



**ST. BONAVENTURE**  
UNIVERSITY  
Founded 1858

**The Catholic and Franciscan Mission of St. Bonaventure University  
A Memorandum for Candidates for Faculty and Administrative Appointments**

Attached to this memo you will find a copy of the mission statement and statement of distinction of St. Bonaventure University. Crafted during two major efforts at strategic planning and envisioning of new initiatives, both outline key elements of our beliefs about what we stand on as a community of scholars, teachers, learners and the tradition that informs this particular institution.

Below you will find an excerpt from a major document titled *Ex corde ecclesiae (From the heart of the Church)*. This document — promulgated by +Pope John Paul II — outlines the aspirations of Catholic universities everywhere and has formed many of the discussions and decisions about campus culture and practice in the United States for the last twenty years.

Finally, this short memo is intended to assist you as you prepare for the interviews that dominate the hiring process. At least one interview will be focused on this question. **How do you see yourself contributing to the mission of St. Bonaventure University?** While we expect that you are applying with the intention that you will participate in this mission, we do not want to engage in vague generalities when we discuss this important question. But we also want to be very clear. Requesting your support for our mission is just that. Our mission is that of a Catholic–Franciscan university. As such, we adhere to principles of academic freedom, scholarly integrity, respect for individual differences, and a desire for a diverse faculty, staff and student body. We do not seek uniformity of religious membership, but we do foster a unity of purpose and profound respect for the legacy that is ours and the sacrifices of those who went before us.

Our purposes as a teaching institution include the purpose of transmitting to our students a vision of life that is:

- grounded in the wisdom of the Judeo-Christian tradition;
- influenced by the eight centuries of intellectual, aesthetic, cultural and religious contributions of the Franciscan order to the world;
- open to the wisdom found in other religions and spiritual traditions;
- committed to justice, peace and the integrity of creation;
- aspiring to excellence in all aspects of our work as a university community; and
- engaged in service to those on the margins of society and church.

*Where do you see yourself in this list of valued commitments, interests and engagements?*

We have found over our 157 years that women and men of the Catholic Church have gladly served this mission. And we are proud to state that many women and men who hold diverse personal or religious creeds have been equally important to our mission's fulfillment. In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, we seek to be instruments of peace and universal community, and our wonderful history is full of stories that we hope you will someday make your own.

Please use this memo, the statements attached and any additional mission-integration essays that your committee may supply to prepare for your interview.



Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F.

President of the University

Attachments

*Ex corde ecclesiae*

Mission and Statement of Distinction, St. Bonaventure University

From *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*:

It is the honor and responsibility of a Catholic University to consecrate itself without reserve to the cause of truth. This is its way of serving at one and the same time both the dignity of humanity and the good of the Church, which has “an intimate conviction that truth is (its) real ally ... and that knowledge and reason are sure ministers to faith”. Without in any way neglecting the acquisition of useful knowledge, a Catholic University is distinguished by its free search for the whole truth about nature, humanity and God. The present age is in urgent need of this kind of disinterested service, namely of proclaiming the meaning of truth, that fundamental value without which freedom, justice and human dignity are extinguished. By means of a kind of universal humanism a Catholic University is completely dedicated to the research of all aspects of truth in their essential connection with the supreme Truth, who is God. It does this without fear but rather with enthusiasm, dedicating itself to every path of knowledge, aware of being preceded by the one who is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life”, the Logos, whose Spirit of intelligence and love enables the human person with his or her own intelligence to find the ultimate reality of which God is the source and end and who alone is capable of giving fully that Wisdom without which the future of the world would be in danger.

## **Mission of St. Bonaventure University**

Founded in 1858, St. Bonaventure is a Catholic university dedicated to educational excellence in the Franciscan tradition. We are committed to the constant pursuit of distinction in our undergraduate and graduate programs, our innovative liberal arts core and all of our courses of study. At St. Bonaventure University, we come to know our students on an individual basis and become their mentors. We strive to bring out the best in every individual. As an academic and spiritual community, we endeavor to prepare our students for the challenges they will face in their professional careers as well as in their personal lives. True to our Franciscan heritage, we encourage students to manifest our values through lives of citizenship and service.

### **Values**

As a Catholic university in the Franciscan tradition, we dedicate ourselves to the following Core Values and to making them live and thrive at St. Bonaventure.

#### ***Discovery***

We steadfastly pursue intellectual, spiritual and personal growth in a way that reflects our belief in the wonder, excitement and joy of discovery along life's good journey. Central to that journey is an appreciation for the best that has been thought, written and discovered. It is our firm intent that our faculty and students add to this body of knowledge, sharing the adventure of inquiry in an atmosphere of academic freedom, both within and outside the classroom.

#### ***Community***

We believe in an inclusive community that values diversity as a strength. We foster and celebrate practices that nurture living and learning in an atmosphere of caring, respect and mutual accountability. We seek to enhance the quality of life in the world around us, particularly by reaching out to the poor, the less fortunate and the disadvantaged. We not only demonstrate this spirit of community on our campus; we manifest it wherever we go.

#### ***Individual Worth***

At the core of our identity is a strong belief in the goodness of life and the God-given worth of every individual. We treat all members of our community with dignity and strive to help them reach their full potential. We commit ourselves to actions that empower all members of the St.

Bonaventure community and encourage their full participation in creating our future.

### **Statement of Distinction**

At St. Bonaventure University, we strive to foster the development of knowledgeable, skilled, compassionate and ethical individuals by mentoring students within vitally engaging learning environments, ever mindful of such Franciscan values as individual dignity, community inclusiveness, and service to others.

