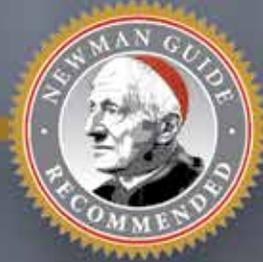


# OUR CATHOLIC MISSION

TRUTH AND FIDELITY IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

WINTER 2026



## STATE OF THE CATHOLIC CHILD

- The Changing Catholic Family
- Fighting Social Media's Grip
- Increasing Access to Faithful Education

# EDUCATION ROOTED IN THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH

*As educators, the Abbey offers a classical education for undergraduate students through our Honors College, as well as a graduate-level program for you!*

## OUR HONORS COLLEGE

Our Honors College located near beautiful Charlotte, North Carolina is more than just a four-year curriculum; it is an all-encompassing journey to discover the world through a critical eye, to study the Great Books and their impact on the world, and to prepare for a future that focuses on goodness and beauty.

## OUR CLASSICAL MASTERS

For educators, our Master of Arts in Classical and Liberal Education offers an unparalleled opportunity to impact future generations. In our program you'll find a transformative learning experience that will prepare you to form students in the moral, intellectual, and theological virtues.



Belmont Abbey  
COLLEGE



Dear friend in Catholic education,

We don't mean to depress anyone.

Instead, by facing the threats to young people and their families head on—not least by proposing faithful Newman Guide Recommended education as a lifeline and vital component of the New Evangelization—we have great hope for the future!

It's clear, however, that Catholics cannot afford to operate with a business-as-usual mindset. Our kids are at stake. Their souls are at stake.

In this issue of *Our Catholic Mission*, we tackle some of the most pressing issues facing Catholic families and, therefore, of great importance to Catholic educators:

- **The changing Catholic family:** amid the “educational emergency” declared by Pope Benedict, in which young people do not know God and His reality in all creation and reject the Church and the Sacraments, even young Catholics are abandoned to the world, void of grace and knowledge.
- **Fighting social media's grip:** Although technology can be used for great good, young people are being drawn into sloth and sin. Faithful Catholic education can teach them to be its master.
- **The threat of AI to the human person:** Artificial intelligence can also be used for good, but it can be corrosive to education and the formation of young people. There's a better way: stay the course.
- **Increasing access to faithful education:** We've heard it often—Catholic families can't afford Catholic education. But we're finding ways, through The Newman Guide, to support affordable options while ensuring that Catholic families have access to school choice funds.
- **The continued impact of gender ideology:** Despite some welcome pushback in our society against radical gender ideology, it's still pressed upon young people through education and media. Faithful Catholic education provides a vital “safe space” for healthy formation.

You have our pledge to fight harder than ever for our children and young adults, and we ask you to keep fighting with us. We are blessed by the intercession of our patron, St. John Henry Cardinal Newman, now Doctor of the Church and Patron of Catholic Education. May he continue to pray for this work, that his vision for a complete education might be fulfilled.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Patrick Reilly  
President and Founder  
The Cardinal Newman Society



SCAN TO DONATE

# THE CHANGING

A photograph of a man and a young boy sitting on a wooden church bench, viewed from behind. They are looking towards an ornate, brightly lit altar area. The man is wearing a dark blue denim shirt, and the boy is wearing a dark blue t-shirt. The background is filled with golden light and architectural details of the church interior.

# CATHOLIC FAMILY

by Patrick Reilly

Parents are the primary educators of their children, as is repeatedly asserted in Vatican documents. Parents are not only the first educators in a child's lifetime, but they are also most important at every stage of a child's formation.

Everything in Catholic education, then, depends on the health of the family. But tragically, the American family is not well, and Catholic children are suffering the consequences.

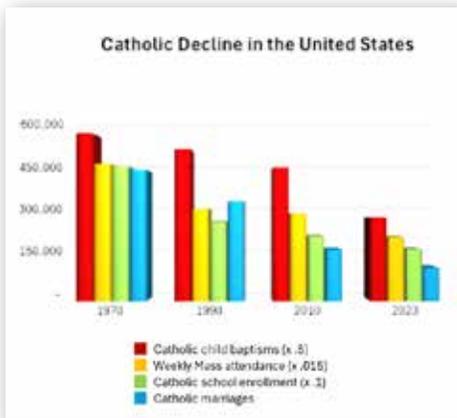
Restoring the family and rebuilding a culture that properly nurtures children requires at least a kernel of faithful Catholic education. Our patron, St. John Henry Newman, knew the importance of forming faithful, rational, and virtuous laypeople.

For this, we have the example of Newman Guide Recommended schools, homeschool programs, colleges, and graduate programs. Their leaders exhibit the dogged determination and faithful trust in Providence that sustained the 19th-century founders of parochial schools—St. John Neumann, St. Katharine Drexel, and many other heroes of Catholic education.

## Family in crisis

One recent sign of trouble in the family is the plummeting number of Catholic baptisms of children. From 2010 to 2023, child baptisms dropped 37 percent, according to the Official Catholic Directory. Since 1970, when 1.09 million children were cleansed of original sin and welcomed into the Church, the number of baptisms has dropped by half.

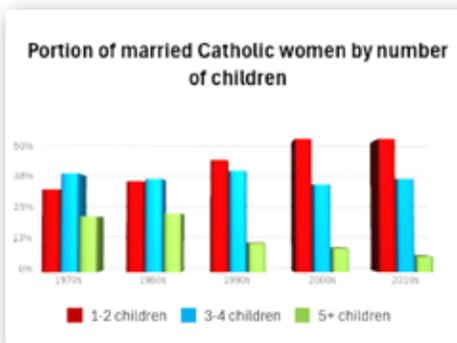
This is a natural consequence of the marriage decline that likewise began in the 1970s. Catholic marriages declined 74 percent from 1970 to 2023.



Consider that for a moment! Only about one-fourth as many Catholics get married in the Church today, relative to 1970. To call it a “marriage crisis” seems an understatement.

Did you know that, without immigration, the Church in the U.S. would be disappearing quickly? It may seem a consolation that the number of adult Catholics in America has increased more than 40 percent since 1970 because of new immigrants, but it only puts the family crisis in a worse light. Adjusted for the total number of Catholics in 1970, the marriage rate has actually declined 82 percent and the baptism rate 64 percent in a little more than five decades.

Another factor is the shrinking size of those Catholic families that remain intact. In the 1970s, fewer than a third of Catholic women who had ever been married had one or two children, and 21 percent had five or more (General Social Survey). But in the last decade (2010-2019), only 6 percent of ever-married Catholic women had five or more children, and fully half had just one or two. There are many factors impacting this, including higher costs of child rearing, but surely contraceptive use, abortion, divorce, and cultural biases against large families are also to blame.

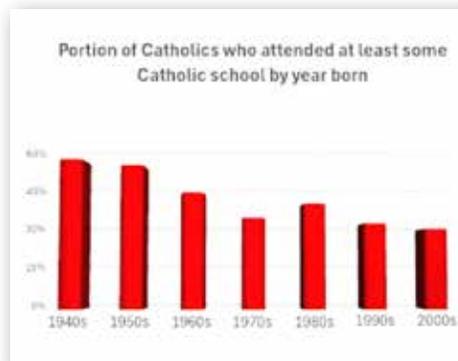


The total fertility rate for U.S. Catholics in 2024 was about 2.2, according to Pew Research—just under the rate for Evangelical Protestants and far below the rate needed for the Catholic Church to grow, given massive numbers of young Catholics leaving the Church every year.

### Education of children

Amid fewer marriages, fewer children, and fewer baptisms, we also see fewer Catholics educated in the Faith.

More than half of Catholics born in the 1940s attended Catholic schools, The Pillar reports. But as of 2021, only 29 percent of Catholics born in the 2010s had ever enrolled in a Catholic school.



It’s astonishing: in the 40 years leading up to 1960, Catholic school enrollment nearly tripled to more than 5 million students (NCEA). Now, 65 years later, enrollment has dropped more than two-thirds to well below the count in 1920. All that work, all those prayers and donations have been erased, and young Catholics are further separated from the Church than they were before the rise of parochial education.

Fewer than 10 percent of Millennials (born 1982-2005) attend weekly Mass, compared to more than 55 percent of the Silent Generation (born 1925-1942), according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. Mass attendance declines to about 4 percent for Millennials who have never attended a Catholic school.

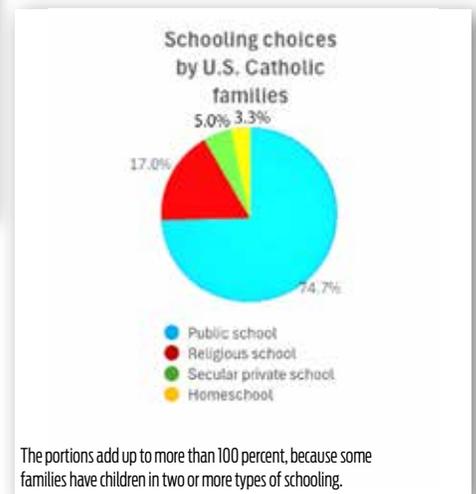
If there’s a lesson to learn from all this, it’s that the Church had it right all along. Yet today, few parents realize and even fewer pastors remind them that it’s their solemn duty to provide a truly Catholic education to their children.

“Parents are to entrust their children to those schools which provide a Catholic education. If they are unable to do this, they are obliged to take care that suitable Catholic education is provided for their children outside the schools” (Canon 798).

Clergy “have the duty of arranging everything so that all the faithful have a Catholic education” (Canon 794).

How, then, is it that the vast majority of Catholic children and young adults today attend secular schools and universities?

In 2024, 81 percent of Catholic families with children said they chose public schools, and another 5.4 percent had kids in secular private schools, according to the American National Election Studies. Just 18.4 percent chose private religious schools—hopefully, most of them Catholic schools.



On the other hand, how is it that many parents who are serious about Catholic education have difficulty finding schools and colleges that are both academically strong and faithful to their mission?

Increasingly, Catholic parents are finding their own solutions when Catholic schools don’t measure up. In 2024, 3.6 percent of Catholic families chose to homeschool—not nearly the rate of Protestants who homeschool (7.8 percent), but still a growing sector.

### The Newman Guide Solution

Catholic homeschoolers and Catholic school students make up an outsized portion of students attending Newman Guide Recommended colleges. That’s

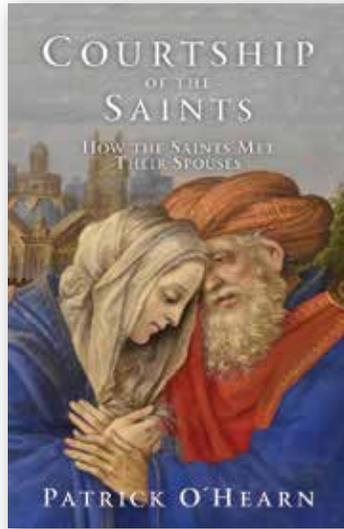
good news! Amid the Church's decline, The Newman Guide offers hope for a better future.

Even as parochial school enrollment slides, there is a revival of faithful Catholic education among many Mass-attending, traditional Catholic families. And even though many Catholic schools and colleges still strive to attract a population that has little interest in authentic Catholic formation, others are succeeding and growing by doubling down on their mission.

In 2024, The Cardinal Newman Society reported impressive rates of married alumni who met their spouses while attending Newman Guide institutions, including 30 percent at Wyoming Catholic College, 29 percent at Thomas Aquinas College, 28 percent at Christendom College, 25 percent at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College in Canada, and 25 percent at ITI Catholic University in Austria.

“Attending a Newman Guide Recommended college—with its

“THE MARRIAGE RATE HAS ACTUALLY DECLINED 82 PERCENT AND THE BAPTISM RATE 64 PERCENT IN A LITTLE MORE THAN FIVE DECADES.”



promotion of the sacramental life, faithfulness to the Magisterium, and flowering of Catholic culture—increases grace in one's soul but also increases one's odds to find a holy spouse,” argued Patrick O’Hearn, author of *Courtship of the Saints: How the Saints Met their Spouses*.

As we celebrated last month on the Feast of the Holy Family, even Jesus Christ was born of a mother and raised by a foster father. He was educated in the home and, probably, by a nearby rabbi, sanctifying the family and formation by an education deeply rooted in the truths of God.

Newman Guide education is a return to what is natural and right. May God continue to bless it for the good of the Church, of families, and of young Catholics who deserve faithful Catholic education.

OCM

**PATRICK REILLY**  
is president and founder of  
The Cardinal Newman Society.



**Catholic International University**

**100% ONLINE**

**100% CATHOLIC**

**GET YOUR DEGREE ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.**

[WWW.CATHOLICIU.EDU/NEWMAN](http://WWW.CATHOLICIU.EDU/NEWMAN)

Early College, Undergraduate & Graduate Programs

# Fighting social media's grip

by Kelly Salomon

## What issues are young people struggling with today?

According to one Catholic school principal, “loneliness, anxiety, identity confusion, and a loss of meaning and purpose.”

“They don’t know God nor seek Him, because they are bombarded with messages from social media that promise fulfillment, happiness, and self-worth,” said Christina Mehaffey, principal of Faustina Academy in Irving, Texas. “Many are growing up in a culture that normalizes sin, broken relationships, encourages self-indulgence, and often mocks faith, purity, and sacrifice.”



Christina Mehaffey

“They are also burdened by intense performance pressure—to achieve, impress, and align themselves with influencers—without a clear understanding of who they are before God,” Mehaffey continued.

“We also see a great deal of moral and spiritual confusion: about what love truly is, what the human person is made for, and what leads to real freedom and happiness. The result is often discouragement, restlessness, and a sense of being alone,” she said.

### Faustina Academy limits screentime

In 2023, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy reported that up to 95 percent of young people ages 13-17 use a social media platform. For those using social media for more than the average three hours per day, their risk of symptoms of depression and anxiety doubles.

What will be the long-term effects of smartphones, social media, and screen time on the youth of our country? Faustina Academy isn’t waiting to find out.

Faustina Academy, a Newman Guide Recommended school focused on Catholic formation, is taking a proactive approach to technology. Students are not permitted to carry or access smartphones during the school day. They also may not have social media accounts on Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, and other platforms.

This is a revolutionary approach, but Mehaffey believes it is critical to the mission of the school.

“We intentionally educate and inform families about the neurological, emo-

#### NOTE:

By signing this Enrollment Contract and the accompanying letter for the coming academic year, you agree to accept and uphold the policies, rules, and regulations of Faustina Academy as stated in the Student-Parent Handbook and the Enrollment Contract Letter.

You are committing to help us keep all children in our care protected, safe, and pure by:

- Staying informed about current technology, apps, social-media platforms, and entertainment trends
- Attending the informational meetings held at the school on these topics

All enrolled students may not have active accounts on any social-media apps tied to porn-connected platforms, including Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok OR Capcut. This policy applies year-round, including holidays, school breaks, and summers.

We will comply with the social-media policy and all school policies.

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

We understand that failure to comply with this policy, or any other school policy, may require us to seek other school options.

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_



tional, and spiritual effects of smartphone and social-media use, and parents commit—through the enrollment contract—to uphold these expectations consistently at home,” she explained.

“This issue is vital because it connects directly to our mission: leading souls to Heaven,” Mehaffey said. “If we are truly committed to this mission, then social media and digital addiction cannot be part of our students’ daily lives.”

“It is impossible for young people to consistently seek the Good, the True, and the Beautiful, while being bombarded—after school hours—with conflicting, confusing, and often harmful messages on screens. Such exposure can quickly unravel the formation, clarity, and virtue we work so intentionally to cultivate during the school day.”

The policy has had “a transformational impact” on the school culture, Mehaffey said.

“Without smartphones or social-media distractions, students are more present, focused, confident, and engaged. They form deeper friendships, participate

more fully in academic and spiritual life, and experience noticeably reduced anxiety and comparison pressure,” explained Mehaffey.

“Teachers report richer discussions, stronger attention spans, and a more peaceful classroom environment, while parents express gratitude that their children are growing in a community grounded in real relationships and authentic formation.”

“FOR THOSE USING SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE THAN THE AVERAGE THREE HOURS PER DAY, THEIR RISK OF SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY DOUBLES.”

### St. Rita School's family pledge

Another Newman Guide Recommended school that is devoted to the Catholic, integral formation of students in a tech-obsessed world is St. Rita Catholic School in Alexandria, Virginia.

As at St. Faustina's, there wasn't a problem with technology use during school hours. It was what was happening with technology outside of school hours that was raising an alarm for the school's principal and teachers.

Teachers “noticed how many students were discussing social media, spoke about cyberbullying,” explained Malia Busekrus, principal of St. Rita. Through her own research for her graduate school work, Busekrus learned more about the negative effects of smartphone use on young people—and how little parents are educated on the topic.



Malia Busekrus

“Through my research, I discovered

that the ‘gap in the literature’ was that parents didn’t understand the complexities of what their kids are dealing with when they are using devices. What’s missing? Parent information, formation, and the role of parental guidance in managing device use,” Busekrus said.

Through the dedication of the school leadership, passionate teachers, and committed families, the school began educating families about the dangers of smartphone use and social media for young people:

- The school hosted speakers like Peter Ryan, co-founder of the Center for Responsible Technology, to present to parents at back-to-school night.
- Book clubs for parents of students in grades K-3 and 4-8 discussed books like *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*.
- The school community was invited to join the “Diocesan-Wide Day to Unplug” from devices.
- The school also learned from national movements like the “Wait Until 8th” pledge, in which families delay smartphone use until at least the end of 8th grade.

An entirely new initiative at St. Rita’s was born: “Real Presence Collective: An Incarnational Approach to Friendship, Family, and the Good Life.” The Collective is an optional community for St. Rita families who pledge that their children will not have smartphones or social media while a student at St. Rita School. The school pledges to continue guiding families on this topic and providing resources, activities, and events for the community. So far, 100 students and their families have pledged to the Real Presence Collective.

The Collective isn’t simply a

“rejection of smartphones” but a “joyful affirmation of what it means to live the good life.” Activities for students through the collective include a fall festival, pumpkin carving, laser tag, trivia, and book club.

“This initiative responds to a pressing cultural challenge that threatens the social, emotional, and spiritual well-being of our children, a challenge which undermines their innocence and contributes to scientifically evidenced mental health issues and social struggles,” the philosophy statement states.

“By fostering a real community of like-minded families committed to this goal, we aim to create an environment where students are free to develop authentic relationships with God and others, cultivate imagination, and focus on the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty.”

**Real Presence Collective: The Pledge**

**The Challenge**  
It is no secret that smartphones and other personal, internet capable devices have been the cause of an enormous amount of harm to young people, including anxiety and depression, stunted interpersonal capabilities, exposure to harmful, online content, and more (see e.g. *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt). Despite the overwhelming evidence of the damage that these devices are causing to our children and society, valid concerns of social isolation drive many parents into purchasing them for their children. We know that this is not the solution, however, and parents continue their individual searches for the best ways to enable their children to become the well-adjusted, joyful, fully-alive men and women that God created them to be.

**The Invitation**  
St. Rita School invites its parents to come together to begin to answer this problem via **The Real Presence Collective: An Incarnational Approach to Friendship, Family, and the Good Life**. Interested families are invited to pledge to forgo giving their child(ren) a personal, internet capable device as well as allowing personal social media accounts while at St. Rita. In return, St. Rita School pledges to enable incarnational – in the flesh! – opportunities for these families to engage with and support each other in this worthy endeavor.

**The Pledge**  
Desiring a community culture that sets the stage for our children to:

- Be really present to themselves, to others, to the world, and to God
- Freely cultivate faith, wisdom, and virtue
- Explore, appreciate, and enjoy the beauty of creation
- Learn and grow in friendship with others through healthy, in-person relationships
- Enjoy high quality leisure time with family
- Develop interests and skills in the real world
- Maintain innocence appropriate to their age and stage of development, gradually growing in Christian maturity under the guidance of parents and teachers

... and recognizing the way in which personal internet capable devices and social media negatively impact children, including:

- Stealing time away from play, exploration, and discovery
- Shortening attention spans
- Distorting social and familial relationships
- Increasing anxiety and depression
- Reducing motivation to act in the real world
- Providing exposure to negative and inappropriate content

*I pledge my commitment to a childhood free of personal, internet capable devices and social media accounts for my children while at St. Rita School.*

Parent name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the following email to contact me: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) and grade(s) of my child(ren):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in planning Real Presence events:

Yes

Not at this time

## Colleges address technology issues

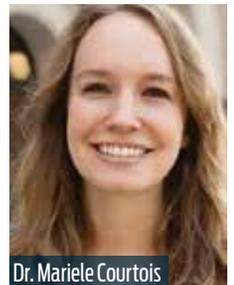
Newman Guide Recommended colleges also stand out for their courageous efforts to address modern challenges. For instance, many block pornography on campus wi-fi and provide resources to help students fight and heal from pornography addictions.

Wyoming Catholic College’s no cell-phone policy frees students from virtual distractions and offers them the freedom for real, in-person connections in the classroom, cafeteria, and dorm room.

Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan., recently launched a new Center for Technology and Human Dignity in response to Pope Leo XIV’s call to address the rise of artificial intelligence.

“The Center offers a Catholic lens through which to evaluate emerging technologies,” explained Dr. Mariele Courtois, the Center’s director.

“Our Catholic college is able to engage the unique resources of its faculty, staff, and programs to draw from the insights and rigor of various disciplines—from computer science, to engineering, to philosophy and theology—to grapple with how to direct technology to ethical practices while also determining when to limit technology use in light of higher goals for human life, namely to care for our relationships with God and other people,” Courtois said.



While educating students about artificial intelligence, Benedictine College is also helping students foster a healthy relationship with technology.

“Benedictine College values authentic human experiences: meaningful relationships, commitment to service, a pursuit of excellence, and a heart that seeks to love like Christ,” Courtois said. “These values help to form consciences and avoid distractions and manipulations from technology that can interfere with living one’s vocation.”

## Teaching family values

Beyond the crisis of smartphone and technology addiction, Newman Guide Recommended colleges are addressing the collapse of a proper understanding of man, woman, marriage, family, and human sexuality.

For example, fewer high school girls than ever plan to marry and have children, according to the Pew Research Center. In 1993, 80 percent of 12th grade girls planned to get married someday, but today only 67 percent plan to do so. If they do get married, only about 50 percent of 12th grade girls and boys plan to have children.

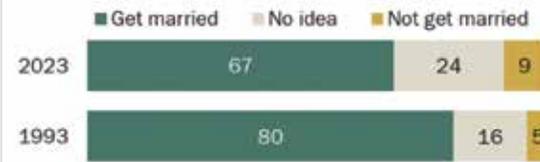
Fortunately, there are efforts like the Institute for the Study of Man and Woman at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, which offers research and education from a Catholic perspective on the value of marriage and the blessing of children. The University of St. Thomas in Houston recently launched a Graduate Certificate in Sexuality and Gender that teaches the Catholic understanding of the human person for professionals in education, ministry, healthcare, and more.

Christendom College in Front Royal, Va., is offering a new free, online Theology of the Body course with Professor Mary Stanford in response to some of the most pressing cultural challenges, including gender ideology, sexual confusion, widespread loneliness, and moral uncertainty.

“A young person who takes this course and discovers the Catholic view of theology of the body will come away with a deeper understanding of themselves as a man or woman, along with the anthropological and spiritual insights that lead to healthy relationships,” explained Niall O’Donnell, the College’s vice president for communications and marketing. “They will grow in their ability to understand the opposite sex, cultivate authentic friendship, and prepare for their vocation—whether that is marriage, priesthood, or religious life. The wisdom of John Paul II is a gift for anyone seeking clarity, confidence, and direction in a confusing world.”

### 12th graders are less likely than in the past to say they want to marry someday

% of 12th graders saying they are most likely to choose to \_\_\_ in the long run



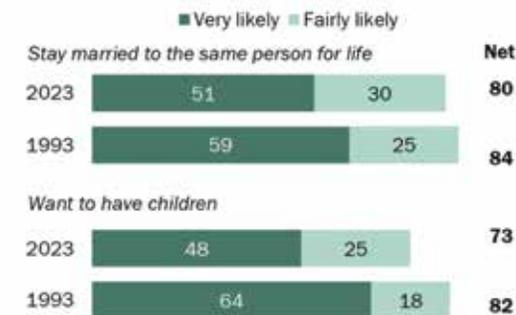
Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding. 12th graders who say they are already married (<0.5%) are excluded from this analysis.

Source: Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of American Youth (12th-Grade Survey), 1993 and 2023.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

### About half of 12th graders say it's very likely they'll want kids if they marry

% of 12th graders saying, if they did get married (or are married), it is very or fairly likely they would ...



Note: Other response options include "Uncertain," "Fairly unlikely" and "Very unlikely." Figures may not add to subtotals due to rounding. 12th graders who say they already have children (<0.5%) are excluded from this analysis.

Source: Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of American Youth (12th-Grade Survey), 1993 and 2023.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

O’Donnell says free online courses and the College’s commitment to the Catholic faith and liberal education can help many people beyond campus: “The Catholic intellectual tradition, expressed through the timeless liberal arts, offers profound beauty and wisdom to those asking life’s deepest questions: Is there a better way to live? What is my purpose? Am I prepared for the future?”

For students on campus, the impact is even greater.

“Through the study of philosophy, theology, literature, and history, students receive the principles and formation that sustain them throughout life,” said O’Donnell. Students thrive “where a close-knit academic community and dedicated staff and faculty mentors walk with students during one of the most important stages of their growth.”

Here is the wisdom in St. John Henry Cardinal Newman’s insistence on education that embraces the truths of our Catholic faith. In faithful Catholic education, there is no separation between life and learning, morality and academics, or technology and humanity. Newman Guide Recommended education leads to greater joy in the hope of Christ and healthier lifestyles, changing the habits and priorities of its students. **OCM**

**KELLY SALOMON**  
is vice president of  
Newman Guide Programs  
at The Cardinal  
Newman Society.



ksalomon@cardinalnewmansociety.org

## Summary of a few Newman Guide Recommended College Initiatives:

- Wyoming Catholic College’s Technology Policy includes no cell phones or handheld devices with wireless or cellular data on campus.
- Benedictine College launches a new Center for Technology and Human Dignity.
- Franciscan University of Steubenville offers the Institute for the Study of Man and Woman.
- University of St. Thomas in Houston offers a Graduate Certificate in Sexuality and Gender.
- Christendom College offers a free, online Theology of the Body course.

# CNS FIGHTS FOR ACCESS

## NEW ACCREDITING PROGRAM FOR NEWMAN

To help ensure Catholic families' access to quality, faithful Catholic education, The Cardinal Newman Society has acquired a formal accrediting program for Newman Guide Recommended schools.

Every Catholic family deserves opportunities for Catholic education. The formation of the human person to know, love, and serve God is central to a Christian life.

Cost, however, is often a barrier to Catholic education. So is the lack of supply: many families today have difficulty finding quality education that serves their particular needs and is faithful to its Catholic mission.

The Cardinal Newman Society has long helped families find faithful schools and colleges. Now CNS will provide formal accreditation, giving families assurance of a Newman Guide Recommended school's viability and quality while opening the door to school choice funding in many states.

CNS has acquired the National Association of Private Catholic and Independent Schools (NAPCIS), which for 30 years has served the growing number of independent, lay-run schools devoted to Catholic formation. NAPCIS has been a key leader in the renewal of Catholic education, contributing to the growing diversity of options for Catholic families.

Now, as a Cardinal Newman Society subsidiary, NAPCIS continues to provide low-cost, non-intrusive accreditation that is newly integrated with our Newman Guide review process. The

87 NAPCIS member schools, serving 12,800 students, will achieve both Newman Guide Recommended status and NAPCIS accreditation. Soon, all other Newman Guide Recommended schools will also have the option of NAPCIS accreditation, and any other school seeking accreditation will be required to also achieve Newman Guide recognition.

NAPCIS accreditation assures the general public, and Catholic families in particular, of the faithful Catholic formation, academic quality, and operational health of Newman Guide Recommended schools. While Newman Guide standards emphasize what is most important about Catholic education, accreditation also considers the practical aspects of a school's operation and academic quality.

“NAPCIS ACCREDITATION WILL HELP ENSURE THAT FAMILIES CHOOSING FAITHFUL NEWMAN GUIDE EDUCATION WILL BE ABLE TO AFFORD IT.”

spread to most states.

NAPCIS accreditation, then, will help ensure that families choosing faithful Newman Guide education will be able to afford it.

Moreover, NAPCIS accreditation will help strengthen Newman Guide Recommended schools, ensuring that faithful schools are available to Catholic families. Our unique program will never waver from The Cardinal Newman Society's focus on Catholic formation.

Finally, NAPCIS accreditation will be a great benefit to faithful schools and an incentive to achieve Newman Guide recognition, thus helping CNS increase the number of faithful schools recommended to families in The Newman Guide. Usually, accreditation is an expensive, intrusive, and bu-

### School choice opportunities

But how will NAPCIS improve families' access to faithful education?

With regard to cost, 36 states now have some form of school choice program, and the Trump administration has championed a federal tax credit to support student scholarships. At least 14 states require accreditation for a school to receive school choice funds, and experts predict the accreditation mandate will soon



Promoting and Defending Faithful Catholic Education

# TO FAITHFUL EDUCATION GUIDE RECOMMENDED SCHOOLS

reaucratic process, and it has prevented some schools from applying for Newman Guide recognition. Our low-cost, streamlined accreditation will be integrated with the Newman Guide evaluation.

Dr. Dan Guernsey, senior fellow of The Cardinal Newman Society for more than a decade and director of Ave Maria University's Master's in Catholic Educational Leadership, is the new executive director of NAPCIS. Dr. Denise Donohue, our vice president of educator resources and evaluation and also an 11-year employee of CNS, chairs the new NAPCIS board, which also includes attorney Quentin Fairchild and expert Catholic educator Michael Van Hecke.

"Our goal is to make faithful accreditation simpler, more affordable, and more impactful—helping schools live out their Catholic mission with confidence and joy," Guernsey said in a press release announcing the program.

## Trump Scholarship Tax Credits

The Cardinal Newman Society is also fighting to ensure that Catholic families have full access to school choice programs like the federal tax credits for scholarships included in President Trump's One, Big, Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA).

In the final law, the Senate removed lan-

guage explicitly protecting the religious freedom of schools receiving scholarship funds. So when the Internal Revenue Service invited comments to help it develop regulations implementing the program, The Cardinal Newman Society responded strongly.



Bob Laird, senior counselor to the president of CNS and editor of our *Newman Guide Defender* e-newsletter on religious freedom matters, studied the new federal program, consulted with attorneys at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and allied organizations, and submitted the comment to the IRS just before Christmas.

"School choice is especially important to Catholic families and Catholic education," we reminded the Administration.

"...Public policy has effectively coerced Catholic families into public schools that reject truths of God and the Catholic faith. This is not the religious freedom promised by the First Amendment."

We urged the IRS to explicitly state in the regulations that scholarships must be available for religious education and must accommodate religious schools if any scholarship requirement conflicts with a school's "religious beliefs, morals, practices, or heritage." In addition, we urged the IRS to prevent States from imposing laws or regulations that interfere with the religious mission of schools receiving scholarship funds.

Moreover, we noted that the OBBBA does not define what it means by an eligible "public, private, or religious school." This is a problem because many states refuse to include homeschooling and other options within their definition of "school." We urged the IRS to clearly define "school" to include "any program of formal education that is legally permitted in the State in which it occurs."



At the OBBBA signing ceremony, President Trump said, "This is about educational freedom. The money should follow the child—not be trapped in failing government schools." CNS is fighting to ensure this principle is upheld for all Catholic families. **OCM**



# YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

FEEDING STUDENTS TRUTH  
AND REASON, NOT  
ULTRA-PROCESSED AI

by Dan Guernsey, ED. D

**THE** state of American children's bodily, spiritual, and intellectual health is not good. Today 20 percent of children and adolescents are obese (up from 5 percent in 1978). Forty percent of adolescents report persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness (up from 10 percent in 2015). Only 25 percent of teens describe religion as "very important" to them. Standardized test scores remain on a long and continued decline, with 45 percent of 12th graders performing below basic proficiency.

To ensure the bodily, spiritual, and intellectual health of our children, we need to pay attention to what they are consuming.

One culprit behind obesity and other food-related health challenges in our children is ultra-processed foods. These are factory-made foods, engineered to be convenient, tasty, and have a long shelf-life. They have chemically modified ingredients, artificial colors, and flavor enhancers. (Snack foods like chips are a prime example.) Many parents have grown in awareness of the dangers of ultra-processed packaged food and fast food, and they are ensuring that natural and whole foods are the bulk of their children's diets.

Likewise, more parents are growing aware of the harm done to the souls and relationships of children by too much screen time. Not only does too much screen time hurt bodily health by trapping kids indoors as passive consumers, but the online products they are consuming are also now ultra-processed by design, to keep them engaged. Studies from the National Institutes of Health show high amounts of screen time worsen negative cognitive and behavioral outcomes. For example, 6- to 7-year-olds who spend more than two hours a day on screen are more likely to have deficits in overall IQ, problem solving skills, and attention span. They found a link between 9- to 10-year-olds who play video games and are later diagnosed with obsessive compulsive disorder.

Addictive AI-juiced dopamine hits are served up to our kids constantly, reducing the need (and rich opportunity) to ever be bored or daydream. Like ultra-processed food, this entertainment

is engineered with artificial enhancers to keep kids consuming non-stop. This can make reading books, conversation with adults, prayer, and dwelling in silence or in uncertainty seem unnaturally painful, when in fact they are all keys to personal wellbeing and growth. Introducing better, more intense, more personally generated distraction—algorithmically generated to make others money—into the life of a child is a problem of modern life.

One of the best decisions my wife and I made as parents to our now six grown children was to keep computer games to a minimum and not allow them smart phones until their senior year in high school. This is the best single piece of parenting advice I can give young parents.

The latest ultra-processed challenge to our kids' wellbeing is Artificial Intelligence (AI). As ultra-processed food and ultra-processed screen entertainment have harmed young people's physical and spiritual wellbeing, artificial intelligence threatens their natural intelligence and must be better understood and guarded against.

### Natural intelligence, not AI

In trying to discern necessary modifications or restrictions to a child's intellectual diet, it is important to consider the bigger question in child formation: The question is not, "Is AI helpful or not?" The bigger question is, "What am I trying to accomplish in the formation of this child?"

“THE LATEST  
ULTRA-PROCESSED  
CHALLENGE TO OUR  
KIDS' WELLBEING  
IS ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE (AI)”

In the Greco-Roman tradition (aka classical or liberal arts education), the goals of education were consistent: to produce a good person who would also be a good citizen. A broad education was delivered by teachers who modeled and demanded virtue, clear thought, and eloquent expression through reflection on the best knowledge and beauty the culture had access to. To this, Catholic education added the salvation of the student, service to the common good, and the evangelization of culture.

With these goals in mind, we can consider the role of AI in the intellectual formation of our children—a role which is complicated by the fact that AI is a direct competitor for a child's future income and employment, and all that entails. A recent report by McKinsey suggests that 40 percent of jobs could be lost to AI in the near term. These are mostly jobs in analysis, office support, programmers, translators, factories, warehousing, dangerous jobs, etc. The most secure future jobs are those involving human care,



empathy, and creative dexterity that machines struggle to imitate. Presumably safe are jobs in unpredictable environments that demand quick flexibility, decisive thinking, and deep intuitive creativity.

So how do we create AI anti-fragile people? Well, not through more AI. We need to dig deeper into our own natural intelligence (NI), which comes from, through, and with other humans.

Natural intelligence is our competitive advantage and our human glory. It resides in the unified person of the student: a specific rational individual with a will, who is a unity of body, mind, and spirit. Developing NI is a transformational and not a transactional process. A machine, without will or reason and with only mathematical algorithms, is not suited for developing these elements and can only engender cynicism toward learning. We are truth-seeking creatures, surrounded with the artificial. In the end, humans do not crave efficiency or perfection; we crave the presence and support of other humans and truth.

This is why God chose to become one of us. We are wired for each other and reach God through His own humanity in Jesus Christ. Our survival now and in the future depends on each other—as it always has and always will. AI, at its best, mathematically simulates a caring human person, and while we delusional humans can try to pretend it cares, our needs run too deep.

## Preserving human formation

On the intellectual level, there is no way for humans to outsource the development of our critical thinking skills, just as we cannot outsource muscle development. We must work from within, guided by human experts who love us. Plato likened the teacher to a midwife, and St. Thomas Aquinas likened the teacher to a doctor. Both understood that a teacher should focus on the interaction between the student's intellect and the truth, with the student's mind being made for the truth and finding its wholeness, healing, and natural end in it. The teacher facilitates nature taking her course in education. A student submitting AI-generated work or projects is useless and harmful, just as is submitting someone else's lab tests in pursuit of health.

There is no way to skip the need for the human mind to be filled with memorized knowledge and equipped with an internal system for storing, retrieving, and analyzing that knowledge. One does not obtain valid internal abilities to analyze and evaluate, without first internalizing knowledge and relationships surrounding the thing under consideration. AI can fill the mind at the surface level or produce artifacts the user can mistake for or pass off as his own, but knowledge does not come from mere seeing or acquirement. Intellectual self-possession is the work of discipline and habit and best acquired from engaging human mentors.

Finally, we need thinkers independent of AI crutches or scaffolding who can walk and stand on their own as deeply reflective and contemplative thinkers. AI does not have access to the human soul, and a human soul surrounded by too much AI or AI of the wrong type “raises troubling questions on its possible repercussions on humanity's openness to truth and beauty, on our distinctive ability to grasp and process reality,” according to Pope Leo XIV. A human who is in full possession of their soul and able to share insights and depth with others is an unmatched force in the world. Anything that prevents a child from that hard and deep soul-work should be cleared aside, sometimes temporarily leaving spaces of boredom, frustration, and even pain—but such is the human canvas of genius and creativity.

The goal should be to keep student formation and education natural and human. Students need to gain facility in drawing, sketching, building things with their own hands, and figuring things out with their own mind, wits, and humor. A quick and exciting/funny artifact, project, or paper made by AI may distract or impress for a moment, but that is not what truly interests the teacher, or indeed most students, who will naturally grow in longing for things they or their friends can really do and make with their own hearts, minds, and hands. They need plenty of unscripted and minimally supervised play with other students on the playground—even though much play is yelling and arguing over rules. It is what little humans do to grow in rela-





“WE NEED THINKERS INDEPENDENT OF AI CRUTCHES OR SCAFFOLDING”

tionships with each other, as they learn to deal with others and figure things out.

Toward this end, schools and homes should be equipped with rich opportunities for crafts, tinkering, creating, destroying, assembling, painting, carving, dancing, and musical instruments. These are all elements of embodied creativity and improvisation, things that naturally delight us and bond us to each other and

God’s creation and creative energy. They require us to make applied judgement and humbly interact with the people and things around us, not just on our terms but also on theirs, assisting with a docility and humility which is the fruit of true human insight.

AI will bring many benefits to humanity, but when it comes to education, it will be weighed and found wanting. Highly

processed and synthetic experiences may give a short-term burst to our bodies, hearts, or minds, but we were made for so much more. It is our privilege and duty to share this good news with our children and raise them well. **OCM**

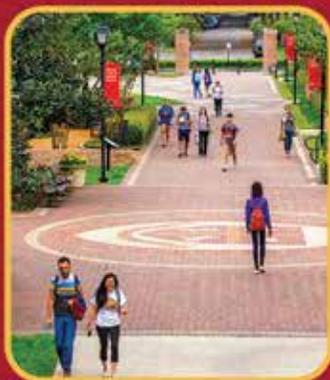
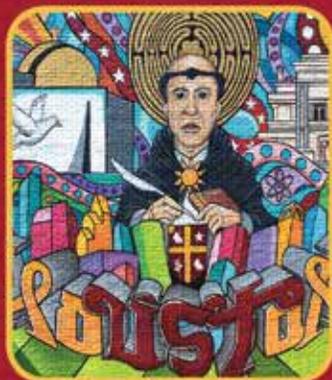
**DAN GUERNSEY, ED.D.**

is a senior fellow at The Cardinal Newman Society and program director for Ave Maria University’s Master in Catholic Educational Leadership.  
[dguernsey@cardinalnewmansociety.org](mailto:dguernsey@cardinalnewmansociety.org)



**SINCE 1947,**

THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS-HOUSTON REMAINS DEDICATED TO **SHAPING TOMORROW’S LEADERS THROUGH PROGRAMS ROOTED IN CATHOLIC TRADITION AND VALUES.**



**TO LEARN MORE VISIT: STTHOM.EDU**

- he/him
- she/her
- they/them

# GENDER IDEOLOGY THREATENS CATHOLIC FORMATION

by Mary Rice Hasson

**R**ecent headlines celebrated the “collapse” of gender ideology, the “fizzling out” of “transgender contagion,” and a “free fall” in number of students identifying as other than male or female.

Wonderful news, if only it were true. Reality, however, is more complicated—and less rosy. Gender ideology still represents a serious threat to children and families and should be firmly rejected by Catholic families and educators.

Remember that evil always masquerades as good, because human beings are hard-wired to search for truth and seek “the good” (God). Eve never would have reached for an obviously rotten apple. Decades ago, when gender ideology began seeping into our language, norms, and institutions, no sirens blared, no lights flashed, and few warnings were heard. Many families were blindsided, as children were seduced by gender ideology’s lies, seemingly overnight.

Gender ideology wears many masks:

- On a philosophical level, it masquerades as a progressive, tolerant, and egalitarian belief system that deconstructs oppressive norms and upholds “identity” as “the choice of the individual.”
- On a psychological level, the desire

to reject one’s body or given sexual identity is packaged as perfectly “normal”—but paradoxically so compelling that others must affirm the chosen “identity,” lest denial drive the person to suicide.

- On a political level, gender ideology purports to stand on the “right side of history,” honoring self-determination, diversity, equality, and “freedom” for “LGBTQ+ Americans.”
- On a religious level, gender ideology presents as a “search for existential dignity,” a discovery of “authentic selves,” a Gospel mandate of “radical inclusion,” and a “celebration of belonging” for self-styled “LGBTQ Catholics.”

Don’t be fooled. Gender ideology is premised on a lie. It corrupts the good and devastates families.

In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI described gender ideology as an “anthropological revolution” built on “profound falsehood[s]” that reject human nature, sexual difference, and God as Creator. He warned of the consequences, particularly for human dignity and the family:

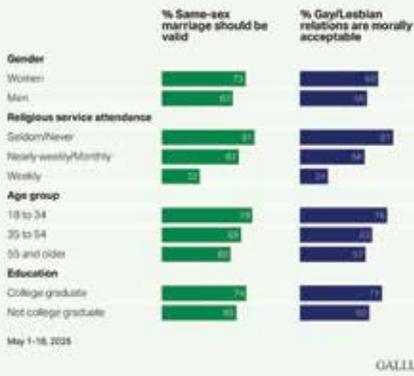
But if there is no pre-ordained duality of man and woman in creation, then neither is the family any longer

a reality established by creation. Likewise, the child has lost the place he had occupied hitherto and the dignity pertaining to him. . . . the child has become an object to which people have a right and which they have a right to obtain. When the freedom to be creative becomes the freedom to create oneself, then necessarily the Maker Himself is denied and ultimately man too is stripped of his dignity as a creature of God, as the image of God at the core of his being. The defense of the family is about man himself. And it becomes clear that when God is denied, human dignity also disappears. (*Address to the Roman Curia*, December 21, 2012)

## Targeting Youth

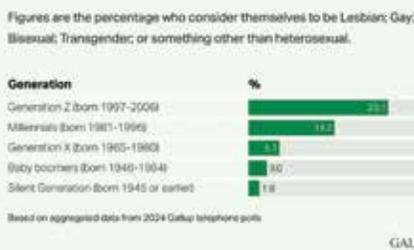
Although gender ideology is a set of false beliefs, it is not just a set of false beliefs. Gender ideology is a belief system meant to be lived out. The ripple effects are enormous. Research from the Institute for Family Studies, for example, shows that ideological beliefs are strongly linked to “cratering” rates of marriage and childbearing among young adults, women in particular. Three in four young adults (age 18-34) support same-sex “marriage” and endorse same-sex sexual relationships as moral (Galup, 2025). Most Catholics (65 percent in 2023) agree.

**U.S. Adults' Support for Same-Sex Relations, Marriage, by Subgroup**



“LGBTQ” identification has tripled in just over a decade, while “trans” identification has increased exponentially. In 2025, 23 percent of Gen Z self-identified as “LGBTQ+” (Gallup), and 4.7-6.7 percent of U.S. college students identified as “transgender” or “non-binary” (Society for Evidence-based Gender Medicine). These unprecedented numbers tell a sad story: so many young people—the future of our country and our Church—reject the truth that the body is a gift and that it reveals something true about who they are. Some reject their sexual identity as male or female, but many more fail to recognize the truth, written into the body’s design, that male and female are created one for another, and sexual complementarity is God’s design for the human family.

**U.S. Adults' Self-Identification as LGBTQ+, by Generation, 2024**



There is nothing organic about the unprecedented increase in youth “LGBTQ” self-identification. It is driven by culture. Despite some recent victories on the side of truth, gender ideology’s erroneous premises and ideological demands have become part of our cultural fabric. “Gender identity” laws and language mandates coerce compliance, while “LGBTQ” activism in corporate, educational, medical, media, judicial, and religious spheres intimidates and persuades, normalizing “emerging” sexual and “gender identities.”

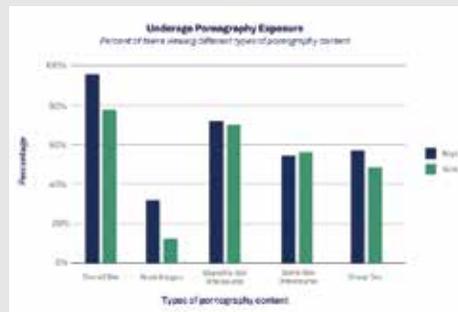
The primary targets of gender ideology are children, adolescents, and young adults. Indoctrinating a substantial portion of America’s youth has proven to be shockingly easy and rapid, utilizing four primary channels: pornography, social media/gaming, healthcare, and schools.

**Pornography**

A 2025 report from the Institute for Family Studies found that rising:

...underage pornography use has been paralleled by a shift to more extreme and harmful types of pornography being available online. A growing body of research has consistently shown that a large portion of the sexual media available online is not only sexually explicit, but also regularly depicts rape, violence against women, [and] deviant sexual behaviors.

Nearly all boys and three in four girls have viewed pornography, and roughly half of all minors who have viewed pornography have watched “same-sex intercourse” and “group sex,” according to the report. (A popular saying—“If you can see it, you can be it”—delivers an ominous warning in this context.) Although it is unclear whether pornography exposure precedes or follows “LGBTQ” identification, a recent study (Thorn 2023) found that minors (age 13-17) who identify as “LGBTQ+” are twice as likely as “non-LGBTQ+ peers” to visit pornographic websites or to engage with “sexually explicit content or pornography.”



**Social media**

A 2025 study published by the American Psychological Association found that social media reflects the “explosion of diversity in gender and sexuality in America.” The study identified four dominant narratives in “social technologies,” including “gender as self-constructed,”

“sexuality as plural, playful, flexible, and fluid,” “sexuality and monogamy as cultural compulsions,” and the centrality of “intersectionality.” These narratives reflect core beliefs of gender ideology. The APA study identified a fifth, less prominent narrative that they labeled “resurgent cisheteropatriarchal masculinity,” a likely online backlash to the dominant gender ideology.

ChatGPT and AI hold new dangers, exposing youth not only to gender ideology and sexual exploitation, but also to digital emotional manipulation that encourages self-harm and suicidality.

Given that 95 percent of teens have access to smart phones, and most use social media about five hours a day (sometimes “constantly”), parents and educators would do well to consider a “tech exit” and Wi-Fi filters. Catholic schools and colleges might reconsider procedures that require students to use social media or AI for class assignments, school announcements, and forms and registrations.

**Healthcare**

Every family needs healthcare for their children, and most schools and colleges provide medical services and counseling. But what happens when most pediatricians and counselors, and healthcare providers more broadly, promote gender ideology? Trustworthy, competent physicians in sync with Catholic teaching—or at least respectful of family religious beliefs—are hard to find. Most U.S. medical and psychological associations embrace gender ideology and endorse sex-rejecting procedures for minors (euphemistically known as “gender-affirming care” or “transgender” medicine)—despite medical ethics concerns, opposition from “rank and file” physicians, and “weak evidence” to support those procedures.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), for example, endorsed unproven, sex-rejecting interventions for minors in a 2018 policy riddled with errors. Then, ignoring mounting evidence that these procedures cause irreparable harm, the AAP reaffirmed its support in 2023. Perhaps worse, the AAP’s “Bright Futures” clinical guidelines (Promoting Healthy Development of Sexuality and Gender Identity) explicitly endorse gender ideol-



ogy and set expectations for all U.S. pediatricians to fuel the “transgender” pipeline by screening for “sexuality and gender identity” issues, from toddlers to teens. The “Bright Futures” guidelines instruct pediatricians to tell parents, before their child is a year old, about “assigned gender at birth and gender identity development.” Physicians should then “discuss and explore gender identity in a developmentally appropriate way *with all children beginning at ages 4 to 5 years.*” With *children from 5 to 10 years*, physicians are directed to “affirm the spectrum of gender identities” and to refer children to gender “specialists,” as “appropriate.”



The primary medical conduits for promoting gender ideology and facilitating sex-rejecting procedures are not only private physicians and counselors but also school-based health and counseling centers, where immigrant and low-income children are particularly vulnerable. What are Catholic educators doing to ensure they provide and refer only to professionals who uphold Catholic teaching?

### Public schools and universities

For over a decade, gender ideology has saturated most public school and university environments, thanks to progressive government policies, “woke” curriculum producers, “LGBTQ” non-profits, activist teachers and professional organizations (including teacher unions and school counselor organizations), and school policies permitting gender ideology indoctrination from kindergarten on and permitting schools to secretly facilitate a child’s chosen (sex-rejecting) identity.

The Supreme Court has yet to review cases where schools “transitioned” a child without parental consent, but several petitions are pending. In a welcome development, the Supreme Court in 2025 upheld religious parents’ rights to opt their children out of compelled, “LGBTQ” curricula in public schools and considered two cases involving women’s sports and male athletes (decisions are pending).

Despite prohibitions on federal funding for gender ideology and numerous state laws limiting “LGBTQ” content in schools, the National Education Association and activist teachers and administrators openly flout these limits. In addition, school and college counselors face ethical obligations from their professional associations that require them to “affirm” “LGBTQ” identification.

Parents rightly worry about woke curriculum, but scrutinizing the culture of a school or college is also essential, as language, celebrations, artwork, social expectations, role models, and disciplinary rules prove formative over time. For example, a teacher or professor who describes students as “cisgender” normalizes a new binary—cisgender or transgender—instead of male or female. A homeroom teacher who habituates students into declaring their pronouns during daily social-emotional learning sessions teaches kids that identity is chosen and changeable. An annual events calendar that features monthly “LGBTQ”-themed celebrations (and zero religious holidays) conveys to students that “LGBTQ” beliefs enjoy privileged status.

Public schools and universities are unlikely to be free of gender ideology anytime soon, because the educational pipeline (including schools of education, unions, and professional development for teachers, staff, counselors, and administrators) remains committed to gender ideology.

### Catholic schools: A haven?

Catholic education should be a safe haven from gender ideology. After all, Catholic teaching is clear: see *Male and Female He Created Them*, a 2019 Congregation for Catholic Education document on

gender ideology; *Dignitas Infinita*, a 2024 document from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith; and “Doctrinal Note on the Moral Limits to Technological Manipulation of the Human Body,” a 2023 document from the U.S. Bishops’ Doctrine Committee.

Many U.S. dioceses do provide clear pastoral guidance, upholding Catholic teaching on the human person and opposing gender ideology. Bishop Thomas of Toledo, Ohio, for example, recently released an excellent pastoral letter, *The Body Reveals the Person: A Catholic Response to the Challenges of Gender Ideology*.

Even so, not all Catholic educators, and not all Catholic schools, oppose gender ideology. Some dioceses have given no guidance or encouragement to families (or their Catholic schools) on this issue—despite the devastating effects on a child, and the whole family, when a child is wooed and won by the lies of gender ideology. Worse, too many Catholic families I have met in my work have felt betrayed by Catholic schools that affirmed and encouraged their child’s newfound “LGBTQ” identification, often behind parents’ backs.

It is scandalous for Catholic formation events—like the annual Religious Education Congress in Los Angeles, which reaches thousands of educators—to platform speakers like Fr. James Martin who countenance “LGBTQ” self-identification, mischaracterize the medical facts of “gender transition,” and pretend that “welcome and inclusion” is the essence of pastoral care for persons experiencing same-sex attraction or identity issues. Catholic families deserve better.

Gender ideology will not be victorious. But we must respond to this challenging moment with truth and love, faithful to Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church, for the sake of our children.

OCM

**MARY RICE HASSON, J.D.**, is a Senior Fellow and Director of the Person and Identity Project at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. She is co-author with Theresa Farnan of *Get Out Now: Why You Should Pull Your Child from Public School Before It’s Too Late*.



“...WHEN GOD IS DENIED, HUMAN DIGNITY DISAPPEARS”

“MALE AND FEMALE ARE CREATED ONE FOR ANOTHER, AND SEXUAL COMPLEMENTARITY IS GOD’S DESIGN”

# BUILDING THE FUTURE



## NEW LIBRARY OPENS 2026

**Honoring the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and the Principles of American Liberty**

**For the college,** the new 58,000 square-foot library houses the college's growing book collection and creates a new campus quad and green space.

**For the public,** the library includes a replica of the Independence Hall Assembly Room where the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence were signed.

**[Benedictine.edu/NewLibrary](https://www.benedictine.edu/NewLibrary)**



Scan the QR Code  
to make a gift.



### Library Features

- Stacks for 250,000+ books and periodicals.
- Triple the study space for individuals and groups.
- Seminar and conference spaces.
- Reading room.
- Classrooms.
- Coffee Shop.



### Independence Hall Features

- Welcome area for school tours.
- Tells the story of America's founding in a hands-on, dynamic way.
- Museum quality presentations with trained docent.
- Distinctive Bell Tower.
- Reception Hall with catering kitchen.



Promoting and Defending Faithful Catholic Education

[cardinalnewmansociety.org](http://cardinalnewmansociety.org)

P.O. Box 1879  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8079  
(703) 367-0333 x117

# Be a Force for Good in Business

## COMPLETE YOUR MBA IN 9 MONTHS

- Catholic social teaching meets rigorous professional education
- International Capstone, CEO lectures, and D.C. networking opportunities

[CATHOLIC.EDU/MBA](http://CATHOLIC.EDU/MBA)

THE CATHOLIC  
UNIVERSITY  
OF AMERICA

