

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Higher Learning Commission Grants Candidacy to CDU

NOVEMBER 16, 2018

CHARLES TOWN, WV -- At its meeting on November 1, 2018, the Board of Trustees of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) named Catholic Distance University (CDU) a Candidate for Accreditation. Founded in 1895 as one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States, HLC is the largest of the regional accreditors, accrediting 1,000 colleges and universities in the North Central region. Nineteen states comprise the region, which includes West Virginia, CDU's home state. Candidacy is official recognition of affiliation with HLC. Full initial accreditation is usually achieved in a period of two to four additional years.

CDU has been continuously accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission, a national accreditor, for over 30 years and is authorized to grant degrees through the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. In June 2018, the Graduate School of Theology was named an Associate Member of the Association of Theological Schools, which accredits more than 270 theological schools and most Catholic seminaries in the United States.

CDU's Board of Trustees, which is chaired by Dr. Charles Wasaff, has identified full regional and programmatic accreditation as the University's foremost priority in its Strategic Plan. President Dr. Marianne Evans Mount explains, "In addition to our 30-year history of accreditation with the Distance Education Accrediting Commission, we are fully committed to achieving initial accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission and the Association of Theological Schools to demonstrate the quality of our academic programs and the value of the credentials earned at CDU by our outstanding graduates who are breaking new ground for the Church in pursuing online theological education."

ABOUT CDU: A pioneer in distance learning, CDU was founded in 1983 as the first catechetical institute in the United States to award the Catechetical Diploma and teach the Catholic faith to adults using distance education. CDU offered its first degree program in 1997. Today CDU is a fully online accredited university offering an AA degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Catholic Studies; a BA in Theology degree completion program; and MA degrees in Theology as well as Theology and Educational Ministry. The University also offers a Catechetical Diploma program, several graduate certificates, an undergraduate certificate, and continuing education certificates and courses. The university also continues its active outreach to the incarcerated Church. Dr. Charles R. Wasaff is Chairman of CDU's Board of Trustees, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio serves as Vice Chairman of the Board and Chancellor of the University, and Marianne Evans Mount, PhD, serves as President. For more information, visit cdu.edu.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Kate White, Communications Director, Catholic Distance University, 115 W. Congress St., Charles Town, WV 25414; mwhite@cdu.edu; 304-724-5000, ext. 717.