Francis 2020:

A Clear Vision for Saint Francis University

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY
FOUNDED 1847

Dear Friend of Saint Francis University,

During my inaugural year as President, I am excited to share with you *Francis 2020: A Clear Vision for Saint Francis University.* This strategic plan builds on previous successes and charts a course for our future. As a supporter of Saint Francis University, your actions demonstrate a strong belief in our mission. I invite you to continue your partnership with us as we implement our strategic plan.

It is our Catholic and Franciscan mission to have a mind for excellence, a spirit for peace and justice, and a heart for service. The eight Goals of Franciscan Higher Education set the vision and are our guiding principles. The strategic plan I present to you contains lofty but concrete and attainable goals that we strive to implement between now and 2020. In the same way that our founding friars partnered with friends and neighbors in 1847, I ask you to join us in achieving our goals, animated by that Franciscan spirit.

As a champion of Saint Francis University, your support has allowed us to achieve so much for the benefit of our students, both past and present. As you read through the strategic plan, you will discover four themes or "pillars" of the plan, each an action of Saint Francis of Assisi himself. Francis the Educator helps our students to grow intellectually. Francis the Collaborator partners with those who nurture and expand the University's mission. Francis the Builder creates transformative spaces for our students to discover truth and beauty. Francis the Good Steward engages in continuous improvement at all levels of the institution. Through your ongoing support, you can be a partner in our strategic plan and directly benefit generations of Saint Francis students.

As together we journey with Saint Francis to the year 2020 and beyond, may the Lord give us His peace.

Sincerely,

Fr Malachi Van Tassell TOR

(Rev.) Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R., Ph.D.
President

"Francis 2020" Vision

Saint Francis University is the Catholic university of choice for high-ability students who seek an authentic, academically rigorous, interactive learning experience where they can grow intellectually, spiritually, morally, and socially. Students seek out Saint Francis for its ability to combine the values and vision of a liberal arts education with learning goals that are relevant to the economic needs of society.

Saint Francis University is recognized as a vital strategic partner — regionally, nationally, and internationally — establishing strong relationships by seeking collaborators to nurture and expand the University's mission, vision, and strategic goals while contributing to a global vision of societal good brought about by the exercise of effective servant-leadership principles.

Saint Francis University's facilities are designed to enhance and raise to the highest level of capability its nationally-recognized leadership programs in business, health care, science, and the humanities.

Saint Francis University engages in continuous improvements in organizational effectiveness and efficiency at all levels — driven by internal and external assessments — to promote exceptional stewardship of its human and financial resources.

Mission Statement

A Mind for Excellence

Saint Francis University offers higher education in an environment guided by Catholic values and teachings, and inspired by the example of our patron, Saint Francis of Assisi. The oldest Franciscan institution of higher learning in the United States, Saint Francis University is an inclusive learning community that welcomes all people.

A Spirit for Peace and Justice

University programs and activities foster such Franciscan values as a humble and generous attitude toward learning, respect for diversity and the uniqueness of individual persons, understanding of ethical issues, and reverence for all life. With a spirit of simplicity and joy, we provide opportunities for the University community to think critically and analytically, communicate effectively, and integrate theory and practice.

A Heart for Service

Saint Francis University offers undergraduate programs in the liberal arts tradition, graduate and professional programs of study that emphasize personal and professional ethics, and continuing education opportunities for personal and career enhancement. We seek to inspire in all members of the University community a love of lifelong learning and a commitment to share their gifts and skills generously with others in a rapidly changing world.

Goals of Franciscan Higher Education

Unique to Saint Francis University, the Goals of Franciscan Higher Education articulate the vision of Franciscan values that guide the institution. With the mission statement and our Catholic and Franciscan history, they provide a foundation to Francis 2020.

- A humble and generous attitude toward learning
- Reverence for all life and for the goodness of all humanity
- A global vision
- Service to the poor and needy
- Respect for the uniqueness of individual persons
- A community of faith and prayer
- The spirit of simplicity and joy
- Franciscan presence

Franciscan Education

FRANCIS THE EDUCATOR

At Saint Francis University, the highest level of academic programming melds the curricular and co-curricular worlds of the student into a holistic experience of learning through community service, internships, mentorships, international education, and undergraduate research that integrates the University's Franciscan tradition and values. The University will implement new and dynamic initiatives to enhance enrollment, retain students, and prepare them for meaningful careers and productive lives. In short, we provide transformational experiences to create the world's future generation of principled and visionary leaders — one student at a time.

Philanthropic Opportunities

- Symposium sponsorships
- Study abroad enhancements
- Student internships
- Academic/athletic scholarships

FRANCIS THE COLLABORATOR

Saint Francis University understands well that it cannot exist in isolation. We must continually seek out strategic partnerships with other educational institutions, business and industry, health care providers, government, and religious and other non-profit organizations. The University looks to create new and sustainable partnerships regionally, nationally, and internationally to accomplish its goals and to serve students and society. As well, we seek to develop lifetime relationships and fruitful partnerships with our alumni.

Philanthropic Opportunities

- "Town and Gown" enhancements
- University/corporate partnerships
- Outreach Centers

FRANCIS THE BUILDER

The construction of new spaces on campus must be aligned with and be designed to enhance the living and learning environment of the University. This will be done through a careful use of space that will foster greater interaction between faculty and students and provide greater opportunities for students to form cohorts of engagement. Attention to environmental sustainability will be fostered as a part of campus culture and will be considered in all building project designs.

Philanthropic Opportunities

- Sullivan Hall Renovation
- Residence Hall Renovation
- Recreation Center
- Library Renovation
- Athletics Facilities
- Welcome Center

FRANCIS THE GOOD STEWARD

The University must be financially viable so that it can remain mission driven. It is imperative that the University become fully engaged in a pathway to accountability that will elevate academic performance by reducing costs, increasing revenue, and growing the endowment as well as the capital and annual funds. This vision of strategic stewardship will require creativity in marketing, effective fund-raising, and fiscal accountability.

Philanthropic Opportunities

- Annual Fund for Excellence
- Endowment Growth

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reach higher. go far.

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