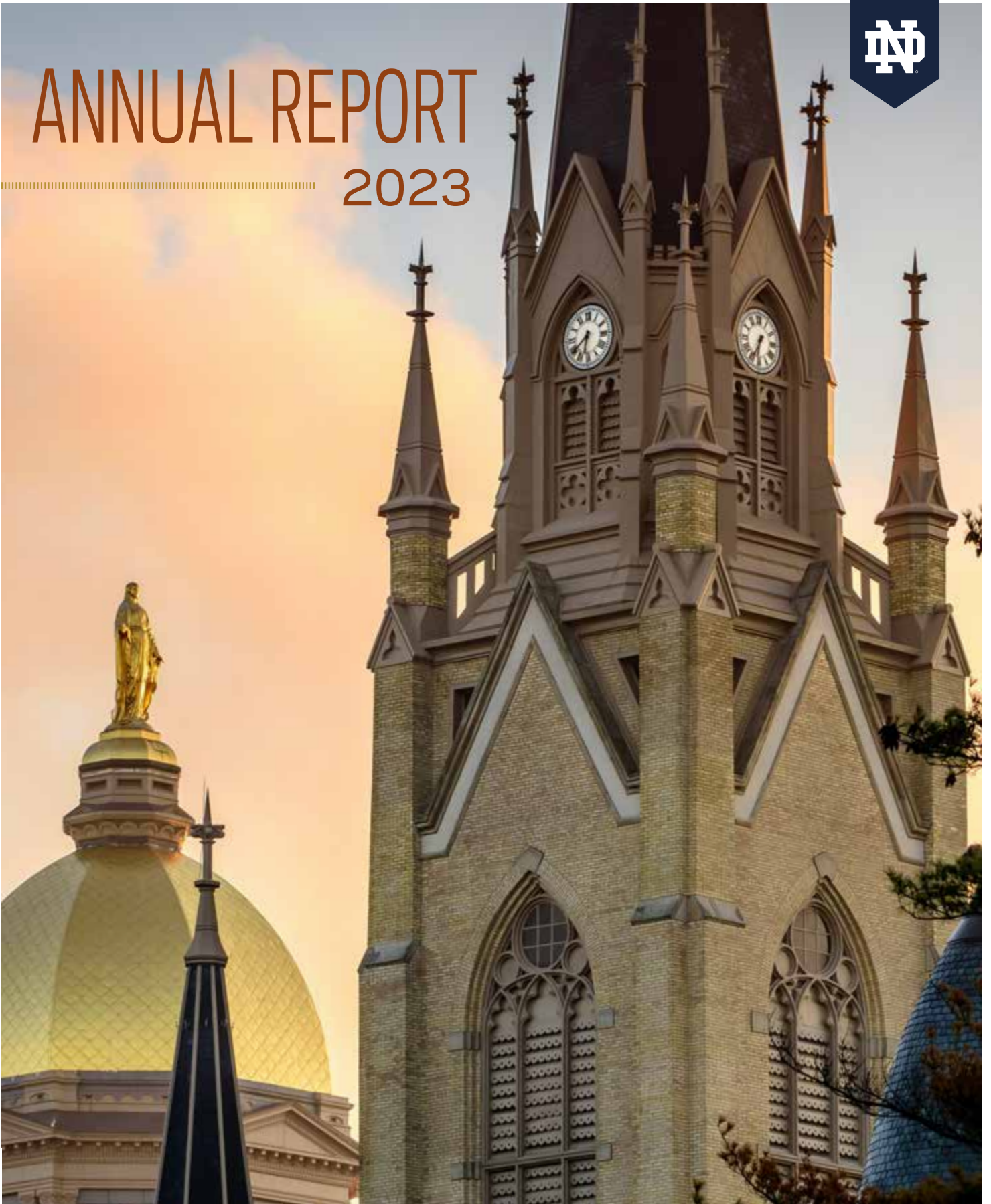
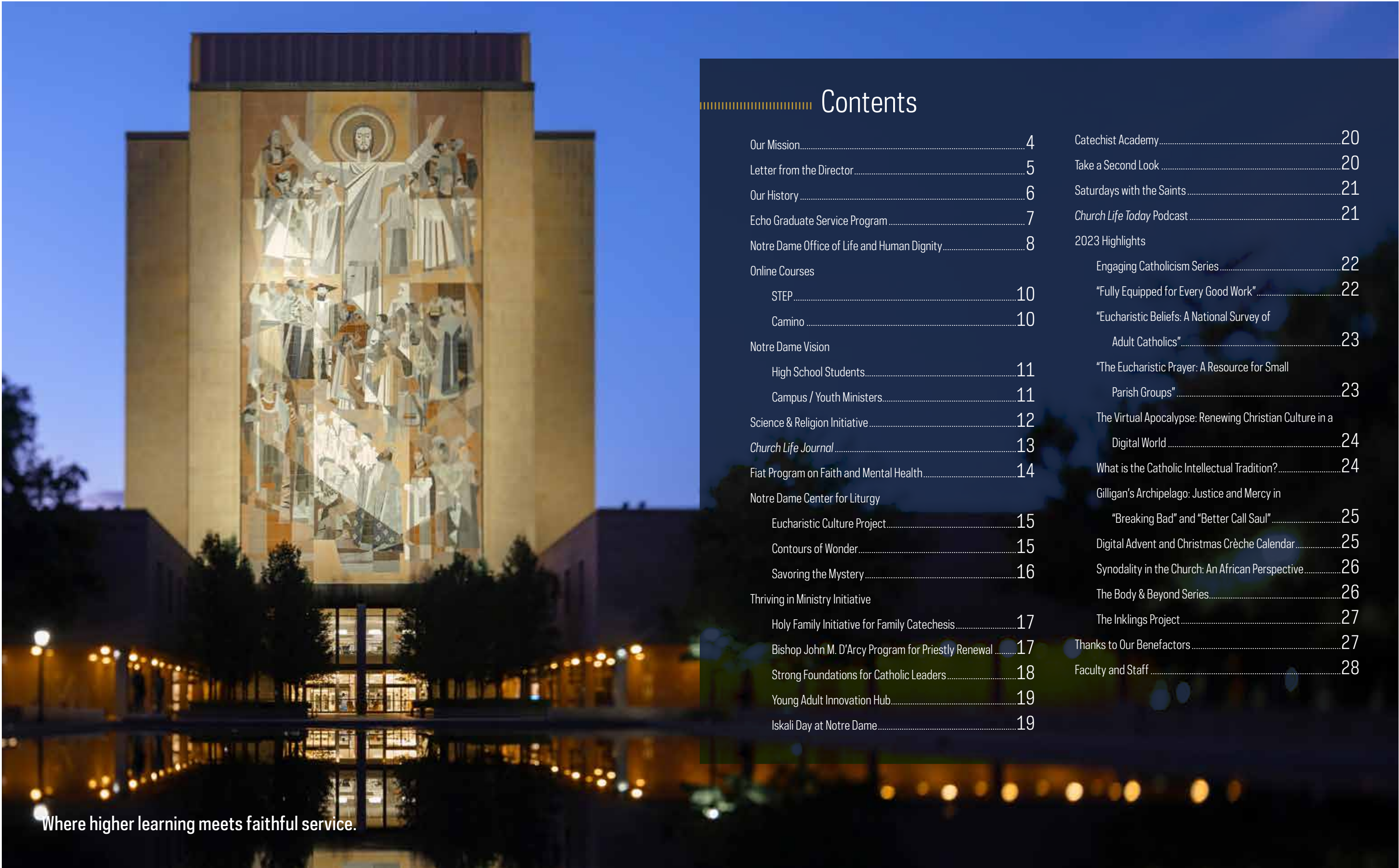




ANNUAL REPORT

2023

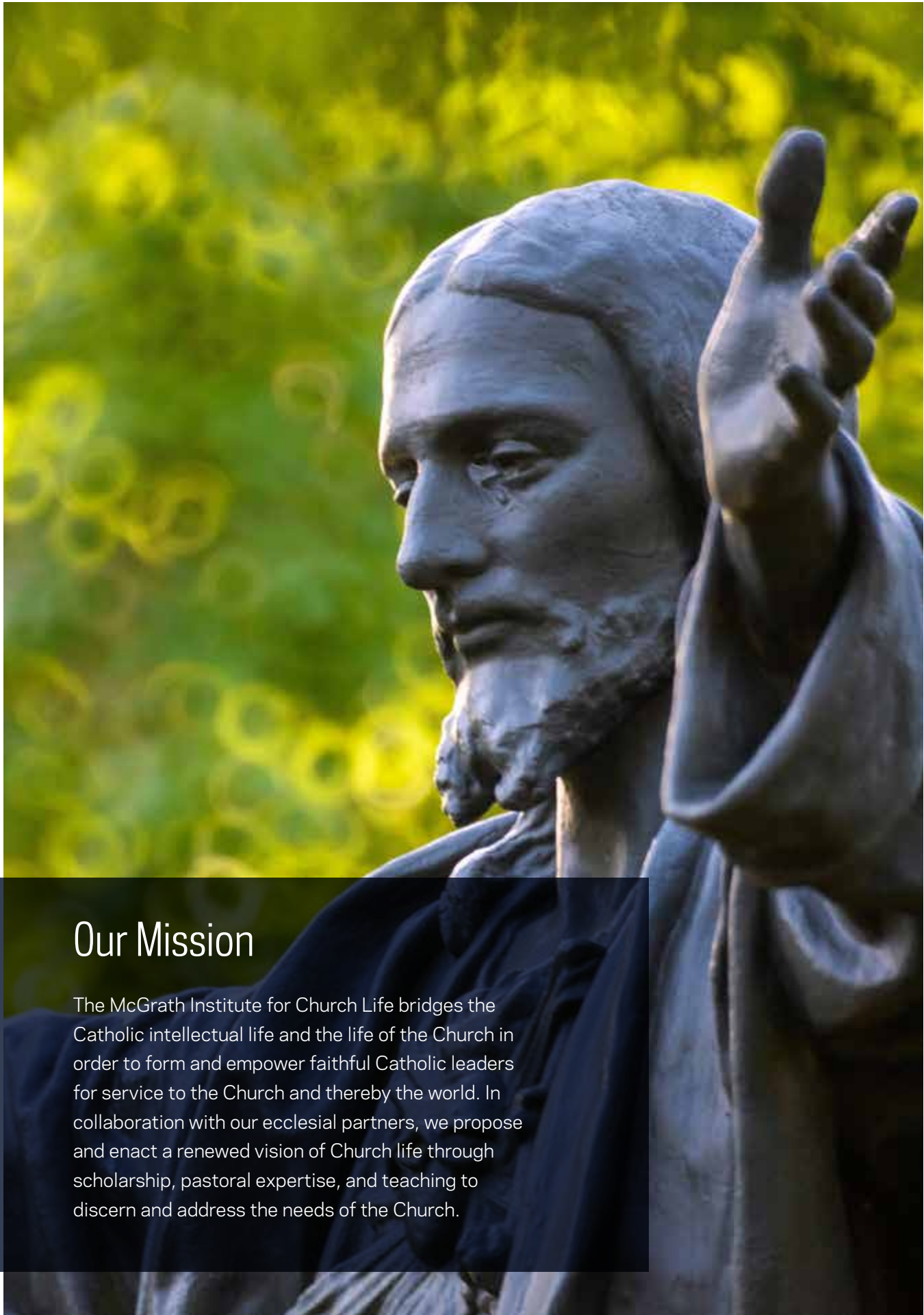




Where higher learning meets faithful service.

Contents

Our Mission.....	4	Catechist Academy.....	20
Letter from the Director.....	5	Take a Second Look	20
Our History	6	Saturdays with the Saints	21
Echo Graduate Service Program	7	<i>Church Life Today</i> Podcast	21
Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity.....	8	2023 Highlights	
Online Courses		Engaging Catholicism Series.....	22
STEP	10	“Fully Equipped for Every Good Work”	22
Camino	10	“Eucharistic Beliefs: A National Survey of Adult Catholics”	23
Notre Dame Vision		“The Eucharistic Prayer: A Resource for Small Parish Groups”	23
High School Students.....	11	The Virtual Apocalypse: Renewing Christian Culture in a Digital World	24
Campus / Youth Ministers.....	11	What is the Catholic Intellectual Tradition?	24
Science & Religion Initiative	12	Gilligan’s Archipelago: Justice and Mercy in “Breaking Bad” and “Better Call Saul”	25
<i>Church Life Journal</i>	13	Digital Advent and Christmas Crèche Calendar	25
Fiat Program on Faith and Mental Health.....	14	Synodality in the Church: An African Perspective.....	26
Notre Dame Center for Liturgy		The Body & Beyond Series.....	26
Eucharistic Culture Project.....	15	The Inklings Project	27
Contours of Wonder.....	15	Thanks to Our Benefactors	27
Savoring the Mystery	16	Faculty and Staff	28
Thriving in Ministry Initiative			
Holy Family Initiative for Family Catechesis.....	17		
Bishop John M. D’Arcy Program for Priestly Renewal	17		
Strong Foundations for Catholic Leaders.....	18		
Young Adult Innovation Hub.....	19		
Iskali Day at Notre Dame.....	19		



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.

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

Please accept this most recent annual report as a small token of gratitude for your ongoing support and friendship.

In 2023, the McGrath Institute for Church Life renewed its focus on outreach and research and thoughtfully revitalized its programs.

As we expand our reach and impact, we continue our work in accord with the goals set forth in the University's Strategic Framework: ensuring our Catholic character informs all our endeavors; offering programming that nurtures the formation of mind, body, and spirit; and advancing human understanding through scholarship and research that seeks to heal, unify, and enlighten.

Working in tandem with other organizations across Notre Dame's campus with similar missions whenever appropriate and possible, we continue to enhance and develop programming that better embodies the reality of the Church, the world's most global and multicultural institution. We are particularly dedicated to providing guidance on addressing disaffiliation among young people, an issue that our Institute is uniquely positioned to understand and address.

Our goal is to bring new energy and ideas to the world through forward-thinking and responsive programs and to seek creative responses to the massive cultural changes that are posing new challenges and opportunities for the Church. We do this by forming leaders who are better prepared to proclaim "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands" (1 John 1:1).

Thank you for your support and accompaniment on this journey.

Yours in Christ,

John C. Cavadini, Ph.D.
McGrath-Cavadini Director
McGrath Institute for Church Life



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 contemporary 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 directed towards confronting today's most pressing challenges with urgency and impact.

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.

"I have a great hope that, when one writes the history of the University in this period ... there would be a few paragraphs, maybe even a few chapters about how, for possibly the first time in the history of Catholic universities, one university began to see itself in a very special way in service of the Church that gave it birth, and in which we find our subsistence and our grace.

— Fr. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.

Forming Lay Leaders for Service to the Church



ECHO GRADUATE SERVICE PROGRAM

The McGrath Institute's Echo program welcomed 28 new students in the class of Echo 20 joining 24 returning students from the class of Echo 19, who began their second year of service in 2023-2024. Echo 19 students serve in the Arch/Dioceses of Gary, Lafayette, Meath (Ireland), Salt Lake City, and St. Augustine. These students have made the commitment to serve the Church, engage in integrative formation, and work toward their Master of Arts in Theology for the next two years. This formation is geared toward integrating their work, study, and life of faith to prepare them to explore a vocation in ministry.

Students will pursue summer coursework through Notre Dame's Department of Theology. During the other nine months of the year, they hold ministerial or teaching roles in parishes or Catholic high schools and middle schools across the country. Students in the class of Echo 20 serve in the Arch/Dioceses of Atlanta, Camden, Fall River, Galveston-Houston, Indianapolis, Kalamazoo, Knoxville, Newark, St. Petersburg, and Scranton.

In addition, a record number of students have accepted early offers to join the class of Echo 21, including two early admittants from India and Nigeria.



LINK: mcgrath.nd.edu/echo

NOTRE DAME OFFICE OF LIFE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

Against the backdrop of a transformative year, the Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity (LHD) continued to provide formation and resources for educators and pastoral ministers so that they may lead their communities in upholding the sanctity of all life as they engage with the complex realities of our world.



In January, LHD and the Notre Dame Right to Life Club welcomed Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and distinguished guests for a panel discussion entitled “A Culture of Life in Post-Dobbs America.” The panel continued the conversation around the Supreme Court’s monumental decision in *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*.



Top Row, L-R: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend; O. Carter Snead, de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture; Charles Camosy, Creighton University School of Medicine; John Cavadini, McGrath Institute for Church Life
Bottom Row, L-R: Danielle Brown, Associate Director of the ad hoc Committee Against Racism, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Jessica Keating Floyd, McGrath Institute for Church Life
Not Pictured: Angela Franks, St. John’s Seminary, Boston



In the summer, the LHD team welcomed 90 individuals from more than 15 states to the Teaching Life and Human Dignity Symposium. The Symposium is a week-long gathering to support leaders in Catholic education and diocesan ministry in developing a deeper understanding of human dignity based on the Catholic intellectual tradition and its application to educational and pastoral contexts.

The Conversations That Matter webinar series titled “Mental Health and the Church” in the fall of 2023 addressed youth mental health and accompaniment through addiction and recovery.



In partnership with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, LHD developed lessons on racism and racial justice in honor of Respect Life Month. These resources are part of the wider *Teaching Human Dignity* series, which seeks to incorporate issues of life and human dignity across diverse subject areas and to engage students in transformative learning experiences. Lessons included units on “Black Catholic Saints;” the “History of Anti-Black Racism, Racial Justice, and the Catholic Church;” and “Human Dignity and the Sin of Racism.”

LINK: mcgrath.nd.edu/lifeandhumandignity

Diving Deeper into the Faith

STEP ONLINE THEOLOGY

More than 2,800 individuals representing 23 official partner dioceses and 187 total dioceses worldwide (including Melbourne, Australia; Pampanga, Philippines; Colombo, Sri Lanka; and Coventry, United Kingdom) deepened their understanding of the faith by taking a STEP course in 2023. These online theology courses are designed for catechists, teachers, lay ministers, and deacons, as well as those seeking distance learning that is intellectually rigorous and faithful to the Catholic tradition. New courses were developed and released in 2023: “The Gospel of John” and “The Body and Beyond: Human Sexuality for Young People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities from a Catholic Perspective.”



LINK: mcgrath.nd.edu/step

CAMINO SPANISH ONLINE THEOLOGY



More than 300 students from Spain, Puerto Rico, Chile, Venezuela, Mexico, Ecuador, Argentina, and more than 50 U.S. dioceses explored the riches of their Catholic faith and strengthened their commitment to serve their communities through Camino courses.

Elizabeth Berruecos was named the Program Director of Camino in 2023. In her role, she works with partner dioceses to create content that allows participants to deepen their knowledge of the faith in dialogue with others. Camino courses are created by university professors and other leaders in Hispanic ministries, including a new course prepared in 2023 by the Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores, S.T.D., Bishop of Brownsville, Texas, on the mystery of the Eucharist in the life of the Church.

LINK: mcgrath.nd.edu/camino

A Summer Conference to Explore Your Story



LINK: mcgrath.nd.edu/vision

NOTRE DAME VISION

In the fall, Notre Dame Vision welcomed Craig Gould, M.A. as its Program Director. In his new role, Craig leads the Vision team’s efforts to nourish the vocational call of the young Church through Notre Dame Vision’s summer conferences for high school students and campus and youth ministry leaders. Craig joined the McGrath Institute staff in 2022 as the Associate Program Director of Notre Dame Vision.

The Vision team marked several milestones in 2023, including a celebration of 20 years of in-person programming and its 20,000th registrant. Scott Boyle, Director of Outreach for Vision, is a former college mentor and one of the over 1,250 college students who have served the program over the past 20 years. He remarked, “It’s truly humbling to be a part of a program with this kind of impact. As a former Mentor myself, Vision empowered me to re-engage my faith and see possibilities for my life I could never have imagined. I can’t wait to see the impact Vision will have on our next 20,000 students.”

NOTRE DAME VISION CYM

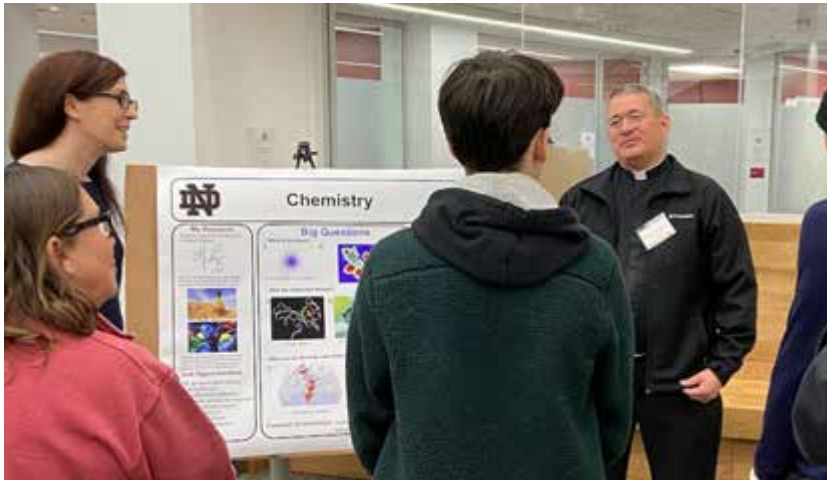
In the summer of 2023, 63 campus and youth ministers from 14 states and the District of Columbia participated in Vision for Campus and Youth Ministers (CYM). By attending one of the three week-long conferences, participants strengthened their commitment to ministering to young people in the Church, networked with Church leaders from across the country, and explored the dynamics of God’s call through prayer, theological study, and personal reflection.



SCIENCE & RELIGION INITIATIVE

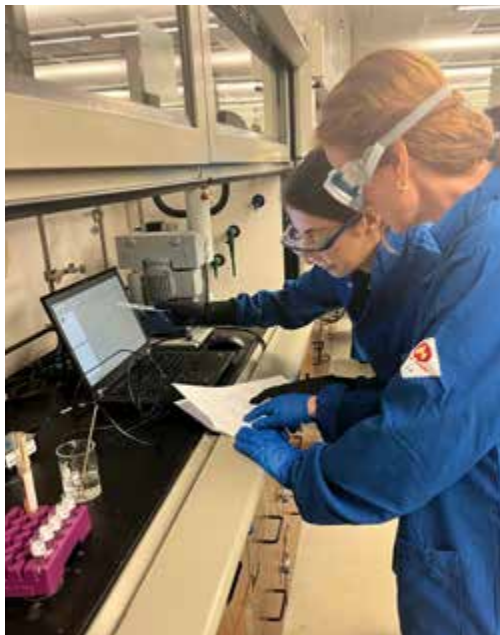
The Science and Religion Initiative (SRI) continues to increase its impact, reaching more than 750 educators in 2023. SRI, currently supported by an unprecedented fifth consecutive grant from the John Templeton Foundation (which runs through 2025) is already recruiting for programs through 2026.

Bridging the gap between faith and science in Catholic schools, the SRI team brought its popular Faith & Reason Days to teachers, students, and schools across the United States and Canada. Working with schools to tailor individualized, on-site programming, Faith & Reason Days took place in Toronto, Canada; Leawood, Kansas; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey.



In addition, more than 160 students attended the St. Albert Initiative in Philadelphia in February. Named after St. Albert the Great, patron saint of natural science and scientists, and sponsored by the McGrath Institute, the Society of Catholic Scientists, and the Collegium Institute, this day-long program featured short talks by Catholic Scientists in many fields, lightning-round talks, and ask-a-scientist poster presentations.

LINK: mcgrath.nd.edu/science



Popular summer programming options included the Foundations Seminar, designed to help leaders and administrators connect faith and science, and the Capstone Seminar on human personhood, created to support schools with advanced curricula in science and religion.

In keeping with the University's strategic plan to make the University a more global institution, SRI had collaborated with Universidad Francisco de Vitoria in Madrid, Spain, and has begun to expand into the Global South. Along with sustained partnerships with Seton Hall, Loyola University in Chicago, the Society of Catholic Scientists, Notre Dame's College of Science, Lumen Christi, and the Thomistic Institute, SRI continues to succeed in training Catholic educators to integrate science and faith by bringing the Church's tradition into dialogue with modern scientific research.

Written by SRI Director Christopher Baglow and narrated by *The Chosen's* Jonathan Roumie, the Word on Fire Institute's five-part video series "Wonder: the Harmony of Faith and Science" reached more than 210,000 views in 2023.



A Digital Journal of Theology, Philosophy, and Culture

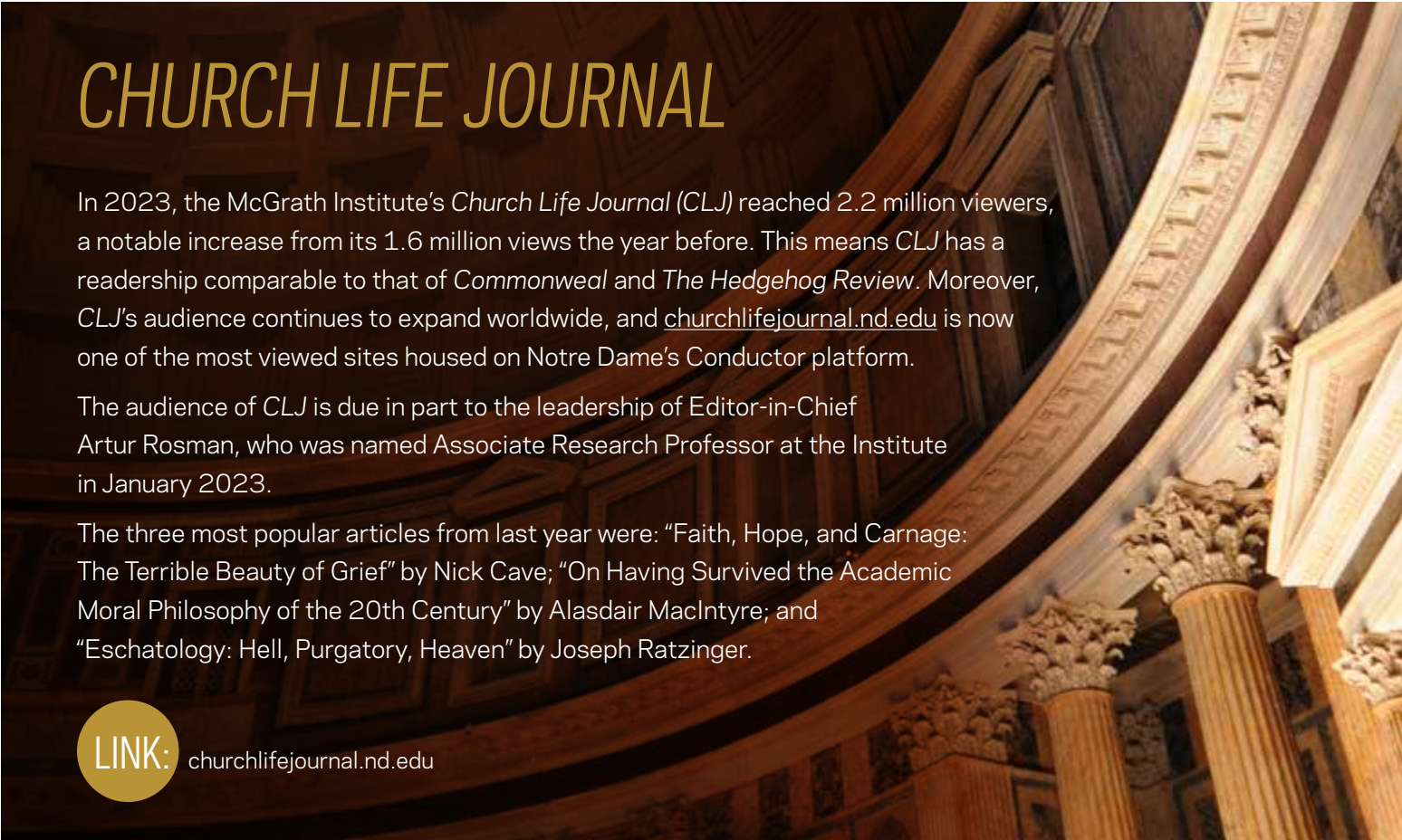
CHURCH LIFE JOURNAL

In 2023, the McGrath Institute's *Church Life Journal* (CLJ) reached 2.2 million viewers, a notable increase from its 1.6 million views the year before. This means CLJ has a readership comparable to that of *Commonweal* and *The Hedgehog Review*. Moreover, CLJ's audience continues to expand worldwide, and churchlifejournal.nd.edu is now one of the most viewed sites housed on Notre Dame's Conductor platform.

The audience of CLJ is due in part to the leadership of Editor-in-Chief Artur Rosman, who was named Associate Research Professor at the Institute in January 2023.

The three most popular articles from last year were: "Faith, Hope, and Carnage: The Terrible Beauty of Grief" by Nick Cave; "On Having Survived the Academic Moral Philosophy of the 20th Century" by Alasdair MacIntyre; and "Eschatology: Hell, Purgatory, Heaven" by Joseph Ratzinger.

LINK: churchlifejournal.nd.edu



FIAT PROGRAM ON FAITH AND MENTAL HEALTH

Now in its second full year of operation, the Fiat Program on Faith and Mental Health supports the Church in embracing its call to accompany those living with serious mental challenges as well as their loved ones.

In the spring, the Fiat Program launched its flagship program — a 10-week online professional education course on mental health and Church life. In 2023, 40 men and women who serve dioceses, parishes, and schools from across the country completed the course. As one participant noted, “the mental health needs of the mystical body of Christ are becoming more apparent as urgent needs within the Church. Our response as a Church, as modeled by Fiat, needs to be both integrated and multidisciplinary.” The course has supported ministers in launching ministries, including prayer and support groups, to support persons and families living with mental illness.

“The mental health needs of the mystical body of Christ are becoming more apparent as urgent needs within the Church.”

The Fiat Program offers interdisciplinary seminars for undergraduate students to support their integration of knowledge across the disciplines and development of daily practices of caring for their own and one another's mental health.

Co-sponsored by the Departments of Neuroscience and Behavior and Theology, the class “Mental Health, the Catholic Faith, and Notre Dame” provides a framework



for students to consider the big questions: “Who am I?” “Why do I suffer?” “How do I heal?” “Am I a body/soul ... How am I both?” Moreover, the course “Encounter: A Community-Engaged Seminar on Mental Health and Belonging” offers students the opportunity to grow in their understanding and practice of Catholic Social Tradition. Students learned first-hand about accompanying those with mental illnesses as they developed friendships with members of the South Bend chapter of Clubhouse International, a program that promotes the well-being of adults living with a mental illness by providing a welcoming community, meaningful work, and supported employment.

Fiat Program Director Beth Hlabse took part in various McGrath Institute webinars and outreach opportunities throughout the year, including “The Church, The Healing Community,” and two Conversations That Matter webinars: “Addiction and Recovery: Accompaniment Toward Wholeness and Healing,” and “Youth Mental Health.” In addition, Beth delivered the commencement address for the Department of Neuroscience and Behavior commencement ceremony.

LINK: mcgrath.nd.edu/fiat

NOTRE DAME CENTER for LITURGY

It was an exciting year of growth for the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy. Through programming that integrates theological insight, liturgical experience, and pastoral wisdom, the Center for Liturgy strives to support leaders in the Church by educating and forming both lay and ordained leaders, including parish and diocesan ministers, teachers, and parents, for the task of liturgical evangelization.

Building Eucharistic Cultures and Forming Leaders



EUCHARISTIC CULTURE PROJECT

In May, 17 members of the inaugural cohort of the Mathis Liturgical Leadership Program visited Rome to explore how the Benedictine, Franciscan, Dominican, and Jesuit charisms shaped the Eucharistic culture of the Church in Rome. The trip provided this select group of Church leaders with education and formation opportunities that will assist them in developing Eucharistic cultures in their own faith communities.

Childhood and the Liturgical Imagination

CONTOURS OF WONDER

Also in 2023, the McGrath Institute received a grant of \$1.25 million from Lilly Endowment Inc., through its Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative, to create a three-year research and pastoral project on children's liturgical formation. Contours of Wonder: Childhood and the Liturgical Imagination seeks to reimagine formation in response to the deeply formative effects of the present technocratic age on children. In November, scholars across the academy gathered for “A Conversation with Romano Guardini on Liturgical Formation” to present new research for the initiative at Notre Dame, which will be published in 2025.



Catholic Preaching in an Age of Disaffiliation



SAVORING THE MYSTERY

The McGrath Institute received a \$1 million implementation grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to establish a three-year program titled Savoring the Mystery: Catholic Preaching in an Age of Disaffiliation. This initiative promotes a renewal of Roman Catholic preaching of the Gospel to help both clerical and lay Catholics strengthen their abilities to proclaim the Gospel in more engaging and effective ways and aims to foster their love of Scripture and the Church's homiletic traditions. In July, the Institute welcomed 23 Church leaders from across the nation at the first Compelling Preaching Conference.

LINK: mcgrath.nd.edu/liturgy

THRIVING IN MINISTRY INITIATIVE

Guiding Hispanic Families Toward a Faithful Catholic Life

HOLY FAMILY INITIATIVE FOR FAMILY CATECHESIS

In August, Notre Dame received a grant of \$1.25 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. to expand the work of the McGrath Institute's Holy Family Initiative for Family Catechesis, which offers Hispanic parents, caregivers, and Church leaders the tools they need to effectively pass on their Catholic faith to the next generation.

This effort is being funded through Lilly Endowment's Christian Parenting and Caregiving Initiative. The aim of the initiative is to help parents and caregivers share their faith and values with their children. This grant will allow the McGrath Institute to expand this important work which is currently offered to 600 families in four parishes in the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the Diocese of Raleigh.



Spiritual Renewal for Diocesan Priests



THE BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY PROGRAM IN PRIESTLY RENEWAL

The 2023 Bishop John M. D'Arcy Program in Priestly Renewal online video series provided an experience of intellectual and spiritual renewal for 590 diocesan priests and 260 seminarians across the United States. *Reviving a Eucharistic Culture* was presented by the Most Rev. Daniel Flores, S.T.D., Bishop of Brownsville, Texas, who serves as Chairman of the Committee on Doctrine for the USCCB. The video series is intended to invite ongoing reflection on the connection between the Eucharist and the priestly vocation in light of the USCCB Eucharistic Revival. It also provides practical content on how to connect with appropriate leadership in parishes so that the whole parish might fruitfully participate in the Revival.

Guiding the Next Generation of Catholic Leaders



STRONG FOUNDATIONS FOR CATHOLIC LEADERS



In July, the 15-member cohort of the Strong Foundations for Catholic Leaders Program (which runs from 2023 to 2025) enjoyed a four-day conference on Notre Dame’s campus. It provided them with opportunities for personal reflection, prayer and networking. Participants were also able to attend presentations from McGrath Institute faculty and staff and other pastoral experts. Sessions included “The Call to Thrive in Your Ministry,” “Personal and Pastoral Renewal in a Time of Disruption,” and “Woundedness and Healing in the Life of the Church.” The conference is designed to renew the passion of participants for their profession and introduce them both to colleagues who share their goals as well as mentors to accompany them.

LINK: mcgrath.nd.edu/thrivinginministry

Empowering Young Hispanic Leaders

YOUNG ADULT INNOVATION HUB



More than 200 young Hispanic leaders attended the inaugural Iskali Leadership Conference in the summer of 2023. Led by Thriving in Ministry program director Katherine Angulo and renowned speakers from across the country, the conference included the awarding of certificates to those finishing their first and second years of programming. This conference was organized by the Young Adult Innovation Hub, a collaboration between the McGrath Institute and Iskali, a Chicago-based organization that provides high-quality faith formation for young Latinos, enabling them to be leaders.

“The Young Adult Innovation Hub aligns with our mission to connect the intellectual resources of the University of Notre Dame to the pastoral challenges confronting today’s Catholic leaders. Over the next few years, our programs will focus on connecting more fully with the multicultural Church, especially in light of the problem of disaffiliation that led 14 million young Hispanic Catholics to leave the Church over a five-year period.”

— John Cavadini, McGrath-Cavadini Director of the McGrath Institute for Church Life

ISKALI DAY AT NOTRE DAME

In October, nearly 40 members of the Iskali organization traveled to Notre Dame for the first-ever Iskali Day. Made possible through the generosity of the organization Porticus, Iskali Day was developed to connect Iskali members to McGrath Institute faculty and staff, and to give them an opportunity to experience Notre Dame. Featured activities included sessions with McGrath faculty and staff and a chance to see the planetarium presentation “All Creation Gives Praise.” This day was intended to mark the beginning of a lasting commitment from McGrath to Iskali members and their communities.



Young Adults Handing on Faith to Future Generations

CATECHIST ACADEMY

In 2023, 32 students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s, and Holy Cross College served as catechists for 11 parishes in the South Bend/Mishawaka community. Catechist Academy volunteers spend time each week serving students from preschool to Confirmation age, leading them into a deeper understanding of, and relationship with, Jesus Christ.



LINK: mcgrath.nd.edu/catechistacademy

Addressing Disaffiliation with Notre Dame Students

TAKE A SECOND LOOK

In its second year, Take a Second Look continues to grow in popularity among students and professors across Notre Dame’s campus. Initially developed by Fr. Kevin Grove, C.S.C.; Anthony Pagliarini, Ph.D., of the Department of Theology; and Joshua McManaway, Ph.D., of the McGrath Institute, the program is intended to persuasively encourage students to take a second look at the beauty and profundity of the Catholic faith that they thought they had left behind, outgrown, or had dismissed as irrelevant to their lives in the first place.



LINK: mcgrath.nd.edu/news/encouraging-students-to-take-a-second-look

In an age of disaffiliation, the program aims to accompany Notre Dame students through this time of sincere questioning and growth to help them reach a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith that will prepare them to live it out for the rest of their lives. With more professors joining the program each semester, including Bill Mattison, Ph.D., of the Department of Theology, it reaches close to 1,000 students a year.

A Game-day Tradition

SATURDAYS WITH THE SAINTS

During this popular game-day tradition, faculty from the McGrath Institute and Department of Theology deliver dynamic lectures on saints chosen for their uncommon virtue and their willingness to let their faith stand in contradiction to the wisdom of the world. The theme for 2023, the 13th year of Saturdays with the Saints, was “A Season with Our Lady.”

The six presentations of this season included “Tota Pulchra: Immaculate Conception;” “Mother of Mercy;” “Mother of the Church;” “Mother of God;” “Mary: Our Life, Our Sweetness, and Our Hope;” and “Queen of Heaven.”



LINK: mcgrath.nd.edu/saints

Conversations with Scholars and Leaders

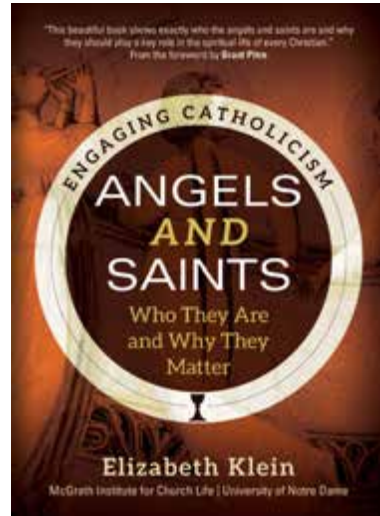


LINK: mcgrath.nd.edu/churchlifetoday

CHURCH LIFE TODAY PODCAST

Available on OSV Podcasts, *Church Life Today*, hosted by Leonard DeLorenzo, welcomes experts on important, relevant, and timely subjects affecting the Church. The most popular episodes of 2023 were “The Twelve Steps and the Sacraments” with Scott Weeman; “Transhumanism and Human Nature” with Mary Harrington; “Women Are Not Fallen Males” with Angela Franks; “Redeeming Vision from Pornography” with Steve Pokorny; and “Oppenheimer” with Ted Barron and Phil Sakimoto. Both upbeat and informative, *Church Life Today* has downloads from 45 countries in six continents, with nearly 22,000 downloads in 2023 alone.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

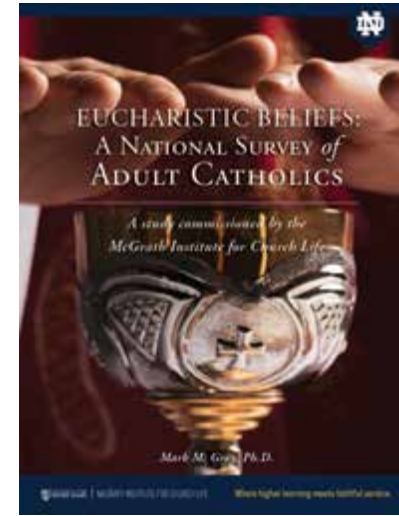


ENGAGING CATHOLICISM SERIES

In partnership with Ave Maria Press, the sixth and final book in the McGrath Institute's Engaging Catholicism series, "Angels and Saints: Who They Are and Why It Matters," was released in the fall of 2023. Authored by Elizabeth Klein, assistant professor of theology at the Augustine Institute, this book leads readers through an exploration of Catholic teaching on angels and saints and why they matter to individuals and the Church.

The Engaging Catholicism series helps readers discover the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith through concise presentations of the Church's most important but often difficult-to-grasp doctrines as well as crucial pastoral and spiritual practices.

Link: mcgrath.nd.edu/resources

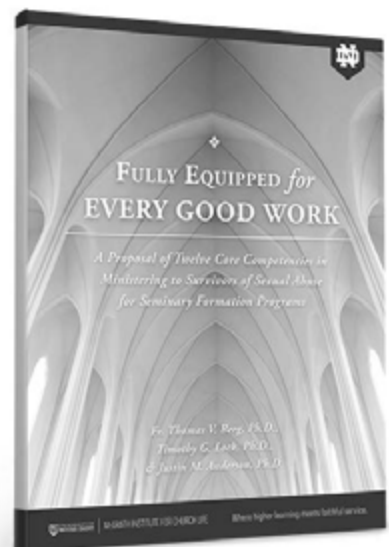


“EUCCHARISTIC BELIEFS: A NATIONAL SURVEY OF ADULT CATHOLICS”

The McGrath Institute commissioned an in-depth report, developed by Mark M. Gray, Ph.D., and Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), to understand what adult U.S. Catholics think about the Church's teaching on the Eucharist and their personal beliefs about the Real Presence.

The report describes what respondents think happens to the bread and wine after Consecration during Catholic Mass, explores their religious backgrounds and their thoughts on the other sacraments, and reviews how Catholics understand the Church's teaching on transubstantiation.

Link: mcgrath.nd.edu/resources



“FULLY EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK”

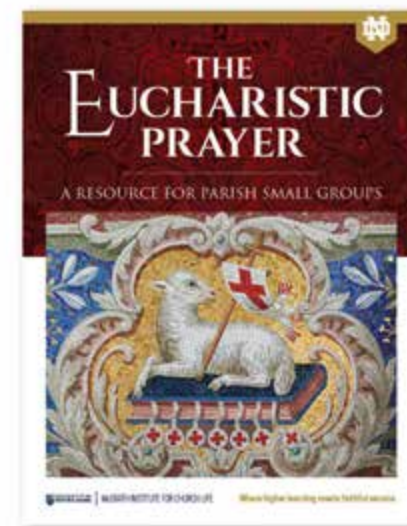
In 2023, the McGrath Institute published a whitepaper to help seminaries strengthen their formation programs in the wake of the Catholic Church's sexual abuse crisis.

"Fully Equipped for Every Good Work: A Proposal of Twelve Core Competencies in Ministering to Survivors of Sexual Abuse for Seminary Formation Programs," authored by Visiting Professor of the Practice Fr. Thomas V. Berg, Ph.D., with Timothy G. Lock, Ph.D., and Justin M. Anderson, Ph.D., presents a series of core competencies for addressing the pastoral needs of victim-survivors of clergy sexual abuse and victims of sexual abuse in general.

The report offers a review of the current state of priestly formation in the face of clergy sexual abuse, analyzes recent developments in trauma-informed pastoral care, proposes competencies to minister to victims of clergy sexual abuse, and suggests how to apply these competencies within existing seminary programs.

Arising out of a larger effort by the Institute to improve seminaries after the crisis, this whitepaper follows a 2019 study, "Sexual Harassment and Catholic Seminary Culture: The First Sociological Survey of Seminarians," and benchmarks proposed by the McGrath Seminary Study Group and signed by 28 prominent American seminaries in 2020.

Link: mcgrath.nd.edu/resources



“THE EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER: A RESOURCE FOR PARISH SMALL GROUPS”

This small-group resource consists of seven weeks of contemplation on each part of the Eucharistic Prayer, which forms the heart of the Mass. The sessions incorporate Scripture, visual art, and music as well as offer integral Eucharistic formation for creating a Eucharistic culture in parishes grounded in what the *Directory for Catechesis* calls "the way of beauty."

This resource accompanies Timothy O'Malley's book, *Becoming Eucharistic People: The Hope and Promise of Parish Life*.

Link: mcgrath.nd.edu/resources/becoming-Eucharistic-people-supplemental-resources

THE VIRTUAL APOCALYPSE: RENEWING CHRISTIAN CULTURE IN A DIGITAL WORLD

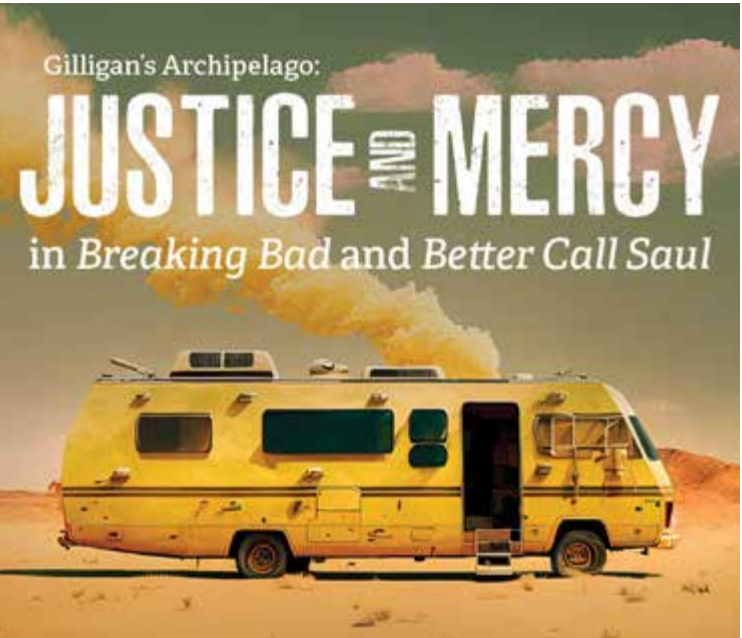


In keeping with the McGrath Institute’s focus on pastoral strategies that address some of the pressing issues regarding human dignity in the Church today, the Church Communications Ecology Program and the Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity hosted a two-part *Conversations That Matter* webinar series, “The Virtual Apocalypse: Renewing Christian Culture in a Digital World.” Their discussions focused on how the internet, social media, and artificial intelligence are raising questions about what it means to be human in an increasingly digital world.

Link: mcgrath.nd.edu/conversations

WHAT IS THE CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL TRADITION?

More than 50 graduate students and faculty from Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s, and Holy Cross College met to explore the centuries-old tradition at the heart of a Catholic university. “What is the Catholic Intellectual Tradition?” was presented by John Cavadini, the McGrath-Cavadini Director of the McGrath Institute, in September, with a reception following. This session was co-sponsored by the McGrath Institute and the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture.



Link: mcgrath.nd.edu/justiceandmercy

GILLIGAN’S ARCHIPELAGO: JUSTICE AND MERCY IN “BREAKING BAD” AND “BETTER CALL SAUL”

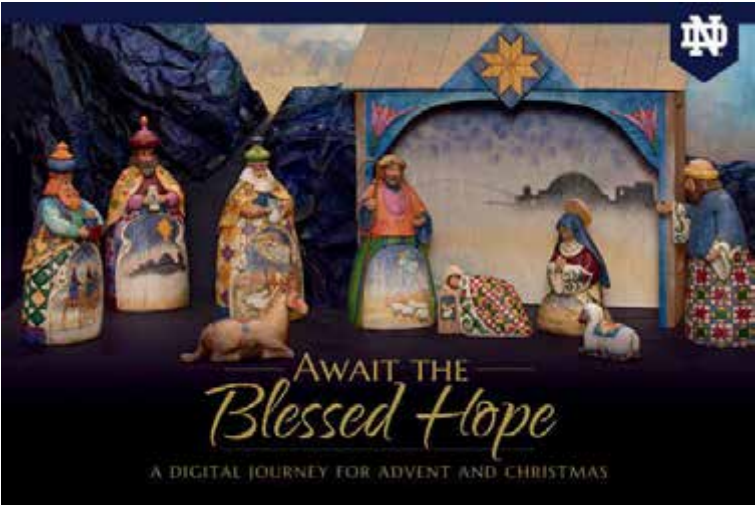
The study of moral choice, character, and identity in “Breaking Bad” and “Better Call Saul” was unprecedented in TV drama. Many experienced the two TV series as a journey through Dante’s underworld, particularly his *Purgatorio*. A spring conference titled “Gilligan’s Archipelago: Justice and Mercy in ‘Breaking Bad’ and ‘Better Call Saul’” brought together five nationally known speakers, including Thomas Hibbs, professor at and Dean Emeritus of Baylor University and prolific writer on religious and secular subjects, to discuss the moral and spiritual imagination of the show’s creator and head writer, George Vincent Gilligan, Jr.

DIGITAL ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE CALENDAR

From the first Sunday of Advent through the Baptism of the Lord, more than 2,100 people from 15 different countries received a daily email that contained a beautiful image of a crèche, or Nativity scene, from around the world, accompanied by a reflective description and a brief prayer. Nearly 25,000 emails were opened in total.

This initiative began in 2014, when the McGrath Institute began partnering with the Marian Library at the University of Dayton to bring an exhibit of crèches from around the world to Notre Dame’s campus. In 2020, the Institute shared this sacred art in a different way, through a Digital Advent and Christmas Crèche Calendar. This year’s crèche calendar was special, as 2023 marked the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi staging what is often considered to be the first crèche.

Link: mcgrath.nd.edu/creche



SYNODALITY IN THE CHURCH: AN AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

The McGrath Institute was honored to welcome His Eminence Cardinal John O. Onaiyekan, who presented “Synodality in the Church: An African Perspective” at the Eck Visitors Center Auditorium in October.

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ok6KVdZbiyI



THE BODY AND BEYOND SERIES

“The Body and Beyond: Human Sexuality for Young People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities from a Catholic Perspective” was developed to support parents, teachers, and ministers who care for young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It responded to the existing lack of resources in this area, combining the expertise of numerous individuals in the production of high-quality materials tailored to meet the needs of this community.

McGrath partnered with the National Catholic Partnership on Disability in this free virtual seminar series. Through six 90-minute seminars, participants explored the scope and sequence of a comprehensive human sexuality program (including vocation, anatomy, reproduction, relationships, hygiene, and personal safety) and addressed many frequently asked questions. This successful series has now become a STEP course.

Link: mcgrath.nd.edu/bodyandbeyond



THE INKLINGS PROJECT

The McGrath Institute announced a new partnership with an intercollegiate initiative called the Inklings Project. The initiative is sponsoring \$1,500 grants to college and university faculty from all disciplines who are interested in creating courses that explore the works of C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and the other Inklings. The Inklings were an informal literary discussion group at the University of Oxford in the early 1900s that included Lewis and Tolkien among other notable authors.



The Inklings Project aims to provide students and professors with new opportunities to engage in meaningful discussions about enduring themes like goodness and evil, joy and pain, and heroism and meaning. By reading great literature together students are able to examine their own lives in more fruitful ways. The idea began more than a decade ago at Brown University, where Dr. Timothy Flanigan created an undergraduate seminar called “Beyond Narnia: the Literature of C.S. Lewis.”

Leonard DeLorenzo, Ph.D., is facilitating the Inklings Project on Notre Dame’s campus through the McGrath Institute. In its first year, the initiative had a great response, welcoming 12 Inklings Fellows from 12 different public, private, and military colleges and universities across the United States, as well as one from Ireland and one from Ukraine. Fellows represented a variety of academic disciplines, including Biology, Business, Education Studies, English, History, Philology, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Theology.

Link: inklingsproject.org

Thanks to Our Benefactors

As we continue to navigate the evolving realities confronting 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 especially 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 Lilly Endowment Inc. for its support of our Church Communications Ecology Program, Thriving in Ministry Initiative, and Notre Dame Center for Liturgy programming.

Faculty & Staff



Katherine Angulo, M.A.
Program Director, Thriving in
Ministry Initiative



Christopher Baglow, Ph.D.
Professor of the Practice,
Theology; Director, Science &
Religion Initiative



Stephen Barr, Ph.D.
Visiting Scholar,
McGrath Institute



Gerard F. Baumbach, Ed.D.
Emeritus Faculty; Director
Emeritus, Echo Program



Kelly Culver, M.Div.
Program Director, STEP



Brian Dean, M.S.
Director of Finance and
Operations, McGrath Institute



Leonard J. DeLorenzo, Ph.D.
Professor of the Practice, Theology;
Director of Undergraduate Studies,
McGrath Institute; Academic Director,
Notre Dame Vision



Katie Diltz, M.A.
Associate Director,
Echo Program; Coordinator,
Catechist Academy



Michael Baxter, Ph.D.
Visiting Associate Professor,
McGrath Institute



Patricia Bellm, M.Div., M.Sc., J.C.L.
Grant Finance Manager,
McGrath Institute



Fr. Thomas V. Berg, Ph.D.
Visiting Scholar,
McGrath Institute



Elizabeth Serafin Berruecos, M.A.
Program Director,
Camino



Janet Effron, M.A.
Director of Online Learning,
McGrath Institute



Abigail Favale, Ph.D.
Professor of the Practice,
Theology & Literature



Jessica Keating Floyd, M.Div.
Program Director, Notre Dame
Office of Life and Human Dignity



**Heather Foucault-Camm,
PGCE, M.Sc., M.A.**
Program Director, Science &
Religion Initiative



Scott Boyle, M.A.
Director, Recruitment and
Student Outreach,
McGrath Institute



Geoffrey Burdell, M.T.S.
Associate Director,
Echo Program



John C. Cavadini, Ph.D.
Professor, Theology;
McGrath-Cavadini Director,
McGrath Institute



Susan Coyne
Assistant Director,
Events and Administration,
McGrath Institute



Meghan Gieske, M.M.
Administrative Assistant,
Fiat Program and Science &
Religion Initiative



Deborah Good
Visual Design and
Outreach Specialist,
McGrath Institute



Craig Gould, M.A.
Program Director,
Notre Dame Vision



Laura Hartz
Administrative Assistant,
STEP and Camino

Faculty & Staff, cont'd.



Cathy Henry
Senior Administrative Assistant,
Echo Program



Alejandra Herrera, M.Div.
Program Associate,
STEP and Camino



Beth Hlabse, M.S., LMHCA
Program Director, Fiat Program
on Faith and Mental Health



Troy Kassien
Copy Editor, Social Media
Manager, *Church Life Journal*



Colleen Moore, M.Div.
Associate Director, McGrath Institute;
Program Director, Echo Program



Mary O'Callaghan, Ph.D.
Visiting Fellow,
Fiat Program on Faith
and Mental Health



Timothy O'Malley, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Research; Professor of the
Practice, Theology; Director of Education,
McGrath Institute; Academic Director, Notre Dame
Center for Liturgy; Editor, *Church Life Journal*



**Carolyn Pirtle, M.M.,
M.S.M., M.A.**
Program Director, Notre
Dame Center for Liturgy



Clare Kilbane, Ph.D.
Professor of the Practice; Director for
Research and Development for Digital
Education; Senior Learning Designer,
McGrath Institute



Lesley Kirzeder, M.A.
Program Director, Contours
of Wonder Initiative



**Fr. Andreas Kramarz,
L.C., S.T.M., Ph.D.**
Research Associate,
McGrath Institute



Michele LaCosse
Senior Administrative Assistant,
Notre Dame Vision



Timothy Pisacich, M.Div.
Associate Director, Echo Program



Brett Robinson, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Outreach;
Associate Professor of the Practice,
Catholic Media Studies; Director of
Communications, McGrath Institute



Artur Rosman, Ph.D.
Associate Research Professor;
Editor-in-Chief,
Church Life Journal



Maggie Scroope
Program Director, Communications,
McGrath Institute



Christina Leblang, M.T.S.
Associate Program Director,
Notre Dame Office of Life and
Human Dignity



John A. Lindblom, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
of the Practice,
McGrath Institute



Barbara Luter
Program Coordinator,
Center for Liturgy, and Notre Dame
Office of Life and Human Dignity



Joshua R. McManaway, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of the Practice,
Theology; Program Director, *Savoring
the Mystery: Renewing Catholic
Preaching in an Age of Disaffiliation*



Megan Shepherd, M.Div.
Program Director,
Notre Dame Vision

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.

