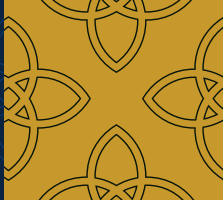


ND Works Quarterly

APRIL/MAY 2024

Campus news for
faculty and staff



Sacred Moments

Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.
President, 2005-2024

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University News

NEWS BRIEFS

NOTRE DAME ESTABLISHES JENKINS CENTER FOR VIRTUE ETHICS

Notre Dame announced the establishment of the Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., Center for Virtue Ethics, a signature element of the Notre Dame Ethics Initiative emerging from the University's strategic framework.

The Jenkins Center for Virtue Ethics will support preeminent scholars whose research advances human flourishing in both moral and spiritual contexts, facilitate the development of undergraduate courses exploring topics such as justice and the common good, and deepen the ethical formation of Notre Dame students and faculty. The center will also play a transformative role in public discussion, drawing citizens into meaningful dialogue informed by virtue ethics — one of the most powerful and enduring contributions of the Catholic philosophical tradition.

The initial funding for this new center was made possible through the generosity of several members of the University's Board of Trustees, along with other benefactors. It was named in honor of University President **Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.**, who announced in October that he would step down at the end of the 2023-24 academic year to return to teaching and ministry at the University.

The center will be an essential part of the Notre Dame Ethics Initiative, a University-wide effort to establish Notre Dame as a premier global destination for the study of ethics, offering superb training for future generations of ethicists and moral leaders, a platform for engagement of the Catholic moral tradition with other modes of inquiry, and an opportunity to forge insights into some of the most significant ethical issues of our time. Virtue ethics will be a key area of focus for the initiative, as well as technology ethics, business ethics and environmental ethics, among others.

NOTRE DAME LAUNCHES DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

Notre Dame has launched an ambitious new Democracy Initiative, an interdisciplinary research, education and policy effort focused on advancing solutions to sustain and strengthen global democracy.

Emerging from the University's strategic framework and led by political



NOTRE DAME LAUNCHES NEW POVERTY INITIATIVE

Notre Dame launched a bold new Poverty Initiative to develop and advance innovative solutions to help vulnerable populations and to train a new generation of leaders committed to the fight against poverty.

Every day, poverty stifles hope, opportunity and dignity for 700 million people worldwide, including 37 million Americans. And despite well-intentioned policies and programs, too little is known about how to break poverty's vicious generational cycle. The Poverty Initiative,

part of Notre Dame's new strategic framework, is poised to change that.

The Notre Dame Poverty Initiative is supported by an alumni couple's lead gift of \$100 million — the largest single donation to an academic priority in the University's history.

Led by economist **Jim Sullivan**, the Notre Dame Poverty Initiative will establish the University as a leading institution for poverty research, prepare students for careers and service in antipoverty efforts and turn evidence into action, illuminating proven pathways out of poverty for people around the world.



The Notre Dame Poverty Initiative will direct its work toward three areas:

- **Research:** By recruiting leading scholars and investing in innovative research programs, the Poverty Initiative will support research that responds to the most pressing issues confronting people in poverty and that holds promise to inform policy, philanthropy and practice.
- **Student formation:** The Poverty Initiative will invest in programming focused on student formation, including curriculum development and new research and experiential learning opportunities for both under-

graduates and graduate students. It is committed to forming graduates prepared to address the challenges of poverty in their professional and personal lives.

- **Impact:** Making measurable impact in alleviating poverty depends on translating research to action. The Poverty Initiative will engage with partners in government and the non-profit and corporate sectors to replicate proven programs.

scientist **David Campbell**, the initiative will incubate and accelerate research on the health of democracy in the U.S. and worldwide, serve as a convenor for conversations about and actions to preserve democracy, and foster a model for the formation of civically engaged citizens and public servants.

Notre Dame's new initiative seeks to foster deeper and more impactful collaboration between scholars of U.S. and global democracy in these and other Notre Dame centers, institutes and programs, while also providing support for democracy-related research in a wide range of disciplines, from history to law to computer science. This will include interconnected research clusters focused on democratic institutions, democratic culture, and religion and democracy.

The Notre Dame Democracy Initiative will direct its work toward three areas:

- **Research:** The initiative will support scholarship that proposes solutions to democracy's biggest challenges, not just by political scientists but by researchers from across the disciplines. It will have a focused interest in developing projects that identify and propose solutions that can be translated to policymakers and the general public.
- **Education:** By creating and enhancing curricular and co-curricular opportunities in South Bend and in Washington, D.C., the initiative will develop Notre Dame undergraduates, graduate students and postdocs into the next generation of principled civic leaders.
- **Convening:** The initiative will serve as a platform through which the University hosts high-profile events with key figures in the fight to pre-



The new Jack and Kathy Shields Family Hall will be located along Courtney Lane on the east side of campus.

serve and advance democracy, while also bringing together elected officials and policymakers from across the political spectrum to learn from the research done at Notre Dame. The Kellogg Institute's Global Democracy Conference, being held on campus May 20-22, is a prime example of the role Notre Dame can play in facilitating and advancing vital conversations among scholars, policymakers and practitioners focused on key questions related to democracy.

For more information about the Democracy Initiative, visit go.nd.edu/democracy.

SHIELDS FAMILY MAKES GIFT FOR NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART ATHLETICS FACILITY

A group of former Notre Dame football student-athletes led by linebacker Jack Shields is providing generous support for a new Fighting Irish football facility — one that, combined with the existing Gug-

lielmino Athletics Complex ("Gug"), will accommodate the current and future needs of the University's athletics programs.

The new Jack and Kathy Shields Family Hall will foster team building and personal growth, improve physical conditioning and technical ability, and enable Notre Dame Research to partner with Athletics in the study of human performance, sports science, medicine and nutrition.

Additional contributors to the facility include Pat and Jana Eilers, Dave and Clare Butler and other substantial donors who wish to remain anonymous. Pat Eilers is a former Notre Dame safety. Dave Butler played linebacker for the Irish.

Also recognized for their generous leadership and support are Pat Kramer, a former Notre Dame defensive lineman, and Tom Carter, a former Irish cornerback. Kramer and Carter are close friends of the Shieldses.

The new facility will be located along Courtney Lane on the east side of campus and is set to open in the fall of 2026, allowing for future renovation of the Gug to advance the performance of student-athletes across Notre Dame's 26 varsity sports.

The project will support as many as 150 construction jobs, contributing millions in wages and taxes to the local economy. It will support a number of permanent jobs in Athletics and other areas after construction.

At 150,000 square feet, the new facility will offer a nearly 50 percent increase in space over the Gug, which opened in 2005.

The facility will include an advanced training room; a stand-alone sports medicine facility; an equipment facility with body scanning and fabrication technology; a new and expanded locker room; meeting rooms, including a two-level, all-team auditorium and an augmented reality walkthrough room; media innovation spaces, including recording studios and photo studios; academic support spaces; and a new player nutrition area designed to foster community between teams and model healthy eating.

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Reflections

President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., greets Natalie Davis Miller, managing editor of NDWorks, at the 2023 President's Christmas Reception. (Photo by **Barbara Johnston**/University of Notre Dame)

A letter to Father John

By Natalie Davis Miller, Managing Editor, NDWorks

Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?

2 Chronicles 1:10 NIV

*Dear Father John:*

Some months ago at a division meeting, I had the occasion to speak briefly with you, mentioning an upcoming print issue of NDWorks. At the time, the content was under wraps as we were still in the developmental stages of it. You asked what the issue would cover. I said (and I still can't believe I said this), "I don't know if I should tell you. Can you keep a secret?"

Your simple response was, "Oh, I think I can keep a secret."

I smile when I think back at that moment, talking to the president of a university, more concerned about protocol than to whom I was speaking.

As crazy as I must have sounded then, I realized one thing. I've always felt like I could talk to you. Many university presidents are largely inaccessible. But we are fortunate at Notre Dame. You are approachable, you are present, you listen, and it's clear that you care about what we have to say.

I have always felt heard.

I am familiar with you the way I imagine so many other people are: from events on campus — Masses, dedications, blessings. I witnessed you climbing into the driver's seat of a truck to dump the last load of coal on campus. That look of determination on your face was priceless.

Not so long ago, our paths crossed as we were walking to our respective offices. You took the time to say good morning, and again, to have a very quick chat. I know I'm not alone in these brief encounters. So, whenever I have occasion to run into you on campus, I know that you will stop and talk for a minute. (And you can bet I'll stop you if I see you first.)

I attended the dedication of the new Center for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, where you blessed it. This happened, no less, during a time when states have been crafting anti-DEI laws and colleges and universities are dismantling DEI offices. You didn't shy away from what others may see as controversial. Instead, you leaned into it — embraced it, even. I am so proud of that.

Father John, you are quietly, graciously, yet actively ushering in more good in this world through what we do on our campus.

People line up for photos, to intro-

duce themselves, to shake your hand, to have a light conversation. I'm sure in those brief moments they feel like I do — seen and heard. It is this sincerity that makes these small contacts so relational. You exude both confidence and comfort, day in and day out, making you a great leader, a person people want to meet, a person we can trust, support and follow.

Here's the thing (another little secret): When I moved to this area 20 years ago I did not like Notre Dame. Run-ins with overzealous ND supporters and fans set me on that path. And that first Michiana winter didn't help. And then, on Aug. 26, 2019, that all changed. I became a Notre Dame employee.

Five years later, all I can say is that working at Notre Dame has been nothing but a joy for me. ND has always been synonymous with excellence. I see that every day in the people I work with in my department. I also see how we care for each other, through life, on a daily basis. And that drive for excellence and compassion starts at the top. You have made it not just about what we do, but how we do it.

My most meaningful experience with you was when I had the opportunity to have my first real conversation with you at the end of a staff town hall. All the speakers stayed after to meet with anyone who wanted to talk. That included me.

All of these moments happened because in some small way you showed that you cared — about our Earth, about what's right, about our workforce and about the individual.

Father John, thank you for tak-

Father Jenkins watches as a utilities dump truck delivers the last load of coal in the utilities plant on Oct. 14, 2019. (Photo by **Matt Cashore**/University of Notre Dame)Father Jenkins blesses the Center for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion on Sept. 21, 2023. (Photo by **Barbara Johnston**/University of Notre Dame)

ing the time to talk to me when you didn't have to. I appreciate it, as I am sure so many others do. Not only have you led with wisdom and knowledge, but you have led with a deep sense of caring. And for that, I

thank you.

As you go about your next chapter, please remember that I, along with many others, will be praying for you.

—Natalie

Reflections



Father Jenkins chats with Jenna Liberto, host of Notre Dame Stories Podcast, during an interview at ND Studios. (Photo by **Barbara Johnston**/University of Notre Dame)

‘Learn every day.’

Father John reflects on 19 years as president

By **Jenna Liberto**, Director of Internal Communications and Host, Notre Dame Stories Podcast

EDUCATING THE HEAD AND THE HEART

“That is essential to what makes Notre Dame special: a [place] where you don’t just work, but you’re part of a community. In terms of our commitment, it comes from the very core of who we say we are and our mission.”

Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.



Reflections

“I always felt that however the day went, whatever stumbles or mistakes or whatever happened, [you] come [back] the next day knowing more and being better prepared,” **Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.**, says as he settles into the final questions of our interview in ND Studios.

“Learn every day” was his mantra as the University’s new leader 19 years ago. It’s one he has carried throughout his almost two decades as president and the same wish he now shares with his successor, **Rev. Robert A. Dowd, C.S.C.**

“I’d say you don’t come into these jobs fully prepared. I wasn’t. Bob’s worked very hard in the past six months, but it’s a learning curve. He’ll be prepared when he starts, but I think for anybody who takes a job like this, we’ve got a lot to learn.”

Then, from where do we learn? The more appropriate question may be “from whom?” Listening to Father John reflect on highlights of his time at the helm of Our Lady’s University, that answer is clear: from those around us.

There’s an astoundingly robust list of accomplishments on his resume, from the unmatched growth in research to the heightened caliber of admitted students to increased global impact. You can read more about those on page eight. But Father Jenkins quickly shares his pride for those milestones in the context of his fellow University staff and faculty members — and their teams — who made them happen.

“In 2005, we recognized that Notre Dame’s reputation was largely its undergraduate education, which was superb and recognized as such, and we wanted to continue that, but the area of growth was really in our research. So one of the great days at Notre Dame was when I hired **Tom Burish** as provost; Tom was masterful. He had been provost at Vanderbilt, he had been president at Washington and Lee [University]. So he was highly experienced, and really, Tom had a sense of ‘how do we build this?’”

What followed were strategic investments in science and engineering, great hires and incremen-

tal progress driven by faculty and staff. The result: Notre Dame’s invitation last summer to join the Association of American Universities, the most prestigious research association in the country. It was a longstanding goal for Father Jenkins, and a significant milestone in the University’s current trajectory.

“It’s a recognition for [our faculty] more than it is for me. We just have superb faculty and ever-

more impact of our research here at Notre Dame,” he says. “There’s this image from this book I read of a flywheel, and when you start the flywheel, you’re just pushing and it doesn’t go very fast, but as you get momentum, it goes faster and faster. And I feel that’s where we are — that we’ve got some momentum here. [Vice President for Research] **Jeff Rhoads** and [Provost] **John McGreevy** will continue

that trajectory, and I think they’ll just build on what we’ve accomplished so far.”

Father Jenkins is quick to point out that even the most crucial research growth cannot be done at the expense of undergraduate studies or without a commitment to creating an environment in which all students, faculty and staff can thrive. “We educate the head and the heart,” he says. And, when it

comes to faculty and staff, Notre Dame’s mission calls us all to build a community where everyone is welcomed as a whole person. Father Jenkins appointed **Rev. Canon Hugh R. Page Jr.** as the University’s first vice president for institutional transformation in 2022 to create a coordinated diversity, equity and inclusion framework across divisions, colleges and schools.

“That is essential to what makes Notre Dame special: a [place] where you don’t just work, but you’re part of a community. Now, we’re not perfect, and I’d be the first to admit that; we have much to grow, but at least in terms of our commitment, it comes from the very core of who we say we are and our mission,” Father Jenkins says.

Throughout nearly two decades of changes, perhaps it’s that core value that has guided this leader — foremost a priest and philosopher — to carefully balance growth with its impact on people, both here on campus and beyond. And, even today, Father Jenkins never loses sight of the opportunity to be a student of those around him, a North Star fitting for a lifelong learner.

“I could mention a hundred things that I remember in terms of great successes. But I think the overriding thing is that a lot of places, a lot of great universities become great at research by diminishing undergraduate teaching. I don’t think we’ve done that. I really think our faculty at Notre Dame know that teaching students is absolutely critical so that we’ve held those things in balance. But the third thing is, as we mentioned, the Catholic mission. I think those three things have stayed in balance and are equal parts of what we say we are, what we want to do and how we understand ourselves. I quote our football coach, **Marcus Freeman** — he says ‘choose hard.’ I think if I’m most proud of anything it is that we’ve chosen ‘hard’ and we’ve had success at that.”

You can hear further reflections from Father Jenkins, including what he says he’ll miss most about the role of president — and what he won’t mind giving up — by listening to the Notre Dame Stories Podcast.



“I think if I’m most proud of anything, it is that we’ve chosen ‘hard,’” Father Jenkins tells host Jenna Liberto. (Photo by **Barbara Johnston**/University of Notre Dame)

LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING

“I always felt that however the day went, whatever stumbles or mistakes or whatever happened, [you] come [back] the next day knowing more and being better prepared.”

Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.

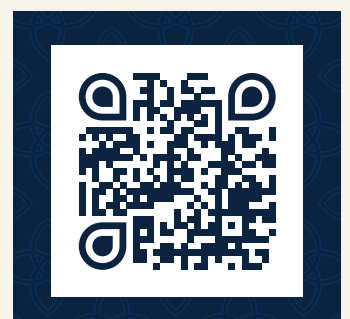


President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., and President-elect Rev. Robert Dowd, C.S.C. (Photo by **Matt Cashore**/University of Notre Dame)



Father Jenkins shakes hands with Rev. Canon Hugh R. Page Jr. during the unveiling of his portrait in 2023 in the Coleman-Morse Center. (Photo by **Barbara Johnston**/University of Notre Dame)

Scan the QR code to watch the video, or search Notre Dame Stories wherever you listen to podcasts.



People

Celebrating Father John

(Photos by Matt Cashore, Barbara Johnston and Peter Ringenberg/University of Notre Dame)

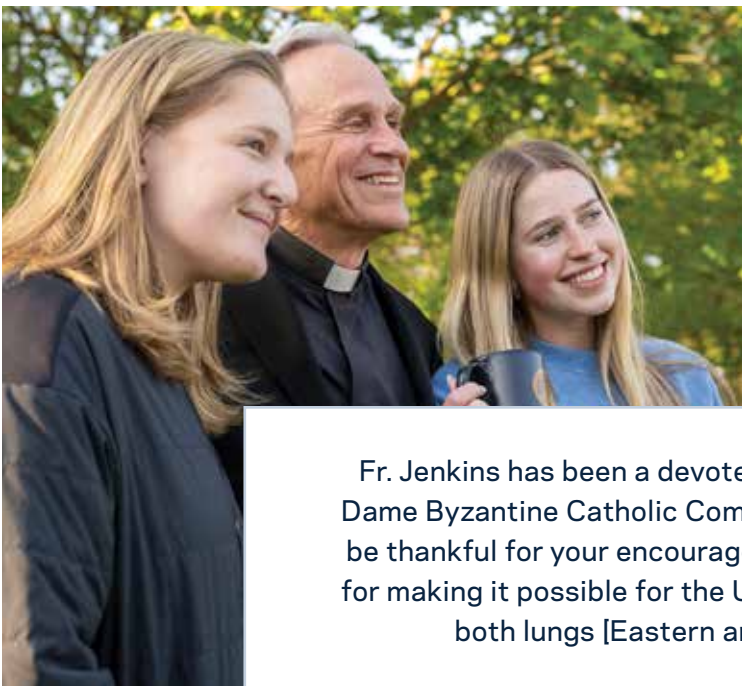
Fr. John, thank you for the Christmas bonuses, the other extra bonuses and everything you did to keep the University open during COVID. By keeping the University open, no employees lost their jobs, their health insurance or their paychecks. This was spectacular work done by you. Good luck in your future endeavors.

Beth Bland, Senior Administrative Coordinator, Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, 34 years with the University



IT HAS BEEN A TRUE PLEASURE AND HONOR TO WORK SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH FR. JOHN. I WANT TO WISH HIM ALL THE BEST AS HE STEPS DOWN FROM AN AMAZING TENURE AS PRESIDENT.

Danielle Robinson, Usher, 11 years of service



Fr. Jenkins has been a devoted and exuberant supporter of the Notre Dame Byzantine Catholic Community since its inception. We will always be thankful for your encouragement and pastoral solicitude. Thank you for making it possible for the University of Notre Dame to “breathe with both lungs [Eastern and Western Christian traditions].”

Fr. Khaled Anatolios, Chair, Department of Theology; Notre Dame Byzantine Catholic Community, eight years at Notre Dame

Dear Fr. John, I first met you at the Kaneb Center when I was running the Graduate TA program. I admired how you could be a gentle yet strong and decisive leader at the same time. Since I have been on the faculty for decades, I can see clearly that ND is a different place now. The inclusion at all levels of the University is evident. The care and support that we give to everyone on campus is evident. I am so proud to work at a university that is changing in the way that you led us to change. Thank you for all your work on our behalf.

Michelle Whaley, Teaching Professor, Biological Sciences, 30+ years at Notre Dame

Fr. John, Thank you for your selfless service throughout these years. I will be praying for your wisdom, peace, and boundless joy in your next chapter of life.

Jonathan Anderstrom, Insurance and Financial Risk Assistant Manager, Office of Treasury Services

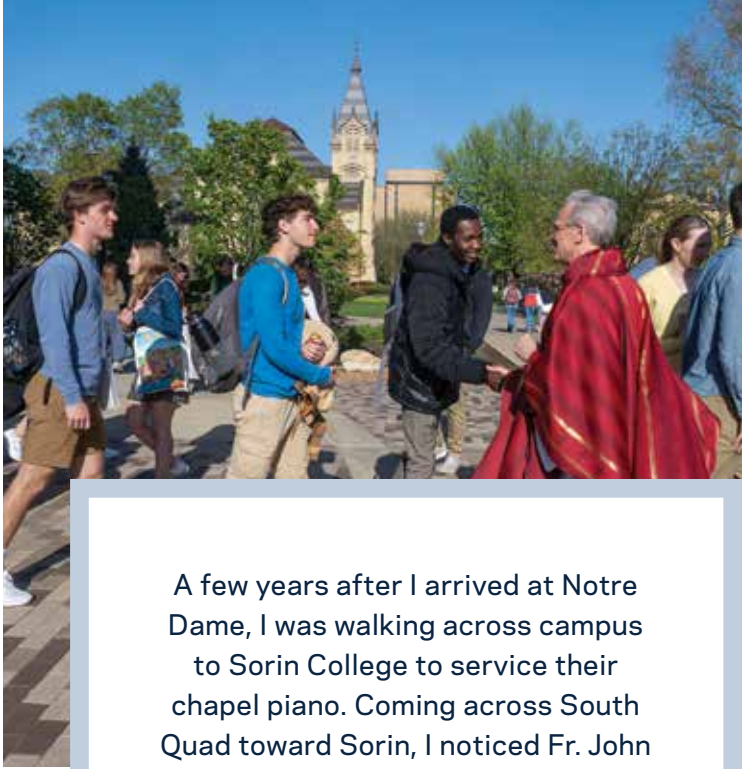
Many years ago, when I was a senior at Saint Mary's and anxiously following any and all paths that might lead to employment in the wake of 9/11 and the Enron/Arthur Andersen disaster, Fr. John agreed to meet me for a 20-minute interview. He kindly took my resume, took genuine interest in my career goals and desires, and offered encouragement, direction, and counsel. All these years later, I reflect on those 20 minutes with such gratitude. Knowing how busy he must have been, but still took the time to talk with me and provide guidance really was such a lovely example to me of selfless and humble leadership that I have carried to this day.

Breighan Boeskool, Assistant Director of Business Intelligence, Investment Office, 11 years at Notre Dame

Fr. John, thank you for your steadfast leadership during your time as University President. I will fondly remember interacting with you during some of the large-scale University Masses. Your uplifting homilies and gracious interactions with those who came to pray were notable. Know of my prayers for you as you enter the next phase of your ministry!

Dan Allen, Associate Director of Spirituality and Service, Notre Dame Alumni Association, 10 years at Notre Dame

People



Dear Father John,

My best wishes on your retirement and your next chapter of life teaching our wonderful young and brilliant minds of our students. I pray for the Lord's guidance in all your endeavors and many thanks to you for all you've done for the students and staff at Our Lady's University. Go Irish!

Beverly Skopec, South Dining Hall Monitor, UEE, seven years

A few years after I arrived at Notre Dame, I was walking across campus to Sorin College to service their chapel piano. Coming across South Quad toward Sorin, I noticed Fr. John ... and I decided I would say hello to him and introduce myself. He asked what I did here at Notre Dame. I told him I was the 'first ever full time piano technician at Notre Dame.' His reply: "I didn't know we had a piano technician!" His approachability, sincerity and friendliness during the few moments we walked together made an impression on me. May God continue to bless you, Fr. John, as you continue your journey in his service.

Norman Vesprini, Piano Technology Program Manager, Department of Music



FR. JOHN, THANK YOU FOR LEADING THE UNIVERSITY WITH SUCH GRACE AND SUCCESS. YOUR LEADERSHIP, EFFORT, AND DEDICATION HAVE BEEN SO APPRECIATED BY FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS ALIKE. WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST IN THE FUTURE.

Kristin Valentino, Director, William J. Shaw Center for Children and Families; Professor of Psychology; 15 years

My story predates his presidency, but reflects my most poignant memory of him as a priest and professor. As an undergraduate in 1996, I went to his office for advising and in the course of the conversation (probably after an innocuous question like, "how are you?") the tears fell and I shared the angst of a particularly bad day—which also happened to be a rather lonely birthday. I don't recall what he said, but much later that day I do remember returning home to my dorm room to find a birthday card from him with encouragement. It meant so much. I remain so grateful to Fr. John, for his kindness and for his leadership.

Monica Caro '97, Program Director, International and Graduate Programs, Notre Dame Law School, 16 years at the University

Fr. John, Thank you for your leadership and guidance as our president, you have been a beacon of light representing and leading the University of Notre Dame.

You have advanced the university in research and education; you have taken on that which has been challenging; and you have celebrated accomplishments that make our university unique and special. Especially notable in my endeavors, you have been a leading voice during this transformative time in college athletics which has given us all a wonderful stage to showcase the relationships with and accomplishments of our student-athletes and their teams.

May you enjoy the next chapter of your life in peace and with the knowledge that you upheld the standard (and raised the bar), to ensure that the University of Notre Dame will continue to be one of the most powerful means for good in this country.

Ron Powlus, Deputy Athletics Director—Football, Athletics, nine years at Notre Dame

Fr. John, thank you for all that you have done to make Notre Dame a wonderful place to learn, work, and grow. This is an inspiring place to be and there is no way to accurately measure how much of an impact you have truly made to Notre Dame and consequently for all of the souls lucky enough to call this place home.

Matt Smith, Project Manager, OIT, six years



By the Numbers



1

Only faith-based institution among the 71 top-tier research universities in the Association of American Universities (AAU)



11%

Reduction in campus energy consumption since 2008, part of ND's commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050



\$333 million

Research funding in fiscal year 2023, up 338% from \$76 million in 2005



\$210 million

Amount of undergraduate need-based financial aid provided to students in 2023-24, up from \$60 million in 2005



97%

Increase in international students (graduate and undergraduate)



67

The number of facilities, including 3.6 million square feet of additional facility space, funded for construction or extensive renovation since 2005, with more than 80 percent dedicated to supporting the academy and residential life

The presidency of Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.

2005-2024

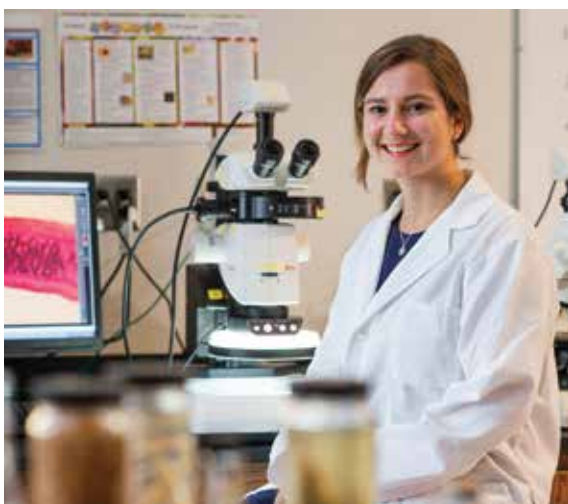
“There are no universities that have done what Notre Dame aspires to do: to become a preeminent research University, to offer an unsurpassed undergraduate program, and to infuse both with a religious and moral framework that imbues knowledge with the power to benefit human beings.”

Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.



71

Number of National Endowment for the Humanities grants Notre Dame has received since 1999, more than any other university in the U.S.



60

Number of Rhodes Scholars, Marshall Scholars and other prestigious scholarship winners Notre Dame has produced



50

Number of initiatives, institutes, centers and programs endowed during Father John's tenure



\$130 million

Amount of regional economic grants secured, together with key partners



77%

Percentage of undergrads who study abroad, ranking second highest among doctoral universities