

*National Collection*

*To be read from the pulpit preferably on the weekend before the Collection.*

Dear Friends in Christ:

Today I ask you to give generously to the upcoming special collection in support of The Catholic University of America. Founded in 1887 as the research arm of the Church in the United States, the University has long played an important role in contributing to the Church. Graduates have gone on to excel in all areas of life, and current students are making great strides in fields as diverse as physics and biochemistry, architecture and business.

At this moment of crisis in our Church, Catholic University’s role is even more important. The University has a critical part to play in healing the breach of trust that many have experienced, and has instituted an initiative called The Catholic Project as a way to bring clergy and the laity together to develop concrete solutions. Its work is organized to achieve three overarching goals: prevention, remediation, and understanding. The Catholic Project seeks to encourage and continue the call of the Second Vatican Council which called for all the Church’s members, not just the clergy, to use their gifts and talents to “contribute toward the renewal and building of the Church.”

The Project aims to assure that no survivor of abuse is forgotten; that new measures of accountability for bishops and new structures promoting lay leadership are proposed; and that canon law and models of diocesan governance and best practices are explored, accepted, and implemented.

Catholic University has a long history of producing both lay and religious leaders and is uniquely positioned to lead in this moment. The Catholic Project works in partnership with University faculty and staff, as well as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (U.S.C.C.B.) and other Catholic organizations to identify, develop, and disseminate best practices, engaging key experts and resources in canon and civil law in this important work.

Since its founding, Catholic University has undertaken the mission to “discover, preserve, and impart the truth in all its forms,” providing a place for both continuing reflection and world-class research in over 150 disciplines in its 12 schools and 22 research facilities.

As the singular contribution from the Church to its research university in America, for more than 100 years, the National Collection has supported these efforts. The Collection is critical to a successful academic year for the entire University community. If the Church’s role in shaping culture and society is important to you, and if you care about Catholic higher education and the future of the Church in America, I urge you to please make an investment in Catholic University and support its National Collection. Thank you for your support.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Archbishop/Bishop of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_