



Mercy
The Principal Path

The Inauguration of
Joseph L. Cassidy, J.D.
The Fifteenth President of



**Saint Joseph's
College of Maine**

September 27, 2024



Joseph L. Cassidy, J.D.

Joseph L. Cassidy, J.D., is the 15th President of Saint Joseph's College of Maine. He has been involved in education for more than 30 years serving students as an elementary school teacher, high school teacher, college professor, and for 10 years as a college president in the Maine Community College System. Joe joined Saint Joseph's in 2023 following five successful years as president of Southern Maine Community College in South Portland, Maine's largest community college with 6,500 students. He was previously president of Washington County Community College in Calais for five years, and once served a year simultaneously as interim president of Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor.

Joe's work with the MCCS was highlighted by successfully building up and empowering the people that he worked with, including students, staff, and faculty members. A hallmark of his college leadership has been building and strengthening partnerships with other colleges, k-12 schools, local communities, and mission aligned organizations. In his first year at Saint Joseph's College, Joe has enjoyed getting to know the students and employees who make SJC such a unique college community. He has been particularly happy to come to know the local Sisters of Mercy and to understand the history and importance of Saint Joseph's College's roots as a Mercy Institution.

Born and raised in downeast Maine, Joe has proudly volunteered for many local organizations and activities, including as a little league coach and boy scout leader, and he once served as Mayor of his hometown, Calais, Maine. A licensed attorney, he has served in the past as a member of the Board of Trustees for various organizations, including JMG, and as a member of the State of Maine Economic Recovery Committee. Joe lives here on campus at Saint Joseph's College with his wife Vanessa and their son Max, who is a freshman at the Catholic University of America.



Past Presidents

Sr. Mary Xaveria Toohey, R.S.M., M.A., 1912–1938

Sr. Mary Honoratus Maher, R.S.M., M.A., 1938–1941

George H. Derry, Ph.D., 1941–1947

James F. Rockett, Ph.D., 1947–1948

Daniel J. O'Neill, Ph.D., 1948–1955

Sr. Mary Carmel Theriault, R.S.M., Ph.D., 1956–1967

Sr. Mary de la Salle O'Donnell, R.S.M., Ph.D., 1967–1969

Bernard P. Currier, M.S., 1969–1978

Sr. Mary Dolores Sablone, R.S.M., M.A., 1978–1979

Anthony R. Santoro, Ph.D., 1979–1987

Loring E. Hart, Ph.D., 1987–1995

David B. House, Ph.D., 1995–2007

E. Joseph Lee II, Ph.D., 2007–2011

James S. Dlugos, Ph.D., 2012–2023

The Order of Ceremony

◆ PROCESSIONAL MARSHALL ◆

Wendy Galgan, Ph.D.
President, Faculty Senate

◆ PROCESSIONAL ◆

“Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals”
Sigfrid Karg-Elert

◆ CALL TO ORDER ◆

Monique LaRocque, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs

◆ NATIONAL ANTHEM ◆

◆ INVOCATION ◆
Kathryn Cody Russell, M.Th.
Director of the Mercy Center

◆ WELCOME ◆

Jeff Moody, M.B.A.
Chair, Board of Trustees

◆ READING OF PROCLAMATIONS INTRODUCTION ◆

Monique LaRocque, Ph.D.

◆ GREETINGS ◆

The United States Senate
Senator Susan M. Collins
Allyson Cavaretta
Staff Representative

The United States House of Representatives

Representative Chellie Pingree, 1st District
Sarah Lawrence
Staff Representative

The United States House of Representatives

Representative Jared Golden, 2nd District
Zach Schmesser
Staff Representative

The Order of Ceremony

The Maine State Legislature

Senator Jim Libby, District 22

The Conference for Mercy Higher Education

Julia Cavallo, Ed.D.

Executive Director

The Board of Trustees

Craig Becker, M.A.

Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

The Neighboring Communities

John Cross, Director of Public Works

Town of Standish

The Alumni

Heather Mullen '89

Co-President, Alumni Association

The Students

Kristen Filbeck '22, '24

Online Program

Hanna Webster '25

President, Student Government Association

The Faculty

Wendy Galgan, Ph.D.

English Department

The Staff

Kareem Myrick '05

Manager of IT Support Services

The Order of Ceremony

◆ **PRESENTATION OF COLLEGE ARTIFACTS** ◆

Steve Bridge, Ph.D.

Chair, Theology Department

Inaugural Button

Camilla Fecteau Bridge, M.S.

Chair, Sciences Department

Original Charter of the College

Christopher Woodside, Ed.D.

Assistant Professor, Sport and Exercise Science

Original Seal of the College

Jimmy Riley, M.S. '16

Alumnus

Mission Statement of the College

Liz Schran, B.A.

Senior Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations

Mercy Candle

Sister Michele Aronica, R.S.M, Ph.D. '74

Emerita Professor of Sociology

◆ **MISSIONING & INVESTITURE OF THE PRESIDENT** ◆

Sister Patricia Flynn, R.S.M., Ph.D. '74

First Councilor on the Sisters of Mercy Institute Leadership Team

Jeff Moody, M.B.A.

Chair, Board of Trustees

◆ **INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT** ◆

David Daigler, M.S.F

President, Maine Community College System

◆ **INAUGURAL ADDRESS** ◆

Joseph L. Cassidy, J.D.

President

◆ **BENEDICTION** ◆

Fr. Patrick Finn, M.Div.

College Chaplain

◆ **RECESSIONAL** ◆

The Four Seasons: Autumn

Antonio Vivaldi

Delegates

1794

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

James E. Kelley, B.S. '89
Procurement & Risk Management

1831

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

Colin David Pears, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Student Success
& Chief Retention Officer

1864

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE FARMINGTON

Joseph McDonnell, Ph.D.
President

1878

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

Adam Tuchinsky, Ph.D.
Provost

1894

THOMAS COLLEGE

Jeannine Diddle Uzzi, Ph.D.
President-Elect

1898

HUSSON UNIVERSITY

Lynne Coy-Ogan, Ed.D.
President

1898

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Chris Mallett, Ed.D.
Chief Administrative Officer, The Roux Institute

Delegates

1946

MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

David Daigler, M.S.F.
President

1946

SOUTHERN MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Kristen Miller, Ed.D.
President

1962

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SCHOOL OF LAW

Leigh Saufley, J.D.
President & Dean

1965

UNITY ENVIRONMENTAL UNIVERSITY

Erika Latty, Ph.D.
President of the Enterprise
& Chief Academic Officer

1969

KENNEBEC VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Karen Normandin, M.A.
President

1994

YORK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Michael Fischer, Ed.D.
President

2002

CONFERENCE FOR MERCY HIGHER EDUCATION

Julia Cavallo, Ed.D.
Executive Director



Academic Regalia

When universities were taking shape in the 12th and 13th centuries, they were under the jurisdiction of the Church. Most of those studying were clerics in Holy Orders, monks or priests. They wore a habit or cloak to which was attached a cowl or hood. This could be pulled up over the head or thrown back, according to the weather. Gowns were necessary for warmth in the unheated buildings, and hoods served to cover the tonsured head before the use of a skull cap.

Today, the academic costume of cap, gown and hood has taken on symbolic meaning. Colors and shapes conform to a generally accepted code and indicate the faculty conferring the degree and the kind of degree conferred. Gowns for the bachelor's degree are worn closed and are distinguished by their long pointed sleeves. Master's degree gowns are designed to be worn open. They have very long sleeves, oblong in shape. Gowns for the doctoral degree, usually black, are also designed to be worn open and have velvet panels. Three velvet bars are stitched to the upper part of the full, bell-shaped sleeves. A fourth bar signifies the office of the presidency.

Academic hoods worn in the procession are trimmed with velvet of various colors to represent the following academic areas:

Arts, Letters, Humanities - White

Business Administration, Management - Light Brown

Education - Light Blue

Fine Arts - Dark Brown

Law - Purple

Library Science - Lemon Yellow

Medicine - Green

Musical Arts - Pink

Nursing - Peach

Philosophy - Dark Blue

Science - Golden Yellow

Social Work - Citron Yellow

Theology - Scarlet

The colored lining is the official color of the institution conferring the degree.

History of the College

Saint Joseph's College is a Catholic college founded by the Sisters of Mercy in Portland, Maine, in 1912. The 382-acre campus, now on the shore of Sebago Lake in Standish, Maine, is in view of Mount Washington and the White Mountains. It is the only Catholic college in Maine.

The word *Sebago* comes from the Abenaki *sobagoo* for "it is the sea" or "it resembles the sea." The Apikwahki people (members of the Abenaki nation) once fished and hunted along its shores, descendants of colonial settlers established homesteads here, and the Verrill family eventually built an estate here. When Sisters Mary Edwina and Mary Evangelist visited the estate in 1956, the stained glass windows of St. Edward the Confessor and Sr. John the Evangelist in the family chapel convinced them that this was the site for a new campus. And so, Saint Joseph's was moved from its original location in Portland to Standish.

Saint Joseph's College emphasizes a Christian humanist interest in the cultural achievements and problems of the present and their relationship to the past. It cultivates a sense of personal responsibility through an emphasis on serious study coupled with participation in the activities of a productive community.

With more than 100 years as a foundation, Saint Joseph's College is determined to meet today and tomorrow's opportunities for service to the local, state, national and global communities.

Mission Statement

Saint Joseph's College of Maine, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy and animated by the vision of Catherine McAuley, is a Catholic college in the liberal arts tradition distinguished by its welcoming community. We foster an ongoing dialogue between faith and reason so as to prepare our learners to live meaningful lives that improve the world around them.



Vision Statement

In fulfillment of its mission, Saint Joseph's College of Maine will be a diverse, inclusive, and collaborative community that forms individuals who practice humility, justice, and compassion, as Jesus did, in solidarity with the marginalized.

Core Values of the College

Community is a shared vocation of common purpose to which everyone at Saint Joseph's College of Maine is called. We are a community shaped by the teachings of Jesus Christ, the intellectual tradition of the Catholic Church, and the educational vision of the Sisters of Mercy. In this community, in the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy, we strive to give expression to the following core values and, in turn, be formed by them.

FAITH **EXCELLENCE**
INTEGRITY **INCLUSION** **RESPECT**
COMPASSION **JUSTICE**



College Mace

The College Mace serves as a symbol of authority, just as it did in the Middle Ages when a mace bearer accompanied an official taking office or opening court. From the 16th century of England and since colonial days in America, it has become a symbol of office used in ceremonies and is carried by the procession leader or mace bearer.

Saint Joseph's mace is 32 inches long and is made of solid black walnut, a native American wood. Affixed to the mace is a round ceramic disk with the official seal of the College in full color.



Presidential Medallion

The Presidential Medallion will be presented to President Cassidy by Mr. Jeff Moody, chair of the Board of Trustees. Inscribed on this medallion are the names of the previous presidents. This "chain of command" symbolizes the leadership and authority of the College President.

The Medallion's design is the official seal of the College. This seal is composed of three elements: The shield of the Sisters of Mercy, three fleurs-de-lis and the motto "Fortitudo et Spes." The Mercy Shield dates back to 13th-century Spain where a religious and military order composed of knightly laymen and priestly religious was founded to carry out the works of Mercy. The fleur-de-lis is symbolic of the Franco American nature of the State of Maine. The motto "Fortitudo et Spes" translates into "Courage and Hope," which demonstrated the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy in moving the College campus from Portland to the shore of Sebago Lake.

Board of Trustees

Jeffrey A. Moody
Chair of the Board

Craig A. Becker
Vice Chair of the Board

Ellen Turner, R.S.M. '69
Secretary of the Board

Joseph L. Cassidy
President, Ex Officio Member

Bernice E. Bradin

Thomas Driscoll

Mark C. Duval '06

Judy F. Graham

Carl W. Howell '99

Alan F. Lapoint

Carol A. LeTourneau, R.S.M.

Christina Maguire '86

Kenneth Marino '82

Mary M. Morey, R.S.M. '65

Michael J. Mulhare '79

John Straub

Fred Yochum '74

Trustee Emeriti

Jeanne A. Arnold '83, Hon. '17

Joyce Mahany, R.S.M., Hon. '09

Michael T. Shea '72

Inauguration Committee

◆ CHAIR ◆

Chris Fuller, Ph.D., Sponsorship & Mission Integration

◆ MEMBERS ◆

Mylan Bannon, Academic Affairs

Victoria Bernier, Academic Center for Excellence

Dale Brooker, Ph.D., Academic Affairs

Colin Brown, Class of 2027

Julia Cavallo, Ed.D., Conference for Mercy Higher Education

Bob Chaddock, Campus Safety

Jenna Chase '11, '21, Health Services

Zachery Creekmore '24, Alumni

Catarina Cunha, Class of 2026

Anna Falasca, Class of 2025

Jason Farley, Information Technology

Annie Frey, Class of 2026

Taylor Garland, Class of 2026

Troy Hendricks '22, '24, Career Development

Douglas Kiley, Institutional Advancement

Hilary Lamkin, Pearson's Cafe

Alison Nason '03, Marketing & Communications

Joy Pulsifer, Campus Life

Thomas Roche, Campus Safety

Will Rothermel, Athletics

Kathryn Cody Russell '19, Mercy Center

Megan Shorette, Conferences & Events

Laura Sullivan, President's Office

Haley Thompson, Marketing,
Advancement & Admissions/Enrollment

Jasmyn Watt, Class of 2026

Hanna Webster, Class of 2025

Madelyn Zordan, Class of 2025

Special Thank You

A heartfelt appreciation and thank you to all those involved in helping make this Inauguration a special celebration for President Cassidy, his family and friends, and our Saint Joseph's College Community.

*"We should be shining lamps,
giving light to all around us."*

Catherine McAuley





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Standish, ME 04084

www.sjcme.edu/inauguration