

# *Prayer Tour*

## *Refreshing Your Spirit*



We invite the College Community to join together in praying for renewed spirit for our campus community.

We encourage you to participate in the way that best fits your situation and particular prayer style. Take time to reflect with the prayers in this booklet as you walk alone or with friends, visiting various sites around campus. If you are not on campus, you can take a virtual tour of the sites on-line or in the comfort of your backyard or kitchen table. By choosing “prayer stops” around campus it is our hope that as many prayer sojourners as possible will encircle the campus, surrounding it with prayers of peace, hope and care.

**(Sight Descriptions are taken from the St. Norbert College: Campus Historical Tour” booklet)**

## 1. Centennial Sculpture, Norbert of Xanten

### *Sight Description:*

This statue was erected in celebration of the College's centennial celebration. Norbert is depicted as an energetic man and fearless preacher of God's Word. Bearing the branch of peace and the staff of leadership, St. Norbert models selfless sharing and reaching out to others with love that is to exemplify our lives.



### *Opening Prayer:*

Creator,

We ask you this day to warm our lives with light, hope and fearlessness. St. Norbert approached life with vigor and worked from an inner strength seeking out the wisdom of others and trusting in his own inner authority. Guide us to do the same and to approach others with the hope of being blessed by their wisdom and truth and trusting that they in turn will do the same.

### *Reflections: (alone or in a group)*

What fears and hopes do you bring with you as you start this academic year?

What wisdom is Norbert asking you to contribute for the good of our community?

### *Closing Prayer:*

Creator, may we have the courage to be true to our calling and to be people of justice and truth.

## 2. Todd Wehr Library

### *Sight Description:*

Formerly used as a women's dormitory (known as Dorm IV), the Todd Wehr Library is the third site for the library on campus (the other two sights include Main Hall and Boyle Hall). The library also houses "The Writing Center," a program for assisting students with writing skills. This library opened in 1978. A new library is the College's top priority and will be built at a new site, vacating the Wehr Building for other campus needs.

### *Opening Prayer: (Enter building)*

Wonder God,

As we sit within stacks of books filled with knowledge, we ask that you fill our minds with your presence. Wash upon us words and ideas that are filled with new life and hope for the coming year.

### *Reflections: (alone or in a group)*

What word or idea is near to your heart as you begin this academic year?

What would be the title of the book that speaks to the story of your life?

### *Closing Prayer:*

Wonder God,

Write on our hearts and minds words of your love and hope.



### 3. Baer Mall (in front of Main Hall)

#### *Sight Description:*

Walking through the arch, the mall brings us to the center of the campus in front of Main Hall. It is the location of the President and Vice-Presidents. It is also the location of the health and counseling centers where many have come for healing. On the first floor is an image of St. Norbert and the college Coat of Arms. Each, in their own way, reminding us who we are as a college community.

#### *Opening Prayer:*

*Holy God,*

We call to you as we sit at the center of campus. We know you long to be at the center of all the joys, hopes, loss and blessings of this year.

This place of gathering and passing reminds us we are part of some thing bigger than ourselves and beckons us to reach out to one another.

#### *Reflections: (alone or in a group)*

*Who on campus is at the heart of your community? Have you shared your gratitude for their presence?*

*Who do you feel called to reach out to?*

#### *Closing Prayer:*

Holy God,

May we have the courage to gather, support and not to just pass by one another.



### 4. Frank J. and Margaret Sensenbrenner Memorial Union



#### *Sight Description:*

The “Union,” as it is referred to, became the center for student gatherings and socials in 1961. The building serves as the major dining area on campus and hosts a variety of dinners and wedding banquets. The “Peace and Justice Center,” as well as the mail and copy centers are also located here.

#### *Opening Prayer:*

Creator,

Much happens in this building – business, meetings, and many meals shared. All of these events have the potential to bring us life or take the life from us. We can find ourselves in difficult meetings or be surprised by a breakfast conversation that unexpectedly becomes tense. Other meetings and meals in this building spur new ideas and hope for our future.

#### *Reflections: (alone or in a group)*

How open and prepared am I for the conversations of this coming year?  
Is there anything I can do to be more prepared?

#### *Closing Prayer:*

Creator, may our dialogue spur renewed ideas, questions and possibilities.

## 5. Dennis M. Burke Hall

### *Sight Description:*

Known originally as Residence Hall, this was the first building erected exclusively for student housing in 1942. During World War II most of the St. Norbert students left the College for the military but several hundred U.S. soldiers were assigned to St. Norbert College for higher education courses. The exterior architecture is Williamsburg Colonial. Throughout its history this hall has been named “Residence Hall,” “Berne Hall” (after the Norbertine Berne Abbey in Holland from which the Norbertines came to Northeastern Wisconsin) and “Burke Hall” after Fr. Dennis Burke, O. Praem., the College’s second president.

### *Opening Prayer:*

Loving God,

As we look at this beautiful historic building we ponder the ways in which this community becomes a “home” to many.

### *Reflections: (alone or in a group)*

What aspects of SNC are “home” for you?

What have you been called to contribute to this “household”?

### *Closing Prayer:*

Loving God, nourish us with the comfort, support, and challenge of “home” in our time at SNC.



## 6. Ray Van Den Heuvel Family Campus Center

### *Sight Description:*

This Campus Center is a blending of the original Van Dyke gymnasium and a new addition for Campus Center activities. The gym was renovated and is used daily. A snack bar, student activities offices, exercise room, reflection lounge and entertainment area are complemented by the outdoor patio, decks and waterfront connection.

### *Opening Prayer:*

Creator,

Energy flows in this place. People constantly moving in and through this building – eating, working, exercising, relaxing, singing, studying, reflecting, and much more! This is a place of activity in a beautiful setting that reminds us to relax and reflect by the water.

### *Reflections: (alone or in a group)*

In the midst of all I am involved in at SNC, am I taking time regularly to reflect and ponder?

How can I make reflection a regular part of my time of campus?

### *Closing Prayer:*

Creator, grant us the inner freedom to take time for both activity and reflection. Give us the courage to seek a better balance of contemplation and action.



## 7. Old St. Joseph Church and Oratory



### *Sight Description:*

Fr. Albanel built the first structure for worship on this site in 1676. A new church building was dedicated on Christmas Day in 1870 but burned down in 1889. A new church building was built in 1890, which serves as the foundation for the current structure. The church has been remodeled twice. The name of the church is Old St. Joseph Church but the official name of the parish is St. Norbert College Parish. The college community gathers here for the opening of the academic year, for weekly Common Prayer, for Sunday liturgy and to share our faith in a loving and caring God. The Oratory is the location of the Blessed Sacrament and is also the location of for Norbertine community prayer which is always open to the public.

### *Opening Prayer:*

As we sit in this sacred space we feel its history. This is a history filled with change and transition – tearing down, renovation and building up. That it our story too – that is the story of each member of the SNC community and most especially these last three years.

### *Reflections: (alone or in a group)*

What is being built up in your heart?

Where do you witness a spirit of renovation and building up on campus?

### *Closing Prayer:*

Creator, thank you for a space to reflect and receive all of life honestly. Give us the courage to be people of hope, life, and joy.