



Catholic Distance University

2019
ANNUAL REPORT

T H E M I S S I O N O F

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.



CDU PRESIDENT
Dr. Marianne Evans Mount

THE YEAR 2019 BROUGHT CDU'S 2016–2020 Strategic Plan into sharp focus as we celebrated new milestones in our accreditation process. The first of five goals in the plan was to earn both regional and programmatic accreditation in the shortest time possible. Both accreditors agreed to grant the minimal two years in candidacy and accept our applications for full accreditation.

In 2018, CDU earned Candidacy status both with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), our regional accreditor in Chicago, and the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), our programmatic accreditor in Pittsburgh. These achievements in 2018, noted on our website, became the focus of 2019 as we prepared to meet the challenging demands of data gathering, assessment, faculty and staff development, improved library resources, extensive documentation, and financial sustainability in preparation for comprehensive self-study reports and onsite visits in 2020.

This institution-wide effort reflected extraordinary leadership from Sister Mary Margaret Ann, SND, Dean of Catechetical Programs, who added another full-time job to her already busy schedule by donning a new hat as our accreditation liaison officer. Sister kept us on schedule, rewarded our small achievements with her delicious homemade cookies, and held us all accountable. Sister Mary Brendon, SND, a board trustee and accreditation expert at St. Mary's Seminary in Cleveland, provided the overall leadership and expertise to reinforce CDU's professionalism as a Catholic university.

New staff were added, new trustees were appointed, and the University relocated to a new facility double the size of our former facility to accommodate the growing staff and a chapel with a priest chaplain assigned by Bishop Mark Brennan, newly appointed Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia. Father Cody Ford offers Mass to the staff weekly and oversees



At the annual Gala, Chairman Dr. Charles Wasaff and President Dr. Marianne Evans Mount present the Queenship of Mary Award to Theodore Musco, who accepts the award on behalf of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

a chapel on the main floor that includes a tabernacle with the Blessed Sacrament reserved.

In addition to Father Cody, we have welcomed Dr. Marie Nuar from Rome, full-time Faculty Chair who continues to teach in addition to assuming administrative duties. Scott Hughes, CIO, joined the staff in September 2019, and with years of experience in higher education, has continued to streamline and enhance the IT infrastructure. Amy Shouse has assumed the role of Acting Director of Operations, and we anticipate the arrival in 2021 of Harry Wilkins, CPA, who will become the full-time Director of Operations, bringing with him years of success managing well-known, large online universities.

THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. CHARLES WASAFF, CDU's first lay board chair, has successfully achieved the fundraising goals for CDU's Strategic Bridge Initiative launched in 2017 by the Board to meet the finan-

cial requirements of our new accreditation standards and expectations. Charlie always thinks long-term, especially about leadership succession, as CDU continues to grow its reputation in Catholic higher education. Thanks to Charlie's careful oversight, the 2019 Audit report noted that CDU's composite score for the U.S. Department of Education's formula for financial health was 3.0, the highest score possible.

In 2019 with the leadership of John McCabe, Esquire, chair of the Governance Committee, the Advisory Board was established with exceptional members who have the skills, expertise, and connections CDU needs, exceptional new trustees have been recruited for the Board of Trustees, and Robert J. Smith, Esquire, agreed to chair the Strategic Planning Committee with co-chair Dr. Margaret Melady, and together they launched the work of a new strategic planning process for the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan. Dr. Michela Perrone, a consultant and professor at Georgetown University's

School of Business, is our facilitator. We hope to present a new strategic plan before the end of 2020.

THE YEAR 2019 ALSO MARKED THE amazing privilege of honoring Pope Francis' personal representative to the United States, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Papal Nuncio, at the 2019 Gala. His warm-hearted generosity and enthusiasm for a Catholic university powered by technology gave us much joy that the Church understands the importance of an online Catholic university that reaches the peripheries, including our incarcerated brothers and sisters.

The most gratifying part of my work is connecting with our highly talented and inspiring graduates especially at the Gala Academic Convocation Mass each year. However, lately I have also peeked into

remote meetings of students and graduates meeting with our accreditation evaluators and felt such pride as they shared their insights, accomplishments, and gratitude for a CDU education. These encounters are moments of grace as I witness how God uses CDU to form missionary disciples for the third millennium who are filled with conviction and love for the Church.

Thank you to every donor and benefactor in 2019 who has prayed for CDU, who has sacrificially supported CDU in so many ways, to our hard-working, highly competent staff, faculty, and trustees, and to the growing worldwide CDU Community formed in a mission that is supernatural and transforming. While we celebrate 36 years, I sense that CDU's story has just begun. God bless you!

Papal Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre addresses CDU supporters at the annual Gala after receiving the Founders Award.



**CDU is blessed with great leadership,
and our Board of Trustees is instrumental to our success.**

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW TRUSTEES



Dr. Hugh M. Dempsey, KMOB

DR. HUGH M. DEMPSEY, KMOB, a resident of Washington D.C., has more than 25 years of executive leadership in the non-profit community. Hugh earned his D.Ed. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and currently is a not-for-profit consultant for The Dempsey Group. He is also the co-founder and chair of the Bethlehem Museum of Culture and Heritage. Hugh has served as a vice president for Trinity Washington University, a vice president for The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, a vice president for The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, an executive director for The Pope John Paul II Foundation and Center, and a senior advisor for The Trust for the Americas.



Mr. Alan F. Holmer

MR. ALAN F. HOLMER, a resident of Great Falls, Virginia, is the principal of Holmer Associates, LLC. He is highly visionary with an impressive record of board leadership within international corporations and organizations. Having earned a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and an A.B. from Princeton University, Alan is an award-winning advisor and advocate who effects change and contributes to continual industry advancements. He has served as a U.S. ambassador in the Special Envoy for China & Strategic Economic Dialogue, president & CEO of the Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America, and a deputy U.S. trade representative with the rank of ambassador. Among his many activities, Alan is the co-chair of the Cystic Fibrosis Celebrity Tennis Gala and a director at Catholic Charities.



Dr. Clarion E. Johnson

DR. CLARION E. JOHNSON is a resident of Chevy Chase, Maryland. He is a Cardiologist and graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine. He served as the medical director for the Global ExxonMobil Corporation and is renowned for his published research. Among his many medical board and society positions, he served on the Board of the National Library of Medicine, Advisory Board of the Yale University School of Public Health, and was appointed chairman of the Joint Commission Resources and Joint Commission International. He is a diplomat for the Board of Internal Medicine and holds the rank of major in the U.S. Military.



Mrs. Mary Noel Page

MRS. MARY NOEL PAGE graduated from Hackensack Hospital School of Nursing and practiced Medical-Surgical Nursing in New Jersey and Virginia. She married William J. Page of Washington, D.C., and raised a family with four married children and nine grandchildren. Invested into the Sovereign Military and Hospitable Order of Malta as a Dame of Magistral Grace, she served many years as a Malade Coordinator for the annual Order of Malta Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Mary Noel brings a compassionate heart and leadership experience serving on Boards of Trustees for Providence Hospital Foundation, Washington, D.C., Chestnut Hill College, Mount Saint Mary's University, RENEW International, and Saint Luke Institute.

ADVISORY BOARD

CDU HAS LAUNCHED A NEW ADVISORY Board to help guide the future of online Catholic education. The vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees, **The Most Rev. Timothy P. Broglio, JCD**, serves as chairman of the Advisory Board. The new board will advise the Board of Trustees on the fulfillment of CDU's mission, expand CDU's brand with the broader Catholic community and institutions, provide guidance in technology and operational effectiveness, and promote special initiatives and partnerships, as well as the resources needed to support new initiatives.

CDU's Advisory Board members include **Helen Alvaré, JD**, professor at the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University; **Mary Pat Donoghue**, executive director of the Secretariat of Catholic Education of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; **Franz Hartl, JD**, web development manager at Yale University; **Tom Reidy**, president and CEO of Avalon Consulting, LLC; **Dr. Matthew Shank**, president of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges; and **Reverend Robert J. Spitzer**, president of the Magis Center.

MA Graduate Publishes Thesis

GRADUATE DR. ARACELI CARNAZZO'S MA in Theology thesis, "The Mystery of Human Suffering as Revealed to Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska, OLM," has been accepted for publication in *The Angels Magazine*, which has an international audience. A book based on her thesis is also in publication.



Dr. Araceli Carnazzo

MA Grad Accepted into PhD Program

DOUG SPRIGGS, a dedicated English teacher and high school football coach who is also involved in local parish ministry, has been accepted into a PhD program at the United States Sports Academy for Sports Management.

Through his sports career, Doug became a campus minister at the University of Arkansas and a leader in Fellowship of Christian Athletes. His education in the



Doug Spriggs

MA (Theology) program has benefited his professional life. In public schools, Doug strives to ensure that the English curriculum eliminates bias against Christian denominations, literature, and the Catholic Church, and his theological education allows him to refute many philosophical ideologies used to defend unethical behaviors and unfair treatment of student populations.

"The fidelity of my studies within the Catholic Faith guides all of my decisions as I advance my career outside of the Church," Doug says. "My rigorous study at CDU prepared me to succeed on a higher level. I am now seeking employment at the collegiate level as an athletic director." Doug's education in the PhD program at the United States Sports Academy for Sports Management will help prepare him for the career transition.

Doug sees the impact his MA degree has in the secular world and is eager to effect a profound change within the growing world of collegiate sports. His graduate experience at CDU helps guide his life in a manner that is grounded in faith. He hopes that this combination of studies will inspire the next generation of Catholics to expand their notions of "vocation" and fulfill God's calling in their lives.

IT Professional Earns MA in Theology

DANIEL COLÓN earned his BA degree summa cum laude in 2019. He is an information technology professional and also serves as a coordinator of religious education at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Palmyra, PA. Daniel attended two other institutions and switched his field of study several times before settling on theology at CDU.

“In 1986 I began attending Sacred Heart University in Santurce, Puerto Rico. I was majoring in telecommunication (radio and TV), however after two years I realized it wasn’t what I wanted to do. I changed my major to psychology because I always felt drawn to help to others in some way,” he says. “Unfortunately, due to life’s circumstances, I had to drop out with a year and a half left to complete the BA.” Some years later, Daniel attended a computer technical school and began his career in the IT field.

“About 6 years ago, I ran across CDU’s BA completion program and thought, ‘what a great way to learn more about my faith and complete my degree,’” he says. “I have always been driven to help, teach, and mentor others. A degree in theology sounded like a great way to be more helpful and effective when talking to others about my faith.” Daniel found the asynchronous online classes very convenient. “They also allow for more meaningful conversations as students have the chance to develop a thought through and then share with the class,” he adds.

“God has a plan for everyone,” Daniel says. “If you had told me 5 years ago that I would have a degree in theology and be coordinator of religious education for a church, I would have laughed. You never know where God is going to take you, and He usually takes you in directions that are neither comfortable nor easy but are filled with blessings and rewards.”

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Daniel Colón



Attorney Earns MA Degree While Living in Three Countries

SARAH FELLONA, a practicing trial lawyer, wife of an active duty Air Force colonel, and mother of four, recently earned her MA (Theology) degree while living in Germany, Italy, and the United States due to her husband's military service.

"CDU's flexible platform made it possible for me to continue my studies despite moves to three different countries," Sarah says. "As long as I had my laptop and access to the internet, I could connect to my classrooms anywhere in the world. I also really enjoyed interacting with people from many different walks of life who lived all over the world. I met so many great people and felt comforted that I was not alone in my desire to learn more about the Faith."

Eager to share what she has learned with others, Sarah serves as the coordinator of rites at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Columbia, South Carolina, where

she directs the RCIA program, teaches confirmation classes, and coordinates baptisms. "It is a joy to help ignite the fire of passion for God with those seeking the sacraments of initiation!" she says.

The study of theology benefitted Sarah's practice of law. "Despite our cultural slant on the legal profession, at its core the law serves to do justice. From that standpoint, as a trial lawyer I find myself much less combative and much more compassionate," she says.

"I am much more prepared to witness, evangelize, and humbly defend the faith through everyday encounters in my profession. That said, God has allowed me to use theology in interesting and creative ways in trial practice," Sarah adds. "I tried a case in September in which it so happened that the daily readings I heard at Mass the last day of the trial fit perfectly into my closing argument. It is a blessing to

Sarah Fellona



"God has allowed me to use theology in interesting and creative ways in trial practice."

fully live out the Faith in everyday life even at work.”

Sarah completed her Master’s degree 4 years after enrolling in the program. She took a 1-year break while living in Rome to earn a Diploma in Spirituality from the Angelicum, and the foundation in theology she had gained at CDU was instrumental. “I had finished 2 years at CDU when we learned we were being stationed in Rome. I was very fortunate that my coursework gave me enough of a foundation in theology to be accepted into

the Spirituality program at the Angelicum,” she says.

“Studying theology was pure joy,” Sarah says. “I could not learn enough fast enough to satisfy my hunger to know God more.” Sarah is grateful to her husband and four children for their support while she worked toward her MA degree. “Not only did they accommodate the time needed to work on classes, they were actively interested in what I was learning and always prayed for me,” she says.

AA Grad Finds Her Future in Theology

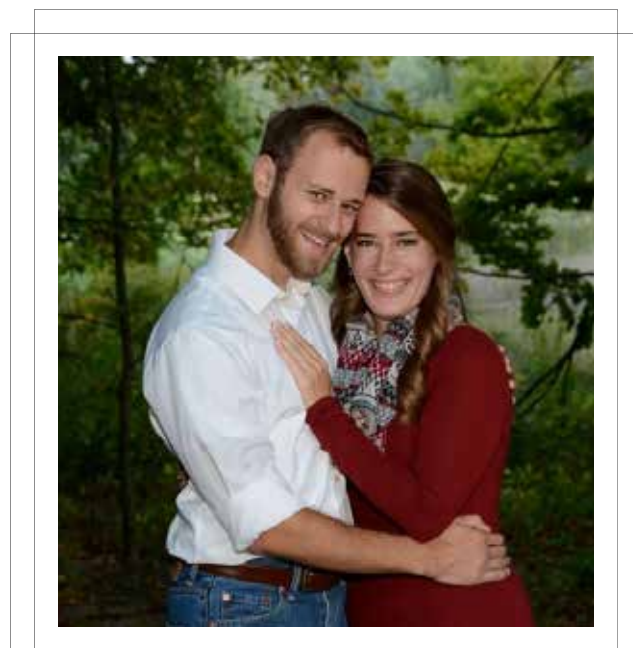
MARY KATE PAYNE completed her AA degree in Liberal Arts in 2019 while working full-time. “CDU gave me a chance to study theology online in a way that would be easy for me as a working young adult,” she says. She has since begun working part-time as a student life coordinator in the Student Life Center, where she helps to answer students’ questions and engage them in all that CDU’s online campus has to offer.

With a passion for youth ministry, Mary Kate looks forward to using her education to share with young people the beauty of having a relationship with Jesus. “I can’t wait to use the tools that I have gained from CDU to accomplish what Christ is calling me to,” she says.

Mary Kate first attended Franciscan University at Steubenville, where she planned to major in English for a career in education. While she loved the university, it was expensive. To avoid student loan debt, she decided not to return the following year.

Her brother suggested that she should look into studying theology, and Mary Kate found the major to be a perfect fit. Knowing she would have to pursue her education online because she was working full time, she began researching programs and found Catholic Distance University. “It was with joy that I found out that I had been accepted and that a lot of my credits had also transferred,” she says.

“I liked how helpful CDU’s professors were and



Mary Kate Payne with husband Jason

how concerned they were for their students,” Mary Kate says. “I also enjoyed the interactions I had with my fellow classmates from all different walks of life.”

Since graduating, Mary Kate has married. She met her husband through a Church-affiliated young adult group. A former seminarian, Jason proposed to her in the adoration chapel she had routinely visited as a child. The couple recently welcomed their first child, Mary Therese.

In addition to educating students throughout the nation and the world in Catholic Theology, the Liberal Arts, and faith development through high quality online programs, since 1984, the university has also educated incarcerated students through paper-based courses.

THANKS TO SIGNIFICANT grants from the Order of Malta Federal Association and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, the university now educates incarcerated students through digital tablets approved for use in prisons.

CDU's courses are accessible on the tablets through a partnership with Edovo Corporation, which helps incarcerated individuals build better lives by providing access to educational, vocational, and treatment programming. CDU's courses are the first Catholic content available on the tablets, which are now available in 146 prisons. Incarcerated students completed 133,043 CDU courses through the tablets in 2019, including 20,000 in Spanish.

Two parishioners of St. James the Greater Church in Charles Town work in CDU's prison ministry office to make the program a success: Sister Dolores Keyser of the Eudist Servants of the Eleventh Hour and Mrs. Becky Trainor.

Sister Dolores Keyser, who became involved in prison ministry through her order, has used her IT knowledge to add many CDU courses in English and Spanish to the Edovo tablets. Prior to taking her vows three years ago, Sister Dolores had a 37-year career as an Information Technology director and manager for

Sister Dolores Keyser, ESEH



Becky Trainor

government infrastructure contracts and worked for a number of federal agencies. She finds her work at CDU rewarding and enjoys that it keeps her in touch with IT on a certain level. "The blessing is that the courses are really being used," she says. "The most popular courses are on Christian prayer and the gospels."

Mrs. Becky Trainor administers the paper course program for CDU, working in close communication with prison chaplains and inmates through written correspondence. She responds to letters, collects enrollment forms, and sends out courses. Most take continuing education courses, but several are in the BA in Theology degree completion program, working to earn a degree while behind bars. They currently take

15 to 20 paper courses each month, a big increase from the five per month when she began working at CDU two and a half years ago.

Becky took three CDU continuing education courses herself in the 1990s after realizing she needed further formation in the faith. She then began corresponding with prisoners to share what she had learned and to provide spiritual support and has continued to do so for 20 years. "I feel like this is my calling and has been for many years," she says.

“They want to learn as much as they can, and I want to be an instrument of God’s love for them.”

Since 1984 many incarcerated individuals educated at CDU have completed continuing education certificates and courses in the Catholic Faith and have even earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in theology while in prison. Many use their education to serve as chap-

lain’s assistants who evangelize and minister to their fellow inmates. One graduate has successfully published his master’s thesis that is now available on Amazon.

Other significant grants supporting CDU’s prison ministry program have been provided by the Diocese of Arlington, the John C. Fricano Foundation, the Andreas Foundation, and individual donors.

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Marie Nuar Joins Administration as Faculty Chair

IN JANUARY, FACULTY MEMBER DR. Marie Nuar returned from Rome to begin working at CDU full time as faculty chair, a role that combines teaching and administrative responsibilities. Dr. Nuar has spent over 11 years overseas, living in Rome for most of that time but also in Cairo and Old City Jerusalem.

She holds a doctorate in Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas in Rome, an MA in Theology and Christian Ministry from Franciscan University of Steubenville,

an MA in Jewish Studies from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and an STL in Missiology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Dr. Nuar also has a license in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies in Rome and is proficient in Arabic.

“I am excited to be able to work on the organizing/planning side of things,” she says. Dr. Nuar will continue to teach several classes per year as well. “I really like the interaction and sharing what I have learned with students. To me, learning information without sharing it is like a lake that has an inflow but no outflow. It becomes stagnant and in the extreme, dead, like the Dead Sea.”

The first course Dr. Nuar taught for CDU was *Introduction to Comparative Religions: Judaism and Islam*. In the Summer I term Dr. Nuar will teach *Vatican II: The Church and Her Liturgy*. In Summer II she will teach *Church History II: Renaissance to Modern Church* and *Introduction to Comparative Religions: Judaism and Islam*.

During her time in Rome, Dr. Nuar taught as an adjunct professor of theology at St. John’s University, Rome campus, and served as an adjunct professor for The Catholic University of America’s Rome campus. She also enjoyed working as a guide for the excavations beneath St. Peter’s Basilica.

Dr. Marie Nuar serves as lector at a Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI.



Faculty Gather for Oath of Fidelity

CDU FACULTY MEMBERS gathered on April 9th to take the Oath of Fidelity to the Catholic Church and make the Profession of Faith at the Chancery of the Diocese of Arlington. CDU Trustee Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, DD, PhD, conducted the ceremony as the local ordinary. In keeping with Canon law, the mandatum ceremony is held to ensure that faculty teach in full communion with the Church and reflects CDU's commitment to remain faithful to the Magisterium.



Pictured, from left to right: Dr. James Kruggel, Dr. Peter Brown, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, Father Bevil Bramwell, and Dr. Matthew Bunson. Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio and Dr. Marie Nuar attended remotely.

Triple Graduate Returns to Teach at CDU

DEACON FREDERICK BARTELS of Glade Park, Colorado, is a homegrown CDU theology professor. He received his Catechetical Diploma, BA in Theology, and MA in Theology and Educational Ministry from CDU, earning the latter two degrees *summa cum laude*. He also serves the Diocese of Pueblo as parochial deacon assigned to St. Joseph Church in Grand Junction.

"I'm especially blessed to teach at CDU as a professor of theology, something which is a work of joy," Deacon Bartels says. "The people I've interacted with over the years at CDU are people who, at some point in their lives, fell in love with the truth who is Christ himself. That makes all the difference." He describes CDU as a learning community of faith in truth. "In a world where it is becoming increasingly difficult to receive an authentic education in theology, CDU is an institution where people learn what is really true

as they are formed by divine revelation and guided by instructors who are aware of the importance of the magisterium as its authentic interpreter," Deacon Bartels says. "There's no point in attempting to acquire an education in theology from a university that removes itself in some way from the perennial belief and teaching of the Church. That type of 'education' isn't a true education in theology."

Deacon Bartels, who is married and has six children, also contributes to various online publications and was recently featured on a radio show on the importance of truth in our lives and the dangers of relativism. "Looking back, it's clear to me that the study of theology at CDU set my life on an entirely new path," he says. "It hasn't been easy. It's not a path most people choose to take. However, the study of theology has, by the grace of God, opened up opportunities in my life to really make a difference in the lives of others by serving Christ."



Chancellor Archbishop Timothy Broglio celebrates the Academic Convocation Mass.

GALA 2019

FRIENDS, TRUSTEES, FACULTY, and staff of Catholic Distance University gathered to celebrate 36 Years of serving the New Evangelization at the annual Gala on Saturday, November 16th, 2019, at the National Shrine of St. John Paul II in Washington, DC. Award-winning WUSA9 newscaster Andrea Roane served as the Emcee. The event was hosted by Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Charles Wasaff, and Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, who is vice chair and chancellor of the University. The Founders Award, CDU's highest award, was presented to the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Holy Father's personal representative to the United States. The theme of the Gala highlighted the dream of Pope Francis for a Church of Missionary Disciples who carry out a new evangelization along "new paths for the Church's journey in years to come."

The evening began with an Academic Convocation Mass to honor the university's 2019 graduates, who hail from throughout the United States as well as Scotland, Singapore, and Japan. Archbishop Broglio served as the principal celebrant and homilist, and Archbishop Christophe Pierre served as principal concelebrant.

Degree and certificate graduates attending the Mass included students from Texas, Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, Maryland, and Virginia. Despite their diverse careers and professional backgrounds, all of the graduates actively lead or participate in ministries in their parishes and are committed to sharing the faith with others. They were warmly welcomed by University President Dr. Marianne Evans Mount.

In her remarks, President Dr. Mount reflected on the qualities of a CDU graduate. "Our graduates are the face of Christ in their varied circumstances of being on mission as disciples who fulfill the

command of Christ to make disciples of all nations.”

She reflected on the wide reach of the global university, which has offered degrees for 20 years. “Catholic Distance University exists to communicate the mind and heart of the Church, a very ancient tradition to the children of God today, who dwell in a digital world. Our mission reaches the face and heart of students in all circumstances and places, including the barren walls of a prison cell and war-torn areas of the Middle East that may be home to our Military students,” Dr. Mount said. “In the last 19 months, CDU’s incarcerated students, in prisons across the country with access to a new digital tablet offering CDU’s religious education courses, have completed 110,000 courses.”

“The warmth of the beating heart of Jesus Christ crosses the threshold of CDU’s digital network whose door is always open, welcoming the curious, the searching, the hungry, and the determined believer, who

seek the joy of truth in the discipline of study; at our University the human heart encounters the tender, loving, life-giving word of God by tapping an app on a smartphone, a tablet, or a laptop computer,” she added.

DR. CHARLES WASAFF PRESENTED the Queenship of Mary Award to the Diocese of Brooklyn, the fifth largest diocese in the nation, which has partnered with CDU for over 10 years. In attendance from the Diocese were Theodore Musco, a CDU trustee and diocesan secretary for the Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis, Father Joseph Gibino, academic dean of the Diaconate Program, and Janene Iocco, who earned the Certificate for Catholic Educators this year. As the academic partner to the Diocese of Brooklyn’s Holy Spirit Institute for Service and Leadership, CDU provides degree and certificate programs at the non-credit, bachelor’s, and graduate degree levels. Theodore



Graduates of the Class of 2019 process into Redemptor Hominis Church for the Academic Convocation Mass held in their honor that marks the start of the annual Gala.



Apostolic Nuncio Christophe Pierre speaks at the Gala after receiving the Founder's Award.

"The essential content of all the education and formation provided by Catholic Distance University is the person of Christ."

Musco told guests, "It's now developed into a multilevel program that involves learning not only for catechists and catechetical leaders, but also for those who want a higher education degree or a certificate in religious education or theology. We are very grateful for the opportunities to work with Catholic Distance University."

ARCHBISHOP TIMOTHY P. BROGLIO presented the Founders Award to Apostolic Nuncio Christophe Pierre, who shared his gratitude for CDU: "Founded in 1983 to offer opportunities for education and faith formation to those at the peripheries, today Catholic Distance University stands as a premier institution in offering graduate and undergraduate degrees and certificates in theology and scripture, as well as providing quality formation for catechists and lay leaders in the Church," Archbishop Pierre said.

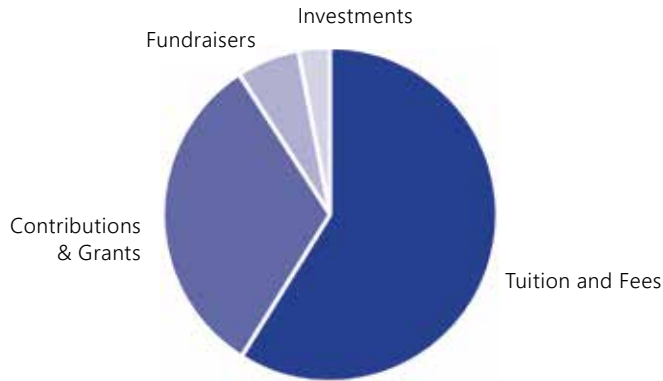
His address noted the concerns Pope Francis expressed at the Synod on Youth about the effects of living in a highly digitalized culture and its profound impact on ideas of time and space, self-understanding, understanding of others and the world, and our ability

to communicate, learn, be informed, and enter into relationships with others. "So often technology, even in education, is used for political activity and economic gain," Archbishop Pierre said. "As such, there is a temptation to educate for efficiency and productivity, without concern for formation of character."

Yet, formation of character is essential to education and Catholic education in particular. Archbishop Pierre thanked Catholic Distance University for keeping character—and Christ—at the forefront of education. "The essential content of all the education and formation provided by Catholic Distance University is the person of Christ. He changes everything—makes all things new—for our young people, our Church, and our world. I am truly grateful to all at Catholic Distance University who work to make Christ more widely known and loved," he said.

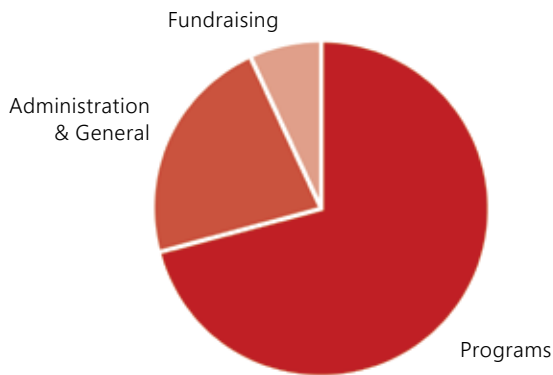
In addition to an elegant dinner, the evening's wine was donated by Napa Institute; attendees enjoyed the National Shrine of St. John Paul II's multimedia exhibit on the life of the sainted late pontiff and a silent auction featuring unique items and trips to exotic locations.

IN THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019, CDU's revenue totaled \$1,726,303 and expenses totaled \$1,597,091. Included in investments, investments of \$338,035 were made to enhance marketing efforts, move to a larger facility, invest in information technology, expand the online library, improve the student learning experience, offer federal financial aid through Title IV, and pursue full regional and programmatic accreditation.



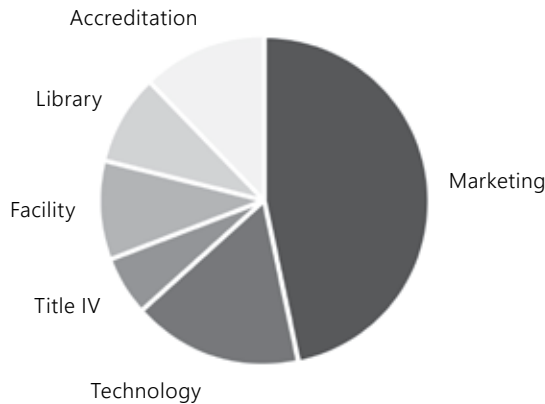
Revenue

Tuition and Fees _____	59%
Contributions & Grants _____	32%
Fundraisers _____	6%
Investments _____	3%
Total _____	\$1,726,303



Expenses

Programs _____	73%
Administration & General _____	20%
Fundraising _____	7%
Total _____	\$1,597,091



Incremental Investments

Marketing _____	\$157,912
Technology _____	\$56,379
Title IV _____	\$20,425
Facility _____	\$32,437
Library _____	\$30,215
Accreditation _____	\$40,667
Total _____	\$338,035

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