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## SMC President Richard Plumb steps down; interim president named

By Vera Kochan



Brother Thomas Jones, FSC, is serving as Saint Mary's College Interim President Photo Saint Mary's College

faculty, staff, and our extended community."

Both press releases listed many of Plumb's accomplishments during his short term, which included guiding the College through the COVID-19 pandemic and positioning it for success in the post-pandemic environment, as well as establishing a new senior leadership team and facilitating the completion of the College's five-year strategic plan. Plumb also worked with Facilities Services and the board of trustees to facilitate the update of several residence halls, prioritize critical safety repairs, and take steps towards modernizing the college's buildings and grounds.

Brother Visitor Nick Gonzalez, FSC, and Eric Flowers, Chair of the Board of Trustees, in a statement on May 22 named Brother Thomas Jones, FSC, as interim president effective July 1, while the board begins the search for Plumb's replacement. Jones is an SMC alumnus and is currently the college's Staff Psychologist in Counseling and Psychological Services, having been a resident director since 2012.

"I am both honored and humbled to serve Saint Mary's as its Interim President," stated Jones. "Throughout my life I have been committed to Lasallian principles of education, principles that are embodied in the College's mission and have inspired and grounded the transformational experiences of students since 1968."

Jones added, "I enthusiastically embrace this opportunity to work with the Board of Trustees, senior leadership, faculty, staff, alumni, our amazing student body, and other supporters as we position ourselves as a leading innovative, national Catholic university that inspires minds, touches hearts, and transforms lives."

A nationwide search will commence at the start of the 2023-24 academic year with the help of an executive search firm. An SMC Search Committee made up of Trustees, Christian Brothers, faculty, staff, and student advisors will all take part in the selection process.?

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