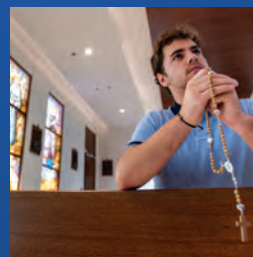
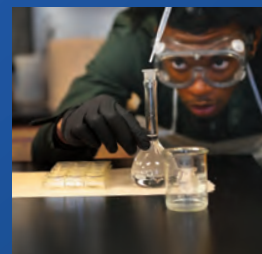
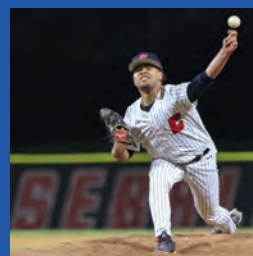


LIFTING UP Our Light



2023–2024 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA





LETTER FROM THE
President



Dear friends,

One of the greatest privileges I enjoy in my role as president of The Catholic University of America is seeing our students, faculty, and staff grow in and embrace their God-given vocations. I see it as my special duty to share with you all the good being done throughout our campus community and invite you to join in and participate in this unique life and energy.

We have recently begun using the tagline “Lead with Light” to encapsulate the mission of our University. More than a phrase to emblazon on t-shirts and mugs, I see this as a potent reminder of our sacred duty: to shine a light when the world needs that light.

In *Lumen Fidei*, Pope Francis reminds us that our culture has “an urgent need ... to see once again that faith is a light, for once the flame of faith dies out, all other lights begin to dim.” And, like the Holy Father, I am convinced — because I see evidence of it every day — that the “light of faith is unique, since it is capable of illuminating *every aspect* of human existence.”

In the pages that follow, I hope to give you a glimpse of this light that guides all of Catholic University’s endeavors. From students transformed by the sacramental life and new grants for innovative research that serves those in need to crucial conversations around campus, the stories in this report showcase the vibrance of a university actively living out its faith.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Kilpatrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Kilpatrick

President, The Catholic University of America

Our Great Mission

One of the most significant University-elevating moments happened this past spring, with the launch of our new brand, Lead with Light. More than a mere advertising campaign, this initiative represents a concerted effort to clarify and amplify the unique mission of Catholic University.

With a brighter red and blue color palette and bold fonts, our spirit-filled messaging highlights our dedication to academic excellence, our warm and welcoming community, and a life centered on faith.

To elevate our presence, we orchestrated an advertising takeover across the Washington, D.C., area in March 2024 — from billboards and signage at targeted Metro stations and Reagan National Airport to commuter bus ads. New Lead with Light banners were lifted high across campus with messages like “Shine from Within,” “God is our Light,” and “Radiate Joy.” Overall, this initiative helped create greater awareness of an academic institution that has called Washington, D.C., home for 137 years and bolster our reputation locally, nationally, and internationally.

Look for good things to continue on this front!

OUR VALUES



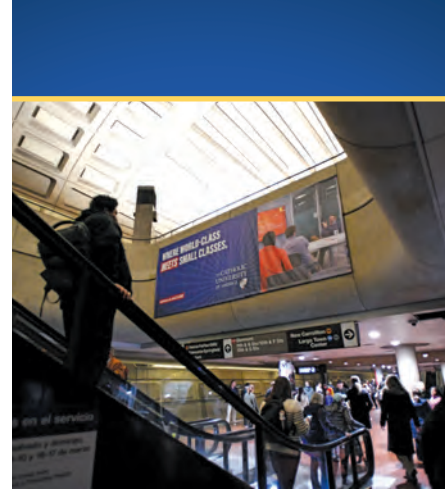
WE LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR.

We pray together, we treat others with respect and compassion, and we serve those most in need.



WE FOSTER A CULTURE OF INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY.

Guided by the light of both faith and reason, we live lives of discovery, asking more profound questions in search of new knowledge.



WE CONNECT AND ENGAGE WITH THE WORLD.

Together, we are charting a course toward the future in our country's most influential city, engaging with issues, conversations, and events that shape our lives and our communities.



WE SEEK TO BECOME WHO WE ARE MADE TO BE.

We cultivate a deep understanding of ourselves, our purpose, and our potential. We aim to discover who we are and how we will lead in service to the Church, nation, and world.



Rising Heights

This past year, Catholic University built significant momentum across a few key areas: enrollment, academic offerings, and facilities. All of this has been fueled by the success of our largest comprehensive campaign to date, Light the Way, which brought in more than **\$518 MILLION** in philanthropic donations and ended in 2023. These funds have enriched academic programming, increased student scholarships, and improved and expanded campus facilities.

The new Conway School of Nursing building marks the biggest physical improvement to campus this past year — this new building cost **\$80 MILLION** and was made possible by the lead gift of **\$40 MILLION** from Bill and Joanne Conway. This impressive facility rose from an empty lot on Michigan Avenue to become the cornerstone of a grand new entrance welcoming all to campus.

The new nursing school building, with its grand Gothic style and stones repurposed from an old cathedral, stands proudly and offers a beautiful gateway to campus and a sophisticated welcome to all visitors. The exterior connects us with the local Washington, D.C., community and beyond, while the interior showcases our bold foray into cutting-edge health care education.





Innovative Curriculum

At Catholic University, we are committed to a unique approach to education — one that looks at the student experience in a new way and is grounded in Catholic virtues and holistic human development. Here are just a few examples of unique curriculum offerings that set our University apart.

NURSING PROGRAM

The new Conway School of Nursing building, which will officially open in the fall of 2024, doubles the space for studies and includes flexible classrooms, seminar rooms, labs, and more. The new approach connects our high touch methods with every new state-of-the-art medical provision available. Ascension Health has committed **\$2 MILLION** to fund a rare, cutting-edge virtual hospital concept in the simulation laboratories.

The space will be a catalyst for exponential growth in the nursing program, attracting more students, faculty, and innovation. With this significant advancement, the University marks its commitment to forming health care professionals who are grounded in Catholic principles and armed with the latest technological skills.

ARTS AND SCIENCES

One example of a new, more holistic approach to education is our Cornerstone Program, an innovative, interdisciplinary,

humanities-centered path of study that aligns with each scholar's academic interests. In addition to exclusive access to Gateway Courses and Pathways, students enjoy benefits that come with a highly engaged college experience. They form a strong community who share common courses, the same residence hall, communal dining opportunities, and continuous learning together.

BUSINESS SCHOOL

The Busch School of Business, founded in 2013, is already seen as a global innovator in forming virtuous business leaders. Our curriculum — informed by Pope Francis' view that business is a "noble vocation" ordered toward a "greater meaning in life" — integrates the latest business thinking and practice with faith and the perennial wisdom of the liberal arts. Our highly experiential pedagogy challenges students with real-world cases and simulations and offers extensive opportunities to nurture the virtues necessary for a flourishing business career and life.

Celebrating Catholic Identity

This past year, the University renewed its core commitment to our identity as the only pontifically chartered university in the United States, with the charge to infuse a Catholic sensibility into all strategic aspects of our programs and engagement opportunities. To highlight the importance of our Catholic identity, the University named Rev. Aquinas Guilbeau, O.P., as our first vice president of ministry and mission.

Father Aquinas and his team create many opportunities for prayer and service, from on-campus sacramental offerings to four spring break service trips, and so much in between. One of the highlight events of the year was the March for Life, which featured hundreds of students turning up in force to protect the lives of the unborn.

Catholic University is also a proud premier mission sponsor of this year's National Eucharistic Congress, and we look forward to continuing the work of Eucharistic renewal on our campus and with Catholics from around the country.

LITURGY, SERVICE, AND MINISTRY

- 18 students received the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter
- Hundreds of students participated in the March for Life
- Over 60 students participated in four service trips (Los Angeles, New York City, Guatemala, and Belize)
- Our food pantry, Cardinal Cupboard, served nearly 400 community members
- Bl. Carlo Acutis' mother and the daughter of St. Gianna Molla each made campus visits
- Catechetical programs — including all five CUA on Tap events — focused on the Eucharistic Revival





Seeking Knowledge

As one of the oldest research universities in the United States, Catholic University places academic excellence and a spirit of discovery at the core of our identity, alongside our Catholic faith. We are committed to pushing frontiers and nurturing a curiosity about the universe and all fields of knowledge to continue to enrich the human experience.

Catholic University is prioritizing the role of research by naming two administrators to lead the quest toward becoming a top-tier research university. In the spring 2024 semester, Ralph Albano, M.Eng., M.B.A., became the first vice provost for sponsored research, research compliance, and technology transfer. In April, H. Joseph Yost, Ph.D., joined the University as the new senior vice provost for research. In this role, he will lead efforts to expand the University's capabilities and build upon our rich research tradition.



FY24 SUMMARY OF GRANTS

In FY24, Catholic University received **139 new research grants**, with more than **\$23 million** from federal and local governments and private sources. Work also continues on PHaSER and CRESST II, two NASA-funded cooperative agreements in helio- and space physics. PHaSER has been so successful that NASA is expected to issue an additional **\$46.8 million** this summer for the final two years of the project, bringing total award to **\$110.9 million**. Other research highlights around campus include:



Ian Pegg, Ph.D., leads research for the University's Vitreous State Laboratory (VSL), with **\$7.6 million** from Atkins Realis. This work is part of a 30-year partnership yielding a revolutionized process to stabilize radioactive waste.



Susan Timoney, S.T.D., School of Theology and Religious Studies, received a **\$1.13 million** grant from the Lilly Endowment for The Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Preaching Excellence Initiative.



Brandon Vaidyanathan, Ph.D., Department of Sociology (School of Arts and Sciences), won a **\$693,000** grant from the John Templeton Foundation for a Spiritual Yearning in Science project. This project will study how non-religious scientists fulfill a yearning for spirituality.

Professor Venigalla Rao recently received a National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Avant-Garde Award. This **\$5 million** award supports high-impact research that will open new areas of HIV treatment.

Dialogue and Discovery





A few of the many events hosted on campus this year serve to illustrate our continued growth as a place that fosters crucial conversations and advances human-centered innovation. These moments of dialogue engage critical ideas across several disciplines.

LAW SCHOOL HOSTS U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

In September, the Project on Constitutional Originalism and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition (CIT) at The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law hosted Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett for a conversation on constitutional originalism, the role of the Supreme Court, and the Catholic intellectual tradition. Kevin C. Walsh, CIT co-director and Knights of Columbus Professor of Law and the Catholic Tradition, led the discussion with Justice Barrett, and the house was packed with University leadership and board members, students, staff, faculty, and law school alumni.

PRESIDENTIAL SPEAKER SERIES

This past year, President Kilpatrick brought together key Catholic leaders to address crucial moral, social, and civic questions. In December, Kilpatrick hosted a discussion with University Chancellor and Washington Archbishop Cardinal Wilton Gregory on

diversity and a culture of encounter and inclusivity; in February, he was joined by Catholic legal scholar and pro-life advocate Helen Alvaré for a conversation on religious freedom and championing the Church's position on marriage, family, and sexuality in the secular sphere.

THE WEIRD FUTURE OF AMERICAN RELIGION

In October, as part of its longstanding partnership with Ross Douhat (IHE Media Fellow and *New York Times* columnist), the Institute for Human Ecology hosted a lively conversation on the post-Christian quest for spiritual experience. Tara Isabella Burton (author, *Strange Rites* and *Self Made*), Susannah Black Roberts (senior editor, *Plough*), and Monsignor Stephen Rossetti (exorcist, Archdiocese of Washington) joined Douhat to discuss the current landscape of American spirituality, the dangerous re-paganization of the culture, and the search for the divine. The event drew a big crowd — both in person and on YouTube.

Pushing the Limit

This year's Cardinal teams showed up in force for an unprecedented set of wins and accolades. Alumni, friends, parents, and fans from across the nation came out to cheer on Catholic University teams on the field, in the pool, on the court, and on the track.

Here are the top-line results from the fall, winter, and spring seasons — with great hopes for continued success in the upcoming year. **ROLL CARDS!**

11

PLAYER OF THE YEAR HONORS

Gordie Bernlohr — Men's Soccer Offensive Player of the Year

Charles Connolly — Men's Diver of the Year

Jevontae Fearwell — Men's Track

Jesse Hafemeister — Men's Basketball

Kate Inglis — Women's Track

Lauren Lombardo — Women's Golf

Bella Mugno — Women's Swimmer of the Year

Rachel Rubenstein — Women's Lacrosse

Anna Scoblick — Women's Basketball

Roman Tozzi — Baseball, Pitcher

Jordyn Walker — Men's Indoor Field

7

COACHES OF THE YEAR

Men's and Women's Basketball, Men's Swimming, Women's Golf, Women's Cross Country, Women's Indoor Track, and Women's Outdoor Track

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Owen Allegro — Men's Soccer

Brigid Byrnes — Women's Outdoor Track

Logan Eilbacher — Baseball

Mia Szap — Softball

Tara Wiardra — Women's Swimming

5



ACADEMIC
ALL-AMERICANS

12

3

WOMEN'S LANDMARK CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cross Country, Golf, and
Outdoor Track and Field

3

MEN'S LANDMARK CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Soccer, Basketball, and Swimming

175

FALL AND SPRING ATHLETES NAMED
TO THE LANDMARK CONFERENCE
ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL

POSTSEASON COMPETITION

FALL

Men's Cross Country

Ian Hopkins — 3rd male to qualify for NCAA Championships in program history

Women's Cross Country

Kate Inglis — 8th woman to qualify for NCAA Championships in program history

Men's Soccer

Reached NCAA Tournament for 4th straight time and 8th time in program history

WINTER

Men's Basketball

15th appearance in Division III Tournament; 1st NCAA Tournament win since 2015

Women's Basketball

Sixth appearance in program history; 1st NCAA Tournament win since 2013

Men's Indoor Track and Field

Christian Di Nicolantonio — 3rd place in pole vault, 1st Men's Track All-American since 2004

Women's Indoor Track and Field

Emily Moehringer — 13th place in the 800, second Women's Indoor All-American in program history

SPRING

Women's Lacrosse

14th appearance in Division III Tournament

Women's Golf

Third appearance and second consecutive appearance in Division III Championship; finished 26th

Men's Track

Christian Di Nicolantonio — 5.19-meter pole vault — 1st national title since 1991

Women's Track

Lauren Cerda, Clare Marsh, Emily Moehringer — All-American honors

Baseball

At-Large Bid — Reached Baldwin Wallace (Berea) Region Final

We End as We Begin ...

Commencement at Catholic University this past May was a great gathering to honor a seminal moment of achievement for hundreds of graduates.

Our community welcomed five distinguished guests as honorary degree recipients — leaders in interfaith dialogue, legal philosophy, healing ministry, liturgical music, and mass media. These honorees included Rabbi Jack Bemporad, John Finnis, Teresa Pitt Green, Father Piotr Nawrot, and Jonathan Roumie. Roumie, who stars as Jesus in the streaming show *The Chosen*, was our special guest keynote speaker. His inspiring words and faith testimony reverberated across our campus green and spread far and wide across the top social media channels, reaching more than a million views.

It was a great Catholic moment in every sense of the word — from faith to universality — and a celebration of goodness that will send our newest alumni forward to make a difference in our world as leaders committed to mission and excellence.

And now we turn to a new class of students and all the possibilities of a new year. Join us as we begin again to rise to great heights.





When you commit to serving God first
and not yourselves,
that's when your true success will begin —
but only when you put into action these three things. ...

Being Jesus to others in the world
and amping up your prayer life.
And the third and most radical concept:
Surrender. You're not in charge;

GOD IS.

— **Jonathan Roumie**
Commencement Address at Catholic University
May 2024

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA



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