**Announcement Script**

Good Morning/Afternoon, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am an alumnus/alumna/parent from The Catholic University of America, (class of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_). I would like to talk to you today about the National Collection for Catholic University.

In speaking about the recent news and scandals surrounding the Church, Catholic University alumnus Bishop Robert Barron, Ph.B. ’81, M.A. ’82, of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, stated **now is the time for the laity to act**. Christ is alive in the Church today through righteous anger, and purification comes through action. Bishop Barron also said truth isn’t something Christians should be afraid of.

**Teaching truth is integral to the mission of Catholic University.**

The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., has always been the research institution where the Church comes to think. The University president and his entire leadership team are all laity, and the University’s Board of Trustees is comprised of a majority of lay people. Now, more than ever, **the University is strategically positioned to pave the way forward** and help the laity play a significant role in healing.

The University is organizing a series of national conferences focused on **how the laity can best respond** and make lasting contributions. Catholic University is also creating an Institute for Diocesan Excellence in Administration (IDEA), where lay scholars and professionals can engage with and support clergy by providing expertise and accountability in the areas of education, finance, canon law, culture, and more. Building upon its existing academic programs for clergy at all levels in finance and administration, the University is committed to developing IDEA to help bring the talents of its researchers and scholars, along with lay content experts on a broad spectrum of issues, to bear in **solving issues within the Church**.

**Please join me in supporting the collection for Catholic University today.** Your support of the collection this weekend will help the University serve as a springboard in **renewing and strengthening Catholicism** in our country today. We appreciate your generosity. Thank you.

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