



Diocese of Worcester  
Office of the Bishop  
49 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

December 30, 2011

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Catholic University of America, founded in 1887 by the U.S. Catholic bishops with the support of Pope Leo XIII, is the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States. Established as a graduate research center, the university began offering undergraduate education in 1904 and today is home to 12 schools and 21 research facilities. Catholic University is the only American university with ecclesiastical faculties granting canonical degrees in three disciplines (canon law, philosophy, and theology). As such, it has a special responsibility to educate future leaders for our Church and our nations. In this sense, The Catholic University of America belongs to all of us in the Church, regardless of where we live.

The financial sacrifices required of Catholic parents to provide a truly Catholic college education are enormous. All of the funds received through this collection underwrite the financial aid program at the university. Simply put, your contributions directly benefit students at CUA from all over the country, including the Diocese of Worcester, by funding scholarships for those who would not otherwise be able to attend. Every year, nearly 3,000 students at CUA (about 60% of the student body) receive scholarship support through the funds raised through this collection.

Students at Catholic University receive personalized attention in a wide range of programs, combining an excellent liberal arts curriculum with courses in their major fields of study. Grounded in the philosophy of the Catholic intellectual tradition, these students are well prepared for success in life and ready to make a difference in today's world.

I encourage you to be generous in the special collection for The Catholic University of America, to be taken at the Lord's Day Masses in all the parishes throughout the Diocese of Worcester, next weekend, January 7 and 8.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Robert J. McManus*

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester

(Please read or print this letter in the parish bulletin on the weekend of January 1, and take the Offertory for The Catholic University of America at all Masses on the weekend of January 8.)