



*To His Eminence Cardinal Wilton Gregory
Archbishop of Washington
Chancellor, The Catholic University of America*

I was pleased to learn that The Catholic University of America is celebrating the conclusion of its *Light the Way* campaign, and I offer cordial greetings to you and all those gathered for the occasion. Mindful of the generosity of the donors and the dedicated efforts of all involved in the campaign, I am confident that it will serve to meet the current needs of the University and extend the mission, entrusted to it by my Predecessor Pope Leo XIII in 1887, of educating minds and hearts in the spirit of the Gospel and in service to the Church, the nation and the world.

Indeed, giving of our time and resources to help others is a concrete sign of charity for our neighbor that marks us as disciples of Jesus Christ (cf. *Jn* 13:35). Thanks to such generosity, students, faculty and staff, both present and future, will be enabled to join together in advancing the truth and joy of the Gospel, promoting a culture of encounter and fostering the authentic and integral growth of the human family (cf. *Veritatis Gaudium*, 1) through scholarly research, teaching and open and fraternal dialogue. In this way, the University will maintain its strong Catholic identity and continue to be a light within society, offering the beauty of the Christian message to a world athirst for hope and new life.

With these sentiments, and fondly recalling my visit to the University campus for the canonization of Saint Junipero Serra, I congratulate The Catholic University of America on its successful campaign and encourage its continued contribution to the Church's ministry of evangelization. Entrusting the entire University community, its benefactors and its supporters to the loving intercession of Mary Immaculate, Mother of the Church, I cordially impart my Blessing as a pledge of wisdom, joy and peace in the Lord.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 May 2023

Francis