

# JOIN ME IN LEARNING OUR MISSION STATEMENT BY HEART

By Dr. Bill Thierfelder

In *Crossroads* we read about many great people, programs, and events here at the Abbey, but how do we know whether they are relevant to our mission?

When I ask students, faculty, staff, and alumni, “What is the mission of Belmont Abbey College?” they often tell me many good things about the College but rarely what its actual purpose or mission statement is.

Our mission statement is like True North on the compass. We would

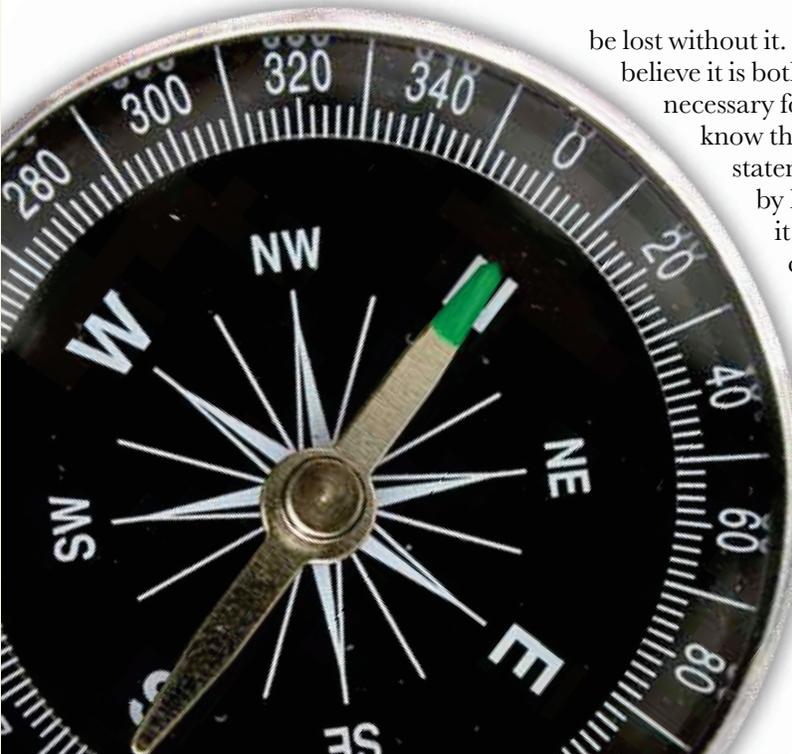


if every member of our College community were to know the mission statement by heart. Imagine if a guest at BAC could ask anyone on campus “What is the mission of Belmont Abbey College?” and without missing a beat, hear: *Our mission is to educate students in the liberal arts and sciences so that in all things God may be glorified. In this endeavor, we are guided by the Catholic intellectual tradition and the Benedictine spirit of prayer and learning. Exemplifying Benedictine hospitality, we welcome a diverse body of students and provide*

---

**“OUR MISSION STATEMENT IS OUR LODESTAR, BUT IT ALSO REMINDS US OF WHY WE ARE HERE AND GIVES MEANING TO OUR WORK AND SACRIFICE.”**

---



be lost without it. Consequently, I believe it is both important and necessary for each of us to know the College’s mission statement—preferably by heart. We can use it as our guide, our compass, and our safety gauge to be sure that we are always heading in the right direction and to correct our way if we begin to go off course.

I think it would be wonderful

*them with an education that will enable them to lead lives of integrity, to succeed professionally, to become responsible citizens, and to be a blessing to themselves and to others.*

Our mission statement is our lodestar, but it also reminds us of why we are here and gives meaning to our work and sacrifice. It is remarkable that the 134 years of work and prayer that created Belmont Abbey College have been captured so eloquently in three short sentences. I hope you will join with me in learning them by heart so that all of us will be ever-ready to give an answer for the hope that is in us.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

God Bless,  
Bill