

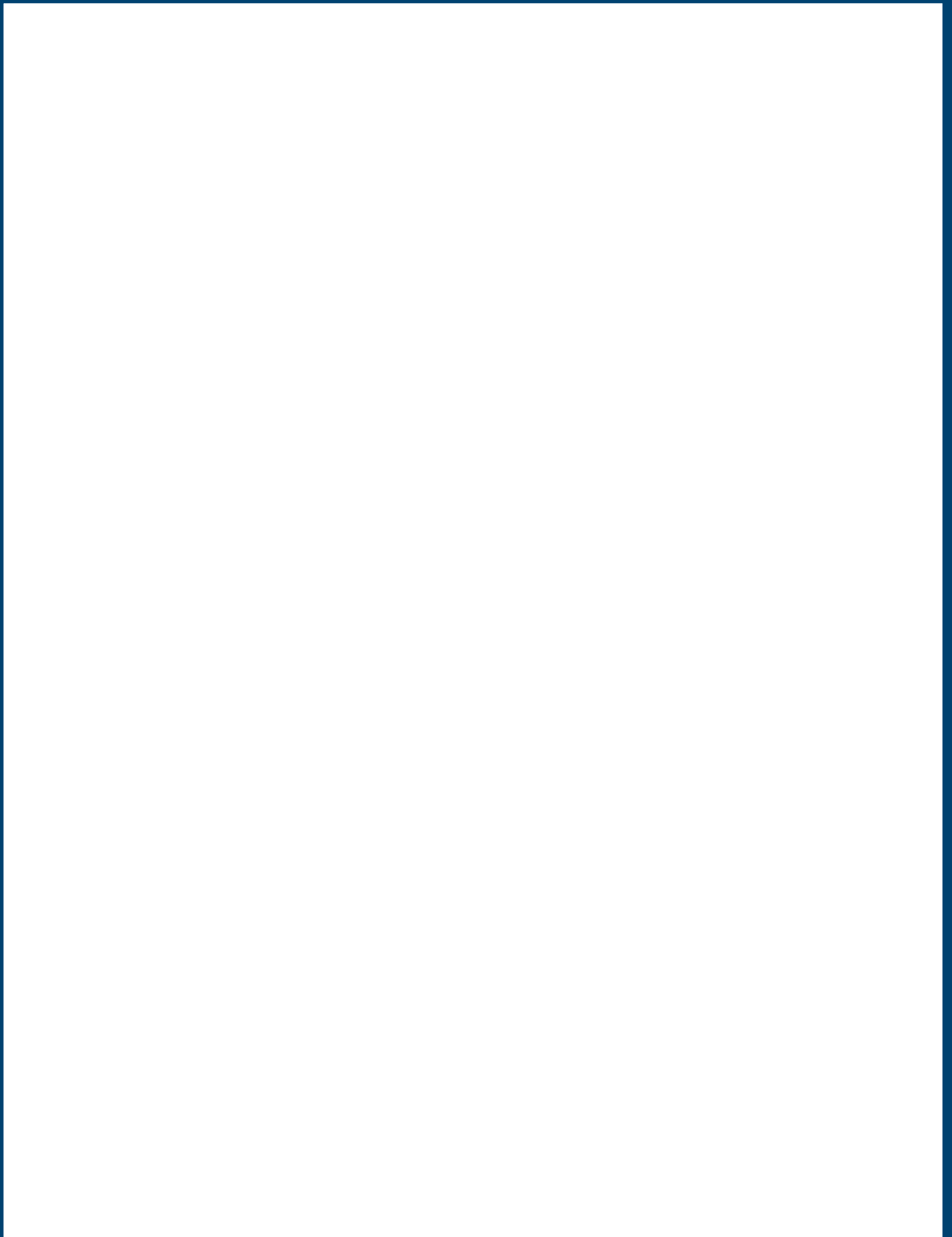
# Executive Summary

Saint Peter's University  
Mission Statement: **Self-Sacrifice**

A Journey of Gratitude and  
Recommitment to Catholic and  
Jesuit Identity and Mission



Saint Peter's



# Saint Peter's University Examen Journey

## Executive Summary

### OVERVIEW

As part of the Mission Examen process of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), Saint Peter's University (SPU) participated in a year-long "Examen Journey" to determine how the campus community can maintain and bolster its Catholic and Jesuit identity and mission. This executive summary provides a synopsis of the self-study process, its findings and the mission priorities that the University community has identified to continue its growth and development as a Catholic, Jesuit institution.

The "journey" theme was selected for the self-study to acknowledge the process as an integral milestone in the University's overall journey, including its upcoming sesquicentennial

Furthermore, the process was strongly influenced by the University's more recent ecclesiastical journey that began in 2011 with the Archdiocese of Newark to transition the neighborhood parish church of St. Aedan's into St. Aedan's: The Saint Peter's University Church. The University Church serves to strengthen the Catholic identity of Saint Peter's and as the cornerstone for a reinvigorated emphasis on ministry and mission.

## **INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE**

Established in 1872, SPU educates the most diverse student body among the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States, while pursuing the mission to prepare graduates "to excel intellectually, lead ethically, serve compassionately and promote justice in our ever-changing urban and global environment." The main campus is in Jersey City, New Jersey, often cited as the most diverse city in the nation, and just two miles from Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. The University has a proud and a long history of making higher education accessible to low- and moderate-income individuals, and educating immigrants and their children and the minority community. As of Fall 2017 the student body nJtoty hasote 41so se oethea (h2,3(OFI)-420 educa

Jesuit institution in light of our institutional mission to prepare graduates “to excel intellectually, lead ethically, serve compassionately and promote justice in our ever-changing urban and global environment.” Through the University’s leadership, the entire campus community shares responsibility for advancing this mission and its Catholic, Jesuit values. The mission statement is inspired by the 470-year-old tradition and principles of Jesuit education. The University undertakes wide-ranging and deep efforts to involve the campus community in discussions of and formation in the Catholic, Jesuit tradition. SPU is blessed with a Board of Trustees, president and lay leaders who are committed to ensuring that its policies, programs and decisions support our Catholic, Jesuit identity.

## **CHARACTERISTIC 2: THE ACADEMIC LIFE**

The vibrant academic life of the University is driven by the Catholic and Jesuit mission



## CHARACTERISTIC 7: INTEGRITY

Saint Peter's University continues its journey to foster a community that seeks to "live lives of honesty, integrity and concern for the common good," as called for by Pope Francis. This commitment is fulfilled in the people, policies, leadership, programs, and places at the University and supported by the goals of the strategic plan, *Pathways to Distinction*. The alumni are proud of their Jesuit education and enthusiastically support New Jersey's only Jesuit University. Through ethical decision making, fair and equitable human resources policies, leadership formation, and environmental sustainability practices, the integrity of Saint Peter's University is uniquely inspired by and aligned with its Jesuit heritage.

## JESUIT MISSION PRIORITIES

The Saint Peter's University community has identified four overarching Mission Priorities — invitations for growth — over the next five years, to foster our Catholic, Jesuit identity and mission. Possible pathways to achieve these priorities are included in the full report. Under the leadership of the president, the University commits to these priorities.

- 1. Ensure that the resources for Mission and Ministry effectively and adequately support Ignatian formation and programming for the campus laity, the student body and the parishioners at St. Aedan's: The Saint Peter's University Church.**

Throughout the Examen, the campus community indicated appreciation for the existing formation programs provided by the University, but also called for intensified and continuing orientations. There is a need for the University to provide adequate funding and resources for Mission and Ministry to expand these programs and to support the area's goals overall. Over the years, the Jesuit community has generously contributed to mission programs and Ignatian spirituality development. With the decline in the number of active Jesuits on campus, the

- 3. Integrate more effectively, and articulate more clearly, Ignatian values across all parts of the undergraduate and graduate curriculum and student experiences.**



**GO FORTH  
AND SET  
THE WORLD  
ON FIRE.**

*Saint Ignatius of Loyola*

