial aid to students being recruited for the new two-year program: Saint Joseph's College of Marian University. They see this joint undertaking as a true and feasible continuation of the Mission they have lived and pursued for the last fifty years, that is, Catholic liberal education in the Christian Humanist spirit of Vatican II. They hope their gift will motivate others to join us in supporting this new beginning.

Recently, we announced the settlement of our debt and celebrated the good news that we have our campus back. Now, we are free to take the next steps to move towards a new future. The Purple Tie Dinner held in June generated a great deal of enthusiasm and support as have several gatherings of our alumni, such as the one held in Indianapolis a few weeks ago. Last Sunday, our Chapel was opened for Mass for the first time in a year and a half, and it was a joyous celebration of joy! The chapel was filled with alumni, friends, and townspeople who graciously joined us and expressed their hope for the future of Saint Joseph's in Rensselaer.

As we continue our journey much hard work lies ahead. Our primary focus now is to ensure that Saint Joseph's College of Marian University - Indianapolis is successful. As we work to achieve this significant goal, we also welcome the possibility of expanding the two-year college experience to the Rensselaer campus once a feasibility study is done. We have much work to do here to prepare for that desired eventuality. Strategically, we believe this is the best way for us to move forward.

We continue to broaden our horizons both for new opportunities to meet students' needs and to continue developing a close relationship with the Rensselaer community. At this juncture we move forward with Marian University and also prepare the Saint Josephs College -Rensselaer campus for opportunities to be a vibrant, innovative part of higher education.

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