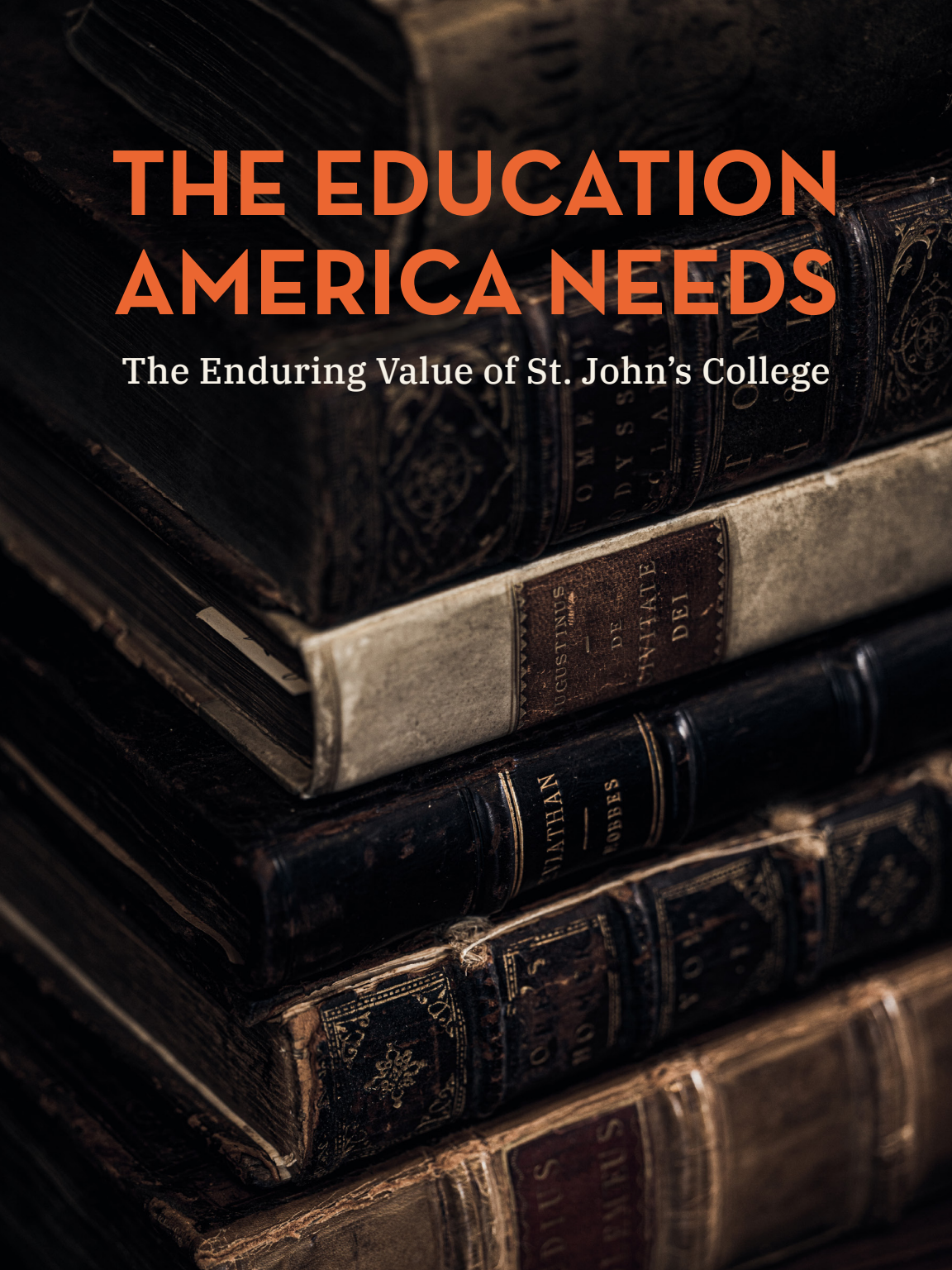




THE EDUCATION AMERICA NEEDS

The Enduring Value of St. John's College

A NATION DIVIDED

Across every boundary, we see fear, cynicism, and anger replacing dialogue. Many Americans no longer believe that shared truth is even possible. At St. John's, our classrooms are daily rehearsals in the art of citizenship. Students read Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Politics*, the *Federalist Papers*, and de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* alongside Lincoln, Douglass, and Du Bois: texts that together form a continuous, affirming, *and* self-critical tradition. They learn to entertain opposing views without hatred, to argue without enmity, to listen for understanding rather than victory. Here, conversation and an earnest desire to understand replace confrontation, as students and faculty

gather around a single table and learn the civic virtues that sustain a democracy: humility, self-discipline, patience, reasoned speech, and friendship.

While the society around us cultivates grievance and groupthink, St. John's cultivates the ability to reason with those who differ from us, the habit of questioning and listening before judging, and a reverence for truth-finding joined with compassion for others. Our graduates emerge not as partisans of ideology, but as stewards of civil society—educated citizens who are learning how to build something productive and enduring together.

“Every man bears the whole form of the human condition.”

—Montaigne, *Essays*

ST. JOHN'S CULTIVATES

- ♦ The ability to reason with those who differ from us ♦
- ♦ The habit of questioning before judging ♦
- ♦ Reverence for truth joined with compassion for others ♦



A TECHNOLOGICAL AGE IN NEED OF HUMANITY

“All of humanity’s problems stem from man’s
inability to sit quietly in a room alone.”

—Pascal, *Pensées*

We live amid technological miracles that risk making us strangers to ourselves. Artificial intelligence can now mimic thinking, yet it cannot wonder, love, nor contemplate the good, the virtuous and the just. Social media connects us while deepening loneliness; information multiplies even as attention collapses. Fortunately, St. John’s offers an antidote: a deliberately humanizing education. In our classrooms, phones are silent, and minds are fully engaged. Students read, speak, and listen face to face. They learn that attention is not a given but a discipline, and that understanding

grows through sustained struggle with difficult texts and a diversity of ideas.

As the digital world devalues human agency, St. John’s cultivates deep attention, intellectual and moral discernment, and individuality. Our graduates use technology without being used by it and approach machines as tools of human beings rather than masters of humanity. They carry into the digital world the habits of reflection and judgment born in the living world of “words and deeds.”

ST. JOHN’S CULTIVATES

- ♦ Concentration in an age of distraction ♦
- ♦ Discernment in an age of manipulation ♦
- ♦ Integrity in an age of automation ♦



A HIGHER EDUCATION CRISIS

“The unexamined life is not worth living.”

—Socrates, *Plato’s Apology*

Across the nation, higher education has too often traded inquiry for ideology and formation for credentialing. Students are told to build résumés rather than souls. At St. John’s, education still means the cultivation of a whole human being. Each student reads the same 200 great works—from Homer, the Hebrew Bible, and Augustine to Galileo, Locke, Woolf and Baldwin. They study mathematics from Euclid to Einstein; they conduct laboratory experiments in the order of their discovery, learning how knowledge is born. In this community, there are no spectators. Every Johnnie speaks, every voice is heard, and every individual is

required to back up their assertions with reason. Our faculty are called tutors because their role is not to profess authoritative positions but to guide students as fellow inquirers. Truth is pursued; it is not pronounced.

When other colleges promise safety from discomfort, we promise transformation through engagement, freedom of thought grounded in reason, friendship founded on shared inquiry, and the courage to confront difficulty by moving through it. Our students discover that resilience arises from rigor—and that joy follows from hard-won understanding.

ST. JOHN’S CULTIVATES

- ♦ Freedom of thought grounded in reason ♦
- Friendship founded on shared inquiry •
- Courage to confront difficulty and grow through it ♦



A CLASSROOM THAT UNITES-AND ENRICHES



A St. John's education unites several strands—language, mathematics, music, and science—into one discipline of the mind. Students read texts with care, often slowly, aloud, and together. In seminar discussions, they interpret Plato's dialogues, trace arguments in Euclid, and watch Galileo build the foundations of modern physics. In the laboratory, they repeat the great experiments of history, witnessing the birth of discovery. This is not learning about ideas; it is learning by testing them. Students learn to reason from first principles, to follow evidence wherever it leads, and to communicate with precision and grace.

The result is an intellect that endures and friendships across differences that last lifetimes. St. John's alumni thrive as scientists, teachers, theologians, doctors, diplomats, entrepreneurs, judges, and artists because they have learned how to learn, to listen, and to reconsider. In a world that prizes utility over wisdom, they cultivate good lives that lead to meaningful careers and deep community engagement.





THE WORLD NEEDS ST. JOHN'S, TOO

Though born in America, St. John's serves a universal mission. Our students and alumni come from across the world, drawn to a college where every human question—about truth, justice, beauty, faith, and freedom—can be asked openly. The great conversation we sustain stretches across three millennia and has spanned global cultures and nations for centuries. To study here is to join that conversation and carry it forward into one's own time and country. Wherever our graduates live, they bring with them the habits of reasoned discourse and humane curiosity that the world so urgently needs.



Support St. John's College

By supporting St. John's College, you are supporting the formation of young minds through the wisest teachers we have: the Great Books, which we explore through open conversation in an environment where every spirit of inquiry is celebrated. Support for St. John's means supporting a new generation of young people who will be able to read deeply, think freely, and speak both honestly and respectfully. Your support can help to provide more generous student scholarships and aid, grow our endowment, support our faculty and staff, and maintain our two campuses. Strengthening this institution is another way of renewing the oldest promise of education: a promise to cultivate free human beings capable of building and sustaining a free world.

If you believe that this is the education America needs today, join our mission to invigorate St. John's College while serving as a beacon for higher education. Your gift ensures that every yearning student, regardless of background or circumstance, can sit at the table of conversation that began with Homer and continues with you.

**AMERICA—AND THE WORLD—NEEDS
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.**

GIVE AT
sjc.edu/give



REFER A STUDENT AT
sjc.edu/refer





ST JOHN'S College

ANNAPOLIS • SANTA FE