



## CATHOLIC DISTANCE UNIVERSITY

Dear Friend,

All of us at Catholic Distance University wish you and your loved ones the joy of the Easter season. As I reflect on CDU's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018, my heart is deeply touched by generous friends like you who understand the great gift of online Catholic education. Without leaving the comfort of home, CDU students are able to earn degrees and certificates that prepare them to serve the Church throughout the world. Your faith in the potential of a global, non-profit online university to reach the peripheries truly fulfills Christ's command to "Teach all Nations." This anniversary is a testimony to our shared joy in serving the vital mission of the Church through our educational programs.

In 1983 none of us, including our founder Bishop Welsh, could have imagined what God had in store for CDU and the ways in which we would serve the mission of the Church, reaching those who would not otherwise be served. Pope St. John Paul II was the first to declare that the internet was the proper forum for the new evangelization. Pope Emeritus Benedict established the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, calling for the use of digital communication. In 2012, the president of the new Pontifical Council, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, visited CDU at the invitation of Chairman of the Board Bishop Paul Loverde, reminding us that CDU is about the future. Most recently, the Vatican has approved online courses as part of the curriculum of ecclesiastical degrees.

Throughout the years, we have faithfully fulfilled our mission with your help, pursuing what we know to be a transformative, faith-filled education, especially for the laity. CDU educates military serving in remote assignments, prison inmates, deacons and directors of religious education in the Diocese of Brooklyn, staff at EWTN Global Catholic Network whose employment includes access to a CDU education, and three mission scholars who are pursuing graduate degrees to better serve their mission dioceses with knowledge, leadership, and passion for the new evangelization. Your gifts of prayer and support continue to expand our reach.

While our curriculum has grown and technology has evolved, some things have not changed. The evidence is clear that a CDU education is timeless and ever relevant because of our fidelity to the enduring teachings of the Church. The work of our graduates in their parishes and communities is a testament to the power of a CDU education to transform hearts and minds.

Pope Francis reminded us in his 2018 Lenten Message that Lent is a time of conversion that communicates the grace of joy and truth. He warns of false prophets and encourages us "to peer into our heart... to learn to look closely, beneath the surface, and to recognize what leaves a good and lasting mark on our hearts, because it comes from God..." He could easily be

describing a CDU education. Our graduates share a deep commitment to evangelize and serve the underserved, and nine out of ten serve the Church.

Your prayers and financial support continue to keep tuition remarkably affordable. Tuition has not been raised since 2013, and to help those who need financial assistance, CDU offers Federal Financial Aid. Our website is newly redesigned and completely mobile friendly. Students are able to access their classes through an app, and the digital library continues to expand under the direction of Sister Rebecca Abel, OSB, our hardworking theological librarian.

While our enrollments continue to grow each year, the need for an educated laity is exponential. We need your help to keep CDU on a path of educational excellence through faculty development, expanded accreditation, advancements in technology and instructional design, and effective outreach to the world. As you know, our mission to communicate the mind and heart of the Church in a digital world is increasingly important today, and well worthy of your support.

Please know how deeply grateful I am for all you do to ensure CDU's future. Let's join together in gratitude to God for such rewarding work that I share with you. May the Holy Spirit inspire us to do even more this year. Thank you for your gift and prayer for the 2018 Annual Appeal.

Sincerely in our Lord,



Marianne Evans Mount, Ph.D.  
President

P.S. It is now even easier to give on our new mobile website at [www.cdu.edu/donate/](http://www.cdu.edu/donate/). Thank you for your most generous gift.