



McGrath Institute for Church Life

# *Annual Report*

2020





# *Our History*

The story of the McGrath Institute for Church Life began in 1970 when Notre Dame President Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C. invited Monsignor John J. Egan to spend a sabbatical at the University of Notre Dame. By July of 1976, Fr. Hesburgh had combined many of Msgr. Egan's Chicago-based urban ministry projects with several campus initiatives and established the "Center for Pastoral and Social Ministry" with Msgr. Egan as the founding director. Renamed the "Institute for Church Life" in 1993, and then the "McGrath Institute for Church Life" in 2016, the collaboration initiated by Fr. Hesburgh and Msgr. Egan represented the University's efforts to serve the needs of the Church by bringing together various programs under one roof. Due to a generous gift from the McGrath family, the Institute was renamed the McGrath Institute for Church Life in 2016.





The background of the entire page is a low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a church's exterior. The image is dark and moody, with a deep blue sky. Two large flags are visible on tall poles, one on the left and one on the right, both featuring heraldic designs. The church's architecture, including its roofline and stone masonry, is visible in the lower half of the frame.A decorative yellow diamond symbol with a black cross inside, positioned centrally above the title.

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# *Our Mission*

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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# ***Letter From the Director***

Dear friends,

Your support allows the faculty and staff at the McGrath Institute for Church Life to provide the kind of education and formation that fortifies the Catholic Church. We do not work with the stone or glass of a cathedral architect but we do work with the “living stones” that build up the Church wherever it exists. “Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5). The effects of the pandemic meant that we had to learn a new way to live that spiritual reality as millions of Catholics lacked access to Mass and the sacraments in their physical churches.

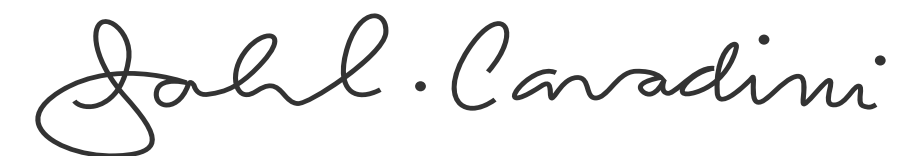
The lack of physical presence during the pandemic has been felt by all believers but may have been most keenly felt in Catholic churches because of the importance of the sacraments in the life of the Church. The faculty and staff of the McGrath Institute understood this from the very beginning and began adapting our programming to meet the needs of Church leaders who were isolated and in need of support and resources. What you will find in this annual report is very different from past years. In many ways, it is the Institute at its best, identifying the pastoral needs of Church leaders and working with them to provide the education and resources to thrive, even under the most challenging conditions.

The signature programs in the McGrath Institute for Church Life thrive on the presence of Church leaders from across all age groups and ministries. The interactions between McGrath faculty, staff, and program participants are what make the

bridge between the academy and the Church possible. Over the last year, with your support, we were able to move much of our programming online without losing sight of the deep human desire for community and communion. We eagerly await many joyful reunions with our supporters and program participants!

Thank you for everything you do for the McGrath Institute for Church Life. It is your support and generosity that inspires us and allows us to meet the needs of our beloved and very needy Church.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Cavadini". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Cavadini" clearly legible.

John C. Cavadini, Ph.D.

McGrath-Cavadini Director, McGrath Institute for Church Life  
Professor, Department of Theology



# *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/ 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 Research & Development  
for Digital Education*



**JOSHUA McMANAWAY**

*Visiting Assistant Professor  
of the Practice*



**KELLY CULVER**

*Program Director,  
STEP & Camino*



**ELLIE BERRUECOS**

*Assistant Director,  
STEP & Camino*



# *Echo Graduate Service Program*

Echo is a robust, two-year formation program that integrates their work, study, and life of faith 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**

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



**CHRISTINA LEBLANG**

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

# *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.



**TIMOTHY O'MALLEY**

*Editor,  
Church Life Journal*



**ARTUR ROSMAN**

*Editor-in-Chief,  
Church Life Journal*

# *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*



**CAROLINE MURPHY**

*Program Director,  
Church Communications  
Ecology Program*



# *Communications Department*

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



**AMY NORTH**

*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*



**HEATHER CHRISTENSEN**  
*Senior Administrative  
Assistant*



**MICHELE LACOSSE**  
*Senior Administrative  
Assistant*



**LAURA HARTZ**  
*Administrative Assistant*



**CATHY HENRY**  
*Administrative Assistant*



**BARBARA LUTER**  
*Program Coordinator*





# *Highlights of the Year*





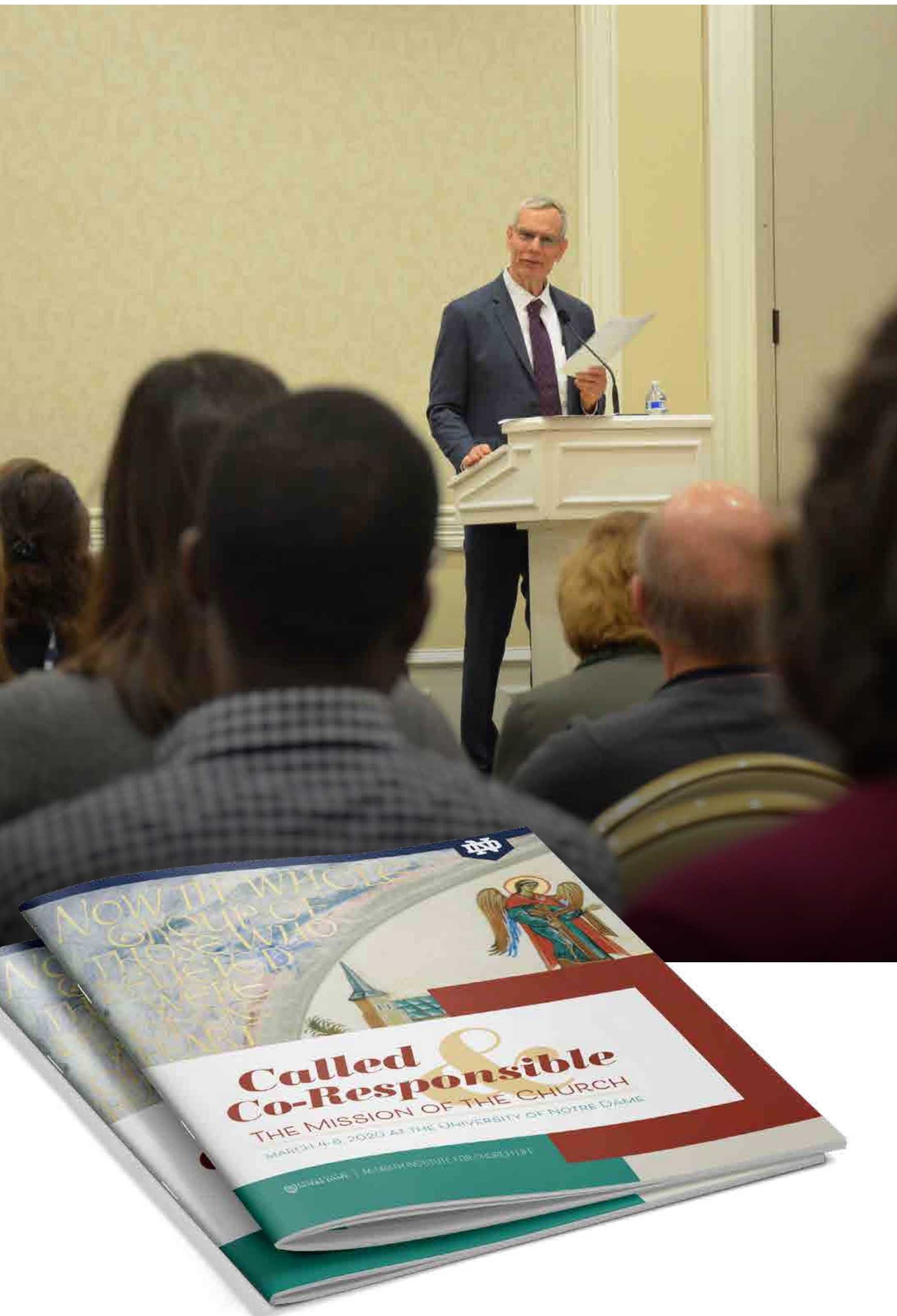
# *Thriving in Uncertain Times*

"We remain poised to respond to new, unprecedented challenges and opportunities as they arise, ever vigilant in today's rapidly changing environment."

—FR. JENKINS







## Called & Co-Responsible Conference

In early March 2020, immediately before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the University of Notre Dame's campus (along with much of the rest of the world), the McGrath Institute convened a group of lay and religious leaders to set forth a vision of what co-responsibility for the Church's being and acting might mean. One of the questions discussed at this conference was: How do we form the laity to become co-responsible for the Church's mission?

Referencing Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's message on the occasion of the sixth ordinary Assembly of the International Forum of Catholic Action, our Called & Co-Responsible conference responded to the following exhortation in particular:

*“Co-responsibility demands a change in mindset especially concerning the role of lay people in the Church. They should not be regarded as ‘collaborators’ of the clergy, but, rather, as people who are really ‘co-responsible’ for the Church’s being and acting.”*

Our hope was and continues to be that the Church herself might become a culture of formation to a co-responsibility which appropriately recognizes both the sanctifying, teaching, and governing mission intrinsically associated with Holy Orders as well as the responsibility of the laity to “go forth” and reach the various peripheries that are less accessible to the clergy.

Featured speakers included our own John Cavadini, Colleen Moore, and Katherine Angulo, as well as Monsignor Michael Heintz,



Bishop Bill Wack, C.S.C. of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Bishop Frank Caggiano of the Diocese of Newport, Kerry Robinson of Leadership Roundtable, Clemens Sedmak of Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns, and a number of other lay and religious leaders. Treated topics included Lay Empowerment, Co-Responsibility and Leadership, Cultures of Life, Catholic Education, Parish Formation, Promoting Co-Responsibility in the Hispanic Community for the Health of the Multicultural Church, Forming Pastoral Leaders for Co-Responsibility, and more. Our on-campus event drew 249 registrants.

As COVID-19 took hold and disrupted the typical rhythms of dioceses, parishes, schools, and home life, we decided to continue these conversations by hosting a nine-part virtual series over the summer of 2020: Called & Co-Responsible: Summer Seminars for Church Life Renewal.

Seminars in this series examined how the laity and clergy might together commit to renewing the life of the Church both now and into the future. Seminars were led primarily by McGrath Institute staff and included pastoral presentations, case studies of pastoral approaches, and discussions among participants on topics such as Taking Responsibility for Parish Life, Co-Responsibility for the Mission of the Church, Using Media Well Together: Co-Responsibility & Church Communications, The Liturgical Formation of the Family for Co-Responsibility, The Forgotten Devotional Life: Remembering Co-Responsibility through Practice, Creating Cultures of Belonging, Co-Responsibility

for Care of the Vulnerable, Fostering Pastoral Creativity in the Community, and Designing for Co-Responsibility in Catholic Schools. Our virtual summer series drew 1,432 registrants and provided invaluable practical guidance for those actively working to renew the Church. Media coverage for our in-person conference and our summer series included pieces in [Notre Dame Magazine](#), [Catholic News Agency](#), and [Crux](#).

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## Bishop D'Arcy Program in Priestly Renewal's Online Retreat Series

Since 2015, the Bishop D'Arcy Program for Priestly Renewal has offered an annual opportunity for diocesan priests to step away from their myriad of responsibilities, to spend time in the company of brother priests from

around the country, and to pray and reflect upon the call of the Lord Jesus to follow him and to live as His priests in the world. This year, unable to host our usual on-campus conference

for 14 priests, we developed an online retreat and professional development program to offer support to diocesan priests across the country during this particularly challenging time.

"Recreating the week-long experience as a video series with accompanying reflection materials allowed our content to reach thousands of priests this year, not just the 12 we would have been able to bring to campus."

—KATHERINE ANGULO

*On converting the Bishop D'Arcy Program for Priestly Renewal to a digital format for 2020*

A team of fifty-one faculty and staff gathered to take part in this project and to help us execute it as part of the University of Notre Dame's response to the immediate needs of the Church during the pandemic. Notably, this was the first project that engaged members from every unit of the McGrath Institute for Church Life. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of this group, and the leadership of the program's director Katherine Angulo and academic director Monsignor Michael Heintz, the online retreat series was designed, developed, and distributed in a matter of five months.



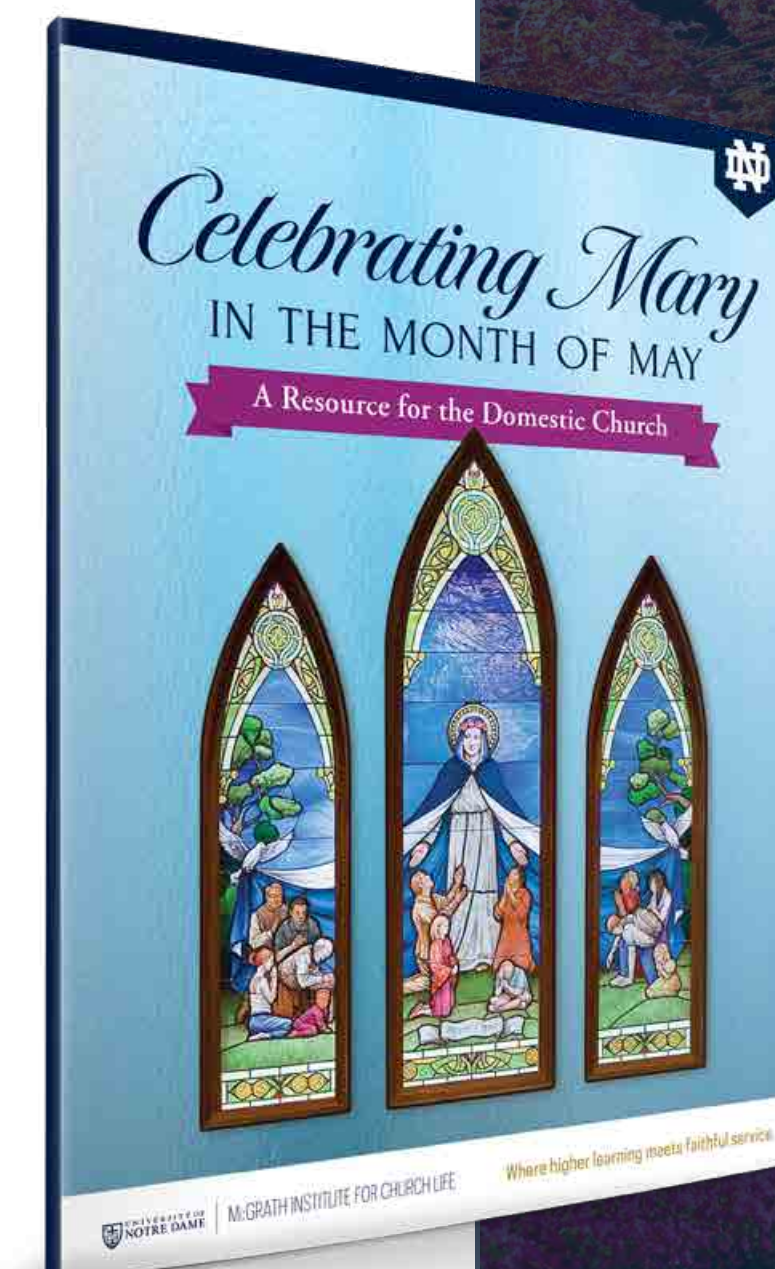
The resulting series consists of 14 videos with a total of 580 minutes of content. The first half highlights the best of the original Bishop D'Arcy Program, offering a retreat experience for priests to reconnect with their vocation. The second half provides professional development for priests and their parish leaders, with an emphasis on responding to the demands COVID-19 has placed upon them and their communities. Each video topic is accompanied by reflection questions for small group discussions, spiritual contemplation, and resources for further study.

Thanks to the generous support and funding of Lilly Endowment, Inc., this series benefits diocesan priests in a time of great need at no cost to the diocese. Bishops in 20 dioceses representing more than 4,000 priests have already begun utilizing the series. In 2021, additional invitations to access the series will be sent to individual priests and international dioceses to further support the global Church.

## Celebrating Mary in the Month of May

In lieu of the May Crowning we typically host on campus, 2020 provided us a unique opportunity to be creative in how we celebrate liturgical events. To that end, the McGrath Institute's Center for Liturgy produced a free resource to help anyone celebrating a May Crowning in the home.

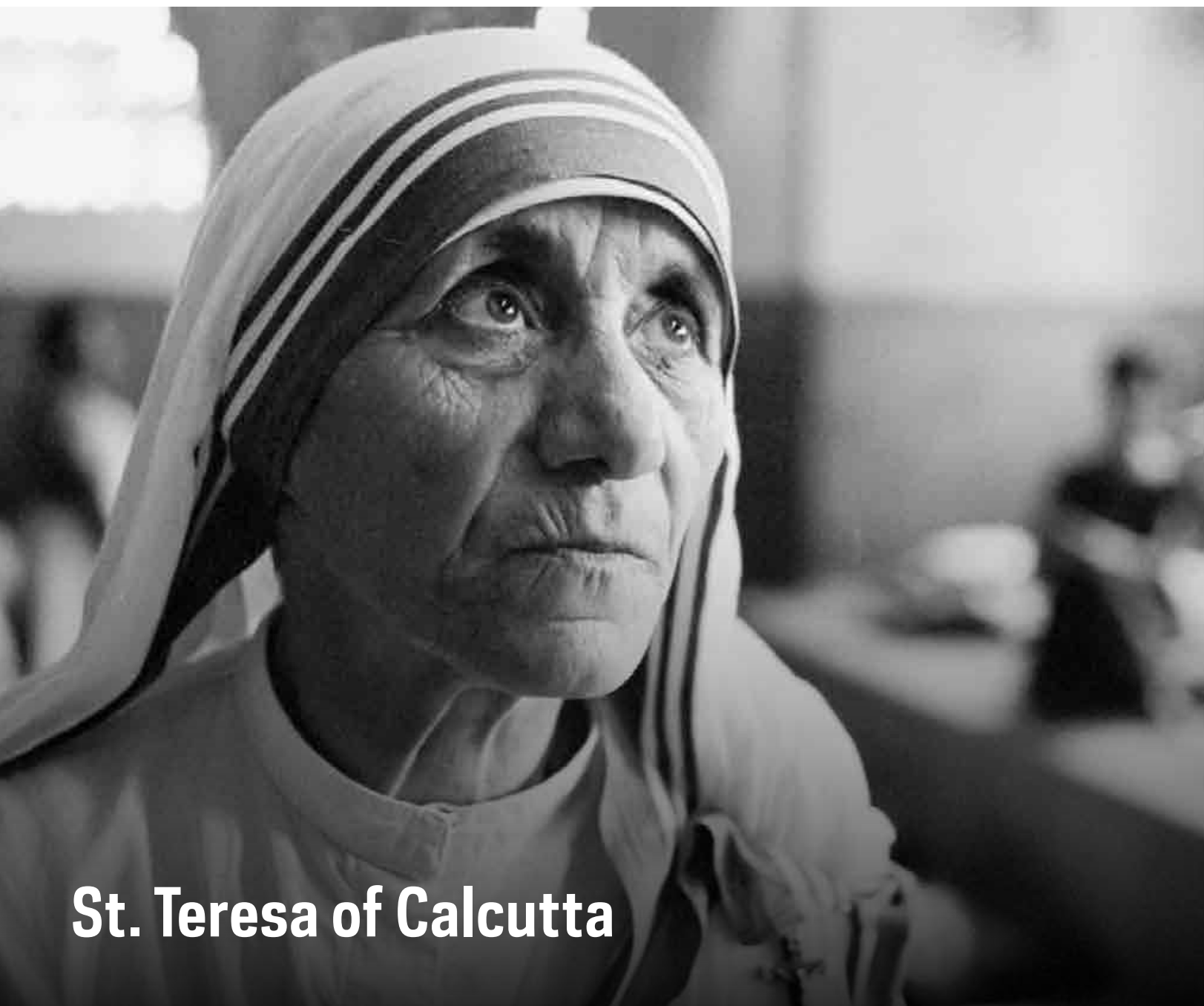
Celebrating Mary in the Month of May is intended to provide the domestic church with a beautiful way to engage in Marian devotion and includes a simple order for crowning an image of the Virgin Mary, a list of materials needed, ideas for making those materials, and an assortment of Marian prayers and hymns suitable for use throughout the entire year.



“The May Crowning is a reverent devotion to the Mother of God, whose mercy and grace Pope Francis has so frequently recommended to the faithful as a source of challenge, inspiration, and consolation. Crowning Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth affirms the dedication of Our Lady’s University to its Marian charism of making room for Christ, wherever He may be found.”

— JOHN CAVADINI





**St. Teresa of Calcutta**

"Devotion to the saints is a way of inviting their witness to bear imprint on our own souls. Our friendship with the saints somehow forges out of our own lives a witness and a light however thin or feeble when compared to theirs."

—JOHN CAVADINI

## A Season with the Saints

Saturdays with the Saints has established itself as a popular Notre Dame football pregame ritual that combines the University's rich traditions of Catholic faith and spirited game days. Notre Dame theology faculty and McGrath Institute staff deliver dynamic lectures on saints chosen for their uncommon virtue and their willingness to let their faith stand as prophetic witness against the wisdom of the world.

With the cancellation of in-person events during the 2020 football season, a new learning experience was created: A Season with the Saints—a free, online lecture series that examines the lives of six saints with fall feast days. A Season with the Saints features presentations that were previously delivered by Notre Dame faculty and staff to a live, on-campus audience. Released in a virtual format suitable for group study or



individual users, each lecture includes a brief written introduction and discussion questions. The series reached over 1,600 individuals and study groups around the nation.

This series is a project of the Sullivan Family Saints Initiative, which is dedicated to increasing devotion to and promoting scholarship of the saints.

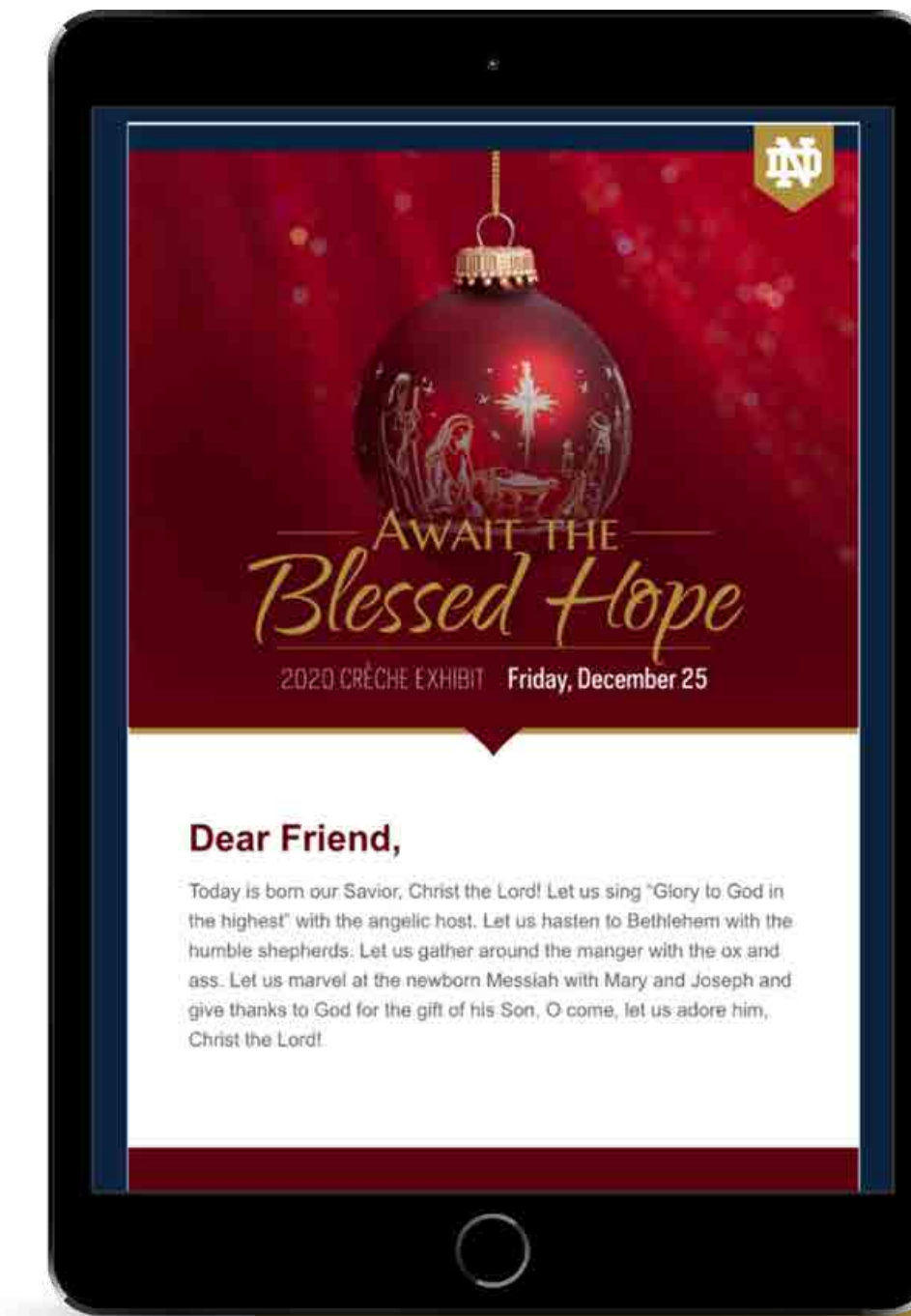
## Reflecting on the Incarnation with a Digital Advent and Christmas Crèche Calendar

For the past six years, the McGrath Institute for Church Life has partnered with the Marian Library at the University of Dayton, Ohio, bringing to Notre Dame's campus an exhibit of crèches, or Nativity scenes, from around the world, and gathering members of the community to pray in procession and prepare for the coming of Christ.

This year, the coronavirus pandemic prevented us from hosting our annual exhibit and pilgrimage. Instead, we developed a new way to reflect on the Incarnation with a digital Advent and Christmas Crèche Calendar—a beautiful retrospective selection of crèches from our previous six exhibits.



Nearly 2,000 individuals signed up to receive a daily email beginning the First Sunday of Advent through the Baptism of the Lord. Each included an image and description of a crèche from a different part of the world, along with a brief prayer that you can offer for yourself and your loved ones.



"Thank you very much for this series. I eagerly await each day's installment, and am amazed at the variety of materials used and the creativity displayed. Thank you for your explanations of the cultural symbolism, and your reflections."

—JUDY M.





# *Groundbreaking Research*

"[T]he Catholic university is . . . a place—the only place—in which Catholics and others, on the highest level of intellectual inquiry, seek out the relevance of the Christian message to all of the problems and opportunities that face us and our complex world."

—FR. HESBURGH

*The Challenge and Promise of a Catholic University*





# A Call to Action

In the summer of 2018, in an effort to respond thoughtfully to the ongoing sexual abuse crisis in the Church, the McGrath Institute commissioned a [national study](#) to assess sexual harassment and misconduct at seminaries.

Released in June 2019, the study found that the most important improvement needed at this time is an improved protocol for reporting abuse and harassment, along with improved education regarding that policy and regarding that policy and what defines sexual harassment. The study led to the formation of the McGrath Seminary Study Group, a group of bishops, seminary rectors, faculty, and expert lay consultants who developed a set of proactive policy guidelines to offer seminary rectors a comprehensive means for responding to sexual harassment and misconduct. The five policy guidelines are:

**1. Systematic Training** Seminarians, faculty, and staff must be trained consistently and repeatedly (at least annually, and upon starting at the seminary) regarding policies on sexual harassment, especially reporting procedures,

definitions, and the investigative process, including possible outcomes and follow up.

**2. Reporting and Investigation** Reporting systems must include both internal reporting





procedures as well as the ability to report issues to an agency outside of the seminary structure that is independent of the seminary or any other structure that can affect the reporter in a way that might discourage them from coming forward. Independent investigators should have some knowledge of Catholic seminaries and ecclesial norms.

**3. Victim Support** Must have a sufficiently independent process to support victims/reporters as the process works through issues (e.g. Victim Assistance Coordinator) that is also able to protect the confidentiality of the investigation and guard against retaliation. Appropriate spiritual direction and counseling, etc., should also be available.

**4. Proactivity** Policy should facilitate periodic queries to allow seminaries to assess their culture in terms of policy understanding among seminarians, faculty, and staff, as well as to

**“These benchmarks for sexual misconduct policies have been put together by real experts in the field of seminary formation as well as lay leaders. This is just the sort of collaboration we need to make sure our seminaries are safe places where vocations can flourish and where we can continue to work to eradicate the scourge of sexual abuse.”**

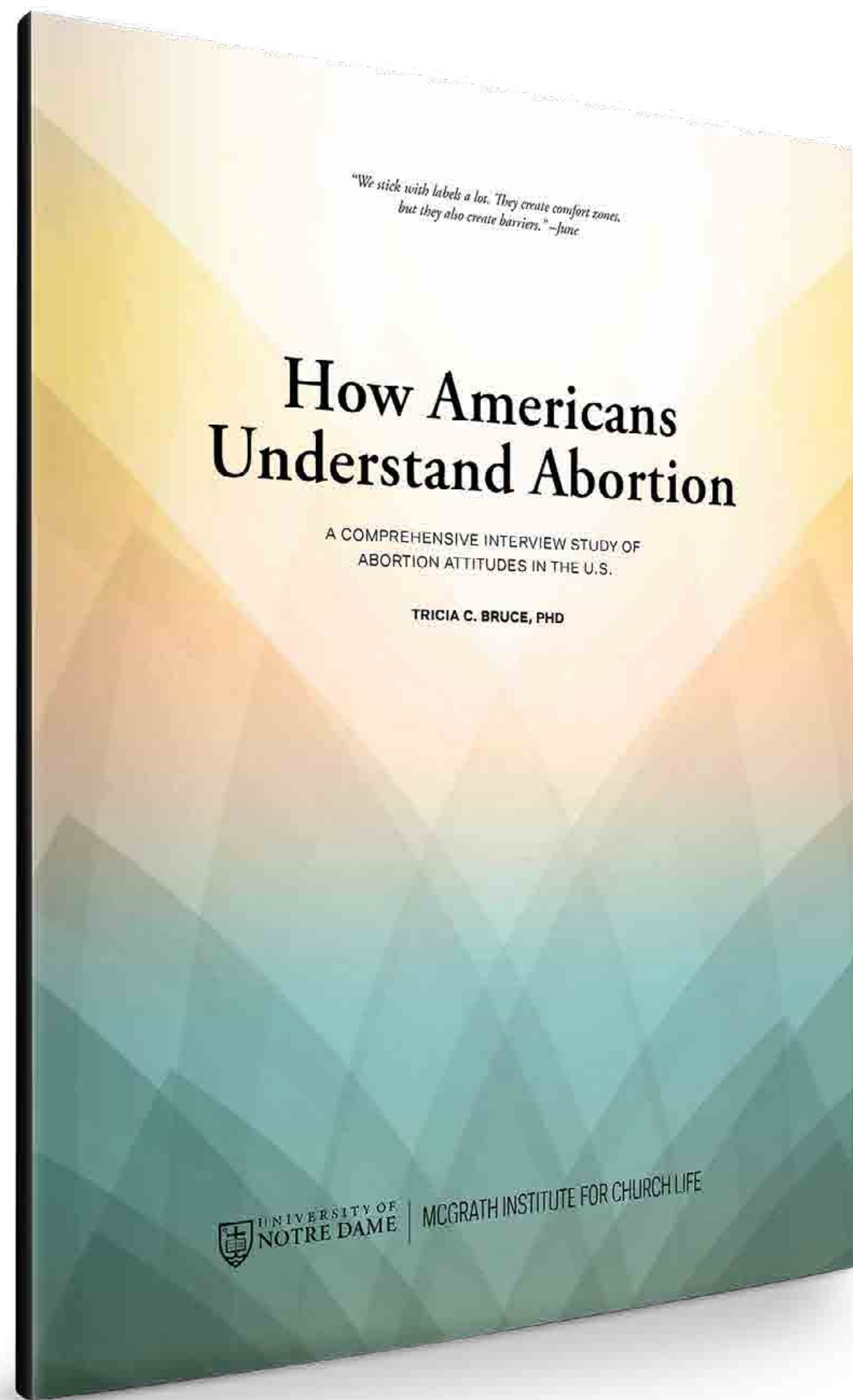
— BISHOP ANDREW COZZENS  
*Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis*

provide direct opportunities to report any issues so that they may be addressed. These internal assessments of seminary culture should include not only sexual misconduct, but a broad range of potentially improper relationships between all seminary students, faculty, and staff.

**5. Consistency and Portability** Policies may be implemented in different ways, but

they should remain in accord with common principles so that while procedures may differ somewhat based on local resources or conditions, they should be “portable,” that is, provide consistent and understandable protection for the variety of assignments and venues in which seminarians may be assigned (for example, parish assignments).

In November 2020, John Cavadini, along with the seminary study group, called upon all seminaries and houses of formation to publicly commit to these guidelines and update their own policies to reflect them. Other needs were identified by the seminarians who responded, and in due course we intend to turn our attention to these needs as well, but for the time being we are focused, and we call others to be focused, on the most salient need which the *seminarians themselves* have identified.



## "How Americans Understand Abortion: A Comprehensive Interview Study of Abortion Attitudes in the U.S."

"How Americans Understand Abortion" is the largest known in-depth interview study of American attitudes on abortion. Tricia Bruce, affiliate of the Notre Dame's Center for the Study of Religion and Society and adjunct research associate professor of sociology with the University of Texas at San Antonio, led a team of sociologists who asked a sample of 217 Americans what they believe about abortion, why they believe it, and what factors have influenced those beliefs.

Unique in its approach and sample, this landmark study draws from a cross-section of everyday Americans, many of whom had never spoken with someone about abortion before.

The study presents seven major findings, and offers a set of recommendations for fostering a healthier public conversation about abortion. "This sort of research—whatever it uncovers—is essential in our educational mission to create resources that promote the dignity of human life from conception through natural death," said Jessica Keating, director of Notre Dame's Office of Life and Human Dignity. "By identifying gaps in knowledge and formation, this study helps us address those challenges more effectively."

"I appreciate the opportunity to talk about abortion in a way that's more nuanced than our current political discourse allows for, because I think that a lot of the simple 'yes, no, or sometimes' questions really don't get to the heart of what's happening here."

—MIRA, STUDY PARTICIPANT





# *Awards & Anniversaries*

"If our lives in education have any meaning or significance, it will be in our reading the signs of the times and in educating the young of our times in the visions and values that will civilize and make for reasonable human progress and lasting peace on earth."

—THE HESBURGH PAPERS, 1979





## STEP Online Learning Program Celebrates 20 Years of Global Impact

On January 1, 2020, our [STEP online theology program](#) celebrated its 20th anniversary. STEP is a visionary initiative that shares the University's world-class theological scholarship and resources with Catholic dioceses, parishes, and ministers around the globe. The program has expanded the number and variety of participants over time, exceeding 3,300 enrollments in 2020. In recent years, STEP launched a sister initiative, Camino, offering theology courses in Spanish to respond to the Church's need for Hispanic leaders. The courses have been accessed in every United States diocese and 15 countries over the past two decades.

STEP offers a catalog of more than 50 full-length courses that address topics including



"[STEP] has opened my eyes to new teachings in the church and has most importantly given me confidence to teach this to my students."

—LESLIE J., COURSE PARTICIPANT

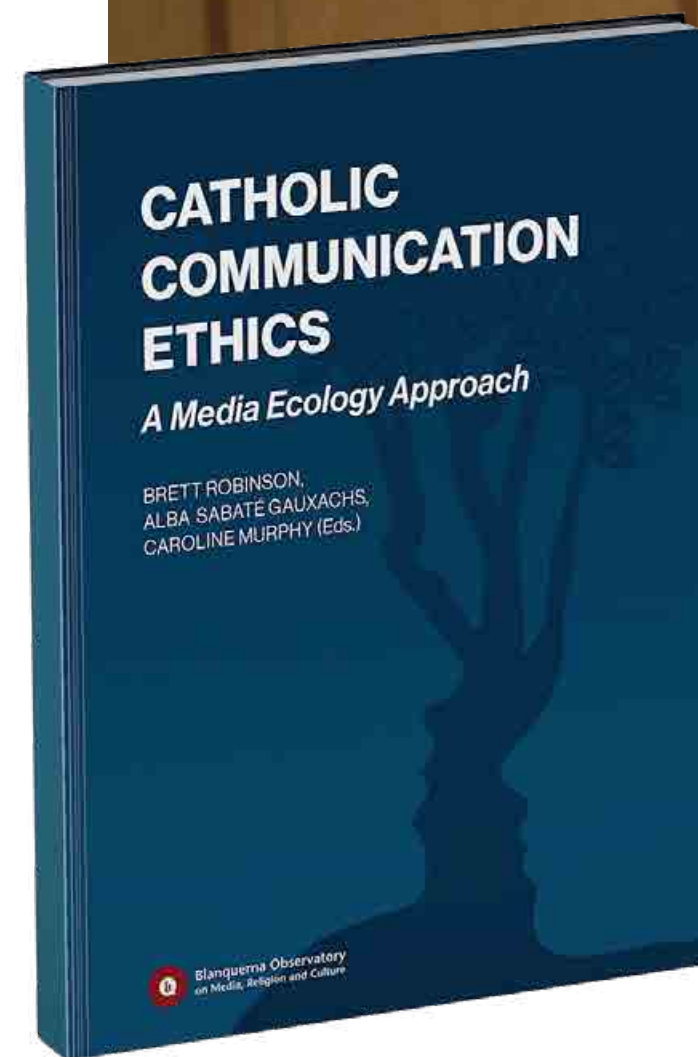
Church history, liturgy, Scripture, doctrine, and Christian life. Each six-week course is moderated by a facilitator who possesses a master's degree in Theology and has experience in ministerial work. During each class of up to 20 members, participants experience lectures, discuss their learning in online discussion forums, and reflect on how their learning affects their lives and ministry work.

STEP's longevity is borne out of a strategic utilization of new media to plant seeds of knowledge about the faith that grow to enrich dioceses, parishes, and schools—building community while doing so. "There's always a sense of joy as parishioners gather to watch and discuss a leading scholar's insights about the faith," said Kelly Culver, STEP and Camino's program director. "We feel really honored to be part of this piece of people's lives."



## McGrath Institute received Lilly Endowment grant for promoting parish vitality through better communications

Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded the McGrath Institute a \$1 million grant in late 2019 to develop a program to help strengthen parish congregations in the digital age. Brett Robinson has been named academic director of the Church Communications Ecology Program at the Institute. He has a PhD from the University of Georgia and conducts research at the intersection of technology, culture, and Catholicism. Robinson has served on the faculty at Notre Dame and Saint Vincent College and has been the director of communications for the McGrath Institute for the last five years. The Church Communications Ecology Program assists Church leaders in the work of strengthening parish communities in a digital



culture where social disruption, distraction, and disconnection threaten established institutions and traditions. The program's "communications ecology" approach gives parishes a framework to create healthy environments where ministry, teaching, and outreach can thrive.

Beginning in fall 2020, the newly-established Church Communications Ecology Program at Notre Dame invited leadership cohorts from select dioceses to join a learning community of their peers to focus on the question of how to

enhance parish vitality through closer attention to communication ethics and practices in the digital age. Cohort members included priests and lay people serving in marketing, communications, catechesis, and freelance roles across the country.

The program will culminate with a summer conference at Notre Dame where parish leaders will share their findings with their learning community peers.






## Notre Dame Vision Receives Mustard Seed Award from NRVC

The National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) awarded Notre Dame Vision the 2020 Mustard Seed Award, presented annually to an individual or group who has made a significant impact on vocation ministry through small, local initiatives that have taken root and expanded to include the efforts and contributions of other individuals, groups, and organizations.

“We are thrilled to recognize Notre Dame Vision with this award,” said Sr. Deborah Marie Borneman, SS.C.M., Director of Mission Integration at the NRVC. “Particularly striking about the program is its union of creativity and theological depth. Many former participants refer to Vision as a life-changing experience and one that continues to have an impact on their

lives long after their summer at Notre Dame comes to an end, thus growing a culture of vocation that we seek to honor through our work at the NRVC.”

The mission of Notre Dame Vision—to empower young people to recognize grace at work in their lives and respond to God’s call by offering their gifts in service to the needs of the world—continued in 2020 despite the pandemic through the work of the forty-eight undergraduate Mentors-in-Faith. These Notre Dame undergraduates who had prepared to lead young people in the summer program turned their attention to their local communities to assess a pastoral situation and develop a plan for response. Grounded in a life of prayer, they listened attentively to the people of a specific community, worked to identify and prioritize their needs, and developed a pastoral response drawing on the richness of the Church.

A photograph of a woman with short brown hair, wearing a black blazer and a blue skirt, speaking into a microphone. She is holding a folder. In the background, a man in a colorful patterned shirt is holding a yellow folder, and other people are standing on a grassy area with trees in the background.

“Many of our participants and undergrad mentors have gone on to religious life and the priesthood. We are so grateful to the National Religious Vocation Conference... for your support and look forward to a future of helping young people recognize and respond to God's call in their life.”

—MEGAN SHEPHERD  
*Program Director, Notre Dame Vision*





# *Professional Development for Church Leaders*

"We are proud to offer professional development programs that help educators challenge the notion that science and religion are in conflict, give ministers the tools they need to thrive and find sustainable success in ministry, and offer a flexible course of theology study that maintains a faithful and intellectually-rigorous curriculum. These offerings are at the core of our mission to bridge the scholarship of the University with the pastoral Church."

—JOHN CAVADINI

*The Challenge and Promise of a Catholic University*



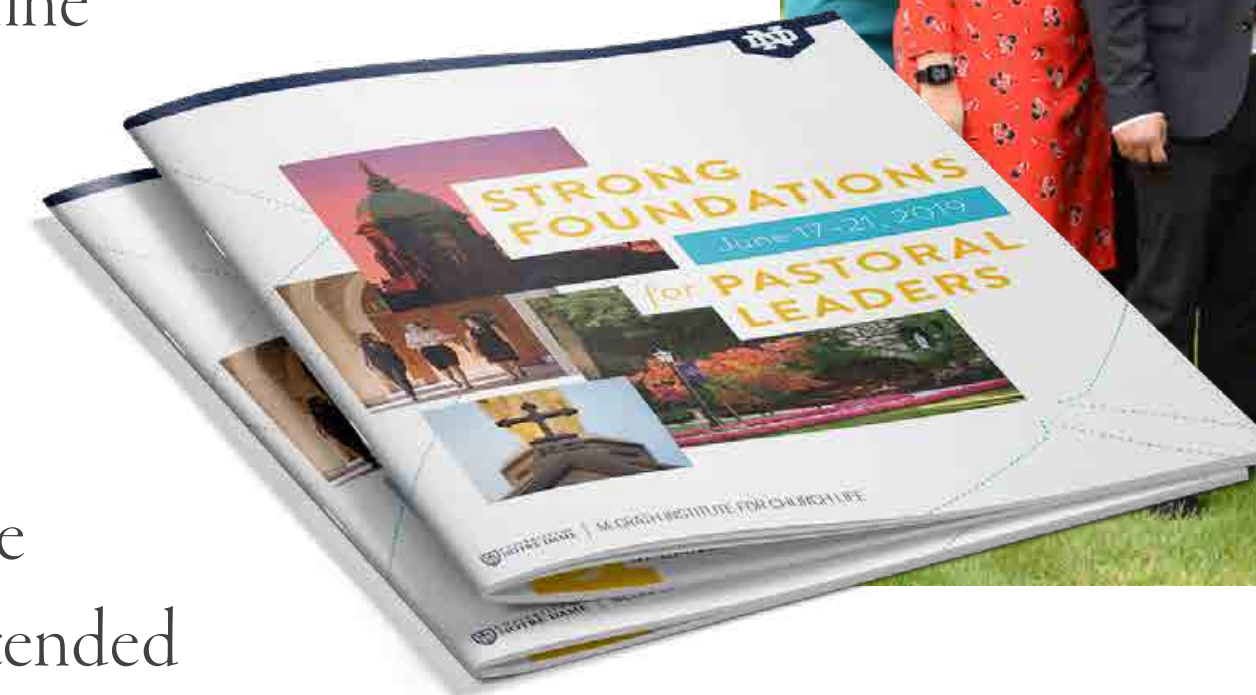
## Strong Foundations for Pastoral Leaders

The Strong Foundations for Pastoral Leaders Program offers focused support for young lay leaders who have recently begun their professional service in the Church. The two-year program addresses the unique challenges that face young ministers and provides them with the resources, guidance, and support they need to thrive and find sustainable success in their ministry.

The program consists of two one-week conferences held during consecutive summers at the University of Notre Dame. During the week, participants receive professional and pastoral development, financial and career planning, and personal and relational support. Participants also meet with a mentor-minister dedicated to support, challenge, and accompany them for the duration of the program and for at

least two years after the program's completion. This program is fully funded and underwritten by the McGrath Institute with the support of a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

In the spring semester, participants attended a month-long Lenten online course created by Dr. Anthony Pagliarini, Assistant Teaching Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. In the fall, they attended another month-long course, Simple Steps to Flourishing in Ministry by Dr. Matt Bloom from the University of Notre Dame. An additional course was included in the fall semester to satisfy the needs of the participants as they navigated the challenges of ministry during the Covid-19 pandemic. This course focused on flourishing in ministry and self-care. Even during this difficult financial time



for ministries, five of our participants were promoted in their ministry over the course of this year.

The program continued into the spring semester of 2021, and participants were able to meet in person in summer 2021 to close the two-year learning experience.



## STEP and Camino Online Theology Program

STEP and Camino online courses are well-suited for catechists, school teachers, lay ministers, deacons, and other adult Catholics who seek distance learning that is intellectually-rigorous and faithful to the Catholic tradition. Participants are able to register for individual classes or sign up to earn a Certificate of Catholic Theology in five areas of study. Trained and knowledgeable facilitators lead the courses.

There were 3,247 enrollments for STEP/Camino in 2020. The most popular courses were *Catholic Faith and Tradition for School Teachers* and *Core Course: An Introduction to the Catholic Faith*. Because STEP's programming model is partnership-based, many of the enrollments in these courses are a result of diocesan requirements for catechist formation and continuing education.



Two new courses were added to STEP's library this year: *Into the Heart of the Father: Learning from and Giving Yourself to Christ in Prayer* by Leonard DeLorenzo, Academic Director of Notre Dame Vision, and a new *Introduction to the New Testament* by Josh McManaway, Visiting Assistant Professor of the Practice at the McGrath Institute.

## Science and Religion Seminars

The Science & Religion Initiative (SRI) had a busy year despite COVID-19-related setbacks. SRI hosted four Institute Days with over 600 participating educators, including 200 at Holy Family High School (Denver, CO), a record number. Institute Days are exciting opportunities for Catholic high schools to partner with the McGrath Institute for Church Life in providing excellent in-service programming for educators and administrators





on topics in science and religion. SRI works with individual schools to tailor an on-site, in-service experience that meets the particular needs of a school, its teachers, administrators, and students.

The first Institute Day of the year was held at the Gulf Coast Catechetical Conference

in New Orleans, LA. At following Institute Days in Denver, CO and Nashua, NH, SRI included presenters not only from the faith and science intersection but from history, literature, and fine arts so that all high school faculty departments could directly benefit. SRI offered a final, virtual Institute Day for all secondary educators in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in September.

SRI typically offers a Foundations Seminar and a Capstone Seminar during the summer months. The Foundations Seminar gives attendees a chance to read key texts in religion, philosophy, and science; to dialogue as a community of educators; and to attend a week-long seminar on campus. Capstone is a follow-up to the Foundations Seminar for teachers and administrators of truly exceptional schools that have either completed our first-year seminar or who have already developed substantial courses in the dialogue between science and religion.

Due to lockdown restrictions, Foundations Notre Dame and Foundations New Orleans were combined into a single event, "Foundations Online 2020," using a combination of video recordings from previous programming and new recordings solely for this program. Seventy-five participants from 27 high schools watched pre-recorded videos of the presenters and then engaged them in live Q&A Zoom sessions, followed by working with teams of facilitators on their lesson plans.

In April, SRI Director Chris Baglow was featured in a USCCB sponsored documentary entitled "Outreach to the Unaffiliated" to discuss why science and faith catechesis and evangelization are essential to reaching young people. The video currently has 77,000 views on YouTube. The Initiative also hired Heather Foucault-Camm, a veteran science educator, SRI presenter, chemist, and curriculum design expert, to serve as Program Director.





# *Undergraduate & Graduate Education*

Forming the next generation of Church Leaders

"The world needs a university that graduates men and women who are not only capable and knowledgeable, but who accept their responsibility to serve others – especially those in greatest need."

—REV. JOHN I. JENKINS, C.S.C.

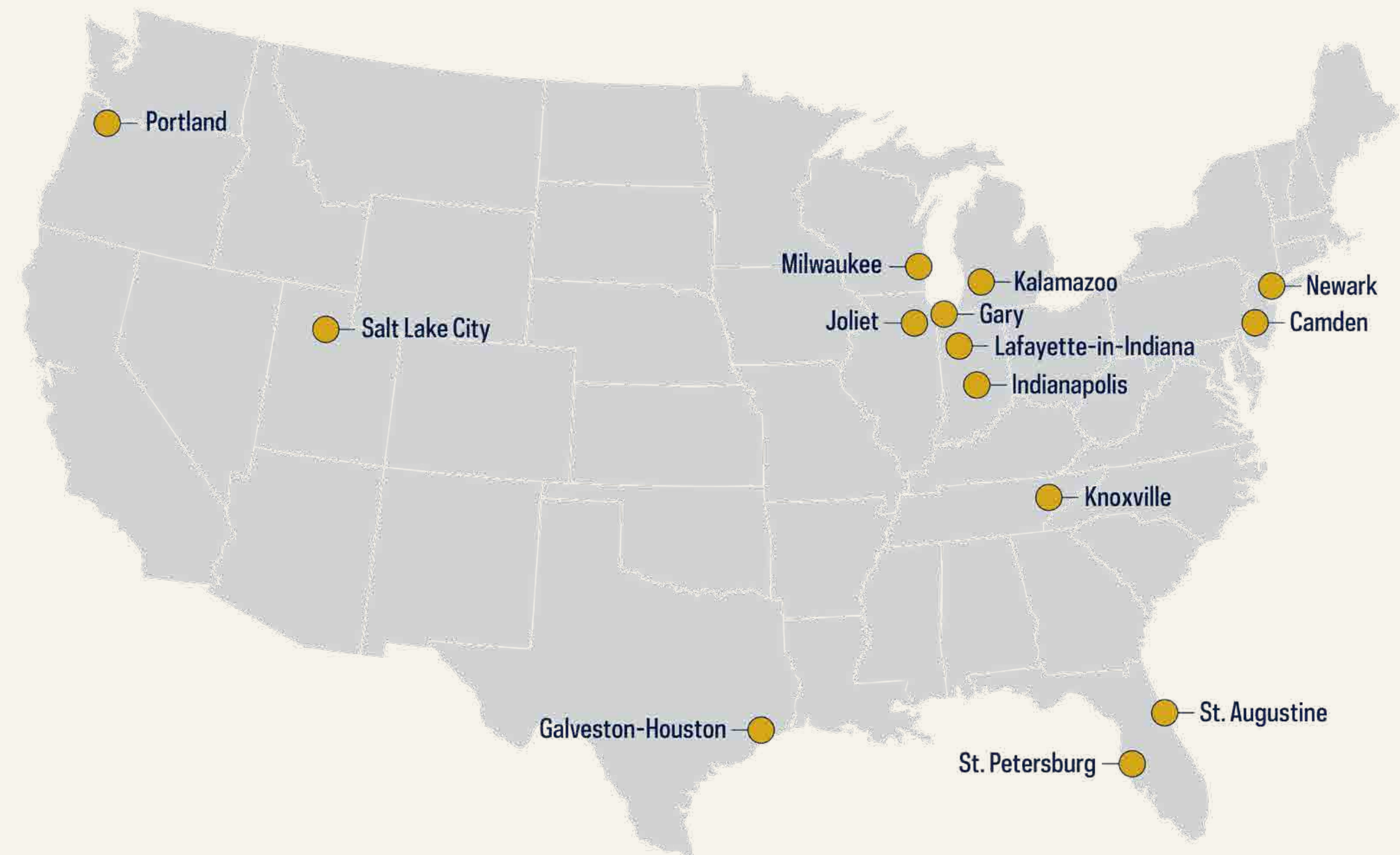


## Echo Graduate Service Program


Echo is a two-year service-learning program that offers participants the opportunity to earn an M.A. in Theology from the University of Notre Dame while serving the Church as a parish or diocesan catechetical minister, a middle school or high school theology teacher, or a campus minister. By connecting a robust, highly respected graduate theological education directly to ministerial work in a diocese, Echo serves at the heart of the McGrath Institute's mission to put the University and its best resources in service to the Church.

In 2019-20, Echo entered its seventeenth year and to date, Echo students and alumni have served or are currently serving over 75 dioceses. In spring 2020, Echo accepted a program-high 29 students who, together with 24 second-year students, served across the United States and Ireland.

## Arch/Dioceses Where Echo Participants Served in 2020





A photograph of a priest in green vestments leading a group of young people in prayer in a church. The priest is on the right, facing the group, with his hands clasped in prayer. The young people are standing in a line, holding hands, and looking towards the priest. The background shows the interior of a church with a white altar, a crucifix, and a large arched window.

"Echo's long standing model for professional mentoring and accompaniment in formation not only was formative for my own maturity in the faith and professional and pastoral development during the program, it also has served as a template for the work I do in evangelization and outreach to youth and young adults in the Archdiocese of Washington whom the Church must commit to inviting in, knowing and accompanying, catechizing in accessible ways and supporting through the ups and downs of life and their faith journey. This kind of intentional, long term relationship and community building in faith changes the trajectory of individual lives, parish communities and love for the Church."

—JONATHAN LEWIS, 2010 ECHO GRADUATE

*Assistant Secretary for Pastoral Ministry & Social Concerns, Archdiocese of Washington D.C.*

In 2020, in addition to its fourteen domestic diocesan partners, Echo established an international pilot program with the Diocese of Meath, Ireland, at the request of Bishop Tom Deenihan, a longtime friend and collaborator of the program.

An additional highlight for the program in 2020 was the inauguration of two awards conferred annually on members of the program's graduating class—the Gerard F. Baumbach Award for Excellence in Catechesis in honor of Echo's founding director, and the Katarina Goitz Memorial Award in honor of an Echo graduate who passed away in 2019. Honorees receive the award and related gifts, \$500, and their names on a plaque to be hung in perpetuity in Geddes Hall.





# *Offerings for Campus and Church*

"It has been so gratifying to see the creative ways that our staff has been serving the Church in ways that we never imagined even a few short months ago. We have received many messages of thanks from Church leaders who have taken part in our various online offerings. This has truly been a collective effort. Despite our isolation, we have formed working groups and event teams that function at a very high level without physically being together."

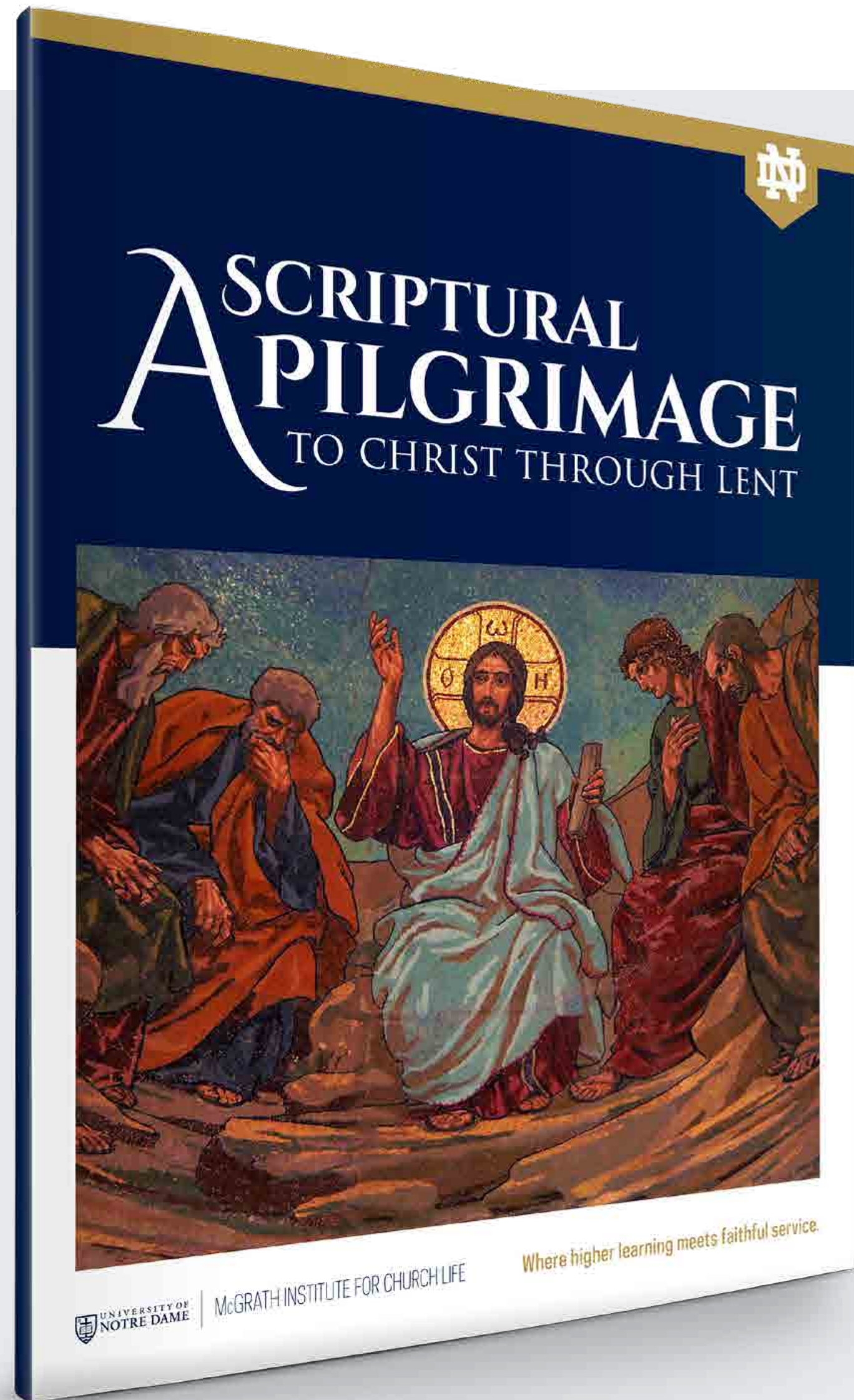
— JOHN CAVADINI



***Free virtual events  
and resources from  
the McGrath Institute  
for Church Life***

Click on a thumbnail to learn more  
about each offering.



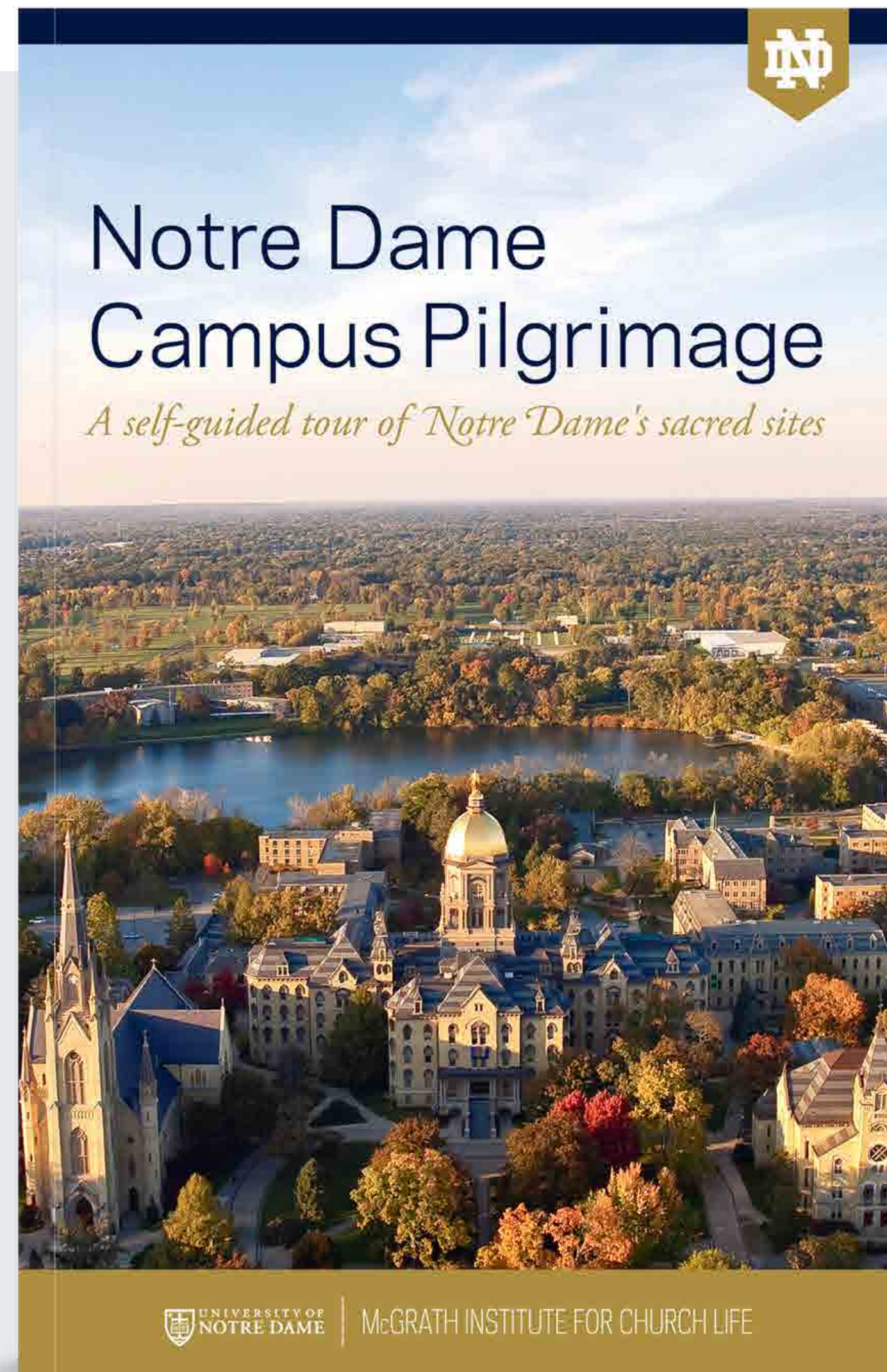


# ***A Scriptural Pilgrimage to Christ Through Lent: A Guide for Bible Study and Faith Sharing***

This resource seeks to guide groups from parishes, schools, or other communities into prayerful reflection of Scripture and substantive faith-sharing as part of the Lenten journey.

- ◆ 612 participants
- ◆ 144 of which were new contacts
- ◆ International reach (Canada)



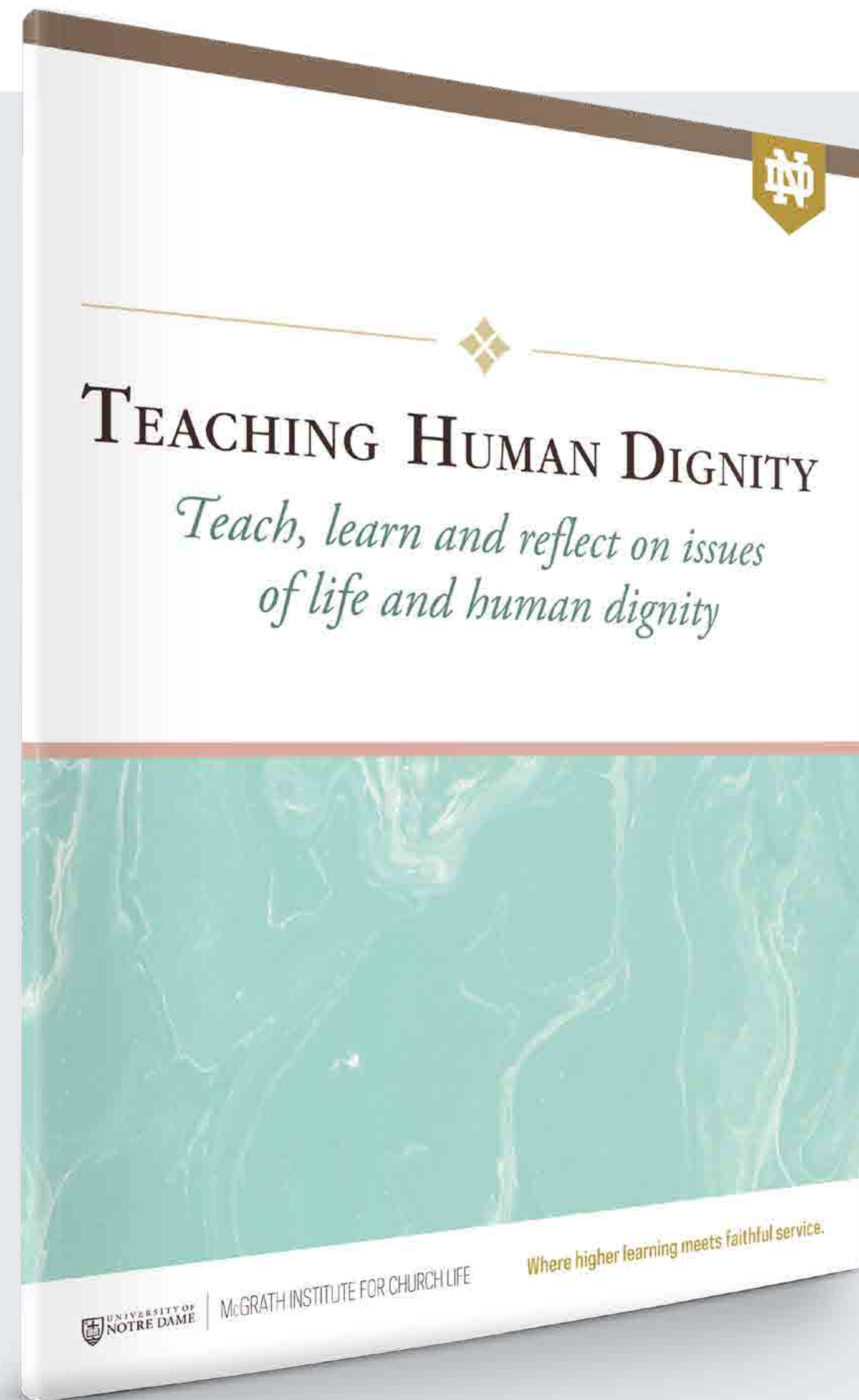


# ***Notre Dame Campus Pilgrimage***

The Notre Dame Campus Pilgrimage is a self-guided tour of 13 sacred sites on the University of Notre Dame's campus, offering a brief overview of the campus landmark, a reflection, and a prayer.

- ◆ 369 downloads
- ◆ 91 of which were new contacts
- ◆ International reach (Canada)



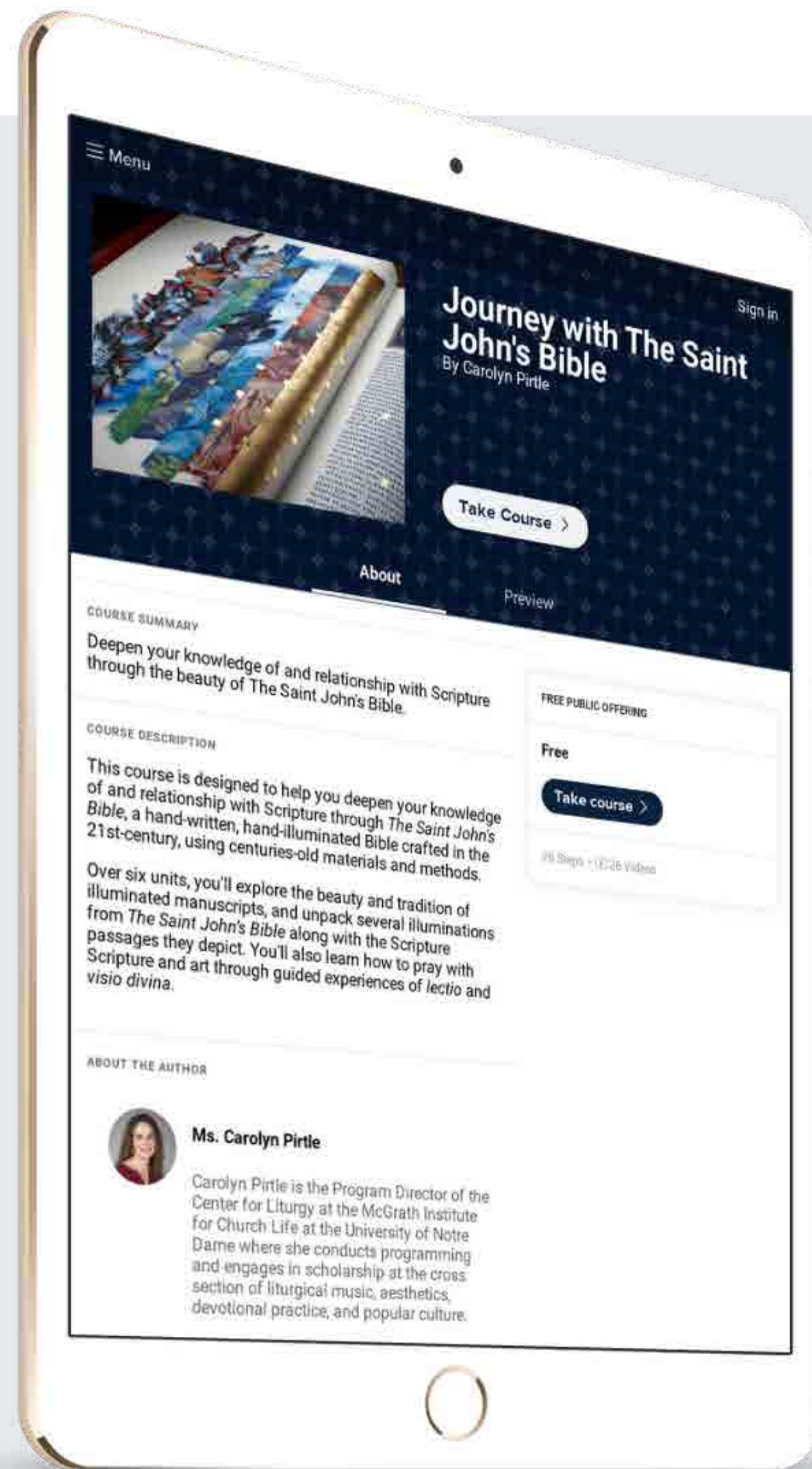


# ***Teaching Human Dignity Resource Series***

This series is a one of a kind collection of units, learning sequences, lesson plans, and resources that empowers teachers to incorporate life and human dignity issues into existing curriculum.

- ◆ **Most downloaded resource:**  
*Disability Selective Abortion Expert Guide*
- ◆ **The Series resources were downloaded 650 times over the course of 2020**
- ◆ **International reach (Argentina, Australia, Canada, Honduras, Philippines, UK)**





# ***The Saint John's Bible Online Learning Series***

This exclusive online course addresses the role of art in Christian life, the tradition of illuminated manuscripts, and unpacks several illuminations from *The Saint John's Bible* along with the Scripture passages they depict, while offering viewers an opportunity to pray with Scripture and art.

- ◆ **1,496 participants**
- ◆ **851 of which were new contacts**
- ◆ **International reach (New Zealand, Canada, Austria)**





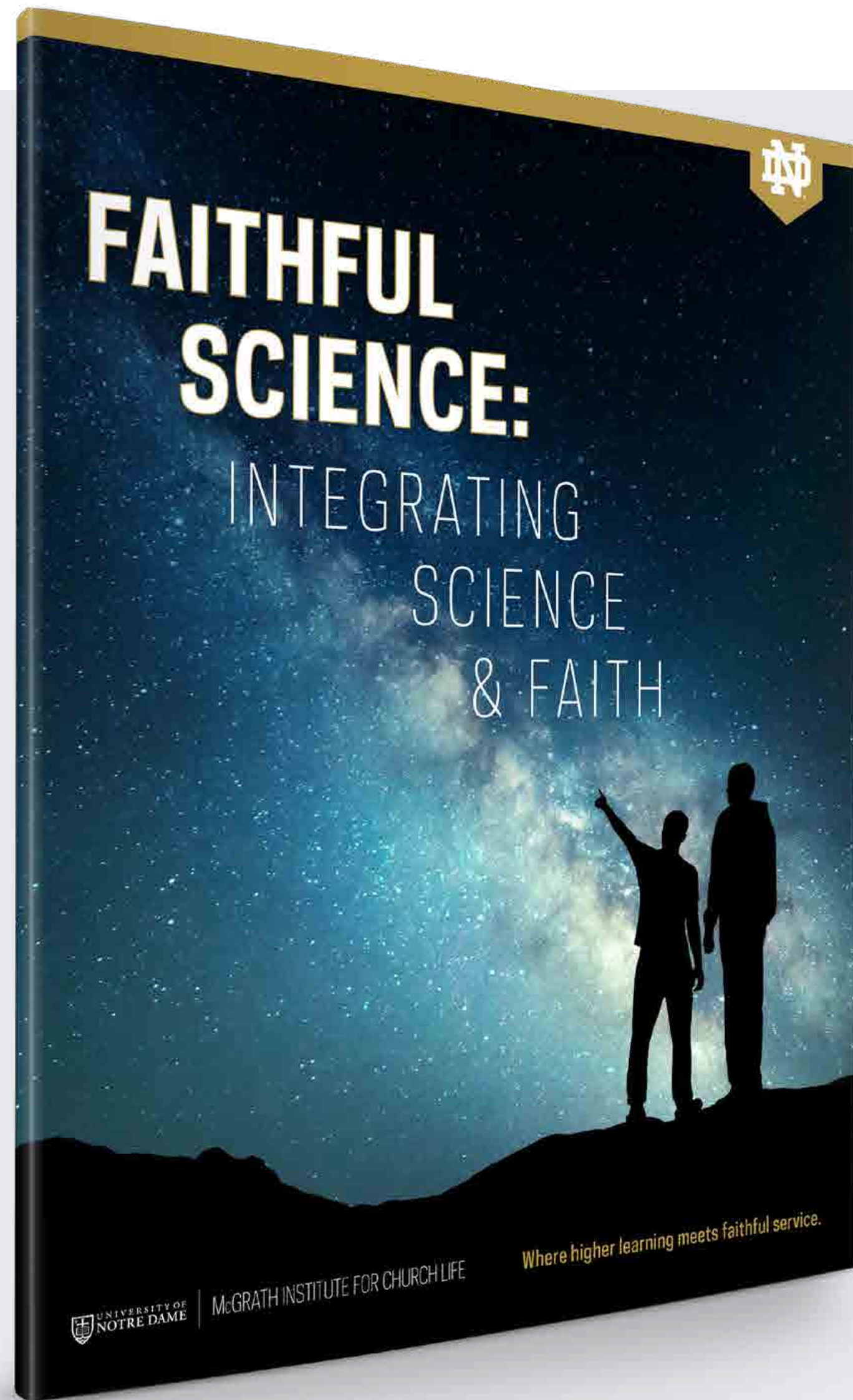
# ***Conversations That Matter:***

## ***The Intersection of Justice and Pregnancy***

This three-part webinar series explores the pro-life movement's roots in human rights concerns and addresses complex contemporary issues impacting women and their unborn children.

- ◆ **511 attendees**
- ◆ **International reach (Canada)**
- ◆ **Three discussion guides were developed for group use in US Arch/Dioceses**





# ***Faithful Science:***

## ***Integrating Science & Faith***

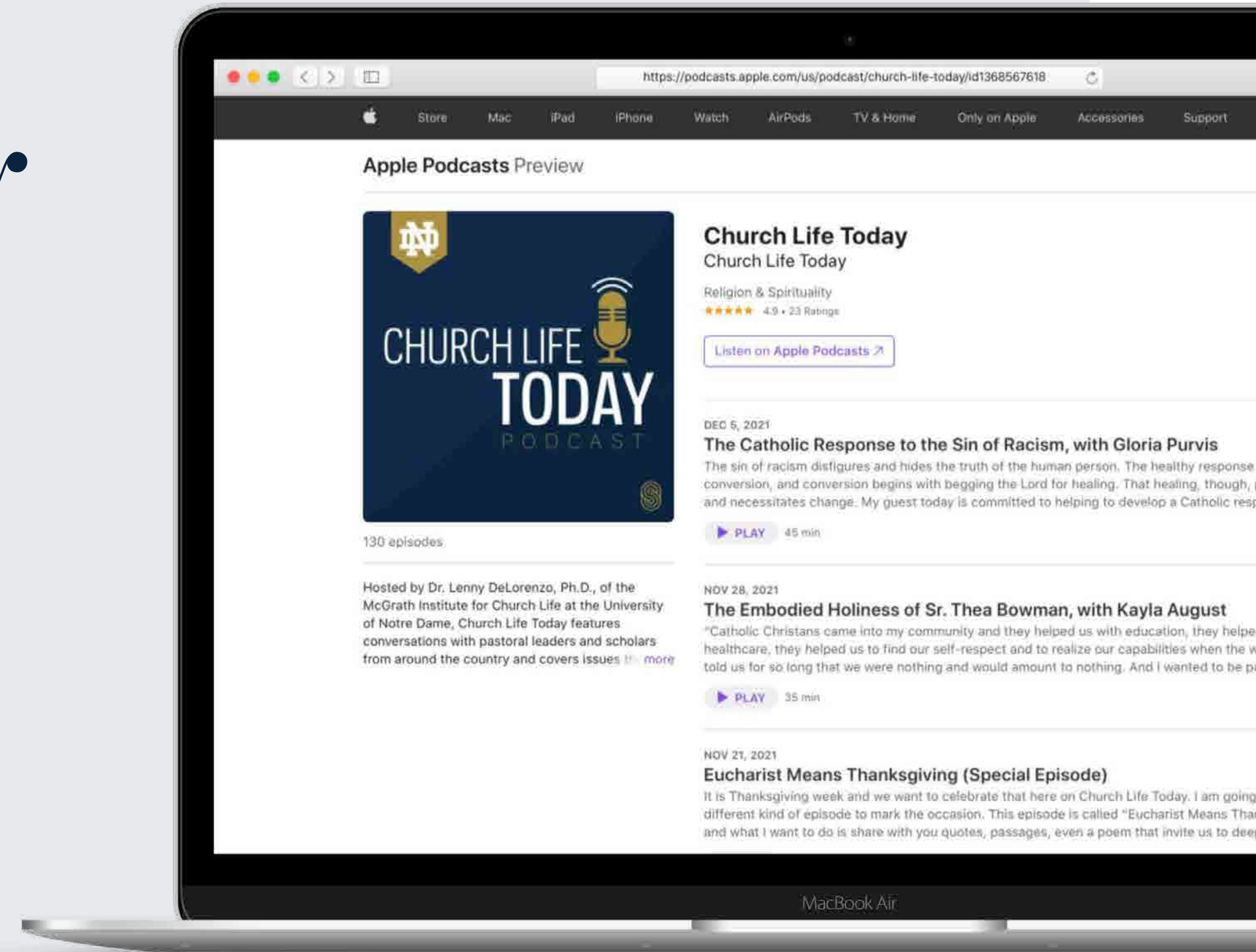
This guidebook is designed to help ministers, teachers, parents, and others understand the relationship between faith and science and to dispel the misunderstanding that the two are incompatible.

- ◆ 579 downloads
- ◆ 219 of which were new contacts
- ◆ International reach (Australia, Canada, Italy, Mexico)



# *Church Life Today*

Church Life Today is a radio show and podcast where conversations take place with pastoral leaders and scholars about some of the most important theological, social, and ministerial issues in the Church.





# *Church Life Journal*

The Church Life Journal is a publication that deepens the faith of all members of the Church, while also serving as a place where Catholic leaders can think through intellectual and pastoral problems of our day.





# *McGrath Institute Blog*

The McGrath Institute Blog cultivates and inspires everyday leaders to live out the fullness and richness of their faith.







# *Thanks to Our Benefactors*

2020 was a year unlike any we've experienced before. Thanks to the generous support of our benefactors the McGrath Institute was able to seamlessly pivot our in-person programming to a virtual format and continue to offer practical pastoral guidance and University scholarship to the broader Church. We are particularly grateful to our Advisory Council, whose time, talent, and expertise enrich and guide our programming.

In addition we would like to thank Our Sunday Visitor for their support of our Notre Dame Vision program for high school students; 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 the 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.