



CATHOLIC DISTANCE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

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 in 15 countries. Undergraduate and graduate school enrollments continue to grow as well.

We need your help now more than ever to keep this great work going. CDU has been forced to cancel the 2020 November Gala, our main fundraising event, because of safety concerns in the City of Washington. We cannot, however, 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 supporting our *Overcoming the Pandemic Together Appeal*.

While we know you have many worthy causes to support, I hope you will consider the importance of our mission to communicate the mind and heart of the Church in a digital world. As St. Paul so beautifully exhorted us: "Be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind" (Rom: 12:2). During the most productive and challenging year in the University's 37-year history, we have made remarkable progress and won new recognition as a pioneer and leader in online education.

CDU's graduate school was accredited this spring by the Association of Theological Schools, the accreditor of most Catholic seminaries. Through a partnership with the International Federation of Catholic Universities based in Paris, we are training international faculty to teach online. We have projects with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and are working with Father Robert Spitzer, SJ and the Magis Institute to certify Catholic schoolteachers in science-based apologetics to help counter secular confusion about God and science. We are also working with Catholic Faith Technologies to offer affordable online catechist certification to dioceses, knowing the recent financial constraints facing the Church.

We need your help today. Thank you, and may our Lord bless and protect you and your families.

Donate Now

Sincerely in our Lord,

Marianne Evans Mount, Ph.D.
President