

**A View from Heaven:
*The Transformational Mission
of the Diocesan Catholic
College & University***

Loras College

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“ Big Picture” Issues

**Catholic
character, identity,
and mission
within the
diocesan
college / university
context**



Catholic Ministerial Maxim

- **Identify great ideas / programs,**
- **Hold them up as exemplary,**
- **Invite others to imitate them**



University Community Maxim

**Speakers 100 miles
away from home
are experts:
even the concepts of
the ordinary professor
are worth a listen!**



Modest Goal

**Discover one way
(personal or institutional)
to strengthen
your diocesan Catholic
college / university**

Intentional Orientation

A View from Heaven:
The Transformational Mission
of the Diocesan Catholic College & University

➤ ***Heaven & Mission***

Heaven as our Vantage Point

- **Death as ever present**
- **Earthly life as temporary**
- **Everlasting life as our ultimate destination**

A New Way of *Seeing*

- **Heidegger's: *Being and Time***
- **Four Funerals:**
 - **Monica Hellwig**
 - **Joe Hacala, SJ**
 - **Aunt Millie**
 - **Cousin in-law Bob**
- **Parents funeral preparations**

Mission Focus

- ***Missio*: to send**
- ***Identitas*: the same**

Ex corde Ecclesiae

**An apostolic constitution
that identifies the common
characteristics of all
Catholic colleges / universities**

Benedict's First Encyclical

- *Deus Caritas Est*



40,000 Students at Diocesan Colleges

- **Carroll: 1,392**
- **Gannon: 3,815**
- **Loras: 1,683**
- **St. Ambrose: 3,780**
- **St. Thomas (FL): 2,500**
- **St. Thomas More: 1,400**
- **Seton Hall: 9,800**
- **U. of Dallas: 3,005**
- **U. of St. Thomas: 11,079**

Alexander Astin

- ***Four Critical Years***
- ***What Really Matters in College:
Four Critical Years Revisited***

An Essential Characteristic of a Catholic College / University

***...an institutional commitment
to the service of the
people of God***

...wherein...

***the great problems of
society and culture...
are confronted and transformed.***

(EcE, 13)

Say what?



The mission of the diocesan
Catholic college / university
must grow out of its geography;
its *location*, its *place*
is essential to its mission.

...a close working relationship with the diocesan Catholic college and the bishop / local church should flow naturally...

“What should be and what is are two different things.”

Ex corde Ecclesiae



Church's ... *Best* Instrument

...a Catholic University is without a doubt one of the best instruments that the Church offers to our age which is searching for certainty and wisdom... the Church should never fail to interest herself in this Institution.

(EcE, 10)

Vitally Important

*The mission that the Church...
entrusts to Catholic universities
holds a cultural and religious meaning of
vital importance
because it concerns
the very future of humanity.*

(EcE, Conclusion)

Entrusted *principally* to...trustees

The responsibility for maintaining and strengthening the Catholic identity of the university is entrusted principally to university authorities (including, when the positions exist, the chancellor and/or a board of trustees or equivalent body)...

(EcE, Part II, Art. 4, I)



Entrusted to ... all ... *especially* teachers



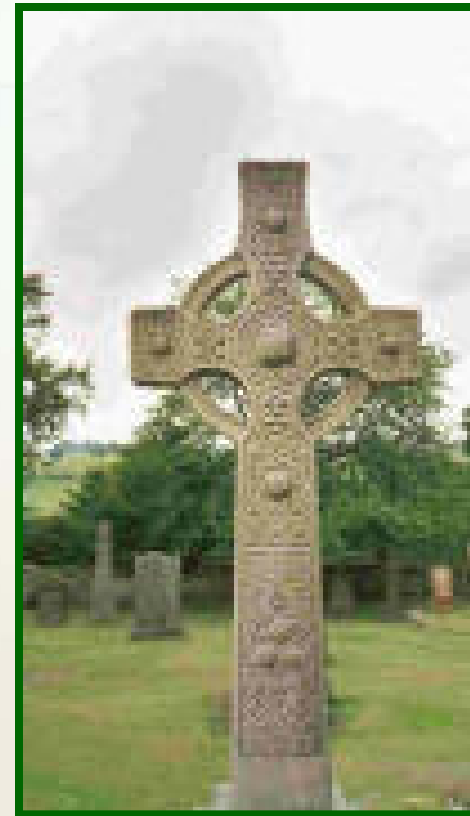
- *It is shared in varying degrees by all members of the university community ... especially teachers ... who are both willing and able to promote that identity.*
- *The identity of a Catholic University is essentially linked to the quality of its teachers...*

(EcE, Part II, Art. 4, I)

Unite our *search... and our certainty*

*A Catholic university's
privileged task is
'to unite existentially
by intellectual effort...
the search for truth
and the certainty
of already knowing
the font of truth.'*

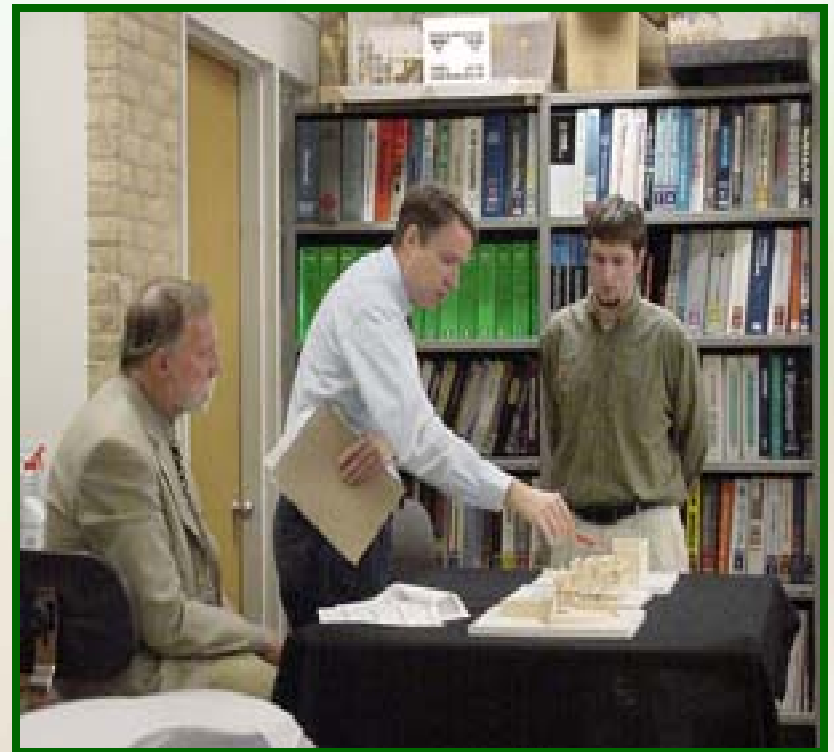
(EcE, I)



Reality *scrutinized*

*A Catholic university, therefore,
is a place of research,
where scholars
scrutinize reality...*

(EcE, 15)



Search... without reserve
It is an honor and responsibility
of a Catholic university
to consecrate itself without reserve to
...its free search for the truth
about nature, man and God.

(EcE, 4)



Wisdom *and* Truth

*The believer, enlightened and guided
by the word of God,
does not fear a confrontation
with human thought
...wisdom and truth come from God.*


-- Pope John Paul II

**(Excerpt from the international meeting of
bishops, presidents, and university chaplains)**

Impartial search

*It is in the context
of the impartial search for truth
that the relationship
between faith and reason
is brought to light.*

(EcE, 5)



Faith and reason
are like
two wings on which
the human spirit rises
in contemplation of the truth.

-Pope John Paul II, 1998
Fides et Ratio

Say what?



Opportunities of Amplification

- 1. Catholic Intellectual Tradition**
- 2. Catholic Identity**
- 3. Hispanic Community Needs**
- 4. Lay Spirituality & Vocational Call**

Catholic principles ... *permeate* university

In a Catholic university...

*Catholic ideals,
attitudes,
and principles
penetrate and inform
university activities.*

(EcE, 14)



Both a University and Catholic

*In a word,
being both a University and Catholic,
it must be both
a community of scholars representing
various branches of human knowledge,
and
an academic institution in which
Catholicism is vitally present and operative.*

(EcE, 14)

Witnesses *and* Educators

*University teachers...
are called to be
witnesses and educators
of authentic Christian life,
which evidences
an attained integration
between faith and life,
and between
professional competence
and Christian wisdom.*

(EcE, 22)



Faith *and* Culture

*The synthesis between culture and faith
is a necessity not only for culture,
but also for faith...*

*A faith that does not become culture
is a faith that is not fully received,
not entirely thought through
and faithfully lived.*

The Church's Presence in the University and University Culture (1994)

Values That Matter

(Hardwick – Day)

A Comparative Advantage

Alumni Study

for

The National Catholic College

Admission Association

Comparison Institutions

- Catholic College Admission Association Colleges and Universities **(308)**
- Flagship Public Universities* **(530)**
- Other Church-Affiliated Private Colleges and Universities **(611)**
- Non-Church-Affiliated Private Colleges and Universities **(614)**

Flagship public universities = 147 public universities designated as “national universities” in *U.S. News and World Report, America’s Best Colleges, 1999.*

Values that Matter

- **Catholic college / university was effective in developing:**
 - Moral principles that guide my actions;
 - Leadership & speaking skills;
 - Preparing me for my first job.
- **I personally benefited from...**
 - Opportunities of spiritual development;
 - Emphasis on the personal;
 - Emphasis on Values and Ethics in my personal life;
 - Integration of Values and Ethics in the classroom.
- **It is extremely important to promote racial equality and social justice issues**

Recent *Spirituality* Research

Rarely has a generation of young people been so interested in spirituality and religion and so open to experiences of the holy and the transcendent.

This is a kairos moment – the right moment – for the Catholic Church and her pastoral ministry to, with, and for young people.

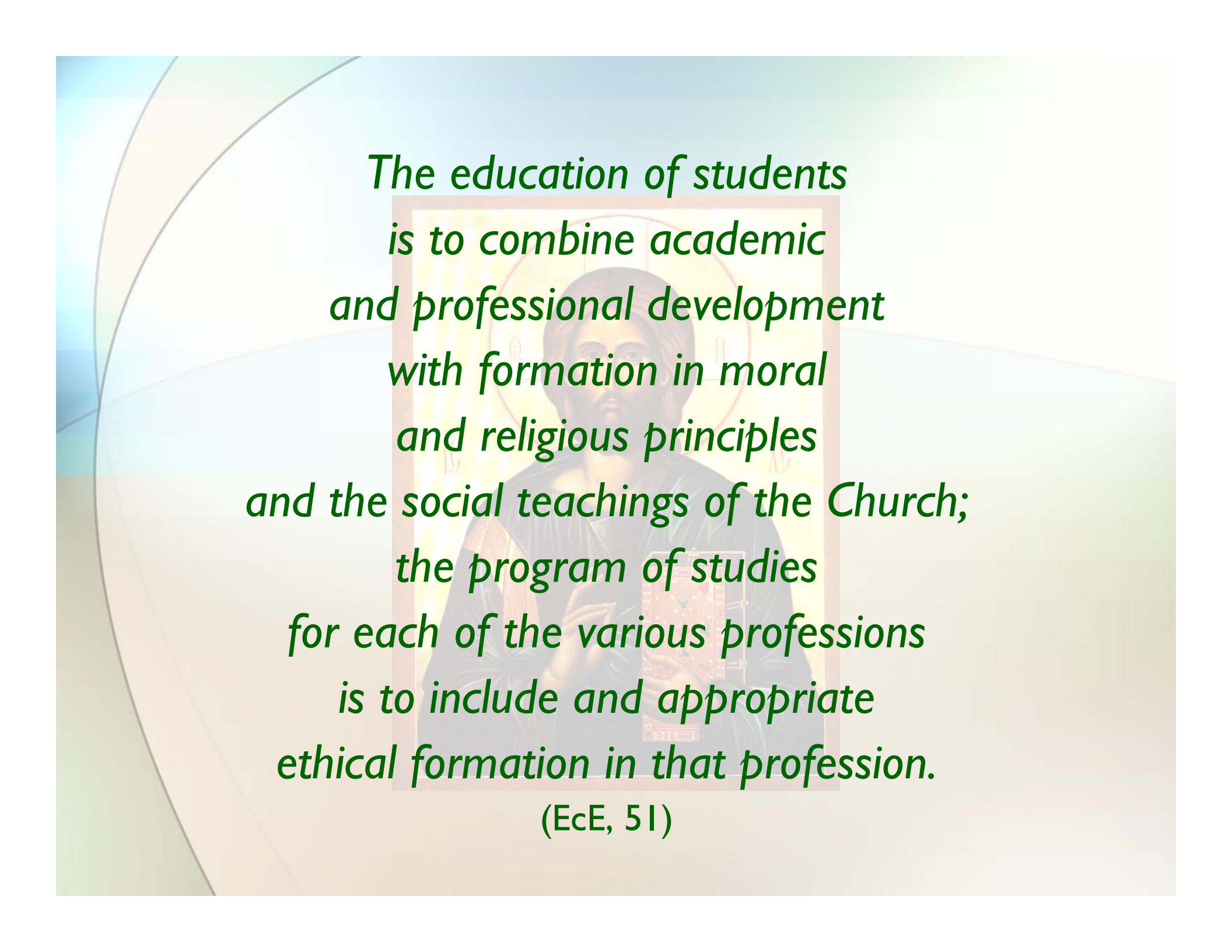
**The National Study of
Youth and Religion,
December 2004**



Higher Education Research Institute (HERI)

- ***Spirituality in Higher Education:
A National Study of College Students'
Search for Meaning and Purpose***
- ***Spirituality and the Professoriate:
A National Study of Faculty
Beliefs, Attitudes, and Behaviors***

Dr. Jennifer A. Lindholm: Project Director
(310) 825-8622 jlindhol@ucla.edu
www.spirituality.ucla.edu



*The education of students
is to combine academic
and professional development
with formation in moral
and religious principles
and the social teachings of the Church;
the program of studies
for each of the various professions
is to include and appropriate
ethical formation in that profession.*

(EcE, 51)

Developing Leaders for the Future



27 percent of those who participated in campus ministry have considered serving in the Church as **an ecclesial lay minister**, that is, a married or lay person who works in a parish or other Church organization.

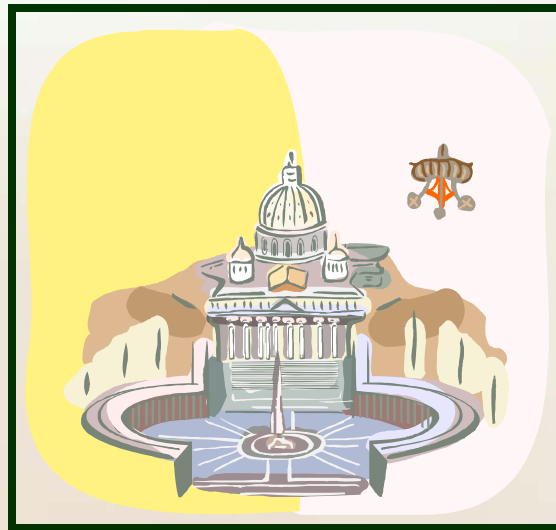
Discover Treasures

...Catholic Universities

assist the Church...

to find cultural treasures both old and new...

(EcE, 10)



Essential to Church & human growth

*...Catholic Universities
are essential to her growth
and to the development of
Christian culture and human progress...*

(EcE, I I)



Essential Characteristics

1. A **Christian inspiration** not only of individuals but of the university community as such;
2. A **continuing reflection** in the light of the Catholic faith upon the growing treasury of human knowledge, to which it seeks to contribute by its own research;
3. **Fidelity to the Christian message** as it comes to us through the Church;
4. An **institutional commitment to the service** of the people of God and of the human family in their pilgrimage to the transcendent goal which gives meaning to life.

(EcE, 13)

***Truly* Catholic and a *real* university**

- **The short answer**
- **Church's best instrument**
- **Young Adult spiritual thirst**
- **Search for truth**
- **Faith and reason**
- **Catholic witness, yet inclusive**
- **Faithfully & creatively Catholic**
- **Assist Church & human progress**
- **Permeate and inform university activities**
- **Confident modesty**

... Both ... And...

*Being both a university and Catholic,
it must be both a **community of scholars**
representing various branches of human knowledge,
and an **academic institution** in which*

Catholicism is vitally present and operative.

(EcE, 14)



University Faculty

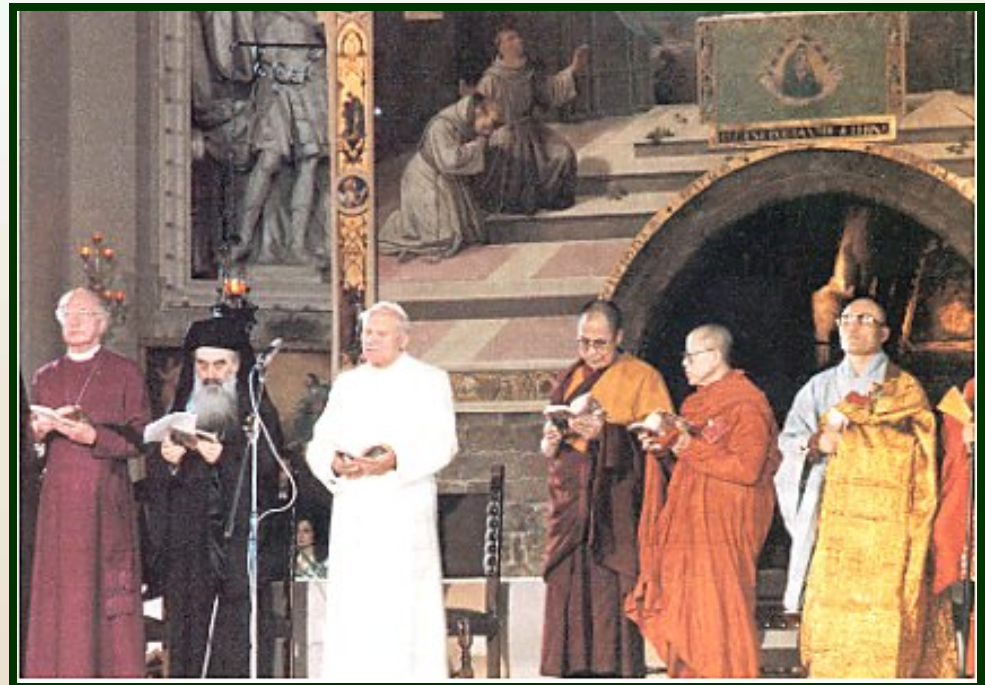
*In ways appropriate
to the different academic disciplines,
all Catholic teachers...university teachers and
administrators who belong to other religions...,
as well as those who profess no religious belief...
are to recognize and respect
the distinctive Catholic identity
of the University.*

(EcE, Art. 4, I)

Inclusive Catholic higher ed

- ...many Catholic institutions include members of other churches, ecclesial communities and religions, and also those who profess no religious belief.*
- ...offer their training and experience in furthering the various academic disciplines or other university tasks.*

(EcE, 26)



Respect Religious Liberty

*Non-Catholic members
are required to respect the
Catholic character of the university,
while the university in turn
respects their religious liberty.*

(EcE, 27)

Incomparably fertile dialogue...

*...a Catholic university
enables the Church
to institute an incomparably fertile dialogue
with people of every culture.*

(EcE, 6)





A Third Example...

Faithfully Catholic *and* Creatively Catholic

Catholic doctrine...*faithfully* observed

*The conference of bishops
and the diocesan bishops concerned
have the duty and right of being vigilant
that in these universities
the principles of Catholic doctrine
are faithfully observed.*

(CCL, 810.2)



Pastoral Ministry

Pastoral ministry is that activity of the university which offers the members of the university community an opportunity to integrate religious and moral principles with their academic study and non-academic activities, thus integrating faith with life.

(EcE, 38)



What is Freedom?

1. “No-fault freedom”

...to be or do whatever you want.

2. “Liberty”

...freedom coupled

with something bigger or higher than self

...the pursuit of our dreams

with an eye toward the common good.

Freedom in research and teaching
is recognized and respected...
so long as the rights of the individual and
of the community
are preserved within the confines
of the truth and the common good.

(EcE, 47)

**...excluding either faith or reason
is like looking at the world
with one eye closed;
you lose full depth perception.**

-Bill Moyers, PBS series, Faith and Reason

II. Relationship with Local Bishop/Diocese

...conferences of bishops are to see to it that universities or at least faculties are established, suitably distributed throughout their territory, in which the various disciplines are to be investigated and taught with due regard for their academic autonomy, and with due consideration for Catholic doctrine.

(CCL, 809)

II. Relationship with Local Bishop/Diocese

It is the responsibility of the authority who is competent in accord with the statutes to provide for the appointment of teachers to Catholic universities who besides their scientific and pedagogical suitability are also outstanding in their integrity of doctrine and probity of life...

(CCL, 810.1)

II. Relationship with Local Bishop/Diocese

The competent ecclesiastical authority is to provide that at Catholic universities there be erected a faculty of theology, an institute of theology, or at least a chair of theology so that classes may be given for lay students.



(CCL, 811)

- **In its attempts to resolve ... complex (*social*) issues ... a Catholic university will insist on cooperation among the different academic disciplines ... cooperation in *common research projects* among Catholic Universities... as well as with other private and governmental institutions ... (EcE, 35)**

- **dialogue and collaboration are to be encouraged between the Catholic universities and the other universities of a nation on behalf of development, of understanding between cultures and of the defense of nature in accordance with an awareness of the international ecological situation. (EcE, 37)**

- **Students ... are challenged to continue the search for truth and for meaning ... [and to possess an] enthusiasm of being the trained "leaders" of tomorrow, of being witnesses to Christ in whatever place they may exercise their profession. (23)**

- **Catholic universities will seek to discern and evaluate both the aspirations and the contradictions of modern culture, in order to make it more suited to the total development of individuals and peoples. (EcE, 45)**

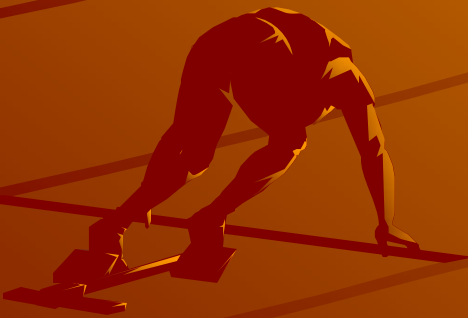
- **...a Catholic university...can offer a contribution to ecumenical dialogue...to further the search for unity among all Christians. In inter religious dialogue it will assist in discerning the spiritual values that are present in the different religions. (EcE, 47)**

- **...all the basic academic activities of a Catholic university are connected with and in harmony with the evangelizing mission of the Church: research carried out in the light of the Christian message which puts new human discoveries at the service of individuals and society; education offered in a faith-context that forms men and women capable of rational and critical judgment and conscious of the transcendent dignity of the human person; professional training that incorporates ethical values and a sense of service to individuals and to society; the dialogue with culture that makes the faith better understood, and the theological research that translates the faith into contemporary language.**
(49)

- **The education of students is to combine academic and professional development with formation in moral and religious principles and the social teachings of the Church; the program of studies for each of the various professions is to include an appropriate ethical formation in that profession. (EcE,)**

**Education is not the filling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire.**

-W. B. Yeats



- **All members of the university community are to be invited to assist the work of pastoral ministry, and to collaborate in its activities. Art. 6, 2**

Challenge

**The loss of a Catholic subculture
makes it ever more
challenging to transmit values.**

Challenge

Complying with complex and time consuming state and federal requirements...

***The government is an
Equal Opportunity Intruder.***

Challenge

**Growing pains of transitioning
from a women's college
to a co-ed university.**

- **A specific priority is the need to examine and evaluate the predominant values and norms of modern society and culture in a Christian perspective, and the responsibility to try to communicate to society those *ethical and religious principles which give full meaning to human life.* (33)**

Invitation...to *reflect & share*

From these perspectives:

- **Curriculum and syllabus**
- **Research and writing**
- **Advising**
- **Service**
- **Co-curricular**
- **Administration**

College Campus Ministry

Who?

HOW?


What?

?

?

When?

Where?

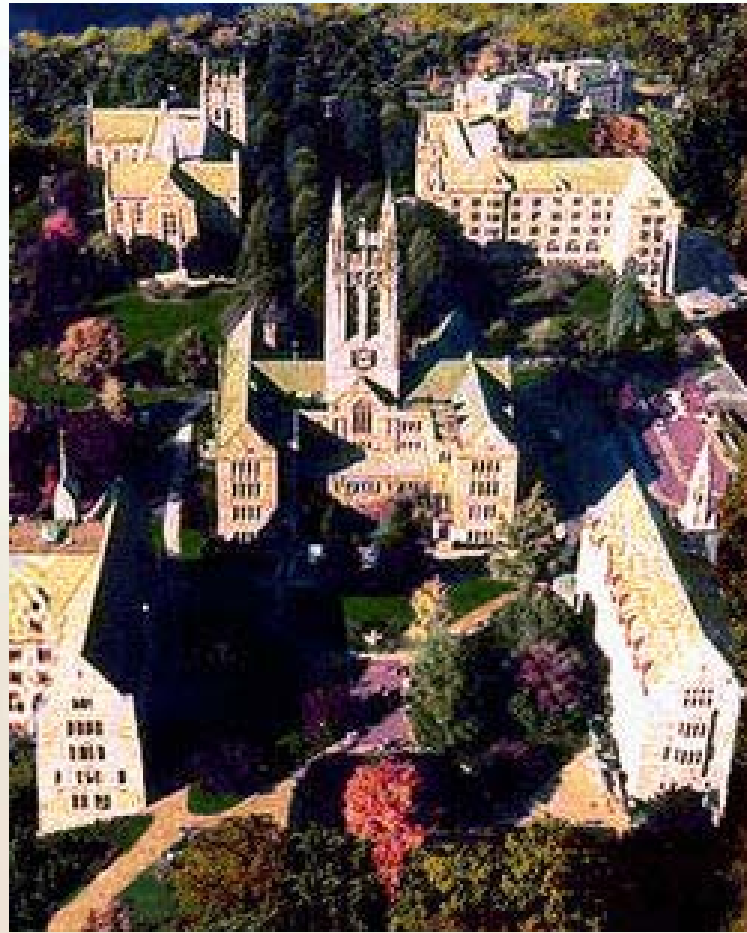


No one
can fill his shoes,
but we can follow
the path he charted.

-John Carr
(USCCB Secretary for
Social Development and World Peace)

The paramount power of the human mind. According to research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be at the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole.

How The Catholic College Fits in the Church



***The believer,
enlightened and guided
by the word of God,
does not fear a confrontation
with human thought...
wisdom and truth come from God.***

--Pope John Paul II



**Do all you can
with what you have,
in the time you have,
in the place you are.**

**Nkosi Johnson,
lost to AIDS at age 12**

How am I Doing?

- ? What have you tried?
- ? What works?
- ? What did you learn that is new?
- ? How will you incorporate
this into your ministry?



The Pearl of Great Price:
*Embodying the Virtue of
Confident Modesty*

Loras College

May 29, 2007

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An attitude of

CONFIDENT MODESTY

**“...a conviction that we have something to
LEARN from the world
and
Something to TEACH the world...”**

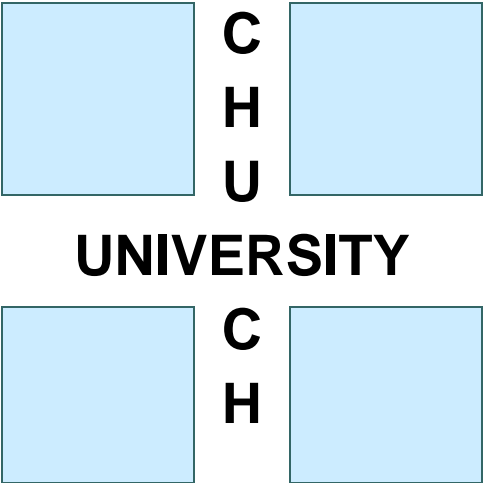
- Rev. J. Bryan Hehir

Religious Literacy and College Students:
The Promise of Campus Ministry, 1995.



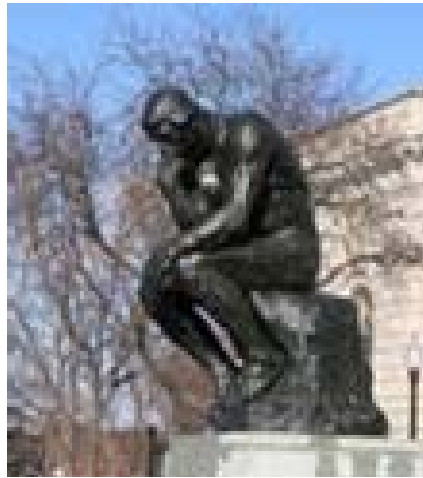
The Quest for Wisdom

- We believe that the faith community and the institutions of higher learning are involved in a common pursuit of the life of wisdom.
(ES, 19)*





Passing the Baton of Faith





Why God Never Received Tenure at Any University

by Tim Sledge

Campus Comedy

Reader's Digest Feb. 1998

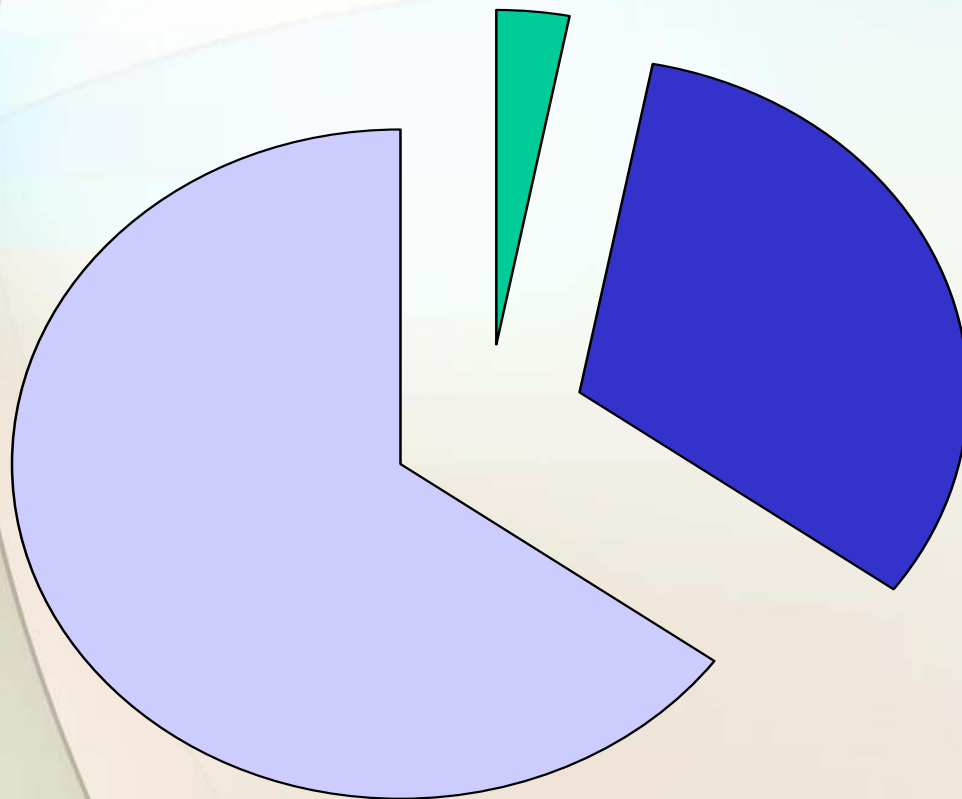
1. He had only one major publication and it had no reference.
2. Some people doubted that He wrote it Himself.
3. He never applied to the ethics board for permission to use human subjects.
4. He expelled His first two students- for learning.
5. When one particular experiment went awry, He tried to cover it up by drowning the subjects.



6. He rarely appeared in class, usually just telling students to read the book.
7. His office hours were infrequent and usually held on a mountaintop.
8. Although there were only ten requirements, the great majority of students could never pass His tests.
9. It may be true He created the world, but what has He done since?

U.S. College Students

There are approximately 17 million college students in the United States today.



- **0.5 million Catholic students at Catholic institutions**
- **5.5 million Catholic students at non-Catholic institutions**
- **11 million others students at public and private institutions**

Creative, Investigative, *and* Dialogic

Theologians enjoy... freedom...

Bishops should encourage

the creative work of theologians...

***...investigate ways in which theology can
shed light on specific questions...***

...dialogue between bishops

and theologians is essential...

(EcE, 29)

Effective instrument of authentic good

A Catholic university ...

***is called on to become an ever more
effective instrument of cultural progress....***

***University research will seek to discover
the roots and causes***

***of the serious problems of our time...
to safeguard the authentic good of society.***

(EcE, 32)

Promotion of Justice

*The Christian spirit of service to others
for the promotion of social justice
is of particular importance
for each Catholic university,
to be shared by its teachers
and developed in its students.*

(EcE, 34)

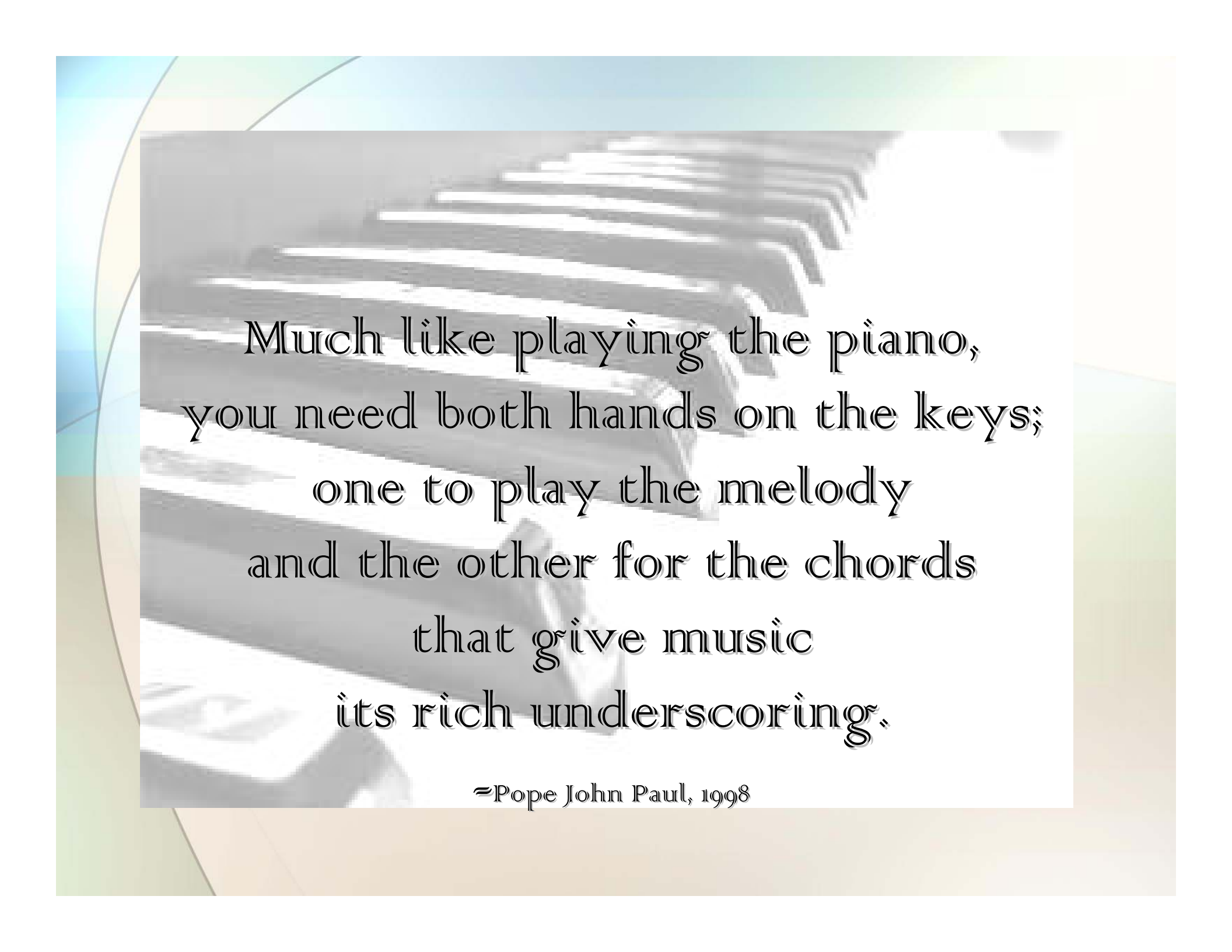


Catholic University...

Both / and outcome

Overview

- **Perspective: Heaven & Mission**
- **Statistics & Resources**
- **Opportunities of Amplification**
 - **Catholic Intellectual Tradition**
 - **Catholic Identity**
 - **Hispanic Community**
 - **Lay Spirituality & Vocational Call**
 - **Globalization and Inculturation**



Much like playing the piano,
you need both hands on the keys;
one to play the melody
and the other for the chords
that give music
its rich underscoring.

≈Pope John Paul, 1998