



## CATHOLIC DISTANCE UNIVERSITY

Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you CDU's remarkable progress during the most productive and challenging year in the university's 37-year history and how you can help us to continue this important work.

While traditional universities have been forced to close their doors temporarily due to the pandemic, CDU has opened new doors, sharing the beauty of our Catholic Faith with thousands of new learners. Our tablet-based ministry to the incarcerated is now operating in 150 prisons, with over 250,000 free courses taken on the Catholic Faith. CDU's free continuing education courses and webinars have reached 1600 students from 15 countries. Undergraduate and graduate school enrollments continue to grow as well.

CDU has also won new recognition as a pioneer and leader in online Catholic higher education. The Paris-based International Federation of Catholic Universities selected CDU to train Catholic faculty worldwide in digital teaching. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has commissioned CDU to develop online courses in child protection. In addition, CDU will offer new programs for training catechists and Catholic school teachers in partnership with Catholic Faith Technologies and Father Spitzer's Magis Institute, respectively.

Finally, the value of a CDU degree has been enhanced through our pursuit of new accreditations. CDU's graduate school was accredited this spring by the Association of Theological Schools, the accreditor of most Catholic seminaries, while we continue to pursue regional accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission, and our five-year reaccreditation with the Distance Education Accrediting Commission.

We need your help now more than ever to keep this great work going. CDU has been forced to cancel the November Gala, our main fundraising event, but we cannot cancel the needs of those we serve. Our objective is to raise at least \$200,000 by November 15, 2020. Thus, I hope you will join me in contributing the same amount or more than you did in past years in supporting the Gala and auction. For your convenience, a donation card and pre-addressed envelope are enclosed. May our Lord bless and protect you and your families.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Wasaff  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees