

NEW HORIZONS

Catholic colleges and universities are seeing new STEM programs thrive. One university even has a waiting list for the first time. Find out the initiatives that are attracting students and the value those students are finding in Catholic higher education today

PARTNER CONTENT

Untangling the relationship of faith and science

A new Catholic university with a campus in Italy is built for research advancements

By Katie Yoder

A new Catholic research university promises to form the next generation of saints, scholars and scientists by embracing the relationship between faith and science.

“The Church has contributed an enormous number of scientists to the development of both ancient and modern science,” Bishop Arthur L. Kennedy, president of the Catholic Institute of Technology (CatholicTech), told Our Sunday Visitor. “What we’re doing is something new, but in fact, it’s also something very old.”

While based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the campus of the American university is located in Castel Gandolfo, Italy — roughly an hour’s drive from the heart of Rome and

Vatican City. This fall, the inaugural class of 15 students will arrive and choose between bachelor’s degrees in civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and computer science, biomedical engineering and biology.

The university calls itself the “first-ever Catholic institution built exclusively for research advancements in the fields of the sciences, engineering, technology, and mathematics” and says it challenges the misconception that the Catholic faith is incompatible with scientific exploration.

Its mission is to “integrate the wisdom of revelation with the truths that are discoverable to human reason” with a vision to foster “a community of Catholic scientists and engineers who boldly engage with rapid advancements in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) while upholding the timeless truths of the Catholic Tradition.”



Courtesy of Catholic Institute of Technology

A distinctive curriculum

The university promises students hands-on problem solving, real-world engineering projects and research to prepare them for industry, graduate school or even medi-

cal school. The curriculum consists of foundational math and science courses, humanities courses and specialized courses.

In addition to their major, every student will graduate with

minors in philosophy and theology after taking classes that explore questions like “What ethical considerations should guide the development of ad-

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vanced technologies, including artificial intelligence and gene editing?”

Looking to the future, CatholicTech hopes to expand. By 2028, the university plans to launch its first masters and doctoral programs. In the next 15 years, CatholicTech hopes to receive an R1 status — a status granted to schools with a high dedication to research.

There are only three other Catholic R1 institutions in the United States, according to CatholicTech: Georgetown Uni-

versity in Washington, D.C., Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, and the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana.

The faculty will use research methods with special focuses: design of new materials and molecules, artificial intelligence (AI) applications in education, large language models and applications to Catholic philosophy and theology, machine learning, computer human interaction, astrophysics and augmented reality.

CatholicTech is also seeking regional accreditation through

the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) and program accreditation through ABET.

A one-of-kind Catholic university

Husband-and-wife team William and Alexis Haughey began CatholicTech, Bishop Kennedy said. William, a seasoned entrepreneur, and Alexis, a PhD student at the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, wanted a university that not only offered engineering programs engaged with research but also served students with a lively Catholic faith, he said.

The university features faculty and staff from other well-known higher education institutions, including Stanford University in Stanford, California, and MIT, he said.

For his part, Bishop Kennedy, former auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Boston, brings prior experience to CatholicTech, including his role in the creation of the Catholic Studies program at the University of St. Thomas

in St. Paul, Minnesota, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary.

“We have this wonderful group of people who are engaged with interest in the development and committed to interrelate Catholic faith with the sciences,” he said of CatholicTech.

He also revealed a past connection with the university’s building, once owned by the Pontifical North American College, a seminary in Rome.

“When I was a student over there, I lived in this building for three summers,” he remembered. “To return to it is going

to be a strange privilege.”

A special location

Castel Gandolfo, the city that houses CatholicTech’s campus, is considered the center of Catholic science, according to CatholicTech. The city also holds the Vatican Observatory, one of the oldest active astronomical observatories in the world, which will partner with CatholicTech.

“CatholicTech students will have the unique opportunity to take courses and conduct research in the fields of Planetary Sciences and Astrophysics with the leading Catholic





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scholars in the world,” according to CatholicTech. “This collaboration is not just academic, but based on our shared mission to educate the faithful on the intersections of faith and science.”

A focus on faith

CatholicTech promises to embrace its Catholic identity. Among other things, it will offer daily Mass for students at a time when no classes are taking place. Students can spend time in adoration three times a week and go to confession regularly.

Students can also join a daily Rosary, lauds and vespers, weekly men’s and women’s prayer groups, monthly Church history immersion trips around Rome and Italy, annual spiritual retreats and group pilgrimage opportunities throughout Europe and the Holy Land.

“It will be a full Catholic way of living,” Bishop Kennedy said.

A student’s perspective on CatholicTech

Students will be arriving from across the United States, including incoming freshmen Kyle Brown and Joseph Shores from Charleston, South Carolina, and Maria Isabel Pastrana-O’Connor from San Antonio, Texas.

“At first, it was a bit of a leap for me to go to college that far away from home, but I was so happy and excited when I got accepted!” Pastrana-O’Connor, who will be studying mechanical engineering, said in an interview CatholicTech shared with Our Sunday Visitor.

Brown and Shores, best friends whose most recent project was working on an autonomous drone engineering team, shared their excitement in another interview shared with Our Sunday Visitor.

“I choose CatholicTech because of the connection between the staff and students with Catholicism,” Brown said. “Going to CatholicTech, my personal goal is

“With CatholicTech, we will know the technology, the ethics, and where it is going, and will be able to integrate that Catholic ethical view into the mainstream.”

— Joseph Shores

starting a Catholic engineering start-up.”

Shores expressed interest in AI, specifically large-language models.

“With CatholicTech, we will know the technology, the ethics, and where it is going, and will be able to integrate that Catholic ethical view into the mainstream,” he said.

A look at student formation

CatholicTech comes at a time when the Church is dealing with questions regarding living in the world more and more from the side of anthropology, Bishop Kennedy said.

“What is the human being? And how is the human being constructed in the image and likeness of God through both his or her intelligence and also virtue and the achievement of the good — personal good, the good of society and the good of order?” he said.

By linking humanities with engineering, he hoped that students would come away seeing “everything they do through their faith.”

He said he hopes students take away “an understanding [of] the dignity of the human person — that must always be protected in the face of whatever technology we’re thinking about,” adding, “that will be the central thing.”

Katie Yoder is a contributing editor for Our Sunday Visitor.

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**NURSING**

Record enrollment for Mary

Students are drawn to the North Dakota university because of faith and practical programs, such as nursing

By Maryann Gogniat Eidemiller

While many colleges are experiencing drops in enrollment, cutting majors and, in some cases, merging with public colleges, enrollment for the incoming class is up this year at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota, beating out their banner year in 2023.

Last year, they brought in a record number of 559 freshmen and a total of nearly 700 students including transfer students. That's a sign that their Vision 2030 strategic plan, now in phase two, has been successful.

"Instead of doing a five-year plan, which is more typical, we decided to employ a much larger vision that has been a real foundation," said Rachael Brash, vice president for public affairs and enrollment management. "We looked at all of the strategic work of the university and launched it in 2014. Our goal was to every year bring in 500 freshmen and have an 80% retention, and by the year 2030 to have 5,000 students in total enrollment."

The 3,800 students currently enrolled include 1,200 students online. Registration closed in late July with a record number of both applications and students accepted. In August, the admissions office was working with individuals who were still interested in coming to ensure that there was enough space in the residence halls and that their course schedules could be accommodated.

Educating for life

Mary was founded in 1959 by the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery, who continue to support the university. Their history is rooted in the Benedictine sisters who in 1878 came to the Dakota Ter-



Medical students from the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D., are pictured in an undated photo. CNS photo/University of Mary

ritory to bring ministries of teaching and healing.

Brash noted that the continual drive of Mary's mission carries on the vision of the founding sisters and Benedictine hospitality that welcomes guests as Christ.

"When people talk about Mary, they of course talk about

our students," she said. "And when people interact with our students and graduates, they talk about the brightness that is inside of them. Part of the purpose of the university is not only to educate them

in their chosen field, but to educate them to the whole life. And so when you see our students, they are so joyful and they have a thirst for both life and their faith. I think other students

want to be part of that."

Mary has a 10:1 ratio of students to faculty, one of the lowest among all colleges and universities in the United States.

"That fosters a better learning environment between scholars and our world-class faculty," Brash said.

Impressive nursing program

The Catholic Scholars program that offers free room and board to graduates of Catholic high schools is another attraction. So are innovative programs like the university's tuition free nursing academy, which is one of their flagship programs.

"Our incoming freshmen complete their bachelor's degree in nursing in eight semesters, just like any other students, but they are year round," Brash said. "So they finish up in 2.6 years. But from the very beginning they are immediately

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Benedictine Sisters of Mary College meeting with the internationally renowned architect, Marcel Breuer, in the early design process of their campus and monastery. Public domain



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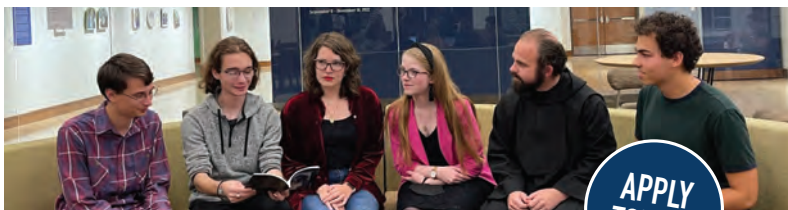
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accepted into their major, and upon successful completion of their degree they have a job in one of two local health care systems, Sanford Health or CHI St. Alexius."

Sanford additionally offers opportunities in their research programs where nurses can gain experience in a level one trauma center and critical access situations.

When the nursing graduates meet their employment requirements of a three-year commitment with the participating health care systems, combined with scholarships from Mary, their tuition ends up being paid in full.

"That's fantastic when you talk about how you meet the workforce needs in health care and in nursing," Brash said. "We are able to provide a direct pipeline of well prepared and excited engaged nurses who while they are part of the university get exclusive experiences like a pilgrimage that's health care related and is included in the Nursing Academy program."

That program started last fall. This year preparations are underway for a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, and to Rome so that students really get to understand the vocation of nursing in the broader context of the dignity of the human person. University president Msgr. James Shea will accompany them.

Caroline Watkins of Wisconsin is one of the incoming nursing students.

"The primary reason that I chose Mary was because I wanted a place that would help me strengthen my faith," she said. "Mary was the perfect combination between affordable and Catholic, and I am thrilled to make it my home away from home this year."

Meeting the needs of the workforce

Mary also has programs for students interested in IT, engineering, cyber security and other STEM fields. The Hamm School of Engineering, opened in 2016, is another flagship program that's in high demand in an energy-driven state that produces oil and natural gas.

"We are doing things that make sense for the workforce needs," Brash said.

Jovian Tupy from Prior Lake, Minnesota, is an incoming student who will major in civil

"We are able to provide a direct pipeline of well prepared and excited engaged nurses who while they are part of the university get exclusive experiences like a pilgrimage that's health care related and is included in the Nursing Academy program."

— Rachel Brash

engineering. In addition to the strong program, he was also attracted to the university's Catholic identity and campus life.

"I chose Mary because it gives me the chance to strengthen my Catholic faith, build lifelong relationships with my peers, and receive a personalized education in a smaller setting," he said. "These are just a few of the many reasons why I'm excited and looking forward to my next four years at Mary."

Last year, there were students from all 50 states pursuing degrees in a number of health care fields, education, business, the arts and sciences, Catholic studies and more. Over 65% of the current incoming class are from outside North Dakota, and some, as in the past, will stay in the area.

"By collaborating closely with local businesses, government agencies and community organizations, we ensure graduates are not only well-prepared but also well-connected to the opportunities available in our region," said Diane Fladeland, vice president for academic affairs.

Meeting the diverse needs of the local economy, she added, is part of the university's ongoing commitment to fostering a workforce that drives innovation and sustains economic development.

Msgr. Shea noted that the university community is "humbled and honored" that so many new students are eager to attend. He was looking forward to Welcome Week to witness "the light in their eyes and the joy on their faces as they embark on a quest to discover who God meant them to be."

Maryann Gogniat Eidemiller
writes from Pennsylvania.

NEW BEGINNINGS

New Catholic college comes to South Carolina

Rosary College seeks to provide students with two-year liberal arts education rooted in faith

By Jack Figge

Mike Shick’s involvement with Rosary College began with a rose — a rose from St. Thérèse of Lisieux, to be more specific.

After spending 20 years in the military, Shick thought it might be time for a change

So, he prayed a novena to St. Thérèse asking for confirmation.

And on the ninth day, he received a series of roses — a sign of intercession attributed to St. Thérèse — prompting him to take a leap of faith toward military retirement. After retirement, he began his new career as an assistant professor at Western Carolina University and started his own company, ROSEMET LLC.

That was until Father Dwight Longenecker approached Shick



Courtesy of Rosary College

with a proposal: to become one of the founders for a new college in Greenville, South Carolina — Rosary College.

“I am a retired senior military officer, with considerable leadership experience. I’m an academic and in business, and I just came off of doing policy, but at the time I did not know what I could do for the Church. So I asked Father Lonenecker what he wanted me to do,” Shick told Our Sunday Visitor.

“Father looked at me and said, maybe you’re the answer to our prayers, and went on to explain how he wanted to open a Catholic college in the Greenville area.

“I just started grinning, because here, unbeknownst to him on both sides, I had been praying about opening a Catholic college since I received the roses from St. Thérèse nearly a year prior; moreover, I had created a roadmap for starting a

two-year college a decade before as part of one of my graduate programs.”

A microcosm of faith

For Shick and Father Longenecker, Greenville South Carolina seemed like an optimal place to open a new Catholic college. Rosary will be the first Catholic college in the state and will serve a city that has a vibrant, growing Catholic community.

“Greenville is a microcosm of the Faith,” Shick said. “There are a lot of amazing priests whose leadership has been amazing. The community has been exceptionally welcoming and warm. I have met so many families who have moved from other parts of the United States to Greenville because of the community and the Faith and how many options it has for a classical, Catholic K-12 education.”

Beyond high school, however, there were no local options. Thus, Rosary College was born.

But opening a new college

“What we hope students receive is, first, is a closer relationship with God. That is first and foremost. If God is the cause of all these things, then he has to be the primary purpose for which we are engaging the study of these subjects.”

— Elizabeth L’Arrivee

is a risky business, especially in today’s economic climate. Since the pandemic, colleges across the country are experiencing declining enrollment as high school students opt to forgo college.

The trend is unlikely to reverse anytime soon as schools face enrollment uncertainty with declining birth rates and growing online options.

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"There are several different factors at play," Shick said. "There are fewer children being born in the United States. The last numbers I saw was that the birth rate was between 1.6 to 1.7 births per family, which is indicative of a shrinking society. On top of that, these colleges are facing other challenges, and these institutions are closing for various different reasons."

Rosary College administrators did their research though, sending surveys to local community members to gauge their interest in the project.

The concept was well received, and college leaders realized that the new school would not just be economically feasible but would be a great addition to the community.

"We did our due diligence from the get-go, which was to do a feasibility analysis, and we sent out the survey to gauge what the community thought and what they felt was important," Shick said. "In our opinion, many institutions have, to a certain degree, lost their way, their purpose and intent, which is to build and sup-

"Greenville is a microcosm of the Faith. ... I have met so many families who have moved from other parts of the United States to Greenville because of the community and the Faith and how many options it has for a classical, Catholic K-12 education."

— Mike Shick

port wisdom and understanding. These families are seeking an institution where young men and women can build that wisdom and understanding."

The first semester

Rosary College will begin its inaugural semester this fall, offering a two-year Associate of Catholic Studies in Integrated Humanities degree. Over the course of two years, students will take courses rooted in the classical liberal arts tradition. Courses include two semesters of Latin,

a few great books courses and a variety of theology classes.

"Students will take courses in the seven distinct liberal arts subjects, but they're integrated in the sense that they culminate in specifically two sciences, the study of philosophy and the study of theology. And the reason why they culminate in that is that both of those are considered to be sort of an architectonic study, in the sense that they draw all things together and show the relations between the parts," Elizabeth L'Arrivee, the director of academic policy and compliance at Rosary College told Our Sunday Visitor.

Currently, 13 students are enrolled, Shick and L'Arrivee expect a few more to join the inaugural class before the first day of classes on Aug. 16.

"The curriculum sets you up for further study, or in case you don't want to go on and do further study, it sets you up to understand the beauties and the benefits of this approach, because what it comes down to is, why do we learn," L'Arrivee added. "We are learning so that we can live our lives better and become better human beings and fulfill our

potentials."

God first, then education

Rosary College seeks to offer an affordable two-year program to anybody, whether it be recent high school graduates unsure where to go, high school students seeking dual-enrollment credit or even adults that want to learn more about the Catholic faith.

"We do not just have students of a standard college age, we also have juniors and seniors in high school that become dual enrolled so that after high school they are able to go to Newman guide schools," said L'Arrivee.

Currently, Rosary College has partnered with two Newman Guide schools — Ave Maria in Florida and Thomas More College in Merrimack, New Hampshire — which will allow students to transfer credits to the respective institutions.

"We are connecting with homeschool families and high schools about our dual enrollment program because we want to be able to help young men and women to continue to develop their knowledge and wisdom through early scholars and be able to see where God's present

in all things and the overlap of his design in each of our subject areas," Shick said.

Ultimately though, the college hopes to provide its students with a well-rounded education and that, by the time they leave, students have a deep, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

"What we hope students receive is, first, is a closer relationship with God. That is first and foremost. If God is the cause of all these things, then he has to be the primary purpose for which we are engaging the study of these subjects," L'Arrivee said. "We are trying to not only give students the ability to think rationally and understand arguments and logic and demonstration and evidence, but also to prepare their souls to be really, truly convinced by these arguments for faith when they hear them."

Jack Figge has written for multiple diocesan papers, including covering World Youth Day 2023 for the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas. In addition to his local coverage, he has written for the National Catholic Register, FOCUS and Catholic Vote.

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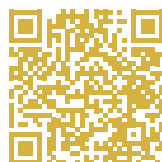


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PARTNER CONTENT

25 years of Catholic counseling

Divine Mercy University specializes in understanding the person, marriage and family

By Katie Yoder

A Catholic graduate university of psychology and counseling is looking to the future as it celebrates 25 years of forming students with an education grounded in the inherent dignity and worth of the human person.

"It's really been God's providence that has carried us through and puts us in a unique position to serve the Church and serve so many souls who need help," Legionary of Christ Father Charles Sikorsky, president of Divine Mercy University (DMU) in Sterling, Virginia, told Our Sunday Visitor.

Today, DMU offers a variety of degrees it says are rooted in faith and based in science: a doctoral degree in clinical psychology, a Master of Science degree in psychology, a Master of Science degree in counseling and even a certificate in spiritual direction. The university, which is affiliated with the Legionaries of Christ, counts 548 current students and 974 alumni with 182 degrees awarded in 2024.

As a university, it is committed to "the scientific study of psychology with a Catholic understanding of the person, marriage and the family" and hopes to serve as "an international center for scholarship and professional education dedicated to

the study of the mind and soul grounded in an integral Catholic-Christian view of the human person."

DMU traces its beginnings back to 1997, and began by providing continuing education for licensed mental health professionals. In 1999, when it was known as the Institute for the Psychological Sciences, it started providing instruction leading to a master's degree. The next year, the university awarded its first degrees.

A mental health crisis

DMU's founders — a group of mental health professionals, academicians and clinicians — anticipated a great need, Father Sikorsky said.

"We have a terrible mental health crisis that's growing, spiraling out of control," he said.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease and Control (CDC), more than 1 in 5 adults live with a mental illness and more than 1 in 5 teenagers (ages 13-18) either struggle or have struggled with a seriously debilitating mental illness.

The secular response, Father Sikorsky said, comes up short.

"It kind of reduces the person — the human person — to just the biological and the neurological, which forgets about the soul, right?" he said.

Amid the growing crisis, the U.S. bishops announced a campaign last year to raise awareness around mental health, remove the sense of stigma for those

struggling and advocate for help. Father Sikorsky called the initiative "a great step forward."

"And we're going to need the soldiers and the army to carry it out, right?" he asked. "They need us as members of the mystical body of Christ to take that invitation and really come up with ways to help people heal, accompany people in their struggles."

Inspiration from a saint

Father Sikorsky identified the woman who led the effort to found DMU as Doctor Gladys Sweeney, who later served as dean. She drew her inspiration from St. Pope John Paul II.

"He's not just a good philosopher, a holy pope, he's a good psychologist," he remembered her saying. "She made that comment when reading some of his works about the human person."

Today, DMU centers its mission around the human person. The university is dedicated "to the renewal of the Catholic-Christian intellectual tradition and the integration of the theoretical and empirical bases of psychology, professional counseling and related fields, with a Catholic-Christian view of the human person."

Looking back

Under the leadership of Father Sikorsky, who was elected in 2007, the university has witnessed an increase in enrollment growth, implemented new programs and formed an alumni association for its graduates



Graduates participate in Mass and Commencement May 10. Photos courtesy of Divine Mercy University

in more than 40 states and 20 countries.

Among other accreditation, it earned professional accreditation from the American Psychological Association and was reaffirmed for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Father Sikorsky also oversaw DMU as it raised more than \$40 million for everything from scholarships and new programs to its new permanent campus located in Sterling.

The university also developed scholarly and research projects, including the 2020 publication of "A Catholic Christian Meta-Model of the Person," a textbook that Father Sikorsky called "the backbone of all our programs." This model, according to DMU, "blends the insights of three wisdom traditions — the psychological sciences, philosophy, and theology — to provide

a framework for understanding the whole person."

"If you don't know what a human person is and you don't know what makes a human person flourish for the long run, then what is the goal of your therapy, right?" he asked.

"You're desperately needed. If you're the kind of person people confide in, if you're the kind of person who really wants to serve people at the deepest level, this is an incredible career."

— Father Charles Sikorsky

"Therapy has an end in mind and that end needs to be consistent with the true good of the human person."

"We want to continue to work with that and offer it to other scholars and universities," Father Sikorsky said of the future.

On its website, DMU lists many of its ongoing projects and programs, including a Department of Integrative Studies, a Center for Trauma and Resiliency Studies, research through its Center for International Study of Spirituality and Mental Health, a university press, lecture series, a podcast and a new chapel

named in honor of St. Dymphna, the patron saint of those who struggle with mental health, scheduled for completion this fall.

Looking forward

Going forward, Father Sikorsky said, DMU is focusing on the Church, the culture and the education it provides. They want more people working in the Church, including at the parish level. They also support graduates in the broader culture, working everywhere from general hospitals to psychiatric hospitals.

Pointing to the university itself, he said DMU hopes to continue growing, including by starting a doctoral program in counseling that will prepare faculty and researchers for the field of professional counseling.

Students and alumni revealed how DMU transformed their lives in testimonials shared with Our Sunday Visitor. Anthony Flores, who graduated in 2019 and now works in the IPS Clinic at DMU, an outpatient mental health facility, said that his experience impacted him personally.

"The friends and lifelong re-



The IPS Center for Psychological Services, the Institution's training clinic, is where students engage in their first practicum experiences.

lationships I've forged throughout the program are ones I treasure dearly to this day," he said. "DMU provided a high standard of learning and growth that more than prepared me professionally as a counselor."

Matthew Nguyen, a 4th year Psy.D. student, originally from Auburn, Washington, recognized that DMU teaches students not only what to do but also how to learn and what it means to grow.

"No matter what your background is and what you excel at, you will find a more com-

plete view of the human person here which will help you to ultimately become a healer-in-faith," he said.


For his part, Father Sikorsky shared his message for students considering DMU.

"You're desperately needed," he said. "If you're the kind of person people confide in, if you're the kind of person who really wants to serve people at the deepest level, this is an incredible career."

Katie Yoder is a contributing editor for Our Sunday Visitor.

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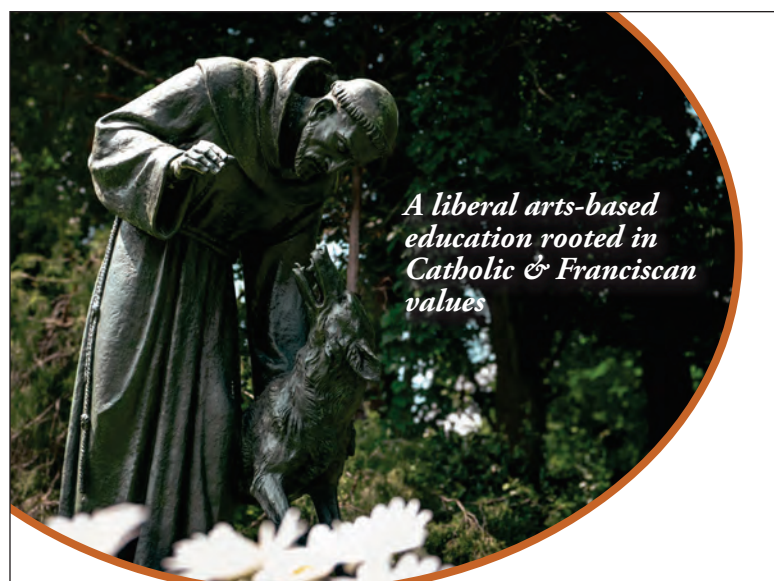
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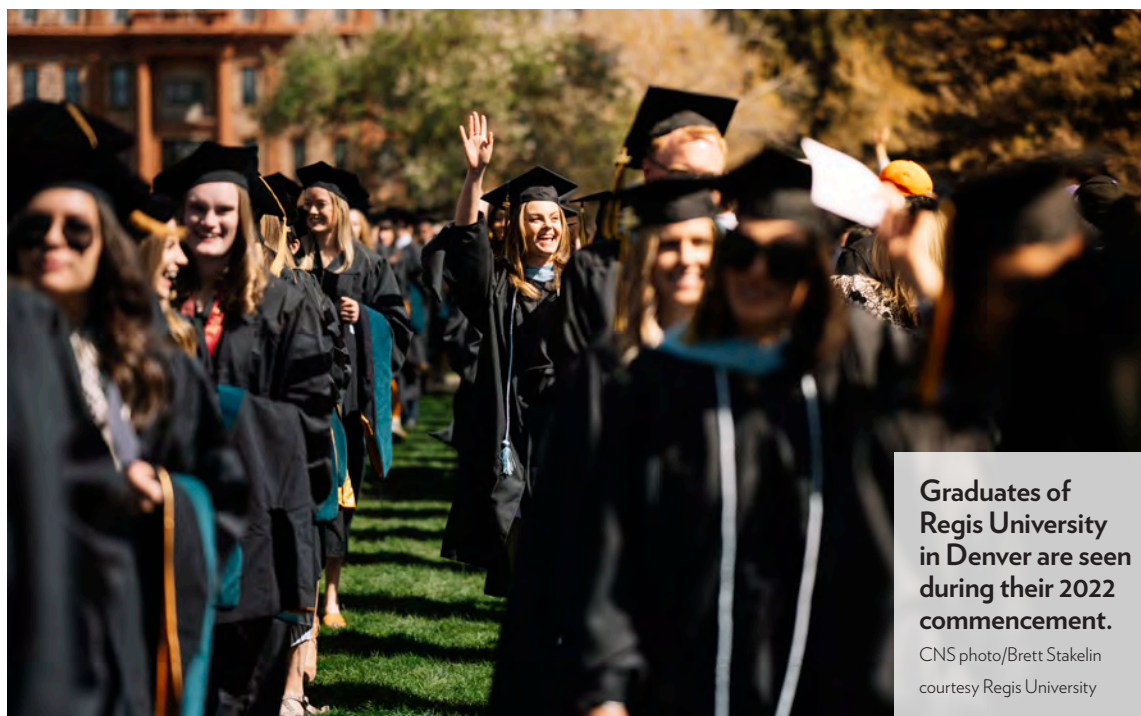
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Graduates of Regis University in Denver are seen during their 2022 commencement.

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The non-financial benefits of authentically Catholic higher ed

What are the benefits students receive through Catholic higher education compared to secular education?

By Charlie Camosy

Jason King, the Beirne Chair and director of the Center for Catholic Studies at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, spoke with OSV News' Charlie Camosy in June about the non-financial benefits he found that Catholic higher education had on students in a new study.

Charlie Camosy: How did you come to do a study like this? Who were your partners?

Jason King: I have been thinking about Catholic higher education for a while. I have worked for over 20 years in

Catholic colleges and universities, mostly teaching core classes to students with all sorts of majors. It's been fantastic, watching students think through ideas and their future, reflecting on the Catholic intellectual tradition.

This joy, though, is mixed with worry these days. When I look at higher education, one concern that has been weighing on me is the reduction of college to a simple cost-benefit analysis. Just see the numerous studies on the economic value of a college degree from the Bureau of Labor Statistics or The New York Times' podcast episode "Is College Worth It?" based on Paul Tough's "Americans Are Losing Faith in the Value of College."

This monetary focus is not just a truncated view of education. It causes schools to rework their curriculums accordingly and, in effect, forms students into worker drones. Catholic colleges and universities hold that, while jobs are important, life is more than a job.

I thought that Catholic higher education might be different and, if it was, might be useful for a broader conversation on the value of higher education. First though, I had to get the data. This was where the study came from. It was done with YouGov [a British market research and data ana-

lytics firm]. I wanted to ensure the validity of the survey and results.

It was also done with the support of St. Mary's University and the Center for Catholic Studies. The university had done lots of work to establish and fund the center. It enabled me to do the study.

Camosy: What were some of the key results of the study? Did you expect them? Were they surprising?

King: When the results came back, we were thrilled. They were positive across the board (something that was not guaranteed). Moreover, the findings pointed to a pretty good vision for higher education: fostering a meaningful life rooted in community and ethical behavior.

The key results are:

Meaningful life:

- Catholic graduates are 10% more likely to report that their life is close to ideal.
- Catholic graduates are 9% more likely to have a clear sense of direction in life.

Community life:

- Catholic graduates are 15% more likely to feel fulfilled in their social life.



Jason King

Continued on Page 16B

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ST. JOHN PAUL II FAMOUSLY SAID*, "A LIFE WITH CHRIST IS A WONDERFUL ADVENTURE."

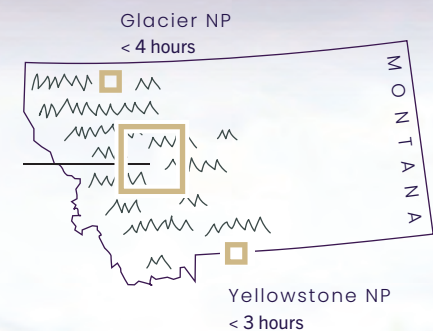
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Continued from Page 14B

- Catholic graduates are 13% more likely to feel fulfilled in their community involvement.
- Catholic graduates are 9% more likely to be civically engaged.

Moral life:

- Catholic graduates are 19% more likely to say that the various aspects of morality surveyed are extremely important in decision making.

Two interesting aspects that also link these outcomes to Catholic schools are:

- Catholic graduates are 9% more likely to say that their university, its curriculum and its community has had a major influence on the overall alignment of goals and values in their life.
- These findings are observed across demographics, ideologies, political affiliation, and location.



Architects, students and creators involved in the Notre-Dame de Paris Truss Project admire replicas of the historic Parisian cathedral’s choir trusses at The Catholic University of America’s School of Architecture and Planning in 2022. CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

These are the highlights. People can check out the general overview or a more detailed review. They can also reach out to me for more about the survey and data.

Camosy: This study comes at a key moment for thinking and debating about Catholic higher education in the United States. Are there any lessons suggested by the results for us?

King: There are two lessons that immediately jump out to me.

First, backing off on Catholic identity seems mistaken. There are lots of challenges in Catholic higher education right now. I know weakening or abandoning Catholic identity, like cutting theology and philosophy departments and weakening the liberal arts core curriculum, has been tried by a few places in

hopes of addressing their problems. The results of my study suggest this is wrongheaded. It would eliminate the value of a Catholic education, weaken its distinctiveness and more likely jeopardize the school than save it.

Second, more broadly, the results suggest values for all of higher education. Catholic colleges and universities foster a meaningful life, one that is ethical and engaged in the community. These three values — meaning, ethics and community — are not bad values for all of higher education. Wouldn’t we want more people who have a sense that their life is meaningful, believe that community engagement is important and make decisions based on ethical principles?

Camosy: Obviously Catholic institutions of higher education serve many, many non-Catholic students. Has there been interest in your study outside of Catholic circles?

King: The outcomes noted in the study hold for graduates of Catholic colleges and uni-

versities, including graduates that are not Catholic. It looks like the schools help everyone, and all of these graduates then help others. That seems positive not just for Catholic higher education but for all of society.

Right now, the interest has been from Catholic media. I am hoping it will make its way beyond these circles and push the public conversation on the value of higher education beyond cost-benefit outcomes. I don’t know if it will get a hearing. Positive news about Catholic institutions is often overlooked. But I think this work is so important. It points to the value of life being more than economic productivity. Education can open people up to life’s broader purposes and values, and Catholic education, rooted in the Gospel’s demand that we love others as God loves us, can be a model for how to do this.

Charlie Camosy is professor of medical humanities at the Creighton School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska, and moral theology fellow at St. Joseph Seminary in New York.

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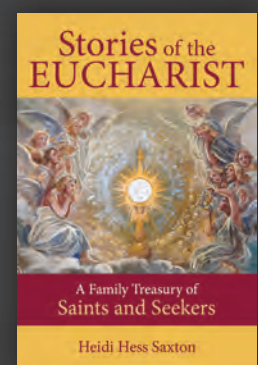
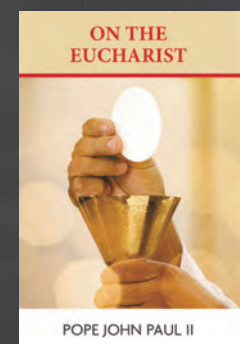
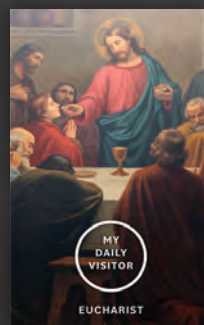
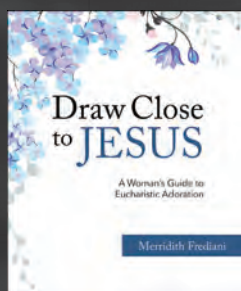
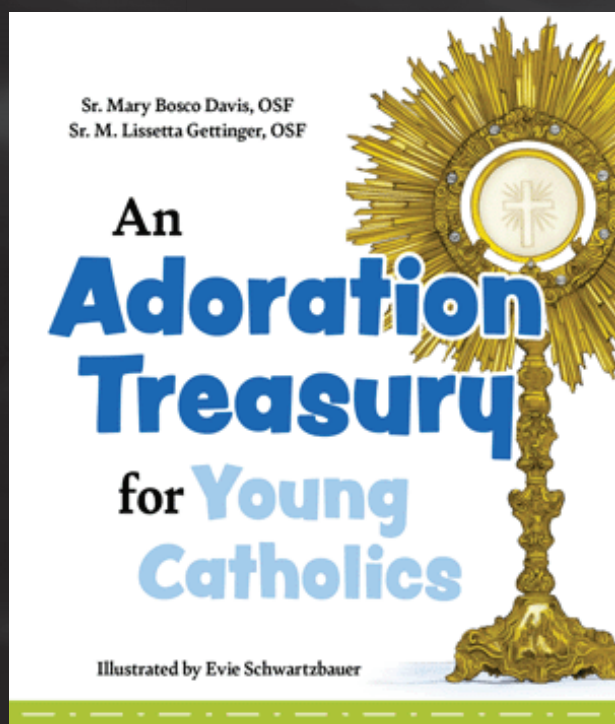
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DIVERSITY IN STEM

Big grant, new opportunities for NY students

More underrepresented students can explore STEM at Catholic colleges

By Maryann Gogniat Eidemiller
Seven of the 10 institutions that make up the Lower Hudson Valley Catholic Colleges and Universities Consortium in New York are sharing in a \$3.5 million five-year grant that will bring more opportunities to underrepresented students.

The money being distributed through the National Science Foundation (NSF) comes from the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Program (LSAMP) that’s specifically earmarked for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs.
The goal of the new program is two-fold: one, to educate students who otherwise might not have gone to college, and two, to provide a pipeline of skilled

professionals to join a workforce that has a growing need in those fields.
It’s a win-win for students and for future employees and employers, and it’s a good fit for the mission of Catholic education.
“We see this work as integral to our missions as Catholic institutions of higher education — serving our communities, expanding access to high quality, values-driven education and working together toward the betterment of society,” said Gina Florio, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Molloy University. “The grant is mission in action.”
Molloy is leading the initiative in the Hudson Valley consortium that includes Manhattan College, Mount Saint Mary College, St. Francis College, St. John’s University, St. Joseph’s University New York and St. Thomas Aquinas College.
“We led the initiative because President James Lentini



“The program could serve as a case study of how other institutions with similar characteristics might fortify STEM pipelines for underrepresented minority students within their institutional contexts.”
— James Lentini

and I believed it would be a unique opportunity to collaborate with other Catholic colleges and universities,” said Donald Mitchell Jr., Molloy’s vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion, and director for the consortium’s LSAMP program. “I was familiar with the LSAMP program, and President Lentini currently leads the consortium. Once we discussed the idea, we presented it to the other member

institutions, and we quickly began planning our proposal to the NSF.”
The grant is named after the late U.S. Representative Louis Stokes, the first African-American congressman elected from Ohio, and who served from 1969 to 1999. A prominent attorney and politician, he was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and was deeply involved in civil rights and social justice issues.

Enrolling in the program
As the lead institution, Molloy manages the grant funds and hosts the program and coordinates with representatives from the other members.
Students apply directly to the college of their choice. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident with good academic standing and be a member of an historically underrepresented group in STEM. That includes Blacks and Afri-

A photograph of three female graduates of Spalding University, smiling and wearing blue graduation caps and gowns with gold stoles. They are standing in front of a Spalding University banner.

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can-Americans, Hispanic and Latino Americans, American Indians, Alaska natives, native Hawaiians and Pacific islanders.

“While politics and legislation like affirmative action, *Brown v. Board of Education* and the Civil Rights Act have made progress, there is still work to be done to ensure all populations are properly represented in STEM,” Mitchell said. “The NSF acknowledges this history and the importance of educating a diverse society, which is why they support programs like LSAMP. Such programs provide funding to help institutions move forward toward a society that thrives on diversity and equity.”

Alisha McCorvey is assistant vice president for students, diversity, equity and inclusion, and chief diversity officer at Mount Saint Mary College. Evan Merkhofer is interim vice president for academic affairs. Their offices collaborate to identify students who meet the criteria for acceptance.

“We will also identify first-year and transfer students who will benefit from enrolling in this program,” Merkhofer said. “To that end, we have estab-

lished an application process and every student who has applied will be interviewed by members of the consortium and will need to be accepted into the program by the consortium, not solely the Mount.”

Diversity and innovation

McCorvey noted that there’s a general shortage of qualified individuals to fill the increasing need for positions in the STEM professions.

“Strengthening the pathway will be critical in ameliorating this challenge, especially in the New York area where there are many opportunities for graduating students in these fields,” she said. “The LSAMP programs will help provide the resources to underrepresented students to guide them on their path to success, and to diversity in the STEM workforce.”

Florio noted that the career opportunities in the targeted sector are particularly outpacing the mainstays of the New York economy, such as finance and real estate. Furthermore, the STEM sector on average offers higher paying jobs. Diversity, though, is still lagging behind.

“That diversity is paramount as it drives innovation,” she said. “Research has shown that diverse teams develop more and better solutions to complex problems, and do so more quickly, leveraging the various experiences, worldview and creativity of the individuals. Our work will help drive innovation and foster creativity in the STEM workforce of tomorrow.”

An example to other colleges

For the most part, the colleges already have the brick and mortar means to support the program. For instance, at Mount Saint Mary College, expansion will be directed at providing additional resources, more research opportunities, support for student attendance and presentation at regional and national conferences, expanding the tutoring program, implementing a peer mentoring and coaching program, and more.

There also will be career support and graduate school application support to help more students from underrepresented populations to continue into

“That diversity is paramount as it drives innovation. Research has shown that diverse teams develop more and better solutions to complex problems, and do so more quickly, leveraging the various experiences, worldview and creativity of the individuals.”

— Gina Florio

STEM graduate programs and careers. Those efforts are typical of what the other institutions will offer.

“This grant proposal was a true collaborative effort,” said Andy Burns, executive director of centralized advising and campus CO-PI at Manhattan College. “All institutions involved are passionate about the opportunities for underrepresented students in STEM. The funding will allow us to leverage some of our existing struc-


tures and explore new ways to support the outcomes and success of the students. We will coordinate intentional programming through the campus for participants to engage in activities that align with the overarching goals of the LSAMP project.”

The consortium will work collaboratively to achieve those goals of increasing enrollment and improving first to second year retention. They also will focus on fostering strong STEM/scientist identities through STEM enrichment activities and supporting successful entry into graduate study and STEM careers.

Molloy president Lentini noted that their work developing the mission of the grant can be an example for other Catholic colleges and universities in geographically diverse areas.

“The program could serve as a case study of how other institutions with similar characteristics might fortify STEM pipelines for underrepresented minority students within their institutional contexts,” he said.

Maryann Gogniat Eidemiller writes from Pennsylvania.



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ESPORTS

Esports come to Catholic schools

Catholic colleges and universities see the value in a more 'inclusive' form of competition

By Rachel Thomas

In an Olympics year, the artistry and prowess that the human body can achieve is put on magnificent display. Whether it's Simone Biles' ability to all but take flight, or Gabriel Medina's nonchalant dominance of wind and waves, we are endlessly seeing the physically best of us at their heights. And it's spectacular.

This display might seem the polar opposite of another category of "sports" that is getting underway with the start of the school year. It's a type of sport prefaced with an "e," the way our mail now is: esports, and they are popular on college campuses across the country.

The middle-aged have perhaps not yet heard of it. But esports are growing in demand at both secular and Catholic universities. And while an initial reaction might be along the lines of "we've given in to the enemy," those who are leading esports teams and departments have another story to tell.

"What makes it unique is that it brings together students of all backgrounds and experiences under a common bond of healthy competition," explained Steven S. Wettergren, director of accreditation and esports director at the University of St. Francis in Illinois.

While the Olympics are a clear reminder that not all of us can succeed at physical sports, esports "create a more inclusive environment that breaks down barriers for many students," he said.

That's not all, though. Wettergren says esports are actually an opportunity to embrace for many reasons.

"These games require real skills including teamwork, leadership, communication, strategy development, critical thinking, problem solving, creativity and perseverance. These skills extend beyond just the game environment. They are the same that employers are asking for and are required for success in the modern workplace."



Photo courtesy of The Catholic University of America

Wettergren added: "As esports continue to grow in popularity, I think colleges should recognize it as an opportunity."

A bridge

In Texas, Jonathan Baadsgaard, the esports director for the University of St. Thomas, sees similar positive elements, and no contradiction at all with the university's firmly Catholic identity.

"Esports are providing us with an opportunity to reach a new generation of students," he explained. "Our esports program and game design curriculum serve as bridges between traditional Catholic education and the realities of the modern world, demonstrating that faith and contemporary culture can engage in fruitful dialogue."

While Baadsgaard acknowledges the various documented negative side-effects of video game use, he maintained: "As is the case with many things,

we've recognized that too much of anything can easily have a negative impact on a life. Esports is no different; an extensive amount of video game use can lead to a variety of issues."

But at the same time, he insisted, "we also recognize the vast number of opportunities and positive outcomes that result from esports. It provides students with opportunities of intellectual growth, social development, ethical formation, and the ability to be stewards of technology. It also provides opportunities for students to engage in competition, when they'd otherwise be unable to. On a personal note, I was injured badly as a child while competing in physical sports. My outlet for competition and team sportsmanship was replaced by the ability to compete in esports."

For Baadsgaard, a focus on holistic development and transferable skills, such as strategic

thinking and quick decision-making, is key to counteract the threat of possible negative side-effects.

Aiming for fitness

George Bauman, the director of fitness, recreational sports and wellness at The Catholic University of America, notes an important point: "There are indeed physical aspects to fitness, but there are also mental and emotional aspects."

Esports can be a positive element in overall fitness, he suggested. "Esports offers avenues for students to find outlets among their busy lives in a controlled atmosphere. The titles they compete in and play are competitive, and offer stimulation, as well as a way for them to unwind. At the end of the day, it makes them happy and increases their sense of belonging within the campus as a whole."

Emphasizing that students are encouraged to be involved in a number and range of activities, Bauman noted similar positive elements as those pointed out at other universities, especially the sense of belonging and engagement, and real-life, transferable skills.

For generations distant from these opportunities, it might be hard to envision. But in some ways, esports aren't so different from other competitive or cultural activities, from marching band to swim team.

At Catholic University, for example, there's an esports lounge open seven days a

"Esports are providing us with an opportunity to reach a new generation of students. Our esports program and game design curriculum serve as bridges between traditional Catholic education and the realities of the modern world, demonstrating that faith and contemporary culture can engage in fruitful dialogue."

— Jonathan Baadsgaard

week to all students. Some of the teams are competitive and require try-outs. In order to make the team, players naturally have to have developed dominance of the game. The competitors practice together, either physically in the lounge or online. And they have league matchups.

"The majority of competitions happen online, as the schools are located throughout the country," explained Bauman. But "there are chances to compete in person, locally, regionally and nationally throughout the year if teams are interested, and if they qualify for some of the nationally ranked competitions."

Continued on Page 22B



Photo courtesy of University of St. Francis

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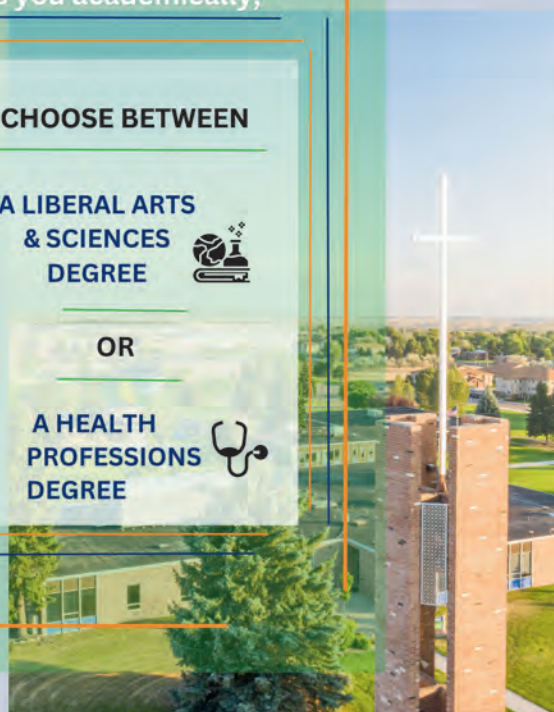
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Continued from Page 20B

Hoping for growth

The competitors are enthusiastic about the opportunities their colleges are providing them.

"Becoming a part of USF esports has been a highlight of my life," said James Dvorak of University of St. Francis. "As a coach, I've learned valuable skills in

time management, communication and decision-making. As a player, I've learned to strengthen and support my teammates' talents, cover them in their weak spots, and be a good sport for wins as well as losses."

Dvorak sees more than just competition in these games. "A group of people bonding over something they enjoy is the foundation for a positive,

healthy community," he said, "and the community I'm a part of is one that I hope only continues to grow just as we do on our journey through college."

Not just games, but careers

It's not surprising that esports is not just something students want as an extracurricular activity. Many are eyeing this diversion as their future career path.

A variety of Catholic universities have jumped on board in offering majors or degrees focused on this area. Some, such as Sacred Heart in Connecticut, offer a minor specifically in esports. Others are centered on artistic or communications elements related to this area, such as Catholic U's 3D animation and character design concentration.

John Paul the Great Catholic University is seeking to be a leader in the field, with a game development emphasis as part of their Bachelor of Fine Arts in

Visual Arts.

Mission advancement officer James Crowell explained how "JP Catholic" has taken up game development as part of its "project-based education" style, always with the overall goal of impacting the culture for Christ. Students in the game design program might finish their education having created, designed and launched a game, from start to finish. This is in fact what happened notably in 2019, with the creation and launch of a quite successful game called Shepherd of Light.

"Certainly there are a lot of people who are very hesitant to get into video games," admits Crowell. He acknowledged that, unlike physical sports, which is basically naturally healthy, gaming has to be taken with caution. "But that doesn't mean that there's not beauty in that tool," he said.

"Look, these are the new frontiers, and they're going to continue developing, whether we like it or not. People com-

plain about a lack of moral presence in Hollywood and in the game world. And our idea is, someone's got to start somewhere. So we want to start here and take some of the teachings of our namesake, John Paul II, and find the beauty in these things."

As Crowell affirms, gaming isn't likely to go away anytime soon, or ever. Developing games with a moral voice is one way to bring the light of the Gospel into this realm. Fostering human values and skills through esports is another.

And here's something to consider. Perhaps the magnificent displays at the Olympics are less and less distant from the esports world. This summer, the executive board of the Olympics committee announced that there will be a new event in 2025 in Saudi Arabia: the Olympic Esports Games.

Rachel Thomas is an editor and translator who writes about the Church and the spiritual life.



Students in John Paul the Great Catholic University's Game Development program work on their senior project, a visual novel called Potions and Emotions. Photo courtesy of John Paul the Great University



DIRECTORY OF CATHOLIC COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Listings of Catholic Colleges and Universities of interest to people planning to further their education.

(PAID ADVERTISEMENT)

CALIFORNIA

Catholic Polytechnic University
Glendale, CA

Website: www.CatholicPolytechnic.org
Email: info@catholicpolytechnic.org or admissions@catholicpolytechnic.org
Contact: Dr. Jennifer Nolan Giving Glory to God Through Science, Technology and Engineering, our mission is to advance the evangelical mission of the Catholic Church entrusted to her by Christ through the formation of scientists, engineers, and technology leaders with expertise in business, communications, and theology. Offering degrees and programs in Computer Science, Science and Engineering, Business and Humanities.

John Paul the Great Catholic University
220 W Grand Ave.
Escondido, CA 92025
Phone: (858)653-6740
Website: www.jpccatholic.edu
Email: admissions@jpccatholic.edu JPCatholic is the Catholic university for Creative Arts and Business Innovation. We combine hands-on instruction in media and business with an enriching Catholic liberal arts education. Experience small class sizes, mentorship from industry professionals, and a community of creative Catholics who believe in the power of beauty to transform

culture.

FLORIDA

Ave Maria University
5050 Ave Maria Blvd.
Ave Maria, FL 34142
Phone: (239)280-2500
Email: admissions@avemaria.edu
Website: www.AveMaria.edu
The world needs you. It needs well-educated Catholic professionals across every field. Ave Maria University prepares you to deepen your faith, achieve academic excellence, and courageously bring it to the world. With its Catholic community, rigorous education, and personal and professional formation, you'll be ready. Bring it to the world.

INDIANA

Holy Cross College
54515 State Road 933 North
PO Box 308
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0308
Phone: (574)239-8377
Website: www.HCC-ND.edu
Email: admissions@hcc-nd.edu
A Catholic liberal arts college which forms serious scholars, engaged citizens, courageous leaders, and passionate disciples. Receive personal attention from student success mentors and world class faculty. Complete a guaranteed internship with access to social, academic, and graduate school options at the

University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College.

Marian University
3200 Cold Spring Road
Indianapolis, IN 46222
Phone: (317)955-6300
Website: Marian.edu
Email: admissions@marian.edu
Contact: Jessica Morales-Maust
At Marian University, you will meet students who are tomorrow's leaders in business, education, engineering, nursing, pastoral leadership, and public service. We'll teach you how to apply the value you will acquire here and help you become the type of leader employers want and our world needs.

University of Saint Francis
2701 Spring Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46808
Phone: (260)399-7700
Website: www.sf.edu
Email: admis@sf.edu
Rooted in the Catholic and Franciscan traditions, the University of Saint Francis serves dynamic and diverse students. Saint Francis offers over 60 academic programs, 40 student organizations and 19 intercollegiate sports. With a career success rate of 96%, Saint Francis graduates are routinely sought by top companies.

KANSAS

Benedictine College
1020 North 2nd Street
Atchison, KS 66002
Phone: (800)467-5340
Website: www.Benedictine.edu
Email: bcadmiss@benedictine.edu
Founded in Atchison, Kansas, in 1858, Benedictine College is one of the top Catholic colleges in America. It has been named the best private college in Kansas by *The Wall Street Journal*, one of America's Best Colleges by *U.S. News & World Report*, and a top Catholic college by *The Newman Guide*.

University of Saint Mary
4100 South 4th Street
Leavenworth, KS 66048
Phone: (913)682-5151
Website: stmary.edu
Email: admis@stmary.edu
Founded in 1923 by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, the University of Saint Mary has a long tradition of academic excellence. USM is a tight-knit community where 1-on-1 attention is valued and growth is measured by more than a percentage in a gradebook. Students are inspired to pursue their God-given potential – choosing from dozens of undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees.

KENTUCKY

Spalding University
901 S Fourth Street
Louisville, KY 40203
Phone: (502)585-7111
Website: www.Spalding.edu
Email: admissions@spalding.edu
Spalding University, a 2024 Catholic College of Distinction, offers over 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. It's one of Kentucky's most affordable private colleges, awarding scholarships to 99% of first-time full-time students. The university features flexible 6-week sessions and comprehensive student services.

LOUISIANA

Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University
5414 Brittany Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
Phone: (225) 526-1631
Fax: (225) 768-1726
Website: www.franu.edu
Email: Admissions@FranU.edu
Contact: Zoe Ramachandran, Director of Undergraduate Admissions
Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University (FranU) is a premier Catholic institution in the heart of Baton Rouge that provides students a faith-filled and formative education in preparation to serve our communities. FranU has a variety of degree programs including online with a



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special emphasis on healthcare education.

MARYLAND

Mount St. Mary's University
16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd.
Emmitsburg, MD 21727
Phone: (800)448-4347
Website: msmmary.edu
Email: admissions@msmary.edu
Mount St. Mary's University is the country's second oldest Catholic university. Located in Emmitsburg, Maryland, one of OSV's top 10 Catholic cities in the U.S., the Mount offers more than 95 majors, minors, concentrations and special programs for traditional undergraduate students and 29 adult undergraduate and graduate level programs.

MICHIGAN

Madonna University
36600 Schoolcraft Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150
Phone: (734)432-5339
Website: www.Madonna.edu
Email: admissions@madonna.edu
Liberal arts, career preparation and service learning are the hallmarks of a Madonna University education. Catholic, faith-based, affordable and student-focused, we offer undergraduate and graduate degree programs in business, nursing, education, social work, science, broadcast and cinema arts, forensic science, criminal justice, sign language and more.

MISSOURI

Conception Seminary College
37174 State Hwy VV
Conception, MO 64433
Phone: (660)944-3105
Website: www.Conception.edu
Conception Seminary College is a free-standing seminary in Northwest Missouri. A primary ministry of Conception Abbey, the seminary is influenced by Benedictine tradition, strengthened by community, monastic presence, and stability. Human, Intellectual, spiritual, and pastoral formation integrate in Propaedeutic and Discipleship stages to form men of community for the Church.

MONTANA

Carroll College
1601 N Benton Ave
Helena, MT 59625
Phone: (406)447-4384 or (800)992-3648
Website: www.Carroll.edu
Email: admissions@carroll.edu
You are made for adventure; pursue it at Carroll College! One of 10 US Diocesan Colleges, our campus is steps from miles of hiking and biking trails. We engage in a joint venture for the search for the Ultimate Truth and the Ultimate Good, which is the final goal of all education.

University of Providence
1301 20th St South
Great Falls, MT 59405
Phone: (800)856-9544
Website: www.uprovidence.edu
Email: admissions@uprovidence.edu
The University of Providence (UP), a private Roman Catholic liberal arts university based in Great Falls, Montana, connects people, communities, opportunities, and ideas through an inspired and mission-driven education. UP welcomes all religious backgrounds and offers a tight-knit community with a 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio, along with 30 programs and concentrations.

NEW YORK

St. Thomas Aquinas College
135 Route 340
Sparkill, NY 10976
Phone: (845)398-4100
Fax: (845)398-4372
Website: www.stac.edu
Email: admissions@stac.edu
Contact: Samantha Bazile, Director of Admissions
St. Thomas Aquinas College provides the resources needed for a successful future. The College is a lively, independent, four-year liberal arts institution in the NYC area, only 15 miles from Manhattan. This gives students easy access to education, cultural experiences, internships, and job prospects in one of the world's most exciting cities.

NORTH CAROLINA

Belmont Abbey College
100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd.
Belmont, NC 28012
Phone: (888)222-0110
Website: www.BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu
Email: admissions@bac.edu
Contact: Jesse Dorman, Vice Provost of Enrollment
Since 1876, Belmont Abbey College has educated students in the liberal arts and sciences, guided by the Benedictine spirit of prayer and learning. We are a private, Catholic institute that prepares our students to live with integrity, to succeed professionally, to become responsible citizens, and to glorify God always.

NORTH DAKOTA

University of Mary
7500 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504
Phone: (701)355-8030 or (800)288-MARY (6279)
Fax: (701)255-7687
Website: www.umary.edu
Email: enroll@umary.edu
Providing an affordable, serious Catholic education, University of Mary offers over 60 undergraduate, 21 master's, and five doctoral programs, a Year-Round Campus option, Catholic Studies, campus in Rome, and free room and board for eligible graduates of Catholic high

schools. We are faithfully Christian, joyfully Catholic, and gratefully Benedictine.

OHIO

Walsh University
2020 East Maple Street
North Canton, OH 44720
Phone: (330)490-7090
Website: www.Walsh.edu
Email: admissions@walsh.edu
As a nationally recognized Catholic university, Walsh's ultimate mission is to develop leaders in service to others and to help students discover their life purpose. Walsh offers nearly 100 undergraduate majors and minors as well as graduate programs, online degree completion programs, and upskills training for workforce development.

PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Vincent College
300 Fraser Purchase Rd.
Latrobe, PA 15650-2690
Phone: (800)782-5549, ext. 2500
Fax: (724)532-5069
Website: www.stvincent.edu
Contact: admission@stvincent.edu
Saint Vincent is an educational community rooted in faith, the heritage of Benedictine monasticism, and the love of values inherent in the liberal approach to life and learning. Consistently ranked as a top-tier liberal arts college and one of the most transformative colleges in the nation, SVC offers a unique blend of opportunities to study, work, play, and grow.

Seton Hill University
1 Seton Hill Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601
Phone: (724)838-4281
Phone: (800)826-6234
Email: admit@setonhill.edu
Website: www.SetonHill.edu
Seton Hill University is a leading Catholic coeducational liberal arts university founded by the Sisters of Charity. Located in southwestern Pennsylvania, Seton Hill educates its more than 2000 students - in the spirit of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton - to be "fit for that world in which you are destined to live."

TEXAS

University of St. Thomas-Houston
3800 Montrose Blvd.
Houston, TX 77006
Phone: (713)525-3500
Email: admissions@stthom.edu
Website: www.StThom.edu
At the University of St. Thomas, we pride ourselves on our commitment to students' academic and personal development. Our community is comprised of great faculty and students that mirror our university's values. Here you'll be equipped with an exceptional academic foundation and virtues to excel in any path you choose.

VIRGINIA

Christendom College
134 Christendom Drive
Front Royal, Virginia 22630
Phone: (540)636-2900
Website: www.Christendom.edu
Email: admission@christendom.edu
Contact: Sam Phillips, Admissions Director
We are an authentically Catholic liberal arts college offering a time-tested, rigorous education and extensive 86-credit core curriculum, faithful to the Magisterium. Located in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, our vibrant and joy-filled Catholic culture helps students learn the Truth, live the Faith, and thrive as Catholics so they are well-prepared to go into the world and "restore all things in Christ."

WYOMING

Wyoming Catholic College
306 Main Street
Lander, WY 82520
Phone: (877)332-2930
Email: admissions@wyomingcatholic.edu
Website: www.wyomingcatholic.edu
Wyoming Catholic College forms students through rigorous immersion in the great books, the mountain wilderness, and the Catholic spiritual heritage. With limited technology, students become grounded in real experience and thoughtfulness. From learning to speak Latin to riding horses, our graduates love deep adventure - in mind, body, and soul. Embark today!

CANADA

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College
18 Karol Wojtyla Square
PO Box 249, Barry's Bay,
Ontario, Canada K0J 1B0
Phone: (877)369-6520
Website: www.SeatOfWisdom.ca
Email: admissions@seatofwisdom.ca
Seat of Wisdom College offers a three-year Bachelor of Catholic Studies or a four-year Bachelor of Arts in Classical and Early Christian Studies, History, and Literature. Located in the beauty of rural Ontario, the College is set apart by its academic rigor, small class sizes, vibrant student life program, and fidelity of the Magisterium.

ITALY

Catholic Institute of Technology
Via Santa Caterina
2 Castel Gandolfo, Italy
Phone: 1(617)249-4075
Email: info@catholic.tech
Website: www.Catholic.Tech
Catholic Institute of Technology is an American STEM-research university in the heart of the Church. Located just outside Rome, Italy, it combines rigorous technical education with

Catholic moral and spiritual formation. Students lead in innovative scientific research aligned with Church teachings, fostering a community advancing STEM for the world within the Catholic Tradition.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Aquinas Institute of Theology
23 S. Spring Ave
St. Louis, MO 63108
Phone: (314)256-8800
Email: admissions@ai.edu
Website: www.AI.edu
Contact: Samantha Messier, Coordinator of Enrollment Management
Aquinas Institute of Theology is a Catholic, Dominican graduate school of theology for friars and lay men and women located in St. Louis, Missouri. Its theological mission is directed to serving the Dominican charism of preaching. Aquinas Institute offers a unique approach to education built upon the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas that is expansive, comprehensive, and all-encompassing.

Divine Mercy University
45154 Underwood Lane
Sterling, VA 20166
Phone: (571)290-7580
Website: www.DivineMercy.edu
Email: sshowalter@divinemercy.edu
Contact: Steven Showalter - Director of Partnerships
Divine Mercy University (DMU) is a Catholic graduate school of psychology and counseling offering a Doctoral (Psy.D.) degree in Clinical Psychology, a Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Psychology, a Master of Science (M.S.) in Counseling and a Spiritual Direction Certificate.

LAW SCHOOLS

Ave Maria School of Law
1025 Commons Circle
Naples, FL 34119
Phone: (239)687-5420
Website: www.AveMariaLaw.edu
Email: info@avemarialaw.edu
Unabashedly Catholic and consistently ranked as The Princeton Review's "Most Conservative Law School," one of Princeton Review's "Best Law Schools," and preLaw's "Most Devout Law School." We provide a traditional legal education while placing an emphasis on how the law intersects with the Catholic intellectual tradition and natural law philosophy. That's the Ave Law difference!

YOU WERE **MADE** FOR MORE.

Pursue an education for the whole
of life at the University of Mary.



Each of our **over 60** undergraduate degrees — from our programs in **nursing** and **engineering** to our offerings in **business, education, and the humanities** — provides **comprehensive career preparation** founded on **the truths of the Catholic faith**. Whatever your interests and goals, we'll help you **discover your purpose, mobilize your gifts, and embrace God's will for your present and future**.

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Endorsed by the Cardinal Newman Society since 2012, Mary now leads the nation's Catholic universities in number of *Newman Guide*-recommended graduate programs.



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Spend five weeks or an entire semester in Rome, bring housing and healthcare to needy families in Peru or Guatemala, delve into a favorite subject on a faculty-led international excursion, or explore the Catholic Intellectual Tradition with faithful peers and new seminarians at Mary College at ASU.



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Mary's average cost of attendance falls far below those of private Catholic colleges and universities from coast to coast. Financial aid opportunities include among many others a full room-and-board scholarship for eligible graduates of Catholic high schools.



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for Life.

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umary.edu