

# *To Dare the Heights!*

*5 ways to make an SM Formation a Reality*



Father Brian Solvien on an Eagle Eye Ministries Iceland Excursion



SAINT JOHN  
INSTITUTE

Dear Friend,

Wanting to receive the formation of the Saint John Institute is a daring thing. At SJI, we want to form evangelizers who will endure great things, hope great things, and dare great things for Christ. Evangelizing in the modern context is a challenge. But, it is a challenge our students joyfully accept out of the love of Jesus Christ and His thirst for His Father's glory. Like St. Peter, we are willing to "put out into the deep waters (Luke 5)." Like St. Paul, we are willing to "run the race, fight the fight, keep the faith" (II Timothy 4). With the grace of Our Lord, we are willing to lay down our lives for our friends (John 15), and "testify to the truth (John 18)" of His love, greater than our sins.

For many of our applicants, the thought of financing the cost involved in the SJI formation is a daunting challenge. For some, it will be a challenge they would prefer not to face. At SJI, however, we do not look at challenges as the first sign of defeat! We see challenge is part and parcel of the life of an evangelizer, and it is an essential part of our formation to help our students learn to embrace and overcome it. Challenge, in other words, is the face of opportunity. The costs associated with SJI are actually a precious opportunity – an opportunity for you to grow deeper in your trust in the Lord, and to grow more creative and hopeful about His Providence as you find ways to meet the challenge. You will need to rely on others – the first step in a lifetime of building and living in the *communio* of the Church. You will need to work hard – the first step in a lifetime of labor on behalf of His Gospel.

**In all this, remember what brought you here! You want to do something great – to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to bear upon the hurts and the pains of this world. God will not abandon you, but He will also not do for you what you could do for Him! Take up the challenge in front of you with hope, with confidence, and with the audacity of the Saints! You are not coming to SJI for your sake, but for the sake of the poor (spiritually and materially) who are waiting to meet Jesus through you.**

Do it for Jesus. Do it for them. We are with you all the way to help. Together, let us dare something great for Christ!

Audens Magna Tecum

Father Nathan Cromly, CSJ

SJI President and Founder

# A Word of Encouragement

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Your SJI formation is worth every amount of effort and energy you will spend to acquire it, many times over. *With us, you will receive a formation for your entire life.* You will be formed by expert formators who are eager to give the most of the best tradition in the Church to you, and see you dare great things for Christ.

*But this formation is not only priceless, it is also extremely practical!*

Consider this:

- **As an SJI graduate, you will be one of the most highly-qualified and desirable candidates for employment in the Catholic Church in America, and will be able to leverage an already-established network.**
- Even if you choose not to engage in direct ministry of evangelization, with your Walsh University MBA, you will be able to get a well-paying job in a variety of fields. You will pay back your MBA costs in a few years.
- Your debt may last a few years, but your SJI formation will last forever.

*Your MBA is well worth its price!*

Here is why:

1. **An SJI graduate will be uniquely desirable to a future employer.**
  - You will have an MBA with the highest accreditation in the world. (The same level of accreditation as Harvard School of Business and the Wharton School of Business.)
  - You will have been internally formed with the missionary spirit outlined by Pope Paul VI and Pope Francis. You will have a heart that is healed, taught, and ready to serve!
  - You will grow in virtue and personal, spiritual formation from two years of community living and the SJI formation program of retreats, outings, and group interactions.
  - You will have a thorough understanding of outdoor leadership, logistics and planning, an appreciation and culture in the fine arts, and a thorough and deep understanding of the Catholic liturgy.
  - You will have the possibility of gaining two full years of intern experience in resume-related fields, and begin working with a business mentor to help you to succeed in your future endeavors.

2. **You will meet many influential people who are inclined to help you. There will be many doors to walk through.**
  - First of all, you will have worked with a group of students who are just like you: bound to dare great things and to be involved in great initiatives within the Church. You are making friendships with your future collaborators and the leaders of tomorrow's Church.
  - You will have worked within the networks of the Congregation of St. John (with houses in over 20 countries) and Eagle Eye Ministries with contacts in every state. You will have met people who want to see you succeed and are eager to receive your talents.
  - You will have lived and networked in Denver, Colorado, among movements and people who will be shaping evangelization in the Church of tomorrow. You will have seen many opportunities for your future and met people who can take you there.
  
3. **SJI is not just another institution. It is a family of Faith. Could there be any greater support system and place of dedicated help than the Catholic Church? We will win, together!**

# Document Overview

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This document is intended to bring you hope. It is possible for you to make SJI your reality. It is possible for you to choose SJI responsibly and without regret.

The financial contribution towards an SJI formation is \$30,000 per academic year. SJI students will be billed each month, although you may also pay in advance by semester.

Most people take out loans for an MBA, knowing that they will be able to pay them back from the salary they will earn upon graduation. Some of our students, however, would like to serve the Church with their talents and energy. They, too, can pay for their funding in full.

**This does not look so challenging when you break it down!**

\$30,000/year = \$2500/month

\$2,500/month = 10 people who make a \$250 donation/month

10 people who make a \$250 donation/month = 20 people who make a \$125 donation/month

That is, 20 people willing to pay \$4.16/day to see you serve the Church!

**Can you think of 20 people who would be willing to give you \$4.16 per day to see you serve the Church?**

**SJI is very possible!**

In this document, we are providing five ways to make your desire to come to SJI a reality.

1. Self Funding
2. Apex Missionary Program
3. Starting Your Mission Early
4. Inspiring Mentors
5. Federal Loan Forgiveness Program

## Prima Via: Funding Through Personal Means

1. Using **personal resources** to cover \$2,500 per month for 24 months.
  - a. Savings
  - b. Family gifts
  - c. Personal loans, etc.
  
2. **Family, friends, and other supporters** who are willing to help fund part of your education through a one-time donation or monthly donations.
  - a. SJI is a non-profit corporation, capable of issuing receipts for donations.
  - b. Do not be afraid to ask! Consider the following:
    - i. If you present to your family and other supporters a plan to work for three years upon graduation for a non-profit, you can ask them to sponsor your education as a means of furthering the cause of that non-profit. Therefore, you are not receiving support from them for your sake alone, but in order to better help the causes they also see as worthy.
    - ii. If you present to your family and other supporters a plan to work for three years upon graduation for the Church in one of her ministries, you can propose your education as a gift for the Church. You are asking them to help form you for a lifetime of service, and will agree to work for the Church in some capacity for three years upon graduation in exchange for their support.
  
3. SJI is a partner with Walsh University and our students are students of Walsh University. Although limited funds are available for graduate students, **students can apply for financial aid in the form of federal direct student loans**. Loans are awarded on a yearly basis by following these steps:
  - i. File the Walsh University Application for Financial Aid
    - Go to [www.walsh.edu/uploads/walsh-interactive.pdf](http://www.walsh.edu/uploads/walsh-interactive.pdf)
  - ii. A Walsh University admissions counselor will contact you to review your situation, see what will be available through Walsh, and answer any questions you may have. All federal financial aid is processed through the Walsh University Financial Aid Office.
  - iii. Please contact your SJI Admissions Officer to let us know the details of your award package.

## Secunda Via: Participation in the Apex Missionary Program (AMP)

The Apex Missionary Program (AMP) is SJI's premier formation program. Students must apply to be accepted into the AMP.

The Apex Missionary Program brings many benefits to its participants:

- Guaranteed job upon graduation
- All costs for SJI covered
- Internship experience during study
- Mentorship and networking focused on your work after graduation.

As an AMP missionary, you enter into a contractual arrangement with the Saint John Institute wherein you pledge to work for the interest of a sponsoring organization (or donor) for three years after graduation in exchange for a scholarship to SJI and (when applicable) employment with that organization for three years.

There are three basic kinds of sponsoring organizations.

1. A corporation, diocese, parish, charity, ministry or other institution pays for your SJI formation in exchange for guaranteed full-time employment for three years in their institution upon your graduation.
  - Here are a few examples: a parish seeking an Office Manager with an evangelizing spirit, an existing retreat program needs a national director who is well-formed and faithful to the Church, but also competent with marketing and social media, a local small Catholic business wants a Director of Operations who is Catholic but able to take the business to a new level. In these, and many other examples, the AMP missionary fills a crucial need in the Church while also availing himself of the help he needs to finance his education.
2. A private donor who wishes to see a certain kind of work in evangelization advance.
  - For example, a pro-life family in Chicago would like to see a Crisis Pregnancy Center opened in their neighborhood may seek to contract with the AMP to supply an SJI student who will work towards this cause for three years upon graduation in exchange for a full SJI scholarship. The student can begin to fundraise and create the financial infrastructure for their endeavor whilst at SJI, thus ensuring their own salary upon graduation and garnering excellent work experience whilst studying. In any case, having succeeded to fundraise or not, they then work for three years to advance the cause, according to terms set in the contractual agreement with the private donor.

- This private donor can be located by the SJI student or (if available) can be provided by the AMP.
3. A group of private donors who wish to see a certain kind of work in evangelization advance.
- For example, a group of Vietnamese families wish to see someone effectively catechize the Vietnamese children of their city or region. They group together to raise the scholarship money and contract with the AMP to supply an SJI student who would like to work to evangelize their children for three years, full-time, upon graduation. The missionary may be called upon to find a way to pay his own salary, but he will be adequately trained at SJI to accomplish this.
  - This group can be found by the SJI student or (if available) provided by the AMP.

A few points:

1. To participate in the Apex Missionary Program, a tri-partite contract is signed between SJI, the student, and the sponsoring institution, outlining the details of the agreement. All agreements are subject to negotiation. All parties are free to set the terms agreeable to them.
2. The student receives 90% debt forgiveness after the 5-year commitment has been fulfilled. Upon graduation, the student will make monthly payments to pay off the remaining 10% within 1 year of graduation.



## Tertia Via: Create your own Ministry and Mission and use it to Fundraise

One of the most compelling ways to finance your costs at SJI is also one of the most motivating: position your SJI formation as part of your preparation for a lifetime of mission. If you already know what you would like to do, why not start doing it now, and incorporate your formation into its costs?

Here is how.

1. You start by establishing a 501(c) 3 based on your chosen mission.
2. With the help of the people you will meet through SJI, you can craft a development strategy, which includes covering the tuition cost through fundraising. The cost of tuition can be covered through a salary paid to you as its director.
3. In addition, SJI will provide you with guidance and a fundraising packet to help fundraise your education and formation.

## Quarta Via: SJI Scholar Assistance Program

When available, the Saint John Institute can help you fund part of your education and formation through scholarships awards. Interested parties should consult with SJI Admissions for scholarship application.

## Quinta Via: Federal Service Loan Forgiveness Program

In recognition of 10 years of work for a non-profit organization the federal government can forgive debts incurred to pay for the Saint John Institute.

Here are some details:

- a) This program is only available to those who borrow federal direct student loans.
- b) After 10 years of making monthly payments on your student loans, the remaining debt is forgiven, if you have worked for a non-profit for those 10 years. Restrictions apply.
- c) Students should contact their lender for more information and to enroll in the Loan Forgiveness Program.