

# PRESIDENTIAL PROSPECTUS



CATHOLIC  
DISTANCE  
UNIVERSITY



# Mission

**T**he 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.

**THE INSPIRATION** for CDU's mission is rooted in Sacred Scripture and the documents of the Second Vatican Council. In 1964, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, confirmed the universal call to holiness (#11), the responsibility of all baptized Christians to carry out the great commission of Jesus Christ to proclaim the Good News (#17), and the vocation of the laity to proclaim the Good News in the secular world of family, work, and everyday life (#31).

This reality required a new way of thinking about education and faith formation, essential to the fulfillment of the Church's vision for the new millennium. In the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in his address to

Catholic educators in 2008, "Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News."

As an institution dedicated to educating the laity in particular, distance education became the logical partner to our mission from the day we opened our doors to the world in 1983. Initially, correspondence education taught us how to support students who studied at home or in the workplace, rather than on a campus. It connected us to the incarcerated, to the military, to hundreds of students throughout the world who were hungry to better understand the Catholic faith in a systematic program of studies faithful to the Church's two-thousand-year history.



## Pioneer in Online Education

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**IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM**, the mission led us to online education through digital networks, a gift that has been so strongly embraced by recent popes. Our students and faculty celebrate a pedagogy of welcome every day at CDU, contribute joyfully to a strong learning community, and become living witnesses to the impact of high-quality theological education that transforms and inspires our graduates to serve the Church with passion and fidelity, especially for the underserved.

In 2018, Pope Francis endorsed the use of distance education for ecclesiastical universities as integral to serving the peripheries. Not only has CDU been a pioneer in developing a media-rich, student-centered pedagogy for theological education, but we have been recognized as a leader in the field. In 2020, CDU was invited to partner with the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) to develop a four-week training module on how to teach online in response to the challenges faced by international faculty in the face of a worldwide pandemic. Faculty members eagerly shared their knowledge with colleagues from Spain, the Philippines, Belgium, Chile, Sierra Leone, Puerto Rico, Palestine, Congo DR, Indonesia, Italy, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, India, and Mexico.



# A Learning Community that Seeks the Face of Christ

**THE FIRST SENTENCE IN** the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains why so many varied students from all parts of the world find their way to CDU: “The desire for God is written in the human heart... Only in God will [we] find the truth and happiness [we] never stop searching for.”

CDU, so easily accessible through the inter-net, offers a Catholic university education centered on Jesus Christ, the Word of God, who is “the way, the truth, and the life” (JN 14:6). The curriculum, grounded in Sacred Scripture and the documents of the Second Vatican Council, reflects a fidelity to the constant teaching of the Catholic Church and the richness and mystery of God’s loving embrace of every human person.

CDU’s students are working adults who are called to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the teachings of the Church and who need the flexibility of incorporating study into an already busy schedule. A CDU education at every academic level is grounded in the truth, enriched by the Catholic intellectual tradition, and filled with the joy of encountering the living God in his word.

While most universities have competitive admissions processes that focus on quantitative data such as grade point averages, class rank, and test scores, CDU welcomes prospective students to take classes and prove their suitability. The curriculum is designed to enable students of all backgrounds to grow into the discipline of theological education

gradually and use their life experience to enrich their study. The online classes are highly interactive, and faculty and staff are focused on student success.

Each of our students has a story of personal encounter and is an inspiration to every member of our learning community. A few of our graduates share their experiences:

*“As someone who has studied most of his adult life in one form or another—face-to-face and online, undergraduate to doctoral level—I can say that I have never had a better collection of teachers than I had at CDU.”* —Deacon Adam Walk, MA (Theology), 2020

*“[Coming to CDU] was a great decision. I had all of these college credits and no degree, and the BA in Theology was the answer I was searching for. And for the first time in my life, my education was something I could be passionate about.”* —Adam Beerling, BA in Theology, 2014; MA (Theology), 2020

*“It has been a long road, and I’m grateful for the unfailing support and encouragement from the faculty and staff at CDU. I will include Catholic Distance University on my curriculum vitae with pride, as I believe the education I’ve received has been exemplary; it is also invaluable to the work that I do in psychotherapy and natural family planning.”*

—Anne Marie Posella, MA (Theology), 2018



# The Advent of the Digital Age

**THE MISSION OF CDU TO** communicate the mind and heart of the Church in a digital world became operative with the arrival of the internet. In the mid-1990s, the Board approved the first graduate degree program and changed CDU's name to "University." CDU collaborated with the Diocese of Arlington in the Jubilee Year 2000 to educate 100 catechists through an online interactive seminar that transformed CDU's vision. By then, CDU recognized that online education would be the future of distance education.

Today, CDU is the only fully and exclusively online Catholic university in the Church. Many universities divide their resources to offer programs both on campus and on-line. At CDU, online students are our only students, and they receive our full attention. A low faculty-to-student ratio and an administrative structure that keeps students at the center ensures our commitment to their success.

## Strong Board Leadership

**CDU HAS AN EXPERIENCED AND ENGAGED** Board of Trustees with a rich background in Catholic higher education and service to the Church. Most board members are accomplished lay persons with executive-level expertise in various fields including education, finance, law, business, marketing communications, government, and medicine. Four highly accomplished members of the clergy are also members of the Board of Trustees, including Archbishop Timothy Broglio, who serves as CDU's Chancellor and Vice Chair of the Board. The diverse backgrounds of trustees contribute to effective governance and ensure the strength of the university's Catholic identity, which is grounded in St. John Paul II's Constitution on Catholic Universities, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*. To view the list of trustees and their bios, [visit the Board Leadership website page](#).

The University's mission, vision, and institutional values reinforce its fidelity to the Church and commitment to high quality Catholic higher education. All stakeholders of the University share a deep commitment to educate and form leaders for the new millennium who are transformed by their relationship with Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life.

## A Student Body Rich in Diversity

**TO QUOTE** Very Reverend Edward C. Hathaway, Rector of the Basilica of St. Mary in Alexandria, Virginia, what do a contemplative nun, a prison inmate, a pediatrician, a banker in Brussels, a military officer in Kuwait, and a mother of six children have in common? They are all students at Catholic Distance University!

Our students are diverse not only in geography, ethnicity, occupation, and cultural heritage, but also in age. Our youngest graduate has been just 19, and our oldest, 81. CDU has educated the head of a children's hospital, a NASA astronaut, a portrait photographer in Japan, religious sisters in Africa, and a businessman in Europe who woke up at 2 am Hungarian time each day to work synchronously with his U.S.-based Biblical Greek professor. Others have been U.S. military officers in Afghanistan, a sheep farmer in Montana, grape growers in northern California, doctors, scientists, teachers, pilots, parents, grandparents, prisoners, catechists, deacons, priests, sisters, and missionaries in Africa, Asia, and Oceania.

*"I am so grateful to Catholic Distance University for the solid teaching of the faith made so accessible to catechists and religious education leaders wherever they may live. It is an amazing resource for the new evangelization for all seeking a firmer foundation in the faith."*

—Very Reverend Edward C. Hathaway

## Voices of Our Trustees and Staff

*"I am grateful for CDU's fidelity in communicating the mind and heart of the Church. When theological education is grounded in truth, we engage with Jesus Christ, and that transforms. As a pioneer in fully on-line theological education, CDU delivers a high-quality interactive learning experience on-demand to adults anywhere, who cannot travel to a campus, have very little time, and limited financial resources. CDU's mission to evangelize extends to the peripheries, including incarcerated students at 150 prisons in the U.S. and the U.S. military serving worldwide."*

—Steve Pryor, Board Chairman

*"I'm enthusiastic about CDU because it offers the best of both worlds—a highly flexible, fully online educational experience where faculty can still develop a personal connection with students, which goes a long way towards supporting more effective teaching and learning. It is also reassuring to know that CDU will never water down its Catholic identity or waiver in its fidelity to the Church."*

—Dr. Elizabeth Shaw, Associate Dean for Accreditation



## Our History: *The Gift of the Mustard Seed*

IN 2023, CDU WILL MARK its 40th Anniversary as a groundbreaking, forward-thinking Catholic institution of higher education whose presence today is a witness to the miracle of God's Providence in responding to the educational needs of the Catholic Church in the twenty-first century. CDU is a university engaged in the future. Yet, like a tiny mustard seed that has the potential to grow into something much greater, CDU's beginnings were humble.

In 1983, near the Nation's Capital, three Catholic educators met with the founding bishop of the Diocese of Arlington, Bishop Thomas Welsh, and convinced him that distance education would be a practical solution for delivering theological education and religious formation directly to learners in the home and the workplace, especially to parish catechists and parents. The documents of the Second Vatican Council opened the door to education that would foster the distinctive vocation

of the laity, who are well educated in their careers but poorly educated in their faith, and strengthen the universal call to holiness that fully engages both the intellect and the will.

Initially, a curriculum of correspondence courses in Catholic doctrine was successfully offered to lay people, religious communities, military personnel, and prison inmates. Distance education had already been used by a number of Protestant, missionary-focused denominations for over a century with great success, and the US Military had similar success with it during the Persian Gulf War.

In late 1983, CDU was granted approval from the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy to operate as a Pontifical Institute, the US Department of Education awarded national accreditation to CDU in 1986, and academic credit was available to students through a partnership with a Catholic university.

# Facts and Figures

**CDU IGNITES A PASSION** within students to heed the call of the new evangelization and share their love of Christ in their parishes and communities.

Among 2019-2021 alumni, 81% from the graduate programs and 71% from the undergraduate programs reported using their education to serve in some form of Church ministry, which demonstrates CDU's fulfillment of its mission.

Of the students who completed their programs in 2021, 100% reported that they achieved their learning goals, were satisfied with their studies at CDU, feel equipped to teach the Faith, and would recommend CDU to others.

More than 1000 times per day, an incarcerated person encounters the light of Christ in a CDU lesson on Catholicism.

## Student Body and University Affiliations

**CDU TOUCHES THE LIVES** of thousands of learners each year who are seeking to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith. About 300 students enroll in courses that grant academic credit each year, including non-matriculating students who may be pursuing degrees at other universities but take a course or two to gain a better understanding of Catholic theology. There are currently about 240 students working towards academic degrees or certificates, with a fairly even split between the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Another 300 students take non-credit continuing education courses throughout the year. Most students take these courses online, but in keeping with CDU's mission to serve the underserved, paper-based courses are available to the incarcerated, who are not permitted access to the internet. Also, in 150+ prisons throughout the USA, incarcerated students take 1,100 free faith-based lessons offered in English and Spanish each day on tablets that provide educational content to prepare them for successful reentry into society upon release. Since CDU launched this program in mid-2018, there

have been 840,000 lessons taken, and the completion rate has been quite high at 86%.

- In the CARA Report published by Georgetown University, CDU consistently ranks among the top 10 U.S. institutions educating lay ecclesial ministers in graduate-level theology.
- CDU is the only fully online university recommended by The Cardinal Newman Society Guide as a faithful Catholic college.
- The Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education routinely seeks the expertise of the current president in matters of distance education pedagogy, featuring her scholarly writings in its journal on distance education.
- CDU partners with the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, the International Federation of Catholic Universities, the In Trust Center for Theological Schools, and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.
- CDU is ranked in the Military Times' Best for Vets Colleges list, the largest and most comprehensive ranking of schools for military service members and veterans.



CDU's retention rates are remarkably high, especially for an online university.

*Retention Rates by Program 2019-2020*

AA

92.5%

MA (Theology)

89.2%

BA

92.3%

MA in Theology and Educational Ministry

100%

## Graduate Programs

*All programs offered by the Graduate School of Theology are accredited by The Association of Theological Schools, which accredits most Catholic seminaries in the U.S. and Canada.*

- Master of Arts (Theology) degree
- Master of Arts in Theology and Educational Ministry degree
- Graduate Certificate in Sacred Scripture
- Graduate Certificate in Church History
- Graduate Certificate for Catholic Educators

## Undergraduate Programs

- Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Catholic Studies
- Bachelor of Arts in Theology degree completion program
- Catechetical Diploma
- Catechetical Coordinator Certificate
- Graduate Certificate for Catholic Educators

## Non-Credit Continuing Education

*A number of dioceses turn to CDU for the education of their catechists and Catholic school teachers. Independent study courses, online seminars, and the following certificate programs are offered:*

- Basic Certificate in Apologetics
- Certificate in the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Basic Certificate in Catechetics
- Advanced Certificate in Catechetics
- Basic Certificate in Prayer and Spirituality
- Diocesan Lay Leadership Certificate

*CDU welcomes everyone into the fold of its global learning community. Our purpose is to reach and teach, not to exclude. We meet students where they are on their educational journeys by offering a range of programs.*



# A University that Reaches the Peripheries

**NINETY PERCENT OF OUR STUDENTS** reside throughout the United States, and the other 10% internationally. Over the years, CDU has educated students in over 70 countries. Mirroring trends in the Catholic Church, the student body continues to grow more diverse. In Fall 2020, 14% of the student body was Hispanic, 3% black or African American, 3% Asian, 68% white, and 11% declined to report race/ethnicity (IPEDS data).

A scholarship program offers emerging leaders in mission dioceses the opportunity to earn a Master's degree in Theology or Theology and Educational Ministry. Once the scholarship students graduate, they use their education to serve the Church and share the truth with those in need in their economically challenged and understaffed dioceses.

## Military Students, Veterans, and Families

**THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY,** CDU has educated service members, veterans, and military families in need of education offered at a distance given their unique circumstances. Because CDU is a Yellow Ribbon school and offers grants, veterans and their dependents can enroll at the University with tuition expenses fully covered. Many military students, from enlisted men and women to officers, have been educated while deployed in the field or stateside.

CDU's long relationship with the military is evidenced by the fact that the arch-bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, has traditionally served on its board of trustees, with the current arch-bishop serving as the University chancellor for many years to ensure its Catholic identity and give voice to the needs of this valued student population.

*"Being a CDU student not only prepared me to be a better Catholic man, but also a better Army officer. I can now make decisions that are informed by my Faith and the teachings of the Church."*  
—Col. John Ciesla (Ret.), MA in Theology

## Programs for Incarcerated Students

**WITH A DEEP COMMITMENT** to share the good news with those behind bars in need of God's mercy and love, CDU has served incarcerated students since 1984 by offering paper-based courses that feed both the spirit and the intellect. A number of our qualified incarcerated students have earned BA and MA degrees in Theology and Advanced Catechist Certificates, and some use their education to evangelize fellow inmates, spreading the Word of God and knowledge of His great love to those imprisoned in an environment mired in hopelessness and despair. One published two faith-based books while serving a life sentence.

Many more incarcerated students have taken inspiring continuing education courses that have deepened their relationship with God and provided a new sense of purpose. Through Edovo intranet tablets available in 150+ prisons across the USA, CDU provides free non-credit continuing education courses in the faith to the incarcerated. Over 840,000 lessons offered in both English and Spanish have been taken in less than 4 years with a high completion rate of 86%.

*"Your institution is the center of my life. You have brought me to a place in my life which I had never envisioned, and for that I am grateful. There won't be a time in my life in which I will not be learning with you and from you."*  
—MS, an incarcerated student

# At a Glance

## Guiding Principles

1

**FAITHFUL CATHOLIC EDUCATION.** Guided by the Apostolic Constitution *Ex corde Ecclesiae*, CDU's curriculum faithfully transmits the teachings of the Catholic Church, promotes the authentic renewal of the Second Vatican Council, and illuminates recent papal documents in support of the new evangelization.

2

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.** CDU provides accredited education that reflects a commitment to academic excellence. This necessitates qualified faculty, a sound curriculum, and systematic academic programs, including graduate, undergraduate, degree, and certificate programs that enhance professional careers and foster life-long learning.

3

**GLOBALLY ACCESSIBLE ONLINE EDUCATION.** CDU uses distance education to provide universal access to its educational programs and services through the internet. Digital communication enables CDU to accommodate learners in their various unique circumstances.

4

**SPREADING THE CHRISTIAN MESSAGE.** CDU serves the Catholic Church's mission of the new evangelization through partnerships with dioceses and organizations and uses current research to inform program development and support the educational goals and needs of the faithful, especially the underserved.

5

**FOSTERING MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY.** CDU fosters a vibrant learning community of students, faculty, alumni, and staff through its interactive online campus and academic programs that deepen the encounter with the living God in communion with the Church.

# Our Online Campus



**THROUGH THE WONDER** of the Internet, CDU fosters an invitation 24 hours a day to encounter the living word of God and be part of a learning community that engages both mind and heart in a transformative experience of silent reflection and endless conversation.

Our online campus includes rich resources for a fulfilling academic experience. These include a growing online library staffed by a trained theological librarian who provides instruction and academic support and a Student Life Center that provides a faith-filled learning community with access to spiritual and academic

learning resources and an orientation course for new students. CDU also offers federal financial aid, job postings, and an alumni association.

Each year, the University community gathers in person for a Gala celebration and Academic Convocation Mass to honor each class of graduates.

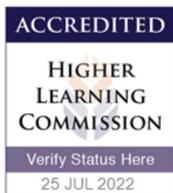
## Institutional Outcomes

**WHETHER STUDENTS** are engaged in a graduate degree program or in a non-credit continuing education certificate, five outcomes are cultivated within the learning community across all programs:



- Lifelong Formation
- Faith Development
- Theological Understanding for Life and Ministry
- Communication for Community
- Collaboration for the Common Good

## Accreditation



### THE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

CDU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60604-1411; Tel. 312-263-0456; hlcommission.org.)

### DISTANCE EDUCATION ACCREDITING COMMISSION

CDU is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC, 1101 17th Street, NW, Suite 808, Washington, DC 20036, 202.234.5100). DEAC is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency. DEAC is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. CDU undergoes a rigorous reaccreditation process every five years and has been accredited by DEAC since 1986.



### THE ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS

CDU's Graduate School of Theology is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of The Association of Theological Schools.



# Challenges and Opportunities Lie Ahead

**CDU'S FUTURE INCLUDES** a new online curriculum in Catholic Social Teaching supported by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., to fund a new bilingual English-Spanish AA degree program designed for Hispanic Catholics, who will make up the majority of the population of Catholics in the coming years, and a graduate certificate program to educate priests, deacons, and lay ecclesial ministers.

There will also be new opportunities for collaboration with other Catholic universities, dioceses, and Catholic institutions. The next decade of leadership will continue to enhance the university's reputation for academic excellence and open the door to broader, more interdisciplinary partnerships that expand our global reach, especially to the underserved, and enable the University to explore new models of theological education that engage the mind and heart in an encounter with Jesus Christ and the Church.



## 2021-2024 Strategic Plan

- Three strategic priorities:
- Sustainability and growth
  - organizational effectiveness
  - program development.

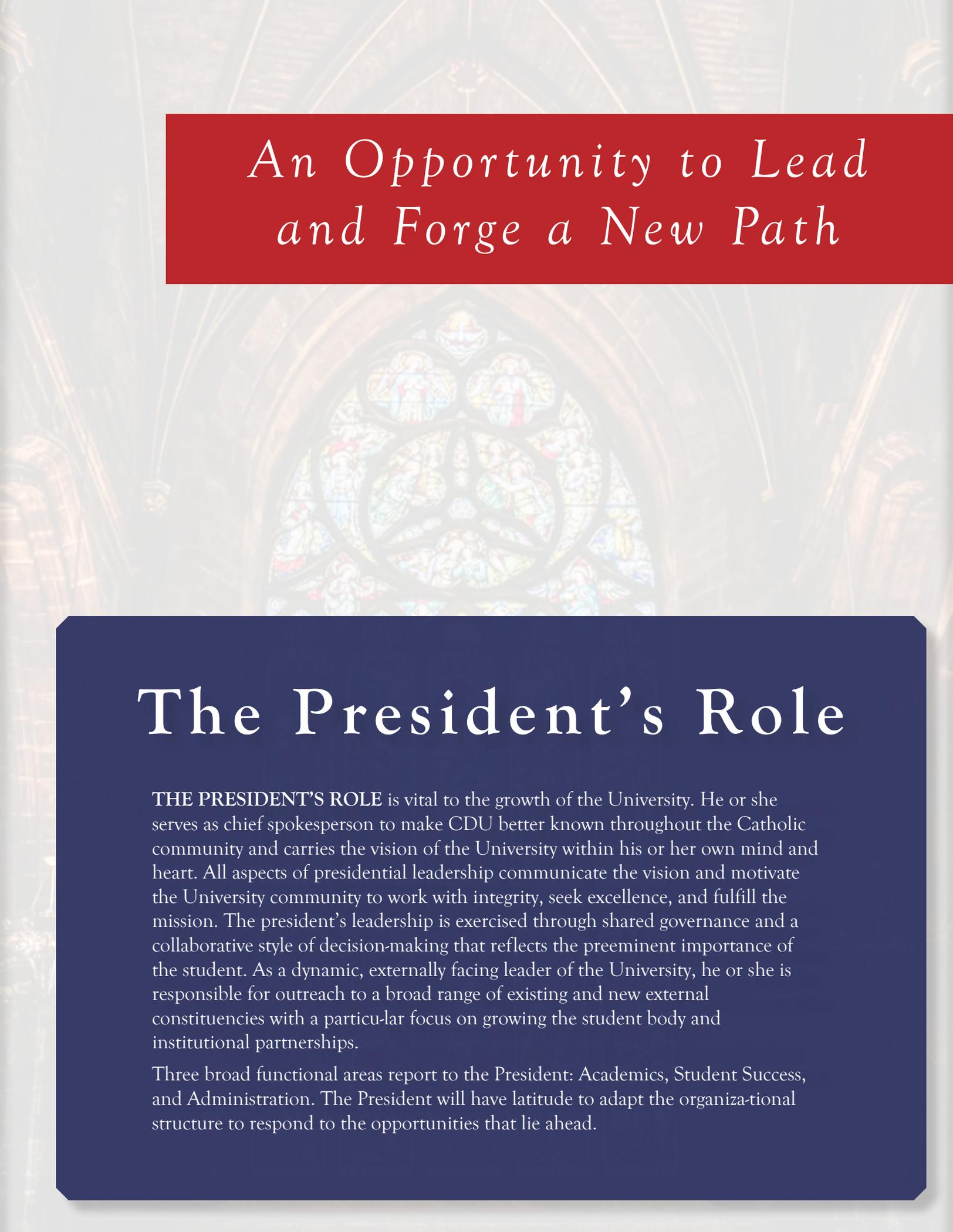
# Developing the Catholic Leaders of Tomorrow

**THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED** is a powerful image of CDU's potential to provide a transformative education in the teachings of the Church to a larger and more diverse body of learners anywhere in the world with a connection to the Internet.

Today, CDU's student body is small compared to the needs of the Church, but the University is well positioned to scale to meet its growing needs. We look forward to expanding our student body while continuing to do what CDU has always done best: preparing the missionary disciples of tomorrow to share the good news.

## Blueprint for the Future

- Accelerate enrollment growth through a prioritized plan to strengthen the curriculum, marketing programs, reciprocity agreements with other accredited universities, and organizational capabilities.
- Design and implement a new bilingual English/Spanish curriculum in Catholic Social Teaching, strengthening CDU's commitment to provide affordable online theological education to Hispanic Catholics that builds strong leadership for the future of the Church.
- Develop a plan to offer a full Bachelors degree utilizing existing courses and the potential addition of pre-professional programs and other general education offerings.
- Continue to strengthen CDU's academic resources, student success capabilities, marketing and development programs, and technology, supported by enhancements in business processes and organization.
- Cultivate a strong culture of assessment and commitment to full accreditation, by driving and sustaining continuous improvement in meeting the criteria of CDU's institutional and programmatic accreditors.
- Evaluate CDU certificate programs and non-credit continuing education offerings and develop a prioritized plan for improvement.
- Build on CDU's strong relationships and reputation for academic excellence, expertise in distance education, and fidelity in communicating the Catholic faith, both across the universal Church and with lay organizations that support Catholic education.



# *An Opportunity to Lead and Forge a New Path*

## The President's Role

**THE PRESIDENT'S ROLE** is vital to the growth of the University. He or she serves as chief spokesperson to make CDU better known throughout the Catholic community and carries the vision of the University within his or her own mind and heart. All aspects of presidential leadership communicate the vision and motivate the University community to work with integrity, seek excellence, and fulfill the mission. The president's leadership is exercised through shared governance and a collaborative style of decision-making that reflects the preeminent importance of the student. As a dynamic, externally facing leader of the University, he or she is responsible for outreach to a broad range of existing and new external constituencies with a particular focus on growing the student body and institutional partnerships.

Three broad functional areas report to the President: Academics, Student Success, and Administration. The President will have latitude to adapt the organizational structure to respond to the opportunities that lie ahead.

# Qualifications

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CDU is seeking a new generation of presidential leadership embodied in a practicing Catholic who is transformational, strategic, humble, and inspirational. This person must be a mission-driven leader who tirelessly seeks the wisdom of God through the Catholic Church and the extraordinary gift of the governing body of trustees, as well as the highly competent staff and faculty. The president understands the role of the hierarchy in preserving the Catholic identity of the University and the varied gifts of her public trustees and lay board leadership at a Catholic university that attracts highly competent adult students who are eager to be educated in mind and heart to carry the Church's message of salvation to the entire world.

As an educational leader at the forefront of digital education in the twenty-first century, our new president should have strong academic credentials that include a terminal degree and research in a field that enriches the curriculum of CDU.

Areas essential to CDU's future include accreditation, a strong relationship with the Holy See, an openness to partnerships and collaboration, engagement in expanding philanthropic support, and a heart to serve the peripheries.

The role of president is one of service, openness, integrity, and self-sacrifice. Essential qualities of leadership include excellent oral and written communication skills, active listening, and a consultative approach to decision-making. The president reflects the joy of a life centered on the Person of Jesus Christ and the fullness of the gift of the Catholic Church.



## Specific Duties

### Operations

- Provides leadership, vision, and direction in the implementation of the university's Strategic Plan as approved by the Board of Trustees.
- Oversees current and proposed academic programs including faculty recruitment and relations, curriculum development, and student learning outcomes.
- Oversees day-to-day operations, including enrollment, marketing, student admissions, information technology, staffing and human resources, facilities, continuing education, and strategic initiatives and partnerships.
- Responsible for compliance with regulations and standards of national, regional, state, accrediting, and certifying agencies and for filing associated reports.

### Resource Management

- Cultivates, communicates with, and solicits donors, benefactors and friends of the University to expand financial and other resources.
- Works with trustees, advisors and friends of the University, along with the director of institutional development, to plan and execute annual fundraising initiatives and objectives and to solicit grants.
- Leads efforts to sustain financial stability and growth of the University by increasing enrollment, initiating new programs, and developing strategic partnerships.
- Oversees budget preparation, periodic reporting, and the external auditing process.

### Board of Trustee Relationships

- Works with the Board Chair and Trustees to set and meet fundraising targets.
- Works with the Treasurer to ensure the financial integrity and sustainability of the University.
- With the Board Chair and Trustees, manages strategic planning development, and otherwise consults with the Board or its individual members as needed.
- Updates the Board of Trustees at regularly scheduled board meetings about the university's operations, new developments, and the status of progress achieved toward the goals of the strategic plan.
- Serves as a liaison with outside counsel, external auditor, accountant, and other consultants.

### External Relationships

- Actively engages and communicates with appropriate Vatican departments, the USCCB, Catholic organizations, and archdioceses and dioceses to promote CDU's programs nationally and globally.
- Attends or delegates staff attendance at annual meetings of associations to which CDU belongs or seeks membership.
- Represents CDU at Catholic national and diocesan events to promote CDU's academic and continuing education programs.
- Communicates regularly with University's internal and external constituencies.
- Seeks opportunities for collaboration with Catholic and non-denominational institutions of higher education.
- Serves as an accrediting evaluator or on boards of accrediting bodies when beneficial to CDU.
- Accepts public speaking and publishing opportunities to promote CDU and its mission.

## **Professional Qualifications**

- Demonstrated experience with on-line learning and a commitment to the value, strengths, and advantages of distance education in fostering student success.
- Dedication to furthering the principles of Catholic religious and theological education.
- Awareness of contemporary trends in higher education and in particular in distance education.
- Demonstrated ability to foster and support innovative and entrepreneurial partnerships with other organizations.
- A record of nurturing collaborative internal and external relationships.
- Commitment to and a record of successful fundraising and institutional development.
- Ability to steward resources with care and demonstrate entrepreneurial skill in assessing and pursuing new opportunities.
- Excellent interpersonal, written, and oral communication skills and an ability to plan and establish priorities.
- Proven leadership and skill in supervising and motivating faculty and staff to succeed in their roles.
- Ability to work collaboratively with the Board of Trustees and its committees.
- A leadership style that is transparent, open and available and is characterized by absolute integrity and honesty.

## **Personal Requirements**

- Ph.D. or terminal degree in field appropriate to CDU.
- Practices the Catholic faith demonstrating fidelity to the mission and teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Must agree to live within reasonable commuting distance of CDU's headquarters in Charles Town, West Virginia.



# Contact

Catholic Distance University is being assisted by the partners of Hyatt-Fennell

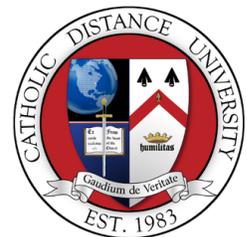
Applications and nominations should be submitted electronically to [cdu@hyatt-fennell.com](mailto:cdu@hyatt-fennell.com)

Applications include a cover letter, current CV or resume and contact information for five professional references.

Nominations should include name of nominee and current contact information.



For additional information contact  
Cheryl Hyatt - [chyatt@hyatt-fennell.com](mailto:chyatt@hyatt-fennell.com)  
or  
Robert Head - [rhead@hyatt-fennell.com](mailto:rhead@hyatt-fennell.com)



Applications will be reviewed as they are received and should be submitted prior to **September 26, 2022** to receive full consideration.

*Catholic Distance University is an affirmative/equal opportunity institution and welcomes applications from women, minorities, veterans, and people with disabilities. All employees must be able to affirm and support the mission of the University in performing their duties.*

# Our Graduates Are Equipped to Change the World!

*"I am currently on the editorial team for the CANews (Catholic Asia News), a monthly magazine for the Catholics in Malaysia that was launched in 1972. For the current calendar year, I am the guest editor responsible for developing the themes, sourcing articles, editing, and the distribution of the magazine in Malaysia. My MA (Theology) is the primary reason I am on the editorial team and was chosen to lead the magazine for this year."*

—Adrian Marcellus

*"I am now co-director of the Focolare Movement North America."*

—Paloma Cabetas

*"I live our faith in being a witness every day in my school. As St. Francis said, 'Preach everywhere. Talk when needed.' Many times I have great conversations about our faith with my fellow teachers, but I can only teach my students our faith with how I respond and act."*

—Caroline Hemling

*"The MA has helped me in my volunteer work at my parish. I'm better equipped to defend the faith as well as to teach it and share with others. I'm a catechist for both the high school and adult confirmation programs. I also work with the adult faith formation program."*

—Shelfa Williams

*"I use my degree every day in my studies and for personal growth in discipleship. On an ecclesiastical level I teach RCIA in the men's prison in Gatesville, Texas. I am also in charge of the School of Leaders for the Austin Diocese's Cursillo Movement. My degree has also served me in my service as Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, and it has broadened my understanding of Sacred Scripture when lecturing at Mass."*

—Dennis Alber

*"I am a DRE at St. Tobias RC Church in Brockway, Pennsylvania, in the Diocese of Erie. I am a mentor for new religious education leaders. I also work for the diocese as a spiritual and theological director of formation for catechists and those religious ed leaders seeking certification in our Diocesan Certificate Program. I am currently helping the Diocesan Education Office to develop a standard curriculum for sacramental prep in the elementary grades."*

—Tara Starr

*"I am currently a deacon with the Diocese of Grand Rapids (Michigan). I have a Theology degree (Scripture) from CDU. I am using the degree in my homilies and other diaconal work. I also assist with the formation of new deacons."*

—Jerry Roersma