



A particular aspect of pastoral care at St. Norbert College

“The first purpose for which you have come together is to live in unity in the house and to be of one mind and one heart on the way to God.”

“You awake us to delight in your praise, for you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rest in you.”

As a Catholic, Norbertine, liberal arts college, St. Norbert College draws in a particular way on the teaching and wisdom of St. Augustine, whose Rule was chosen by St. Norbert as a guide for the religious community he founded at Prémontré. In his *Rule* and his *Confessions* St. Augustine seems to suggest that Christian communities journey toward God moved by one heart and mind. He implies, we believe, that the journey of each person speeds or impedes the journey of all the others.

Our gospel-based understanding of *communio* “is characterized by mutual esteem, trust, sincerity, faith and responsibility. *Communio* is lived through open dialogue, communication, consultation and collaboration. *Communio* encourages us to respond individually and collectively to the needs of the local and global community.” Towards that end, all people, including those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT), are deserving of our care.

As the St. Norbert College community builds upon its concept of *communio* in service to all, we seek to increase awareness and recognition of diversity and, in particular, to foster understanding of gender expression and sexual orientation within a Catholic, Norbertine, liberal arts environment.