

*National Collection*

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

Dear Friends in Christ:

Today, I appeal to you to give generously next weekend to the National Collection for The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Established in 1887, the University has served the Church, students and the community for generations.

* **Catholic University is helping to renew and strengthen the Church.** The University has always been the research institution where the Church comes to think. Through hosting a national conference series focused on laity response to the sex abuse crisis, and in creating an Institute for Diocesan Excellence in Administration (IDEA), where lay scholars and professionals can support clergy by providing expertise and accountability in the areas of education, finance, canon law, culture, and more, Catholic University will serve as a springboard in renewing and strengthening Catholicism in our country.
* **Catholic University serves the Church** by engaging its students to discover knowledge and truth through excellence in teaching and research. With its 12 schools and 23 research centers, the University provides an exceptional Catholic education to almost 7,000 students annually. By way of its many programs, such as those in ethical business practices; classical architecture; intelligence studies; neuroscience; nursing; Spanish language and Hispanic ministry; social service; and Catholic bioethics the University prepares students to respond to the many issues facing the Church and society today.
  + - **Catholic University is helping respond to shifts in the country’s Catholic population.** The University is working together with the Archdioceses and Dioceses of Episcopal Region IV to help promote the Fifth National Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino Ministry within the Mid-Atlantic States. Later this month, a historic national gathering of 3,000 Hispanic/Latino leaders from dioceses, universities, and Catholic organizations across the country to discern ways in which the Church in the U.S. can better minister and respond to its Hispanic/Latino communities. The University is committed to using its influence and resources to ensuring the initiative is a success.

Your support of the National Collection will help Catholic University educate the next generation of lay leaders, solve issues within the Church and educate graduates who will leave campus ready to impact the Church, the nation, and the world. We appreciate your generosity.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend

Archbishop/Bishop of

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