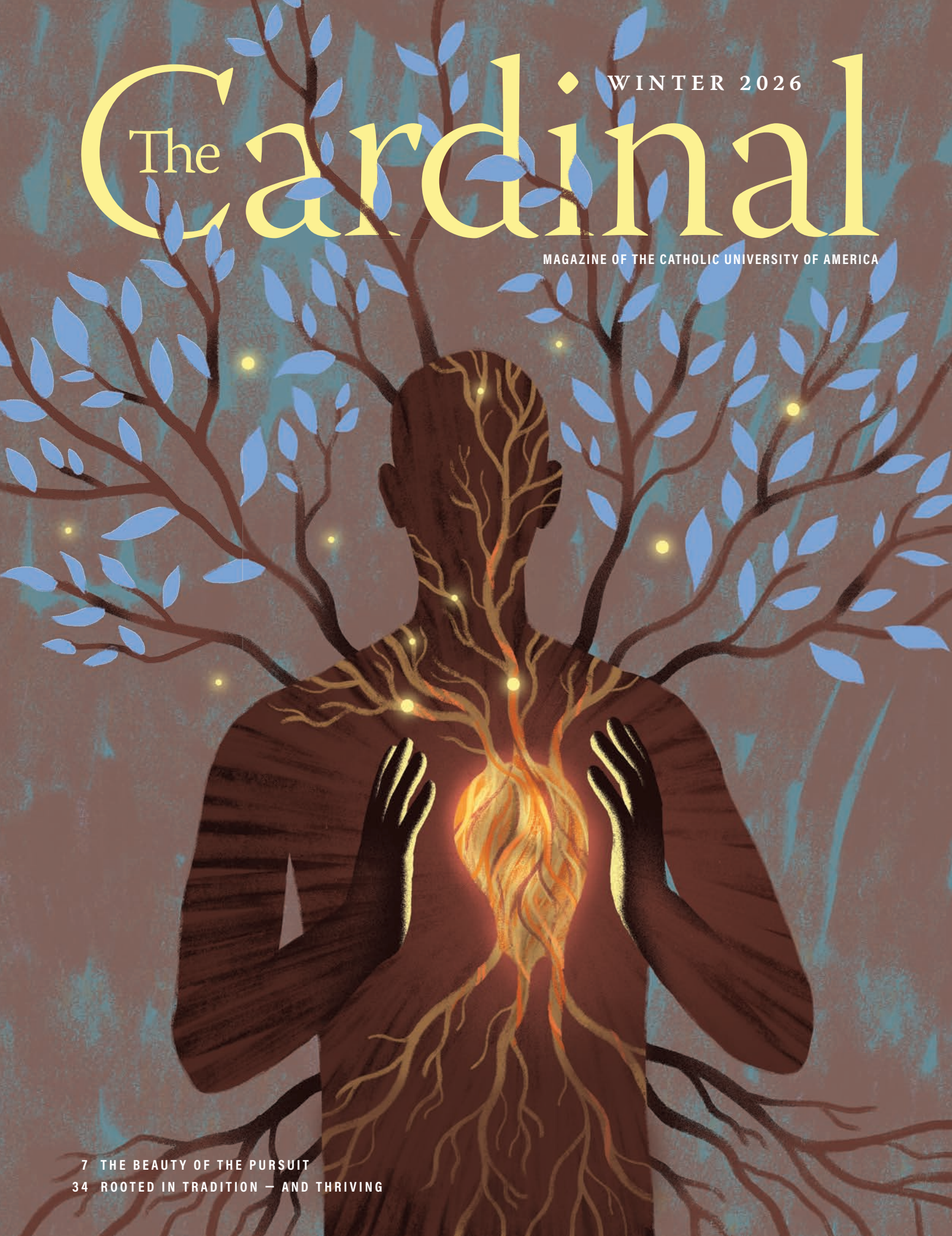


The Cardinal

WINTER 2026

MAGAZINE OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA



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34 ROOTED IN TRADITION — AND THRIVING





FRONTISPIECE

The illustration on the opposite page depicts St. George of Lydda on horseback, flanked by an angel, killing the dragon that threatens a young woman. This scene often appears on Ethiopian scrolls, to protect their owners from illness and demons through prayers, depictions of saints and archangels, and protective eyes. See p. 32 for more details.



Pope Leo's Map

In his recent letter, “Drawing New Maps of Hope,” Pope Leo XIV offers us a timely and evocative articulation of the Church’s educational mission. The Holy Father reminds us that “education is not an ancillary activity, but ... is the concrete way in which the Gospel becomes an educational gesture, a relationship, a culture. Today, in the face of rapid change and disorienting uncertainties, that legacy is showing surprising resilience.”

I believe the Holy Father is speaking directly to our University. In an educational landscape the pope calls “complex, fragmented, digitized,” keeping the human person at the center of our vision ensures that the intellectual and professional training we offer aims at higher purposes than simply what the market demands.

And what is this vision of the person? In brief: humans are body and soul; we have an infinite thirst for knowledge, love, justice, beauty, goodness — a thirst that cannot be wholly satisfied this side of eternity; we are made for communion. Education built on this

foundation has the power to continually renew the larger culture.

You will see in these pages numerous examples of the vitality of this transcendent vision: in the Columbus School of Law’s distinctive offerings and growing success (p. 34); in the support and mentorship offered to students by our Campus Ministry and Student Engagement offices (p. 40); in the beauty pursued by researchers and faculty across the entire gamut of disciplines (p. 7); and in the personal stories of alumni and students learning, working, and serving around the world.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation’s founding, we should recall Pope Leo XIII’s founding mandate to our University: “give to the Republic her best citizens” — a charge that has lost none of its urgency. Pope Leo XIV reminds us that our mission is nothing less than “helping [students] discover the meaning of life, their inalienable dignity, and their responsibility towards others.” By the grace of God, this is the culture we are building on our campus every day. ♦

PETER KILPATRICK, PRESIDENT
THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

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Rooted in Tradition — and Thriving

The Catholic University of America’s Columbus School of Law has leapt up in rankings, student applications, faculty hires, and high-profile achievements. But this success didn’t happen overnight.

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A Critical Moment: Adapting to Change

Gen Z is driving program shifts at universities. Our Student Engagement and Campus Ministry teams are part of that change.

COVER AND ILLUSTRATION BY MATT CHINWORTH

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“A consecrated person must be a wounded healer, ...
a voice for the voiceless, ... and a giver of hope.”

— Bishop Pierre-André Dumas



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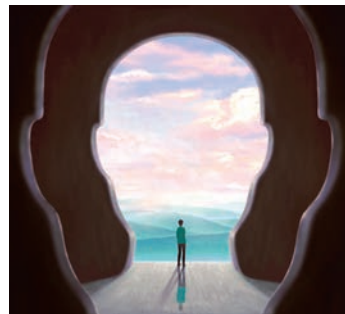
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CATHOLIC BY THE NUMBERS

Meet Our Future Cardinals

This past fall, we were thrilled to welcome **850+** first-year students to campus! The growth and excitement is palpable and we are bullish on the future of The Catholic University of America. Here are the key stats for the Class of 2029.

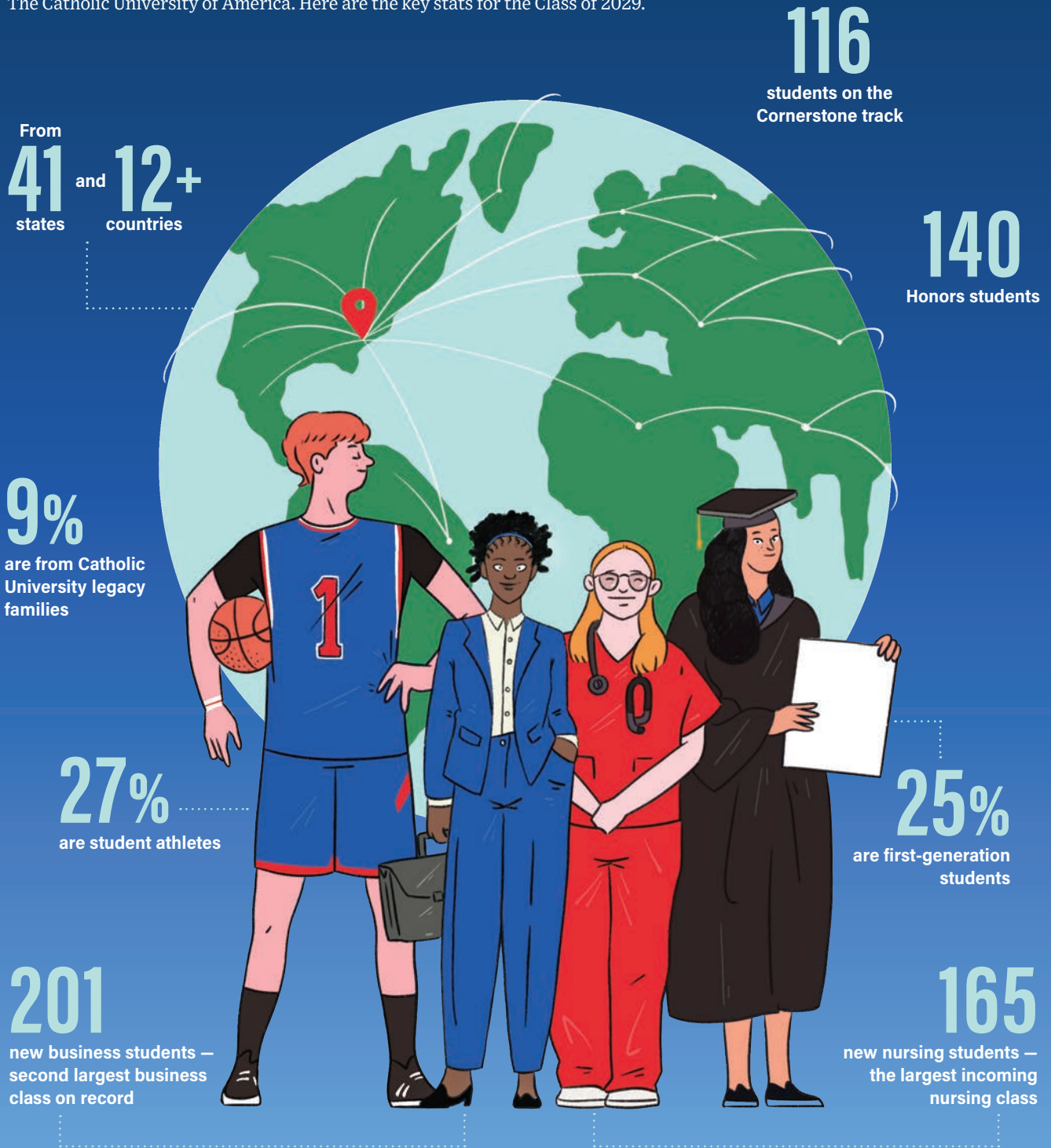


ILLUSTRATION BY MARCOS MONTELUSSIERO

Briefings from the halls to the Mall and beyond

"THE CONWAYS' GENEROSITY REPRESENTS A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY — THE LARGEST SINGLE DONATION IN ITS HISTORY AND A DEFINING EXAMPLE OF WHAT TRANSFORMATIVE PHILANTHROPY CAN ACHIEVE."

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RESEARCH

The Beauty of the Pursuit

BY MARIANA BARILLAS

Founded as one of the nation's first research universities, Catholic University's commitment to advancing human knowledge shines through generations of academics across all disciplines. Here, we have a unique way of innovating and discovering — guided by the light of both faith and reason.



The Beauty of Character Formation

This fall, The Catholic University of America launched a \$1 million campus-wide initiative to integrate virtue cultivation into the undergraduate experience and to research its impact.

The funding comes from an Institutional Impact grant from the Educating Character Initiative of the Program for Leadership and Character at Wake Forest University.

“Virtue and character formation are central to ... our identity as the nation’s and the bishops’ Catholic university,” said President Kilpatrick. “This grant provides the University with a unique opportunity to more deeply integrate the learning — and living — of virtue across campus, providing all undergraduates knowledge and practices that will benefit them throughout their lives.”

Theologian Gregory LaNave, Ph.D. 2002, leads the implementation of this project across campus and says that the enthusiasm from students and faculty for participating in the project is palpable.

Central to the project are virtue-based exercises incorporated into coursework and surveys to track student experience. The 11 focus virtues are foresight, honesty, hope, humility, magnanimity, teachability, gratitude, friendliness, diligence, understanding/science, and resilience. Sample activities include a business course where students practice resilience by being challenged with an almost impossible task and a nursing course where students find hope by giving hope to patients.

The result, LaNave explained, will be “a catalog of tried and true practices for the cultivation of virtue that will be a permanent possession of this university. That will be a marvelous basis for us to reach out to other organizations — educational or other — and help them accomplish the same.”

The Beauty of Aesthetics

Sociology Professor Brandon Vaidyanathan received a \$3.89 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation for a first-of-its-kind, large-scale international study of beauty.

This “Can Beauty Save the World? Aesthetic Engagement Among the Spiritual But Not Religious” research spans disciplines including literature, neuroscience, philosophy, and psychology to better understand how individual and collective experiences of beauty may contribute to creating a sense of transcendent meaning.

“The project will serve as a powerful catalyst to spur scholars, practitioners, and communities to take beauty seriously as a force for good in the world,” said Professor Vaidyanathan. The grant co-leader is an English lecturer and visiting research fellow at Catholic University, novelist and nonfiction author, Tara Isabella Burton. Other project co-investigators include Anjan Chatterjee (University of Pennsylvania); Katie Bank (University of Birmingham); Rebekah Wallace (University of Oxford); and Stephen Bullivant (St. Mary’s University, Twickenham/London).





The Beauty of Our Universe

University researchers are part of an international effort upgrading the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world's largest particle accelerator at CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research). Provost Aaron Dominguez is one of the leads for the next generation of discoveries about the fundamental forces that shape our physical world.

In a lab in Hannan Hall, particle physics engineer Rhea Khatri leads a small team developing an on-campus production line to build silicon-based sensor pixel detector modules. It's an essential step in the production pipeline entrusted to just a handful of institutions.

"[The modules] are designed to withstand higher radiation, higher luminosity, and higher energy levels for the Phase II upgrade of the Compact Muon Solenoid detector," said Khatri. All of these factors combined will dramatically increase the discovery power of the LHC.

The devices will tile the interior of the new inner tracker that traces the paths of particles upon collision for the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS), one of two general-purpose experiments at the LHC.

The Beauty of Sound

Benjamin T. Rome School of Performing Arts Music Professor Andrew Earle Simpson is one of the nation's top artists, composers, and performing musicians. And now, his music will bring new life to some of the world's first movies. Over his career, he has shared this love with 10 students and alumni whose original compositions now accompany historically significant silent films preserved in the Library of Congress. (See sidebar above.)

From a Georges Méliès fantasy to a recording of an early basketball game, each film with each composer's new music can be viewed on the Library's website.

The composers, all of whom have studied music composition with Professor Simpson at the University, are Kris Amundson, M.M. 2023; Matthew Brown, M.M. 2023; Michael DeMarco, M.M. 2024; Aidan Feeney, a music composition senior; Sarah Norcross Hough (completed one year of master's study at Catholic University); James Krom, M.M. 2024; composition doctoral student Christian Lyons; Elizabeth Rexine, B.A. 2025, and current composition graduate student; Michael Roll, M.M. 2023; and Mary Russman, B.M. 2024.

"They're in the library's catalog; they're listed now as collaborators in the library system," said Simpson. "I don't know if that's immortality, but it's pretty close! They're now part of our cultural memory."

The scores were performed live to screen at the National Gallery of Art and on campus by the DC-based contemporary classical ensemble Balance Campaign. The recordings were synchronized to silent films from the Library of Congress' Paper Print Collection, which holds the only records of many innovative works that continue to inspire filmmakers today.

In the early days of motion pictures, a theater would hire musicians to perform at a film screening. Very few had original music, and even fewer have survived — lost to history like most of the early creative outputs of the emerging film industry.

Despite the absence of technology to synchronize sound, "the language of film was invented in those early decades," said Simpson. He explained that artists worked within the limits of the medium to convey meaning with "gesture, rhythm, and facial expression" that composers like himself can amplify into experiences that remain distinct from those in modern movies.

As a composer, musician, and conductor, Simpson's silent film scores have been featured on Turner Classic Movies and in more than 50 DVD and Blu-ray releases, and he performs live around the world. He recently appeared as a guest artist at the inaugural Los Angeles Silent Film Festival, where he debuted his original score for the 1925 classic, *The Big Parade*, in honor of the film's 100th anniversary.

"A silent film with live music can be a magical experience," said Simpson. That's movie magic, indeed. ♦





Blessing of Hands Ceremony, Oct. 3, 2025

PHILANTHROPY

The Conways' Historic Gift

Transforming Nursing Education at Catholic University

BY BILL LENNERT

Bill Conway is on a mission to change the face of healthcare — one nurse at a time. Together with his late wife, Joanne Barkett Conway, he has devoted himself to strengthening the very core of the profession by educating and training nurses — the hands, hearts, and minds at the backbone of patient care. This work is supported through the Bedford Falls Foundation, the Conways' philanthropic foundation, which was established to support nursing, health and human services, and pathways that expand opportunity for those called to serve.

That mission found a powerful partner in The Catholic University of America, where the Conways' vision has taken root in the Conway School of Nursing. Through their extraordinary \$1 billion commitment to expanding nursing

education nationwide — including a record-breaking \$32 million gift to Catholic University, bringing their total contributions here to more than \$120 million — the Conways are helping to address one of the nation's most urgent needs: preparing more compassionate, highly skilled nurses to serve where they are needed most.

Their generosity also made possible the construction of the state-of-the-art Conway School of Nursing building, which opened in August 2024 — a space designed to inspire excellence in nursing education and innovation in patient care.

"The Conways' vision and generosity have completely transformed how we prepare nurses," says Marie Nolan, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, dean of the Conway School of Nursing. "This new

“We wanted to make sure that anyone called to serve as a nurse could afford to answer that calling. Scholarships are what make that possible — they turn potential into purpose.”

facility and scholarships help provide our students the skills, confidence, and compassion they need to lead the future of healthcare.”

The impact of Conway’s gift reaches well beyond the present moment. The Conway School of Nursing is positioned to increase enrollment by 50%, from 507 students to more than 750 students in the next few years. The 2025 freshman class of 164 students is the largest in a decade. The new building’s advanced simulation labs, collaborative learning spaces, and technology-integrated classrooms are already redefining how nursing is taught — bridging the gap between academic learning and real-world care.

These investments also strengthen Catholic University’s role as a national leader in values-based healthcare education, preparing nurses not only for professional excellence but also for service grounded in ethics, empathy, and the dignity of every person. As Dean Nolan notes, the Conway School is becoming a model for how faith and innovation can unite to answer society’s most pressing healthcare needs.

The Conways’ generosity represents a historic moment for Catholic University — the largest single donation in its history and a defining example of what transformative philanthropy can achieve. More than a gift to one school, it serves as a catalyst for growth across the University, inspiring new possibilities in academics, research, and student success.

“This is the kind of partnership that changes the trajectory of an institution,” says Peter Kilpatrick, Catholic University President. “The Conways’ belief in our mission — to serve others through faith and intellect — doesn’t just strengthen our nursing program; it also sets a powerful example of how visionary philanthropy can advance every corner of our University. We hope his generosity inspires others to invest in the areas where Catholic University leads with distinction.”

The Conways’ investment extends well beyond bricks and mortar. Their generosity is currently providing life-changing support to 130 nursing students at Catholic University, opening doors for those who might not otherwise have been able to pursue the profession.

“Having a space where students gain hands-on experience only helps better prepare them to care for others one day,” says Bill Conway. “We wanted to make sure that anyone called to serve as a nurse could afford to answer that calling. Scholarships are what make that possible — they turn potential into purpose.”

The impact of that investment comes to life each year during the University’s revered Blessing and Laying of Hands ceremony, where Mr. Conway often joins students as they enter a new academic year — a moving moment that embodies the spirit of vocation and the shared calling to serve with compassion, faith, and purpose.

For Scott Rembold, Ed.D., executive vice president for Advancement, the Conway partnership represents the very best of what transformative giving can achieve — a model for how generosity and vision unite to shape Catholic University’s future. The Conway gift is more than a historic milestone; it’s a spark for momentum across campus, inspiring alumni, donors, and partners to invest in areas where Catholic University is uniquely positioned to lead.

“The Conway School of Nursing embodies what’s possible when philanthropy aligns with purpose,” says Rembold.

As the doors of the Conway School of Nursing open to a new generation of students, Bill and Joanne Conway’s mission continues — transforming lives, shaping careers, and strengthening the very heart of healthcare.

What began as a couple’s vision to help others answer their calling has become a movement rooted in faith, compassion, and opportunity. At The Catholic University of America, that mission is alive in every nurse who steps forward — ready to serve, to heal, and to carry the Conways’ legacy of care into the world, one patient at a time. ♦



TECHNOLOGY

Shaping the Future

BY SUSAN GIBBS

Catholic University has launched the new **Leonum Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies**. The initiative will provide a platform for the University to pursue innovation, while engaging in dialogue with the technology and scientific sectors about larger human issues.

Taylor Black, the inaugural director of AI and Venture Ecosystems for Microsoft's Office of the Chief Technology Officer, says this opportunity comes at the right time.

"We have the depth of research and the depth of interest in the human person across the whole university here that makes us unique," Black said.

"Inside the tech world, I'm continually astonished by the number of people who come to me and ask what it means to be a human person," Black noted. "The reason is they end up being incredible product managers on an AI functionality that they thought was unique to them — until they started developing it. It leaves them with this existential question that is right at the root of a lot of our modern understandings of self-worth, of our value at work."

The new institute, located within the Office of the Vice President for Research (led by H. Joseph Yost), will focus on bringing together expertise from across disciplines and moving projects from innovation into an "entrepreneurial start-up ecosystem," Black said.

"Technologies themselves often aren't easily commercializable," he said. "It takes understanding a customer problem to see how that technology fits well into solving it."



Hackathon, sponsored by the Leonum Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies, in Maloney Hall on Saturday, October 18, 2025.



Hackathon judges included (left to right): Andreas Widmer, director, Arthur & Carlyse Ciocca Center for Principled Entrepreneurship; Taylor Black, director, Leonum Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies; H. Joseph Yost, senior vice provost for research; Gregorio Toscano, assistant professor, computer science; and Lucas Wall, founder of *almma.AI* and assistant professor of practice, business.

Applying AI Practice

At an AI hackathon held over Cardinal Weekend, computer science and business students teamed up in a competition doing just that. The teams designed a prototype platform to match faculty with potential research grants. The students used AI tools, including large language programs available on the *almma.ai* platform. Developed by Lucas Wall, a business school clinical professor, the platform is currently used by first-year business students.

"This is far beyond AI as a tool. It's really brought people together, learning to collaborate," said Andreas Widmer, director of the Ciocca Center for Principled Entrepreneurship.

Black pointed to another AI application under consideration. The director of the Fulton J. Sheen Preaching Initiative, a Lilly Endowment-funded project in the School of Theology and Religious Studies, is interested in exploring the use of emerging technologies to assist with "mechanical diagnostics" intended to help deacons strengthen the delivery — not content — of homilies so they may better connect with parishioners. Black, himself a candidate for the diaconate, envisions drawing on resources from multiple disciplines, including theology and drama.

He looks forward to the University expanding this interdisciplinary collaboration with external partners. Alumni seeking to support these efforts — or looking to hire AI-savvy interns and recent graduates — are encouraged to reach out to Black at blackta@cua.edu. ♦





BUSINESS GROWTH

MBA Named a Top Program Upon Launch

BY MARIANA BARILLAS

Launched this fall, the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program is off to the races after receiving what The Busch School of Business Dean Andrew Abela referred to as “triple crown” recognition. Catholic University’s MBA program is the only MBA program that combines these three factors: we’re an R1 university that is also recognized in the Newman Guide, and our MBA program is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

“These are the highest standards for research, business, and Catholic educational programs,” said Abela. “This honor confirms what we designed the program to be: an MBA entirely consistent with Catholic social teaching for people who want to live their faith and succeed in business.”

The on-campus MBA is an accelerated nine-month, 36-credit hour program, and the online

program is expected to launch at the beginning of 2026. Busch School graduate alumni are also invited to convert their masters in business or business analytics degrees into an MBA. The inaugural cohort is made up of 24 students from across the United States and around the world. More than double that number are already signed up to start the online MBA upon its launch.

The MBA program is tailored to emerging leaders from any faith or academic background, including those who have never studied business. Abela said they attract students from liberal arts backgrounds because “every course is rooted in Catholic social teaching, natural law, and virtue.”

Associate Dean Harvey Seegers, director of the program, said the focus on timeless truths and building character — with a curriculum that balances academic rigor and real-life scenarios — makes for better business. Students can

Thoughts From Our Readers

Greetings, President Kilpatrick:

A hearty congratulations on embarking on an exciting new school year at The Catholic University of America. I am the parent of a sophomore student (a philosophy major!), who experienced growth and challenges in his freshman year ... in a very good and meaningful way. We're grateful for the remarkable community at Catholic University in furthering his education (academic, spiritual, social, intellectual, etc.).

I'm writing to thank and praise the University on the recent issue of *The Cardinal*. I rarely write these types of letters but having just finished reading the issue from cover to cover, I had to let you know of the excellence I found in every page, in every article, in every artwork.

I walk away with a deep appreciation for the great mission of Catholic University, the remarkable world-renowned faculty and staff, and the relevant and profound work of the University's vision of forming students in truth, virtue, and service to Church and country, or as the main feature article noted, Pope Leo XIII's charge to "give the Republic her best citizens."

In an ever-changing world, Catholic University's fidelity to, as you said in your letter, the permanent things, our "fixed vision" of the Catholic intellectual tradition is the market differentiator that will separate this University from all other universities (including a few of our fellow Catholic ones) because truth rooted in Christ never goes out of style. ...

Having spent many years involved in Catholic education (K-12 grades), I am currently following the "boy crisis" in our nation (actually, research shows it is becoming a worldwide problem). We are seeing a generation of under-educated, under-employed, and purposeless boys and men, and a culture all too willing to exploit their directionless paths.

After reading *The Cardinal*, I feel that Catholic University is a place uniquely positioned to address this moment in the lives of boys and young men, who are seeking meaning, direction, and purpose. I feel strongly that CUA might talk about this to prospective male students and their families, especially after reading the Q&A feature with Professor David Jobes, which at its core, is about hope and community.

I pray for many blessings and wisdom upon Catholic University, your leadership team, and for you as well.

Sincerely,

Gwen Hennessey, parent of a Class of 2028 student

The MBA program is tailored to emerging leaders from any faith or academic background — including those who have never studied business.

choose from three specializations: strategic management, Church management, and data analytics.

Tanyaradzwa Marimbe came to the University from Zimbabwe to pursue an MBA. At home, he worked to advance youth civic engagement and political reform based on Catholic social teaching. This program was the perfect place for his next chapter.

"It already feels like home," said Marimbe.

Alumnus Ethan Hinds, who just graduated from the University in May 2025 with a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering, is especially eager to hone his skills.

"I'm passionate about using my engineering background to drive smart business decisions," said Hinds. "Catholic University's MBA program gives me a great opportunity to bridge my technical strengths with organizational leadership."

Another advantage is the variety of team-building and networking opportunities built into the program. Adelaide Mae Machado Ulm, B.S.B.A. 2025, said Company Immersion Week, a marathon of visits with top employers in different industries, is definitely a highlight.

"There are no classes that week, so we can focus on career advancement and job opportunities," Machado Ulm said. She's glad she is sticking with her alma mater to pursue an MBA because it "offers greater mobility, faster promotions, and a massive network of people who share my education and my values."

And there's more in store. Associate Dean Seegers said: "As part of the curriculum, each year, students will visit another country to study the culture and the commerce associated with some of the large cities around the world." The first MBA cohort will spend spring break in Rome in a guided tour led by the Busch School's Andreas Widmer, who was a Swiss Guard for Pope Saint John Paul II.

A faith-forward approach with a high-powered alumni network in a city with global connections, this MBA is a rare breed indeed. ♦



PORTRAITS

Dialed-in spotlights of the University's most compelling figures

"I WILL CARRY THE WOUNDS OF THAT DAY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, BUT I ALSO CARRY THE GREAT, BEAUTIFUL, AND ETERNAL HOPE IN MY SOUL. ... AMIDST THIS HUMANITARIAN CRISIS, MY HOPE IS IN THE YOUNG GENERATION."

P. 20

True Cardinal Red

Kilner Family Boasts Four Generations of Grads

BY LILI WYSOCKI



Left to right: Brigid T. Kilner (B.A. 2021); Mary Eileen Kilner (B.A. 2020); Kathryn Kilner Morris, BSN, 2015); Very Rev. Robert F. Kilner (B.A. 2010); Michael E. Kilner (B.A. 2013); Maria Kilner Sousa (B.A. 2003); Jose C. Sousa (B.A. 2001); Patrick R. Kilner (B.A. 2001); Gabriela M. Sousa (BSN, Class of 2029); Antoinette Aronne Kilner (B.A. 1978); Donald Patrick Kilner (B.A. 1976; M.S.W. 1977). (Not pictured: Antoinette Kilner Greengard [B.S. 2007])

Maria (Kilner) Sousa lives and breathes Catholic University — and you could say she also bleeds Cardinal red.

That’s the running joke at The Catholic University of America’s Office of Undergraduate

Admission, where Maria has now assumed a leadership role as dean. Talking with her about anything Catholic University-related for just five minutes, however, even a perfect stranger would begin to believe it’s true. And after learning about her family’s history with the University, they would be certain.

Maria is part of the third of four generations of people in her family who have attended Catholic University. The number of alumni her family boasts is in the double digits — and counting.

Her maternal grandfather was an alumnus, her parents are alumni, and last August, her oldest daughter, Gaby, began as a first-year student.

The Catholic University-Kilner family relationship doesn’t stop there. Seven of Maria’s eight siblings went here, her husband went here, one of her aunts went here, her cousin went here, and one of her nephews briefly attended. Family weddings have occurred on campus, and several of her family members have worked at the University, including her mother, who worked in the Office of the President for four years. What is the secret? What draws this family to campus, generation after generation?

Where It All Began

The family’s love story with the University started with Maria’s maternal grandfather Eugene Louis Aronne, B.C.E. 1951. Originally from New York, he studied engineering at Catholic University and stayed in Washington, D.C., when he went on to work for the Department of the Navy.

His daughter, Antoinette “Toni” Kilner, later studied speech pathology and audiology at the University in the 1970s. She met Maria’s father, Pat, a social work major, just outside of Father O’Connell Hall during an event for commuter students.



Eugene Louis Aronne, B.C.E. 1951, second from left — on campus with some friends.

Growing up hearing her parents’ stories about the University, Maria always found Catholic University an appealing and familiar place. She decided that its Catholic identity, proximity to home, and affordability — all of the Kilners have paid their own way through college — made it the best place for her to go.

Attending Catholic meant she could continue to live at home while commuting to her classes. As the oldest daughter of nine children, Maria also wanted to stay near her younger siblings as they grew up. Her mother was expecting Maria’s youngest sister Brigid, also a Catholic University graduate, at the time Maria was starting college — making it all the more important to her to stay home and help. Catholic University allowed her to do all of this and pursue a great education, so she enrolled in the fall of 1999.

What followed was a student experience lived to its fullest.

During her time on campus, Maria was involved with Program Board, Service opportunities such as D.C. Reads and Homeless Food Runs, undergraduate student government, music ministry, and Campus Ministry’s The House, where she lived her senior year. Catholic University became not just her parents’ beloved alma mater but a place where she also flourished.

“Catholic University is the reason that I am where I am today and who I am today,” Maria said.



Many family members have studied and worked at Catholic University, including Maria's sister, Kathryn Kilner Morris (BSN 2015), who married Captain Anthony Morris, son of Catholic University Chief of Staff Larry Morris; their wedding reception — joyfully celebrated with friends and family — was held in Heritage Hall in 2018.

Paying it Forward

Maria's love of the University is so ardent that she has turned it into a career. As dean of undergraduate admission, she professionally gets to share her passion for the University and share stories about her student experience. Every day, she talks to prospective students and parents about the University, adding in personal anecdotes and facts she knows by heart — because she lived them.

"It's the best job ever. I get to talk about Catholic all day long, and I've done that my whole life. Now I get to do it for a living, it's kind of a dream come true," she said. "I never thought this is where I would be but now that I'm here, it's pretty amazing."

Bragging about the University comes so naturally to her that the responsibilities of being admission dean hardly feel like work.

"My love of Catholic is what keeps me smiling in the office every day and makes it worth it to travel to recruit," Maria said.

When Gaby was looking for colleges to study nursing, she knew one thing: she wanted

to do something different from what her family had always done. She applied to around 20 schools, and mainly left Catholic University on the short-list at the request of her mother. What she was really looking for was a university outside of the D.C. area — a place where she could create a college experience of her own.

She grew up visiting Catholic University's campus often for events, shows, and other activities with her family. By the time she started her freshman year, she was so familiar with the campus that other freshmen were asking her for directions on how to find different buildings.

Her family asked her to give Catholic University at least the same level of consideration that she was giving other schools. She attended Cardinal Preview Day as a regular prospective student. She was almost certain she would end up attending another East Coast university but after touring the other university with her father, she realized it didn't have the warmth that she found at Catholic University. She also realized that through the success of Catholic University's nursing program, the vibrancy of its student

life, and the availability of support, she could really own her student experience and make it different from her family's.

"I realized that the student experience is unique to every single person, and I'm not going to experience campus in the same way as when I was little, now that I'm a student," Gaby said.

Gaby announced her decision to attend Catholic University at one of her extended family's monthly dinners with many of her alumni family members present. Her announcement was met with cheers from the crowd and delight from Maria, whom Gaby had been waiting to tell in front of the whole family.

She takes pride in the fact that she made her college decision independent of her family's history. For her, it truly was the University's student support and the nursing program that drew her in.

"Even if my family hadn't been alumni, I think I would have ended up coming here because I think this is where I'm supposed to be," Gaby said.

The fact that she can share a common alma mater with her parents, grandparents, and most of her aunts and uncles is just icing on the cake — and a testament to the value of attending this University.

"We are overjoyed that Gabriela chose the alma mater of her parents, grandparents, and great-grandfather," Maria's husband, Jose Sousa, said.

Lasting Value

What is it that draws the Kilner family back to the University, generation after generation?

"Catholic University is a place where they can [live their faith] more consciously," Pat said.



The Sousa family pictured in front of the Columbus School of Law. The family grew up visiting campus often for events, and now three of the five members are either alumni or current students. From left to right: Mariana, Jose, Gaby, Maria, Francesca, and Carlos.

The Catholic identity of the University has been central to each of the family members' student experiences. Growing up in a Catholic home, they each sought a university that would strengthen their faith through its rich spiritual life.

The Catholic identity of the University has been central to each of the family members' student experiences. Growing up in a Catholic home, they each sought a university that would strengthen their faith through its rich spiritual life.

In Pat and Toni's eyes, it's no coincidence that their children attended Catholic University and are still practicing their faith in their adulthood. They see how the University strengthened their kids' faith and allowed them to live it boldly.

"That has really supported us as parents in our hope that our kids will continue with the faith," Toni added.

They have also loved any opportunity to be back on campus, reliving their own student experience through their children and now grandchildren. This was something Toni's father always treasured. He attended each one of his grandchildren's graduations from Catholic University until he passed away in 2018. Each time he visited, he marveled at the campus and reminisced on his time as a student.

"He really did relive with his grandchildren that way," Pat said.

"So hopefully, we'll get to do the same, and as time goes on, we'll get to relive those same moments," Toni said.

At the current rate, it looks like they will be able to do that plenty. Two of their 26 (and counting) grandchildren have already made their way to Catholic University, and the family suspects more of them will end up here.

"I want [my other kids] to experience Catholic University because I think they'll all have a great time here," Maria said. "I'm sure some of them will land here."

Can they help it? Their family lives and breathes Cardinal red. A love for the University is passed on by each family member almost as naturally as their Catholic faith. In fact, almost as naturally as their DNA. ♦



Building a Civilization of Love

Meet Bishop Pierre-André Dumas of Anse-à-Veau-Miragoâne, Haiti. Haiti has experienced a surge in gang violence, including kidnappings and civilian killings, with Catholic Church leaders increasingly targeted. In February 2024, Bishop Dumas survived a targeted house-bomb explosion in Port au Prince that left him with severe burns. He remains in treatment in Miami.

Dumas heard about the Busch School of Business Church Management workshop program at The Catholic University of America from his friend, Father Louis Merosne, and so he decided to take advantage of his convalescence from the fire and begin this coursework. His survival and advocacy for Haiti's persecuted Catholic Church compelled us to tell his story.

The following conversation with Kathryn Mullan (editor) has been edited for publication.

You survived a house explosion in 2024, enduring suffering, and sustained injuries that will leave their mark on you for the rest of your life. What has that experience been like, and how have you found meaning in this period of humanitarian crisis in Haiti?

Personally, surviving the explosion and house-fire was a profound spiritual experience for me. I understood, in a new way, that Love is above all; everything has an end, all can change, every human is unique, God has a great plan for each one of us; the life of a pastor belongs totally to God and to the people ... We don't know ourselves until we suffer. I offer to God my suffering in union with Christ for the redemption of my forgotten and crucified people. I will carry the wounds of that day for the rest of my life, but I also carry the great, beautiful, and eternal hope in my soul. ... Amidst this humanitarian crisis, my hope is in the young generation. Their thirst for love,

truth, unity, freedom, peace, dignity, compassion, inclusion, fraternity, reconciliation, and justice is unstoppable.

What drew you to the priesthood?

From a very young age, I felt drawn by the mystery of God's love for me. I come from a humble and loving family, who taught me the essential things about theological and cardinal virtues and noble and great values. My parents instilled in me the spirit of the beatitudes: inner freedom; righteousness; simplicity; love; joy; hope; mercy; integrity; a sense of justice and peace; tenderness and compassion; resilience; courage; a profound trust in God; and a deep and great attention to humankind, according to the ancestral concept of *Ubuntu*, which means "I am because you are." This is more than altruism. It's about the splendor of humanism that puts human beings in any circumstances at the center of all Creation.

How did you respond to this calling, and how does it continue to shape your outlook?

One day, I heard a Gospel reading where Jesus said: “There is no love greater than that to give by love yourself and to offer your life for others.” In that moment, it was clear for me that God was the one who loved me first and He was calling me. I had finally found my vocation and determined that the best way to answer His loving call was with a loving response.

This led me to Italy, where I enrolled in a pontifical seminary in Rome. It was the mid-1980s, and Pope Saint John Paul II welcomed me warmly and gave me a scholarship for my formational studies. On May 26, 1991, he ordained me a priest in Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome. Since that moment, my motto has been: “*Caritas Christi urget nos*,” “Christ’s love impels us” (2 Cor 5: 14).

Love is the very essence and the hermeneutical key of my decision, my mission, my orientation of my plan, vocation, project of life, purpose, objective, program, paradigm, present, and future. The writings of the prophets, especially Isaiah and Jeremiah, spoke deeply to me: a consecrated person must be a wounded healer, a champion of charity, a voice for the voiceless, a servant leader, a defender of life, and a giver of hope.

What role does the Church have in giving hope to the people of Haiti during this time of crisis?

Haiti’s tragic experience of insecurity; bad governance; intense corruption; extreme poverty; gangsterization; and the trafficking of drugs, human beings, and organs all converge to generate a despair that dehumanizes my Haitian people.

The Church in Haiti, however, has been the most constant and stable institution in the country: we have schools, clinics, parishes, and grassroots communities. Our missionaries, religious, priests, and lay people have suffered numerous kidnappings, and many communities have closed their doors.

A great number of religious houses and institutions have been destroyed. In this moment of crisis where the state has more or less collapsed with the loss of many territories, it is

“In Haiti, there is an ancestral concept of *Ubuntu*, which means ‘I am because you are.’ This is more than altruism. It’s about the splendor of humanism that puts human beings in any circumstances at the center of all Creation.”

often the Church that stands by the people, offering refuge, shelters, food, water, education, healthcare, and hope. We are grateful to international partners like Catholic Relief Services, Caritas Internationalis, dioceses in the United States and Europe, and religious congregations who have all been vital in providing aid and comfort.

But the most inspiring force has been the ordinary people of faith who continue to believe. They pray, sing, love, dance, hope, and resist despair with belief in the Resurrection and their own salvific moment. Haiti has a long and wonderful story of fighting for freedom and struggle for authentic liberty that is connected to a fraternal integration or social inclusion.

Haiti is the first republic created by slaves who declared all individuals equal, with each person born free. It’s a country of courage, faith, love, hope, audacious resilience, and extraordinary human capacity. It’s also a great country of culture with great musicians, thinkers, heroes, artists, poets, and painters. The U.S. Catholic community has always been close to us; your voice and support remain crucial.

Any last thoughts or reflections in your role as a shepherd, at this juncture of our world’s history?

We live in a time of deep crisis, not just in Haiti but worldwide: wars, migration, ecological devastation, and polarization. Crises are also opportunities to change ourselves, to grow together and increase our humanity. I believe that the Church is called more than ever to be a witness of love, a “big field hospital” for all, to bring healing and hope.

My deepest conviction is this: God loves us, and there is no love greater than to give your life for others. God never abandons his people. Hope is stronger than despair. Love is stronger than death. And Mary, our Mother and Queen of Heaven, is the living sign that our struggles are not in vain – She walks with us, reminding us to “hope, for Christ is already victorious.” Love never fails. Love will prevail and win all. *Amor omnia vincit.* ♦



The Church Suffering

At the time this edition was released to print, Bishop Dumas was in a medical facility in Miami, receiving burn care treatment from the incident in February 2024. During this time of healing while he awaits safe return to Haiti, he is continuing his Church Management studies with The Busch School of Business (business.catholic.edu/meam).

Opening Doors

How Impact Scholarships Change Lives at Catholic University

BY EDDIE O'BRIEN



At The Catholic University of America, the belief is simple yet profound: every talented and qualified student who is invited to join the community should be able to pursue an education here, regardless of personal financial circumstances.

Despite the University's generous financial aid packages, the cost of attendance can still remain out of reach for many prospective students.

To help bridge that gap, the University created Impact Scholarships — a transformative scholarship program that provides students with the gift of a Catholic University education and the formation to become future leaders who will give back to the Church, the nation, and the world.

An annual gift of \$5,000 or more opens the doors to Catholic University for a deserving student. A commitment of at least \$20,000 — paid over four years — provides ongoing support throughout their entire undergraduate journey. In January 2022, the University's Board of Trustees launched an ambitious initiative to raise \$4 million to fund 200 Impact Scholarships for incoming first-year students. Thanks to the generosity of the University community, the campaign exceeded its goal by nearly \$1 million, funding 235 new scholarships.

The initiative's success speaks to the shared conviction that an investment in students is an investment in the future. Yet there is still more work to be done to make an education at our University available to every student who wishes to join this faith-filled community.

One Student's Story: Faith, Friendship, and Formation

For students like Claudia Hindley, an Impact Scholarship has helped turn possibility into reality.

A native of Rifton, New York, Claudia is a member of the Class of 2026 and is majoring in accounting at the Busch School of Business. When considering college, she explored several schools with strong business programs but found few where faith was genuinely respected and nurtured.

"I visited Catholic University and saw that it wasn't just valued but actively fostered," she recalls. "I could deepen my faith and be supported by a group of people who shared similar values. That was the deciding factor for me."

Claudia Hindley, Class of 2026

She adds: “The tight-knit vibe here also really drew me in. It felt like a place where I could grow in every way.”

Claudia credits the Honors Program for broadening her intellectual perspective and appreciation of interdisciplinary study.

“It’s so fulfilling to study Aristotle and then finance and bring the values of each to the other,” she says. “It’s rare to find institutions that not only provide but require such a strong humanities foundation regardless of one’s program of study.”

Building Community: On and Off the Water

Beyond the classroom, the scholarship has allowed Claudia to explore new opportunities, including joining Catholic University’s rowing team.

“After I made my deposit, the women’s rowing coach personally reached out to see if I’d be interested in joining the crew team,” she says. “Because of that personal outreach, rowing has since become a huge part of my life. Over the last few years, we’ve really grown together — building the program, breaking records, and advancing the University’s athletic reputation.”

Claudia hopes to close out her senior year by helping the team reach the NCAA championship in spring 2026. Rowing has become much more than a sport for Claudia, as a source of profound personal growth and enduring friendships. When her mother passed away from brain cancer two years ago, Claudia’s teammates traveled six hours to be with Claudia.

“That depth of friendship and support was incredible,” she shares. “It showed me what true community means.”

These relationships and the ability to fully participate in campus life were made possible, in part, thanks to the financial freedom the Impact Scholarship provides.

Integrating Faith and Professional Preparation

The Busch School of Business takes a distinctive, intentional approach, teaching students to integrate faith with their future careers.

“Professors make it clear how you can live out your discipline through a faith perspective, integrating Catholic social teaching and the virtues in the field,” Claudia explains. “For

example, in my marketing class this fall, Professor Cabrini Pak (Ph.D. 2017) is teaching me that I can create the best value for customers when I consider the dignity of the human person and the common good.”

Her current internship experience reinforces that vision. At the Bethesda-based accounting firm Ryan & Wetmore (whose founding partners, Pete Ryan and Mike Wetmore, are Catholic University alumni, Class of 1983), Claudia observed how business success and faith-driven values can coexist.

Scholarship support also opens doors to mentorship and career-building opportunities. Claudia credits Professor Robert Felix, director of the accounting program, for helping her secure a prestigious internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York City this past summer.

“He had confidence in me and promoted me to recruiters and people in the field; I don’t think I would have landed this opportunity otherwise,” she says.

In accounting, students often take nearly every class together from sophomore year on, forming a close cohort of peers who collaborate, challenge, and support one another. Gratitude for these experiences runs deep. Outside the classroom, Claudia volunteers weekly with Best Buddies, a campus initiative that supports members of Bethlehem House, a residential home in the local Brookland neighborhood for adults with intellectual disabilities.

“Spending time with them is one of the ways I show gratitude for the opportunities I’ve received,” she says. Attending Mass and sharing a meal over a discussion of saints is the highlight of her week amid her packed schedule of classes, rowing, and internships.

A Lasting Ripple Effect

The \$20,000 investment from a single donor has had a profound ripple effect in Claudia’s life. “The blessing to be a Blanford Impact Scholar is that of having a closed door opened for me,” she says.

An Impact Scholarship is more than financial aid — it is an investment in a student’s future and in the enduring mission of Catholic University: to form individuals who will serve the Church, the nation, and the world. ♦

— **Eddie O’Brien, B.A. 2021**, is the assistant director of stewardship and donor relations in the Division of University Advancement at Catholic University. He also is earning his master’s degree in English.

Conversations and
correspondence of literary merit

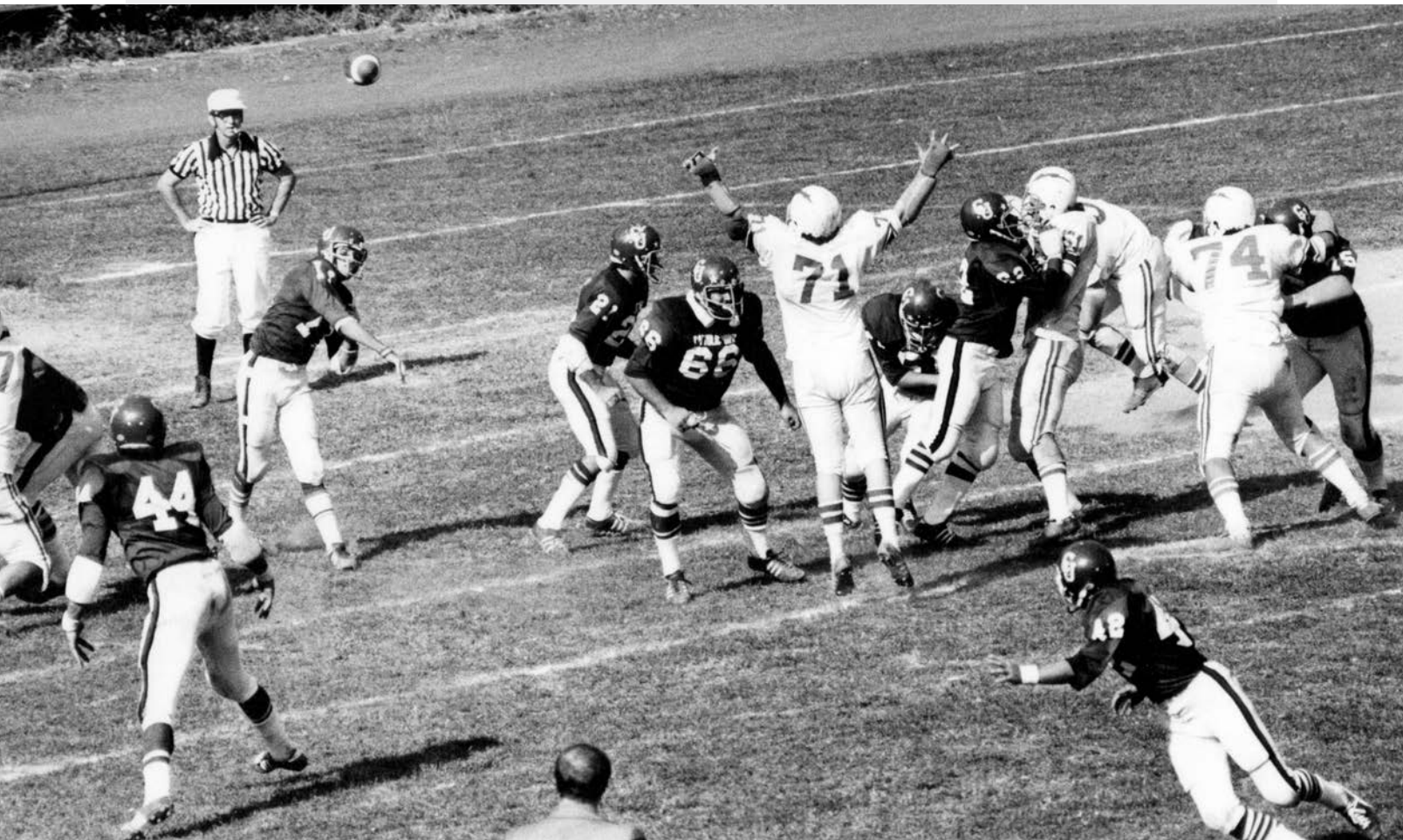
"IT'S MY DESIRE THAT MY GENERATION NOT FAIL OUR TEST OR SLEEP
THROUGH OUR MOMENT, BUT RATHER BE THE PEOPLE OF FAITH,
THE MAKERS OF PEACE THAT OUR ANCESTORS HAVE HOPED FOR
AND NEEDED FOR HUMANKIND TO MAKE IT TO ITS FUTURE."

P. 29

1975 Cardinal Football

The Year that Reignited the Flame

BY JIM ELWORTH AND JOE LOFARO



*Editor's Note: This piece has been edited for publication in The Cardinal magazine.
The authors were members of the 1975 team.*

By mid-morning cars are already streaming in, filling the DuFour Center parking lots and the designated tailgating area. Soon, the smell of BBQ and the sounds of loud music fill the air. The sun reflects off the artificial turf, accentuating the deep green grass. Hundreds of excited students, proud family members, and area fans mingle, laugh, and raise a cheer in unison, as 60 or more uniformed players charge onto the field. It's gameday at The Catholic University of America.

Football is ingrained into the social scene of Catholic University. However, if not for the success of the 1975 Cardinal football team, the sport would likely not exist on campus today. The 1975 Cardinals returned the football program to past prominence, ignited spirit and support throughout the University community, and became the catalyst for elevating the program to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III level. What we see today we owe to the 1975 team's success!

Back Story

Catholic University was a regional football powerhouse prior to World War II. In particular, the decade of the 1930s saw the Cardinals, led by legendary coach Dutch Bergman, compete against — and beat — schools such as Boston College, Wake Forest, South Carolina, and University of Miami (Fla). The team reached a pinnacle on January 1, 1936, when it defeated the University of Mississippi in the Orange Bowl. Catholic University also battled Arizona State University to a 0-0 tie in the Sun Bowl following the 1939 season. Like many private schools, however, Catholic did not field teams during the war years. Football was then reinstated in 1947, but the team was disbanded in 1950, after winning only seven games in four seasons.

An organized Catholic University team did not take the field again until 1965, losing the only game it played. A club team of students continued to play in the ensuing years but, aside from some modest success in 1968, it flagged under partial schedules, far more losses than wins, and a revolving door of coaches. Team

rosters were limited and turned over frequently. The on-campus Brookland Stadium, a state-of-the-art facility in decades past, became dilapidated. The University administration at the time was not able to provide much support, and the student body's attitude toward the team could best be described as "uninterested."

A Sea Change

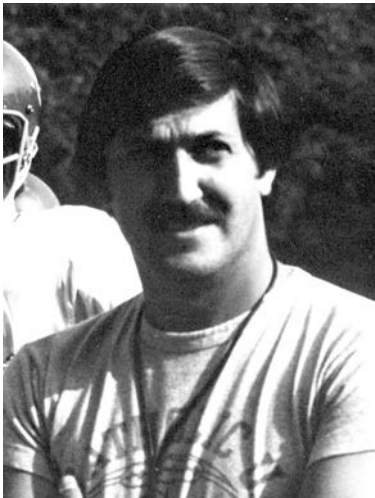
The situation shifted with the arrival of Joe Pascale as head coach in 1972. Pascale envisioned building a stable, successful program, and by his second season in 1973, the team under his direction played a ten-game schedule and won five of those games. He was a tireless recruiter, using his contacts throughout the region to identify and onboard talented student-athletes.

Despite his budding success, Coach Pascale faced continuing obstacles, including low funding and campus apathy. The players were required to appear before the University Student Government (USG) annually to request operating funds, and the team was often not taken seriously. One future player, when speaking to a University recruiter who visited his New York high school, was told that the team was an embarrassment and not a reason to attend the University.

Regardless, Pascale brought in solid recruiting classes for the 1973 and 1974 seasons. He didn't coach in 1974, as he was working on his doctorate (his assistants guided the team to a 4-5 record), but he did continue to recruit. In 1975, he helped to enroll a third strong class of recruits.

In 1973, the NCAA established the college football structure that exists today, separating football-playing institutions into three divisions based on the amount of athletically-related financial aid awarded. As the Cardinals prepared for the 1975 season, Pascale set his sights on proving that the Catholic University program was worthy of moving from the club level up to

On-campus Brookland Stadium, a state-of-the-art facility in decades past, was dilapidated. The University administration at the time was not able to provide much support, and the student body's attitude toward the team could best be described as "disinterested."



NCAA Division III, which is made up of smaller, mostly private schools. In spite of the strong recruiting classes and talented roster, this was a tall order as the team faced a difficult schedule.

The 1975 Cardinals served notice of the success to come in their season opener, a 30–8 home romp over Central Piedmont University that snapped the visitors’ 19-game winning streak. Catholic University standouts, as they would prove to be all season, included sophomore quarterback Gerard Goeke (a star-starter since arriving on campus the previous year); All-Americans Joe Haynos and Terry O’Connell; and defensive backs, Bobby Daley and freshman Danny Davis, each of whom intercepted two passes. The next day, the Sunday *Washington Post* published a lengthy article about Haynos, his pride in playing for Catholic, and his football prowess.

The next two games, both on the road, produced similar results. The Cardinals crushed Kings College, 35–6, before blanking Virginia Commonwealth University, 38–0. The following week was perhaps the highlight of the season. The 3–0 Cardinals debuted at number 11 in that week’s National Club Football rankings — just in time for a huge home clash against top-ranked St. Francis College University (Loretto, Pa.).

The campus community was beginning to take notice, as the athletic department organized a pep rally for the team the night before the game. The October 10, 1975, edition of *The Tower*, published the day before the game, explored the reasons for the team’s new-found success:

“Many people are asking: ‘What has happened to this team?’ How can a team change so swiftly from a struggling .500 ball club into one of the top squads in the nation? The answer is returning head coach, Joe Pascale. Pascale has molded a new attitude for the players. He has taken apathy and turned it into desire, and that desire has produced victory. His knowledge of the game, and his ability to tap every source of energy from his players has turned a floundering football program into a power to be respected. Tonight’s pep rally is an indication of the spirit he has instilled in the entire campus, a spirit that has been missing for a long time.”

The Catholic Cardinals blasted St. Francis 28–7 and moved into the national Top 10. After a highly controversial four-point loss to Duquesne, the Cardinals crushed their last four opponents by a cumulative score of 172–7. The team finished with an 8-1 record and was ranked second nationally in the final poll.

By this point, the 1975 Cardinals had galvanized the campus. As the season went on, home games were attended by big, enthusiastic crowds. No one could recall the last season with a football pep rally. As almost all the team’s major contributors were underclassmen, Pascale’s coaching and recruiting assured a consistent, competitive program for the future.

Scaling Up

Following the season, the club decided that the time was right to move to Division III. Funding was a major hurdle, as the NCAA would not accept any program that did not have a guaranteed source of funds for at least two years. At the time, the USG Constitution only allowed for single-year awards to campus organizations.

USG allotted \$12,500 for 1975–1976 and, obviously, the success of the 1975 team had changed attitudes toward the team. But Football Club President Joe Lofaro (*co-author of this piece*), in consultation with Pascale and the athletic administration, determined that the team would need as much as \$20,000, guaranteed over multiple years, to adequately finance a Division III program. While the request was termed “unusual,” the timing was right.

On the heels of the successful season, students signed petitions in support of the team. A scant seven months after writing that USG might want to consider not funding the team at all, *The Tower* editorialized on November 21, 1975, that it was time for the university to step up and fully fund the program. The writer reasoned that the university as a whole was profiting from the positive publicity generated by the 1975 team and that school spirit, enrollment, and prestige would continue to improve with a move to the more stable and well-regarded NCAA.

The Football Club cleared the first hurdle in April 1976, when USG approved \$15,000 for 1976–1977. On May 6, 1976, USG ratified what was being referred to as the “football amendment” to its constitution and committed to funding the team with at least \$15,000 through the 1979–1980 academic year. The Sports Advisory Council of the University Board of Trustees approved the move to Division III in July, and University

President Clarence Walton signed off on the move shortly thereafter.

The 1976 team, the final club squad, validated the decision when it posted a strong 7–2 record and senior linebacker, Mike Moriello, was voted by the D.C. area football referees as the best player in the entire region, regardless of school size. The team began playing in Division III the following year and immediately posted a winning record.

Where We Go From Here

In the years since, the Cardinals have moved into a beautiful facility at the DuFour Center, attained winning seasons, and qualified for the NCAA playoffs.

With 60 or more squad members, football has served as an important enrollment driver for the University, which long ago assumed funding responsibilities from

USG. The football program annually produces quality graduates who learn “lessons of life” through sport and become terrific ambassadors for Catholic

But it almost didn’t happen. Without the success of the 1975 team, football likely would have disappeared from the campus scene. Through their dominating season, the Catholic University football student-athletes brought back pride and spirit to the campus and ensured that football would remain part of the University’s social life for years to come. ♦

The football program annually produces quality graduates who learn “lessons of life” through sport and become terrific ambassadors for the University. But it almost didn’t happen. Without the success of the 1975 team, football likely would have disappeared from the campus scene.



Football Locker Room Renovation Update

We’re making strong progress toward transforming the Football Locker Room. Thanks to the generosity of alumni, parents and friends, we’ve raised \$700,000 toward our \$1.5 million goal. This renovation will create a modern, high-performance space that will be enjoyed by many future Cardinal Football generations. Locker sponsorships are still available, offering a meaningful way to leave your mark on the program and directly support our student athletes.

To learn more or secure a locker, please contact Neil Donahue, Senior Director of Advancement for Athletics, at donahuen@cua.edu.



Lamentation for the Past, but Hope for the Future

BY CLAIRE NOONAN

On the final day of our Pilgrimage of Hope in August 2025, commemorating the 80th anniversary of August 6, 1945 — the devastating day the United States detonated nuclear weapons over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — we gathered for Mass at Oura Cathedral, Nagasaki. In 1865, Japanese Christians, who had been worshipping in secret because of the government’s repression of the faith for 250 years, came out of hiding and revealed themselves to a French priest, Father Bernard Petitjean, in this very church.

All of us gathered were aware of the poignant history of the place. This was holy ground — ground blessed by the blood of martyrs and sanctified by the disciples of the Prince of Peace.

Archbishop John Wester of Santa Fe, N.M., presided at this Holy Mass. Wester was one of the leaders of our pilgrimage and a co-founder of its sponsoring organization, the Partnership for a World Without Nuclear Weapons. The Partnership was chartered by the Catholic Archdioceses of Santa Fe; Seattle; Nagasaki, Japan; and the Diocese of Hiroshima, Japan.

People release paper lanterns on the Motoyasu River facing the gutted Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, Japan, on Aug. 6, 2025, the 80th anniversary of the United States dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

COURTESY OF CATHOLIC STANDARD/PHOTOS BY MIHOKO OIWADA

The partnership aims to (1) remember the destruction caused by nuclear weapons; (2) journey together to prevent nuclear harm; and (3) protect against nuclear harm — based on the principles of “remembering, journeying together, and protecting” that Pope Francis articulated during his 2019 visit to the atomic-bombed cities.

On this 80th anniversary year, the prelates invited American and Japanese students, faculty, and administrators from Catholic universities to accompany them. Also included in the commemorative pilgrimage were Cardinal Blase Cupich (Archdiocese of Chicago) and Cardinal Robert McElroy (Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., and Chancellor of The Catholic University of America).

After the opening hymns and prayers of the liturgy, we heard an American student proclaim the reading from St. Paul’s letters to the Hebrews: “Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.” Then a recounting of the story of Abraham and Sarah, of their suffering and sojourn, of their faith and trust, of their death and their heirs “as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore.”

It struck me that as pilgrims of hope in this 80th year since the terrible detonation of nuclear weapons, we were in the midst of a similar experience of generational transition. Facing the enormity of historic suffering and the increasing threat of even greater violence and destruction in our future, we second, third, and even fourth generations were challenged to build a true peace and a world in which our children and grandchildren could flourish.

Among us were some who had seen those terrible days with their own eyes — the *hibakusha*, survivors of the bombings and the radiation poisoning that followed who became recipients of the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize. During our 10 days of pilgrimage, we learned of their lives propelled by faith and hope for something better. They pleaded with us to



During the August 8 Memorial Service for the Victims of the Atomic Bombing, Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Seattle offered “Words of Comfort” during the event at the Nagasaki Hypocenter Park. Pictured, the circle of lanterns at Hypocenter Park to honor the victims during this memorial service.

disarm, build bridges, do justice, create peace. We saw the record and evidence of the lives lost and ruined and the cities turned to rubble in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museums. We heard the preaching of the Japanese Church in Most Reverend Peter Michiaki Nakamura, Archbishop of Nagasaki, who called us to “return to our true selves as children of God ... abandon the fists, weapons, and tools of violence we hold in our hands, and stop creating and using nuclear weapons. Let us use our hands to love and embrace others.”

We participated in the presentation of flowers at peace park memorials and sang at interfaith prayer services. We heard Cardinal McElroy’s careful argument from which “it must be concluded that the acceptance and concomitant normalization of deterrence have utterly failed the moral requirement to frame a pathway toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. Deterrence is not a step on the road to disarmament, but a morass.”

We read the words of those who have already passed home to God — Dr. Takashi Nagai; Father Pedro Arrupe, S.J.; and Pope Francis — asking us to disarm, build bridges, do justice, and create peace.

Our pilgrimage concluded with the testimony of university students who had been deeply engaged with one another in “Conversations in the Spirit,” dialogue intentionally seeking to make space for the Holy Spirit to guide and shape. As student pilgrim Natalie Pucillo (with whom I share an affiliation to both Catholic University and Loyola University Chicago) said, the students “lamented the past and hoped for the future,” “renewing [their] determination to work for peace and nonviolence.”

My own concluding reflection from this profound journey was the desire that my generation not fail our test or sleep through our moment, but rather be the people of faith, the makers of peace that our ancestors have hoped for and needed for humankind to make it to its future. ♦

— *Claire Noonan, D.Min.*, is currently serving as vice president for mission integration at Loyola University Chicago. She graduated from Catholic University with a B.A. in English and Religion in 1992.



Cardinal Robert W. McElroy of Washington and Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago process to the altar at the beginning of a Peace Memorial Mass at the Memorial Cathedral for World Peace in Hiroshima, Japan, on Aug. 5, 2025. They were part of a Pilgrimage of Peace to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, coinciding with the 80th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of those cities.

New Country and Cultures: Where I Find Comfort

BY SANTIAGO QUIROS



Main church of San Sebastian, a famous landmark in the Basque region of Spain.

Although it's both terrifying and exciting, a simple plane ride that transports you to the new world of study abroad can represent the opportunity of a lifetime. In that moment, the experience of faith and core values emerges in a manner like never before.

This, for me, has been a great gift from my family, my community, and my university. In just a short amount of time, it has helped the person I am grow in ways I couldn't have imagined. But before getting too carried away, let's back-track as to how this has happened.

I am a world politics and global studies double major at The Catholic University of America. I am originally from Venezuela, which is in great part why I have held a strong family-based faith throughout my life. Like many Cardinals over the years, I decided to study abroad — in my case, at the prestigious University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain — and not just for a semester, like most, but for the entire academic year. And even though I have a lot of family and friends in Spain who have helped immensely in my accommodation process and reception, a new place and a somewhat new culture can be intimidating at first.

Out of nowhere, different customs, learning systems, and ways of socializing can accumulate into anxiety and social pressure. In the moment, it can feel overwhelming; but with time, you discover certain presences that are always there to lend you a hand.

In the small town of Denia in the Valencian Community (in the southeast of Spain), one tall object in the scenery jumps out in front of you. It sits amidst the excitement of delicious family-owned tapas bars and joyful streets where Christians and Moors have summertime parades. The 18th century Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción (the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption) shines in the middle of the town as a beacon of beauty. It sits below the great Castle of Denia, high on a hill right in the center of town, close to an old tunnel that was used as a hideout during the Spanish Civil War.

The gracefully designed white roof hovers over paintings and works of art much like those we have at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. These paintings and art-pieces present the stories written in the gospels and the lives of some of the greatest saints. But what gave me a true sense of love and comfort was a picture of the Blessed Mother under the crucified Christ. This sense was similar to the one I felt going to Mass as a child with my *abuela* in Caracas or the image in my Catholic high school, and finally, in the warm community we have at Catholic University in the heart of D.C.

After spending time in Denia, I had the opportunity to travel to the Basque country in northern Spain. The largest cities of Bilbao and San Sebastian both have an amazing culture — not just based on their top-class gastronomy, shared language, history, *fútbol*, and summer fiestas, but for so many more reasons. For example, between these two cities, in the middle of the Basque coast overlooking the Bay



Santiago by a seaside town, Denia, near Valencia, Spain.

of Biscay sits an islet known as San Juan de Gaztelugatxe. On top of it is quite simply the most stunning combination of faith and nature I have ever seen: an *hermita*, or a type of small decorated church that is dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. And in case it sounds familiar, it was used as scenery for various episodes of the hit series, *Game of Thrones*.

Encountering both of these churches has given me a great understanding that the love of our Catholic faith is present wherever we go and can be felt in multiple places and contexts all over the world.

Yes, those different places and different cultural contexts can be intimidating at first, but the love is felt the same way in the customs different people hold around them and in the new experiences we can live with others. At the time I am writing this letter for the winter magazine, I have been in Pamplona for only three weeks. But I have never felt more prepared to apply that love in strength and compassion, in my interactions with others, in my studies, and in my life experiences ahead.

Intellectually, my professors here have given me a lot to think about. Just like at Catholic University, Navarra has a humanistic and personal growth-focused approach to education. I was introduced to this approach right from the beginning at the International Student Orientation session; and I have continued to experience it in my professors' teaching styles. I reflect on this often and hope to use it to help others in my future career.

What lies ahead now for me is to keep enjoying this process. The learning, travels, a new culture, a new community, and a new but also familiar way of experiencing my faith and the love that characterizes it. I hope to bring this perspective back with me to Catholic University and everywhere I go and with each person that I meet. ♦

— **Santiago Quiros** is a junior world politics and global studies major at Catholic University. He plans to graduate in 2027.

Preserving Ethiopian Culture

BY MONICA J. BLANCHARD AND SEBASTIAN VINUEZA

Monica Blanchard, Ph.D., is curator of the Semitics/Institute of Christian Oriental Research (ICOR) Collections at Mullen Library. She is secretary of ICOR and also a lecturer in the Department of Ancient and Medieval Languages and Cultures at The Catholic University of America. Sebastian Vinueza is the graduate library pre-professional at the Semitics/ICOR Library.





Gerald Weiner on Catholic University's campus, receiving an award for his gifts to the Ethiopian manuscripts collection.

The Semitics/ICOR Library collections provide a space and means for exploring the cultural, historical, and religious heritage of the Middle East and the Horn of the African continent.

The library holds 992 Ethiopian manuscripts, which include 285 Ethiopian codices, 398 healing/magic scrolls, 302 Islamic manuscripts from Harar, two Islamic scrolls, three sets of codex quires and two bifolia. The collection supports the teaching work of the University's masters and doctoral programs in Ge'ez. For example, Mehari Worku, an Ethiopian student in the Semitics department, received his Ph.D. in May 2024 with a dissertation on fifth-century Ethiopian Orthodox ecclesiology in Giyorgis of Säglä's *Māshafä Məsṯir*. The manuscripts also provide support for the University's Africana Studies program and the Department of History and Anthropology.

The numerous liturgical manuscripts in this collection are of special interest to the School of Religious Studies and its program in Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology. ICOR also recently participated in a Howard University Summer Institute for Educators: "Healing and Justice: Medieval Stories from Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Egypt."

Background and Context

The Catholic University of America has an exemplary record of outreach and support to the diaspora Christian communities of the Middle East, North Africa, and India, which now reside in North America. In 2016, the Semitics/ICOR Library received the first donation of Ethiopian manuscripts from Gerald and Barbara Weiner. They were aware of the Ethiopian diaspora in the Washington, D.C., metro area and understood the profound significance of these manuscripts as part of the Ethiopian heritage.



Over a decade, Mr. and Mrs. Weiner gifted the University with a total of 953 Ethiopian manuscripts — gifted the University 953 of the University's 992 Ethiopian manuscripts. They were committed to ensuring that the collection remained preserved and accessible to the communities to which they belong.

Inside the New Ethiopian Collection

In August 2025, the last posthumous gift from Gerald (b. December 20, 1941, and d. April 30, 2025) and Barbara Weiner was shipped to the Semitics/ICOR Library. It included 21 large scrolls and 44 codices (one of the scrolls featured as the "Frontispiece" on the inside front cover of this edition of *The Cardinal*). These codices and scrolls will be given formally to ICOR and The Catholic University of America after receipt of the appraisal. The gift will also include 84 Islamic manuscripts and two Islamic scrolls that actually arrived at Catholic University in July 2021 for digitization and description, in advance of the formal appraisal for Mr. Weiner.

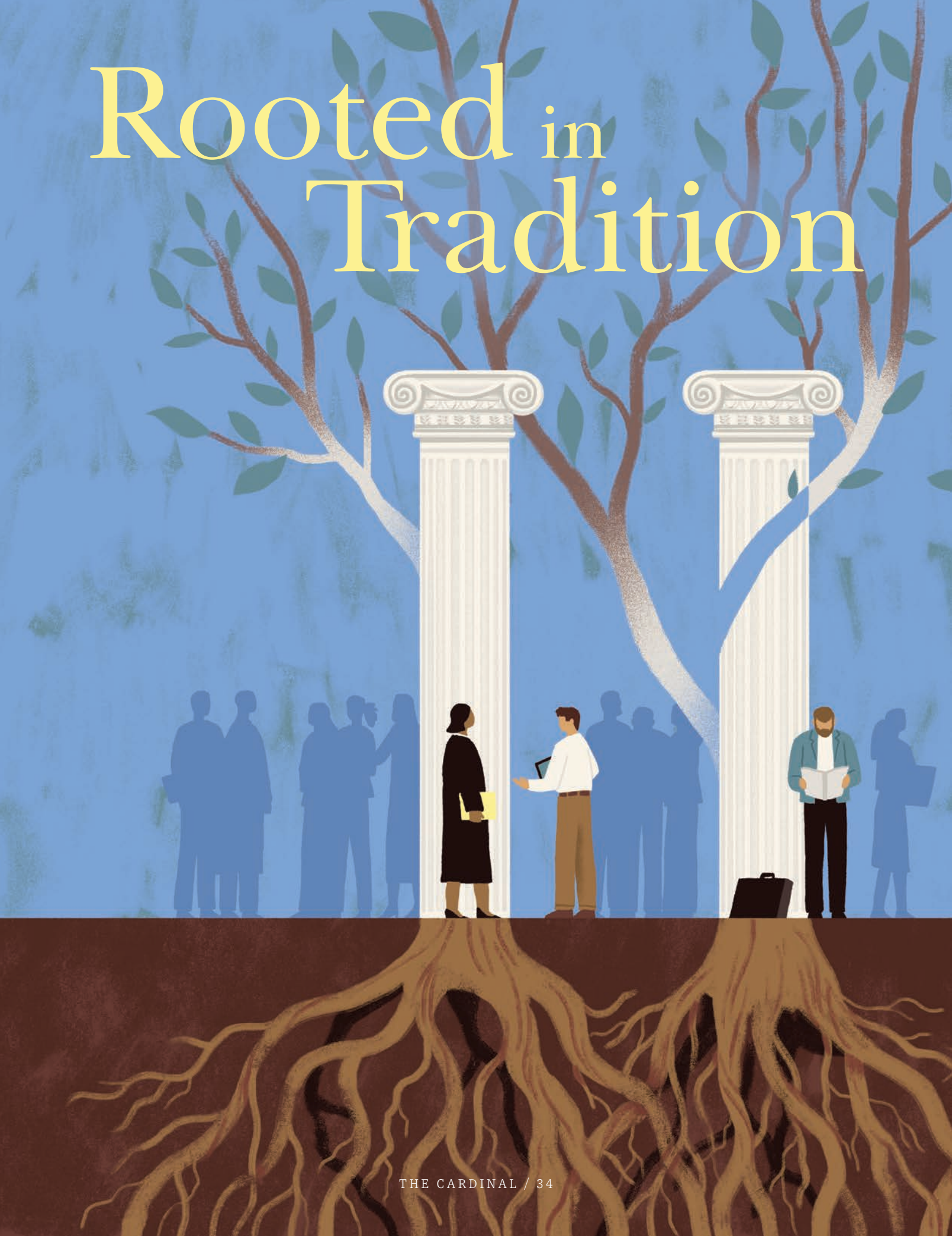
The Semitics/ICOR Library will feature an exhibit on its Ethiopian collection at the end of the 2026 spring semester. Watch the Special Collections website, as these Ethiopian Manuscripts will be the feature of an exhibit at Mullen Library sometime in April-May. Please reach out to Monica with questions at blanchard@cua.edu. ♦

The ICOR Collection

The late bishop of the Ethiopian Tewahedo Church, His Grace Abune Selama (who died September 2023), visited the Semitics/ICOR library in September 2021. He had a great concern for the Ethiopian diaspora community in North America and was pleased that the Ethiopian manuscript collection and other Semitics/ICOR library resources (book collections and reference tools) are accessible to them and to visitors from Ethiopia.

Ethiopian and Eritrean visitors come to this library for a variety of reasons: scholarly research, a chance to introduce children to their religious heritage, a chance to read and reread texts, the opportunity to learn about the work of the Department of Ancient and Medieval Cultures, or simply to enjoy the materials that are accessible to them here.

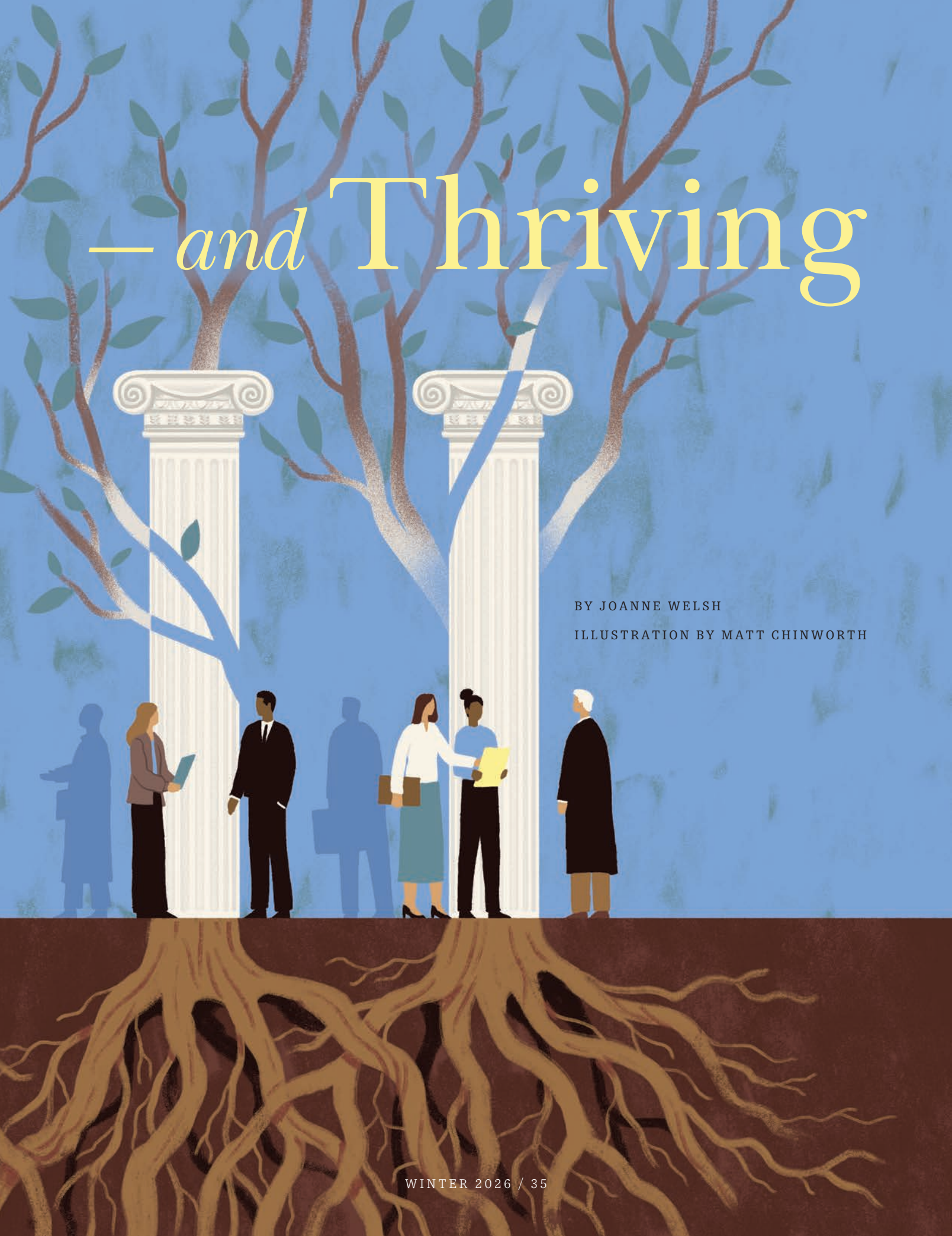
Rooted in Tradition



— *and* Thriving

BY JOANNE WELSH

ILLUSTRATION BY MATT CHINWORTH



There's an adage among gardeners to describe the growth of trees and other perennials: the first year they sleep; the second year they creep; the third year they leap. The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law (Catholic Law) has been intentionally growing its programs over several years, and it now seems to be in its "third year" (metaphorically speaking), leaping up in rankings, student applications, faculty hires, and high-profile achievements.

Catholic Law rose 23 places in the 2025 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, surging to its highest rank ever at #71. The previous year, it rose 28 places in the rankings. Similarly, applications to the school are up; in fact, for 2025 admission they increased almost 50% over the prior year — and their percentage increase is more than double the national average for American law schools during the same admission cycle. Additionally, the Class of 2024 achieved more than 95% placement in positions considered of the highest quality by *U.S. News*, and with the help of generous donors, the school has established three new endowed faculty chairs in recent years, which has allowed it to recruit faculty away from higher-ranked schools.

The Tradition

To extend the gardening metaphor just a little, think of Catholic Law as a tree. With its roots planted in fertile soil and grafted onto the root system of the University itself, they firmly anchor and nourish the tree so it can grow and flourish. These roots, of course, are its Catholic identity and the Catholic intellectual tradition, which sees faith and reason as complementary and aims

to form the whole human person rather than simply the intellect.

Stephen Payne, dean of the law school, and the law school faculty are committed to the tradition and to the school being a place where law can be studied as a dialogue between reason and faith.

"Our team gave a lot of thought to what that means for how we structure ourselves, what our curriculum should look like, what kind of faculty we should have, and what centers and institutes we should have," he recalls. "All of this should be, as President Kilpatrick describes it, 'in the heart of the Church.'"

To that end, he and the faculty are consciously creating and building centers and institutes that engage both the Catholic Law community and the broader legal community in that dialogue, along with finding new synergies with the wonderful pre-existing institutes and programs at the school, including the Law and Technology Institute, the Securities Law Program, and several others. Four new centers, in particular, have been established as essential components of what Payne calls the school's "intellectual architecture," designed to help form Catholic Law students as whole human persons but also to be key drivers of the school's growth.

"With respect to all these centers," says Payne, "the central question is 'What should our school, as the law school of the Church, contribute that no one else can do as well?' How should we fill that role in the best way possible that is distinctively Catholic but also, as part of being distinctively Catholic, welcoming and open to everyone?"

The Center for Law and the Human Person

At the heart of Payne's vision for the school is the Center for Law and the Human Person. He established it to be the law school's internal think tank for what the Catholic intellectual tradition should contribute to the study and practice of law and to bring the tradition more fully to the school.

The center is co-directed by St. John Henry Newman Professor of Law Marc DeGirolami and Assistant Professor Elizabeth Kirk. Both DeGirolami and Kirk recognize what a gem the center is for Catholic Law and how rare its programming is. To their knowledge, no other law school in the country has a center with this kind of mission.

"So many law schools see themselves as merely giving a technical education. We have

something far richer and more beautiful in mind for our students,” says Kirk.

She goes on to describe some of the programming designed for the students, such as the Aquinas Lectures, symposia, the *Tolle et Lege* (“Take up and read”) reading group, and the Faith in Action lecture series. *Tolle et Lege*, for example, introduces students to classics in literature, philosophy, and theology — in hopes that students will continue to read for themselves throughout their lifetime. The Faith in Action series, through which the center invites lawyers to give a personal witness to the integration of their faith and their practice of law, strives to push back against the idea that lawyers’ professional and personal lives are separate.

Andrea Quinan, a third-year law student, says the center’s programming was one of the primary reasons she chose to attend Catholic Law, noting particularly the *Tolle et Lege* reading groups.

“It’s so important to build up an understanding of why we study the law alongside actually studying the

law,” Quinan argues. “Otherwise, we gain a lot of knowledge, but we don’t know the driving purpose behind it. It’s like having a ship without a captain.”

Recent graduates speak to the value of the center, as well. Gerald Sharpe, Class of 2025, found it to be deeply formative, giving him “a space to think critically, both in theory and now in practice, about how the law can promote the innate dignity of every person.” He believes that the center “will continue to be a driving force behind the law school’s skyrocketing national reputation — not in spite of, but because of, its rich Catholic identity.”

The Center for the Constitution and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition

An ongoing debate exists in Catholic intellectual circles about whether Catholicism is compatible with the American Founding and originalism, a legal theory that argues for

interpreting the U.S. Constitution based on its meaning at the time of its adoption. Because of this debate, a clear priority emerged within the school to address the intersection of American constitutionalism and the Catholic intellectual tradition and to explore their compatibility. In response, the school founded the Center for the Constitution and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition (CIT).

Led by St. Robert Bellarmine Professor of Law J. Joel Alicea and launched publicly in fall 2022, the CIT has been quite successful. In just four years, it has hosted five events with United States Supreme Court justices. Four of those events took place on campus, creating an extraordinary opportunity for faculty and students to engage directly with the justices. It is also having great success with its Aquinas Fellowships, a highly-competitive seminar program for young practicing lawyers that examines the relationship between the Catholic intellectual tradition and American constitutionalism. The program draws lawyers in the Washington, D.C., area who have graduated from the country’s top law schools, many of whom go on to become Supreme Court clerks.

“This speaks to the desire for the education that we offer,” Alicea said.

The benefits of programming like the Aquinas Fellowships are broad. These nascent programs are growing, and Alicea is hopeful that by bringing some of the field’s most talented people into the Catholic Law community, they also can serve as potential future employers or mentors to the school’s students.

CIT has also been an engine for recruiting and retaining top-notch faculty to the school. These are scholars whose work has been cited by Supreme Court justices in opinions and speeches, and who are placing articles in some of the leading law reviews.

At the heart of all of CIT’s programming, however, is the commitment to educating Catholic Law students in the Catholic intellectual tradition.



“CIT brings to them the riches of the Catholic intellectual tradition and integrates that into their education so they can think more deeply and clearly about what their life in the law means, why it’s important to society, and what the limits of law are,” says Alicea. “Those types of questions are not often asked in other law schools, and we bring those questions to the fore for our students. I think it makes them better lawyers and better citizens.”

Andrew Lewis, a third-year law student, agrees. Lewis said that when he was applying to law school, he was looking for something that would engage him more deeply in the legal profession’s most important debates and form his mind better than the average law school would. “So, I took a chance and bet on Catholic. Even with my high expectations, I have been totally blown away by what CIT has built at Catholic Law. As the many judges — and justices — almost unanimously say when they come to campus, the events and discussions fostered by CIT are simply not happening at nearly any other law school campus. I thank God that I took a chance on Catholic.”

The Center for Religious Liberty

The first of the four centers to be established is the Center for Religious Liberty, co-directed by Professors Mark Rienzi and William Saunders. Its purpose is to study and advance the Catholic view of religious liberty as a fundamental human right for all people, regardless of their faith.

“The idea in starting the Center was that Catholic University is a particularly important place to discuss, advance, and advocate that view of religious liberty for everyone,” recalls Rienzi. “We have something uniquely Catholic to offer to the law world in what is the biggest lawyer town on the planet.”

The Center hosts speakers,

organizes conferences, provides educational programming, and comments on religious liberty issues in the public square.

Among its most effective student programming is the clinic it offers, which gives Catholic Law students the opportunity to do moot courts with real religious liberty expert litigators and write briefs that get filed in court — including two at the Supreme Court last year.

These are not the moot court competitions that are standard at law schools across the country. These moot courts include the biggest religious liberty case before the Supreme Court in a given year, with the lawyer who is to make the case before the Supreme Court practicing his or her argument ahead of time in front of law professors — and Catholic Law students get the chance to listen in

and ask questions afterwards.

“That’s as good a law school experience as you could imagine for a law student who is interested in this area,” notes Rienzi. “It’s uncommon for lawyers to do moot courts for an audience, so to watch one of them with the real people before the real case is a very rare thing.”

The Separation of Powers Institute

The youngest of the four centers, the Separation of Powers Institute was established during the last academic year by Associate Professor of Law Jennifer Mascott. With Mascott on public service leave — she was recently confirmed as a judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit — Assistant



Professor of Law Chad Squitieri directs the Institute, working alongside Institute Fellow and Assistant Professor of Law Natalie Schmidt.

The Institute plays an important role in the school's mission because it focuses on the proper role of the branches of government and how the American way of governing contributes to the common good and the flourishing of individual citizens.

Squitieri emphasizes the importance of a robust separation of powers in government, commenting, "You need constitutional structure for the rights to be more than just words written down on paper. The separation of powers helps make sure that 'we the people' stay in charge of our government."

Given Catholic University's location in Washington, D.C., and the fact that many of its students are interested in administrative law, it seemed natural to establish the Institute, especially since few other institutes focusing on the structure of government exist.

Two of the Institute's higher-profile activities are its moot courts and Separation of Powers Bootcamp. Like the Center for Religious Liberty, the Institute has been very successful in hosting moot courts with leading lawyers who are preparing to argue real cases to the Supreme Court, giving some of their students the chance to attend and watch behind the scenes.

As a young organization, the Institute is also working to establish its bootcamp program.

It hosted the first bootcamp this past year, a successful, high-intensity educational program for recent law school graduates from across the country. To Squitieri's knowledge, it's the country's only bootcamp focused exclusively on the separation of powers and administrative law topics.

The Third-Year Leap ... and Beyond

Payne ticks off the many fruits that the centers are already bearing: the outstanding scholars who have recently joined Catholic Law from higher ranked law schools "because they care about having this dialogue between faith and reason out in the open in an academic setting;" the number of students who have been attracted to study at the law school, in part, because of the work of the centers; and the amazing placements of students to clerkships and law firms, as a result of the center programs and faculty mentoring.

He's also aware, however, that critics might ask how broad the perspectives of these centers are, how open they are to debate, and how welcoming they are to non-Catholic students, who make up the majority of the school's student population. He points to the school's welcoming environment and the richness of the Catholic intellectual tradition itself as factors that draw, and retain, so many of the school's non-Catholic students.

"Law graduates tell us how wonderful our community is. We have such supportive faculty and staff, and the graduates tell us it feels different here," Payne says.

As for the intellectual environment, he argues that a law program based on the Catholic intellectual tradition is every human being's inheritance because the tradition "draws from all the wells of true human wisdom throughout the ages" — whether that be Aristotle, the classical liberal studies tradition, or others.

Payne adds, "Because of our distinctive place in legal education and in the culture, we don't fit neatly into either side of the political polarization in our culture. For example, we are institutionally pro-unborn life and pro-treating immigrants well, so that puts us in a position to be a model of the kind of civil discourse that our culture badly needs and to be a convener of people who disagree on very important things but view themselves as part of a larger project in which we're all neighbors."

With the centers up and running, Payne is looking to expand the school's reputation through additional initiatives. He is grateful for the philanthropy from the Knights of Columbus and Marble Freedom Trust that have provided the resources to build centers with a top-notch reputation for public (i.e., constitutional and administrative) law, and now he plans to do the same thing on the private law side, particularly in business law. One of his ideas is an initiative on law and principled entrepreneurship, and he is eager to get alumni community support for this program.

At its roots, however, the purpose of all Catholic Law's existing or planned centers is forming ethical lawyers who live integrated lives. Marc DeGirolami perhaps sums it up best.

"We're in the business of forming persons, I think," he says. "And I strongly suspect that that business is going to have an impact, one new lawyer at a time." ♦

As for the intellectual environment, Payne argues that a law program based on the Catholic intellectual tradition is every human being's inheritance because the tradition "draws from all the wells of true human wisdom throughout the ages ..."



A Critical Moment: ADAPTING TO CHANGE

Gen Z Driving Program Shifts at Universities

BY KATHRYN MULLAN

They say change is the end result of all true learning. And nowhere is that more true than in the work of Catholic University’s Student Engagement and Campus Ministry teams.

Pivoting to meet the needs of a new generation of students amidst increasing cultural pressures and increasing challenges, these two teams have been nimble and agile in their reconfiguration of key support systems and services for our University’s most valuable resource: our current students.

Rising high-school freshmen when COVID-19 rolled in and witnesses to some of the greatest anxiety-causing events and global challenges of our time, this generation is unique. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* shared insights in its recent study, “The New Generation of Students: How colleges can recruit, teach, and serve Gen Z” (2019), to help colleges and universities understand this cohort.

The Great Recession and its aftermath focused Gen Zers on the value and relevance of a degree. The purpose of college for them is to help launch a career. Gen Zers also see technology as an extension of themselves with respect to how they communicate, consume information, and learn. No generation is a monolith, and research on Gen Z is just emerging. But campus leaders must pay attention, as this new generation coincides with a shrinking pool of high-school graduates and increased expectations for student success.

The report also does a deep-dive into the mind-sets and motivations of Gen Z and describes how colleges can best reach and serve this new generation of learners, discussing three main areas where impact is being felt and changes need to be made. This article focuses specifically on the third area, findings and trends for campus life and the student experience.

Are these findings and trends true for students who choose The Catholic University of America for their college experience? We did a pulse-check with Steve Kreider, associate dean and director of the Center for Student Engagement, and Julie Cilano, associate director of Campus Ministry.

On the Front Lines

By way of background, Kreider has been in his student affairs/experience role at Catholic University for the past 20 years,

overseeing student organizations, leadership programs, and cultural programming. In addition to his student services role, he also has been named an associate dean, as campus activities merged with cultural engagement into one office that is now the Center for Student Engagement. As director of this new center, he and his team now oversee student organizations, leadership programs, campus events, orientation, cultural programming, and first-generational student support.

“There’s a lot of moving pieces to my role, but what I like best is the top-notch orientation program we provide to incoming first-years,” says Kreider. “We consistently get really good reviews and feedback from families and students — in the 90% success satisfaction rates.” He notes that they do a lot with lean resources, building strong relationships with student leaders and organizations and connecting and supporting various initiatives.

Cilano has been in her Campus Ministry (CM) role since 2023, having previously worked two years as a mentor in the Busch School of Business Career Development Center but 15 prior years in ministry and counseling. Her CM work centers on leading staff and student leaders, in collaboration with the chaplains, to animate the life of faith on campus and encourage students to bring that faith into the Brookland neighborhood, their hometowns, and the world. Tactically, she supervises the campus ministry office day-to-day operations, including its four departments: (1) undergraduate student formation; (2) service and justice; (3) liturgy; and (4) faculty, staff, and graduate student formation.

Each department coordinates area specific events and activities such as: retreats, student ministry, various liturgical and pastoral initiatives, weekly service sites and neighborhood outreach, mission trips, the on-campus Cardinal Cupboard and Closet, and more.

“We have an exceptional team of chaplains, religious sisters, lay staff, and student leaders who make this work both joyful and deeply meaningful,” she says.

The Chronicle: New Gen report does a deep-dive into the mind-sets and motivations of Gen Z and describes how colleges can best reach and serve this new generation of learners, discussing three main areas where impact is being felt and changes need to be made: (1) the recruitment funnel; (2) Gen Z in the classroom; and (3) campus life.

Campus Life

The Chronicle report notes: “Today’s students come to campus less seasoned than previous generations, which raises the stakes for personal development as part of the college experience ... [for example,] they need more guidance on issues like study habits and wellness”

Kreider would agree that the shift to wellness has been a key change in his department.

“Twenty years ago when I first started working here, there was more of a negative perception of therapy,” he says. “But now everyone openly talks about it, and there’s a general understanding that it’s okay to ask for help. For our current students, that help could either be tutoring, counseling, dean services, or disability support services.”

Looking at the data from this study, Cilano agrees with the findings about Gen Z but also notes that Catholic University students are a bit different.

“Students here share their Gen Z peers’ desires for support, meaning, and formation in their college experience, but they often bring an additional openness to exploring faith and moral questions,” says Cilano. “Many arrive already aware of the world’s challenges and want to know how to make a difference through their careers. ... They see their faith not as separate from that search but as central to it. Many are mission-driven more than money-driven, although financial stability remains important to them.”

Also known as “Gen Ztressed,” anxiety is common, so Cilano indicates that a sense of security — relationally, spiritually, and financially — holds significant value for them.

“As a campus ministry staff, we’ve read *The Anxious Generation* (Jonathan Haidt, 2024) to help us better understand our students. Perhaps the most profound takeaway from this book was the shared observation that Gen Alpha and Gen Z are ... ‘growing up younger,’ putting the pressure on universities to provide greater human formation as part of their experience,” notes Cilano.

Connecting and Belonging

This study came out in 2019 before COVID, and since then the need for connection and belonging among this generation has only accelerated. Catholic University’s Campus Ministry team is there to help build those blocks from the beginning.



A longstanding tradition at Catholic University, the Freshman Retreat is often students' first introduction to Catholic life on campus. Nearly 300 first-year students attended this 2025 weekend away (with a steady increase of attendees each year), which is held three weeks into the first semester; this experience helps them build friendships and grow in faith through prayer, leisure, the sacraments, and small group discussions.

"This year we introduced a new initiative called Freshman Ministry Nights: Upper Rooms, designed to continue what begins on retreat," says Cilano. These three Upper Room sessions are designed to help students meet more of their classmates and build community. "The first session helps students develop a daily prayer plan; the second encourages and challenges them to regularly participate in the sacraments of Mass and Confession; and the third encourages them to keep developing authentic friendships."

In more recent years, our student-facing teams have seen this uptick in need for more support in forming authentic, in-person community and friendship. Kreider agrees with this and sees the same needs on the student engagement side of the house.

"I think that the most important thing is feeling a connection," he says. "That's why we have programs that focus on the first six weeks of a person's time at Catholic University because the research also shows that if a connection isn't made in the first six weeks, there's a much greater likelihood that a student will struggle and won't want to continue studying here."

So students need to feel like they are connected somewhere. Kreider adds: "Whether that's a student organization, a service group, an academic group, or a professor, dorm life on campus, whatever it is — it happens the first six weeks and it's a feeling of 'I'm part of this community.'"

Key Takeaways:

2025 Higher Education Holistic Impact Report

As Catholic colleges and universities increasingly focus on holistic education for each student, this Impact Report compared 1,000 graduates from Catholic colleges and universities to 1,000 from secular ones to explore the benefits of higher education beyond monetary measures.

Here's a snapshot of comparison findings about the Catholic university graduates vs. their secular counterparts. They have +9% sense of clear direction in life; +14% lifelong search for purpose; +15% social fulfillment; +19% morality in decision making.

Outcomes and Careers

The Chronicle report says that above all, Gen Z students "want an education they can apply; they prize project-based learning and undergraduate research that will hone crucial, marketable skills for life." This might be true for most American college students, but Catholic University students — and students at other Catholic universities — tend to look for more than marketable skills from their college education. They also seek meaning.

As University Chaplain Father Aquinas Guilbeau, O.P., notes: "For some time now, universities have regarded their students as individual customers, to whom endless options must be offered for a self-made, self-curated university experience. Today's students are looking for something different, however. They long to be part of something larger than what they can create individually. They want a real campus community that supports friendship and provides uncomplicated opportunities for shared study, prayer, and mission."

The good news is that research just published in October 2025 indicates that students from Catholic institutions of higher education are 7% more likely to view their careers as meaningful, 14% more likely to report a strong sense of belonging, and 17% more likely to say they are satisfied with their mental health (*Higher Education Holistic Impact Report*). This

annual report is published by the Center for Catholic Studies (CCS) at St. Mary's University (San Antonio) in partnership with YouGov; Jason King is the chair of CCS at St. Mary's and the lead on this study.

"Higher education has been disrupted by political battles and financial pressures, but Catholic higher ed does not appear to be caught in these tides," says King. "With recent data, we can see that it continues to form graduates for meaningful lives, community engagement, and ethical decision-making. Because of this focus, it also supports graduates' mental, financial, and social well-being."

This is a welcome sign of hope for our Gen Z students — those currently on campus and those who have gone out into the world with their talents, formation, and Catholic University education.

Final Take

Interestingly, the *Chronicle* report's "Defining Success" section did predict what would be accelerated by the COVID effect: to fulfill its mission with Gen Z, a university must adapt or fail.

"The risk is too great for institutions to stay the course, and The Catholic University of America is no exception," says Cilano. "We have experienced our own adaptations in the past year, and in spite of the odds, challenges, and necessary sacrifices, I believe we are already adapting." ♦

Class Notes

Relishing Retirement

Joseph Galeota, M.A. 1969, turned 80 this past year and just keeps on going. A National Teacher Corps alumnus — the second cohort to come through The Catholic University of America — he taught previously in the District of Columbia Public Schools, then Boston Public, a suburban Catholic school, and finally at Boston's Nativity Prep (a tuition-free school for boys from low-income families). Retired from all of these, he is beginning his 36th year of hosting a weekly math television show for a Boston cable station, as well as his 25th year of writing a newspaper column for a Boston weekly paper.

Accolades

Rocco Mennella, B.A. 1967, received a 2025 Science and Society Award from the National Science Board. The Science and Society Award honors those who have tirelessly worked to increase public understanding and appreciation of science and engineering in the United States. Recipients have demonstrated leadership by inspiring scientists to engage with the public, fostering

inclusive excellence in STEM and strengthening the relationship between science and the public. As life-long STEM educators, they have brought a motivated spirit, innovative talent, and diligent attention to every person and institution with whom they have worked.

James A. Deutch, D.S.W. 1969, was awarded the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award in Social Work for the State of Florida by the Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. James says hello to all his 1966–1969 NCSSS classmates and would love to reconnect!

Constance Belfiore, J.D. 1976, has been selected for inclusion in Marquis Who's Who. She has dedicated more than 45 years to the legal profession, demonstrating an unwavering commit-

ment to justice and community service. Although professionally retired, she continues to serve as a board member for Community Legal Services (CLS) of Prince George's County Inc., after serving for many years as its president, and before that as its founding executive director. She also remains active in the D.C. Bar Association (BADC), for which she served as president in 1997–1998.

Most Rev. Robert Barron, B.A. 1981, M.A. 1982, bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester (Minnesota) celebrated the 10th anniversary of his episcopal ordination on September 8, 2025.

Monsignor James Watkins, B.A. 1983, M.A. 1984, received the Dean's 1895 Award for exceptional service to the School of Philosophy at its May Commencement

celebration. He has taught as a faculty associate for the past 35 years. Most semesters, he has offered the popular "Philosophy of God" course to generations of undergraduates. Monsignor Watkins, who decided to step back from teaching after the spring semester, currently serves as pastor of St. Ann Catholic Church in Northwest Washington, D.C.

① **Jeffry Weldon, B.A. 1983, J.D. 1986**, proudly marked a new milestone earning his master of laws (LL.M.) in wealth management from Texas A&M University School of Law in May 2025. He is the co-founder of Weldon and Weldon Financial Coaching, along with his wife, **Carolyn Weldon, B.A. 1982**. Their firm specializes in wealth advisory, estate, and business strategies, serving clients in New York and 21 other states. He and Carolyn live in New York and enjoy spending time with their daughters, Meghan and Kathleen; their son-in-law, Drew, who is married to Meghan; and their grandson, Declan.

Rev. Frank Donio, S.A.C., B.A. 1989, M.A. 1993, D.Min. 2012, adjunct assistant professor, theology, and University chaplain for the Knights of Columbus, received the 2025 International Blessed Michael McGivney Medal from the Knights of Columbus.

Catharine Hanaway, J.D. 1990, former Missouri House Speaker, made history on Sept. 8, 2025, as she was sworn in as Missouri's 45th Attorney General, becoming the first woman to hold this position.

"Rocco is one of many behind-the-scenes champions of our science and engineering ecosystem. It is because of people like him and the work they do that students from all backgrounds are inspired to climb the steep paths of science, and we couldn't be happier to recognize them for it."

— *Victor McCrary, B.A. 1978, chair of the National Science Board*

Vice Admiral George Wikoff, B.A. 1990, has been nominated to assume command of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa and Allied Joint Forces Command Naples, based in Italy. Wikoff currently leads U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and 5th Fleet, overseeing security in the Middle East since February 2024. A career fighter pilot, he has extensive operational experience flying the F-14 Tomcat and the F/A-18 Hornet. His shore assignments include serving as an instructor at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center, also known as TOPGUN; battle director for the Combined Air and Space Operations Center in Qatar; chief of staff for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command; and executive assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations.

Jim Foley, B.A. 1993, was named the president of the Charitable Irish Society, the oldest Irish-American organization in the Americas. The motto of the Charitable Irish Society is “With Good Will Doing Service” and its focus is on providing assistance to immigrants. They had their Annual “Silver Key” reception in October at the UMASS Club in Boston, where they honored Most **Rev. Richard Henning, S.T.L. 2000**, archbishop of Boston and Conor Shapiro of Health Equity International.

William Brownsberger, M.A. 1996, began his tenure as the 12th president of Saint Martin’s University, a private Benedictine university in Lacey, Wash., on July 1, 2024, with his official inauguration on Sept. 6, 2025.

Adriana Fernandez Estevez, J.D. 2013, has been selected for the Marquis Who’s Who Honors for her expertise as a highly regarded attorney specializing in immigration, juvenile, and family law. With more than a decade of experience, she has made significant contributions to the legal community, particularly in her work at Cornerstone Law Group, PLLC. Her efforts have positively impacted the lives of many clients, particularly in her advocacy for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) cases.

Michael R. Gunden, B.A. 2020, received his master’s degree in public administration (MPA) from the University of Pennsylvania Fels School of Government on May 18, 2025. He is special projects coordinator for the Bureau of Real Estate at the Pennsylvania Department of General Services, in Harrisburg, Pa. He is also treasurer on the board of directors at Crossroads Community Center, which serves youth and families in the Fairhill neighborhood of Philadelphia.

Moving Up

② **Holly M. Ford Lewis, B.A. 1985**, an intellectual property attorney, has joined intellectual property (IP) law firm Panitch Schwarze Belisario & Nadel LLP, as counsel. A business and legal advisor to clients ranging from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies, she provides counsel on all aspects of trademark, brand protection, portfolio

“Nearly four decades after graduating from Catholic University’s Columbus School of Law in 1986, I returned to the classroom. It’s been a long road of reading, writing, and rethinking everything I thought I knew. This degree isn’t just a finish line — it’s a fresh chapter.”

— Jeffrey Weldon, B.A. 1983, J.D. 1986

management, copyright, IP transactional work, and enforcement matters.

Timothy Laffey, B.A. 1992, has returned to Mercer as a Philadelphia market leader. In this key role, he will spearhead growth efforts across Mercer’s health, wealth, and career practices — driving strategic initiatives to expand the firm’s footprint and deepen client relationships in the Philadelphia market.

Annick Lenoir-Peek, J.D. 1994, was appointed by the Indigent Defense Services (IDS) Commission as the new parent defender for the state of North Carolina. A nationally recognized expert in child welfare law, she brings more than two decades of experience representing parents in abuse, neglect, and dependency cases. She will lead the statewide resource center supporting both trial and appellate attorneys who represent parents at risk of losing custody of their children. Her appointment marks a continued commitment to high-quality, holistic legal representation for families navigating one of the most complex and



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emotionally challenging areas of the law.

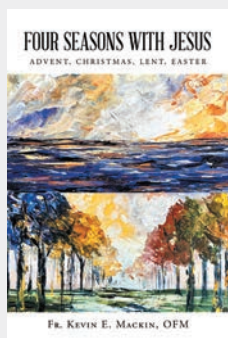
Heidi Zeich, B.A. 1995, has been appointed as the executive director of residential education at Georgetown University. In this role, she will lead a team that builds community across both the Hilltop and Capitol campuses, fostering a residential experience that reflects Georgetown’s commitment to inclusion, formation, and *cura personalis*. She will oversee the living and learning environments in 17 residence halls and communities, provide innovative approaches to the residential curriculum, foster holistic student development, support crisis management efforts, and champion initiatives that promote belonging and mattering to ensure a seamless residential experience and help every Hoya feel at home.

Elizabeth R. Pfifer, B.A. 2002, is the new president and CEO of The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. She has previously led nonprofit projects for Catholic Relief Services across the United States and in Asia and Africa.

① **Dana Rachel Davis, J.D. 2005**, completed the prestigious White House Leadership Development Program Fellowship in October 2025. She now has been placed at the Office of Management and Budget in the Performance and Personnel Management, Federal Workforce Branch. In this role, she draws upon her legal training and her expertise in human resources strategy to modernize federal human capital systems



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and improve how the government attracts, develops, and retains top talent. Dana has served at the Internal Revenue Service for more than a decade, leading major transformation projects in the Human Capital Office, including strategic communications, and implementation of key initiatives under the Inflation Reduction Act. She is also the founder of a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about human trafficking and advocating for survivors. She credits her education at Catholic University’s Columbus School of Law with shaping her commitment to service, leadership, and advancing the public good.

Patrick Dwyer, B.S.B.A. 2007, has concluded 16 years of service to The Catholic University of America, most recently as Associate Vice President for Advancement. During his tenure, Patrick built lasting relationships with alumni, parents, and friends while helping to grow the University’s culture of philanthropy. He now begins a new chapter as Vice President for Advancement at St. John’s College High School in Washington, D.C., where he will lead the school’s engagement and fundraising efforts in collaboration with the President, Board of Trustees, and other members of the leadership team to advance St. John’s mission and long-term vision.

Geoffrey Miller, Ph.D. 2007, was named the new principal at St. Joseph’s Catholic Academy in Boalsburg, Pa., in August

2025. He brings more than 20 years of experience in Catholic education to the parochial school.

James W. Stroud, S.T.L. 2008, S.T.D. 2012, received a promotion to the rank of professor of moral theology at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wis.

Joseph Cherny, B.A. 2012, was appointed instructor in the Department of Theology and Philosophy at Divine Word College in Epworth, Iowa.

John W. McCarthy, B.A. 2013, joined Georgetown University’s Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life in the fall 2025 semester, as one of its inaugural senior fellows. He is principal of Causeway Strategy Group and is a strategic advisor to companies, candidates, and causes.

Anna Arnot, B.S.Arch. 2014, M.Arch. 2016, has been promoted to associate at RODE Architects, a Boston-based collaborative design and architecture firm. She joined RODE in 2018 and is passionate about guiding clients through the early stages of design, with particular focus on aligning programmatic needs with strong conceptual approaches and passive design strategies.

Patrick A. Gill, Ph.D. 2016, has joined the faculty at Mount St. Mary’s University in Emmitsburg, Md., as an adjunct professor of philosophy. Having completed his bachelor of philosophy from The Catholic University of America, he is grateful for the opportunity to return to his philosophical roots after further studies in theology and business.

Hana Beckerle, M.S.L.I.S. 2021, with the Library's Collections Digitization Division (CDD) has been named as a Library of Congress co-lead for the Federal Agencies Digital Guidelines Initiative (FADGI) Still Image Working Group (effective July 1, 2025). She came to the Library of Congress as a Librarian in Residence in the Digitization Services Section (now CDD) in June 2021. She has a background in project and program management and library science, in addition to her digitization experience. She supported the Still Image Working Group's review and revision of the Still Image Technical Guidelines in 2022 and 2023 and has served as a liaison to the user community since their publication.

Collin Kourtz, M.S.B.S. 2022, is the new director of the Office of Life, Justice, and Peace for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He is also completing a master's degree in theology at Catholic University. He has a passion for the poor and marginalized — especially the deaf and special needs communities.

Meredith Hamm, B.A. 2023, joined the media staff of the New Orleans Saints NFL football team in the fall of 2025.

Cardinals in Lights

John Slattery, B.F.A. 1984, portrays lawyer Leo F. Drummond, in the USA-TV series of *The Rainmaker*, which premiered in August 2025 and is based on the John Grisham novel.

Cardinals in Print

Louis M. Savary, M.A. 1963, Ph.D. 1965, S.T.D. 1970, of Tampa, Fla., has written a series of eight books over the past 20 years that explain the ideas of French Jesuit Pierre Teilhard de Chardin for the ordinary reader, including *The Divine Milieu Explained*, *Teilhard de Chardin on Love*, *Teilhard de Chardin on the Gospels*, *The Human Phenomenon Explained*, and *The New Spiritual Exercises in the Spirit of Teilhard de Chardin*. His latest two books are *The Christian Phenomenon: A Once and Future Church* (Paulist Press, July 2024) and *101 Q&A on Catholicism and Evolution* (Paulist Press, September 2024).

② **Rev. Kevin E. Mackin, O.F.M., S.T.L. 1968, S.T.D. 1971**, president emeritus of Siena College, has written a book, *Four Seasons with Jesus: Advent, Christmas,*

Lent, Easter (WestBow Press, June 2025). The book focuses on daily Bible readings that depict Jesus's earthly mission, with gentle motivation for readers to walk with Christ throughout moments of Incarnation and Resurrection — along with practical ways to live the faith every day.

Daniela Gioseffi, M.F.A. 1973, moved to Maplewood, N.J., five years ago, after spending 50 years in New York City. After taking a tour of the newly renovated Maplewood Library, she decided to donate many of her books. She is the author of 18 books of poetry and prose. Her new book, *Stardust Lives in Us*, was published in November 2025.

③ **Daniel A. Varroney, B.A. 1978**, published his second book, *Rethinking Economic Growth — How Small Businesses Can Help Consistently Grow the Economy* (Real Clear Publishing, September 2025). His first book, *Reimagining Industry Growth — Strategic Partnership Strategies in an Era of Uncertainty* (Wiley, 2022). He is the founder of Potomac Core, which provides strategic consulting for trade association transformation and industry-focused partnerships. Two of Dan's children are also Catholic University graduates: **Shannon K. Varroney, B.A. 2005**, and **Daniel P. Varroney, B.A. 2010**.

Mary Bryant Shrader, J.D. 1990, has written a new cookbook, *The Modern Pioneer Pantry*, (Penguin Random, August 2025). She also teaches viewers how to cook traditional, nutrient-dense food on her Mary's

Nest YouTube Channel, which has more than 1 million subscribers and over 70 million views on her videos.

Karen Berman, M.F.A. 1993, has co-edited and contributed to the two-volume book, *Stories of the Holocaust: Art for Healing and Renewal, Volume I: Onstage and in Concert and Volume II: On Screen and in the Gallery* (International Psychoanalytic Books, 2025). In the 33 chapters of these two volumes, an international cadre of contributing authors seek to heal trauma and to voice a call to action through the arts to stand up against hatred and anti-Semitism. Volume I encompasses the methods by which theater, dance, and music were used in the concentration camps and are currently employed for healing. Volume II focuses on film, visual arts, and museum studies used for survival and to educate new generations.

Bill Wichterman, M.A. 1993, recently published a book, *Stewards, Not Owners: The Joy of Aligning Your Money with Your Faith* (Forefront Books, March 2025), which he co-authored with his wife, Dana Wichterman. They challenge conventional views on wealth and giving, encouraging followers of Christ to put all their financial muscles to work for the Lord. Rather than focusing on simply giving away 10 percent of their income, Dana and Bill challenge readers to activate 100 percent of their wealth and wealth-creating potential for Kingdom goals.

“The principles that Dana and Bill share in this important book are a guide to making sure that how you manage your money will contribute to your journey in faith ...”

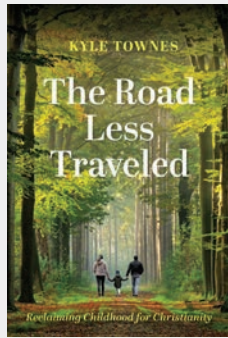
— Andrew Abela, dean of the Busch School of Business, The Catholic University of America

Angela Franks, M.A. 1997, associate professor of theology, Catholic University, has published *Body and Identity: A History of the Empty Self* (University of Notre Dame Press, August 2025). It won a 2025 Expanded Reason research award. The book is an exploration of the crisis of identity in the contemporary world, characterized by fluid social structures and the search for meaning in an increasingly secular society. She uniquely combines insights from philosophy, theology, and intellectual history to analyze the concept of identity. She also offers valuable perspectives on how individuals can find meaning and purpose in a world of uncertainty and fragmentation.

① Kyle Marie (Parton) Townes, B.M. 2008, a mother of five children, an author, and a public speaker, has written *The Road Less Traveled: Reclaiming Childhood for Christianity* (Resource Publications, July 2025). She was interviewed about her new book on several top 100 podcasts, including “The Federalist Radio Hour” and “Issues.”

Laura (Yackley) Gattoni-Celli, B.M. 2012, and her sister, Caitlin Yackley, published a children’s book, *The Book of Contradictions* (independently published, 2025), an opposite book with a twist. Instead of simple language, it uses delicious, rare words.

Rev. Stephen M. Koeth, C.S.C. M.A. 2012, assistant professor of history at the University of Notre Dame, published



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his first monograph, *Crabgrass Catholicism: How Suburbanization Transformed Faith and Politics in Postwar America* (University of Chicago Press, August 2025).

② Marjory Serrano-Coyer, D.M.A. 2014, announced the release of her book, *Concertmaster Leadership: A Guide for Violinists* (September 2025), a vital resource designed to empower aspiring concertmasters with practical tools and proven strategies for effective leadership from the first chair. This guide offers innovative approaches to overcoming challenges, intentional practice, and confident leadership making it an invaluable — asset for musicians’ professional development.

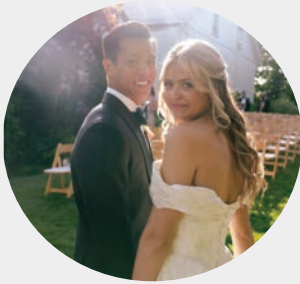
③ Sister Allison Regina Gliot, F.S.P., B.A. 2016, won two awards for the 2025 Association of Catholic Publishers’ Excellence in Publishing. *Eli’s Quiet Friend* (Pauline Books & Media, 2025), a story about a boy on the autism spectrum who discovers Eucharistic Adoration, won first place in Picture Books. *Forgiven: A Guide to Confession and the Examen Prayer* (Pauline Books &

Media, 2025), co-authored with Sister Orienne Pietra Rene Dyck, won third place in Teen Books. She also published a Catholic urban fantasy novel for young adults called *The Curse He Chose* (Pauline Books & Media, 2025), the first book of the “In Aeternum” trilogy. Sister Gliot serves as an author and acquisitions editor for Pauline Books & Media, the publishing house of the Daughters of St. Paul.

Chris Suehr, Ph.M. 2019, Ph.D. 2021, has written *The Curse of Pharaoh: Suffering, Character, and Villainy* (Wipf and Stock Publishers, July 2025). Wisdom can mean learning from another person’s mistakes. Consider the Pharaoh — this villain whose tale of wickedness is recounted in the Torah, the Bible, and the Qur’an. The cruel king wielded his terrifying power over enslaved peoples and was punished with divine plagues. Rather than examining ancient writings, this charming volume travels through the great questions of character and suffering and then explores the story of this villain. Is there something Pharaoh can teach us about life?

➡ Weddings and Babies

We are now posting larger group photos in the magazine online, since this redesigned Class Notes section is not conducive to seeing many faces in a photo. Please be sure to check out the site when this edition is released — and then don’t miss the summer issue’s wedding and baby photos too! www.catholic.edu/cardinal-summer-2025-issue



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Tying the Knot

④ Who says two Gen-X college sweethearts have to follow a script? **Sara Grant, B.A. 1995**, and **David Gallo, B.C.E. 1994**, reconnected almost a decade after graduation, piled up a few more degrees and professional certifications between them, and survived a 15-year long distance romance (yes, you read that right!) to finally tie the knot. Taylor Swift’s “Invisible String” song rings true! After more plot twists than a final exam week, the couple said “I do” on June 22, 2025, with a family celebration in Martha’s Vineyard. Some love stories are worth the extra chapters — even if it takes until 50 years old to write a “happily ever after!”

⑤ **Joey Dichoso, B.M.E. 2016, M.S. 2016**, married **Bethany Lucas** on May 10, 2025. They live in Ellicott City, Md.

⑥ **Christine E. Glynn, B.A. 2016**, married **Michael E. Neumann** on Oct. 4, 2025, at St. Patrick Church in Bay Shore, N.Y.; the wedding was officiated by Rev. Sean J. Gann. Christine, principal of St. Patrick School, shared with her students her journey as she prepared for the sacrament of matrimony. She is also a current student in the D.Min. program at Catholic University.

Owen Crowley, B.A. 2019, and **Brooke Panzarella, B.S. 2019**, were married on May 24, 2025, at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Moorestown, N.J. They met at Catholic University in 2016.

Claire Sturek, B.B.E. 2020, and **Michael Zelna, B.S.B.A. 2019**, were married on April 26, 2025, at St. Dominic

“In the month leading up to the wedding, I made a personal commitment to wear white each day as an outward sign of preparing my heart for this sacrament. White, the color of purity and new beginnings, reminded me daily to center myself in prayer and grace. I shared this choice with my students, using it as a gentle teaching moment: preparing for the sacraments is not just about external details but about inward transformation.”

— *Christine E. Glynn, B.A. 2016*

Church, Washington, D.C. They live in Vienna, Va.

⑦ **James Higgins, B.S.B.A. 2022**, assistant director, Leadership Annual Giving for Athletics at Catholic University, married **Brynn Reese, B.A. 2022, J.D. 2025**, on Aug. 8, 2025, at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Greenville, S.C. They had their marriage blessed by Pope Leo XIV during their honeymoon in Italy; they live in Rockville, Md.

Future Cardinals

⑧ **Virginia Birkofer Lee, B.S. 2018**, and husband, **Nicholas Lee**, welcomed their first child, **Julius Ezra Lee**, on June 29, 2025. The family lives in Alexandria, Va., where they are parishioners at Saint Rita’s Catholic Church. Father Nicholas Schierer baptized **Julius** on Aug. 30, 2025, with **Gabrielle Bernhard, B.S. 2018, M.S. 2019**, serving as godmother and **Theodore Birkofer**, Virginia’s brother and a seminarian

for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, serving as godfather. Also in attendance was **Maria Sophia Aguirre**, former professor emerita of economics at Catholic University.

John Scott III, B.A. 2020, and **Carolyn (Karcher) Scott, B.M. 2021**, welcomed their first child, **John Scott IV**, on June 9, 2025. The family lives in Manassas, Va.

Professions

Brother Finnbar McEvoy, O.S.B., B.S. 2013, professed solemn vows at Saint Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pa., on July 11, 2025. He continues formation for the priesthood at Saint Vincent Seminary.

Sister Marie Therese of the Infant Jesus, O.C.D., B.A. 2016, formerly **Katie Fournier**, professed her solemn perpetual vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience and received the black veil in **Loretto, Pa.**, on July 12, 2025.

“At the Catholic Mobilizing Network, I met great people who were using their faith to lead with hope and compassion. It has become a powerful motivator for me!”

— Noelle Ward, B.A. 2025

Family Legacy

① Jeffrey Weldon, B.A. 1983, J.D. 1986, Christopher Weldon, B.A. 1987, J.D. 1990, and Robert Weldon, B.A. 1983, J.D. 1986, gathered to celebrate a special family milestone: the wedding of Robert’s daughter, Olivia Weldon. Joining them were their spouses and fellow Cardinals: Carolyn Weldon, B.A. 1982, wife of Jeffrey; and Kelly Weldon, B.A. 1989, wife of Christopher. It was a great weekend at Keuka Lake, full of joy and laughter — all of us loving the sense of community with our family and our shared Catholic University legacy!



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Motivated by Faith

Noelle Ward, B.A. 2025, was an intern at Catholic Mobilizing Network during the summer of 2024. She participated in the Congregation of St. Joseph Internship in Leadership through Ministry program. Catholic Mobilizing Network is the national Catholic organization leading efforts to abolish the death penalty and advance restorative justice efforts. She spent four days each week in the office at the internship site, and one day per week in virtual leadership formation with the Sisters of St. Joseph. ♦



➡ Share your news

Submit a class note to cua-classnotes@cua.edu. If you have moved or changed your email address or phone number, you can easily update your information: fill out a form at engage.catholic.edu/subscriptions, email cua-alumni@cua.edu, or call 202-319-5608.

CARDINALS FOR CHRIST: NEW ALUMNI NETWORK FOR CLERGY, RELIGIOUS, AND CONSECRATED ALUMNI

At The Catholic University of America, Cardinals for Christ is an emerging alumni network dedicated to celebrating and connecting clergy, religious, and consecrated alumni who continue to serve the Church.

Members can look forward to curated news, exclusive events, and opportunities for reflection, fellowship, and professional and pastoral growth alongside fellow Catholic University graduates.

A recent highlight for the group was “Pilgrims of Hope: A Conference for Clergy and Religious in the Jubilee Year,” an event held on June 3, 2025, at Catholic University. Hosted by the University’s Office of Diocesan Engagement, the conference invited participants to build community, exchange ideas, and engage in educational discussions on topics shaping parish and diocesan life.

Programming for Cardinals for Christ will continue throughout the year — highlighted by the summer conference — and include panel discussions, lectures, and formation programs during Cardinal Weekend in the fall and around Founders Day in the spring.

The fall gathering featured a panel discussion with Dean Joseph Capizzi of the School of Theology and Religious Studies and Dean V. Bradley Lewis of the School of Philosophy, called “Faith, Reason, and Renewal: The Founding and Future of The Catholic University of America.” The event concluded with a reception, offering alumni the chance to reconnect with deans, faculty, classmates, and friends.

For more information about upcoming events or to join the Cardinals for Christ newsletter, please contact:

Dennis A. Strach

Director, Office of Diocesan Engagement
The Catholic University of America
strach@cua.edu • 202-319-5910





348
reunion gift
contributions

64
class years
represented



CARDINAL

WEEKEND 2025

ONE
great weekend
of alumni fun!

1,200+
attendees

In Memoriam

Raymond A. Morgan, B.A. 1950.
Marion Rosenbluth, M.S.W. 1951.
Alex W. Busséy, B.A. 1954.
Brother Antoninus Feeney, C.F.X., B.A. 1956.
James A. Hughes, B.A. 1956.
Robert "Bob" Frank Turnure Jr., B.C.E. 1956.
Rev. Briant J. Cullinane, O.F.M. Conv., S.T.L. 1958.
Walter W. "Wally" Schwartz Jr., B.A. 1958, M.A. 1985.
Frank S. Yacino, B.C.E. 1958.
Most Rev. Bernard J. Harrington, S.T.B. 1959, former Bishop of the Diocese of Winona (now Winona-Rochester), Minnesota.
Rev. Thomas P. Wahl, O.S.B., S.T.L. 1959.
Sister M. J. Harvey, O.S.F., M.A. 1960.
Rev. Vincent P. Boney, C.P., M.A. 1961.
Mona L. Dasbach, M.S.W. 1961.
Patricia S. Hepner, B.A. 1962.
Margaret M. Martin, B.S.N. 1962.
Sister Sarah Fahy, S.N.D., M.A. 1963.
Julius Kastantin, B.C.E. 1963.
Susan McInerney, B.A. 1963.
Sister Mary T. O'Malley, O.P., M.A. 1963.
Diane C. Q. Harris, B.A. 1964.
Marianne K. Pollich, B.M.E. 1964.
Sister Mary Michael Tashiro, S.S.N.D., M.S.L.S. 1964.
Marianne Katharina Pollich Vaishnav, B.M.E. 1964. *Memorial contributions may be made to the scholarship of Rameshchandra Navalshanker Vaishnav and Marianne Katharina Pollich Vaishnav at The Catholic University of America.*
Marilyn Zuchowski, B.S.N. 1964.
Brother Kenneth R. Chapman C.F.C., M.F.A. 1965.
William B. Kircher, J.D. 1965.
Rev. Francis J. Kissel, B.A. 1965, M.S.L.S. 1971.
Sister Rita McNally, M.A. 1965.
JoAnn Sabatura, B.A. 1966.
Rev. Frank M. Papa, C.R.S.P., S.T.L. 1967.
Rev. Robert A. Villegas, C.S.C., M.A. 1967.
Sister Immaculata Arboline, M.S.N. 1968.

George E. Cushmac, Ph.D. 1968.
Rev. John J. Keefe, S.T.B. 1968.
Sister Teresa Petralia, M.A. 1968.
Rev. D. Stephen Smith, B.A. 1968, M.A. 1969, Ph.D. 1975.
Paul E. Dumont, M.S.L.S. 1969.
Marie A. (Beniot) Kashmanian, M.S.N. 1969.
H. Mark Lueke, B.A. 1969, J.D. 1972.
David O'Keeffe, Ph.D. 1969.
William Fazio, B.A. 1970.
Alan M. Fusonie, Ph.D. 1970.
Ronald New, Ph.D. 1970.
Carl S. Rubis, M.M. 1970.
Rev. Robert Wicht, S.D.S., M.A. 1970.
Charles R. Cherry, Ph.D. 1971.
Joseph Orzech, B.S.E. 1971, M.S.E. 1972.
Dojelo Crabaugh Russell, D.S.W. 1971.
Robert A. Wilson, M.M.E. 1971.
William W. Murck, J.D. 1972.
Emily E. Weeks, M.M. 1973.
John D. Autin, B.A. 1974.
Thomas N. Marudas, M.C.R.P. 1974.
James B. Sarsfield, J.D. 1974.

Don Sotirchos, B.Arch. 1974.
Richard "Dick" Kunkel, M.S.W. 1975.
Linda L. Shapiro, M.M. 1975.
John B. Brown, J.D. 1977.
Albertine Pryce-Faminu, M.S.N. 1977.
James R. Smith Jr., M.M. 1978.
James Word, Ph.D. 1978.
Patrick J. Fagan, M.A. 1979.
Susan V. Kelley, J.D. 1979.
James Bechler-Sendelbach, M.A. 1980.
Austin W. Hawks, M.S.L.S. 1980.
Sister Kathleen A. Shannon, D.C., B.A. 1980.
Maryann M. Kaswell, J.D. 1981.
Susan Renaud, M.A. 1981.
David Richard Eddy, Ph.D. 1982.
Richard C. Rutledge Jr., B.S.Arch. 1983.
Georgianne O'Connor, M.S.N. 1986.
Michael Provost, B.A. 1986.
Marian H. Callahan, J.D. 1987.
Midge F. Yost, B.F.A. 1987.
Monsignor Donald J. Gilbert, J.C.L. 1989.
Barbara S. Caulfield, B.S.N. 1994, M.S.N. 1997.
Andrew Burke Edwards, B.S.N. 1995.
Jeffrey Klein, M.S. 1995.
Monika F. Petter, M.S.W. 1996.
Juan C. Cordero Campos, B.A. 2002.
Andrew J. Kraus, B.A. 2008.
Valentina M. Cordova, B.A. 2017.
Most Rev. Michael J. Byrnes, M.S. 2020, auxiliary archbishop of Detroit and Metropolitan Archdiocese of Agaña in Guam.

Faculty/Staff

Hall L. Crannell, professor emeritus, physics, who served for 34 years.
Tremayne Gross, campus police officer, Department of Public Safety, from May to July 2025.
James Lee, special police officer from 1998 to 2017 and communication specialist in the Department of Public Safety, from 2020 to 2025.
Porter X. Lyons, associate director of the Office of International Services, from October 2023 to March 2025.
Isabelle Simone Muller, staff researcher in the university's Vitreous State Laboratory, from 1989 to 2025.
Bernard A. O'Brien, M.A. 1961, Ph.D. 1964, lecturer in psychology, who served from 1959 to 1964.
Victoria "Vickey" Shay, assistant to the dean of the Columbus Law School from 1965 to 2011.

“[Father Jude’s] capacity for caring for students individually was such a gift. Rarely did I raise a concern about a student that he was not already working with him or her.”

— Susan Timoney, School of Theology and Religious Studies



**FATHER JUDE D'ANGELO,
FORMER UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN**

Father Jude D'Angelo, O.F.M. Conv., University chaplain and director of campus ministry from 2010 to 2022, passed away on Nov. 18, 2025, following an extended illness. A member of Our Lady of Angels Province of the Conventual Franciscan Friars, Father Jude made his profession as a friar in 1977 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1984.

Many in our community worked with him in Campus Ministry and then in community engagement and social justice work around campus and in the local area. Where he may have been a bit gruff on the outside, he was first and foremost a friar who had a deep love for the poor and marginalized. Students and colleagues of Father Jude said his love for Christ led him to be present and accompany students in need.

Every year, he held a thank-you dinner where he shared a charisma or strength for each campus minister and also asked for forgiveness of anyone he may have hurt during that past year. When COVID began, Father Jude ensured Praise and Worship Adoration and the Triduum Masses were livestreamed.

Overall, his gift was seeing the face of Jesus in every person — a student, a homeless person, or a fellow priest. He refused to miss an opportunity to see and love the Lord through the people he encountered, and he will always be remembered for that legacy.



**FATHER JOHN LYNCH:
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
LEADER**

Father John E. Lynch, C.S.P., entered eternal life on November 15, 2025. He had been part of the Paulist community for 83 years and a priest for 74 years. He served for decades as a professor and administrator at Catholic University.

He studied for two years in the Paulist minor seminary in Baltimore, Md., before entering our novitiate in 1944 and was ordained a priest in 1951. He moved to Toronto to study at the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies while assisting at St. Peter's Church. In a joint academic program, Father Lynch earned a licentiate in medieval studies at the institute and doctoral degree in philosophy from the University of Toronto.

In the 1960s, he began to teach medieval history at Catholic University's School of Arts and Sciences — a role that expanded to a joint appointment with the School of Canon Law. After becoming a full professor, he served as chair of the canon law department (1974–1983) and chair of the history department (1983–1986). Father Lynch also was vice provost for graduate studies at Catholic University for most of the 1990s.



**MARSHALL BREGER:
SCHOLAR AND FRIEND**

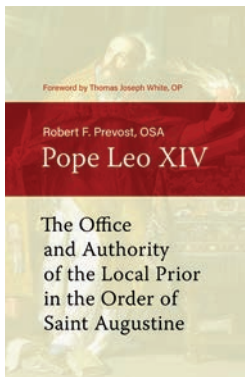
This past summer, the Columbus School of Law unexpectedly lost a long-time faculty member, **Professor Marshall J. Breger**, who had a longstanding influence on both the law school and its Jewish community. His field of expertise was foreign relations law, the Middle East peace process, administrative law, and arbitration.

The school hosted a gathering in November to honor his memory. There was a panel discussion to honor his life and legal legacy, which was moderated by Professor Robert Destro. Panel speakers included Rabbi Jack Bemporad, director of the Center for Interreligious Understanding; Ayatollah Seyed Mostafa Mohaghegh Damad, dean of the Department of Islamic Studies at The Academy of Sciences of Iran; and Professor Ahmad Iravani from the Center for the Study of Islam and the Middle East. They were joined by alumni and Herbert Reginbogen, Marshall's co-author of *The Vatican and Permanent Neutrality*. Marshall was remembered as a generous mentor, passionate colleague, brilliant scholar, and loyal friend.

What's on Your Reading List?

Some of the top reads from CUA Press in the last year — written by faculty and alumni. Across a wide spectrum of topics, here are some top-of-mind topics from members of our community.

The following summaries were provided by **John Martino**, Executive Editor, Acquisitions.
Learn more: www.cuapress.org/books



The Office and Authority of the Local Prior in the Order of Saint Augustine

By Robert F. Prevost
Foreword by Thomas Joseph White, O.P.

“While Father Robert Prevost, O.S.A., could not have known he was writing for history when completing this dissertation, it offers fascinating insights on how our first U.S. pope sees the role of the governance and structure of the universal Church.”

— *Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan*
Archbishop of New York



Rebuilding Trust: Clergy Morale in the Wake of the Abuse Crisis

Edited by Brandon Vaidyanathan, Sara Perla, and Stephen White

From the Catholic Project, a division of Catholic University, comes a multi-faceted look at the priesthood in the United States — complete with charts and graphs! — based on the largest survey of Catholic priests in 50 years. A must-read for Church-watchers and anyone who knows and loves a priest.



Be Not Conformed: René Girard at the Nexus of Athens, Jerusalem, and Silicon Valley

Edited by Luke Burgis

Why do theologians and philosophers, tech entrepreneurs, and online influencers alike think René Girard should be a household name among intelligent Catholics? Find out in this volume of essays based on a conference spearheaded by the Busch School's Luke Burgis.



Telling the Truth: Titus Brandsma Among the Carmelite Martyrs of World War II

By Paul Chandler, O. Carm.
Introduction by Steven Payne

World War II buffs and fans of Carmelite spirituality will welcome the latest book from Catholic University's Center for Carmelite Studies. Father Paul Chandler of Australia looks at Dutch Father Titus Brandsma, whose fearless journalism provoked Nazi persecution, while other scholars look at Edith Stein and Père Jacques Bunel.



Deep-Dive: A Closer Read

Here's a closer look at one of these four books, with notes and insights from David Long, dean of Professional Studies at Catholic University, who also has a Ph.D. in canon law.

Robert F. Prevost's dissertation, *The Office and Authority of the Local Prior in the Order of Saint Augustine*, offers a rich, carefully-argued reflection on the locus of authority in Augustinian religious life, especially at the grassroots level, and offers far more than a technical commentary on Augustinian constitutions. It reveals an emerging vision of leadership, rooted in communion, truth, and service, that would continue to shape Prevost's pastoral identity and offers possible glimpses into his future ministry as Pope Leo XIV.

At its canonical level, the dissertation reflects a careful reading of the then-newly promulgated 1983 *Code of Canon Law* in dialogue with the internal law of the Order of Saint Augustine. Prevost delineated the proper jurisdiction, rights, and duties of the

local prior (i.e., the superior of a house or friary) within the hierarchical structure of the Order and the Church's broader canonical system. Prevost's legal analysis engages canonical concepts of power, the rights of subjects, and the procedural safeguards needed for accountability, and he situates his arguments within the post-Vatican II context, reflecting on how the Council's ecclesiological

renewal (especially in *Lumen gentium* and the three-fold *munera* of teaching, sanctifying, and governing) should shape the nature of authority in religious communities.

Beneath that legal scaffolding also lies a deeper theological current that makes the dissertation enduring. Theologically, Prevost draws on Augustine's reflections on Christian community and insists that the prior must

be a listener: attuned to what the Spirit is saying among the brothers in order to lead discernment rather than impose unilateral will. In that sense, the prior's power derives as much from moral credibility as from canonical office. This dissertation is also deeply Christological, as Prevost aligns the prior's teaching, sanctifying, and governing functions with the threefold offices of Christ. These functions are not abstractions, but concrete acts of service, thus bridging the gap between canon law and pastoral care, reason and grace, structure and soul.

One tension Prevost negotiates is between the modern impulse toward personal autonomy (the "age of personalism") and the necessity of ordered authority. He rejects a purely contractual or democratic model of leadership, arguing that real freedom in religious life requires a binding, divinely mediated authority. Another insight is his careful attention to procedures, checks and balances, and constitutional norms for the prior's action, ensuring that authority is not arbitrary but accountable and rooted in the charisma of the Order.

What makes the dissertation newly relevant is its quiet anticipation of themes now shaping the Church's life: synodality, co-responsibility, and the recovery of authority as a ministry of communion. Prevost's early work suggests that authentic obedience and genuine participation are not opposing forces but complementary expressions of the same divine logic. It offers a vision of religious authority that is simultaneously structured and responsive, hierarchical yet dialogical. For those studying religious orders, canon law, or ecclesiology, Prevost's dissertation remains a compelling exemplar of how to think the local, lived dimension of authority in a spiritual community. ♦

"As if it wasn't fascinating enough to learn what the first American pope was thinking about as a young scholar, his dissertation also discusses the meanings of service, authority, freedom, and obedience in a religious order in a post-Vatican II world. These categories are no less thought-provoking today — or even controversial — than they were nearly 40 years ago."

— Helen M. Alvaré, Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University



Eva Turčanová painted *Morning Glories in Blue and Yellow* with gouache and a limited color palette, using only blue, yellow, white, and black (the green shade was made by mixing yellow and black). This is part of a larger artistic investigation into flowers and their distinct beauty — how they can be striking in simplicity, yet upon closer experience, so intricate and complex.



Space to Be and Think

This edition was a complete joy to pull together for our community. Starting with the concept of key culture-drivers, we found our way to the feature story on the Columbus School of Law and its unique focus on the human person — how that drives Dean Payne’s vision for the School and leverages the centers and institutes that are its life-blood.

They must be doing something right because our law school jumped 25 spots in rankings this past year and continues to have record enrollment and levels of engagement with the legal and judicial community. This is just one of the many ways our faculty, students, bodies of work, and schools and colleges are engaging key facets of modern life, thriving communities, and centers of culture.

Any discussion about building culture echoes Josef Pieper’s pivotal work, *Leisure: The Basis of Culture* (1948), a phenomenal book that has important reflections still relevant for our world today. He dives deep into the first condition for culture to thrive, that of having space and time to think, to be, to engage with the Created world.

“Leisure is an attitude of the mind and a condition of the soul that fosters a capacity to perceive the reality of the world. Pieper shows that the Greeks and medieval Europeans understood the great value and importance of leisure. ... religion can be born only in leisure, a leisure that allows time for the contemplation of the nature of God. Leisure has been, and always will be, the first foundation of any culture. Pieper maintains that our bourgeois world of total labor has vanquished leisure and issues a startling warning: unless we regain the art of silence and insight, the ability for non-activity, unless we substitute true leisure for our hectic amusements, we will destroy our culture and ourselves.” (Angelus Press description)

In this sense, our University’s primary aim is to set aside generous amounts of space and time to the pursuit of what the ancient Greeks called *scholē* (the root of our ‘school’). This is a place dedicated to continually building up and reinforcing the most important elements of a life well-lived, and thus of life lived together. The Catholic University of America is dedicated solely to this pursuit and therefore enters the important work of continually building and regrounding the most important cultural elements of our time. ♦ — Editors



Morning Glories in Blue and Yellow / Eva Turčanová

Eva is in the class of 2028 and is a double major in English Literature and Medieval and Byzantine Studies.

Division of University Communications

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“Then,
to the eyes of beauty
my eyes turned.”

– Dante Alighieri
Canto XXII, *Paradiso*