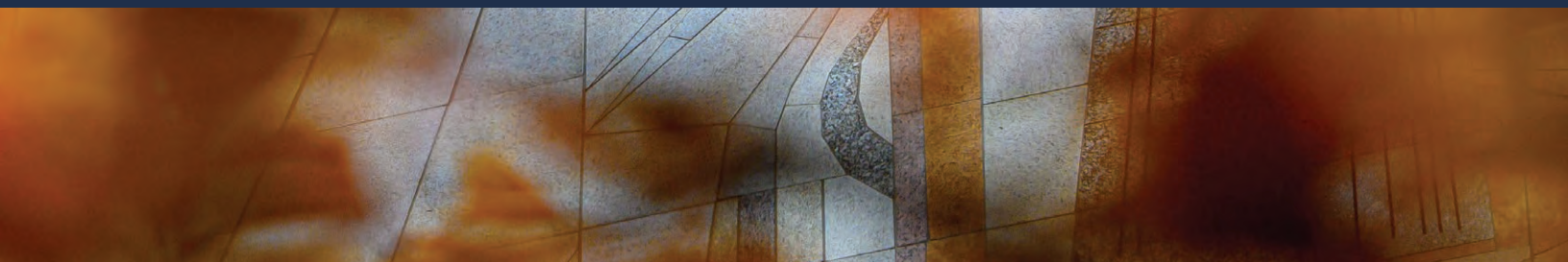




2022



Report on Catholic Mission



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Since its founding by Rev. Edward F. Sorin, C.S.C., on November 26, 1842, the University of Notre Dame has sought to be at the center of Catholic intellectual life. Notre Dame's Catholic character informs its every endeavor: from the nature of the education it offers, to the kinds of discussions and inquiries that take place at the University, to its service to the Church.

Notre Dame's Catholic character is grounded in its Holy Cross identity. As "educators in the faith," Holy Cross priests and brothers anchor the University's Catholic character, working to fulfill the vision of the Congregation's founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, to "make God known, loved, and served."

This report provides a small sampling of the research, teaching, and service occurring on campus and around the world to fulfill the mission of Notre Dame and the expectations of Catholic universities that have been articulated by the Church. These expectations took form in an apostolic exhortation issued by Pope John Paul II in 1990, titled *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*. The exhortation was adopted by Catholic bishops in the United States in 1999,

and states four attributes that comprise Catholic identity at an institution such as Notre Dame.

— 1. —

a Christian inspiration not only of individuals but of the university community as such;

— 2. —

a continued reflection in the light of the Catholic faith upon the growing treasury of human knowledge, to which it seeks to contribute by its own research;

— 3. —

fidelity to the Christian message as it comes to us through the Church;

— 4. —

an institutional commitment to the service of the people of God and of the human family in their pilgrimage to the transcendent goal which gives meaning to life.

The following is not an exhaustive listing of every way in which the University maintains its Catholic character; it would be impossible to detail everything Our Lady's University has done, is doing, and will do. Rather, the report provides a small sampling of the good work people are doing across campus and around the world to fulfill Pope John Paul II's vision for Catholic institutions of higher learning and Father Sorin's vision for Notre Dame.

The Congregation of Holy Cross: Anchors of the Mission

Holy Cross priests and brothers anchor the University's Catholic character and spirit. Of the members of the Congregation on campus, 34 live in residence halls, and eight of them serve as rectors. Twenty-four Holy Cross religious teach in the classroom in some capacity.

This is the essence of the Holy Cross model of education: forming students both inside the classroom and beyond it.

"The Congregation of Holy Cross at Notre Dame is blessed to be able to participate in the work that Blessed Basil Moreau began many years ago, and to serve both the University community and the wider world through our varied vocations," said Rev. Austin Collins, C.S.C., vice president for mission engagement and Church affairs.

Members of the Congregation of Holy Cross view education as a work of resurrection. In a broken world, filled with sickness, racial strife, and discord, education can serve as a transformative endeavor for those who are suffering, and it can provide important avenues for growth, learning, and joy. In light of the problems that our society currently faces, education offers redemption and helps to enrich our communities.

Today, members of the Congregation are found across campus, working in administration, serving in chapels, living in residence halls, and teaching in classrooms. They gather for meals and common prayer, oversee the daily operations of campus life, celebrate Mass, counsel students, and provide instruction in everything from science to social justice to the liberal arts.

Since its founding, the Congregation has been working to fulfill the vision of its founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, to cultivate the hearts and minds of students.

In the troubled times following the French Revolution, a young priest named Basil Moreau assembled other priests to educate and revitalize the Catholic community in the region around Le Mans, France. Shortly thereafter, he accepted responsibility for the Brothers of St. Joseph, a group founded 15 years earlier. In 1841, Blessed Basil united the priests and brothers within a single association, the Congregation of Holy Cross, and the community began to grow internationally through its educational and missionary activity.

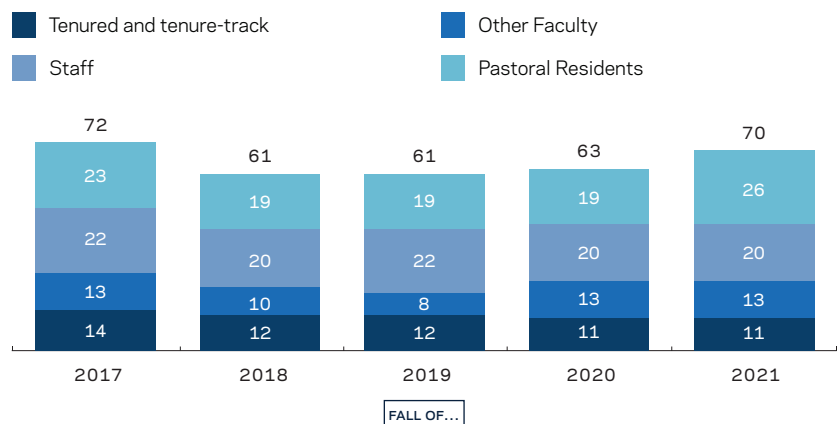
In one of the Congregation's first missionary efforts, Father Moreau sent Rev. Edward Sorin, C.S.C., and a group of brothers to the American frontier in the early 1840s to found a university.

Today, priests and brothers of the Congregation continue to animate the University of Notre Dame with their mission to be "educators in the faith."

holycrossusa.org

C.S.C. PRIESTS AND BROTHERS ON CAMPUS

Count



Note: Personnel at Notre Dame's off-site locations are included. Postdocs are counted as "Other Faculty."



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Receives Honorary Degree



When the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of campus in spring 2020, it also canceled major campus events like the 2020 commencement ceremony. That commencement address was scheduled to be given by His All-Holiness Bartholomew, Orthodox Archbishop of Constantinople–New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, the leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide.

This fall, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew’s visit was rescheduled so he could participate in an academic convocation focused on environmental stewardship, in line with the 2021–22 Notre Dame Forum theme, “Care for our Common Home: Just Transition to a Sustainable Future.”

The convocation was held on October 28 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and also featured the Archdiocesan Byzantine Choir’s performance of “Creation: From Adam to Salvation.” Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., noted what an honor it was to host the successor to St. Andrew and to confer on him an honorary degree.

“The Ecumenical Patriarch is celebrated around the world for his commitment to interfaith dialogue, for his dedication to peace, for his defense of religious liberty, for his support of migrants and all who are marginalized, and for his witness that a crime in the name of religion is a crime against religion,” Father Jenkins said. “Patriarch Bartholomew is especially revered for his prophetic voice on the environment, which equates love of the creator with devotion to God’s creation.”

In his remarks to Notre Dame students, faculty, staff, the hierarchs of the Orthodox Church, and those streaming online, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew discussed global challenges ranging from climate change to the pandemic, and how faith must work in tandem with science to tackle these issues.

“It is an important but humbling lesson that the Church has learned during this time: Namely, that religion must function and serve in connection with—and never in isolation from—science,” he said. “Faith alone will not overcome the problems

of our time, but the challenges of our time will certainly not be overcome without faith. Research and medicine are gifts from God; they supply answers to the question ‘how?’ Faith and theology are also gifts from God; they provide responses to the question ‘why?’”

During his address, he made certain to speak to the students directly, saying, “And on this journey, it is you—college students—that offer us the optimism that we so yearn for: the readiness to accept change and sacrifice, the capacity to overcome polarization and partisanship, the conviction to be catalysts of social and ecological justice, as well as—quite frankly—the opportunity to save democracy and our planet. May God grant your generation the necessary wisdom and courage to continue leading this charge and mandate.”

Ex Corde Ecclesiae stipulates that a Catholic university should be a “privileged place for a fruitful dialogue between Gospel and culture.” So too did Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., envision Notre Dame as a crossroads where “differences of culture and religion and conviction can co-exist with friendship, civility, hospitality, respect, and even love.” Invitations like the one offered to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew allow for Notre Dame to maintain those commitments, to open rich discussions, and to search for truth in all corners of the globe.

During his visit to the United States, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew also met with senior government leaders, including President Joe Biden, and he blessed the new St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in New York City. This new church has been built to replace the original church of the same name, which was destroyed during the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Notre Dame Alumnus Joe Donnelly Confirmed as Ambassador to the Holy See

“Promoting human rights and human dignity lies at the heart of the U.S.-Holy See partnership. With threats to human rights rising in many parts of the world, our cooperation with the Vatican is increasingly important.”

Joe Donnelly

On October 8, 2021, the White House announced President Joe Biden had nominated Notre Dame alumnus Joe Donnelly as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, and on January 20, 2022, the U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination.

Donnelly, a devout Catholic and former Indiana congressman and senator, is the 12th U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See since the post was created in 1984. Donnelly is a Double Domer with undergraduate and law degrees from Notre Dame. He also taught at the University in the Keough School of Global Affairs from 2019 to 2021. He has long been a friend to Notre Dame, said Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., and “will bring to this role a deep understanding of the issues currently facing our nation and the world, a genuine Catholic faith and an understanding of the role the Church can play in our world.”

After Donnelly’s confirmation, Father Jenkins said, “It comes as no surprise that there was broad bipartisan support for his confirmation, as he has proven throughout his career that he is committed to building relationships and working across divisions. Joe has the prayers of his alma mater, as well as our commitment to assist him in any way we can.”

Upon his nomination, Donnelly expressed interest in working with the Holy See on issues including religious freedom, immigration, climate change, peace, and poverty. In December, he elaborated while answering questions before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

“Promoting human rights and human dignity lies at the heart of the U.S.-Holy See partnership,” Donnelly said. “With threats to human rights rising in many parts of the world, our cooperation with the Vatican is increasingly important.”

Donnelly is the third Notre Dame professor of the practice—joining transportation secretary Pete Buttigieg and veterans affairs secretary Denis McDonough—to be selected for office by President Biden.

Rev. Edward Sorin, C.S.C., once said, “Great abilities, unless supported by virtues, are in danger, and seldom prove a blessing.” At Notre Dame, the hope is that both ability and virtue are cultivated in all members of the campus community, and that they can then use those abilities and virtues to better the world.



The Nature of Education Offered to Students

As a Catholic university, Notre Dame is inspired by the spirit of Christ to create an authentic community dedicated to the truth, the dignity of the human person, the message of Christ, and the education of the whole person. Respecting both the Catholic tradition and the University's own roots, and as articulated in its mission statement, Notre Dame endeavors to be "an environment of teaching and learning that fosters the development in its students of those disciplined habits of mind, body, and spirit that characterize educated, skilled, and free human beings."

"The mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart. While we prepare useful citizens for society, we shall likewise do our utmost to prepare citizens for heaven."

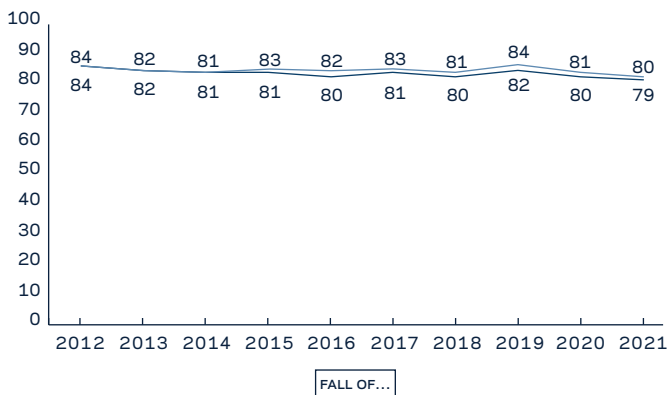
Blessed Basil Moreau



Fostering intellectual, moral, and spiritual growth

The University of Notre Dame continues to carry out its educational mission in the spirit of Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, by fostering intellectual, moral, and spiritual growth in its students, both those who are Catholic and those of other faiths. As part of its Catholic mission, Notre Dame strives for inclusion of all members of its community, and works to create an environment of mutual respect.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS (INCOMING UNDERGRADUATES)



- Percent identifying as Catholic in total class
- Percent identifying as Catholic for those students disclosing religion

Note: Survey data suggests other four-year Catholic colleges average about 50–55% Catholic.

Father Joe Carey's Cookies in Ryan Hall Build Community

On Tuesday evenings, you can find Rev. Joe Carey, C.S.C., hovering above a KitchenAid mixer churning out dozens of cookies, brownies, and cupcakes for the women of Ryan Hall. He always has a robust group of helpers who buzz around his kitchen, setting timers, icing treats, wiping countertops, and sneaking bites of desserts. The door to Father Carey's apartment remains open, and while some girls pop in to grab a treat and then disappear to resume studying, others cozy up in his armchairs and savor an hour of calm, community, and cookies.

The weekly gathering began organically. When, in 2009, Father Carey was assigned to be priest-in-residence to the newly built Ryan Hall, he found himself with a spacious kitchen, but no cooking skills. A student took notice and asked if she could teach him to bake. As his lessons progressed, other residents joined, offering their own recipes from home as lesson plans. The group of teachers, and consumers, grew and grew, until FJ's was established as a weekly gathering of baking and eating open to the Notre Dame community. The name FJ's is a nod to Father Carey's nickname.

Treats aside, the event has been a natural way for Father Carey to welcome the women of Ryan Hall, all while respecting their space and privacy, something he was sensitive to after many years serving men as rector of Dillon Hall. The women, in turn, have consistently shown up, which has fostered a rich community.

"It's just one indication of the hospitality of this community. And the people who bake really feel like they're serving," Father Carey told *The Observer* in 2019. "You know, we talk about developing servant hearts, and they're doing it for the sake of others. People come in and bake, some because it relieves stress for them, but it feels like they're really doing something for someone."

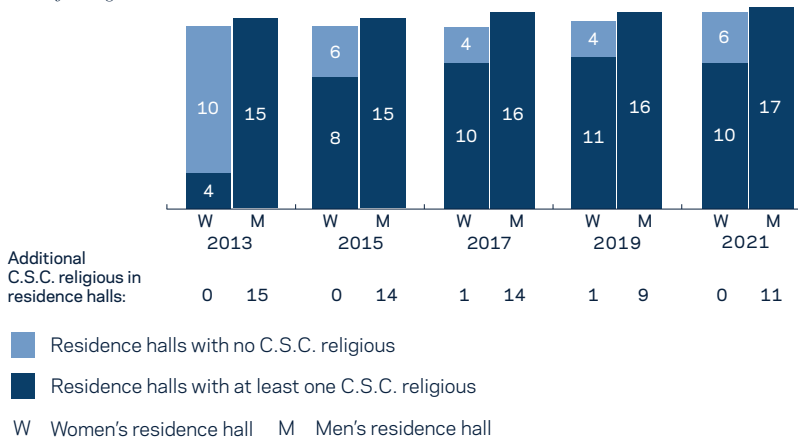
After more than a decade, FJ's is now a rooted part of the Ryan Hall community and a genuine invitation to the rest of the Notre Dame community.

Father Carey said, "The joy of all this is how people feel good about themselves. That's what we're about at Notre Dame: helping our students to feel you belong here, you're safe here, you can make friends here. It's part of the Holy Cross tradition, too, to be hospitable and to build community."



RESIDENCE HALLS WITH C.S.C. RELIGIOUS

Count of undergraduate residence halls



Notre Dame Law School Exoneration Justice Clinic

Andrew Royer spent 16 years in jail for a crime he did not commit, but in July, Notre Dame's Exoneration Justice Clinic got his conviction overturned. Royer is now free.

Royer is the clinic's first client to be exonerated. Since 2017, Law School faculty and students have worked to overturn Royer's 2002 conviction in the strangling of an elderly woman who lived in his apartment building. Royer always maintained his innocence, despite a confession that had been proven as coerced, illegal, and inadmissible. In July, Royer's murder charge was dismissed and in August his name was added to the National Registry of Exonerations.

"Andy would not be free, and we would not be here, but for the tireless work of Notre Dame law students, our investigator, and attorneys who were determined to correct the ultimate miscarriage of justice—the wrongful conviction of an innocent person," said Elliot Slosar, an adjunct professor at Notre Dame and a staff attorney with the Exoneration Project in Chicago.

Notre Dame's Exoneration Justice Clinic launched in the fall of 2020, building upon its predecessors, the Wrongful Conviction Externship and the volunteer Notre Dame Exoneration Project. Since expanding, it is now an operational law firm within the Law School, said Professor Jimmy Gurulé, the clinic director and a former federal prosecutor, who works alongside a full-time staff lawyer, a legal fellow, a legal assistant, and, soon, a full-time investigator.

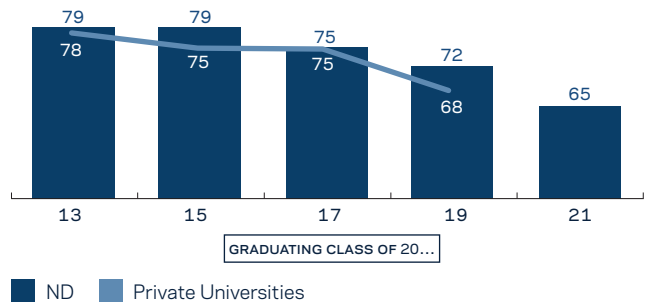
But the heart of the project is the 12 enrolled law students who receive academic credit for attending weekly courses focused on causes of wrongful convictions, relevant laws, and pertinent applications, all taught by Gurulé, and for their legal work on ongoing wrongful conviction cases. The students get valuable lawyering experience as they visit the client in prison, interview prospective witnesses, and make court appearances.

The students are currently working on 14 cases, with new cases being rotated in as availability and resources become available. A boom in volunteer law students—25 this year—



PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY SERVICE BY SENIORS

Percent of graduating seniors reporting having participated in volunteer or community service activities in the past year (CIRP College Senior Survey)



along with a few undergraduates, has allowed them to expand their caseload, and to provide exonerated clients access to social support services to help them reintegrate into society.

"Notre Dame Law School stresses the importance of our students taking their legal education and using it to be a force for good, and to address the most disadvantaged and marginalized members of society, and to use their legal training to pursue social justice," Gurulé said. "For me, I can't think of a greater injustice than the state depriving someone of their liberty for a crime they didn't commit."

Though the clinic is still in its infancy, Gurulé has ambitious aspirations. He would like to make the program the national gold standard for exoneration projects and to see annual victories for the clients.

"It shows that a few Notre Dame lawyers with passion, hard work, and desire can make a difference," he said.

Notre Dame Honors Program Focuses on Catholic Social Teaching



This fall, the Mendoza College of Business launched an official honors program, which focuses on the moral purpose of business and how skills learned in business school can create a just and humane society, essentially doubling down on the college's mission to "Grow the Good in Business."

The selective program requires the maintenance of a 3.3 GPA, attendance at 15 honors colloquia over the course of three semesters, two honors courses on the moral purpose and character of business, two intermediate-level honors courses, four mentoring sessions during their sophomore year, and a capstone course during their senior year. According to the program website, several of the required courses are grounded in Catholic tradition and papal encyclicals like *Centesimus Annus* (1991) and *Laudato Si'* (2015).

The program is run by Professor James Otteson, the John T. Ryan Jr. Professor of Business Ethics and the Rex and Alice A. Martin Faculty Director of the Notre Dame Deloitte Center for Ethical Leadership, and Professor Craig Iffland, an expert in moral theology, especially the moral thought of Thomas Aquinas.

Otteson noted that the inception of the program came from Martijn Cremers, the Martin J. Gillen Dean of the Mendoza College of Business, who wanted to push the best students both academically and personally.

"Dean Cremers wanted a program that would challenge our students not only to master the technical skills required to succeed in business, but also that would encourage them

to think seriously about what their moral obligations are to steward what Pope Francis calls the 'noble vocation' of business," Otteson said.

"Unlike honors programs at other business schools, however, ours also provides one-on-one mentorship and group colloquia in which students are guided to map out a plan for their lives that integrates their skills and abilities with their moral commitments. We want our honors students not just to engage in business, but in honorable business. We ask them to commit to growing the good in business, so that they can become ambassadors of a distinctively Notre Dame business education, and be instantly recognizable as not just businesspeople but as Notre Dame businesspeople."

Josh Haskell is a sophomore in the program. He noted that the guest speakers have been particularly influential in his experience. Haskell said, "I am more confident than ever that I can do serious good through a business vocation. The business honors program invites successful executives and entrepreneurs to speak to students about what virtuous business looks like in practice. This especially has been an inspiration to me. The end goal of changing the world through business is now not some lofty ideal; I have seen exactly what it looks like through my engagement with these role models."

He said he has also been inspired by his fellow students. Even as sophomores in the program he believes they are building the skills, mindset, and strategies to truly shift how business can be done.

"My friends here are not living for the resume—they have concrete plans to perform business virtuously and with the intention of promoting the common good. In a world where business is often perceived as immoral, it is refreshing to see so many young individuals that are going to change that perception."





Notre Dame Architecture Students Participate in Dean's Charrette



New dean, new traditions. Stefanos Polyzoides, the Francis and Kathleen Rooney Dean of the School of Architecture, proposed the first Dean's Charrette, a week-long intensive planning and design session for architecture students and faculty.

"We're starting a new journey," said Polyzoides. "We're trying to expand our presence in the city and world through teaching by learning in place."

For the inaugural charrette, in collaboration with the city of South Bend and community partners, a group of 13 students and 11 faculty members tackled a redesign of a section of William Street in South Bend that stretches from Lincoln Way West to Western Avenue downtown.

"The primary deficit of this part of the city is the absence of a coherent, friendly, and generally attractive public realm. Because the streets are devoid of streetscapes, and the carriageways are very wide, drivers are encouraged to speed," said Polyzoides.

While the area was originally residential, when a commuter corridor was added in the 1940s, traffic increased. Houses were replaced by apartments, businesses, parking lots, and vacant lots. Polyzoides believed that the School of Architecture could redesign the area to revitalize it, and thus the charrette was launched.

In one week, the students and faculty contributed 2,000 hours of brainstorming—the equivalent of someone working full-time for a year.

"The difference between one person working for a year and this number of people working all together in one place for a week is really what the magic of charretting is all about," said Polyzoides.

The team proposed to calm traffic, improve walkability, and increase density with the hope of attracting people to live and invest in the area, said Polyzoides. To do so, they suggested the addition of medians, bike lanes, and trees along the cross streets, three public squares to create communal space, and a market hall to serve as a median while also providing stalls for local vendors. They designated new zoning for commercial versus residential use, and developed a housing toolkit with plans for homes, duplexes, multiplexes, and townhomes based on lot sizes.

Maggie McDonald, a fourth-year student, said of the experience, "It gave us a taste of what it would be like to work in an office. It felt very much like what I want my career to be."

"We've designed different housing types as studio projects, but what I really liked about the charrette was its fast pace," McDonald said. "It really forced us to understand the purpose and essence of particular housing types and what they had to offer to the community."

The ideas from the charrette will be gathered into a final plan to be formally proposed to the city. The city has also signed on for a second Dean's Charrette, which the School of Architecture will now host twice a year at the start of the fall and spring semesters.

The School of Architecture participates in the Catholic mission of Notre Dame by generating ideas from leaders, students, and public servants in order to think about how we can live together in ways that promote human flourishing and growth for everyone.

Society of Women Engineers Chapter at Notre Dame Thrives

As campus rumbled back to life after the COVID-19 shutdown, so too did student groups that had either slumbered or adjusted their engagement strategies while working from afar. As for Notre Dame’s chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), the group maintained a healthy size of around 150 undergraduates, with even more graduate student participants, making it one of the largest student-run organizations on campus.

In combination with ND Women in Engineering, SWE brings together female engineering students, faculty, and alumni with the intention of creating a network to help women flourish, said Victoria Goodrich, the adviser for SWE and an associate teaching professor in chemical and biomolecular engineering.

“SWE supports the ND mission especially for our student growth into well-rounded, caring individuals,” Goodrich said. “Our engineering students get a wonderful foundation in the academic and technical skills to be successful through their required coursework. SWE adds in the development of professional skills, friendships, and giving of your talents through our outreach events.”

Annual programming includes mentorship programs, professional development workshops, career networking, guest speakers, and site visits, alongside social and service events, but the pandemic changed the status quo, noted Goodrich.

“One benefit of the pandemic is that we were able to have Zoom meetings with some women engineers who normally wouldn’t be able to come to Notre Dame, so our students had some new, exciting opportunities,” she said. “While the 2020–21 year was quite different from our normal year, we’ve been able to have some really great experiences this academic year. We were able to take over 30 women to the SWE conference in Indianapolis where they were able to meet engineers from around the world and find job and internship opportunities beyond what is available at Notre Dame.”

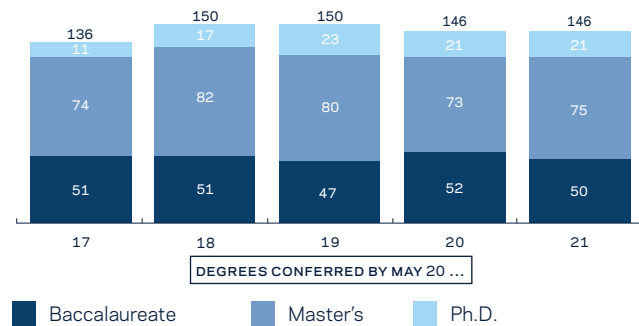
While Zoom allowed the group to bridge the gap during the remote semester, this year SWE is highlighting its in-person

events in an effort to bolster the sense of community that is at the heart of its mission and the Notre Dame mission.

“This year, we have focused heavily on building relationships between students on campus. We’ve found that many of our younger students were not able to make as many connections with such strict COVID protocols in place last year. We’ve focused heavily this year on having events that get students together in fellowship—doing crafts, sharing a meal, or just stopping by to grab a cookie!” Goodrich said.

THEOLOGY DEGREES AWARDED

Counts of baccalaureates completing majors offered by the Department of Theology
Counts of post-baccalaureate degrees awarded in Theology programs



Note: Includes degrees conferred in Early Christian Studies master’s program, which is jointly offered by the Classics and Theology departments



The Types of Discussions, Debates, and Inquiries that Take Place at the University

Notre Dame is committed to creating a culture of inquiry imbued with the lived experience of Catholicism. While the University seeks to attract and retain greater numbers of Catholic scholars, scientists, and artists, it also believes that faculty members of all faiths are absolutely indispensable to promoting scholarship, building community, provoking debate, and ensuring a diversity of perspectives at Our Lady's University. As Notre Dame endeavors to fulfill its vision to be a great Catholic university for the 21st century and one of the preeminent research institutions in the world, seekers of truth who hold a variety of beliefs and opinions are vitally important, especially if it is to meet the *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* requirement that a Catholic university exists as a "privileged place for a fruitful dialogue between the Gospel and culture."

"... being both a University and Catholic, it must be both a community of scholars representing various branches of human knowledge, and an academic institution in which Catholicism is vitally present and operative."

Ex Corde Ecclesiae



Notre Dame Forum Highlights the Importance of Care for Our Common Home



The 2021-22 Notre Dame Forum, “Care for Our Common Home: Just Transition to a Sustainable Future,” opened on September 10 with a groundbreaking announcement: Notre Dame is committed to reaching carbon neutrality by 2050, with a 65 percent reduction from 2005 levels by 2030, said President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.

While powerful, the announcement was in keeping with Father Jenkins’s leadership. In partnership with the Vatican, he has convened energy and investment sector leaders for dialogue on the energy transition and the role of business leaders in mitigating climate change. He has also championed Notre Dame’s green roof and solar projects, reductions in food waste, and installations of geothermal and hydroelectric energy sources.

But the announcement was just the beginning of a year-long discussion on the realities and responsibilities associated with the climate change crisis. The Forum theme was largely inspired by Pope Francis’s influential *Laudato Si’*. In it, Pope Francis wrote, “We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental.”

As part of the discussions, in September, Anne Thompson, NBC News’ chief environmental affairs correspondent and a Notre Dame alumna and Trustee, and U.S. Sen. Chris Coons, co-chair of the bipartisan Senate Climate Solutions Caucus, came together to host a conversation about the political and social implications of climate change.

In the spring, a series of virtual, interactive conversations about “The Worsening Water Crisis” took place at Global

Gateways and Centers to showcase partners and research around the world. The Rome Global Gateway also hosted the newly inaugurated Catholic University Consortium as it launched a two-year study on environmental justice and the goal for a more sustainable future. Researchers from diverse backgrounds and areas of study came together to share research.

But it wasn’t all scientific. The Sinite Museum hosted the exhibit *Earth Kid (Boy)* by Yinka Shonibare, an artist known for addressing social and political issues like climate change, while the Yusko Ward-Phillips Conference brought together key thinkers to consider ecological collapse, migration, and ecological literature.

These events, among others, all contributed to the University and Forum goal to “transition to a cleaner future where the burdens of change are equitably borne and not simply sloughed off to the poor and powerless.”

“The question is not whether to transition to a cleaner, more sustainable future, but how and how quickly,” Father Jenkins said. “As a university community whose work is the education of the next generation who will inherit these challenges, and

as one with a Catholic mission calling us to seek justice and serve the common good around the globe, we turn to these urgent and complex questions.”

“The question is not whether to transition to a cleaner, more sustainable future, but how and how quickly.”

Father Jenkins

Established in 2005, the Forum invites an annual, campus-wide dialogue on an established topic ranging from immigration to women in leadership to the crisis of disaffiliation in the Church, which was titled “Rebuild My Church: Crisis and Response.”



CARE FOR OUR
COMMON HOME

Notre Dame Forum 2021-22

TO ACTION: SING THE POLITICAL E TO ADDRESS TE CHALLENGES



Professor Patricia Clark Awarded NIH Pioneer Award, the First in Indiana



“We recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of the sequencing of the human genome. Since that time, we have sequenced so much human DNA that we have begun to learn which DNA mutations make us more susceptible to certain diseases.”

Patricia Clark

of the sequencing of the human genome. Since that time, we have sequenced so much human DNA that we have begun to learn which DNA mutations make us more susceptible to certain diseases. Surprisingly, some of these mutations are synonymous codon substitutions.

In October, Patricia L. Clark, the Rev. John Cardinal O’Hara, C.S.C., Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, received a prestigious Director’s Pioneer Award from the National Institutes of Health. She is the first researcher in the state of Indiana to ever win.

The award offers five years of research funding totaling \$5 million and is given to exceptionally creative scientists who pitch an innovative idea that addresses a challenge in biomedical, behavioral, or social science research.

Clark’s research will look at silent changes or substitutions in DNA sequences and identify which proteins are susceptible to these changes. These substitutions often result in misfolding of proteins, which leads to diseases including cancer and Alzheimer’s.

Clark said, “We recently celebrated the 20th anniversary

“Professor Clark’s research will lead to entirely new concepts and will use new approaches to understand how molecules inside the cells are synthesized and function. Her findings will propel basic biomedical research, and in the long term will lead to improvements in human health.”

Santiago Schnell

“Understanding how these synonymous substitutions affect protein folding therefore holds the promise of helping us better understand the molecular basis of disease, so we can design more effective interventions.”

Though the applications for this research have the potential to help researchers understand disease, Clark underscored that her lab is looking at the fundamental science behind these issues and will start by using a strain of the bacterium *E. coli*.

“Professor Clark’s research will lead to entirely new concepts and will use new approaches to understand how molecules inside the cells are synthesized and function,” said Santiago Schnell, the William K. Warren Foundation Dean of the College of Science. “Her findings will propel basic biomedical research, and in the long term will lead to improvements in human health.”

Clark has been at Notre Dame since 2001, where she has been routinely awarded for both her teaching and research. As Notre Dame aspires to become one of the preeminent research institutions in the world, it prizes research like Clark’s that seeks truth and understanding in new and innovative ways.

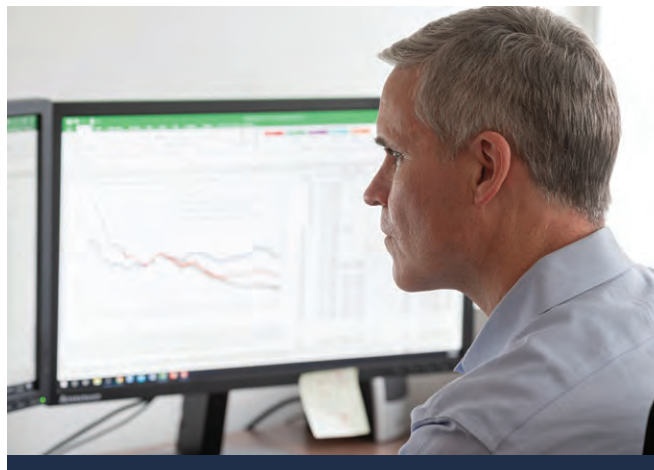
Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) at Notre Dame Creates New Partnerships

The COVID-19 pandemic brought no shortage of bad news, especially to minority and low-income Americans. Poverty rates, categorized as a family of four living on an annual income of less than \$26,250, officially rose to 11.4 percent in 2020, though the U.S. Census Bureau said pandemic relief brought the number down closer to 9 percent. And hourly jobs like those in the hospitality industry all but halted.

As the face of poverty in the United States shifted in response to these factors, Notre Dame's Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) widened its network of partners to better understand and address poverty. Spanning the country and tackling issues ranging from rapid rehousing for the homeless, to professional development for parents and teachers trying to engage with their children's education, to curricula designed to help secure financial resiliency for under-resourced families, these partners are working tirelessly to help those in need. The researchers at LEO intend to launch evaluations designed to help the partners determine how they can be even more successful in reducing poverty.

One project already underway is a study on the impact of COVID-19 on nursing home mortality rates. LEO co-founder Bill Evans gathered data which suggested that nursing homes that had imposed strict measures to stop COVID-19, like disallowing visitors, had substantially lower rates of COVID-19 mortality, but higher numbers of non-COVID deaths. Evans believes social isolation may have played a role in the mortality of residents.

LEO is now working with social service agencies, including Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, Georgia Southern University, Positive Maturity, the Health Association of Niagara



County, NY, and Good Samaritan, to test the efficacy of senior companion programs on improving quality-of-life measures, assisted living status, and health outcomes like hospitalizations. LEO hopes to provide evidence-based research that helps bolster effective programming for the more than 3 million senior citizens in the United States.

As a Catholic university, Notre Dame draws inspiration from the life of Jesus. He served the poor, the marginalized, and the overlooked. LEO, too, readily and meaningfully serves those Jesus so loved.

McGrath Institute for Church Life Hosts “Conversations that Matter: Crossroads of Science and Human Dignity”



For the second year, the McGrath Institute for Church Life hosted its “Conversations That Matter” series, an effort to explore and educate on moral issues. This year, the institute maintained the same theme for both the fall and spring semesters, focusing on “The Crossroads of Science and Human Dignity.”

Each of the free webinar sessions featured three speakers, who offered a 10-minute presentation drawing from their expertise on the theme, followed by a Q&A. The speakers came from diverse institutions and areas of inquiry, ranging from neuroscientists to bioethicists to pediatricians to philosophers.

During the fall semester, the three panels were titled, “Man, Machine and the Future of AI,” “Questioning Gender: Medicine and Theology in Dialogue,” and “What Does It Mean to be Human?” Recordings, discussion questions, and additional reading lists remain available online.

The first spring session was titled “Morality and the Microscope: The Basis of Bioethics,” and the second explored the topic of “Trapped in our Jeans? The Role of Genes in Determining Our Self.” The third panel focused on a conversation about CRISPR, a tool for editing genomes and modifying gene function. CRISPR has the potential to allow for correcting genetic defects and treating disease, but also poses great ethical questions.

After the series launch last year, Jessica Keating, program director of the Office of Life and Human Dignity, said, “My hope is that each semester we can gather to reflect on timely issues of importance that strike at the heart of human dignity.” Last year’s topics featured the intersection of racial justice and life issues, and the intersection of justice and pregnancy.

Notre Dame Kroc Institute Celebrates 35 Years

In 1985, in the midst of the Cold War, philanthropist Joan Kroc, wife of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc, was sitting in San Diego, California, in the audience of a lecture given by Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. There, he urged scientists and religious leaders to work together to resolve the threat of nuclear violence, and for universities to train the next generation of peace builders.

She responded to his call with a \$6 million donation to create an institute at Notre Dame that would study peace, violence, and justice. Later, she gave another \$6 million for a building to house the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, and then, after her death, she bequeathed an additional \$50 million to her namesake program, enabling it to grow into one of the world's leading centers studying conflict and peace. Now in its 35th year, the institute boasts 24 core faculty, 72 faculty fellows, and 147 visiting research fellows. There are 55 undergraduates, 23 master's students, and 41 doctoral students currently enrolled. And there are more than 1,800 alumni peacebuilders working in more than 100 countries worldwide.

Asher Kaufman, the John M. Regan Jr. Director of the institute, reflected on the history in a video to celebrate the anniversary. He said, "When Father Hesburgh envisioned the creation of an institute for peace studies, he thought about the idea of bringing to the United States and to Notre Dame, to campus, peacebuilders from all over the world who would study here the field of peace studies and later would be able to return to their home countries and form a network of peacebuilders. And his vision of creating that kind of network has actually been realized."

In those 35 years, the landscape of peace, of violence, of conflict has shifted. Some of that Cold War fervor has faded, though nuclear weapons remain a global threat. The attacks on 9/11 brought terrorism to the fore. Now drone and cyber warfare are issues of debate. And scholars from various countries come with their own stories, experiences, and opinions that are constantly shifting the agenda and areas of



inquiry, said Anne Hayner, the associate director for alumni relations for the Kroc Institute.

"I think so much of the strength of the Kroc Institute has come from what we've learned from our students and our alumni over time," Hayner said in the anniversary video. "I hope that we'll continue to be listening to them, learning from them, being challenged by them to grow in new ways, to be more inclusive and welcoming of really diverse perspectives that we never would have thought of."

Looking ahead to the next 35 years, things are likely to continue to change. Caroline Hughes, the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., Chair in Peace Studies and the associate dean for policy and practice in the Keough School of Global Affairs, said in the video she hopes Notre Dame can become a beacon and a haven for even more scholars in the future.

"I would like to see Kroc playing a role in helping scholars at risk, bringing people here to spend some time away from oppressive conditions so they can make the contributions that they have to make, or helping them if they are under threat of arrest," she said. "We have a really important role to play in trying to keep or to maintain a level of discourse about issues of oppression and justice at a time when there are increasingly limitations on what can be studied or what can be said in many parts of the world."

In his 2022 World Day of Peace message, Pope Francis urged world leaders to spend money on education rather than weapons, and argued that dialogue and understanding are more powerful means of peace than war. The Kroc Institute and its faculty will continue to study those, and other, strategies for peaceful and just societies.

Service to the Catholic Church in a Manner Appropriate for a University

As a Catholic university, Notre Dame is aware of its privileged responsibility to place itself in service to the Church. To demonstrate how the pursuit of truth is put to use in a life of faith, the University is committed, as envisioned in *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, to serve the Church by including the study of serious contemporary problems among its research, by communicating to society those ethical and religious principles that give full meaning to human life, by serving others for the promotion of social justice, and by modeling cooperation between disciplines in common research projects.

“I pray that we will be people who see the world and its problems with a steady, honest, unflinching gaze; that because of our faith in God’s goodness, we will apply all our knowledge and skill to a thoughtful, fair, balanced analysis of those issues; that we never flag in seeking solutions ... that we will have the courage and conviction to act when action is called for, and that we inspire others to act as well.”

Rev. John L. Jenkins, C.S.C.



American Indian Catholic Schools Network



In October, the American Indian Catholic Schools Network (AICSN) sent representatives from its member schools to Chamberlain, South Dakota, to the campus of the newest addition to AICSN, St. Joseph Indian School. There, the group shared ideas, prayed, and continued to build camaraderie based on shared goals and trials, on painful pasts and hopeful futures.

This group of seven schools composed of Acoma, Blackfeet, Laguna, Lakota, Navajo, Ojibwe, Omaha, San Carlos Apache, and Winnebago tribes has banded together in collaboration with Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education to

strengthen the individual schools, empower educators and administrators, and to welcome additional mission schools.

While growth is one of the group's goals, William Newkirk, the director of AICSN, underscored that the pace is slow in order to build genuine and meaningful relationships. That authenticity is critical, he explained, given the history of abuse, conversion, and forced citizenship that occurred in both Catholic and government schools on Native land for decades. Once there were as many as 300 schools; now only 20 remain.

“Many of those schools closed for good reason, because they weren’t safe places for children or to bring about a true Catholic education,” Newkirk explained. “But some of the schools maybe weren’t a dangerous place, but they weren’t places that offered culturally responsive pedagogy. They weren’t bringing in Native teachers to teach at the school or they weren’t building relationships with the families. The schools that persisted are the schools that have more Native teachers, where you see the ‘Our Father’ written in the indigenous language on the wall, where you see images of Christ as a Native person with Native students. It’s the culturally responsive pedagogy and culturally celebratory culture.”

Even with the focus on coexistent Indigenous and Catholic cultures, and with acknowledgement and healing opportunities from past traumas, Newkirk noted the schools still face challenges like gaining the trust of community members to send their children to the Catholic school and attracting teachers to their remote locations. They also have challenges unlike others in their dioceses, which is why partnership and conversation with other Native schools is so important, Newkirk said.

“When you’re isolated it’s hard to find hope and find resilience and persistence. What we find is that these schools, more than any physical resource, they needed the resource of relationship. What this network does more than anything is facilitate an opportunity for schools to walk together in solidarity and kinship and to know that they’re not alone,” he explained. That applies for individual teachers, too.

“If a teacher believes that they’re walking in this mission with other Native Catholic schools, I think they’re going to be more likely to stay there, and they’re going to be more likely to provide a transformative education for the students they serve.”

That said, AICSN, alongside its partners in ACE and the Remick Leadership Program, also provides valuable resources. There are summer institutes for teachers and administrators to learn best practices. AICSN has connected ACE graduates with schools and with job openings. They offer enrichment activities like monthly Zoom learning sessions and



Lenten Faith Sharing groups. But the most unique offering is a collaboration with Holy Cross College called the Holy Cross Fellows, a fully funded opportunity for current teachers at AICSN schools to work toward a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a teaching license. The selected teachers can work remotely during the school year and then visit South Bend for education classes in the summer.

“We believe these are people that are committed to be in there long term,” Newkirk said. “They deserve to have a bachelor’s degree and their students deserve to have a teacher with the training of a bachelor’s degree in education.”

With all these diverse offerings, the AICSN has a holistic goal: where each school can thrive in its unique mission while bolstered by a strong community of other schools who support them, push them, and cheer for them. That focus on community and on education, Newkirk highlighted, is the heart of Notre Dame’s mission, just far, far off-campus.

Notre Dame Hosts Black Catholic Theology Symposium

In October, the Black Catholic Theology Symposium (BCTS) hosted its 31st annual meeting on Notre Dame's campus. The BCTS is a national, interdisciplinary theological society that seeks to foster a community of Black Catholic scholars and practitioners interested in dialogue that addresses the humanity of all people and contributes to a theology that is simultaneously Black and Catholic. They promote this duality by teaching about Black Catholic experiences at colleges, universities, and seminaries, identifying Black Catholic theology scholars and practitioners, and publishing the findings of the symposium and its members.

This year's symposium was sponsored by the University's departments of Africana studies and theology, and featured two public lectures, two days of private meetings, invitation-only listening sessions, and a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, D.C.

The first public address was offered by M. Shawn Copeland, a professor emeritus from Boston College. It was titled "#BlackLivesMatter as Public Theology," and was a reflection on how the Black Lives Matter movement is a performative form of theology that addresses the conditions and dignity of the marginalized and oppressed.

The second lecture, "The Catholic Church and the Racial Divide in the United States" by Bishop Edward K. Braxton, the Bishop Emeritus of Belleville, Illinois, focused on the history and future of African American participation in the Catholic Church and what that means for the vitality of the Church. The event was co-hosted by Notre Dame's Africana Studies Colloquy on Black Church Studies, an initiative that began in 2013 to provide a platform for discussions about the Black Church.

Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., thanked the BCTS and said, "It is a great privilege to Notre Dame to host this conference, and we'll continue to work with you to reveal the great riches of the African American Catholic tradition here in this Church in America and to work with you in scholarly conferences



like this one, in pastoral support, and in educating the next generation of African American Catholic leaders. It is something we're committed to, and we thank you for your partnership and great work."

As a conclusion to the symposium, Cardinal Gregory offered an inculturated Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. His homily focused the day's Gospel (Mark 10:17-30), where the rich man asked Jesus how he can inherit eternal life. He encouraged the audience to follow the advice given in that Gospel: Turn to Jesus with everything you have. Stop relying on wealth, authority, intelligence, race, culture, and other worldly things. In turning to God, and to the Eucharist, Catholics can usher more good into the world around them, he explained.

He said, "We are transformed by the way we celebrate and by the mystery we celebrate. Moreover, we are invited to transform the world in which we live by that same vision and by that same mystery. It is more than simply a quality of life issue, it is a call to live the fullness of life, even now. And to pursue justice for all who are our brothers and sisters, across those barriers of privilege and discrimination that so often divide us. May our desire to work for justice be the spark we take from this Eucharist. Amen."

Notre Dame Theologians Appointed as Consultors for the Congregation for the Eastern Churches by Pope Francis



“Scholarly work on the Christian East often crosses ecclesiastical boundaries, and with this appointment the Vatican has highlighted that answers to contemporary questions facing the Church can be enriched through broad reflection from multiple voices.”

Nina Glibetić



Pope Francis appointed two Notre Dame theology professors, Nina Glibetić and Gabriel Radle, to five-year terms as consultors for the Congregation for the Eastern Churches. The Notre Dame theologians will join a group of about 50 consultors who offer advice on questions of significance pertaining to the liturgy, formation, and discipline of the Eastern Catholic Churches.

The Vatican website details: “The complex reality of the Oriental Churches with respect to their geographical, cultural and social conditions requires that the great Catholic community will share its resources, which can help the Orientals to keep alive and to develop the most genuine traditions of their Churches according to the instructions of the Second Vatican Council, the norms of the Code of Canons of the Oriental Churches and the directives of the Supreme Pontiffs.”

Radle and Glibetić are both liturgical studies experts and faculty fellows in Notre Dame’s Medieval Institute. Radle, the Rev. John A. O’Brien Assistant Professor of Theology, specializes in early and medieval Christian liturgy in the Eastern Mediterranean and has published on medieval marriage rituals, the Eucharist, and Byzantine manuscript

prayer books. Glibetić, an Orthodox Christian herself, has published on eucharistic practices in Byzantium, liturgy of early Slavs, and religious rituals for women at childbirth and miscarriage. She is currently studying Glagolitic manuscripts discovered at St. Catherine’s Monastery on Mount Sinai as part of an international research team.

“It is a great honor to be nominated by Pope Francis as a consultor of the Congregation for Eastern Churches,” Glibetić said. “Scholarly work on the Christian East often crosses ecclesiastical boundaries, and with this appointment the Vatican has highlighted that answers to contemporary questions facing the Church can be enriched through broad reflection from multiple voices. This is all the more so the case when many Eastern Christian communities today face significant geopolitical challenges.

“It is a great pleasure to represent Notre Dame’s legacy of service to Catholic-Orthodox dialogue, which our University has a long tradition of sponsoring through initiatives like Tantur, our Byzantine studies program and the scholarly contributions of my colleagues in theology.”

In September, Pope Francis also named Yury Avvakumov, an associate professor of theology and a Byzantine Catholic from the Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church, to the Vatican’s International Theological Commission, strengthening Notre Dame’s connections to the Vatican and its commitment to serving the Church.

Global Day of Action for Notre Dame Students and Staff

On October 6, the Notre Dame Forum went worldwide as members of the Notre Dame community around the world participated in the Global Day of Action, a coordinated event spotlighting sustainability. The occasion was a response to the call from *Laudato Si'* to care for our common home, the theme of this year's Forum.

The staff at the Global Gateways and Centers facilitated events such as readings from *Laudato Si'* in Rome, Italy, trash cleanup in Pueblo, Mexico, and a canal cleanup in Dublin, Ireland.

"It was a great opportunity for our students and staff to take part in the Global Day of Action," said Eimear Clowry Delaney, assistant director at the Dublin Global Gateway.

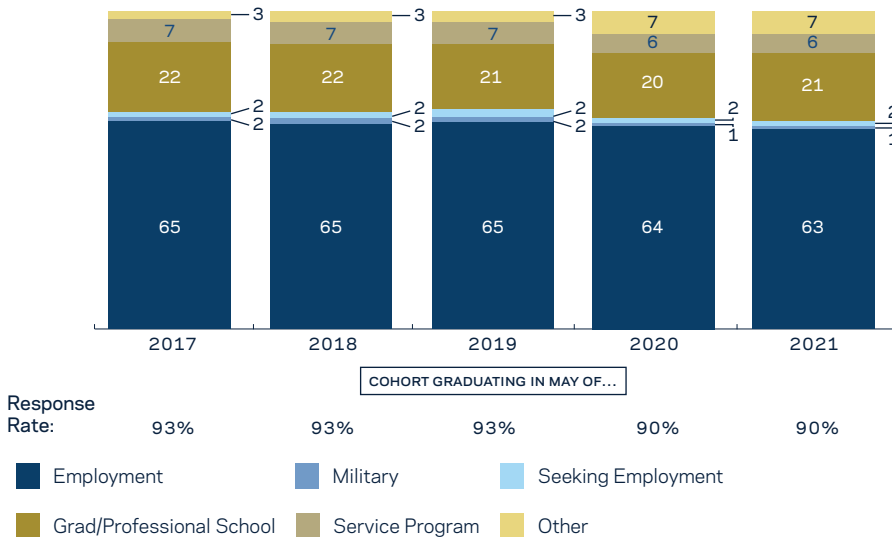


"As a university, it's imperative that we work with our students to confront this crisis and insist on bold action to address the climate emergency."

The event was intentionally hosted on St. Francis of Assisi's feast day, as he is considered the patron saint of those who work in ecology, and he was part of the inspiration of *Laudato Si'*. In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis said Francis of Assisi, his namesake, "shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace."

POST-BACCALAUREATE PLANS

Percent of post-baccalaureate plans, self-reported by graduating seniors (First Destination Data Collection)



Note: Due to rounding, the sum of sub-elements may not equal 100%.

As part of the international effort, Brother Nitin D'Souza, a Capuchin Franciscan friar in Mumbai, offered a video message from India that said, "Today as we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, our seraphic father and founder, I am reminded of a phrase from his prayer, 'It is in giving that we receive.' In a similar way, I would like to say, it is in caring for Mother Earth that Mother Earth cares for us." The friars there offered a special service for the feast day.

The coordinated effort was sponsored by the Office of Sustainability, the sustainability minor, Campus Ministry, and the Center for Social Concerns. Many of the Global Gateways and Centers also hosted other events in conjunction with the Forum throughout the year.

University of Notre Dame Theology Department Ranked First in the World

While it likely comes as no surprise that Notre Dame is highly regarded for its religious and theological studies, for the second consecutive year it has been ranked number one for theology, divinity, and religious studies by QS World University Rankings, putting it ahead of peers like Harvard, Oxford, and Duke.

“This recognition is a tribute to the strength and breadth of our faculty’s expertise and research, as well as the rich learning community that is created by the talented graduate students who come to study with us, combining probing intellectual curiosity with deep pastoral concern for church and world,” said J. Matthew Ashley, associate professor and acting chair of the department at the time.

Notre Dame’s program is rooted in the idea of “faith seeking understanding,” which encourages the exploration of truth. The program has six principal areas: moral theology, history of Christianity, liturgy, biblical studies, systematic theology, and world religions and world Church.

The department offers a Ph.D. track, as well as four master’s programs. While all undergraduates are required to take two theology courses as part of the University’s core curriculum, nearly 500 undergraduates choose to major or minor in



theology. Of those theology majors, 98 percent found full-time employment or entered graduate school, the military, or service work within six months of graduation.

As opposed to many of its peer institutions, Notre Dame’s department is explicitly and unabashedly Catholic, which is prominent in the composition of its faculty and in its offered curriculum, but it also encourages exploration and dialogue with other perspectives and faith traditions. The department remains committed to serving the Church, the academy, and society, and aspires to both academic and pastoral flourishing.

As Notre Dame roots itself in an education of heart and mind alongside the pursuit of truth, the theology department remains a stalwart contributor to those goals.



