



McGrath Institute for Church Life

# *Annual Report*

2021





# *Letter From the Director*

Dear friends,

The last few years have provided us a gift. It's allowed us the opportunity to take stock of our path, and realign ourselves with our Church in need of healing. If the last few years have shown me anything, it is the irrepressible spirit, conviction, and faith present in our communities, our parishes, and our Church, as well as the resilience of our faculty and staff here at McGrath.

As we navigated the second year of this pandemic, our focus shifted from responding and sustaining, to growth and advancement. Taking what we have learned from our new realities, we drew upon our rich traditions as we continued our work to form faithful Catholic leaders.

I am incredibly proud of the way McGrath faculty and staff have adapted and triumphed during these past few years. Our team, in solidarity with people across the world, faced challenges that seemed unfathomable just months before. We have met obstacles head-on with grace, humility, and ingenuity, revitalizing our understanding of what's possible. All of these traits were embodied while continuing to meet people where they are in this unique moment, helping Church leaders thrive even under the most challenging circumstances.

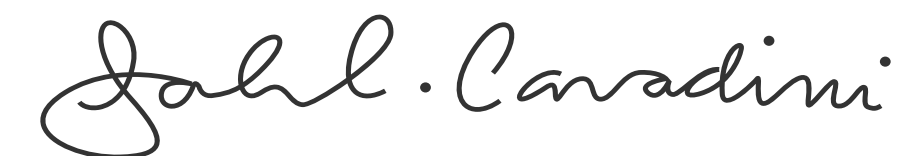
It seems fitting that it was within this transformative year that we embarked upon our most recent strategic plan. Through this exercise of recalibration and self-reflection, we articulated our 'why,' coalescing around our mission of scholarship, teaching, and pastoral excellence.

In partnership with those who share our mission, our benefactors, our fellows, our students, our Church, we continue to live our mission to renew the Church for generations to come.

May this report serve as a snapshot of how we continued to meet our mission during this remarkable time in history; addressing today's most pressing pastoral challenges with flexibility, urgency and impact.

Thank you for accompanying us on this journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Cavadini". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

John C. Cavadini, Ph.D.  
McGrath-Cavadini Director, McGrath Institute for Church Life  
Professor, Department of Theology





# *Our Mission*

The McGrath Institute for Church Life bridges the Catholic intellectual life and the life of the Church in order to form and empower faithful Catholic leaders for service to the Church and thereby the world. In collaboration with our ecclesial partners, we propose and enact a renewed vision of Church life through scholarship, pastoral expertise, and teaching to discern and address the needs of the Church.





# *Our History*

For nearly half a century, the dedicated faculty and staff of the McGrath Institute for Church Life have partnered with Catholic dioceses, parishes, and schools to address today's pastoral challenges with theological depth and rigor.

As a collaborative partner with clerical and lay Catholic leaders at all levels, we provide theological tools and spiritual formation to help address today's most pressing pastoral challenges with urgency and impact.

By connecting the Catholic intellectual life of the university to the life of the Church, we form faithful Catholic leaders for service to the Church and the world. We are proud to serve as a preeminent source of creative Catholic programming for evangelization and formation, sparking the Catholic imagination and encouraging the Body of Christ throughout the United States.

# *Meet Our Programs*

# *Leadership*

John Cavadini has served as the director of the [McGrath Institute for Church Life](#) since 2000.

He inaugurated the Echo program, Notre Dame Vision, and is responsible for the continued growth and outreach of the McGrath Institute.



**JOHN CAVADINI**

*McGrath-Cavadini Director*

# *Thriving in Ministry Initiative*

The Thriving in Ministry Initiative offers two distinct programs: the [Bishop D'Arcy Program in Priestly Renewal](#) and [Strong Foundations for Pastoral Leaders](#).



**KATHERINE ANGULO**

*Program Director,  
Thriving in Ministry Initiative*



# *Notre Dame Center for Liturgy*

The Notre Dame Center for Liturgy cultivates leadership in the Church by educating catechists, liturgists, teachers, and musicians for the task of liturgical evangelization.



**TIMOTHY O'MALLEY**

*Academic Director,  
Notre Dame Center for Liturgy*



**CAROLYN PIRTLE**

*Program Director,  
Notre Dame Center for Liturgy*



# *STEP and Camino*

STEP and Camino Online Courses offer a flexible course of theology study that maintains a faithful and intellectually rigorous curriculum. Expert-designed courses for Church leaders are offered in English or Spanish.



**TIMOTHY O'MALLEY**

*Director of Education*



**CLARE KILBANE**

*Sr. Learning Designer, Director  
for R&D for Digital Education*



**JOSHUA McMANAWAY**

*Visiting Assistant Professor  
of the Practice*



**KELLY CULVER**

*Program Director,  
STEP and Camino*



**ELLIE BERRUECOS**

*Assistant Director,  
STEP and Camino*



**JANET EFFRON**

*Education Technology  
Specialist*



**ALEJANDRA HERRERA**

*Program Associate,  
STEP & Camino*



# *Echo Graduate Service Program*

Echo is a robust, two-year formation program that integrates the work, study, and life-of-faith of young leaders, preparing them to serve the Church and explore a career in ministry.



**COLLEEN MOORE**

*Director of Formation;  
Program Director, Echo*



**KATIE DILTZ**

*Associate Director, Echo*



**TIM PISACICH**

*Associate Director, Echo*



**SCOTT BOYLE**

*Associate Director,  
Recruitment & Formation*



**GERARD BAUMBACH**

*Emeritus Faculty,  
Director Emeritus*



# *Notre Dame Vision*

Notre Dame Vision conferences at the University of Notre Dame offer high school students from across the globe the opportunity to immerse themselves in the tradition and campus life of Notre Dame as they learn from the witness of the saints and develop practices to live their faith.



**LEONARD DeLORENZO**

*Director of Undergraduate Studies;  
Academic Director, Vision*



**MEGAN SHEPHERD**

*Program Director,  
Vision*



**SCOTT BOYLE**

*Associate Director,  
Recruitment & Formation*



# ***Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity***

The Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity forms Catholic leaders equipped to promote pastoral practices supportive of major life issues in parishes, schools, and all levels of Church life.



**JESSICA KEATING FLOYD**

*Program Director,  
Notre Dame Office of Life and  
Human Dignity*



**CHRISTINA LEBLANG**

*Associate Program Director,  
Notre Dame Office of Life  
and Human Dignity*



# ***Sullivan Family Saints Initiative***

The Sullivan Family Saints Initiative promotes scholarship and fosters devotion to the saints through research; provides educational and formation opportunities for students, Church leaders, and the general public; and helps to renew a culture of devotion to the saints on Notre Dame's campus.



**LEONARD DeLORENZO**

*Director of Undergraduate Studies;  
Academic Director, Vision*



# *Science & Religion Initiative*

The Science & Religion Initiative offers continuing education for leaders, administrators, and educators involved in the disciplines of science and religion.



**CHRIS BAGLOW**

*Director,  
Science & Religion Initiative*



**HEATHER FOUCAULT-CAMM**

*Program Director,  
Science & Religion Initiative*



# *Church Life Journal*

The Church Life Journal offers insights on theology, philosophy, and culture from some of the best minds and writers in the Church today.



**ARTUR ROSMAN**  
*Editor-in-Chief*



**TIMOTHY O'MALLEY**  
*Senior Editor*



**TROY KASSIEN**  
*Copy Editor &  
Social Media Manager*



# *Church Communications Ecology Program*

The Church Communications Ecology Program provides a learning community for parish leaders to develop a deeper understanding of the social and psychological effects that digital tools are having on individuals and communities.



**BRETT ROBINSON**

*Director of Communications  
and Catholic Media Studies*



**LESLEY KIRZEDER**

*Program Director,  
Church Communications  
Ecology Program*

# *Communications Department*

The Communications Department manages the communications strategy and promotional needs for the McGrath Institute's programs.



**BRETT ROBINSON**

*Director of Communications*



**MAGGIE SCROOPE**

*Program Director,  
Communications*



**CIARA KANCZUZEWSKI**

*Communications Specialist*



**ANNA BRADLEY**

*Publicity Specialist*



# ***Finance and Operations***

The Finance and Operations group oversees the Institute's human resource needs and budgetary initiatives.



**BRIAN DEAN**

*Director of Finance and Operations*



**PATRICIA BELLM**

*Grant Finance Manager*

# *Events and Administration*

The Events and Administration staff support the Institute's programming, events, and staff.



**SUSAN COYNE**

*Assistant Director,  
Events and Administration*



**MICHELE LACOSSE**

*Senior Administrative  
Assistant*



**LAURA HARTZ**

*Administrative Assistant*



**MEGHAN GIESKE**

*Administrative Assistant*



**CATHY HENRY**

*Administrative Assistant*



**BARBARA LUTER**

*Program Coordinator*





# *Highlights of the Year*



# *Pastoral Expertise*

"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God,[a] which he bought with his own blood."

— ACTS 20:28





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## Sullivan Family Saints Initiative

The Sullivan Family Saints Initiative (SFSI), established in 2019 with a gift from Tim and Mary Sullivan, promotes scholarship and fosters devotion to the saints. To fulfill its mission, SFSI stimulates research in partnership with scholars in various disciplines; creates educational and formation opportunities to lead students, Church leaders, and the general public toward knowledge of and intimacy with the saints; and helps to renew a culture of devotion to the saints on Notre Dame's campus.

In January 2021 SFSI offered a free online course, *Praying with the Saints*, that drew 1,108 participants from 26 countries. This course invited participants on a daily journey of prayer with four particular saints, each of which was featured for three consecutive weeks.

*"...First by learning about how these saints prayed and then actually praying as they prayed. The greatest distance is sometimes between the mind and the heart: this series takes us on that journey, step-by-step."*

—LEONARD DeLORENZO  
*SFSI Director*

According to Leonard DeLorenzo, director of SFSI, "The best way to come to know the saints and to grow into the love of Christ with them is to practice praying the way the saints themselves prayed. Praying with the Saints is a way for each of us to grow in sanctity on a day-to-day basis," he continued, "first by learning about how these saints prayed and then actually praying as they prayed. The greatest distance is sometimes between the mind and the heart: this series takes us on that journey, step-by-step."

Future plans for SFSI include additional online series, an annual Fellowship program, and a renovation of the Reliquary Chapel in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame, among other initiatives.

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## Notre Dame Center for Liturgy

2021 marked a year of discernment for the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy as it evaluated how it can best serve the Church in the wake of accelerated disaffiliation due to COVID. As such, for its 50th year of programming it offered a virtual six-week series during the summer of 2021 addressing liturgical life in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Will They Come Back After COVID?: Disaffiliation, Affiliation, and the Liturgy" offered participants two video interviews with theological and pastoral experts each



"Culture is everything in parish life... by culture, we mean the worldview and practices that the parish shares in common. A parish is not a bureaucracy but a communion of love made possible through the self-giving love of Jesus Christ. A Eucharistic culture lives out this communion in love in every aspect of parish life. Learning to foster this culture in a parish is the ultimate end of a Eucharistic revival, one that can heal the many divisions that exist in Church and society alike."

—TIM O'MALLEY

*Academic Director of the Center for Liturgy*

week, as well as a live Q&A session with those experts. Weekly recommended reading lists, opportunities for discussion, and experiences of prayer and spiritual formation were also provided. After the conclusion of the six-week series, the NDCL turned its attention to creating the next generation of liturgical leaders in the Church. In August the Center announced the Mathis Liturgical Leadership Program (MLLP), set to launch in 2022.

The MLLP is a two year formation program for 10-15 church leaders consisting of a hybrid process of education and formation. At the conclusion of the program, the church leader will propose a project, teaching resource, or publication. Mathis Liturgical Leaders will also become ambassadors of the NDCL throughout the United States.

From 2022-2024, NDCL's focus will be on fostering a Eucharistic culture in parishes,

schools, and dioceses as a way of promoting deeper affiliation with the Church. This is in keeping with the McGrath Institute's partnership with the USCCB in their initiative to deepen devotion to the Eucharist among the faithful.

"Culture is everything in parish life," says Tim O'Malley, academic director of the Center for Liturgy. "By culture, we mean the worldview and practices that the parish shares in common. A parish is not a bureaucracy but a communion of love made possible through the self-giving love of Jesus Christ. A Eucharistic culture lives out this communion in love in every aspect of parish life. Learning to foster this culture in a parish is the ultimate end of a Eucharistic revival, one that can heal the many divisions that exist in Church and society alike."





"Criticizing digital technology's undesirable effects is only part of the story. Our goal is to move from tech criticism to virtuous ways of living in this new environment that strengthen parish communities and draw people closer to the Church."

—BRETT ROBINSON  
CCEP Director

## Church Communications Ecology Program

The Church Communications Ecology program (CCEP) graduated its first cohort of Church leaders in 2021. The 12 participants selected from nine dioceses across the United States included pastors, communication directors, lay ministers, and seminarians.

CCEP provides a learning community for leaders to develop a deeper understanding of the social and psychological effects that digital tools are having on individuals and communities. For parishes to thrive in the digital environment, leaders must be able to promote virtues and practices that lead to true communion. Through this program, the inaugural cohort joined together to think through communication approaches that strengthen connection and community in

ways that lead to communion with God and one another.

During this 6-month educational formation program, participants completed a 6-week online course with theology, philosophy, and communications faculty from Notre Dame, Duquesne, and Mount Saint Mary's University before receiving three months of coaching and mentoring. The program culminated in June 2021 at Notre Dame where leaders shared their transformational ideas with CCEP colleagues and faculty.

Ideas participants brought forth included topics from practical to esoteric, including: evangelization and catechesis around digital mindfulness; ways to expand communication efforts that create the personal encounters that lead to human connection; new ways to evangelize in light of disaffiliation; engagement with Catholic



media and discernment of sources; and cultural changes around communication at all levels of the Church.

“Digital technology is a discarnate technology. We communicate without our bodies present to one another. This poses a challenge for a Church founded on the Incarnation of God’s only Son,” said Brett Robinson, director of the CCEP. “But criticizing digital technology’s undesirable effects is only part of the story. Our goal is to move from tech criticism to virtuous ways of living in this new environment that strengthen parish communities and draw people closer to the Church.”

The Church Communications Ecology Program has been made possible by a \$1M grant from the Lilly Endowment.

## Church Life Today

Our Church Life Today podcast continued to thrive in 2021, with host Leonard DeLorenzo welcoming guests with a broad variety of expertise. Pastoral leaders and scholars from around the country engaged in fruitful conversation to bear witness to the most pressing questions in our Church and our world today.

The most played episodes from the year were “The Lord of the Rings, Sickness, and Health” with Dr. Kristin Collier, “Saints, For Real,” with Meg Hunter-Kilmer, and “Life is changed but something ended,” with Stephanie DePrez.

Total number of episode downloads for the year numbered well over 18,500.





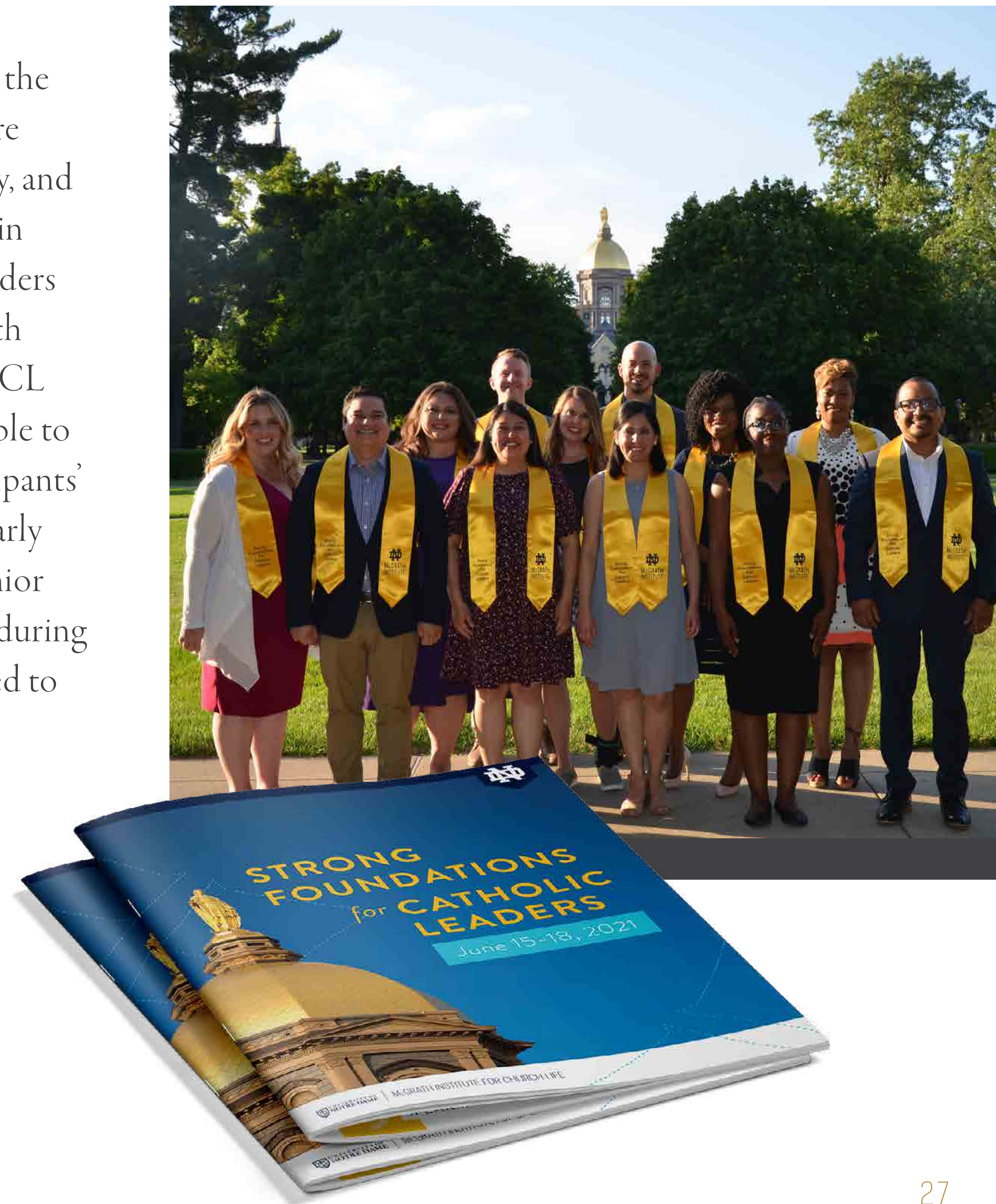
## Strong Foundations for Catholic Leaders

The Strong Foundations for Catholic Leaders (SFCL) program, designed for young lay leaders who have recently begun their professional service to the Church, graduated its first cohort on Notre Dame's campus in 2021. This two-year program nourishes young leaders' faith, and equips them with the new tools they need to meet the demands of their daily work and enhance the gifts they bring to ministering to their communities.

The program for this inaugural cohort consisted of a four-week online course, a five-month cycle of calls with participants and mentors, and online discussions with the entire group. While the previous summer sessions were canceled due to the pandemic, the group was able to meet in person in summer of 2021 to close out their two-year learning experience.

With a substantial amount of the programming being developed during the pandemic, program administrators were able to pivot their content dramatically, and in real-time, as they shifted their work in response to the challenges ecclesial leaders were facing. In addition to working with participants to push their horizons, SFCL leaders and parish mentors were also able to provide support and stability to participants' ministry and family life. As a result, nearly all members of the cohort received senior positions within their area of ministry during this time. The SFCL team is committed to use the experience of this first cohort and discern the areas of greatest impact to shape future programming.

This program is fully funded by the McGrath Institute with the support of a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.





# Vision Academy for Catholic Life and Leadership

In place of traditional in-person Notre Dame Vision summer conferences, the Institute offered a two-week virtual *Vision Academy for Catholic Life and Leadership* series. These sessions were established to meet the needs of those wishing to grow in their faith while safely navigating the COVID-19 pandemic.

Accompanied by undergraduate Vision Mentors-in-Faith, nearly 100 participants from around the globe engaged in dynamic digital content from their homes, designed to help them develop practices of prayer and reflection to embrace God's call in their daily life.

Participants chose from one of five thematic tracks—literature, art, music, scripture, and



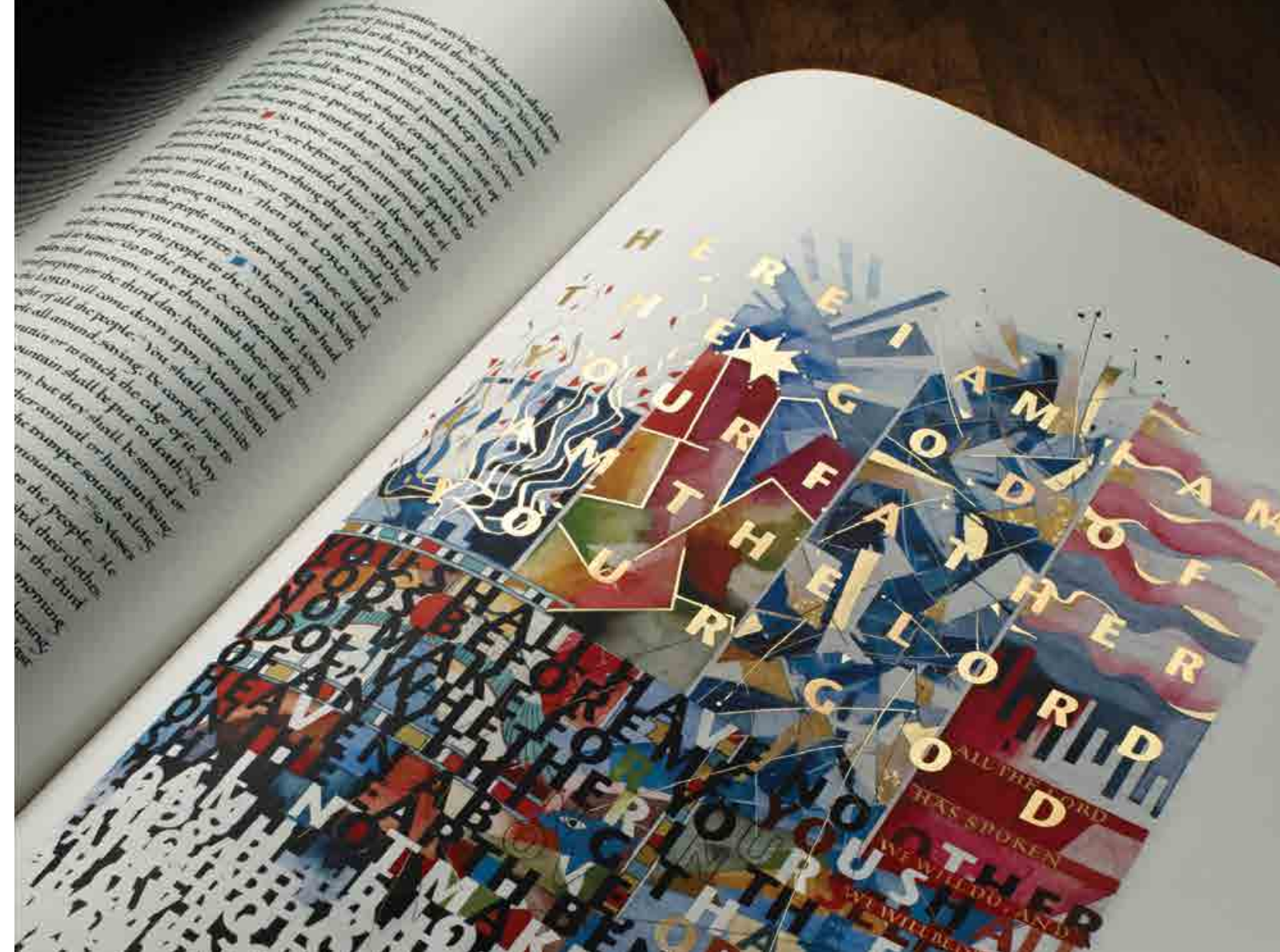
testimony—and joined a cohort of other teenagers in prayerful collaboration and discussion. Participants from across all tracks joined together for general sessions throughout the experience.

The Vision Academy for Catholic Life and Leadership was developed to form young people's theological vision and prayerful dispositions so that they may better respond with evangelical courage and confidence to the needs of the world today.



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The dedication ceremony was originally planned for the fall of 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Carolyn Pirtle, program director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, “It’s appropriate to mark the occasion of our reception of this beautiful gift by asking God to bless it so that we might use it in the spirit in which it was created and in the



Various units within the McGrath Institute have incorporated *The Saint John's Bible* into existing programming. Notre Dame Vision has utilized a number of the Bible's

A volume of the Heritage Edition is currently on display in the third floor lobby of Geddes Hall. Visitors are welcome to visit the display and take advantage of this opportunity to engage with *The Saint John's Bible*.





# *Scholarship*

"Show me Your ways, LORD, teach me Your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long."

— PSALMS 25:4-5





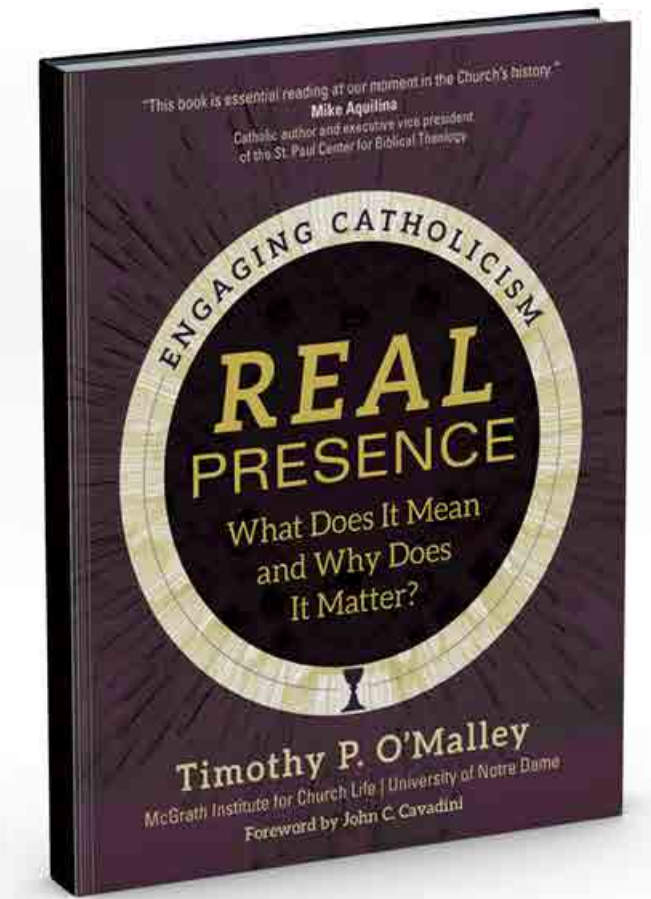
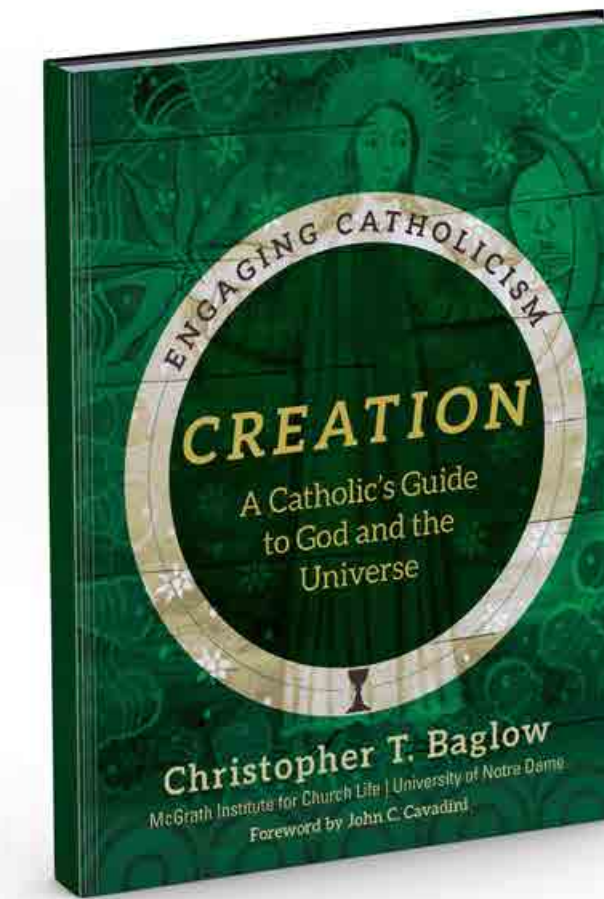
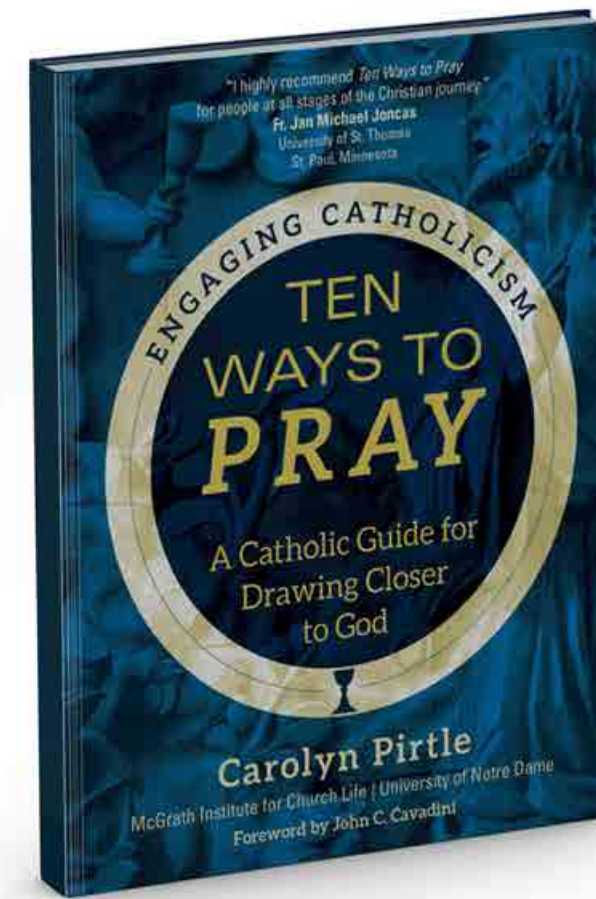
## Engaging Catholicism Series

In an exploration of new avenues to provide pastoral guidance and theological expertise to Catholic leaders, the McGrath Institute began a partnership with Ave Maria Press at the University of Notre Dame to produce a six-part book series.

Engaging Catholicism helps readers discover the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith through a concise exploration of the Church's most important but often difficult-to-grasp doctrines, as well as crucial pastoral and spiritual practices. Designed for a variety of audiences including new Catholics, clergy and catechetical leaders, and everyone in between, the series expands the Institute's mission to connect the Catholic intellectual life at Notre Dame to the pastoral life of the Church and the spiritual needs of her people.

"For the McGrath Institute, this union of doctrine and pastoral ministry is key to our identity," said John C. Cavadini, McGrath-Cavadini director of the Institute. "The doctrines of the Church are always pastoral, inviting us to a deeper contemplation of the person of Jesus Christ. And yet, our pastoral programs are also infused with the wisdom of the Church's teaching. What we hope to do with these books is to renew the Catholic imagination through attention to both doctrine and practice alike, inviting those who read the books to take a second look at the gift of the Church."

Carolyn Pirtle, program director of the Center for Liturgy, wrote the first installment of the series published in February, *Ten Ways to Pray*:



*A Catholic Guide for Drawing Closer to God.* Additional books in the series include *Real Presence: What Does it Mean and Why Does it Matter?* by Timothy O'Malley, director of education at McGrath, and *Creation: A Catholic's Guide to God and the Universe* written by Chris Baglow, director of the Science and Religion Initiative.

The total sales for the series over 2021 numbered 5,651. The three remaining books in this series are forthcoming in 2022-3.



## A Call to Action: Continued Progress

In response to public concern about the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church, the McGrath Institute commissioned an anonymous survey, the first of its kind, for seminarians to assess the prevalence, or lack thereof, of sexual harassment and misconduct in their seminary or house of religious formation.

The final study, “Assessing Sexual Harassment, Abuse, and Misconduct at U.S. Seminaries,” was released in June 2019. The Institute’s hope in undertaking this research was to use it to propose steps forward based on the specific needs uncovered by the research process. The results show that the most important improvement needed at the time was an improved protocol for reporting abuse and

Monsignor Andrew R. Baker, rector of Mount St. Mary’s University, served on the drafting committee for the benchmarks. He said the effort was broader than just responding to recent cases of abuse in the news.

“We did not want to be reacting to a notorious case or some crisis. We wanted to be proactive in protecting our seminarians and assuring that there is a seminary culture and environment free of sexual misconduct,” Monsignor Baker said.”

—DENNIS SADOWSKI, *Catholic News*

harassment, along with improved education regarding that policy and regarding what sexual harassment is in the first place.

As a next step, McGrath convened a small group of bishops, seminary rectors and

faculty, and expert lay consultants to form the McGrath Seminary Study Group and proposed a set of five benchmarks for sexual harassment prevention and reporting policies for implementation in seminaries.

These benchmarks attend to systematic training for all seminarians, faculty, and staff; reporting and investigation processes; victim support; policy proactivity; and consistency and portability in policy implementation. Over the course of 2021, 28 seminaries and houses of formation publicly committed to adopting these benchmarks, with more expected to do so in the next year.

The McGrath Seminary Study Group will continue to assess the needs of seminaries and houses of formation and propose additional action items in the coming months.



# Church Life Journal

The McGrath Institute's Church Life Journal had its most successful year to date, with Editor-in-Chief [Artur Rosman](#) at the helm. With a tone of dynamic orthodoxy, the Journal is a place where Catholic leaders can think through the intellectual and pastoral problems of our day.

The three most popular articles from 2021 were: A Priest-Scientist Responds to Concerns Raised by the Ramping Up of Vaccination Campaigns, Does the Origin of the Fetal Cells Used for Developing Vaccines Make Any Difference? and Traditionis Custodes Was Never Merely About the Liturgy.

The Journal's total readership from the year exceeded 18.5 million.





# *Teaching*

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

— ROMANS 15:4





## Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity Introduces New Resources

The Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity (NDOLHD) had a characteristically full year of new initiatives and resources. They added to their Teaching Human Dignity resource series, a one of a kind collection of free units, learning sequences, lesson plans, and resources that empowers teachers to incorporate life and human dignity issues into existing curriculum. The series materials were accessed more than 1,800 times during 2021.

“Human Flourishing and the Common Good” is a Social Studies or Religion unit designed to help teachers explore with students the meaning of the common good and its application to complex real-world case studies. It is the third

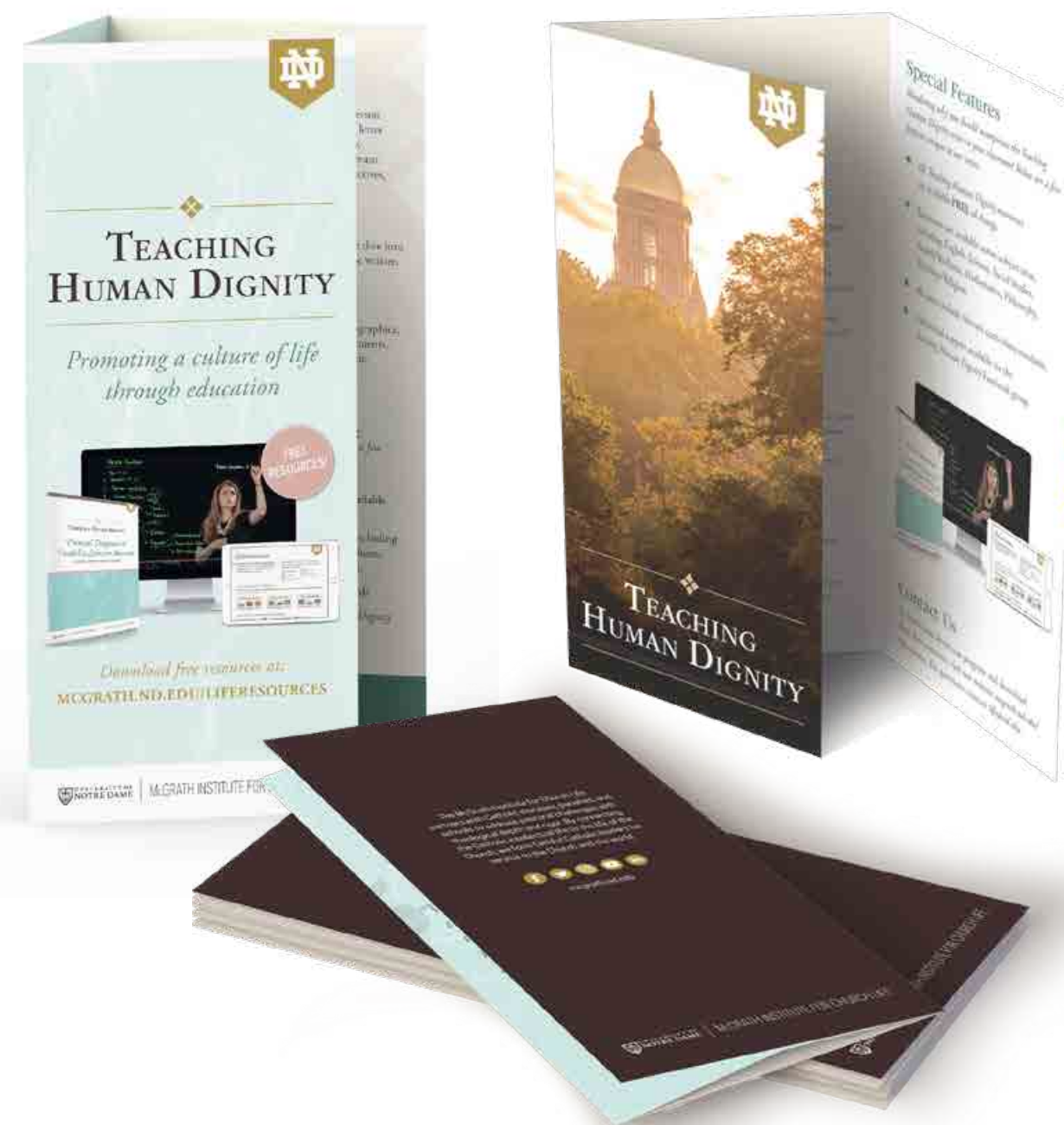
unit produced by the Life and Human Dignity team thus far.

The 2021 Teaching Life and Human Dignity Symposium was a four day virtual gathering for leaders in Catholic education and pastoral ministry. Participants had the opportunity to engage with faculty from across the country on themes such as a consistent ethic of life, the centrality of human dignity in Catholic social

teaching, and the pedagogy of God, grounded in revelation, and how it can serve as a model for the work of educators and pastoral leaders. These broader discussions were complemented by vocation-specific workshops for educators and pastoral leaders. These four days laid important groundwork for attending leaders to continue the essential work of promoting life and human dignity within their own communities.

In October Life & Human Dignity announced the inaugural Pastoral Fellowship and welcomed Gloria Purvis to the new role designed to enhance the impact of pastoral leaders in the life of the Church, particularly around timely and pressing issues like racial justice.

Purvis will partner with NDOLHD through July 2022 to enact a truly Catholic response to the sin of racism. This will include developing resources for the Teaching Human Dignity







series, creating an online course addressing the theology of racial justice to be offered through the McGrath Institute, and facilitating a workshop series for pastoral leaders with the goal of equipping them for dialogue and engagement on issues of racial justice.

Purvis offered an on-campus lecture in November, "Racial Justice: Solidarity and the Church's Call to Action," and will offer an additional on-campus presentation in the spring of 2022.

## Echo Graduate Service Program Welcomes Largest Class to Date

In response to the ever-evolving needs of the Church, Echo welcomed its largest class in program history composed of 31 students from 22 colleges and universities across the United States.

The class of Echo 18 includes eight Echo Holy Cross Fellows made possible through a fellowship generously established in 2018 by one of Echo's benefactors. The fellowship extends additional professional development opportunities to several Echo students with particular interest and talent in an important or emerging area of ministry.

Echo 18 will serve the Church in 10 partner dioceses, four of which are new as of 2021:





Atlanta, GA; Fall River, MA; Newark, NJ (Teaching Theology Track); and Scranton, PA.

2021 graduates went on to serve in a variety of apostolates including teaching, campus ministry, parish ministry leadership, and further graduate studies.

## STEP & Camino Online Theology

Our online theology programs had a year of growth. STEP paid particular attention to refining its course catalog, creating a new *New Testament* course designed by McGrath faculty member Joshua McManaway that replaced its 2003 predecessor. STEP revamped several other courses as well: *Catholic Faith and Traditions*, *Faithful Citizenship*, *American Catholic Experience*, *American Catholicism Since Vatican II*, *El Camino de La Fey*, and *Sacramentos y liturgia*.

The online programs added three new facilitators over the year and offered an additional educational opportunity unpacking McGrath faculty member Leonard DeLorenzo's text, *Into the Heart of the Father*.

These updates attracted participants from more than 47 states and 21 countries, and drew a varied audience including parents,

"We redesigned our Introduction to the New Testament course to better fit within the broader offerings that STEP provides. Ultimately my goal was to create a course that would empower students to continue to read the New Testament and to feel confident in their grasp of the historical and theological realities of these Sacred Scriptures."

— DR. JOSHUA McMANAWAY  
*Visiting Assistant Professor of the Practice*

lay ministers, catechists, educators, scholars, and students. Several of our partner dioceses are taking advantage of our scholarship and educational expertise in new ways, with the Dioceses of Lexington and Salt Lake City kicking off Deacon formation in 2021.



## Science and Religion Initiative Expands Its Presence

Even in the midst of the pandemic, demand for SRI programming has continued to grow unabated. Thanks to its current grant from the John Templeton Foundation, SRI has realized great success in training Catholic educators to integrate science and faith by bringing the Church's tradition into dialogue with modern scientific research.

Based on post-seminar surveys, information learned and resources gained have reached approximately 28,000 students through teachers participating in SRI summer programming alone. SRI offered Faith and Reason Days at Peoria Notre Dame High School (Peoria, IL) in February, at Cistercian Preparatory School (Irving, TX) in August, and headlined the Archdiocese of Miami's



Catechetical Conference in November. Through a strategic partnership with the Society of Catholic Scientists that began in 2019, day-long events now include “The St.

Albert Initiative for High-School Teachers and their Students,” featuring talks from scientists and theologians as well as special “Ask a Scientist” poster sessions, with the first of these conducted in Washington D.C. in November. In its more intensive “Foundations and Capstone” offerings in Summer 2021, SRI was able to restart in-person programming, and also went international with unprecedented levels of in-person attendance. With surplus funds from the shutdown of in-person summer programming in 2020 the SRI Team co-created, funded and presented a Foundations-style event at the Universidad Francisco de Vitoria (UFV) in Madrid in June, which will continue under UFV institutional funding in June 2022. SRI is in the final stages of planning its first international event for program alumni, focusing on science in the history of the Church, and the science and art of worship, to be held in Dublin, Ireland.



## Saturdays with the Saints Included in 2021 ND Forum

The opening lecture of the McGrath Institute's popular Saturdays with the Saints lecture series was featured as part of the 2021-22 Notre Dame (ND) Forum inspired by *Laudato Si'*, "Care for Our Common Home: Just Transition to a Sustainable Future." Since its inception in 2005, the ND Forum has offered a variety of events and talks by leading authorities on issues of importance to the University, the nation and the larger world.

John Cavadini, the McGrath-Cavadini director of the McGrath Institute, offered the season's inaugural lecture titled "St. Francis and St. Augustine: Saints of *Laudato Si'*."

According to Cavadini, "The saints are instruments of healing because they make

Christ's love present, in their word and their witness, in their prayer and their action." He adds, "These saints did not just believe in Christ's healing: they acted on it and offered their lives in service of his mercy. They show us the promise of Christ, who makes all things new."

Additional lectures in the 2021 series, themed "Saints of Healing: Physical, Cultural, and Spiritual," included remarks on Sister Thea Bowman given by Kayla August; Saints of the Plague by Tim O'Malley, director of education at McGrath; six African American men and women up for canonization by Ernest Morrell, Coyle professor of literacy education at Notre Dame; St. Julian of Norwich by Cyril O'Regan of ND theology; St. Juan Diego by Timothy Matovina of ND theology; and St. Bernadette by Catherine Cavadini of ND theology.



Saturdays with the Saints lectures take place on home football game Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Geddes Hall auditorium and are free and open to the public.

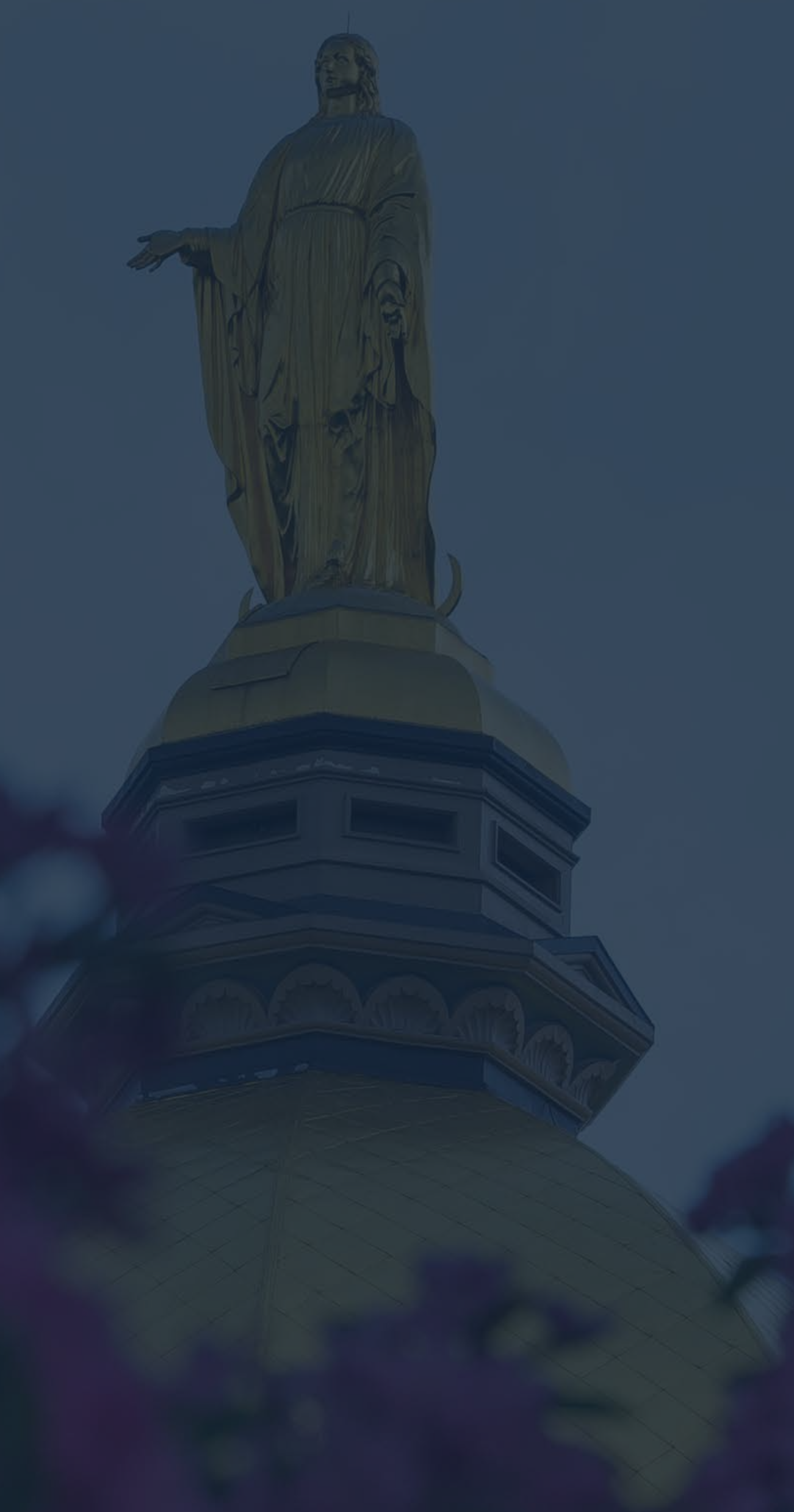




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As we continue to navigate the evolving realities of our world and our Church, we thank our benefactors whose steadfast commitment and generosity of spirit continue to inspire our work in forming faithful Catholic leaders.

We are grateful to our Advisory Council, whose time, talent, and expertise enrich and guide our programming. In addition, we thank the John Templeton Foundation for its support of our Science & Religion Initiative; and the Lilly Endowment Inc. for its support of our Church Communications Ecology Program and Thriving in Ministry Initiative.





The McGrath Institute for Church Life partners with Catholic dioceses, parishes, and schools to address pastoral challenges with theological depth and rigor. By connecting the Catholic intellectual life to the life of the Church, we form faithful Catholic leaders for service to the Church and the world.