



2021 GUEST SPEAKER  
STEPHEN D. MINNIS

We are blessed and thrilled to welcome Stephen Minnis, president of Benedictine College, as our keynote speaker for the 2021 Benefit Dinner! President Minnis is widely regarded as one of the most dynamic and inspirational leaders in Catholic education today.

After serving as president of the Benedictine College Alumni Association from 1991 to 1995, Minnis joined the Benedictine College Board of Directors 1992, and in October, 2004, he became president of the college.

Under his leadership Benedictine College has experienced enormous success. In his 16 year tenure as president, Minnis has added 10 new residence halls, three new chapels, seven new academic buildings, and guided the college to recognition as a top 10 ranked *U.S. News & World Report* school in its category. Benedictine is one of only 15 residential colleges in the Newman College Guide.

“The answer to the question of why we have seen this success at Benedictine College is the same answer that will sustain us into the future,” President Minnis said. “First, we embraced Our Lady, and secondly we embraced our mission. Embracing her and asking for her help is one of the key factors in our success.” President Minnis is a strong proponent of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and he leads by example. At 7:00 a.m. each Wednesday, Minnis can be found at the Marian grotto or in the abbey church leading students in the Rosary. Minnis points out, “Mary always brings you closer to her son, Jesus.”

He was one of only five college presidents to be included on the Committee on Catholic Education *Ex Corde Ecclesia* Working Group in Baltimore in 2012, and he was invited by the Vatican to participate in the 2012 *Pontificia Comisión Para América* in Rome.

Minnis and his wife, Amy, live in Acheson, Kansas, and have three grown children.