ANNUAL REPORT 2011
Dear Friends of the Institute for Church Life,

*God is Love.* Such is the tradition of the Church, recorded in Scripture (I Jn. 4:8, 16), and authoritatively proclaimed as Good News for more than 2,000 years now. But after all this time, do we actually believe it? *God is Love.* Such is the title of Pope Benedict XVI’s first and most sublime encyclical letter. He reminds us that:

Love is the light—and in the end, the only light—that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working. Love is possible, and we are able to practice it because we are created in the image of God. To experience love and in this way to cause the light of God to enter into the world—this is the invitation I would like to extend with the present encyclical.

This is not only a description of Benedict’s encyclical letter, but also works as a description of the life of the Church—Church Life. *God is Love.* Do we actually believe this? If so, then we believe that “love is possible and we are able to practice it and thereby cause the light of God to enter the world.”

The Institute for Church Life begins with an acceptance of the proclamation that *God is Love,* and that the life of the Church is to cause the light of God’s love to enter the world through proclamation of the Word, celebration of the Sacraments, and loving service to all in spiritual or material need. We hope to help to cause that light to enter the world.

*God is Love.* If that is so, we will want to strengthen the life of the Church so that it can proclaim God’s love with ever greater fidelity and persuasiveness. Therefore, the Institute for Church Life promotes University programming that fosters, strengthens, and renews leadership in the Church at all levels. The promotion of vocational discernment among high school students, among our own undergraduates, and among interested graduate students; the nurturing of catechetical leadership for parishes and schools through on-campus and online courses; the building up of the parish as the primary locus of Church life in the United States; and assistance in the defense of human dignity such that all human life merits our caring and loving attention at all stages of life—these are some of the activities that you will be able to read about in this year’s annual report.

*God is Love.* In addition to the programming recounted in the pages of the annual report, the central office of the ICL continues to offer programming that complements and sustains the work of our centers and initiatives, to help offer the clarifying understanding of faith that, in a way, is the dwelling of God’s light in our hearts. “The saints are the true bearers of light within history, for they are men and women of … love,” comments Benedict. Our *Saturdays with the Saints* series attracted full houses on home football weekends last fall. Most of these lectures are available on YouTube. In November, the biennial executive seminar for presidents and trustees of Catholic universities, *What We Hold in Trust,* took place with over 60 participants from 14 different schools. The spring saw one of ICL’s busiest schedules ever. The *Stories of Practical Holiness: An Exercise in Interreligious Understanding* conference brought together major figures to recount stories of persons who pursued goodness or virtue on religious grounds. Four hundred students and faculty gathered to hear the story of the Trappist martyrs of Algeria told by the superior general of the Trappists at the time. Other sessions of the conference ranged from the story of a spiritual mystic and healer in Iran to a Buddhist master who initiated interreligious dialogue with Muslims in the wake of the destruction of the colossal ancient Buddhist statues by the Taliban.

Less than 10 days later, and responding to a request from the Holy See, we co-sponsored a conference with the Doctrine Committee of the USCCB on *The Charism of Priestly Celibacy,* attended by bishops and vocations directors from more than 75 dioceses and religious communities, with a large
audience from campus in attendance as well. The keynote speaker was Rev. Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap., Preacher to the Papal Household, who came from Rome. The papers will be published in a book soon to be released from Ave Maria Press. On March 25, we sponsored a conference called *God is Love: Explorations in the Theology of Pope Benedict XVI*, in honor of the Holy Father’s 85th birthday. The papers are being collected into a *Festschrift* which will be presented to the Holy Father this coming November.

Finally, we hosted a colloquium, together with the Department of Theology, on *The Church and Islam*, which offered to students and faculty an example of dialogue between the two religions as practiced by the Holy See and by Muslim theologians involved in the official dialogues sponsored by the Holy See. I have never seen a live dialogue between Christians and Muslims on the doctrine of the Trinity, but it unfolded before our eyes in an edifying way that anyone who witnessed it will not soon forget.

In conjunction with the National Black Catholic Congress, the ICL sponsored the first-ever national survey of black Catholics, led by vice president and associate provost (and professor of psychology) Don Pope-Davis, and associate professor of political science Darren Davis. The results of the survey were sometimes humbling. Did you know that African-American Catholics attend Sunday Mass at twice the rate of their white American counterparts?

If *God is Love*, I cannot close without recognizing all of the acts of love and support which have made our ICL programming possible. To our benefactors, first and foremost; to President John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., and his administrative team; to the leaders in other units who have collaborated with us this year; to our diocesan partners; and to so many others: Thank you. We hope that your trust in us is at least partly repaid by the programming we are able to offer because of your support.

Finally, as Father Ted Hesburgh turns 95, I would like to thank him in a special way, for it was he who, over 40 years ago, founded the Institute for Church Life. We hope always to be true to that founding vision. In commemoration of his 95th birthday, the directors of the Institute’s programs recently met with Father Ted, to share the state of our present work and to thank him for his forward-looking gesture of foundation so many years ago. The picture that we took at that meeting is reproduced here, as a small token of continuing gratitude.

Sincerely and appreciatively,

John C. Cavadini,
*McGrath-Cavadini Director*
Echo

“Echo is as much about spiritual, professional, human, and communal formation as it is about academic preparation. One way of thinking of it is that we are in a greenhouse where we are being formed ultimately to be planted elsewhere.”

— CHARLIE GARDNER, ECHO APPRENTICE
Echo is the ICL’s two-year service, learning, and ministry formation program designed to train a new generation of leaders in parish and campus ministry through partnerships with dioceses across the United States. At its heart, Echo is also an invitation to young ministers to become more real, more fully human, and more able to speak from—and to—the heart of faith. Through Echo, apprentices are invited into an authentic encounter with themselves, the Church, and the mystery of God which animates, integrates, and transforms every dimension of their lives, helping them to embody more fully and tangibly the beauty, love, and healing for which the world longs.

Echo apprentices form, inform, and nurture faith in their own hearts and in the hearts, minds, and imaginations of those they encounter through their ministry to parish communities. This education in the faith is a unique privilege and a profound responsibility. God’s relationship with us is one of the most intimate dimensions of our lives; access to this sacred and vulnerable place in ourselves and others must be earned and treated with remarkable care. In order to stir up and become aware of humanity’s desire and need for God, apprentices must be willing to engage both the healing and wounding relationships and events that have marked them and their communities most deeply. It is in these relationships and events that the Spirit of God recasts hearts and minds to embody more authentically the love and beauty of God from which we are born and to which we long to return.

In the most basic sense, Echo builds bridges between the academy and the parish, between seasoned leaders and new young ministers, between theology and catechesis, and between faith and popular culture. Echo’s holistic formation brings together disparate parts of ourselves and our Church so that our lives and ministry better reflect God’s unifying and transformative love.
Echo 2011 Highlights

In 2011, 24 Echo apprentices from the Echo 7 and 8 classes accepted the invitation to bridge building as they made their homes in parishes or college campus ministry placements in one of our partner arch/dioceses of Camden, NJ; Galveston-Houston, TX; Indianapolis, IN; Manchester, NH; St. Petersburg, FL; and Wilmington, DE.

While these apprentices began their first or second year of formation for ministry in Echo, 10 apprentices from the Echo 6 class completed the program in July 2011, and put their experience to work as they accepted positions in parish ministry, college and high school campus ministry, teaching elementary and high school theology, and in international service to the poor.

To date, Echo has formed more than 100 apprentices for leadership in a variety of ministries. Over 80 percent of Echo graduates continue in ministry and report 100 percent job placement following graduation, often choosing from among several offers. As more dioceses partner with Echo and the quality of Echo apprentices and formation becomes known throughout the Church, the Echo office is increasingly inundated with inquiries from eager parish, high school, and university employers from around the country seeking Echo graduates to staff their ministries.

Echo experienced significant changes within its staff this year. On July 1, 2011, Echo thanked its founding director, Jerry Baumbach, Ed.D., for his nationally recognized service to Echo, and wished him well as he transitioned into serving as catechetical consultant for the ICL. Colleen Moore, a member of the Echo staff since 2004 who most recently served as the program’s associate director, became Echo’s new director. Luke Slonkosky, a graduate from Echo’s very first class, was hired to serve as assistant director.

Under Baumbach’s leadership, Echo became known for its award-winning service to parish catechetical ministry. The staff has continued to build upon this foundation as it highlights one of the most integrated holistic lay ecclesial ministry formation programs serving parish and college campus ministry today. This year, Echo staff began a thorough update and revision of the mentoring and professional development dimensions of the program. Our task was to strengthen Echo’s innovative approach to integrating the intellectual, spiritual, professional ministerial, and human and communal formation of its apprentices. The program’s formation has not only produced spiritually, emotionally, and professionally mature young leaders in high demand in our Church and schools but also has raised Echo’s profile as a valuable model and resource for other new ministry preparation programs.

This year, Echo launched the previously piloted Echo formation assistant (EFA) in all seven of its intentional faith communities. The EFA is often a recent Echo graduate who continues to live and work in an Echo diocese and assumes the responsibility of meeting monthly with current apprentices to offer guidance and support as they negotiate the transition from college to Echo and encounter the joys and challenges of community living, formation, and ministry. In a short time, the EFA has proven to be an invaluable resource for apprentices and staff and a unique opportunity for Echo graduates to serve the program while gaining valuable professional training and experience in faith formation.

Echo hosted its first alumni retreat at Notre Dame, bringing together alumni from various classes for several days of relaxation, fun, and opportunities to pray, reflect upon their experience in the program, and share the joys and struggles in their lives and ministries since Echo.
The Future

Plans for 2012 include maintaining the focus on parish ministry while exploring and expanding into other ministerial placements, including opportunities in college campus ministry.

Through the work of Aimee Shelide, assistant director for recruitment and outreach, the program will continue to gather an increasingly competitive pool of applicants to join the class of Echo 9. We will also work to maintain current arch/diocesan partnerships and to create potential new partnerships with dioceses in Maryland, Michigan, and North Carolina.

In the year to come, Echo seeks to become a model for how to deepen the integration of Catholic Social Teaching and catechesis in parish and campus ministry through a new partnership with Catholic Relief Services.

“The Future”

“Working as a high school campus minister, I am more grateful than ever for my Echo experience. It gave me the tools I need to collaborate with and connect my students to their parish communities, to build and lead retreats, coordinate liturgies, teach theology classes, lead mission trips and service opportunities and so much more. Post-Echo, I clearly see the need for collaboration among Catholic parishes, schools, and service organizations, and feel equipped to help bridge these apostolates and transfer my skills where they are most needed in the Catholic community.”

— ANNA SKLUT, ECHO ALUMNUS

“Echo is a true partnership. The University, diocese, and parish collaborate in the interest of strengthening and developing the Church’s catechetical ministry. It is a wonderful witness to what sharing our gifts and resources means in the real life and mission of the Church, and to the reality of how each of us as individuals and parts of the Church are the living Body of Christ.”

— MARY ELLEN MAHON, ECHO DIOCESAN LEADER AND DIRECTOR FOR CATECHETICAL FORMATION FOR THE DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER, NH
2011 Overview

The Notre Dame Center for Liturgy (NDCL) cultivates the liturgical life of the Church through scholarship, undergraduate and graduate teaching, and pastoral formation. We strive to awaken Catholics to the mystery at the heart of the liturgical life of the Church. Liturgical celebration is not only about our worship of God; it is the Church’s participation in the history of salvation, whereby the wholeness of our humanity is taken up into the life of the Triune God. God became human that we might become divine. Liturgy is the source and summit of the Christian life when the Church’s prayer capacitates us to practice the art of self-giving love that is the fullness of divine life.

NDCL nurtures this approach to liturgical prayer through the intellectual and spiritual formation of students, liturgical scholars, and pastoral ministers. We seek to educate students in a historically grounded approach to liturgical studies that is simultaneously attentive to the spiritual theology of the rites of the Church. We cultivate an approach to liturgical catechesis which is both spiritually rich and theologically sound. We engage with the depths of the theological and spiritual traditions of the Church in order to foster an imagination rich enough for full, conscious, and active participation in the rites of the Church. We aspire toward truth, goodness, and beauty in each sign used in the Church’s worship, including stained glass windows, baptismal fonts, liturgical texts, music, architecture, and incense, to name but a few.

We believe this approach to liturgical formation is integral to the intellectual and spiritual tasks of evangelization in the modern world. Christians, with a liturgical imagination, perceive their whole lives as an offering to the Father, through the Son, with the Holy Spirit. Such Christians seek concrete ways to give of self for the life of the world. The undergraduate student recognizes that a vocation is best discerned as a Eucharistic offering of self-giving love. The parent becomes aware that even the most mundane aspects of parenting are an expression of a liturgical love that is divine in origin. The catechist or teacher acknowledges the Eucharistic context of all teaching, a sacrifice transformed in light of Christ’s gift of love.
2011 Highlights

2011 was a busy year for the NDCL’s renewal of the liturgical life of the Church.

In March, we launched the center’s blog, Oblation: Catechesis, Liturgy, and the New Evangelization (blogs.nd.edu/oblation). The blog has featured columns on preaching; mystagogical catechesis for various feasts in the liturgical year; essays on method in liturgical and sacramental theology; exercises for teaching liturgy, sacraments, and prayer by recognized catechists and teachers; articles on the Catholic Worker movement; and pieces on hymnody and chant in the liturgy. In 2011, Oblation was viewed by more than 12,000 unique readers.

In April, we received a grant from the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship for nearly $12,000 to launch an online series on liturgical formation, in conjunction with STEP, titled Lift Up Your Hearts: Seminars in Liturgical and Spiritual Formation. The grant included money for parish study groups, video recording of liturgical scholars, and undergraduate lecture series and courses. Seminars have presently been developed for the Eucharistic Prayer, the Collect Prayer, the Spirituality of the Choir, Chant in the Liturgy, Practices for Family Prayer, Benedictine Prayer, and a Bible study on the Joseph cycle in Genesis.

In May, the NDCL and the Diocese of Fort Wayne–South Bend offered a day of renewal for liturgical musicians, including a presentation on theology and music by John Cavadini, McGrath-Cavadini Director of the Institute for Church Life; and a theology of chant by Mary Catherine Levri, assistant director of the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir. The day concluded with a group singing of the new Mass settings for the third edition of the Roman Missal.

In June, we held our 39th annual liturgy conference, Formed for the Liturgy, Reformed by the Liturgy. Over 125 attendees listened to presentations by David Fagerberg, Rev. Brian Daley, Margaret Pfeil, Cecilia González-Andrieu, Sister Ann Astell, Alan Hommerding, and others.

In September, Timothy O’Malley, director of the NDCL, began teaching a one-credit course in conjunction with Notre Dame Vision, aptly named Responding to God’s Call: The Sacramental Life. Thirty-three undergraduates from Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s College read Jean Corbon’s The Wellspring of Worship and participated in facilitated learning on themes related to liturgy, spirituality, and vocation.

In November, the center hosted John Baldovin, S.J., Professor of Historical and Liturgical Theology at Boston College, for a lecture on Eucharistic adoration and a lunch with undergraduate students on his book, Reforming the Liturgy. In all, 70 participants were involved.

In mid-November, together with St. Joseph parish in South Bend, the NDCL offered a day of renewal on the third edition of the Roman Missal, called the Poetics of Prayer. Participants engaged in a slow meditation upon a number of the prayers in preparation for the new translation of the Missal.

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**The Future**

Plans for 2012 include our first symposium, *Become What You Receive, Receive What You Are* in June; the release of *Church Life: A Journal for the New Evangelization*; the growth of our online seminars in liturgical and spiritual formation; a renewed commitment to undergraduate liturgical education on campus; and the continued development of an online curriculum for liturgical studies, emerging from undergraduate and graduate teaching at Notre Dame.

“Liturgical formation with the NDCL played a critical role in developing my understanding of the mystery of the Eucharist, how to pray the Mass, and why various parts of the Eucharist are celebrated the way that they are today. Through these classes, I’ve learned to more fully root my own existence in the sacramental life of the Church and understand the role of the Eucharist in the greater scheme of salvation history.”

— JASON TAULMAN, CLASS OF 2013

**Church Life: A Journal for the New Evangelization**

In 2012, the NDCL (under the editorship of Timothy O’Malley, Ph.D.) will begin publication of an online journal, *Church Life: A Journal for the New Evangelization*. *Church Life* will explore the theological and pastoral roots of the new evangelization, with particular attention to catechesis, liturgy, adult theological education, a spirituality of vocation, and the formation of ordained and lay ministers. The purpose of *Church Life* is to provide an intellectual context for examining the new evangelization, in addition to renewing the field of pastoral theology in American Catholicism in particular.

A joint project of the initiatives and programs of the Institute for Church Life, the journal will be published quarterly. Regular columnists include John Cavadini, Lawrence Cunningham, Rev. Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B., Rev. Virgil Elizondo, Deacon James Keating, and Christian Smith. In addition to these columnists, each issue has a theme with corresponding articles. In 2012, these themes are:

- What is the New Evangelization? (Winter 2012)
- The Imagination and the New Evangelization (Spring 2012)
- Liturgy and the New Evangelization (Summer 2012)
- Catholic Social Teaching and the New Evangelization (Fall 2012)
NOTRE DAME VISION
In May of 2002, the founding director of Notre Dame Vision visited the theology class in which 70 Notre Dame undergraduates were being educated for ministry, leadership, and faith formation for the program’s inaugural summer. The director pulled up a chair in the front of the classroom, flashed a smile, and exhaled a slight laugh before saying, “Well, I’ve got some good news and some bad news. The good news is that we tripled our enrollment today. The bad news is that we now have six people coming this summer.” Thousands of hours of planning, 70 college Mentors, four weeklong sessions, six people. Though no one really panicked, there was, unsurprisingly, some cause for concern. Was Notre Dame Vision really going to happen?

A decade later, on July 13, 2011, the 10,000th high school student set foot on campus to participate in Notre Dame Vision. What happened between May 2002 and July 2011? Simply stated, Notre Dame poured some of its very best resources into a fledgling program that sought to engage teenagers, college students, and adult ministers in an exploration of God’s call and the response of faith. The Church responded to this investment with trust and joy.

Notre Dame Vision connects the University of Notre Dame to the young Catholic Church. Ten years ago, Notre Dame committed to the belief that engaging young people in a theological exploration of vocation and a dynamic faith formation experience was part of its own vocation as a Catholic institution. In 2011, this faith was notably rewarded not just in the number of program participants and the notoriety of the program, but more importantly in the integrity of its witness and the response of the Church.

“This program has all the right ingredients in all the right proportions: opportunities for prayer, meaningful conversations, outstanding theology, a well-paced schedule, really good food, and great people. I heard God’s call in so many different ways this week.”

— 2011 NOTRE DAME VISION CYM PARTICIPANT
The 10,000th participant for Notre Dame Vision did not come alone. In fact, the largest participant group in the program’s history attended one of four week-long sessions. Altogether, 1,314 high school students from 36 states and 83 dioceses attended Notre Dame Vision in 2011.

An additional 199 professional campus, parish, and diocesan youth ministers attended Notre Dame Vision for Campus and Youth Ministers (CYM). This program offers personal and professional renewal and enrichment for those who form young people in faith the other 51 weeks a year. The adult conferees spent their week delving into the “Call to Relationship and Communion.” Among other topics, they considered Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical, Deus Caritas Est, with Prof. John Cavadini; “Conceptions of Church” with renowned religious educator Michael Carotta, Ed.D.; and “Cultivating an Ecclesial Spirituality” with Notre Dame rector Layla Karst.

Since Notre Dame Vision’s first summer of programming, 539 Notre Dame undergraduates have served as Mentors-in-Faith, serving in positions of leadership as small group facilitators, liturgical musicians, resident counselors, and witnesses to faith. In 2011, 65 undergraduates were formed and commissioned to serve in the Vision program. Each of these students completed a 3-credit theology course, Knowing the God Who Calls, and participated in a four-part series of pastoral skills workshops. Through their education and ministry as part of Notre Dame Vision, these students are shaped as Catholic leaders whose good work benefits not only the participants of Vision’s summer program, but also the Church and the world once they graduate from the University.

To commemorate the completion of its tenth summer of programming, Notre Dame Vision hosted a reunion retreat and banquet for Mentors-in-Faith alumni.

More than 200 former Mentors gathered on campus the weekend of July 22-24 to pray together, share their experiences of responding to God’s call, and celebrate the program through which they both served and grew as leaders.

In an effort to increase its impact on undergraduates, Notre Dame Vision launched a new series of catechetical theology courses in the fall of 2011. Titled Responding to God’s Call, this series offers students the opportunity to weave together theology, spirituality, and prayer in a communal setting. The first of four courses in this series was devoted to the Sacramental Life with Prof. Timothy O’Malley (director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy) and Megan Shepherd (assistant director of Notre Dame Vision) as instructors.
Notre Dame Vision seeks to extend, to continue, and to strengthen its impact at Notre Dame and in the Church in 2012. One notable effort on campus will be the design and facilitation of the next two courses in the Responding to God’s Call series for undergraduates. In the spring semester, Leonard DeLorenzo (director of Notre Dame Vision) and Megan Shepherd (assistant director) will offer Tensions in Vocational Discernment, followed by Spiritualities of the Saints in the fall.

The leaders of Notre Dame Vision also hope to enhance campus and local partnerships for the benefit of undergraduate students. In particular, Notre Dame Vision and the Office of Campus Ministry plan to collaborate on building up student leaders to minister to other students on campus. Notre Dame Vision is also developing a regular connection with the local Catholic Worker Community, in which more and more former Vision Mentors (undergraduate leaders) are participating as community members and ministers of hospitality. The partnership with the Catholic Worker is most expressly fostered through Aimee Shelide (assistant director of Notre Dame Vision) who is a full-time member of the Catholic Worker community. A final project that will affect the leadership development of undergraduates pertains to Notre Dame Vision’s support of local high schools’ retreat programs. Under the guidance of the Vision staff, former Vision Mentors will design and lead retreats for all juniors at one of the Catholic high schools in South Bend, as well as a retreat for all the seniors at a Catholic high school in Michigan.

In terms of outreach to the Church, Leonard DeLorenzo will serve the National Federation for Catholic Ministry (NFCYM) as a member of its strategic planning committee, while Megan Shepherd will serve on committees that plan the organization’s annual conferences. Notre Dame Vision will also be a gold-level sponsor of the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry. In particular, Notre Dame Vision will sponsor Prof. Christian Smith’s presentation on Trends and Issues on Teens and Faith, as well as Leonard DeLorenzo and Prof. Tim O’Malley’s presentation on Unlocking the Adolescent Imagination: C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and the New Evangelization.

Megan Shepherd will carry forward the relationship between Notre Dame Vision and the NFCYM into another relationship—one with Catholic Relief Services (CRS)—when she participates in the “Called to Witness” immersion trip to El Salvador. The travelers will visit a variety of CRS programs focused on peacebuilding, youth violence prevention, water security, and integral human development. This trip provides a global experience that helps parish, diocesan, and national youth ministers to call and empower young people to an active commitment to working for solidarity, peace, and justice. Notre Dame Vision’s participation will allow for even more intentional incorporation of these themes into its own programming. The first fruits of this programmatic development will be felt in the 2012 Notre Dame Vision CYM (adult conference), where conferees will explore the theme of “Discerning God’s Call and Responding in Faith.”
STEP has formed a partnership with the Southeastern Pastoral Institute (SEPI) to design and offer online courses in Spanish. SEPI is an educational and service organization that assists the Catholic bishops of nine southeastern states in developing and training leaders in their faith and culture for the integration of the Hispanic community in the life of the Church and society. Created in 1978, SEPI currently serves over 30 Catholic dioceses in southeastern United States.
2011 Overview

The Satellite Theological Education Program (STEP) provides quality theological education through online courses. STEP offers online courses in theology, designed and developed by faculty from the University’s top-ranked Department of Theology and delivered by a STEP facilitator. Courses cover subjects such as Old and New Testament studies; history of Christianity; doctrine of Mary, Mother of God; moral theology; liturgy and the Sacraments; Catholic prayer; and Catholic Social Teaching.

STEP has grown significantly over the past decade. STEP’s director, Tom Cummings, works continuously to build formal partnerships with dioceses across the United States and the world. Presently, STEP maintains 15 diocesan partnerships, including international relationships with the Archdioceses of Kingston, Ontario, and of Lagos, Nigeria. In all cases, STEP courses supplement local diocesan training programs in lay ministry formation, diaconate formation, catechist education and certification, and Catholic school teacher training.
The success of STEP’s educational model stems from its excellent content and high-quality methods of online instruction. In addition, because many STEP students work or volunteer in ministry, the integration of rich theological ideas happens quickly and often has great impact on their ministry and the local Church. Perhaps the best way to demonstrate this is to share the contents of an email from Mrs. Bridget Itsueli, a STEP student from Nigeria.

Re: STEP Catholic Social Teaching Course

Dear Tom,

Last year I was planning to do a series of TV programmes on the Catholic Social Teaching (CST) for public television in Nigeria. I had read and researched quite a lot, and had also planned my entire concept and presentation with experts and professors on the subject. However, when I saw the STEP course advertised, I decided to include it as part of my research for the series. I didn’t think it would change much of what I had planned to do. How wrong I was.

My programme plan had been very information-focused. The STEP course was application-focused, dynamic in the issues it raised, and practical in the way it directed attention to the community of our lived experience. It was not pie in the sky at all, not idealistic in the least! Now this was one way of doing the Catholic Social Teaching that was new to me. I think the sentiments of my course mates were similar, going by their comments during our Chat sessions.

I was greatly challenged by the course and barely into the its third week, I had to join the St. Vincent de Paul Society in my parish to take action in a social justice issue that is causing great distress in Nigeria—youth unemployment, which guesstimate figures say is about 70 percent. We expected 300 participants at this job fair but got 1,500. It was overwhelming, the numbers of Catholic youth that are unemployed. Sad and moving! But the young people expressed hope in the Church by this action. We noted that it has fostered solidarity and one youth commented that it has given him hope in the Church. Newspaper reports highlighted this as a Church’s responsible action to the community. It was reported in our local newspapers.

Needless to say, the experience of the job fair and the STEP course have given new vision and focus to the way our TV programme will present the CST in September. I found the course refreshing and renewing in the way it empowered me and has helped me to get the CST down from the bookshelves into the community where it needs to drive change, grow faith, and improve life here on earth. This is the ideal focus for Church workers and volunteers.

I use the word “empowered” because, until this course, the CST was a great ideal, almost like the saying, when someone slaps you, turn the other cheek—admirable but difficult to implement. In a developing environment like Nigeria, the CST is just what we need to pull ourselves by the bootstraps and empower Catholics to effectively manage poverty with the common good values of the Kingdom of God enunciated in CST. It is actually a more credible way forward in Africa, where the Church is much more trusted than the government.

Peace,

Bridget Itsueli
Director, Lay Resource Centre
Archdiocese of Lagos, Nigeria
The Future

In addition to partnerships like the one STEP has with the archdiocese of Lagos, STEP forged two new partnerships in 2011 that will expand its impact on the Catholic Church in the United States. First, STEP has formed a partnership with the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) to offer the new online Faith and Tradition course to Catholic school teachers across the country. Presently, over 137,000 lay teachers and staff are employed in Catholic schools in the United States. Many of these instructors are themselves in need of education in the doctrine and traditions of Catholicism. STEP has built and is delivering a strong online course that will deepen teachers’ understanding of Catholicism and their own faith lives. Second, STEP has formed a partnership with the Southeast Pastoral Institute (SEPI) to develop and offer online courses in Spanish. The immigration of Latinos into the United States continues; as immigrant families move into their second and third generations, the need to reach the youth through familiar educational technology has grown. STEP and SEPI will work together in the coming year to pilot a few initial courses with hopes of establishing a new online program in Spanish by 2013.

2011 Highlights

Maintained 18 partnerships with Catholic dioceses and other educational programs.

Processed 1,799 enrollments.

Offered 88 courses.

Taught 1,465 students.
UNIVERSITY LIFE INITIATIVES
The Office for University Life Initiatives (ULI) is a collaborative effort of the Institute for Church Life (ICL) and Notre Dame’s Office of the President. Its mission directly supports the University’s Catholic identity and enhances the Notre Dame community’s witness to Catholic teaching on the sanctity of life. Seeking to integrate principles of Catholic teaching on the sanctity of life across all areas of the University, ULI collaborates with relevant education and research programs across colleges to support the University mission and vision as a Catholic institution of higher education.

“Openness to life is at the center of true development. When a society moves towards the denial or suppression of life, it ends up no longer finding the necessary motivation and energy to strive for man’s true good.”

— POPE BENEDICT XVI, CARITAS IN VERITATE
ULI worked with the undergraduate Right to Life group to send a large contingent of students, faculty, and staff to Washington, D.C., for the 2011 March for Life. Father Jenkins joined the group in D.C. for a second year. More than 375 students and 40 faculty traveled to the nation’s capital to commemorate the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, which legalized access to abortion in the United States. While there, students, faculty, and staff attended diocesan Mass at St. Matthew’s Cathedral which was celebrated by Bishop Kevin Rhoades of Fort Wayne–South Bend. All were invited to attend a reception hosted by the D.C.-area alumni clubs.

In conjunction with Notre Dame’s Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, ULI offered summer research grants for students to pursue academic interests on life issues. Student proposals were accepted to work one on one with a Notre Dame faculty on a self-directed research question on life-related topics. Two students received funding for summer 2011 research, which was put to use for their senior theses:

- "Lourdes: Embodying the Vision of Evangelium Vitae for a Culture of Life,” Katherine Remley (2012, Theology, Medieval Studies)

During fall 2011, Mary Daly, ULI’s program coordinator, was invited to facilitate the Social Concerns seminar, Gospel of Life. The course introduced students to the theological and philosophical dimensions of the often-politicized discussion on life issues. The course culminated with a weeklong immersion trip to Washington, D.C., where students met with leaders from various groups involved in national and international discussion on life issues, including Justice Antonin Scalia, Richard Doerflinger, George Weigel, and Roger Cardinal Mahoney.

In October, ULI and the Office of the President held a “Rosary for Life” in observance of October’s celebration as the Month of the Rosary and Respect Life Month. University President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., led students, faculty, and staff in praying the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary.

Other highlights of University Life Initiatives include:

- The Pregnant and Parenting Student Assistance program, a second major initiative of the office, seeks to provide pastoral and financial support to students who face unplanned pregnancy or become parents during their time of study at Notre Dame. Since June 2011, ULI has employed a research associate to conduct benchmark research on the resources for pregnant and parenting students at peer institutions and to collect information on the environmental and material needs of these students. Insights and information gained from this research will be used to develop the Notre Dame program to serve our pregnant and parenting students more effectively. In January 2012, the first fruits of this research will appear around campus in the form of a new brochure and webpage cataloguing campus and community resources for these students. This project will be in partnership with Notre Dame’s Office of Student Affairs.

- In the fall of 2011, the office launched a major new initiative: the Notre Dame Human Dignity Project. The project had an auspicious beginning when then-Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), offered the inaugural address. The Human Dignity Project aims to take up the challenge of making the idea of human dignity accessible to persons of all faiths or no faith, and to exhort students, faculty, and all others in the Notre Dame community and beyond to recognize their own dignity and to respect that of others.
The Future

Plans for 2012 include continuing the conversation begun in December with the launch of the Notre Dame Human Dignity Project. ULI will be offering a one-credit Theology course, *On Human Dignity*. John Cavadini, McGrath-Cavadini Director of the Institute for Church Life and professor of theology, will be the principal instructor for the class, which will also feature guest lectures given by faculty experts from other University departments. The course aim is to examine the theological underpinnings of the concept of human dignity and its implications across disciplines and cultures. The course will be open to 65 students—to date, every seat is taken.

ULI is working again with the undergraduate Right to Life club to have a strong Notre Dame showing at the 2012 March for Life in Washington, D.C. More than 300 students and faculty are expected to join University President, Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., in the nation’s capital for the 39th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* on January 22.

Along with the Office of Student Affairs, ULI will introduce the first fruits of the Pregnant and Parenting Student Assistance program in January. A brochure titled, “Pregnant and Parenting Resources at Notre Dame” will be distributed around campus and online.

Along with the Office of Human Resources and the Early Childhood Development Center Ad Hoc Committee, ULI has been involved in the development of a webpage for students, faculty, and staff with families. The webpage is meant to assist these members of the Notre Dame family in finding and accessing family-related resources in the local community. This project will be especially helpful to University newcomers as they settle into a new town.

For a second year, ULI will join Notre Dame’s Gender Relations Center in co-sponsoring Sexual Assault Awareness Week.

The year 2013 will mark 40 years since the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court case which legalized access to abortion in the United States. During the course of the 2012 year, ULI will partner with multiple University departments and centers to secure a strong Notre Dame presence at the 2013 March for Life in Washington, D.C., as well as on-campus commemorations for those who will not be able to travel to the capital. Mark your calendars to join us in Washington or on-campus in January 2013.
Central Office Initiatives

What We Hold in Trust

What We Hold in Trust is an executive seminar for trustees and presidents of Catholic colleges and universities. At the highest levels of leadership, university trustees have a unique responsibility for the Catholic character, identity, and mission of their institutions. In order to serve effectively, they must fully understand what their responsibilities entail and develop the practical skills necessary for fulfilling them.

In November 2011, 60 participants representing 14 Catholic institutions of higher learning gathered at the Notre Dame Conference Center to focus on three areas:

• identifying the specific ways a Catholic college or university serves the Church in its academic life, student life, and other activities;
• developing, enriching, and assessing distinctively Catholic content across all collegiate departments and divisions;
• clarifying the central integrating role theology plays in a Catholic college or university.

Speakers included Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., and a number of University of Notre Dame officers and faculty; Melanie Morey and Rev. John Piderit, S.J., of the Catholic Education Institute; Most Rev. Joseph Sullivan, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn, New York; and a number of executive officers from Catholic colleges and universities around the country.

Participant response was enthusiastic and overwhelmingly positive.

Saturdays with the Saints

Now in its second year, this popular program drew football fans to Geddes Hall during four Saturdays in the fall to spend an hour with the saints before heading off to watch Irish football. In October, we celebrated the feast days of St. Teresa of Avila with a rich presentation by theology professor Keith J. Egan on “St. Teresa of Avila: First Woman Doctor of the Church” and St. Francis of Assisi, with reflections on “St. Francis of Assisi: In His Own Words” by Lawrence S. Cunningham, Notre Dame’s O’Brien Chair of Theology Emeritus.

Cyril O’Regan, Catherine Huisking Chair of Catholic Theology at Notre Dame, marked the anniversary of the canonization of Edith Stein with his presentation on “Edith Stein and the Dark Night.” In November, the month of all saints, participants honored the recent beatification of Blessed John Paul II and learned about the canonization process with an excellent lecture, “Blessed John Paul II and All the Saints,” by Kathleen Sprows Cummings, associate professor of American studies at Notre Dame. Plans are already under way for Saturdays with the Saints in 2012, offering participants an opportunity to nourish their Catholic faith and their minds with talks by distinguished members of the Notre Dame faculty.
The Catholic Social & Pastoral Research Initiative (CSPRI) emerged from the collective efforts of theologian John Cavadini and sociologist Christian Smith, directors of the Institute for Church Life and the Center for the Study of Religion and Society, respectively. Cavadini and Smith envisioned using social science as a tool for revitalizing the Church. CSPRI was established in July 2011 with the hire of Brian Starks, Ph.D., to direct the initiative and to enact the vision.

CSPRI will conduct top-notch research that is theologically informed and pastorally relevant. Its mission is to leverage social science to improve the well-being of the Church. CSPRI aims to disseminate academic insights to multiple audiences within the Catholic Church, including bishops, directors of religious education, liturgists, educators, and pastors at all levels.

Research conducted by CSPRI will be shared with the episcopacy and other Church leaders so that they can engage parishioners more fully and develop strategies to be even more effective in their roles as ministers and educators of the faith.

CSPRI is committed to bridging the gap between academic scholarship and the life of the Church. Among other endeavors, CSPRI collaborated with the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies to co-host a lunch for early-career scholars conducting research related to Catholicism. The lunch was held during the American Sociological Association’s national meetings in Las Vegas, and posed the following questions to attendees:

• What are the most important areas of research on Catholics for the near future?
• What kind of infrastructure might be required to enable this research?
• In what ways might insights from your research positively inform contemporary Catholic practices or empower Catholics to flourish in their everyday lives?

The lunch successfully fostered dialogue among a younger generation of researchers as they thoughtfully considered their own research trajectories, how their research relates to the Catholic intellectual tradition, and how it might benefit the broader Catholic community.
The 2011 National Black Catholic Survey

The Institute for Church Life (through the Lilly Endowment’s Sustaining Pastoral Excellence grant), the National Black Catholic Congress, and the Office of the President at the University of Notre Dame partnered to sponsor the 2011 National Black Catholic Survey, which was the first national survey of its kind to assess the level of religious engagement of African American Catholics.

Questions that motivated the study include: 1) To what extent are African American Catholics religiously engaged in the Church? 2) Can their level of religious engagement be interpreted as an indicator of willingness to remain involved and committed to their Catholic faith and identity? 3) Is there a cultural effect and a Catholic effect influencing the level of religious engagement among African American Catholics? and 4) What are the particular characteristics of African American Catholics that might strengthen their Catholic faith?

The survey, fielded from July 7 through August 1, 2011, examined the religious engagement of African American Catholics and compared it to white Catholics, African American Protestants, and white Protestants.

Survey results provided insight about factors that shape the faithfulness of African American Catholics; such an understanding can be instrumental in creating pastoral strategies to enhance religious engagement.

The survey report was co-authored by social scientists Darren W. Davis and Donald B. Pope-Davis, both of the University of Notre Dame. Their findings were disseminated in November 2011 to the Institute for Church Life, the National Black Catholic Congress, and the Office of the President at the University of Notre Dame. The data from the study will be used by the National Black Catholic Congress as it prepares to develop its five-year plan for pastoral priorities at its meeting in Indianapolis July 19-21, 2012. About 1,000 participants are expected to attend the national convention. The final report was distributed to all 309 members of the USCCB (197 active diocesan bishops, 74 auxiliary bishops, and 38 retired bishops).

News releases from the University of Notre Dame and the National Black Catholic Congress resulted in coverage of the report by both the National Catholic Reporter and Catholic News Service, reaching pastors, lay Church leaders, and the broader Catholic community across the United States.
Website Launch

In September 2011, the ICL’s newly renovated and updated website formally went live. The site is significantly easier to navigate and falls in line with the University’s standards and recommendations for website design. The launch was quickly followed by the creation of an ICL Facebook page and YouTube channel, both focused on getting the word out more broadly about the outstanding programs and opportunities available through the ICL. Check it out at icl.nd.edu.

facebook.com/ICLatND

youtube.com/user/iclnotredame
Publications and Presentations

Gerard F. Baumbach

PUBLICATIONS:


Collaborated with the publisher William H. Sadlier, Inc. on the new edition of the catechetical program We Believe, titled We Believe with Project Disciple, New York, Sadlier, 2011.

PRESENTATIONS:

Hosted with John C. Cavadini: the Indiana Diocesan Catechetical directors and staff, University of Notre Dame, Sept. 20, 2011.

Participation as a faculty discussion leader for commemoration with students of the 10th anniversary of 9/11, University of Notre Dame, Sept. 14, 2011.

Presentation to the class of Echo 6, their families, and guests upon the students’ completion of Echo and the master’s degree requirements in theology, University of Notre Dame, July 30, 2011.

John C. Cavadini

PUBLICATIONS:


“Cross Purposes,” review of Kathryn Tanner, Christ the Key, Commonweal April 8, 2011, pp. 24-26.


PRESENTATIONS:
“Macrina and Gregory, Monica and Augustine, Scholastica and Benedict,” four lectures presented to the cloistered Dominican Sisters at Our Lady Queen of the Rosary monastery in Summit, NJ (Dec. 2011).


Eight presentations on Patristic Exegesis to the cloistered Dominican Sisters of Our Lady Queen of Peace Monastery, Elmira, N.Y., Aug. 3-5, 2011.

Presentation to the Sisters of St. Francis provincial-wide meeting on Pope Benedict XVI’s Apostolic Exhortation, Verbum Domini, Aug. 2011.

“The Role of Theology at a Catholic University,” presentation to the symposium, What We Hold in Trust, Institute for Church Life, Nov. 6-8, 2011.


“The Intellectual Tasks of the New Evangelization,” keynote speech at the conference, The Intellectual Tasks of the New Evangelization, sponsored for assistant-level professors of theology by the USCCB Committee on Doctrine, Sept. 16, 2011.

“Trinity and Apologetics,” keynote presentation at the Boston College Historical Theology Colloquium, July 28, 2011.

Thomas Cummings

PRESENTATIONS:

“Faith and a Story Worth Living,” for the American Bar Association, regional conference on lawyers assistance programs, June 3-4, 2011.

Mary K. Daly
PAPER PRESENTATION:
“Natural Family Planning and the Contraceptive Mentality,” Mary K. Daly (with Marie A. Connelly, J.D.), Radical Emanicipation: Confronting the Challenge of Secularism. Nov. 10-12, 2011. Annual fall conference of the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture. Notre Dame, IN.

Leonard DeLorenzo
PRESENTATIONS:

Nathan Mitchell
PUBLICATIONS:

Timothy O’Malley
PUBLICATIONS:


**PRESENTATIONS:**


“Discerning God’s Call in Prayer and Sacrament,” Notre Dame Vision, University of Notre Dame, June and July 2011.


**Aimee Shelide**

**PUBLICATION:**


**Brian Starks**

**PRESENTATIONS:**


The Institute for Church Life is the heart of the University of Notre Dame’s direct service to the Church. This service reaches parishes and dioceses, as well as the whole spectrum of Church leaders—bishops, clergy, religious, and laity—in the form of theological education, pastoral scholarship and research, and faith formation. The partnerships forged through this service produce synergies for pursuing the Church’s mission of evangelization, while also informing the ICL about how to best channel Notre Dame’s resources in response to ecclesial concerns. Within the University community, the ICL engages students on the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as scholars of the University, in interpreting and addressing the complex realities of contemporary Church life.

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