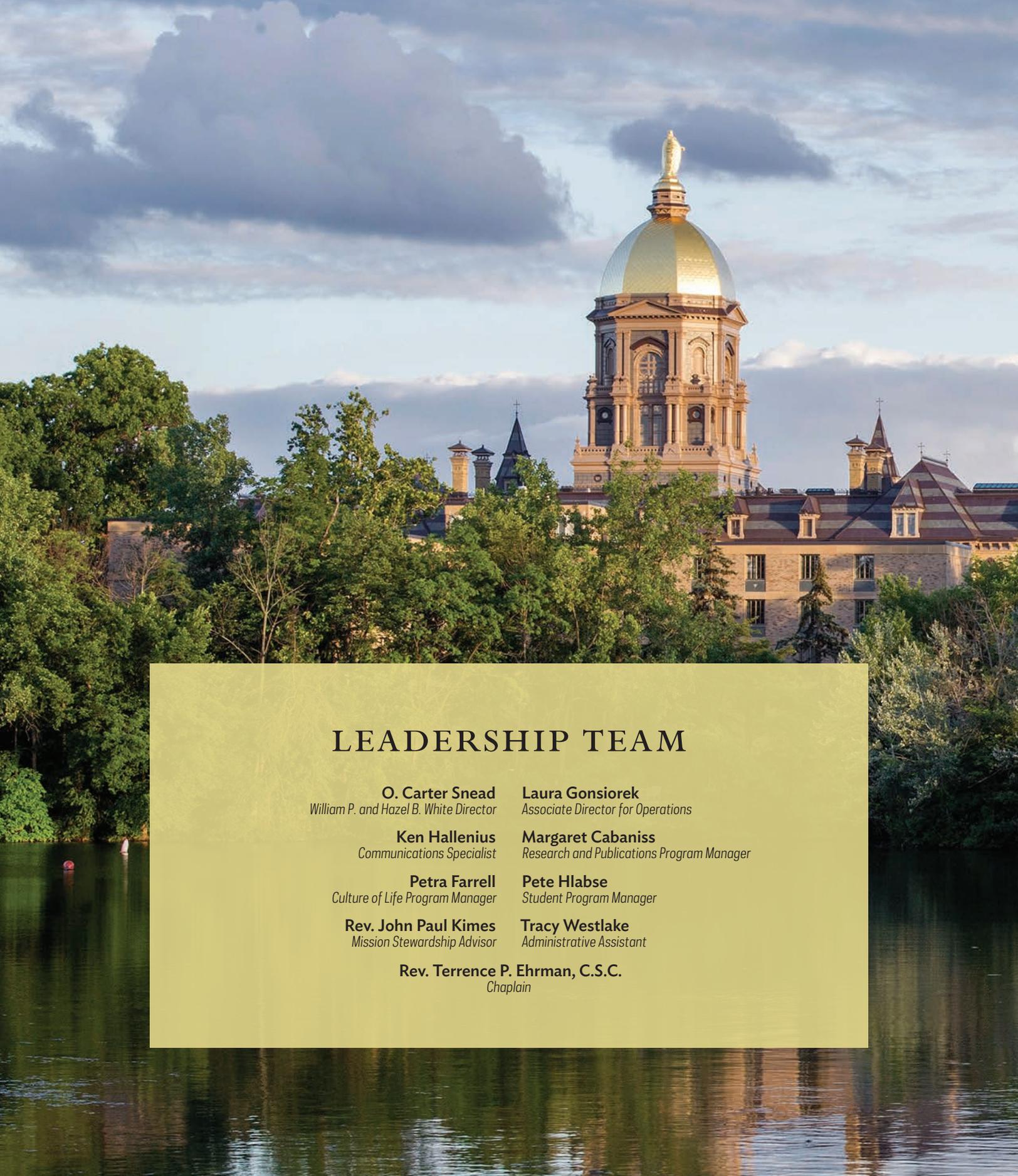




DE NICOLA CENTER
for ETHICS AND CULTURE

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-20



LEADERSHIP TEAM

O. Carter Snead

William P. and Hazel B. White Director

Laura Gonsiorek

Associate Director for Operations

Ken Hallenius

Communications Specialist

Margaret Cabaniss

Research and Publications Program Manager

Petra Farrell

Culture of Life Program Manager

Pete Hlabse

Student Program Manager

Rev. John Paul Kimes

Mission Stewardship Advisor

Tracy Westlake

Administrative Assistant

Rev. Terrence P. Ehrman, C.S.C.

Chaplain



OUR MISSION

The de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture is committed to sharing the richness of the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition through teaching, research, and public engagement, at the highest level and across a range of disciplines. In so doing, the de Nicola Center strengthens Notre Dame's Catholic character on campus and brings the university's voice into the public discussion of the most vital issues of our day.



THE MISSION OF THE
DE NICOLA CENTER IS
SUPPORTED BY FOUR PILLARS:

STUDENT
FORMATION

We form undergraduate and graduate students in the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition by providing opportunities for them to deepen their faith lives, develop enduring friendships, and cultivate their gifts and talents in service of human dignity and the common good.

RESEARCH *and*
PUBLICATIONS

The de Nicola Center provides a unique and vital community for scholarly reflection and engagement across the disciplines, rooted in a commitment to our Catholic intellectual heritage, through conferences, lectures, colloquia, and publications.



BUILDING *a* CULTURE *of* LIFE

The de Nicola Center serves as the most prominent and energetic locus for advancing Notre Dame's institutional commitment to pro-life teaching, research, and engagement, both on campus and as the voice of Notre Dame in the global public square.

MISSION STEWARDSHIP

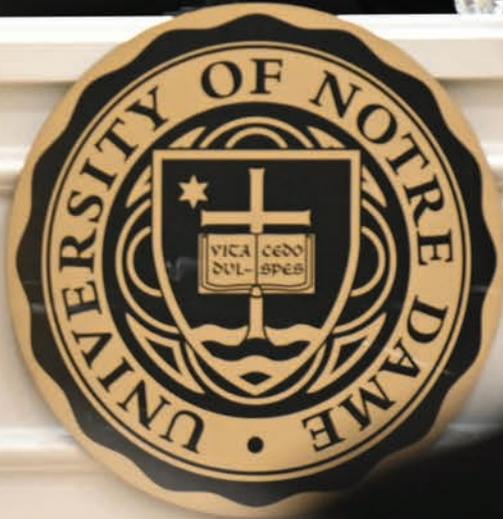
Our Mission Stewardship initiative aims to support Notre Dame's robust Catholic identity and to ensure the university's flourishing as the world's premiere Catholic research university through an intentional program of hiring for mission and direct support for current university faculty and members of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

STUDENT FORMATION

The de Nicola Center's Sorin Fellows program is the premier student formation initiative on campus, providing undergraduate and graduate students opportunities for social, scholarly, and spiritual development in the context of their academic pursuits and in the discernment and living out of their vocations. With almost 300 student fellows and as many alumni, representing every degree-granting college and school at Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, and Holy Cross College, the Sorin Fellows program encourages students to explore the depth of the Catholic moral and intellectual traditions and develop tools to engage the world beyond the university, amplifying Notre Dame's witness to human dignity, authentic human freedom, and the common good in the public square.

DE NICCOLA CENTRE
for ETHICS AND CULTURE





ENHANCING STUDENTS’ INTELLECTUAL EXPERIENCES

Sorin Fellows are challenged to think deeply about important questions relating to human dignity and the common good through a wide variety of Center-sponsored events. This year, Sorin Fellows had the opportunity to consider “**The Vocation of the Catholic Physician**” with a panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing Catholic pre-professional students who aspire to careers in medicine. In her lecture on **The Book that Changed My Life**, Professor Meghan Sullivan (Philosophy) presented students with a passionate case for reading Plato’s *Republic*, and the ways it uniquely challenged and enriched her own studies.

Sorin Fellows also had the opportunity to attend private meetings with influential leaders and distinguished guests of the university, including **U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr**, **George Weigel** (Ethics and Public Policy Center), and **Arthur Brooks** (Harvard University), who encouraged students to think about the ways the tradition of the Church can be brought to bear on pressing issues in the public square, as well as in their own lives and vocations. Students not only attended the de Nicola Center’s **Fall Conference** but presented their own unique research alongside distinguished scholars from around the world as part of the conference’s reflection on friendship.

“The intellectual engagement provided by the Sorin Fellows Program has been essential to my formation in the Catholic faith. Events such as the annual Fall Conference have come to serve as the bedrock of my growth into a disciple seeking to integrate all areas of my life for God’s greater glory.”

—John Hale (ND ’21)

Sorin Fellow Noelle Johnson (ND ’20) presents a paper at the de Nicola Center’s annual Fall Conference.

DEVELOPING FRIENDSHIPS, DEEPENING FAITH

Students participating in the Sorin Fellows Program grow in friendship and faith through opportunities for prayer and fellowship outside the classroom, forging relationships rooted in a love of the Church that transcend their university experience.

Inspired by St. John Henry Newman's pedagogical method, this year the de Nicola Center launched the **Cor ad Cor Mentorship Program** ("heart speaks to heart"), where upperclassmen and graduate Sorin Fellows are paired with underclassmen in the Sorin Fellows Program to cultivate mentor-mentee relationships and offer guidance and support. More than 80 Sorin Fellows participated in the program, meeting over coffee throughout the year to discuss their academic work, personal interests, and professional goals.

Sorin Supper Clubs offered Fellows the opportunity to participate in family life through a shared meal in the homes of their professors, allowing them to form enriching friendships beyond the limits of the classroom. Twenty-one Supper Clubs were offered in the 2019–20 academic year, with hosts including Sean Kelsey (Philosophy), Rick and Nicole Garnett (Notre Dame Law School), and Thomas Stapleford (Program of Liberal Studies). The Sorin Fellow community also gathered in the fall for a **dance and social** to kick off the new academic year.

While travel restrictions due to the coronavirus forced the de Nicola Center to postpone its planned student pilgrimage to the Holy Land over spring break, the Center continued its tradition of hosting a **First Friday Mass and reception** for Sorin Fellows and members of the dCEC community throughout the fall and early spring semester. Students contributed to the liturgy as lectors, sacristans, acolytes, cantors, and musicians, praying together with faculty members and priest friends of the Center who celebrated the Masses throughout the year.

"The de Nicola Center has given me the opportunity and the tools to grow and deepen my understanding of the questions that are integral to every human life, beyond mere intellectual and professional development. Through its programming, I have learned to engage with the rich tradition of the Catholic Church in a way that encompasses every aspect of my own life and identity as a person made in the image of God."

—Caroline O'Callaghan (ND '21)



Graduate Sorin Fellow Domenic Canonico (BA '16, MA '20) and Law Sorin Fellow Aly Cox (BA '17, JD '21) at a de Nicola Center tailgate.



CULTIVATING GIFTS AND TALENTS

The dCEC helps Sorin Fellows cultivate their gifts and talents through Center-funded internships, research opportunities, conference attendance, and service projects. Students are paired with dCEC partner organizations around the globe or submit funding proposals for projects of their own design that allow them to bring the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition to bear on pressing issues in the public square and develop skills and relationships that will serve them well in their future vocations.

This past year, Sorin Fellows were awarded internships with the **Becket Fund for Religious Liberty** in Washington, D.C., the office of **Louisiana Solicitor General Elizabeth Murrill**, and the **Holy See Permanent Observer Mission** to the UN in New York. Other students participated in volunteer work and pilgrimages, serving with the **Heart's Home Catholic Volunteer Network** in Brooklyn and traveling to Mexico for a **pilgrimage to Guadalupe**. Other students designed their own research projects, studying **poverty and education in Bangladesh** and pursuing legal research with **John Finnis** and **Robert George**.

Through all these opportunities, Sorin Fellows gained valuable experience outside the classroom, gave back to communities in need, and discerned their future vocations as part of the next generation of Catholic leaders.

"It is with the consistent financial and relational support of the de Nicola Center that I have been able to pursue professional and vocational formation during the school year and throughout the summer. The Center's guidance and generosity is truly unmatched in walking with and providing opportunities for students as they seek to discern their gifts and follow God's call."

—Maggie Garnett (ND '22)

Sorin Fellow Maggie Garnett (ND '22) in Washington, D.C., as part of her Sorin Fellow internship with the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.

2019–20 STUDENT EVENTS

Cor ad Cor Mentorship Program

Inspired by Saint John Henry Newman's pedagogical model and coat of arms, "*cor ad cor loquitur*" (heart speaks to heart), the Sorin Fellows Program initiated this new program to cultivate mentor-mentee relationships between (1) graduate/professional Sorin Fellows and upperclassman (juniors + seniors) Sorin Fellows and (2) upperclassmen and underclassmen (sophomores and freshman) Sorin Fellows. Fellows were matched based on a variety of descriptors, including: academic profile, personal interests, and professional goals. Over 80 Sorin Fellows participated in the program throughout the year, with mentors receiving a modest stipend to meet one-on-one with their mentee over the course of each semester.

Sorin Supper Clubs

(14 completed; 7 postponed due to COVID-19)

Offered throughout the academic year, Sorin Supper Clubs welcome students into the homes and family lives of Notre Dame faculty and staff to form lasting and enriching relationships during their college years and beyond. Supper Clubs were hosted by a wide range of Notre Dame faculty and staff, including Rick and Nicole Garnett (Law School), Brett Perkins (Campus Ministry), Peter Casarella (Theology), Bill Kempf (University Development), Jeff Pojanowski (Law School), Sean Kelsey (Philosophy), Thomas Stapleford (Program of Liberal Studies), Andrew Polaniecki (Holy Cross College), Brett Robinson (McGrath Institute for Church Life), Gabriel Said Reynolds (Theology), Jeffrey Burks (Mendoza College of Business), and Kirk Doran (Economics).

Class Advising

(Fall and Spring)

Offered each semester in advance of the class registration process, these sessions are offered to assist students make class selections based on their majors, interests, and desire to deepen their understanding of the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition.

**In Spring 2020, class advising sessions were held over Zoom.*

First Friday Mass and Reception

(5 total; 3 canceled due to COVID-19)

Offered on the first Friday of every month during the academic year, the First Friday Series provides fellows the opportunity to attend a Mass and social with other Sorin Fellows. Students contribute as lectors, sacristans, acolytes, cantors, and musicians.

Vocation to Love

(weekly meetings)

This women's social and spiritual study group is inspired by the writings of Edith Stein and Pope St. John Paul II on authentic love and women's role in the Church and the world. The group meets once a week in the evening and is led by Suzy Younger (MS, CFCP).

**Following Spring Break 2020, Vocation to Love meetings were held over Zoom.*

Seminar

Arthur Brooks, *Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America*

(September 19, 2019)

Sorin Fellows had the opportunity to dine privately and discuss with author Arthur Brooks his latest book, *Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America*, following his lecture at Notre Dame.



Attorney General William P. Barr participated in a private conversation with Sorin Fellows in the Law School.

Sorin Fellow Formal

(September 21, 2019)

The community of Sorin Fellows and friends gathered in the Monogram Room for a formal-themed evening dance and social to kick off the new academic year.

Film Screening and Discussion

Windrider Forum: *Burden*

(September 22, 2019)

Cosponsored with the Department of Film, Television, and Theatre and the Debartolo Performing Arts Center. *Burden* was the winner of the 2018 Sundance Film Festival's "U.S. Dramatic Audience Award" and provides a moving character study about the hard work of undoing racism alongside a cautiously optimistic vision of social progress. Director Andrew Heckler and John Priddy, founder of the Windrider Forum, were present at the screening and contributed to the subsequent discussion.

Lunch Seminar

George Weigel, *The Irony of Modern Catholic History*

(September 26, 2019)

Sorin Fellows had the opportunity to dine privately and discuss with George Weigel his latest book, *The Irony of Modern Catholic History*, preceding his lecture at Notre Dame.

Panel Discussion

"To Console, to Raise, to Give Hope: The Vocation of the Catholic Physician"

(October 4, 2019)

This panel discussion featured three Notre Dame graduates in the medical field and a senior member of the Catholic Medical Association. It considered the challenges and opportunities present to Catholic pre-professional students who aspire to pursue a career in medicine. Panelists: Jeanne Farnan, ND '17; Dr. Kate Callaghan, ND '12; Dr. Michael Hawking, ND '09; Dr. Tom McGovern.

Lunch Seminar

Commander Daniel Anrig Former Commander of the Swiss Guard

(October 6, 2019)

Sorin Fellows had the opportunity to dine privately and discuss the nature of working within the Vatican and serving as the commander of the Swiss Guard with Commander Daniel Anrig, who served in that capacity from 2008–2015.

Law Seminar

Attorney General William P. Barr

(October 11, 2019)

Law Sorin Fellows had the opportunity to meet privately with Attorney General William P. Barr and discuss his work, experience in the Department of Justice, and the challenges and opportunities in the context of a life in public service. The seminar was hosted by NDLS professor of law William Kelley.

Lecture

“G. K. Chesterton: The Critic’s Critic,” by Dale Ahlquist

(October 15, 2019)

Renowned G. K. Chesterton scholar Dale Ahlquist offered a lecture for Sorin Fellows and the Notre Dame community on the topic of G. K. Chesterton as literary critic. Sorin Fellows joined Mr. Ahlquist for a lunch discussion prior to the public lecture.

Bread of Life Dinner

Jennifer Newsome Martin

(November 19, 2019)

Designed to provide an opportunity for Notre Dame undergraduates and faculty to meet, reflect on, and discuss their attitudes toward culture of life issues from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

Assistant professor in the Program of Liberal Studies and dCEC faculty fellow Jennifer Newsome Martin offered the reflection “Human Dignity and the Liberal Arts: A Modest Proposal.”

The Book that Changed My Life

Meghan Sullivan on Plato’s Republic

(December 5, 2019)

Professor of philosophy and dCEC faculty fellow Meghan Sullivan reflected on the ways in which Plato’s *Republic* changed her life and shaped the ways she was uniquely challenged and enriched by it. Sorin Fellows enjoyed a private lecture and received a free copy of the book to add to their library of important works in the Catholic canon.

Sorin Fellows Finals Study Break

(December 17, 2019)

The de Nicola Center opened its doors to Sorin Fellows and friends for a study break in the midst of preparations for the Fall 2019 semester’s final examinations.

Lunch Seminar

Professor Veronica Root Martinez, Corporate Ethics

(February 5, 2020)

Sorin Fellows joined Notre Dame Law School professor Veronica Root Martinez to consider how corporations should implement ethics programs within their organizations and how corporations approach the implementation of ethics within their organizations in different ways.

Edith Stein Conference

(February 7-8, 2020)

The de Nicola Center once again offered its support to the annual Edith Stein Conference, hosted by idND, on the theme of “We Are Made for Authenticity.” The conference aimed to encourage reflection on the dignity of the human person through considerations of “authenticity” in the context of Christian Revelation.

The Book that Changed My Life

Daniel Philpott on *An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*

(February 13, 2020)

Professor of political science and dCEC faculty advisory committee member Daniel Philpott reflected on the ways in which St. John Henry Newman’s *An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine* changed his life and shaped the ways he was uniquely challenged and enriched by it. Sorin Fellows enjoyed a private lecture and received a free copy of the book to add to their library of important works in the Catholic canon.

Student Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

(March 8-18, 2020)

This pilgrimage is an opportunity for 38 dCEC undergraduate fellows to visit and pray at holy sites significant to the Christian tradition. In addition to spiritual reflection, students have the opportunity to reflect on the history of the nation of Israel, modern-day Israeli-Palestinian relations, and the history and culture of the Jewish people.

This event was postponed until 2021.

Seminar

Mary Ann Glendon

(April 1, 2020)

Co-sponsored by the Notre Dame Program on Church, State & Society, this private seminar was to allow Sorin Fellows to share in discussion with Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, former United States Ambassador to the Holy See, and Permanent Senior Distinguished Research Fellow of the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture, Mary Ann Glendon.

This seminar was cancelled.

Bread of Life Dinner

Duncan Stroik

(April 7, 2020)

Designed to provide an opportunity for Notre Dame undergraduates and faculty to meet, reflect on, and discuss their attitudes toward culture of life issues from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Featuring Notre Dame Professor of Architecture Duncan Stroik.

This event was cancelled.

Year End Mass and Picnic

(May 1, 2020)

This annual event serves as an opportunity for Sorin Fellows and affiliated faculty and staff of the de Nicola Center to gather and celebrate the end of the year with a Mass celebrated by dCEC chaplain Rev. Terrence Ehrman, C.S.C., followed by a picnic on the Hesburgh Library quad.

This event was cancelled.

Sorin Fellow Graduation Breakfast

(May 16, 2020)

Graduating Sorin Fellows and their parents gather the morning before commencement exercises for a breakfast to celebrate their achievements and reflect on the formation and fellowship they shared over the course of their Sorin Fellow experiences.

This event was cancelled. The de Nicola Center instead coordinated care packages and a video tribute from dCEC Director Carter Snead to be sent to graduating seniors, Ph.D. candidates, and law students completing their degrees.

RESEARCH *and* PUBLICATIONS

As a traditions-based center rooted in our Catholic intellectual heritage, the de Nicola Center facilitates a lively interdisciplinary community of scholarly reflection and engagement through a robust offering of conferences, lectures, colloquia, and publications. Through efforts such as our annual Fall Conference, which draws hundreds of participants every year to the university's largest interdisciplinary academic event; our four scholarly book series with the University of Notre Dame Press; and our popular podcast with leading scholars and thinkers from around the world, the de Nicola Center welcomes dialogue with all moral traditions as we grapple with the most pressing and complex questions of ethics, culture, and public policy today.



TWENTY YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

The de Nicola Center's annual Fall Conference has quickly become one of the most important academic forums for fruitful discourse and exchange, bringing together the world's leading Catholic thinkers and those from other traditions to grapple with pressing yet perennial questions relating to ethics, culture, and public policy today.

In 2019, the de Nicola Center celebrated the 20th anniversary of its founding with a Fall Conference organized around the theme of friendship. What does it mean to make the good of another one's own, and what might be the implications of losing such an understanding of friendship in the modern world? More than 800 guests and 100 speakers gathered to consider the question in light of a variety of disciplinary points of departure, sharing in the hospitality and camaraderie for which the Fall Conference has become so well known.

Archeparch Borys Gudziak (Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Philadelphia) opened the conference Thursday evening with a reflection on "Friendship, in Good Times and in Bad," after concelebrating Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart with Bishop Kevin Rhoades (Fort Wayne–South Bend). Noted theologian **Stanley Hauerwas (Duke Divinity School)** offered remarks on what it means "To Be Befriended: A Meditation of Friendship with the Disabled." **Alasdair Macintyre (dCEC Senior Distinguished Research Fellow)** revisited the simple question, "Is Friendship Possible?," while **filmmaker Whit Stillman and poet James Matthew Wilson (Valparaiso University)** discussed the themes of love and friendship in Stillman's work. Other featured speakers included **Diana Schaub (Loyola University Maryland)**, **Thomas Hibbs (University of Dallas)**, and **Catherine Zuckert (University of Notre Dame)**.

"The DeNicola Center's Fall Conference was an intellectual banquet second to none. The only downside was having to choose among speakers and not being able to be in more than one room at a time! Each speaker, conversation, and interaction nourished my mind and soul and led to deep friendships. I look forward to reuniting with friends and learning from incredible scholars for years to come."

—2019 Fall Conference participant

Archeparch Borys Gudziak delivers the opening keynote address, titled "Friendship in Good Times and in Bad," at the 2019 Fall Conference.





DIALOGUE ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The de Nicola Center partnered with the **Notre Dame Law School and Dean G. Marcus Cole** to host a presentation on religious freedom by **United States Attorney General William P. Barr**. Notre Dame Law School students, including de Nicola Center Sorin Fellows, as well as faculty, trustees, officers, staff, and friends of the university gathered in the McCartan Auditorium of the Law School for an engaging and substantive address that traced the history of religious freedom in America from its roots in the founding to present-day debates over religion in the public square.

“As Catholics,” Attorney General Barr explained, “we are committed to the Judeo-Christian values that have made this country great, and we know that the first thing we have to do to promote this renewal is to ensure that we are putting our principles into practice in our own personal lives.”

Following his remarks, students engaged thoughtfully with the attorney general in a freewheeling “fireside chat” that covered immigration law, technology and the digital age, and polarization in the current political climate. This unique event gave Notre Dame Law School students the rare opportunity to discuss the most pressing legal issues of our day with the chief lawyer of the government of the United States of America.

“Having the opportunity to not only listen to the attorney general in person but also to ask him questions in a small group setting is emblematic of how the Sorin Fellows program enriches the education of law students. Interacting with some of the most important thinkers and professionals in the world while having conversations concerning the sanctity of life, religious liberty, and governance in light of the common good are commonplace events for Sorin Fellows, and having the opportunity to meet Attorney General Barr was no exception.”

—Sorin Fellow **Brendan Besh (BA '18, JD '22)**

Attorney General William P. Barr responded to questions from students following his remarks in the Notre Dame Law School.

REACHING BEYOND THE UNIVERSITY

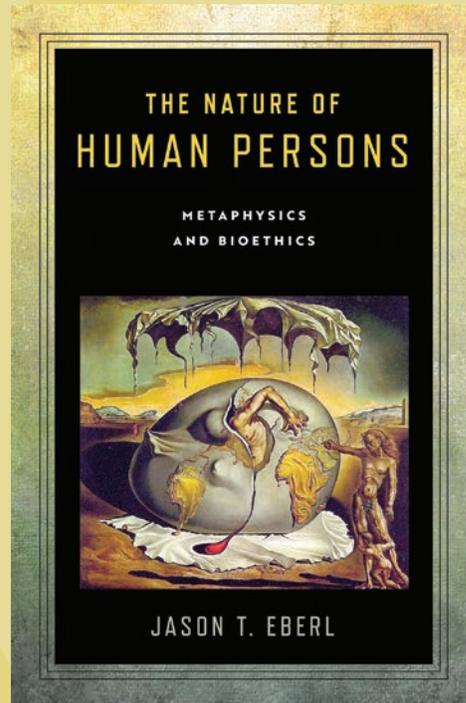
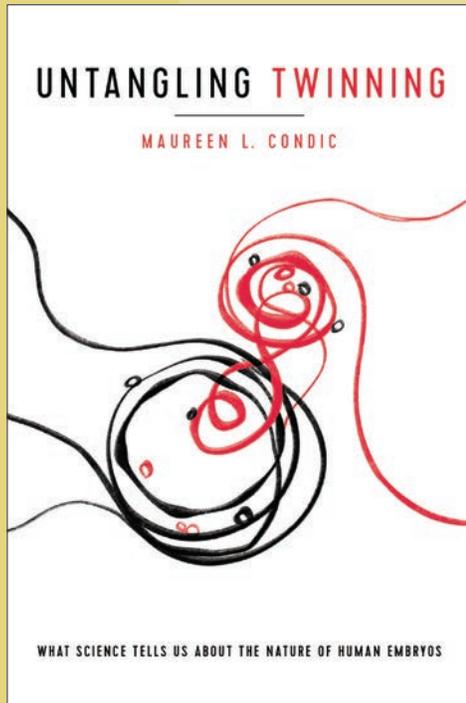
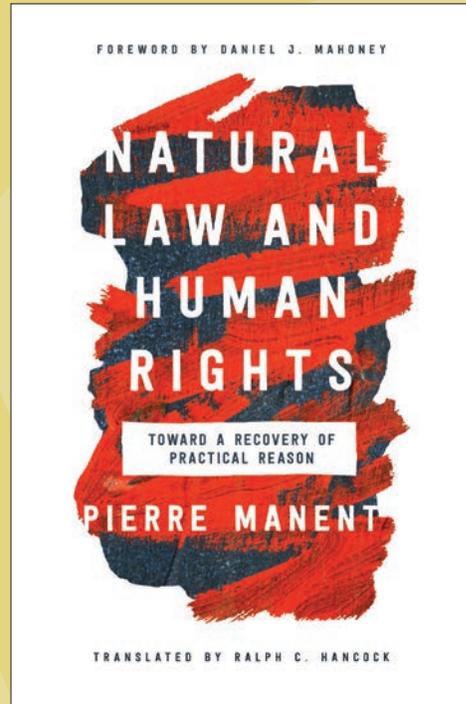
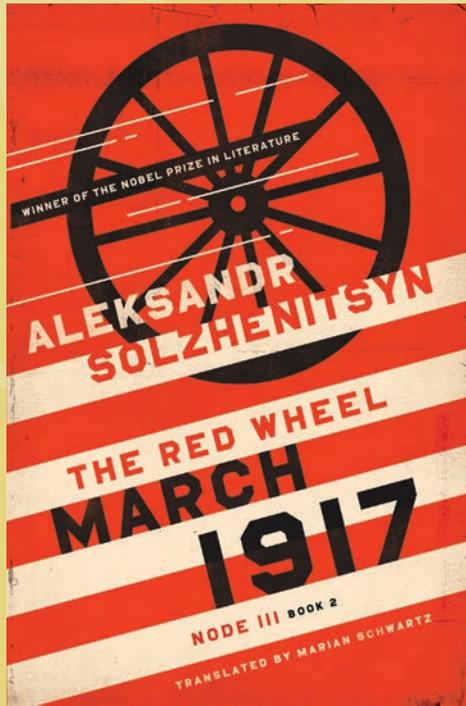
The de Nicola Center is proud to be the home of four book series with University of Notre Dame Press, which showcase important voices and world-renowned scholars who engage enduring themes of human dignity and flourishing, the common good, truth, beauty, justice, and freedom.

Fall 2019 saw the release of *March 1917: The Red Wheel*, Node III, Vol. 2, the continuation of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's multivolume epic work about the Russian Revolution, as well as the first entry in our most recent series, "Notre Dame Studies in African Theology": *Theology after Colonization* by Tim Hartman. Two new volumes appeared in the "Notre Dame Studies in Medical Ethics and Bioethics" series in spring 2020: *Untangling Twinning* by Maureen Condic, and *The Nature of Human Persons* by Jason Eberl. A previously untranslated work by Pierre Manent, *Natural Law and Human Rights*, appeared in the "Catholic Ideas for a Secular World" series, bringing Manent's influential reflection on the steady displacement of the natural law by the modern conception of human rights into the American discourse on these issues.

The de Nicola Center's "**Ethics and Culture Cast**" continues to draw more listeners through its fascinating conversations with distinguished scholars and guests of the university. Third-season episodes featuring **Ernest Morrell** (Notre Dame), **James Matthew Wilson** (Villanova University), and **Stephen Barr** (University of Delaware) brought engaging discussions on important issues into the broader public square beyond the university.

"[Ethics and Culture Cast] brings together open-ended questions, ND's resources, and intriguing guests to give Catholics and non-Catholics alike food for thought and reflection. Thank you!"

—iTunes Review



2019–20 ACADEMIC EVENTS

Symposium

New Wine, New Wineskins *(July 25–27, 2019)*

The dCEC once again cosponsored the annual New Wine, New Wineskins Symposium at the University of Notre Dame, hosted by the Young Catholic Moral Theologians and the Fellowship of Protestant Ethicists (FPE). The topic of the joint conference was an examination of the relationship between European colonialism and the Catholic and Protestant religious traditions, with a goal of revitalizing ecumenical efforts at understanding and overcoming this legacy. Two public lectures were given by the symposium's keynote speaker, Willie Jennings (Yale Divinity School), who also engaged in an ecumenical panel discussion on the relationship between European colonialism and contemporary religious ethics in Europe and North America. The conference also included workshops open to Notre Dame graduate students in theology and early career scholars from other institutions, fostering intellectual development, interreligious engagement, and relationship-building among young scholars in the field.

Conference

"To What End? Narrative, Institutions, and Practices" *(July 25–27, 2019)*

Cosponsored with the Centre for Contemporary Aristotelian Studies in Ethics and Politics (CASEP) at the London Metropolitan University, this conference broadly explored the resources of neo-Aristotelian thought, especially as they might be brought to bear on reframing moral discourse in a world increasingly shaped by the market, the state, bureaucracy, and technology. Hosted in honor of Alasdair MacIntyre, who turned 90 in 2019, the conference gathered speakers from a variety of disciplines and countries to engage in his impressive body of work, which has both shined a spotlight on the futility of rational dialogue in an emotivist culture and renewed efforts to rediscover the insights of Aristotle, Aquinas, and Marx. Keynote presentations were delivered by Jonathan Lear (University of Chicago) and Alasdair MacIntyre (Permanent Senior Distinguished Research Fellow, de Nicola Center).

Lecture

"Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt," by Arthur Brooks

(September 19, 2019)

Best-selling author and economist Arthur C. Brooks offered reflections on America's fractured political discourse and battling our current "culture of contempt" to make progress as a society. Arthur Brooks is the Arthur C. Patterson Faculty Fellow at Harvard Business School, professor of practice at Harvard Kennedy School, and the former president of the American Enterprise Institute. Cosponsored by the Potenziani Program in Constitutional Studies, the Mendoza College of Business, and the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture.

Catholic Imagination Conference

"The Future of the Catholic Literary Tradition" *(September 19–21, 2019)*

This international biennial conference, presented by Loyola University Chicago's Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, featured over 80 writers, poets, filmmakers, playwrights, journalists, editors, publishers, students, and critics who explored a variety of questions surrounding the Catholic imagination in literature and the arts. Plenary speakers included Paul Mariani, Tobias Wolff, Alice McDermott, Dana Gioia, Angela Alaimo O'Donnell, Paul Elie, Ron Hansen, Mary Gordon, and Randy Boyagoda. Cosponsors included Georgetown University, Fordham University, Boston College, the McGrath Institute for Church Life, and the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture.

Lecture

“The Irony of Modern Catholic History,” by George Weigel (September 27, 2019)

George Weigel, a distinguished senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, discussed his latest book, *The Irony of Modern Catholic History: How the Church Rediscovered Itself and Challenged the Modern World to Reform*, and how Catholicism offers the twenty-first century essential truths for our survival and flourishing. The lecture was accompanied by lunch and was followed by a book signing with the author. Cosponsored by the Potenziani Program in Constitutional Studies.

Lecture

Remarks on Religious Liberty in America, by U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr (October 11, 2019)

In partnership with Notre Dame Law School, the de Nicola Center hosted U.S. Attorney General William Barr for a presentation to NDLS faculty, staff, students, and alumni on the subject of religious liberty in America. Roger Alford and William Kelley, both of Notre Dame Law School, convened the event and hosted a question and answer period following the remarks, which received national attention.

Fall Conference

“I Have Called You Friends” (November 7–9, 2019)

To commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Center for Ethics and Culture, the 2019 Fall Conference explored the theme of friendship, from its ancient understanding as “the crown of life and the school of virtue” (C. S. Lewis) to the present day. More than 100 speakers and 800 participants gathered to consider what it means to make the good of another one’s own, as well as the implications of losing such an understanding

of friendship in the modern world. Presentations spanned a wide array of fields of inquiry, including theology, philosophy, political theory, law, history, economics, and the social sciences, as well as the natural sciences, literature, and the arts. Featured speakers included Archbishop Borys Gudziak (Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Philadelphia), Stanley Hauerwas (Duke Divinity School), Alasdair MacIntyre (de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture), filmmaker White Stillman, Diana Schaub (Loyola University Maryland), Thomas Hibbs (University of Dallas), Catherine Zuckert (University of Notre Dame), John Haldane (Baylor University), John Carr (Georgetown University), Patrizia Giunti (University of Florence), and Gilbert Meilaender (Valparaiso University).

Gold Mass and Lecture

“The Catholic Faith and Modern Science: Understanding and Correcting Models of Conflict,” by Christopher Baglow (January 28, 2020)

The 2020 Gold Mass for Science and Engineering was marked with a lecture by Christopher Baglow, director of the Science and Religion Initiative of the McGrath Institute for Church Life at Notre Dame, on “The Catholic Faith and Modern Science: Understanding and Correcting Models of Conflict.” Recent studies show that many young Catholics assume that science and religion are inherently incompatible, but in the words of chemist and eminent historian of science Lawrence Precipe, “The idea that scientific and religious camps have historically been separate and antagonistic is rejected by all modern historians of science.” Baglow addressed the origins of the conflict/warfare model of science and religion, elaborated on the Church’s approach to science, and outlined the path toward future thought. Cosponsored with the McGrath Institute for Church Life and the Environmental Change Initiative.

Conference on Medicine and Religion

“True to Tradition? Religion, the Secular, and the Future of Medicine”

(March 22-24, 2020)

The dCEC was a cosponsor for this year’s annual Conference on Medicine and Religion, a leading forum for discourse and scholarship at the intersection of medicine and religion. It exists to enable health professionals and scholars to gain a deeper and more practical understanding of how religion relates to the practice of medicine, with particular attention to the traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The forum is intended in a spirit that builds bridges between theory and practice, science and theology, the academy and lay communities, the various health professions, and the Abrahamic religious traditions. Cosponsored with the bioethics centers of Duke University, Saint Louis University, Texas Medical Center, Ohio State University, Baylor University, and Loma Linda University.

This conference has been postponed to 2021.

Conference

“Ways of Perfection and Devout Lives: Saintliness across Traditions”

(March 29-31, 2020)

This conference, hosted by the World Religions, World Church program in the Department of Theology, planned to explore how notions of saintliness are expressed in Christianity and other traditions and cultures. What might we learn from saintly people of various sorts about the journey toward holiness? How can the example of the saints encourage lives of friendship and virtue? Planned speakers included Sister Helen Prejean, John Cavadini, and Catherine Cornille. Organized by Fr. Paul Kollman, CSC, and Gabriel Said Reynolds.

This conference was moved online in fall 2020.

Conference

“Rituals of the Heavenly and Earthly Kingdoms: The Sacred, Secular, and Sacramental Powers in Pre-modern Europe” *(May 20-22, 2020)*

This interdisciplinary conference aims to explore how, and to what extent, the rituals of churches and civic powers, mediated through texts, may have shaped theological-political ideas in pre-modern Europe, and conversely, how theologies of the political influenced the performed liturgies of the Churches and of civic powers. The central goal of this conference is, therefore, to begin to more accurately describe the relationship between the “secular,” “sacred,” and “sacramental,” as evinced by the historical phenomena, and from there to build a richer conceptual framework for describing all of these categories and their interplay in pre-modern Europe. Organized by the Royal Castle in Warsaw, Poland; the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences; the journal *Questiones Medii Aevi Novae*; and the PSALM-Network, and cosponsored by the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture, the University of Notre Dame Medieval Institute, and the McGrath Institute for Church Life at Notre Dame.

This conference was moved online.

“Two Cities” Colloquium

Economy, Law, and the Common Good *(May 27-29, 2020)*

As part of its “Two Cities” colloquia series, this collaboration with Paris Descartes and the EDHEC Business School planned to examine the relationship between economy, law, and the common good. Proposed participants included Laurent Fremont, Pierre Lauzun, Adrian Vermeule (Harvard Law School), Kirk Doran (Notre Dame), Thierry Rambaud (Université Paris Descartes), Patrick Deneen (Notre Dame), and Rev. Bernard Bourdin, O.P. (Catholic University of Paris).

This event has been postponed until 2021.



Elizabeth Lev (Duquesne University) speaks on art and friendship at the 2019 Fall Conference.

Seminar
Economics and Catholic Social Thought
(June 2020)

Now in its fifth year, this seminar is designed as an introduction and immersion into Catholic social thought for graduate students and junior faculty in economics, finance, or related fields. Participants cover foundational principles in Catholic social thought, starting with the human person, dignity, freedom, subsidiarity, solidarity, and the common good, and moving toward applications of these principles to conceptual understandings and ethical considerations involving economic topics such as utility theory, firm and business ethics, wages, markets, globalization, poverty, and development. The event is hosted by dCEC faculty advisory committee members Martijn Cremers (dean, Mendoza School of Business) and Joe Kaboski (Economics), and cosponsored by the Kellogg Institute, ISLA, and the College of Arts and Letters.

This event has been postponed until 2021.

10th Annual Philosophy Workshop
“Aquinas on Knowledge, Truth, and Wisdom,” Newburgh, New York
(June 24–28, 2020)

The Center once again cosponsored the Annual Philosophy Workshop in Newburgh, New York, with the Thomistic Institute and Mount Saint Mary College. The goal of the workshop is to develop graduate students, particularly those who might not attend a Catholic university, in their understanding of Thomistic philosophy. Speakers this year include Rev. James Brent, O.P. (Dominican House of Studies), Michael Gorman (Catholic University of America), Therese Cory (University of Notre Dame), Gregory Doolan (Catholic University of America), Robert Koons (University of Texas–Austin), John O’Callaghan (University of Notre Dame), and Rev. Dominic Legge, O.P. (Thomistic Institute).

This event was hosted in a small seminar format.

CULTURE *of* LIFE

Through initiatives such as the annual *Evangelium Vitae* Medal for heroes of the pro-life movement, the Notre Dame Vita Institute intensive training program, and support for a variety of initiatives across campus, the de Nicola Center projects and amplifies Notre Dame's voice into the public square on the most important public policy debates concerning human dignity and the common good. In so doing, the de Nicola Center works closely and routinely partners with key leaders of the university, including the Office of the President and Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., the Office of Mission Engagement and Church Affairs, and the Notre Dame Alumni Association.



ADOPTION IS LOVE

PRO-ALL LIFE

of Notre Dam
FIGHT FOR

ADOPTION IS LOVE

PRO-LIFE

EMPOWERED

EMPOWERED

EMPOWERED

PRO-LIFE & PRO-WOMAN

EMPOWERED

DOPT

BECAUSE EVERY LIFE IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

BECAUSE EVERY LIFE IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

BECAUSE EVERY LIFE IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

EMPOWERED

EMPOWERED

EMPOWERED

EMPOWERED

PRO-LIFE & PRO-WOMAN

EMPOWERED

BECAUSE EVERY LIFE IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

PRO-LIFE & PRO-WOMAN

BECAUSE EVERY LIFE IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

EMPOWERED



life
EMPOWERS

life
EMPOWERS

PROJECTING NOTRE DAME'S VOICE IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

The de Nicola Center continued its longstanding support of the Notre Dame Right to Life student club by underwriting the cost of **more than 800 students, faculty, staff, and administrators** from Notre Dame, Holy Cross College, and Saint Mary's College to attend the national **March for Life** in Washington, D.C. Following the March, the de Nicola Center hosted a reception, cosponsored by the Notre Dame Alumni Association, for more than four hundred alumni, faculty, staff, families, students, and friends of the university to celebrate Notre Dame's unwavering commitment to the defense of all human life in the public square.

Noelle Johnson, a senior and dCEC Sorin Fellow, reflected on the importance of Notre Dame's annual participation in the March for an interview with the *Observer* student newspaper. "Our university is committed to the defense of life at all stages, and this is our greatest public demonstration of that," Johnson said. "The March is our opportunity to witness, not only to life and love, but through that, to participate in our democratic process and utilize those things that we praise in our American society.

The de Nicola Center also partnered with the Bioethics Defense Fund and the Alliance Defending Freedom to assist in the preparation of **Louisiana Solicitor General Elizabeth Murrill** for oral argument before the United States Supreme Court in the landmark abortion case *June Medical Services v. Russo*. Director Carter Snead joined a panel of several current and former state solicitors general in a "moot" session, in which panelists played the roles of the justices in a simulated oral argument for Solicitor General Murrill.

This public service is one of the many ways the de Nicola Center lends its unique expertise to support public officials and thought leaders in their efforts to build a culture of life in the domestic and global public square.

"Marching alongside these men and women, it is clear that I am not alone in the pro-life movement. It is inspiring to be at a university that stands up for the dignity of all human beings."

— 2020-21 March Captain and Sorin Fellow Spencer Bindel (ND '21)

Students pause for a picture at the Washington Monument before the start of the March for Life on January 24, 2020.

DE NICOLA CENTER
for ETHICS AND CULTURE

 DE NICOLA CENTER
for ETHICS AND CULTURE

 UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

 UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

DE NICOLA CENTER
for ETHICS AND CULTURE

 DE NICOLA CENTER
for ETHICS AND CULTURE



DE NICOLA CENTER
for ETHICS AND CULTURE

DE NICOLA CENTER
for ETHICS AND CULTURE

 UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

DE NICOLA CENTER
for ETHICS AND CULTURE

DE NICOLA CENTER
for ETHICS AND CULTURE

DE NICOLA CENTER
for ETHICS AND CULTURE

UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

BRINGING PRO-LIFE TRAINING ONLINE

In light of the coronavirus pandemic, the de Nicola Center's annual Vita Institute was moved to a virtual platform, bringing its intensive academic training in the fundamentals of the life issues to more than 1,200 registrants around the world.

The Center's Vita Institute brings together leaders in the national and international pro-life movement for a week-long program that extends and deepens their breadth and depth of understanding of the subjects most essential to building a culture of life, including biology, philosophy, law, theology, and social sciences. This year's online webinar series allowed a wider audience to sample the exceptional teaching of the traditional on-campus event. Participants tuned in for five presentations, one each evening, and were able to submit questions remotely and interact with presenters in a format that would have normally been impossible for such a large and far-flung audience.

"We were disappointed to have to cancel this year's in-person Vita Institute, as there is no substitute for the community building and professional networking that naturally happens when we meet face-to-face," Center Director O. Carter Snead said. "But pivoting to the online platform gives us the unique opportunity to share the world-class instruction that is the hallmark of our on-campus program with a much wider audience."

"Thank you for making this available to the public. I've watched each night with my daughter, a chemical engineer starting her senior year at Notre Dame, and my mother. . . . Each of us would have wanted to attend the Institute in person but for various reasons won't have the opportunity. So, thank you for a wonderful week so far for three generations!"

—Webinar participant

Rev. John Paul Kimes records his presentation on 'Resisting a Throw-Away Culture' for the final evening of the Vita Institute webinar series.

RACISM AS A PRO-LIFE ISSUE

Inspired by Pope Francis’s observation that Christians “cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life,” the de Nicola Center hosted an online webinar discussion on racism and the culture of life that was cosponsored by Notre Dame Law School, the Mendoza College of Business, the College of Arts and Letters, and the Notre Dame Right to Life Club.

The distinguished participants on the panel hailed from all corners of work in the pro-life movement, including **G. Marcus Cole** (Dean, Notre Dame Law School), **Katrina Jackson** (Louisiana State Senate, Dem.), **Gloria Purvis** (EWTN Global Catholic Radio), **Jacqueline Rivers** (Harvard University), and **Benjamin Watson** (Super Bowl Champion), in a conversation moderated by **Ernest Morrell** (Notre Dame). Their insights shed light on the question of how, in their respective spheres of work, the pro-life movement’s embrace of the intrinsic equal dignity of every member of the human family is necessarily generative of a deep commitment to the fight for racial equality.

“There is no better place to have this conversation than at the University of Notre Dame, where we do not shy away from hard conversations, and we stand as a countercultural beacon that has long recognized and affirmed that a commitment to the dignity of every person entails protecting the most vulnerable, including the unborn child and those who suffer from invidious racial discrimination.”

—O. Carter Snead, dCEC Director

"We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life." –Pope Francis



**G. Marcus
Cole**
NDLS Dean



**Katrina
Jackson**
LA State Senator



**Ernest
Morrell**
Notre Dame



**Gloria
Purvis**
EWTN Host



**Jacqueline
Rivers**
Harvard University



**Benjamin
Watson**
NFL Legend



DE NICOLA CENTER FOR ETHICS AND CULTURE

MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Notre Dame's mission statement affirms that the university's Catholic character "depends upon, and is nurtured by, the continuing presence of a predominant number of Catholic intellectuals." At the de Nicola Center, we believe that the most powerful mechanism for encouraging Notre Dame's Catholic identity to flourish is to support the recruitment, hiring, and retention of top-tier faculty, graduate students, and visiting scholars. The de Nicola Center offers these scholars vital support in their academic endeavors, as well as a community of like-minded professors and students that can provide guidance and support. Through their research, teaching, and engagement with Notre Dame students, these scholars enrich the university's Catholic and intellectual atmosphere and contribute to her reputation for unparalleled academic excellence.





SUPPORTING FACULTY AT NOTRE DAME

Through its mission stewardship initiative, the de Nicola Center was able to support a visiting professor in the Department of Mathematics for the 2019–20 academic year. Brian Mulholland received his PhD in mathematics from Notre Dame and was singled out by his department as a particularly effective student teacher, leading innovation in his department in digital learning.

“As an educator,” Mulholland said, “I am convicted by Father Moreau’s words: ‘We shall always place education side by side with instruction; the mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart. While we prepare useful citizens for society, we shall likewise do our utmost to prepare citizens for heaven.’ Thanks to the de Nicola Center, I have the opportunity to work at a university that is convicted by those words as well.”

In addition to mission hiring, the de Nicola Center continued to support its faculty fellows (formerly members of its Faculty Advisory Committee) through direct financial assistance for their research and teaching. The de Nicola Center supported graduate research assistants for two faculty fellows completing work on important scholarly publications, giving professors much-needed support while providing the students with vital training and mentorship opportunities. In addition, the de Nicola Center was able to support a theology class taught by faculty fellow Daniel Philpott (Political Science) and Peter Casarella (Theology), titled “Why the Church? Making the Case for Catholicism to Millennials.” Support from the de Nicola Center made it possible to increase the number of students who participated in this important class examining contemporary trends in the religious lives of millennials, and how to engage arguments for and against the Church’s positions.

“The de Nicola Center has created a community not just of scholars, but of friends. We support each other’s research, of course, but more importantly, we call each other to grow in virtue. I know that I have a community of support where we can discuss how to cultivate our students in a way that is harmonious with the mission of the university.”

—Brian Mulholland (PhD ‘19), Visiting Professor of Mathematics

FACULTY FELLOWS

Gary Anderson

Hesburgh Professor of Catholic Theology

Ann W. Astell

Professor of Theology

Samuel Bray

Professor of Law

Margaret “Peg” Brinig

Professor Emerita of Law

Susan Collins

Associate Professor of Political Science

Therese Cory

John and Jean Oesterle Associate Professor of Thomistic Studies

Martijn Cremers

Dean, Mendoza College of Business

William N. Evans

Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Economics

Rev. James Foster, C.S.C.

Assistant Dean, College of Science

Nicole Stelle Garnett

John P. Murphy Foundation Professor of Law

Brad S. Gregory

Dorothy G. Griffin Professor of Early Modern European History

Patrick Griffin

*Madden-Hennebry Professor of History
Director, Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies*

Rev. Daniel Groody, C.S.C.

*Vice President and Associate Provost
Associate Professor of Theology and Global Affairs*

Rev. Kevin Grove, C.S.C.

Assistant Professor of Theology

Joseph Kaboski

*David F. and Erin M. Seng Foundation
Professor of Economics*

Sean Kelsey

Rev. John A. O'Brien Associate Professor of Philosophy

Mary M. Keys

Associate Professor of Political Science

Jennifer Newsome Martin

Assistant Professor, Program of Liberal Studies

Marah Stith McLeod

Associate Professor of Law

Gerald McKenny

Walter Professor of Theology

Susannah Monta

*John Cardinal O'Hara, C.S.C., and
Glynn Family Honors Associate Professor of English*

Ernest Morrell

*Coyle Professor of Literacy Education
Director, Center for Literacy Education*

Francesca Murphy

Professor of Theology

John O'Callaghan

Associate Professor of Philosophy

Rev. Paulinus Odozor, C.S.Sp.

*Associate Professor of Christian Ethics
and the Theology of World Church*

Daniel Philpott

Professor of Political Science

Gabriel Said Reynolds

Professor of Islamic Studies and Theology

Christian Smith

*William R. Kenan Professor of Sociology
Director, Center for the Study of Religion and Society*

Thomas Stapleford

*Associate Professor and Department Chair
Program of Liberal Studies*

Meghan Sullivan

*Rev. John A. O'Brien Professor of Philosophy
Director, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study*

SENIOR DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH FELLOWS

Alasdair MacIntyre
Philosophy (emeritus)

John Finnis
Notre Dame Law School

Mary Ann Glendon
Learned Hand Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Anthony (chair) and Christie de Nicola

Doug and Cher Abell	John and Kathy Gschwind
David and Susan Bender	William and Margaret Kelley
John and Jenifer Besh	Rev. John Paul Kimes
Kathy Craft	Anthony and Phyllis Lauinger
John and Kristine DeMatteo II	Neil and Anne Ramsey
Mike and Maureen Ferguson	Stephen and Ellen Rasch
Mark Filip and Beth Moritz	Terry Seidler
David and Lisa Fischer	Sean and Kari Tracey
Kevin and Frances Fleming	

