

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Promoting and Defending Faithful Catholic Education

To: Valued member of The Cardinal Newman Society
From: Patrick Reilly, President
Re: Spring 2026 Update: Standing firm in a time of confusion

Lent has a way of stripping away distractions and reminding us of what truly matters.

The latest scandal at the University of Notre Dame is a prime example. Its leaders insist on promoting Prof. Susan Ostermann, despite her abortion advocacy and the pleas of many bishops and faithful Catholics, including The Cardinal Newman Society.



Meanwhile, Georgetown University has a new law dean: Liz Magill, the disgraced former president of the University of Pennsylvania, who resigned after defending radical antisemitic protests on her campus. Her new boss is Georgetown President Eduardo Peñalver, who publicly stated, “I reject the Church’s teachings on homosexuality.”

These aren’t isolated incidents but symptoms of a culture that no longer knows what is true. Even most Catholic colleges are dens of confusion. Why should we be surprised, then, if 26 Catholic colleges in the last decade have announced their demise?

Your partnership in this mission matters so much! **You are shining a light on scandal, but even more, you are guiding families to schools and colleges that truly form students in wisdom, virtue, and fidelity.**

This Lent, I will be praying for you and your family in gratitude for your commitment to the reform of Catholic education. Together, we are not merely responding to scandal — you and I are building something faithful and enduring in its place, with God’s blessings!

[40,000 copies of The Newman Guide — thanks to you](#)

Because of your generosity, 40,000 print copies of the 2025–2026 edition of The Newman Guide are now getting into the hands of high school students across America.

And many also received personal notes of encouragement from our supporters! I'm so grateful for the inspiring words to young people discerning their future. Those notes truly matter.

Thanks to your support, **thousands of families have now downloaded the free eBook edition of the Guide**, even as the Guide continues to grow.

We are adding new recommended elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, graduate programs—and now also homeschool programs!



On Feb. 5, as I prepared to teach a class for my wife Rosario's Aquinas Learning, our CNS team visited to celebrate the first Newman Guide Recommended homeschool curriculum. More programs are also now recommended.



All of the new schools, colleges, and programs can be viewed on our website. To see many more photos of students at Newman Guide Recommended schools and colleges celebrating this great achievement, see our pages on Facebook and Instagram.



Newman Guide College Presidents Meeting a great success

In January, just before the March for Life, we convened leaders from Newman Guide

Recommended colleges for our annual Presidents Meeting in Washington, D.C. Thanks for making it such a success, by your prayers and contributions!



The presidents addressed key topics facing U.S. Catholic higher education, with public policy experts from the U.S. Department of Education and our host The Heritage Foundation, America's leading policy think tank.



We also invited major apostolate leaders—including Curtis Martin of FOCUS, Edward Barrett-Shortt of *The Catholic Herald*, and many more—for a special leadership training program sponsored by Eugene Wallace and Family Business Advisors. They heard from speakers including Kevin Roberts of The Heritage Foundation, theologian Dr. Michael Waldstein, and Richard Todd and Sarah Newman of Innovest, investment advisors who support Catholic values.



With your support, these Newman Guide Network meetings strengthen collaboration among leaders and advance our shared mission to promote and defend faithful education.

Stories that inspire: our Newman Guide Podcast reaches families nationwide

Thanks to your generosity, The Cardinal Newman Society Podcast is **reaching thousands of listeners hungry for truth**. Recent episodes (on our website) include:

- The powerful story of Thomas Vander Woude—a father who moved his family so his children could attend faithful Catholic schools and ultimately gave his life saving his son with Down syndrome. The cause for sainthood of this Seton School and Christendom College coach is being explored.
- A timely chat with Fr. Charles Sikorsky of Divine Mercy University on mental health crises and how faithful Catholic psychology brings healing and hope.



These interviews form minds and hearts and introduce families to The Newman Guide. Please subscribe to our podcast, and share the episodes with others!

Defending religious freedom in the courts

Your support for The Cardinal Newman Society is also at work in the courtroom.



On Feb. 16, we joined several Christian education groups in filing an *amicus brief* at the U.S. Supreme Court. We're asking the Court to reverse a decision by the Oregon Department of Education to strip funding from a Christian organization, simply because it maintains religious hiring standards.

Our brief in *Youth 71Five Ministries v. Williams* argues that such actions violate the First Amendment and threaten religious education nationwide.

We are currently involved in six more cases at the Supreme Court and lower federal courts that could shape Catholic education for generations.

Religious freedom is not theoretical. It determines whether faithful schools can hire faithful teachers, and you are defending that freedom with your support. Thank you!

National publications put spotlight on accreditation program

EWTN News and *National Catholic Register* published articles in February interviewing our senior fellow Dr. Dan Guernsey on The Cardinal Newman Society's acquisition of NAPCIS, a streamlined, low-cost accreditation integrated with The Newman Guide.



The *Register* calls NAPCIS “**a single, powerful validation for schools seeking to prove to parents both their academic excellence and their authentic Catholic mission.**” EWTN News says, “the new accreditation program will accelerate Catholic education reform and help support Catholic families to pass on the faith.”



These articles are evidence that your generous support is having real impact—and it's getting national attention! Thank you for doing so much for Catholic families.

Also in other news...

Thanks to you, The Cardinal Newman Society has been featured many other times in the news this past quarter. Here are just a few highlights:

- CatholicVote celebrated the 2025-26 Newman Guide with an article describing the Guide as “a popular asset used by Catholic parents looking to choose education options that support rather than undermine their students’ faith.”
- Newman Guide editor Kelly Salomon was interviewed by Spirit Catholic Radio, Relevant Radio’s *Trending With Timmerie*, and Station of the Cross Radio’s *The Catholic Current*, plus her weekly spot on Teresa Tomeo’s *Catholic Connection*.
- In her CrisisMagazine.com article on Catholic college closings, Anne Hendershott of Franciscan University cites my warning that “lukewarm” Catholic colleges “don’t appeal to faithful Catholics any more than they appeal to the ‘nones.’”
- Our summer intern Teagan Byrne’s outstanding article “In Praise of Single-Sex Dormitories” at CatholicWorldReport.com is the sort of courageous stand for the Faith that we want every young Catholic to take—and it’s thanks to you that Teagan and three other students could intern with us. *Deo gratias!*