

The Good News

300 South George Street, Charles Town, WV 25414 ♦ 1-888-254-4CDU ♦ www.cdu.edu

The mission of Catholic Distance University is to communicate the mind and heart of the Church in a digital world. Using distance education, the university educates teachers and learners worldwide in Catholic theology, the liberal arts, and faith development for the growth of faith, ecclesial service, and leadership for the New Evangelization.

A Publication for CDU Donors & Friends

Summer 2023

From Our President

A contrast between the old and the new, the past and the future, will mark CDU's 40th Anniversary in 2023.

The university's 40th Anniversary is a time to reflect on the accomplishments and graces of the past 40 years, and to welcome a new president on July 1, 2023, who will bring new gifts and talents, a new vision, and new energy to CDU's growing reputation as a Catholic university with a singular commitment to distance education.



Dr. Marianne Evans Mount

Presidential succession opens the door to an institution-wide assessment of its current identity as a university, and invites an exciting exploration of the future embodied in the leadership of a new president. It involves risk, prayer, discernment, and decisions about the future that anticipate a great new adventure, yet include an attachment to the present, with a willingness for change and growth.

The first 40 years have built a university with impressive graduates, an accredited curriculum, financial sustainability, a growing brand, and widespread recognition of rigor and quality. The faculty are committed to the vocation of teaching, and to fidelity to the teachings of the Church. The Board of Trustees embodies a determination for serving the university's mission and a generosity of resources and talents to ensure success. CDU is a growing community of deeply committed Catholics who marvel at the grace of God, who has upheld and guided the university through many perilous decisions for 40 years. Our community reflects the contributions of every beautiful vocation united in love for the Church and under the guidance of sacrificial leaders with deep faith who inspire self-giving and a determination to serve the Church's mission of the new evangelization.

Succession is vital to the life of a thriving institution like CDU. We should rejoice that our own journey of presidential succession has reaped such a rich harvest of new leadership in Dr. Sophia Aguirre. Dr. Aguirre reflects the face of the Church today. She is bilingual, multi-cultural, a renowned academic and researcher, widely traveled, and a humble yet dynamic communicator with a heart to serve Jesus Christ and his Church. Let us anticipate the future with hearts full of gratitude.

CDU to Welcome New President in July



Dr. Maria Sophia Aguirre

The Honorable Maria Sophia Aguirre, Ph.D., a distinguished Ordinary Professor of Economics and researcher in the field of finance, family, and economic development, will be appointed the third President of Catholic Distance University on July 1, 2023.

A tenured faculty member at The Catholic University of America, Dr. Aguirre has 30 years of teaching and research experience, while holding leadership positions at the academic program level, department and school levels, as well as the university at large. She was a Fulbright scholar in 2012-2013.

To read more about Dr. Aguirre's background, visit <https://cdu.edu/new-president-to-be-appointed/>.



40 Years

Fortieth Anniversary Gala Is Quickly Approaching



Michael Warsaw

CDU's 40th Anniversary gala will be a very special event where friends, alumni, and graduates will celebrate the university's journey and bold plans for the future. The event will be held on Friday, November 17th, at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia.

We look forward to honoring our Founders Award recipient, Michael P. Warsaw, Chairman of the Board and CEO of EWTN Global Catholic Network. EWTN shares our mission of communicating the Truth with all nations and has been a supporter of CDU since 1983. Mr. Warsaw's tireless support, guidance as a former Trustee, and educational partnership have been invaluable.

We will also honor our retiring president, Dr. Marianne Mount, for her 40 years of courageous, fruitful leadership, and introduce our new president, Dr. Maria Sophia Aguirre, who will further our mission to teach all nations.

The Master of Ceremonies will be Helen Alvaré, J.D., M.A., Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University, and CDU faculty member. The gala and graduation will take you down memory lane and highlight our innovative future. Tell your friends and mark your calendars. We cannot wait to see you!

Thank you for sustaining CDU's mission. Please remember CDU in your planned giving.

Join a Lifelong Learning Seminar this Summer

Why Do We Need the Church? (Offered August 14 – September 4)

This apologetics seminar will help you credibly, convincingly, and compellingly explain and share why we need the Church, the sacraments, and the Mass. Learn to better perform the Spiritual Works of Mercy to “counsel the doubtful” and “instruct the uninformed.” Embrace the opportunity to strengthen the practice of your faith and learn valuable information for sharing with family and friends who do not regularly attend Mass.

The seminar is taught by Steven R. Hemler.

Tuition is just \$99! Register today at
<https://www.pathlms.com/cdu/courses/38065>

Other Lifelong Learning opportunities:

- An advanced certificate in the New Testament is in development for Fall 2023. The new multi-course certificate offers a deep dive into Romans, Hebrews, and Revelation.
- In addition to 10 continuing education certificates in English, CDU now offers a certificate in Diocesan Lay Leadership in Spanish.
- New Spanish continuing education courses are in development and will be available in Fall 2023.
- Students may now set up their CDU profile in Spanish.

For more information about Lifelong Learning opportunities visit
<https://cdu.edu/what-we-offer/>
or contact continuingeducation@cdu.edu.

Spanish-Language AA Degree Classes to Be Offered This Fall



Our innovative Spanish-language AA degree in Theology with a concentration in Catholic Social Teaching is launching. Under the direction of Dr. Gerardo Salazar, this new program will

build better local communities and provide a much-needed bridge to higher education degrees and Church leadership for our Hispanic brothers and sisters.

Four courses in Spanish will be offered in the Fall:

- SPAN 110 SP Gramática Española
- COSCI 101 SP Introducción a Computación
- CST 101 SP Introducción a Doctrina Social de la Iglesia
- ENG 105 SP Introducción a la Composición para Teología

Please help us spread the word about this valuable new Spanish-language degree program by telling your friends and local diocese.

For more information, contact informacion@cdu.edu, call (800) 200-2115, or visit <https://cdu.edu/asociado-de-artes-aa-en-teologia-con-especialidad-en-doctrina-social-de-la-iglesia/>.

Audit Option Available

Would you like to take a graduate course without the pressure of writing papers or taking exams? If you hold an undergraduate degree from another college or university, you are eligible to audit 3-credit graduate courses at CDU for \$625. Those who have earned a BA, MA, or Catechetical Diploma from CDU pay just \$300.

MA Grad's Path Leads Back to CDU



Like so many journeys in faith, Maritza Mejia's unplanned journey simply kept spontaneously unfolding.

Maritza is from Colombia and her husband from Nicaragua. Twenty-eight years ago, they were married and came to the U.S. As she raised her two children, she wanted them to be strongly rooted in the Faith, so she enrolled them in a catechetical program and served as a volunteer.

Yearning to be enriched spiritually and intellectually, she quickly went from volunteering to teaching. She has now been a catechist for young children for 14 years.

When COVID hit, her confirmation preparation courses shifted to Zoom. Maritza was determined to make the digital classes more personal and inspire the students to embrace the Lord. In the quiet time during COVID lockdown, she began to explore how she could deepen her prayer life and learn more about her faith. She embarked on the Master's in Theology at CDU and received her degree in November 2022.

Already, she sees such enormous value from her degree. She finds that her teaching has improved, she now knows the strategies to use, where the resources are, and is constantly revising her lessons based on what she has learned from her coursework.

Through her studies in theology, she learned to let God guide her to serve Him. She had never done that before. Her studies were not just about becoming more knowledgeable, they led her to pray to praise God, to serve Him, in ways that are new for her.

She now sees His hand along her path, as she says yes to God. As CDU developed its Catholic Social Teaching program, Maritza was tapped to help others as the Student Life Manager for Spanish Programs. She shared, “I am totally blessed by this opportunity!”

CDU Grapevine Notes



William Neu, Ph.D. has joined the faculty to develop and instruct CST 510 *Catholic Social Thought: Leo XIII through Vatican II* offered in the Fall II term. Dr. Neu most recently taught at Sophia University Institute, Incisa, Italy, where he earned his Ph.D. His distinguished career also includes teaching at St. John's University in New York and Seton Hall University in New Jersey. He is currently President of the Foundation "for Sophia."



Trustee **Honorable Susan R. Malone** was named Veteran of the Month for April 2023 by Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo. She was also the honored guest speaker at the April 2023 FBI Conference in Las Vegas for being a trailblazer as one of the first two female FBI agents. Las Vegas KTNV highlighted Malone's groundbreaking career on the *Las Vegas Morning Blend* show.



Professor Alissa Thorell, MTS, was published in the May 26th edition of the *Homiletic & Pastoral Review*. Her article, "True Thanksgiving," is a powerful reflection on the Eucharist, which you will not want to miss reading. https://www.hprweb.com/2023/05/true-thanksgiving/?utm_source=Homiletic+%26+Pastoral+Review&utm_campaign=fddeb45240-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_05_11_07_33&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fddeb45240-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D



Sarah Reimer recently joined the staff as a prison ministry and student support coordinator. She provides incarcerated students with correspondence courses and assists them as needed. Sarah is an experienced social worker, mother of three, and active member of St. James the Greater Catholic Church in Charles Town, West Virginia.



Lois Owen joined the team as Registrar in June. Her Spanish language skills and higher education experience will help us better serve our diverse student body. Lois earned her Bachelor of Arts in Literature and her Master of Arts in Teaching at Brown University. She is passionate about finding ways to connect her faith with her love of creation and has also taught classes in farming and cheese-making. She is excited to work in a vibrantly Catholic educational community.



We welcomed new Director of Admissions **Kyle Nordstrom** in May. Kyle lives in Charles Town with his wife and two children. He is a member of St. James the Greater Catholic Church, and is eager to share his 15 years of experience in higher education student services and enrollment leadership with our prospective students.

Marguerite "Becky" Trainor has retired after fulfilling a 27-year prison ministry vocation. She spent the last 7 years at CDU, joyfully meeting the spiritual and educational needs of hundreds of prisoners across the U.S. We wish her well.

Academic Options Abound

Three new 18-credit undergraduate certificates will be offered in Philosophy, History, and Sacred Scripture starting in the 2023–2024 academic year, providing students with the opportunity to earn specialty credentials.

We also continue to develop new courses to meet students' diverse needs. A new undergraduate bioethics course taught by Professor Steve Bozza is offered in the Summer I term, and a new self-paced undergraduate course, *ENG40 Developing Writing Habits*, is now available to bolster skills leading to educational success.

Thanks to a new memorandum of understanding, CDU's MA graduates with a GPA of 3.0 or higher are eligible for fast-track admission to the University of Saint Mary of the Lake's Doctor of Ministry program.

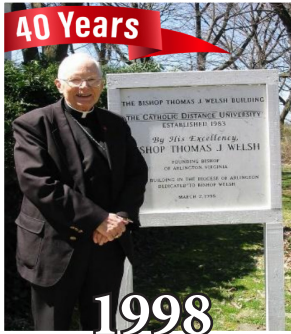
A Look Back

Celebrating 40 years



1986

In January 1986, CDU earned its first full accreditation from the Distance Education and Training Council, an accrediting agency of the US Department of Education. Today, CDU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the Association of Theological Schools.



1998

CDU's founder, Bishop Thomas J. Welsh of Arlington at CDU in 1998. CDU's home has moved several times and is now located in an expanded facility in Charles Town, WV.



2003

Chairman of the Board Bishop Paul Loverde and members of the CDU community at a pilgrimage to Rome in 2003.



40 Years



1984

CDU's correspondence prison ministry started in 1984. Today, our digital prison ministry with partners like the Order of Malta Federal Association and Edovo has served more than 1,500,000 faithful courses to our incarcerated brothers and sisters.

The Library Continues to Grow



The library has grown significantly since it began operating independently outside of the Canvas learning management system just a year ago. The number of databases has increased from 12 to over 130, thanks to the ability to add open access content from publishers and other institutions. The reference collection also continues to expand. Students and faculty can now access fully downloadable, printable, and cross-searchable digital copies of *The Ante-Nicene Fathers: Translations of the Writings of Fathers Down to A.D. 325*, Volumes I-X. *The Loeb Classical Library* now provides digital access to over 560 classic Greek and Latin texts, featuring side-by-side English translations. This is a seminal resource for supporting our expanded course offerings in Philosophy.

In addition to these acquisitions, the library is preparing to support the Spanish-language AA degree in Theology. A parallel library site in Español is currently in development and is expected to launch before the start of Fall I 2023. In June, librarian Stephanie Garrett will speak at the ATLA Annual Conference in Ft. Worth, Texas, on creating connection and presence in the virtual learning environment.

Consider CDU in your planned giving



Leave a lasting legacy by helping CDU secure its innovative future and fulfill the mission to teach all nations. Have you considered remembering CDU in your will or trust, a beneficiary designation or gifts of stock, bonds, donor advised funds, real estate, or life insurance? There are even ways to give that pay income, such as a charitable gift annuity.

For our friends over 70 years old who are eligible for a special tax advantage using the charitable IRA rollover provision, please remember CDU when planning your donations for your qualified charity distribution (QCD). You can see the impact of your gift while saving on taxes, satisfying part of your required minimum distribution, paying no income tax on your gift, and reducing your annual income level. This could help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

CDU can help you leave a legacy that supports those who serve as well as the underserved. If you already have gift plans that include CDU, thank you, and please let us know, because retirement plan administrators assume no obligation to notify charities of your designation. Please consult your tax or financial advisor and contact ahager@cdu.edu for information.

Thank You!

We are humbled and encouraged by your support and prayers. Together, we will reach all nations, the underserved Church, and God's children in the peripheries with the truth and beauty of our Faith through online Catholic education. We could not do it without you! Stay connected! To update your contact information, visit <https://cdu.edu/stay-connected/>