



McGrath Institute for Church Life

Annual Report

2017 | 2018



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Introduction

To our friends and supporters

Please accept this most recent annual report as a small token of gratitude for your ongoing support and friendship. The best return that we at the McGrath Institute can offer is in the quality of our programming, and you will see evidence of that throughout this report. As I have said frequently, the McGrath Institute does not seek to replace the life of the Church but rather to build it up wherever it exists. 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 Jn. 1.1).

By connecting the Catholic intellectual life at Notre Dame to the life of the Church, the McGrath Institute continues to partner with leaders at all levels of Church life and form them for service

to the Church and the world. We hope that the programs at the McGrath Institute help us to proclaim the *Word of Life, which was from the beginning*, always more effectively, and we hope those who encounter us will encounter this same Word in hearing, in vision and in touch. For in the life of the Church, in the sacraments and in the works of mercy, we still really are able to *hear* Him and to *look upon* Him and to *touch Him with our hands*.

Nothing that we do could have been accomplished without your continued generous support. On behalf of the staff and faculty of the McGrath Institute and on behalf of the thousands of people who have benefitted from our programming, a resounding "Thank you!"

John C. Cavadini

John C. Cavadini, Ph.D.

McGrath-Cavadini Director of the McGrath Institute for Church Life



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR *2017-2018*



“CULTURES OF FORMATION” CONFERENCE

The Institute's conference, “Cultures of Formation: Young People the Faith, and Vocational Discernment,” attracted 550 registrants (plus hundreds more in-person and online) March 5-7, 2018, in preparation for the Vatican's October 2018 Synod of Bishops on that topic. The Most Rev. Robert E. Barron, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, served as keynote speaker. Featured talks included distinguished technology and culture expert Nicholas Carr. Attendees from many backgrounds, including more than 20 bishops, examined the cultural influences that form young people today in the hope of renewed missionary creativity.

CAVADINI RECEIVES HELLWIG AWARD

John Cavadini, McGrath-Cavadini Director of the Institute, received the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities' 2018 Monika K. Hellwig Award, which recognizes an individual who has significantly advanced Catholic intellectual life.



THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE – MULTIMEDIA CONCERT

A unique, multimedia performance added musical and visual enlightenment to the Institute's year-long celebration of a Scriptural masterpiece on Sept. 24, 2017. The salon-style concert, "Illuminating the Incarnation: A Musical Meditation on *The Saint John's Bible*" assembled talents from across the University to enable an audience's intimate experience of beauty through a 10-voice schola, instrumentalists, dance, and Scriptural proclamations. Projected displays of illustrations from the Heritage Edition of the monumental manuscript accompanied the performances, all part of "A Year with *The Saint John's Bible*."



ON THE RADIO – CHURCH LIFE TODAY

Outreach for the education of Catholics nationwide—crucial in the Institute's efforts to address pastoral challenges with theological depth and rigor—continues to expand, in-person and online. Recent steps include: new editorial guidance enlarging the content and audience for the Church Life Journal; the debut of a radio and podcast series, "Church Life Today"; the creation of digital resources for those working in ministry; more compelling access to all Institute endeavors through a new website; and ambitious travel schedules to increase the Institute's encounters with an array of ministers, ordained or lay, seeking professional development and spiritual growth.



WALKING THE WALK OF MISSION AND DEVOTION

The Institute literally put the incarnational faith of the Catholic Church into motion across the Notre Dame campus with two ongoing—and growing—celebrations: the International Crèche Exhibit and Pilgrimage on Dec. 3, 2017, and the Marian Procession and May Crowning on May 6, 2018.

Numerous students, local families, and other pilgrims gathered for the fourth annual Christmastime event, visiting displays of nativity scenes crafted by artists in Mexico and praying in both English and Spanish.

A tradition embedded in the history of Our Lady's University returned for a third year as about 200 people walked, prayed, sang, read Scriptures, and adorned a statue of Mary to honor the Mother of God.

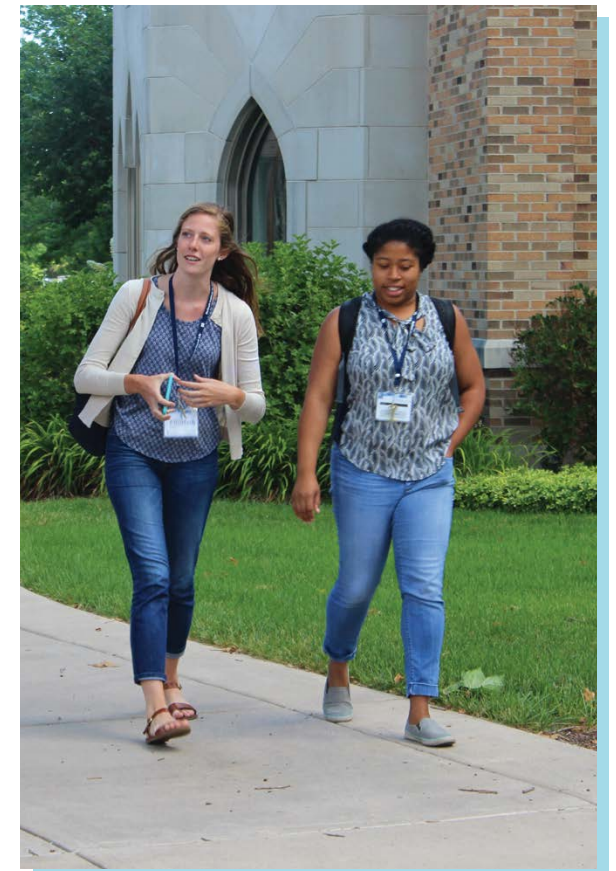


VATICAN FOUNDATION AWARD FOR SCIENCE AND RELIGION INITIATIVE

Four McGrath Institute scholars were named winners of a 2018 Expanded Reason Award in teaching from the Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI Vatican Foundation for their work in the Institute's Science & Religion Initiative. The award, which carries a prize of 25,000 Euros, honored the innovative approaches helping secondary school teachers in Catholic schools to cultivate students' understanding of science and Catholicism as complementary.

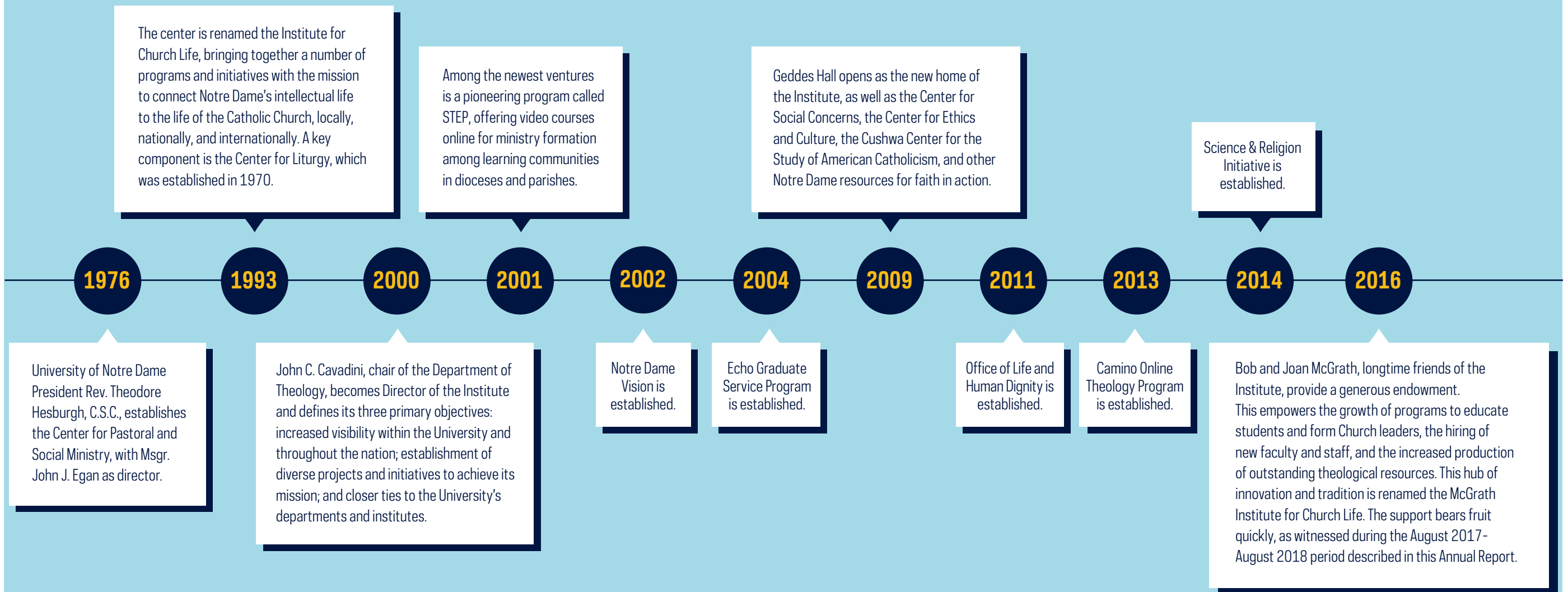
LILLY ENDOWMENT GRANT

Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded the Institute a \$1 million grant in early 2018 to expand programs for ordained and pastoral leaders through the "Thriving in Ministry Initiative." These planning funds allow the Institute to expand its summer program for diocesan priests. The Institute is also initiating a program supporting pastoral and leadership development for lay ministers at a time when the number of, and need for, lay professionals in Church ministry is surging.



MICL Timeline

Since 1976, the McGrath Institute has played a key role in Notre Dame's pastoral and academic service to the Catholic Church



PROFESSIONAL *Development*

NOTRE DAME CENTER FOR LITURGY

The Notre Dame Center for Liturgy assembled a spectrum of talents from across the Institute, the campus, and beyond to bring forth unique professional development opportunities. Building on its compelling exploration of Dante's *Divine Comedy* through a season of lectures and events in 2016, the Center sponsored "A Year with *The Saint John's Bible*" to inform and inspire diverse audiences during 2017-2018. The bible, whose Heritage Edition was displayed in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections in the Hesburgh Library, is a handwritten, illuminated manuscript with more than 160 stirring images. The Center for Liturgy hosted speakers and interactive events allowing the monumental, seven-volume work to nourish the imagination of its viewers. These activities highlighted the Scriptures as an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. A unique, multimedia concert helped to make "A Year with *The Saint John's Bible*" a memorable experience.

This year-long project was one of the many ways in which the Center for Liturgy cultivates leadership in the Church by educating catechists, liturgists, teachers, and musicians for the task of liturgical evangelization. The Center offers a Certificate of Catholic Theology in Liturgy and many other resources for professional development in ministry. In



2017-2018, faculty and staff continued to heed the call to missionary discipleship, offering liturgical and sacramental formation in dioceses and schools nationwide; this included a new partnership with the Archdiocese of San Francisco and a growing initiative to assist the formation of permanent deacons in its partner dioceses. The Center also drew the largest attendance yet in its annual "Liturgy Week" tradition. Three summer symposia attracted individuals from around the country serving in evangelization for dioceses and parishes. They gathered for several days of renewal and learning from nationally recognized speakers.



ONLINE THEOLOGY COURSES

Online theology courses expanded in their purpose-driven applications, diocesan connections, and relevance to contemporary Church needs during 2017-2018. Building upon dozens of video courses that have made high-quality theological education accessible via remote learning through the STEP program for nearly two decades, the Institute again drew thousands of enrollments, nationally and internationally. More dioceses made use of selected courses suited to formation programs for permanent deacons. Other dioceses partnered with STEP to offer a curriculum

leading to a Certificate of Catholic Theology or to enhance specific areas of knowledge. The approach is both rigorous and flexible—using videos in tandem with organized learning communities who view and discuss the content together and perform supplementary reading and writing, all under the guidance of expert facilitators. The Institute works closely with its online partners to meet specific ministry needs. A learning community in Nigeria utilized an “Introduction to the Catholic Faith” course, and one in India garnered insights for youth ministry. Leadership in 2017-2018 proceeded

to update existing course content and develop new courses—in bioethics, for example—to keep pace with evolving interests.

The provision of Spanish-language content for the Hispanic Catholic population in the United States is a prominent example of increased relevance. An online program called Camino saw its start-up grant from the Our Sunday Visitor Institute come to fruition in 2017-2018; the number of courses reached a critical mass, diocesan partnerships totaled 20, and the list of enrollments grew to represent dozens of dioceses. The program, which emulates STEP in features such as the use of learning groups and highly educated facilitators, was used among diocesan and parish groups of catechists and those in other ministries. Video courses became part of bilingual preparation for permanent deacons and curricula leading to a Certificate of Catholic Theology. The courses reflect the original work of top theology educators in the Latino cultural context, not Spanish-language translations of STEP classes. Camino’s activity will continue to grow, helping to fill a gap of formation and information resources for Hispanic Catholics.



BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY PROGRAM IN PRIESTLY RENEWAL

The Bishop John M. D'Arcy Program in Priestly Renewal invited priests from various dioceses to a week-long experience on campus during the summer of 2018. A retreat-style conference gave priests opportunities for study, workshops, spiritual direction, and rest. The annual event, inaugurated in 2016 and named in honor of the late Most Rev. John M. D'Arcy, former bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, is underwritten by the Institute with the support of a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.



NOTRE DAME VISION

Notre Dame Vision hosted another summer of activities focused on helping young people to explore, and respond to, their unique call from God. “Parables” was the theme of the 17th annual conference for high school students; the cumulative number of participants now exceeds 15,000. Through music, sacraments, Eucharistic adoration, Scripture reading, prayer, and reflection time, the teens considered how lessons of the parables were incarnated in their own lives—how Christ was inviting them to reconsider their priorities. Earlier in 2017-2018, as customary, Notre Dame Vision recruited and trained mentors, mostly undergraduates at Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s College, and Holy Cross College, to support the approximately 1,000 high school participants. Two-thirds of those participants came to the week-long event as part of a group from a school or diocese nationwide, and even internationally.

Other young people came as individuals, some receiving financial support from an Emerging Leader Scholarship initiative that began in 2014. Financial support also went to the five dioceses of Indiana, allowing each of them to send youth representatives.

A second track of annual conferences, Notre Dame Vision for Campus and Youth Ministers, brought together ministers from Catholic high schools, for its 12th consecutive gathering. The concurrent program invited participants to reflect on their own journeys answering Christ’s call. A keynote speaker for the conference, Katie Prejean McGrady, was a delegate sent to the Vatican by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for meetings prior to the October 2018 Synod of Bishops to discuss “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.”

SCIENCE & RELIGION INITIATIVE

The Science & Religion Initiative conducted its fifth year of programs with growing impact for teachers in Catholic high schools around the country. Its efforts to help communicate to students the complementarity of science and religion earned its leaders a 2018 “Expanded Reason” Award in teaching from the Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI Vatican Foundation. Activities in 2017-2018 included a Foundations Seminar and a Capstone Seminar, held every summer on the Notre Dame campus, plus a growing number of “Institute Days” that serve science and religion educators locally in partner dioceses. The week-long Foundations Seminar uses lectures, readings, and curriculum workshops to prepare the attendees, who are competitively selected from applicants in the fields of theology, physics, chemistry, and biology. The Capstone Seminar follows up with teachers and administrators from exceptional schools that are already making progress in reaching students with the message of subject compatibility.

This innovative effort to encourage an integration of religious and scientific understanding attracted support from the Templeton Foundation, which continues to provide generous funding.



UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE *Education*

ECHO GRADUATE SERVICE PROGRAM

The Echo Graduate Service Program bestowed Master of Arts in Theology degrees to the 27 members of its latest class in June 2018. This cohort, called Echo 13 among the consecutive classes since the program began in 2004, experienced an academically rigorous, two-year curriculum. An integrative formation process, suited to students discerning careers as catechists around the country, accompanies the courses. Their tuition-free curriculum and spiritual formation on campus during the summer is coupled with active service to the Church in 11 partner dioceses, plus a commitment to live in intentional faith communities where personal growth continues throughout each year. A two-track approach, initiated in 2014, gives customized preparation



to students, some of whom plan for parish-based roles and some of whom plan to teach in Catholic schools.

In 2017-2018, Echo began a Holy Cross Fellows initiative to attract applicants who bring a diversity of backgrounds and who want to explore particular areas of interest within their service commitment, such as Catholic schooling in an urban environment. Overall, the Echo program now has 192 graduates, and its alumni have served in more than 60 dioceses as young, well-informed, faith-filled “co-workers in the vineyard.” They go on to work in such fields as youth and young-adult ministry, adult faith formation, multicultural ministry, high school teaching, campus ministry, social work, and direct service to the poor.





NOTRE DAME OFFICE OF LIFE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

The Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity took on a new name to reflect a broader mandate characterized by the words of Pope John Paul II: "Where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias or discrimination for human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation. It is an indivisible good." The Office sponsored its sixth annual Human Dignity Lecture on Oct. 24, 2017, with philosopher Sister Mary Prudence Allen, R.S.M., Ph.D., addressing the topic, "The Dignity of Human Gender." A Theology Department course

sponsored by the Office explored human dignity and the philosophy of science. An ongoing series of talks called Life Lunches continued to attract students, faculty, and members of the local community. The Pregnant and Parenting Students Assistance Fund, with financial assistance from the Office, is an example of the resources the University provides to support a student's choice of life.

In 2017-2018, the Office also continued enhancing the University's educational mission through support for research, writing, and course development relevant on campus and beyond. It undertook development of a fall 2018 series that will bring students and

scholars together to talk about the dignity of women and various gender issues. The Office added a new dimension to its Life Fellows initiative, which has supported scholars in multiple disciplines to prepare guides for other professors to incorporate life principles in their courses. A new group of Life Fellows will write regularly for the *Church Life Journal* and other media to bring diverse, timely voices into discussions of human dignity.



CHURCH LIFE INTERNSHIPS

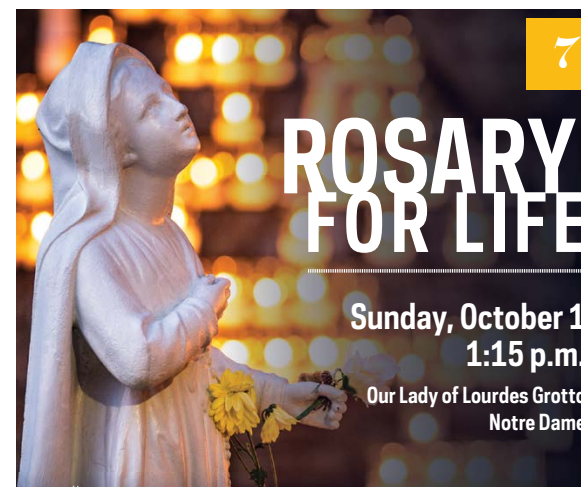
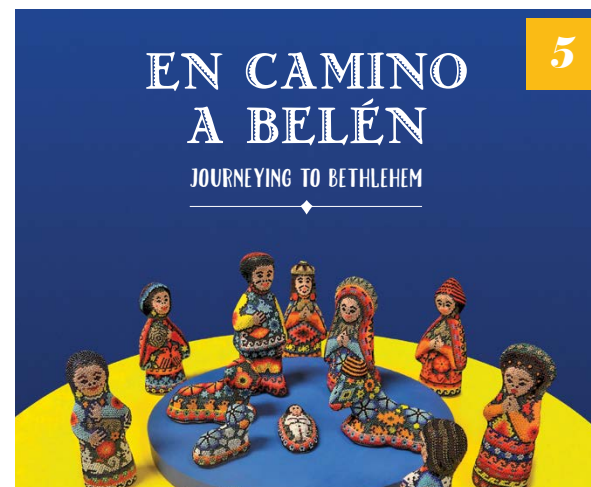
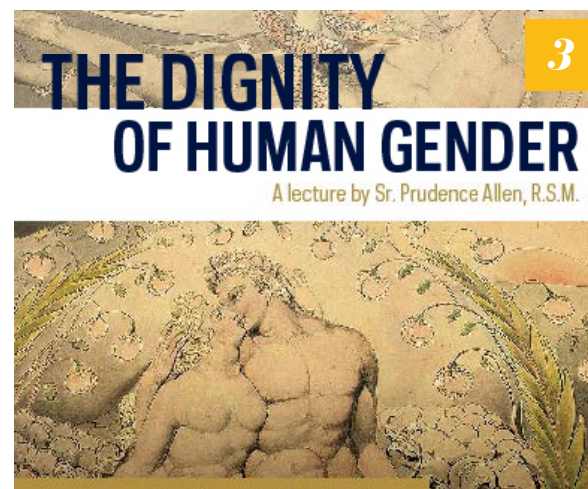
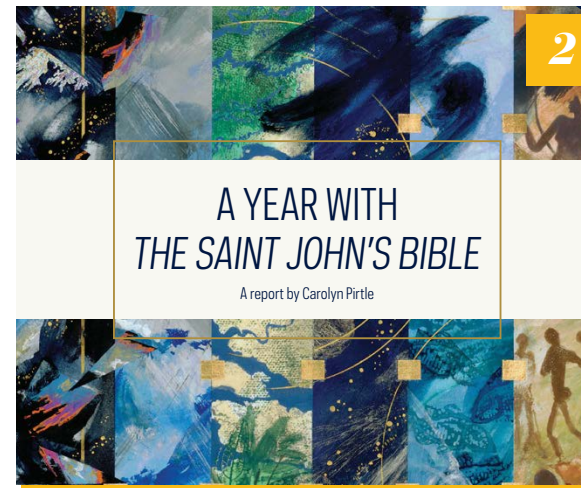
Church Life Internships became available to more students in 2017-2018, growing the initiative during its second year. Undergraduate seniors, competitively selected as paid Church Life Interns, work closely with mentors from the Institute faculty and staff to conduct research on pressing issues related to service learning and leadership. Research already conducted by interns has ranged from aspects of Mary's role in the life of the Church to models of masculinity in the Catholic tradition.



CAMPUS & CHURCH EVENTS

The Institute sponsored a vast range of events during 2017-2018, as it does every year. Most of these were free of charge and open to students, the rest of the University community, and the local community outside the campus. These events provide scholarly insights with compelling ties to the Church's history and future. They reflect the Institute's incarnational approach to faith—pursuing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ inseparable from everyday encounters with God present in people and circumstances. They also affirm the founding mission to connect Notre Dame's intellectual life to the life of the Church.

This year's calendar of events open to the public included:



- 1 CULTURES OF FORMATION: YOUNG PEOPLE, THE FAITH AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT**
A conference bringing the Most Rev. Robert E. Barron, Nicholas Carr, and other outstanding speakers to prepare for the 2018 Synod of Bishops in Rome to discuss young people, the faith, and vocational discernment.
- 2 A YEAR WITH *THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE***
Many presentations, including a unique multimedia concert, celebrating the Catholic imagination as made manifest and magnificently illuminated in *The Saint John's Bible*.
- 3 THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN GENDER**
The annual Human Dignity Lecture, sponsored by the Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity.
- 4 SATURDAYS WITH THE SAINTS**
An ongoing series of expert talks on the lives of saints held on the morning of every Notre Dame home football game.
- 5 INTERNATIONAL CRÈCHE EXHIBIT AND PILGRIMAGE**
The fourth annual display of nativity scenes in various buildings, experienced on pilgrimage through campus and enjoyed with reflection, song, and prayer. This year's pilgrimage had a bilingual emphasis and featured Mexican crèches from the University of Dayton's renowned collection.
- 6 MARIAN PROCESSION AND MAY CROWNING**
The third annual cross-campus celebration of a historic tradition honoring the Mother of God. About 200 people walked prayerfully from the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes to a ceremony adorning a statue of Mary.
- 7 ROSARY FOR LIFE**
A co-sponsored, annual prayer service at Notre Dame's Grotto, marking Respect Life Month in October. Students, faculty, staff, and the general public prayed to protect the dignity of human life, using handmade rosaries from women in China who had escaped their country's forced-abortion policy.

Thank You

To Bob and Joan McGrath and the many friends of the Institute

Much of the growth and service reflected in this report on the 2017-2018 activities of the McGrath Institute for Church Life could not have occurred without a transformative gift bestowed in 2016 by Bob and Joan McGrath, longtime friends and supporters of the Institute.

This deeply committed, faith-filled couple has our sincere gratitude, as expressed in our new name. Gratitude also drives our ongoing determination to be the pre-eminent source of creative Catholic programming for evangelization and formation, encouraging the Body of Christ throughout the United States. This zeal begins right on the Notre Dame campus.

True to our legacy of connecting the University's intellectual life to the life of the Church, the McGrath Institute for Church Life strives to be

a collaborative partner with Catholic leaders at all levels, clerical and lay. We will provide the theological tools and spiritual formation to help address pressing pastoral problems with ever greater urgency and impact.

The McGraths continue to lead the way in these efforts, among an array of benefactors and supporters of all kinds. The accomplishments reported in this book testify to the inspiration drawn from this valued group of friends. We thank all our donors and partners and ask others to join their ranks so that our work and resources can continue to spark the Catholic imagination and participate in God's ever-unfolding renewal of a Church and world in need.



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.



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