

Notre Dame Students Favor Trump, *Irish Rover* Poll Finds

Former President leads VP Harris 48 percent to 46 percent

SHRI THAKUR &
SAM MARCHAND
Politics Editor & Staff Writer

Notre Dame students prefer Donald Trump over Kamala Harris in the 2024 U.S. Presidential election, a new *Irish Rover* poll of 705 students found. As the race moves into its final months, the findings highlight a campus more politically divided than at any time in recent history.

Among likely voters, the former president leads the incumbent vice president by a margin of 47.6 percent to 45.9 percent. Green Party nominee Jill Stein received 0.6 percent while Libertarian Chase Oliver was preferred by 0.3 percent of respondents. 5.5 percent of students indicated that they supported a candidate who was not listed on the ballot.

The *Irish Rover* poll surveyed 705 likely student voters between September 15 and September 18. The survey was sent to a variety of student dorms, nonpartisan clubs, and distributed in classes. Results were weighted to ensure a representative sample of the Notre Dame student body. The poll has a margin of error of 3.8 percent at a 95 percent confidence level.

If accurate, the results of the survey would mark the first time in twelve years that Notre



Image by the Irish Rover

Dame students have preferred the Republican Party's nominee for president. The findings would also signify a monumental shift towards the former president from his showing at Notre Dame just four years ago. In 2020, Joe Biden had the support of 66 percent of Notre Dame students in a poll conducted by Student Government and NDVotes, while Trump got just 29 percent. In 2016, Hillary Clinton beat Trump in a similar poll by a margin of 59 percent to 24 percent.

When asked for his club's reaction to the poll, College

Republicans President Elliot Anderson told the *Rover*, "It is amazing to see a college campus stand by President Trump. We hope that the trend of ultra-liberal colleges is finally coming to an end with the increasing youth support for conservative policies." College Democrats did not respond to a request for comment.

Professor David Campbell, Packey J. Dee Professor of American Democracy and Director of the Notre Dame Democracy Initiative, commented that the results of the poll "demonstrate that Notre

Dame students are a microcosm of the nation as a whole."

"The student body is closely divided," he added. "As we head into the home stretch of this hotly contested presidential election, I hope that the students of Notre Dame can demonstrate to the country that it is possible to disagree politically, but do so agreeably."

Trump's apparent strength appears to be at least partially driven by widespread dissatisfaction with the job performance of the Biden-Harris administration. Just 35 percent of students polled said they strongly

or somewhat approved of the current administration, while 65 percent said that they strongly or somewhat disapproved. The strength of those views is especially notable: Only 5 percent said they strongly approved of President Biden, while 40 percent said they strongly disapproved. The findings match another recent survey by Harvard University that showed Biden's approval at an anemic 31 percent among young voters.

"The last four years are why my family is on welfare," one Catholic-identifying male voter said in explaining his vote for Trump.

Another student shared a similar sentiment, stating, "Honestly, the economy really needs to improve from what Biden and Harris are doing because it is becoming very hard to live."

Though surprising to some, the poll's results are not the first indication of a rightward shift on Notre Dame's campus. A political identification survey conducted by Notre Dame Marriage Pact found a 15 percent decline in the share of students identifying as "Democrats, Liberals, or Socialists" from Spring 2021 to Fall 2023. In the same period, the number of students identifying as "Republican, Libertarian, or

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Former Planned Parenthood Executive Featured in Inauguration Keynote

Sanda Ojiambo speaks in "What Do We Owe Each Other" university forum

MICHAEL CANADY
Editor-In-Chief

Former Planned Parenthood executive Sanda Ojiambo spoke in a September 12 keynote event during the presidential inauguration events of Father Robert Dowd, C.S.C. Her livestreamed conversation, titled "Business as a Global Force For Good," was part of the annual Notre Dame Forum, a speaker series For the theme of this year's forum, Fr. Dowd chose "What Do We Owe Each Other?"

From 2002 to 2008, Ojiambo worked in Planned Parenthood's international operations in several capacities.

Ojiambo worked as the Senior Programme Officer of Planned Parenthood Federation of America - International from 2002 to 2004, where she directed "reproductive health Programmes in selected African countries, with a focus on youth and advocacy."

Ojiambo also served as Director of Programmes for International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in the Africa Regional Office (ARO) from 2004 to 2008. IPPF is "a global healthcare provider and a leading advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all," according to their website. Their work is "wide-ranging" and includes "comprehensive sex education,

provision of contraceptive, safe abortion, and maternal care and responding to humanitarian crises."

Ojiambo further described this role on her LinkedIn page: "IPPF is the largest NGO working in the area of reproductive health." Ojiambo directed the specific ARO branch of IPPF, which "delivers information and services and is a strong advocate for reproductive rights."

The description continues, "I headed the Programmes Department providing strategic leadership and technical assistance for the delivery of a wide range of reproductive health services in over 40 countries in

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Muffet McGraw Appears at Democrat Fundraiser

Former coach speaks to the Rover on Republican policies, abortion access

HALEY GARECHT
Campus Editor

Ann "Muffet" McGraw, former head coach of the Notre Dame women's basketball team, appeared at a fundraiser for Democrat and abortion activist Heidi Beidinger in July 2024. In an interview with the *Rover*, McGraw spoke about her political advocacy for abortion issues and the importance of free speech at Notre Dame.

Heidi Beidinger, Associate Professor in the Eck Institute for Global Health and Director of The Masters of Science in Global Health at Notre Dame, is running for Indiana State

Representative as a Democrat. Beidinger, former President of the St. Joseph County Board of Health, is campaigning against incumbent Republican Dale Devon for the 5th District.

On their website, Planned Parenthood endorses Beidinger, citing her "[pledge] to keep fighting for reproductive freedom in the Indiana General Assembly." Planned Parenthood provides a link to Beidinger's campaign website under the instruction, "Vote by November 8th to send Beidinger to the House!"

Beidinger and her team have been vocal about their

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THE FINE PRINT

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The *Rover* was established by Notre Dame students who desired a strong and organized conservative voice on campus with the primary purpose of keeping the University true to its founding mission as a Roman Catholic institution. The *Rover* seeks to facilitate part of what the University's mission statement desires in its community: "a forum where through free inquiry and open discussion the various lines of Catholic thought may intersect with all the forms of knowledge found in the arts, sciences, professions, and every other area of human scholarship and creativity." To provide this forum, the *Rover* offers a distinctive kind of coverage that includes campus news, religion, politics, culture, history, and humor.

Out of civility, the *Rover* will not critically mention names of students, professors, or administrators, unless the person is either a well-known member of the community, or he or she has openly sought publicity. Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the *Rover's* Editorial Board, while content in individual columns represents the views of each respective author and should not be construed as representing the views of the entire staff. All comments and questions regarding the *Rover's* policies and editorial content, as well as Letters to the Editor, may be directed to the Editor-in-Chief, Michael Canady, at NDIrishRover@gmail.com or PO Box 46 Notre Dame IN 46556. These letters may be printed anonymously, upon request. Also, please visit our website www.irishrover.net, where you can peruse archives and subscribe to the paper.

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed it ourselves." - Abraham Lincoln



Image by Matt Cashore

Silencing Our History

LUCY SPENCE
 Managing Editor



Last spring, as I registered for my current classes, I was looking through courses offered at Notre Dame under the "core history" obligation. What I found was shocking and a little absurd.

Out of 187 courses, there were only 13 that studied American history before 1900 and were not related in any way to topics of gender or race. Among this slim group, the titles were oddly focused on niche subjects: One studied "Humans and Other Apes," and another class on wildlife invited students to "see North American history anew through the eyes of a race horse, a sled dog, a passenger pigeon, a grizzly bear, or a field mouse."

Curious, I looked at history courses offered at other universities. The Ivies exhibited classes like "Race Science: A History" (Harvard) and "Foxes, Hedgehogs, and History" (Yale). And this past spring, Stanford offered a course titled "Doing Gender History."

Apart from the absurdity of these titles, the courses of Notre Dame and other universities reveal a disturbing disappearance of American history from the classroom, an absence which poses a threat to

the cohesiveness of American society. Following a broader trend in academia, Notre Dame has largely sidelined any serious historical study, focusing on what divides and differentiates us rather than our common heritage.

Anyone who watched the recent presidential debate doesn't need to be told that America is a sorely and tragically divided country. Partisan lines have so deepened in our country that any discourse between Right and Left seems unattainable and futile.

This national divide is not foreign to Notre Dame. A recent *Irish Rover* poll conducted across campus found that the student body holds an almost even split between support for Trump and Harris: 47.6 percent and 45.9 percent, respectively.

A university produces the next leaders of a country—it is where the future president learns to understand, to think critically, to gain wisdom. A university's primary goal may not simply be to create the next generation of leaders, but its role in forming the nation's future cannot be ignored. As such, the university holds an enormous responsibility, one that cannot be taken lightly.

A nation's history has a more profound influence on the thoughts and mores of a culture than most would credit. Universities, in removing even the most basic American history from their offered courses, are doing a disservice not just to their students, but to all of society. They are producing graduates who have an incomplete understanding of American history, and thus little understanding of what America

is.

The future politicians, lawyers, and judges of America—our future leaders—are preparing for their professional careers by taking classes like "Gender @ Work in US History." When the time comes for them to draft new laws and analyze court cases, they will lack any solid and accurate understanding of the philosophical and political heritage of their country.

To misunderstand something's history is to misunderstand the thing itself. In short, universities are producing leaders who don't understand America.

The second, more important, result of the rejection of basic American history in the classroom is ironic, given the attitude of acceptance and the emphasis on cultural heritage that dominates every university policy, commencement speech, and department initiative. In discarding our country's history, universities are casually dropping by the wayside the sole identity shared by every American: our common heritage. Denying this identity, or intentionally forgetting it, is denying the last thing which unites us.

America is a country of immigrants. Her uniqueness comes from this aggregation of cultures and nationalities; to teach American history is not to disregard the individual history of each citizen—it is a way to unite the various identities that make up our country into one.

The classes taught at Notre Dame are examples of our culture's systematic rejection of fundamental American history. Rather than give her students an education that unifies, Notre Dame, in imitation of other elite

universities, teaches material that divides the student body.

This is not to say that no "real" history is offered at Notre Dame. In my course search, I found a number of interesting courses on Christianity, Western civilization, Greco-Roman culture, and African and Asian history. But for American history, typical course offerings were "LGBT in the 20th-century USA," "Black Arts and Black Power Revisited," and "Gender @ Work in US History." This fixation on gender and race not only exaggerates division in identity; it chooses to ignore what unifies. Notre Dame ought not decry divisiveness and a polarization while fostering it herself. If we wish to be united, we cannot disregard our identity as Americans.

Universities are extending an invitation for discord. They are placing blinders on the eyes of their students, deliberately reframing the past in an attempt to control the future. Any hope for a unified country must come from a genuine desire to understand the entire history of America—her successes and her failures alike.

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Inauguration Keynote

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sub Saharan Africa.”

More recently, IPPF has been criticized by Catholics in Nigeria for their pro-abortion agenda, according to one article from Association for Catholic Information in Africa.

The day's events were emceed by Meghan Sullivan, founding director of Notre Dame's recently-established Institute for Ethics and the Common Good. Sullivan's opening introduction omitted Ojiambo's tenure in Planned Parenthood.

The event featured Ojiambo in conversation with Anne Thompson, a member of Notre Dame's Board of Trustees and Chief Environmental Affairs Correspondent for NBC News. In her introduction of Ojiambo, Thompson also did not mention Ojiambo's work for Planned Parenthood. After summarizing Ojiambo's education, Thompson stated, “She embarked on a career working in both the public and private sector for some two decades, and all of that led her to where she is today.”

Ojiambo's biography in the event's program also omits her positions in Planned Parenthood, only referencing “20 years across public, multilateral, and private sectors.” Ojiambo's biography in the program continued, “She has a profound understanding of the intersection between business and development, having worked on numerous public-private partnership initiatives and cultivated relationships with key business entities and civil society organizations.”

Ojiambo's conversation with Thompson touched on sustainable business practices, environmental issues, and gender equality, as well as a number of



Image by the Irish Rover

other issues.

The talk was well-attended, with notable attendees including former Notre Dame presidents Father John Jenkins, C.S.C. and Father Edward Malloy, C.S.C., as well as Dean of the Law School Marcus Cole and other university officials.

According to the event page, Ojiambo's visit was supported by the Mendoza College of Business and the Notre Dame Deloitte Center for Ethical Leadership (NDDCEL), though Sullivan only mentioned the NDDCEL in her introduction.

Before her talk, Ojiambo also met personally with over 15 students, faculty and staff, coordinated by the NDDCEL and the Business Honors Program.

In 2022, Ojiambo also spoke at Notre Dame in a talk titled “Opportunity and Optimism Ahead,” sponsored by the

NDDCEL and the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Religious Values in Business.

Ojiambo currently serves as Executive Director of United Nations Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative with over 20,000 companies, one of which is IPPF.

This year's Notre Dame forum Advisory Committee guided the planning of the events and speakers. It consisted of Fr. Dowd; Meghan Sullivan; Ann Firth, Fr. Dowd's vice president and chief of staff; Paul Bohn, Arthur J. Schmitt Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and director of the Bioengineering and Life Sciences (BELS) Initiative; David Campbell, Packey J. Dee Professor of American Democracy and director of the Democracy Initiative; and Jim Sullivan, professor of economics

and director of the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO).

The forum is a continuation of a prominent university tradition established in 2005 by Fr. Jenkins in order to foster “campus-wide dialogue about issues of importance to the University, the nation, and the larger world.” The September 12 events opened the 2024 forum as the “Inauguration Series,” held during the week of Fr. Dowd's inauguration as university president. The forum will also feature talks on the Israel-Palestine conflict, Catholic social thought, and the U.S. Presidential Election.

Described as “a series of ‘fireside chats’ with global leaders in technology, philanthropy, corporate sustainability, and foreign affairs,” this year's “What Do We Owe Each Other?” forum claims to cite the principles

of Catholic social tradition as context for its discussion of certain topics, one of which is “Life and Dignity of the Human Person.”

Other keynote speakers of the forum included Arvin Krishna, David Rockefeller Jr., Admiral Christopher W. Grady, and Ambassador and former Senator Joe Donnelly.

The next event of the forum will be a talk on September 18 titled, “Call to Action! Care for Our Common Home.”

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9/14/2024



Ethos National Helps College Students Overcome Porn Addiction

Non-profit startup headed by Notre Dame graduate expands to national level

RAFAEL LLULL
Staff Writer

Recent Notre Dame graduate Josh Haskell ('24) founded AsceND in August 2023 to help college men overcome sexual vices, with a particular focus on pornography addiction. Since its inception at Notre Dame, the organization, now named Ethos National, has expanded to help college communities across the country in their battles with sexual impurity.

In an interview with the *Rover*, Haskell specified two motivations for founding Ethos: “Motivate people to seek accountability, and reduce the stigma surrounding

pornography.” Rather than struggling alone, Haskell highlighted Ethos' more direct confrontation of the addiction, noting that pornography “is a problem that faces almost every man.”

Haskell was inspired to start Ethos National after writing a letter to the editor titled “Escaping Porn's Prison,” published in the *Observer* in August 2023.

Currently, Ethos offers two services on college campuses. The first is the “Ethos Group”: a five-man, in-person accountability group that meets weekly. In addition to group meetings, members are paired with “an accountability partner on their

campus that is at a similar stage in their journey with lust,” with whom they have daily phone check-ins. The workload is described as being similar to a one-credit class, with daily five-minute readings from Haskell and Jason Evert, a well-known Catholic speaker and author and the co-founder of the Chastity Project, an organization that is helping teens and young adults achieve chastity.

The second service is talks directly delivered by Haskell, with two topics available.

The first talk is titled “Vulnerability is Strength,” intended for young men. In the speech, Haskell argues that authentic accountability is key

to healing from sexual addiction, using both his personal story and experience with Ethos.

The second talk is titled “Protecting Your Child from Porn,” intended for parents. Throughout the speech, Haskell provides insights into how children are exposed to pornography, exploring children's motivations, the role of social media, and how to respond if parents discover pornography in their home. Haskell also offers practical advice and resources to help parents “pornproof” their homes.

The reviews featured on Ethos' website are overwhelmingly positive, with one user saying that he “[n]ever ... thought

[he] could conquer [his] porn addiction, but little by little, Ethos has helped.”

Notre Dame sophomore Joseph Sciortino told the *Rover*, “I had been struggling with [pornography] for the better part of my life. I hit up Josh and was put in a group. It really helped. ... The best part about Ethos is the focus group [where we] talk strategies.”

Since his time with Ethos, Sciortino has overcome his struggle and is now a group leader. He concluded, “I feel I am now ready to help others along. It's a daily reminder that this is a daily struggle, and you are getting better every day.”

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Forming Ethical Medical Practitioners

New student organization works to unite faith and medicine

KATHRYN BOWERS

Staff Writer

The Notre Dame Hippocratic Society was established in the spring of 2024 to help students explore how they can unite Catholic values to their future professions in medicine. The chapter already has 39 members, and it has begun hosting events ranging from seminars to social gatherings.

In an interview with the *Rover*, Frankie Machado, Vice President of Notre Dame's Hippocratic Society, explained the group's aim. Each semester, the society focuses on different questions related to topics of faith and the practice of medicine. This semester, the group is considering the question: "What is the human person and its end?"

Twice a month, students in the chapter meet and discuss a topical text over dinner. Physicians from campus and the South Bend community lead the seminars, typically drawing from a "case or personal experience" related to that week's text.

On September 17, the society hosted one of these seminars and discussed readings from St. Thomas Aquinas, relating them to this semester's guiding question. The dinner included clinicians and was open to all students but was geared specifically towards those on the "pre-med" track.

In addition to these seminars, the society hosts events in which speakers present on their professional work as it relates to the seminar conversations. The society also puts on social events—their next gathering is an October 6 screening of the movie *Gattaca*, a film that poses

questions about eugenics and humanity.

While the Hippocratic Society is not Notre Dame's first club aimed at educating future doctors, it has a particular emphasis on the intersection between Catholicism and medical practice. Other campus organizations, like the American Medical Women's Association and the Multicultural Pre-Medical Society, seek to provide communities for specific groups in the medical field. However, the Hippocratic Society is unique in its striving to "embrace medicine as a sacred profession" and "help medical practitioners to flourish in serving their patient's genuine good."

A junior in Pasquerilla East Hall expressed appreciation for the society's focus in a comment to the *Rover*. "I like the group because it's a valuable exercise to consider the ethical dilemmas that will likely occur in my future career as a physician and think through how these situations can be approached," she said. "It's also helpful to have the insight from the physicians that attend the meetings."

Sophomore Federico Celis echoed this praise. He told the *Rover*, "The Hippocratic Society is an excellent organization for students looking to build their understanding of medicine through a philosophical lens. I have learned a lot from the seminar-style discussions due to the great inputs from other students as well as medical professionals."

The Hippocratic Society is a chapter of the National Hippocratic Society, an organization of physicians and students that "exists to form and sustain clinicians in the practice

and pursuit of good medicine," according to their website. By "cultivating virtues that characterize good medical practitioners," the National Hippocratic Society aims to address underdeveloped medical ethics in schools across the country.

The National Hippocratic Society was first founded in 2020 when two groups, the Society for Just Medicine and the Hippocratic Forum, united. In its conception, the society released its curriculum in the form of podcasts and online meeting opportunities with medical trainees. In 2021, the Hippocratic Society hosted its first undergraduate seminar at the Abigail Adams Institute in Boston. In the following year, the society's first university chapter opened at Washington University School of Medicine.

As of 2024, the Hippocratic Society has extended its reach to seven universities. These include the additions of Harvard University, the University of Texas, Stanford University, Duke University, and the University of Dallas. A chapter has also been established at the Brooke Army Medical Center, the U.S. Army's premier medical institution in Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Machado called the need for the Hippocratic Society at Notre Dame "vital." He told the *Rover*,



Image by Wikimedia Commons

"The modern medical industry and medical schools often fail to engage their ... professionals and medical students with these moral questions and the moral formation needed to make high-risk decisions in the lives of their patients."

He remarked that the society furthers Notre Dame's mission "because the university is a place that prides itself in the genuine pursuit of the truth and ... forming its students holistically in mind, body, and spirit so that

they can go out and serve those around them to the best of their ability."

The society will hold its next seminars on October 8 and October 29.

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Ethos National

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Ethos boasts a prolific board of directors, including Jason Evert; Rachel Killackey, the founder of Magdala Ministries—a similar organization to Ethos, but for women; and Dan Fredericks, vice president at Land and Resource Engineering in Walker, Michigan.

Fredricks, in conversation with the *Rover*, was filled with praise for Haskell, saying, "I've known Josh for over 10 years as a family friend and his high school ski coach: he is a one-of-a-kind young man with many gifts and talents that God has given him." Despite Ethos' recent founding, Fredricks sees its mission as one that will spread: "I liken it to the mustard seed, which is the smallest of seeds planted yet becomes this huge tree. ... Ideally, this would be a nationwide or even global type of program."

Since its inception, Ethos has grown to help hundreds of students through its independent



Image by Ethosnational.org

chapter at Notre Dame. Whilst Ethos will be focused on research and development at Notre Dame this semester, Haskell hopes to expand to more universities in Spring 2025. "Right now, there is a big focus on fundraising because there is a ton of demand," Haskell told the *Rover*. "We're developing a curriculum to help people quit pornography and manuals to start their own chapter on their campus. We're launching at two additional universities in the spring. Hopefully, another four by Fall 2025."

According to its website, Ethos has expanded to hire two new team members since its founding. Jonah Tran, Chief Editor at Ethos since this past June, told the *Rover*, "I had been friends with Josh for quite some time and really admired the impact he made with [Ethos National]. ... He offered [me] a remote position as Chief Editor for Ethos [for which] I applied and was hired." In this capacity, Tran is responsible for drafting Ethos' business plan, creating descriptions on the website, and writing grant proposals for

charitable institutions in the South Bend area. When asked about the group's mission, Tran responded that he and Ethos want to see "a world where all men can love their wives as Christ loves the Church."

Like Tran, Haskell has high hopes for Ethos. "I hope that we can have a presence on every U.S. campus," he said. "We want to enable thousands of men to have happy marriages and families."

Ethos' Notre Dame chapter—EthosND—continues to provide accountability groups to its 84 current members, with 38 having

recently joined in the first weeks of the academic year. Current EthosND president Matthew LaPorte noted continued interest in the organization's second year at Notre Dame. "A lot of the members of AsceND graduated last year, and we are seeing a huge increase in current members who stepped up to lead small groups or new members ... joining us to fight the sins of lust in their lives," LaPorte told the *Rover*.

In addition to a growth in membership, EthosND now has an official campus presence supported by Campus Ministry.

To sign up for one of these groups, fill out the interest form, or for more information, see their website.

Rafael Llull is a junior studying in the Program of Liberal Studies. He can be reached at rlull@nd.edu.



Muffet McGraw
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opposition to Indiana Republicans and the GOP. In November 2022, Beidinger's Communications Director tweeted, "I've been thinking and saying this for the last [two] years. It feels gross to say, but it's possible enough [Republicans] died from Covid to really change the totals at the district level ..." In April 2023, Beidinger tweeted a photo that said, "Vote Every F—ing Republican Out." Both Beidinger and her Communications Director deleted their tweets shortly after.

On her website, Beidinger names the "Freedom to Be Healthy" as a core value, stating, "Because of the cruel and deadly Republican ban on abortion ... Indiana is one of the most dangerous places in America to be pregnant." Speaking to the *Rover*, McGraw stated that she values Beidinger's position, saying, "[S]he is going to fight for women's right to choose. And that is something that, for me, is the most important thing that I'm looking at in a candidate."

On July 29, 2024, McGraw appeared at a fundraiser for Beidinger's campaign. In a Facebook post the following day, Beidinger expressed her appreciation for McGraw's endorsement: "I am humbled and honored to receive Muffet's support. She spoke about what's at stake in this election and how important local and state offices are to maintaining a democracy."

Beidinger did not respond to requests for comment.

Hired in 1987, McGraw coached the Irish women's basketball team for 33 seasons and retired officially in April of 2020. As head coach, McGraw led the Fighting Irish to two National Championships, seven championship games, nine Final Four appearances, and 67 wins in the NCAA Tournament. Overall, McGraw boasts over 930 career wins and has set the record for the most wins by any single-sport coach in Notre Dame history.



Image by Notre Dame Women's Basketball Instagram

Last December, the university unveiled a statue of McGraw outside of Purcell Pavilion, cementing her status as an icon in Notre Dame sports history.

Since her retirement from coaching, McGraw has worked for ESPN as a women's basketball analyst. McGraw has also remained connected to Notre Dame, where she taught a class in the Mendoza College of Business called "Sports Leadership: How Leaders Make Teams Flourish" in 2020. Just this month, McGraw was back on campus to participate in the inauguration festivities for Notre Dame president Father Robert Dowd, C.S.C.

In an interview with the *Rover*, McGraw expressed appreciation for Notre Dame's values, saying, "[Y]ou look at your core values, and you talk about things like honesty, accountability, trust, and those are ... important values, not just for our program, but for everybody at Notre Dame."

McGraw is no stranger to expressing her personal values, particularly online. According to McGraw, her interest in politics started after the 2016

presidential election. "I think when Trump got elected, that's when everything changed. ... I needed to do what I could to fight for our democracy, to fight for women," McGraw said. "I tweeted a lot more about politics. I watched a lot more. I studied it, I read about it. ... I tried to really understand what was going on."

McGraw's feed on X (formerly Twitter) features many posts encouraging followers to vote against Republican candidates. On August 3, 2022, McGraw tweeted, "... Tone deaf old white men in the GOP were surprised by the power of women mobilizing to protect their rights. Women [are] the majority in the U.S. & WE WILL be heard in November. #VoteBlue [sic]."

In a November 3, 2022 tweet, McGraw stated, "Republicans have not done one thing to help Americans who are struggling. They voted against virtually every bill to fix the economy [because] if they voted to fix it, they wouldn't have anyone to blame for it. What do they stand for besides taking away women's rights?"

One issue that McGraw is particularly vocal about is access to abortion: "My one, number one hot-button issue is women's rights and women's freedom and women's right to choose," McGraw said to the *Rover*. "[T]he Republicans are trying to take away IVF [*in vitro* fertilization], they're going to come after contraception. They are already ... especially in Indiana, with the strictest rules on abortion."

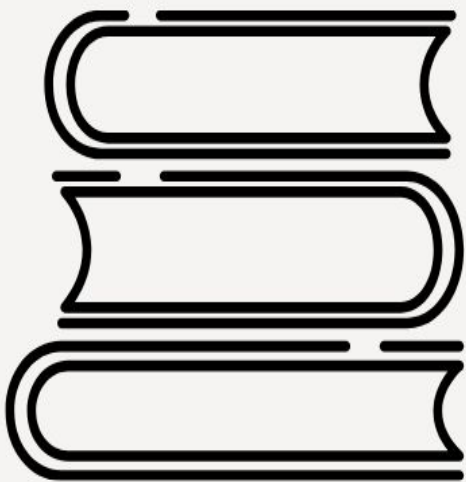
Remarking on her support for abortion access, McGraw said, "You know, I always tell people, 'You want to have five kids? What if the government came in and said, 'You can only have two, that's the new rule?' ... They're looking at the way that we're overpopulated, they're going to say, 'Nope, you can only have two.' So, how do you feel now about your right to choose? Everybody deserves the right to make decisions about their own body."

Beidinger is not the first politician that McGraw has publicly supported. In August, McGraw tweeted a photo of her and Michigan State Senator Mallory McMorrow,

calling McMorrow "exactly the type of leader we need to move us forward." McMorrow is a Democrat and Notre Dame alumna who spoke at the Democratic National Convention this summer.

As she continues to advocate for pro-choice policies, McGraw says that she is grateful for Notre Dame's emphasis on free expression: "I think it's great that Notre Dame is a place that's really open to debate. ... I've never had anybody say anything about anything that I've tweeted about pro-choice. ... It's great that I can work at a school that has certain views on certain things, but you can disagree with them ..."

Haley Garecht is a junior studying political science, constitutional studies, and Irish studies. She's currently celebrating the Phillies clinching their playoff berth by listening to "Philadelphia Freedom" on repeat. Send her other Philly-themed song suggestions at hgarecht@nd.edu.



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New Devotional Shrine at Holy Cross College

Student champions project to build space to Our Lady of Sorrows

MADDIE LAPINE
Staff Writer

Holy Cross College (HCC) dedicated a new campus shrine to Our Lady of Sorrows on September 4, 2024. Reverend Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend led the blessing of the shrine.

The project was developed by HCC senior Abbigayle Lemons, who has advocated for construction of the shrine over the last three years. Lemons explained to the *Rover*: “I wanted a space on Holy Cross’s campus that could be used for prayer outside of the chapel, similar to the Grotto at Notre Dame.”

Lemons continued, “I felt that it was essential that this space be dedicated to our Blessed Mother, specifically as Our Lady of Sorrows, the patroness of the Congregation of Holy Cross.”

The space includes a bronze cast of the Tree of Life with 12 pomegranates representing the 12 promises of the Holy Spirit, a statue of Jesus, and a sculpture of our Blessed Mother under the title of “Our Lady of Sorrows.”

The shrine has already become a central gathering place for the HCC community. On Sunday, September 1, 2024, Holy Cross celebrated a first Mass in the sacred space that brought together staff, alumni, students, and community members to recognize and enjoy the shrine, which is always open for public



Image by Holy Cross College

use.

HCC President Dr. Marco Clark supported Lemons’ vision from the start. “We want to create a college campus community that is like a retreat center, a place that can help remind people what is really most important and to create for them encounters with Christ through beauty, art, and nature,” Clark said in an interview with the *Rover*.

Notre Dame sophomore Anna Hale told the *Rover*, “Since the mission of the Congregation is to educate and evangelize, I think it is very fitting that Holy Cross College now has a unique space in which these two goals can be achieved. Through the

statues, plaques of Our Lady, and words from Sacred Scripture, I am certain visitors of this sacred space will be able to encounter God and grow in their faith. In addition to my Grotto visits at Notre Dame, I will also certainly be taking the ‘holy hike’ to visit the new shrine at Holy Cross!”

Lemons initially envisioned a Pietà sculpture surrounded by flowers and kneelers. As the idea was shared with the community, it garnered an unexpected amount of support and donor interest. The influx of donations created the opportunity to grow the project and position the shrine in a prominent part of campus, while keeping Lemons’ idea at its core. It sits on the

shore line of the St. Joseph river and spans the area between Pulte and North Halls. The shrine is adorned with seating, landscaping, and multiple sculptures.

Carolyn Kitz, Director of Student Activities at HCC, became involved in the shrine project three years ago. While accompanying her family on a campus tour, Kitz shared the shrine idea with her father, Charlie Kitz, who volunteered to pay 100 percent of the cost of the project. In an interview with the *Rover*, he said, “I thought it was a great idea and my mother had an amazing relationship and devotion with our Blessed Mother.” He continued, saying

it was an “easy and delightful decision.”

HCC has already used the shrine area as a location to gather and celebrate. Recently, staff and students joined together to celebrate Founders Day and recognize the Brothers of Holy Cross.

Maddie LaPine is a sophomore studying biology at Holy Cross College. Her vodka pasta has stood the test of time (and has received the praise of multiple Italians). Email mlapine@hcc-nd.edu for the recipe.

Notre Dame Professor to Receive Prestigious Ratzinger Prize

Cyril O’Regan recognized for contributions to academic theology

MARCELLE COUTO
Staff Writer

Cyril O’Regan, the Catherine F. Huisking Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame, will be awarded the 2024 Ratzinger Prize, according to a September 18 press release from the Ratzinger Foundation. This prestigious award, often referred to as the “Nobel Prize of Theology,” is conferred annually by the Joseph Ratzinger-Benedict XVI Vatican Foundation and honors O’Regan’s achievements in academic theology.

O’Regan has distinguished himself over decades as an expert in systematic theology, particularly through his work on the relationship between theology and philosophy, the nature of Christian mysticism, and his studies on figures including Newman, Ratzinger, Hegel, and von Balthasar. He has been a member of the Notre Dame Department of Theology since 1999.

The Ratzinger Prize, first awarded in 2011, honors scholars whose work embodies the intellectual legacy of Pope

Benedict XVI—Joseph Ratzinger—who was deeply committed to bridging faith and reason through academic scholarship. The foundation seeks to promote “research, studies and publications on the works and thoughts of Professor Joseph Ratzinger,” which it does through conferences and the awarding of prizes. Past recipients include a range of scholars known for their groundbreaking work in theology and philosophy, among them former Notre Dame professor Reverend Brian E. Daley, S.J.

“I am delighted and also feel incredibly honored given the caliber of scholars and thinkers who have received it before me,” O’Regan commented in a Department of Theology announcement.

In an interview with the *Rover*, Colin Bowers, a senior with a supplemental major in theology, noted O’Regan’s ability to make difficult course content accessible to his students. “Professor O’Regan is as remarkable a teacher as he is a theologian.



Image by University of Notre Dame

He is able to distill complex theological concepts into easily understandable terms, which is a testament to the depth of his knowledge,” Bowers said. “Whenever students pose questions in class, his impromptu responses consistently sound as though he has already authored a paper on that very question.”

Bowers concluded, “It comes as no surprise that he is being honored with the prestigious Ratzinger Award, a recognition that is truly fitting for his many theological contributions.”

Alexander Lytle, a graduate

student and postulant in the Congregation of Holy Cross, reflected on the impact O’Regan had on his studies. “Professor O’Regan opened our class about John Henry Newman by describing him as ‘prolific.’ It only took about five more minutes for me to realize that Newman wasn’t the only ‘prolific’ mind we’d be hearing from in this course.”

Lytle also noted the unique environment O’Regan creates in his classroom. “Professor

O’Regan combines an encyclopedia-like intellect with a reverence for prayer and a dry sense of humor you could only ever hope for from a professor. He creates an impactful student experience for every subject he teaches. He is also quite welcoming of guests auditing or sitting in on his classroom, which is reflective of his attitude of fostering knowledge and advancement for all.”

Jacob Koestner, a theology graduate of the class of 2024, told the *Rover*, “The course was absolutely foundational to my

theological studies and a central contribution to my sense of truly having received a liberal arts education.”

O’Regan’s achievement is a reflection of the distinction of Notre Dame’s Department of Theology, which has been consistently ranked as one of the top theology programs in the world. It was recently ranked number one globally by the QS World University Rankings.

The recognition further cements the university’s reputation as a leading institution in theological education and research. The Department of Theology has reported that the Vatican’s Secretary of State, Pietro Parolin, will present the Ratzinger Prize to O’Regan during a ceremony at the Apostolic Palace in Vatican City on November 22. As an honoree, O’Regan will have the opportunity to meet with Pope Francis.

Marcelle Couto is a senior majoring in theology and the Program of Liberal Studies. She can be reached at mcouto@nd.edu.



Society of Catholic Scientists Celebrates Faith and Science Week

Events include Mass, lectures, panel

FRANKIE MACHADO
Staff Writer

The Society of Catholic Scientists (SCS) chapter at Notre Dame hosted its second annual Faith and Science Week from September 16–20, celebrating the age-old dialogue and unity between the natural sciences and Catholicism in their pursuit of truth.

Co-sponsored by the College of Science and the McGrath Institute for Church Life, Faith and Science Week was organized by the student chapter of the SCS on campus, part of a national organization whose mission, according to club officers, is to dispel the commonly held belief that science cannot inform us about the Christian faith, and vice versa.

The current president of the SCS chapter at Notre Dame, Elliott Kirwan, explained to the *Rover* that the society works to “provide a place for undergraduate and graduate science students to gather together and celebrate the way that both faith and science pursue truth together.”

The week’s festivities centered around the “Gold Mass,” which was first celebrated for scientists and engineers at MIT in 2016. The Mass, celebrated annually at Notre Dame since 2017, uses gold, following the color of the hoods and tassels of science graduates.

This year, the Mass was celebrated on the memorial of

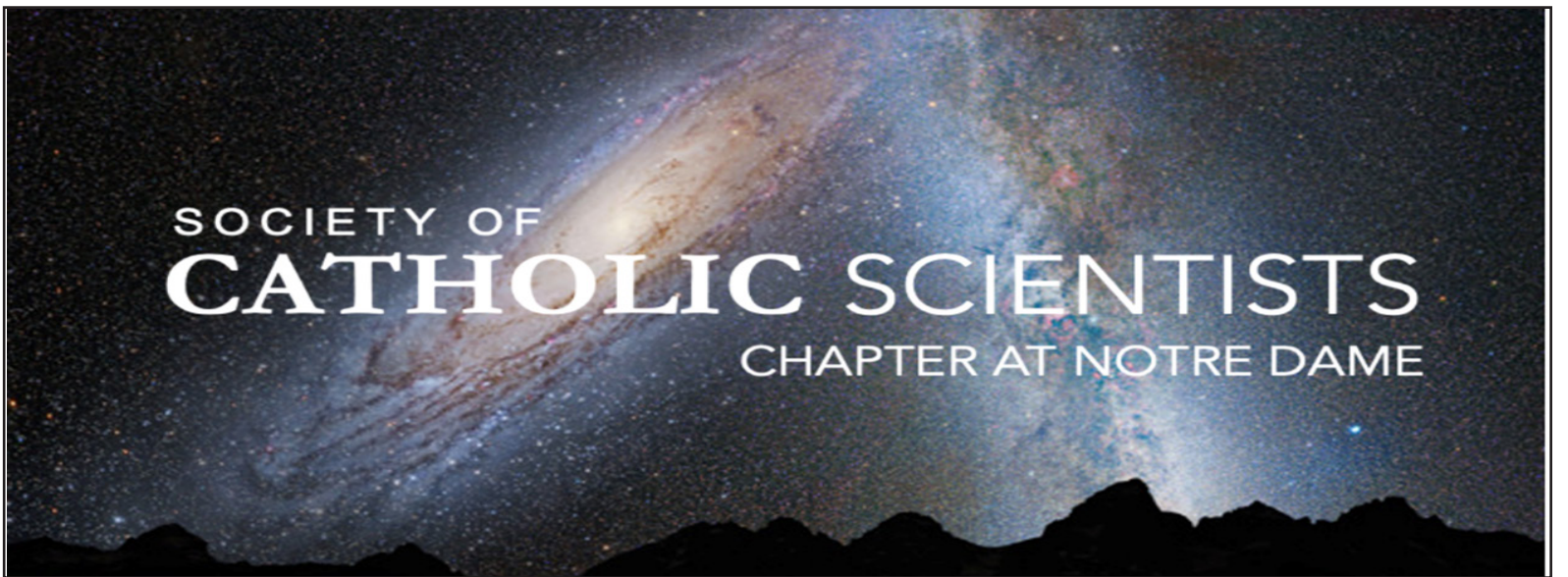


Image by Society of Catholic Scientists

St. Hildegard of Bingen, who was declared a Doctor of the Church for her contributions to theology, ecology, music, and the healing sciences. Students and faculty from the Colleges of Science and Engineering gathered in the basilica to commemorate her feast and the special week.

Following Mass, students and faculty were invited to attend a lecture delivered by Gary Lamberti, Ph.D., Nieuwland Professor Emeritus of Aquatic Science in the Department of Biological Sciences at Notre Dame, who previously served as chair of the Department of Biological Sciences.

In the lecture entitled “The Global Freshwater Crisis: Science, Society, and Spirituality,” Lamberti advocated for increased care for water as the planet’s most imperiled resource. He noted

that more than two billion people lack access to clean water and half of the world suffers from inadequate wastewater treatment. The discussion considered how society can address the freshwater crisis in light of Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical *Laudato si’*.

Also included in the week’s events was a virtual tour of the universe in Jordan Hall’s planetarium, guided by a dialogue between an astronomer and a theologian.

Joey Heston, a fifth-year graduate aerospace and mechanical engineering student, told the *Rover* that the guided tour was “really interesting,” emphasizing the implications of the astronomical data on display. “I think the thing that I found most interesting about it was how the radiosphere is a lot smaller than we often think it is. If other intelligent life existed

elsewhere in the universe, we probably wouldn’t know about it just because of how long it takes the light to travel.”

Programming also included an in-person workshop focused on climate change and the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform, an initiative to encourage parish and institutional involvement in the mission. An “Ask Me Anything” panel on faith and science featured four faculty members from the College of Science and the theology department and was followed by adoration and a reflection led by Sister Damien Marie Savino, F.S.E., Ph.D., Dean of Science and Sustainability at Aquinas College.

Notre Dame has long-standing connections to SCS and has hosted past society events on campus. In 2022, an official student chapter was established at Notre Dame

for students passionate about science and its role in addressing questions such as: Who are we? Where do we come from? How was the universe created? Does evolution disprove that God created us?

If you would like to be added to the Society of Catholic Scientists’ newsletter, you can contact Elliott Kirwan at ekirwan@nd.edu.

Frankie Machado is a senior in Stanford Hall majoring in the Program of Liberal Studies and pre-health and can be contacted at fmachado@nd.edu. He can most likely be found reading a book in one hand and sipping on Cuban coffee in the other, attempting to break down the stereotype of the typical “Florida man.”

Spotlight on Springfield

Trump highlights Ohio town’s mass immigration

ERIC GORDY
Staff Writer

During the ABC news debate on September 10, 2024, former president Donald Trump said, “In Springfield they’re eating the dogs, the people that came in, they’re eating the cats. They’re eating the pets of the people that live there.”

Trump’s comments were in reference to recent claims that Haitian migrants in Springfield, Ohio have been eating the pets of the town’s residents.

Trump’s claims come amidst the influx of twenty thousand Haitian migrants to the town of Springfield (pre-influx population of sixty thousand) since 2020. Technically, these migrants entered the U.S. legally under Temporary Protected Status (TPS), an asylum designation which grants recipients work permits and residency for 18 months.

In December 2022, however, the Biden administration extended the TPS status of Haitians for an additional 18 months. On top of this, the administration initiated the

CHNV parole program in January 2023, allowing migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela to enter the U.S. legally. Since the creation of this program, a total of 151,000 Haitians have entered the country.

Trump’s comments generated reactions on both sides of the aisle, with Democrats and liberal journalists widely condemning the former president’s rhetoric as racist. Speaking from the White House lawn, President Biden suggested that Trump’s comments have placed the Haitian American community “under attack,” proclaiming that Trump’s rhetoric “has to stop.”

While the reactions of Republican politicians have been mixed, Trump’s running mate J. D. Vance defended the former president’s comments in a September 10 post on X (formerly Twitter): “Do you know what’s confirmed? That a child was murdered by a Haitian migrant who had no right to be here. That local health services have been overwhelmed ... that local schools have struggled to keep up with newcomers who don’t know English. That rents

have risen so fast that many Springfield families can’t afford to put a roof over their head.”

Springfield has provided a test case for the effects of mass migration on communities with minimal history of immigration, and Trump’s comments during the debate placed the town at the center of national immigration debate. The debate has also led to varying reactions from American Christians. While Catholic J. D. Vance expressed support for the former president’s comments, evangelical leader Russell Moore stated that “the ... lying about Haitian immigrant families is satanic to the core.”

Students on campus have also weighed in on the relevance of the case of Springfield to the broader immigration debate. A senior in Sorin asserted, “The influx of Haitians into the heartland of the United States, along with the defense of these migrants by some Republicans such as Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, shows the American people that our leaders do not care about American identity. We deserve leadership that puts our identity, values, and people first.”

A senior in Duncan Hall

echoed the student’s sentiments, stating that “Springfield, Ohio has been virtually terraformed into a miniature Haiti, a veritable nightmare for most Americans.”

The student continued, “Rather than acknowledge the situation for what it is—an existential threat—the United States is forced to swallow its ambitions and accept the degradation of their own citizens’ well-being. This is unacceptable. It is in no way charitable.”

Indeed, there is tangible evidence that this type of mass migration has harmed the Springfield community—in late August of this year, 11 year old Springfield resident Aiden Clark was killed by a Haitian migrant.

Some students, however, took an opposing view. A junior in Alumni Hall told the *Rover* that “Donald Trump’s statements are unsubstantiated and racist.”

“The Haitian immigrants came here legally and have contributed significantly to Springfield through their hard work and unique culture. They’re as American as anyone else. For years Republicans said they only opposed illegal immigration. Now they’re

showing their true colors, demonizing legal residents,” the student continued.

Regardless of the ultimate validity of Trump’s claims, the incident has undoubtedly increased the nation’s attention on the effects of mass immigration. The media has also shown a newfound interest in middle-American towns like Springfield, a change in tone that did not go unnoticed by Vance:

“They have ignored this town’s problems for years. Now, they pay attention—not to focus their considerable wealth and power on helping their fellow citizens, but to use their platform as a weapon against those who dare to notice that their lives have gotten worse.”

Notre Dame College Democrats did not respond to a request for comment.

Eric Gordy is a junior studying political science and economics. For inquiries about his favorite foods, he can be reached at egordy@nd.edu.

Election Poll
continued from front page

Conservative” increased by 17 percent.

PJ Butler, who served as the President of Notre Dame College Republicans from 2022–23, attributed the shifts to the increasing academic acceptance of conservative ideas. “Trump has certainly become more palatable to the mainstream than he was in 2016 among a certain subset of ‘elite’ voters,” he explained.

Support for Trump and Harris varied significantly among different demographics within the Notre Dame student body. A notable gap in support between the two candidates emerged along gender lines. Men backed former President Trump by a margin of 57 percent to 35 percent, while women supported Harris 57 percent to 38 percent. This finding is consistent with growing evidence of a polarized gender gap among young voters. A NYT/Siena poll last month found a 39 point difference in candidate preference between 18–29 year old men and women, the largest of any generation.

Many female supporters of Harris emphasized their disgust with Donald Trump’s personal conduct and perceived opposition to gender equality. One anonymous student, a Catholic-identifying female who supports Harris, wrote, “As a woman, I feel like it is imperative that the rights of all women are protected and we don’t regress back to the women’s suffrage era.” Male voters, on the other hand, expressed admiration for Trump’s personal brand. One student, Joe Mura, told the *Rover* he was supporting Trump because “he’s super chill” and “very relatable.”

An even bigger gap emerged when considering religious affiliation. Self-described Catholics, who make up around 80 percent of Notre Dame’s total student body, said they supported Trump by a margin of 56–36 percent. Among those who identified with a different religion—or none at all—Harris had a colossal 75–22 percent advantage.

Catholic men backed Trump by a robust 63–28 percent margin, while Catholic women narrowly supported Harris 50–46 percent. However, non-Catholic members of both sexes had a strong preference for Harris, who led Trump 70–29 percent with non-Catholic men and 80–16 percent among non-Catholic women. Harris saw her strongest support

THE IRISH ROVER / NOTRE DAME POLL

September 15 to 18



If the 2024 presidential election were held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were **Kamala Harris** and **Donald Trump**?

Trump

48%

Harris

46%

Other

6%

Image by Notre Dame Women's Basketball Instagram

among women who identified as agnostic or atheist.

Several students drew on their religious beliefs to explain why they were voting for either Trump or Harris. An agnostic-identifying female, for example, told the *Rover* she was voting for Harris “on the basis of [which candidate] respects individual rights, promotes peaceful transitions of power, and supports the working class, including those of differing legal status.”

On the other hand, Luke Woodyard, a Catholic-identifying male, told the *Rover* he would be voting for Trump to block “the abolition of the family, society, norms, and truth in favor of an individualistic, relativistic society” that could be advanced under a Harris presidency.

The *Rover*’s poll also surveyed students on which political issue they believe to be most important to their vote. On this question, 28 percent of students indicated that they viewed the economy as their top issue, while 26 percent said abortion, 14 percent democracy, 7 percent foreign policy, 6 percent immigration, 6 percent climate change, 4 percent gun policy, 3 percent LGBT issues, 2 percent education, 2 percent healthcare, 1 percent crime, and 1 percent race relations.

Harris held wide advantages among those who prioritized democracy, foreign policy, climate change, LGBT issues, education, gun policy, healthcare, and race

relations. On the other hand, Trump was preferred by voters who cared most about crime, immigration, the economy, and abortion.

On a national level, those supporting the Democratic Party have tended to name abortion as their top issue, but this dynamic was flipped at Notre Dame. Of those who prioritized abortion in their voting decision, 69 percent said they supported Trump. Notably, 53 percent of women in this group also indicated they backed the former president.

Former Notre Dame Right to Life President Merlot Fogarty (’24) offered an explanation for the unusual abortion dynamic in the poll: “This student poll, I think, highlights in particular the conviction of pro-life students at Notre Dame and their commitment to voting for candidates who know abortion is a grave evil.”

Fogarty continued, “While the Democratic Party may have made abortion the biggest issue on their national platform, most students at a Catholic university do not support their extreme abortion-until-birth policies. Hopefully, this means Notre Dame students will continue to trend pro-life.”

Many poll respondents echoed Fogarty’s sentiments. “I really do think abortion is the root of a lot of problems in this country,” said one student, a female Catholic-identifying Trump voter.

Despite trailing overall, there

were some positive indicators for Vice President Harris in the poll. 60 percent of Notre Dame students, including 30 percent of Trump supporters, viewed Harris as the winner of the September 10 presidential debate. 30 percent of students believed the debate was a tie, and just 10 percent felt that Trump had won.

One freshman student, Jack Rankin, cited the debate as an important factor in his decision to vote for Harris. “I know Harris will be a repeat of Biden, but I liked Biden’s climate action and Trump came off as crazy during last week’s debate,” he said.

Harris also enjoyed a stronger showing among Democrats than Trump had with Republicans. 97 percent of Democrats on campus support the vice president, compared to only 88 percent of Republicans voting for the former president.

Finally, despite Trump’s overall lead in the vote, Harris received better ratings among students when asked if they personally liked or disliked either candidate. 40 percent of students said that they had a very or somewhat favorable view of Harris, while 60 percent had a very or somewhat negative opinion of her. Trump polled 37 percent and 63 percent respectively.

This figure is attributable to the fact that the vast majority of Harris’s voters saw her favorably, while some of Trump’s supporters preferred him simply as the better

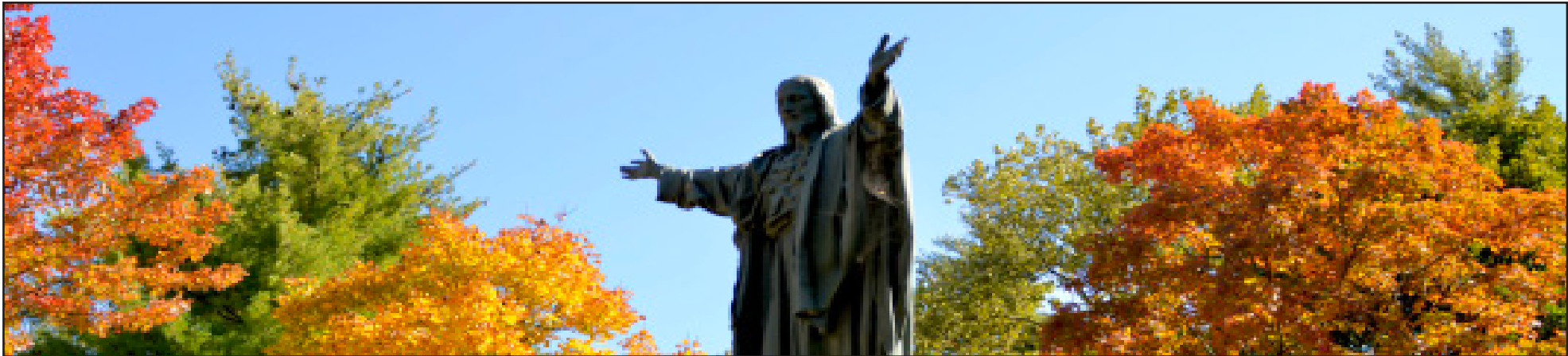
of two bad options. Indeed, Trump enjoyed a significant advantage amongst voters who indicated they viewed both candidates unfavorably.

One student who is voting for Trump commented: “I very much hate Donald Trump’s character. However, he has infinitely better policy.”

He concluded, “And at the end of the day, I have to choose policy over character.”

Shri Thakur is a junior studying economics and constitutional studies. He is in the process of obtaining a long-stay visa for France as an escape plan if the election goes poorly. He can be reached at sthakur3@nd.edu to discuss further.

Sam Marchand is a sophomore studying political science and finance from Beaumont, TX. He squanders much of his spare time by reading the Current Events section of Wikipedia preparing arguments for ND Speech & Debate, of which he serves as president. He can be reached at smarcha3@nd.edu.





Abortion on the Ballot

Students react to states' abortion initiatives

SHRI THAKUR &
PETER MCKENNA

Politics Editor & Staff Writer

Since the 2022 Supreme Court decision *Dobbs v. Women's Health Organization*, abortion has become an issue largely legislated at the state level. This November, several states will hold referendums on different amendments to state constitutions related to abortion. The results will affect the future of abortion access for millions of people across the nation.

A total of 11 states are expected to hold votes to codify or restrict access to abortion in their state constitutions. These states are New York, Maryland, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, Arkansas, Montana, Colorado, Nevada, Arizona, and Florida.

In most of these states, only pro-abortion groups have proposed referendums, aiming to overturn existing state laws that protect the unborn. In some states, namely New York, Maryland, Colorado, and Nevada, the proposals aim to expand abortion where it is already legal. Nebraska is the only state in which both pro-life and pro-abortion groups have proposed competing amendments to change state laws.

Perhaps the highest-profile vote will take place in Florida, where abortion activists are seeking to overturn the state's law banning abortion after six weeks. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed the law in 2023, which came into full effect after it was upheld by Florida's State Supreme Court in May 2024. Within hours of the law's passage, pro-abortion organizers began amassing the 890,000 signatures needed to propose an amendment enshrining abortion into the state's constitution—and overturning the ban. The effort achieved enough signatures in January 2024, and was approved as Amendment Four for the

state's ballot in April 2024.

Florida's abortion vote is distinct in that it requires a higher threshold—60 percent—for the amendment to pass and abortion to become constitutionally protected. For this reason, the vote has become especially competitive, with polls showing the amendment winning a majority but not reaching the level of support needed to pass.

National political figures on both sides have weighed in on the vote. President Joe Biden endorsed the pro-abortion side, arguing that the issue "isn't about state's rights, it's about women's rights." On the other hand, former president Trump, a Florida resident, has stated that he will be voting "no" on the amendment.

"The Democrats are radical because nine months is just a ridiculous situation. You can do an abortion in the ninth month," Trump said. "You know, some of the states, like Minnesota and other states, have it where you can actually execute the baby after birth, and all of that stuff is unacceptable. So I will be voting no for that reason."

Some proposed state amendments, including in New York, have combined protecting access to abortion with other progressive priorities. The New York amendment would also enshrine gender identity as a protected class, thereby prohibiting laws that make distinctions on the basis of biological sex. Republican opponents of the proposal have stated that it "would allow transgender athletes to play on women's sports teams," among other concerns.

In Nebraska, the only state where both sides of the issue have proposed competing amendments, voters can decide between three frameworks for abortion access in the state. Pro-abortion advocates have proposed the "Right to Abortion Initiative," which would enshrine access to abortion until



Image by Rolling Stone

fetal viability.

Some pro-life groups have proposed the "Nebraska Prohibit Abortions After the First Trimester Amendment," which would ban abortion after three months. Others have promoted the stricter "Prohibit Abortion Procedures and Drugs Initiative," which would ban all abortion in the state except to save the life of the mother.

In most of these states, including in some that Trump is projected to win in the presidential election, the pro-abortion amendments are widely expected to pass. In Missouri, for example, a SLS/YouGov poll showed Trump leading the state by 13 points and the pro-abortion amendment passing by 18 points.

If Missouri passes its abortion amendment, it would not be the first conservative state to vote in favor of access to abortion. In late 2023, Ohio voters approved a similar initiative by 13 percent, while Kansas and Kentucky both rejected amendments restricting abortion access in 2022.

Opinion on campus was divided about the referenda.

Notre Dame Right to Life President Jackie Nguyen emphasized the importance of voting against efforts to expand abortion. "Being a truly pro-life voter means prioritizing the most pressing life issue in protecting the unborn, who are most seriously immediately endangered," she explained.

She continued, "In the same way that individual friendship, steadfast prayer, and seemingly trivial advocacy may not seem to bear fruit in the midst of the chaos, we, as pro-life voters, must remember that it is in these local, seemingly trivial elections that the Lord works to protect the sanctity of life."

A Ryan Hall sophomore from Florida echoed these sentiments, telling the *Rover* she would vote against Amendment Four in her state.

"It's just so sad to me that women in particular are manipulated into thinking abortion is their only choice, that the path to their dreams runs through their ability to kill their child. I don't think that's equality," she said.

On the other hand, a junior in

Morrissey Hall voiced support for protecting abortion in his home state of Arizona. "The Supreme Court, with no input from the people, declared abortion illegal statewide under a territorial law from the 19th century. That's just ridiculous," he said.

He continued, "I think women should have the right to make their own decisions about their own bodies. It's just not my place as a man to tell them what to do," he added.

The referenda will take place concurrently with the presidential and congressional elections on November 5, 2024.

Shri Thakur is a junior studying economics and constitutional studies. He can be reached at sthakur3@nd.edu.

Peter McKenna is a senior studying history. He can be reached at p.mckenn2@nd.edu.

Discovering the Notre Dame Identity Through Football

An interview with Fighting Irish chaplain, Father Nate Wills

WILLIAM HUNTER
Staff Writer

Last week, Father Nate Wills, C.S.C., chaplain of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team, sat down with the *Rover* to discuss football, faith, and the culture of Notre Dame's campus.

Wills, originally from St. Paul, MN, came to Notre Dame as an undergraduate seminarian, spent two years teaching for the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), and was ordained a Holy Cross priest in 2006. He then earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2015.

Wills began his duties as the

chaplain of the football team from Fr. Mark Theising C.S.C. in 2018 and additionally serves as the priest in residence for Keough Hall. Wills said that Fr. Pete McCormick, C.S.C., Director of Campus Ministry and Fighting Irish Men's Basketball chaplain, originally recommended him to take on the role of chaplain.

He recalled his conversation with McCormick: "Honestly, I'd never even considered the idea. I always kind of wondered, 'How do people end up doing that?' And I said, 'First of all, I'm honored, and second, I don't know that much about football. And [McCormick] said, 'Look, we don't need you to call plays. A lot of people get paid a lot of money to know everything there

is about football. We need you to bring them to Jesus.'"

Wills explained his duties as chaplain: "We have Mass before every game, and that's kind of my primary responsibility. I usually try in my homilies not to preach about football. Usually, I introduce them to the saint of the day and really just talk about life, because I think their world is so soaked in football that it's important to remind them that they're more than what they can do on Saturday."

Reflecting on the players, he said, "It's an interesting group in the sense that it's kind of hard to get into. It takes a while for people to trust that you're just there and you don't want something from them. And you're authentically who you

are. So it took a little while. But this was my fourth season, and two of them I've done as the full chaplain. It's been pretty amazing. [The athletes'] Notre Dame experience, like all of the undergraduate and graduate students who come here, is about forming them into the person that they're going to be and pointing them toward Christ and heaven."

Wills explained further, "As a Holy Cross priest, I think we have a unique opportunity to point people to hope. I celebrate Mass, I'm there on the sidelines, we pray before the games, and we pray at the end of the game. I pray with individuals. There's a number of folks who will come up to me and say, 'Can we pray together for the game?' just to

center themselves in the eternal. I'm on the sidelines there next to the orthopedic surgeon (God willing, neither of us are going to be needed during the game). Some of the close games I put myself to work in praying pretty hard. Sometimes it's efficacious and other times not so much."

Wills doesn't minister only to the Catholic students; he seeks to lead the whole team in their faith. He reflected, "Most of the people on the team, if they're not Catholic, are people who have deep, deep faith, and our common link is usually Sacred Scripture. I think it's a real opportunity to not shy away from digging deep into the Word and to really open that up."

continued on pg. 10



Jennifer Newsome Martin Speaks on Catholic Culture

Recently-appointed dCEC director reflects on ethics, culture, and their relationship

DARIUS COLANGELO

Staff Writer

The de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture (dCEC) began its 25th year at Notre Dame with a lecture by its recently-appointed director, Jennifer Newsome Martin. The talk, titled “What is Catholic Culture?” was delivered to a packed audience of over 200 faculty and students and served as a retrospective on the dCEC’s work: ethics, culture, and their interdependence.

In an interview with the *Rover*, Martin said she was motivated “to give this really generous picture of Catholic culture,” with its countless manifestations all “ultimately oriented around the question of the good.”

Martin opened her lecture by exploring the breadth of Catholic culture in its myriad forms, both geographically and culturally. She explained how Catholic culture reaches beyond explicit Catholicism to include the likes of Homer, Fyodor Dostoevsky, C. S. Lewis, and countless others who reflect the essence of Catholic culture without being Catholic themselves.

Catholic culture, she argued, possesses a “radically open disposition,” a “discerning yes” that critiques, transforms, and thereby integrates all wisdom, while also rejecting the “counterfeit generousities of eclecticism, relativism, [and] shallow pluralism.”

Tracing “culture” back to the Latin *colere*—meaning “to till”—Martin continued by developing an analogy of Catholic culture as agriculture in four principles.

First, just as agriculture is concerned with what is natural, so too must Catholic culture embrace nature and the body—the dirt of life—through the incarnation of Christ. Second, similar to the way that soil “has the capacity to take in and transform,” Martin argued that Catholic culture



Image by the de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture

is “enormously hospitable” in its ability to transform, joining varied people and perspectives into the organic whole. Third, she explained Catholic culture is not a “monoculture,” but rather is “enormously diverse.” Finally, because of this “radical diversity,” Catholic culture, like good soil, is “teeming with life. ... It is literally a culture of life.”

After articulating this agricultural vision of Catholic culture, Martin then grounded her conception in ethics, stating, “the very *anima*—or soul—of culture is none other than human perfection, that is, our God-given grace and capacity to be perfected in our desire for the Good.” Martin continued, “The culmination of perfection is union with the God who is Goodness itself.”

Echoing Catholic philosopher Josef Pieper, Martin argued that worship of God animates culture. Unlike the culture of “total work,” Catholic culture is one of “worship, which takes place in festivity, feast, leisure, celebration” and entails

a “posture of receptivity rather than activity.”

She closed her talk by reflecting on leisure’s relationship with love. “Leisure,” she quoted from Pieper, “lives on affirmation.” She concluded, “Is this fundamental affirmation not at the very root of Catholic culture? To praise the praiseworthy things, to love the lovable things, to elevate the good things of nature, art, literature, education, and ordinary life for the intrinsic goodness they have merely in virtue of their existence.”

Audience members reflected positively on Martin’s lecture.

Sophomore Annabel Wehrle told the *Rover*, “I loved her emphasis on how a Catholic culture embraces diversity, even encompassing things that aren’t necessarily associated directly with Catholicism, but it embraces the good in all things regardless of discipline.”

Wehrle continued, “It truly affirms the beauty of every person and every piece of good art that seeks the truth. I thought that was just beautifully said and

really animates the mission of the dCEC as a whole.”

Chuck Lamphier, Executive Director of the Office of Mission Engagement and Church Affairs, expressed similar sentiments to the *Rover*: “I was particularly heartened—though not surprised—by Professor Martin’s capacious and generous perspective on Catholic culture, and her reminder that ‘no genuine search for the truth in the human or the cosmic order is alien to the life of faith.’”

Martin expounded on this point during her interview with the *Rover*, stating such a posture requires “acting in counter-cultural ways ... not ... at Notre Dame but in America, in the world.”

She then connected this wider vision to the experience of Notre Dame students by praising their high academic achievements, while also arguing for the need to sanctify this drive for success: “I also think that Catholic practices like adoration are a good way of chastening this idea that we have to economize every hour and

every minute of our time.”

Martin began her tenure as director of the dCEC on July 1, 2024, following the retirement of her predecessor, O. Carter Snead. Aside from her work at the dCEC, she is an associate professor in the Program of Liberal Studies and theology. According to her faculty page, Martin’s research focuses on 19th and 20th century Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox thought, Theological Aesthetics, Trinitarian Theology, Religion and Literature, Ressourcement Theology, and French Feminisms.

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Football Identity

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He continued, “I’ve done some Bible studies with the guys, and sometimes they do their own fellowship, which is really great, too. The way I approach [ministry] is to really focus on Scripture, focus on the person of Jesus, and invite them into some of the [Church’s] traditions.”

Wills prays the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary at every Mass the team celebrates together. “I feel like it’s really important to explain to them the difference between saying to God the Father, ‘Have mercy on us,’ and saying, ‘Holy Mary, pray for us.’ [It is] very different asking for Mary’s intercession, her inspiration in our lives, and for her to intercede with her Son ... It’s all simply to say, I think the intersection of our faiths is really important. I think a lot of

people come to Notre Dame to cultivate and grow in their faith, whatever that might be. I try to take the opportunity to help them grow.”

When asked about the Catholic identity of the university and the participation of the team within it, Wills said: “I think the reality is, we’re strongest when you lean into our identity, and say, ‘This is who we are. And that’s not at the exclusion of other people.’ And that becomes an invitation to people to say, ‘Oh, okay, I get who you are, I get who I am.’ And let’s see if there’s any intersection or commonalities. I think when it gets dangerous is to say, ‘Well, you know, I’m Catholic, but it’s no big deal.’ And then ... there’s no clarity in terms of who you are. I see this a lot in our students—an authentic desire to grow in their faith. A desire I think I see more and more in the

world, to belong.”

Contextualizing this with the athletes and their fellow students he said, “I do think in terms of football, I see that it is, in many ways, sort of a crucible. It’s sort of an amplifier of a lot of things; there’s an intensity among our student-athletes: about training, about excellence in just getting better. So I hope and assume that they bring that same mindset into the classroom, and I certainly know some of them do, and they see that in their faith life as well. And I think that’s not a bad reflection of the Notre Dame student in general.”

Wills continued: “I think we’re hitting an interesting point in our American society in general where there’s just a radical secularism among a ton of people who want nothing to do with a life of faith, and if they’re going to dabble in anything spiritual,

it’s going to be, a meditation app their with friends, reading Tarot cards and doing brunch on Sunday. That’s the extent of things.”

He then concluded with a hopeful outlook for the future: “I think we’re seeing a real shift among people who are saying, ‘That [lukewarm spirituality is] not enough. I was created for more in life, and God is calling me ...’ and I think, more and more, those people are going to choose places like Notre Dame that say, ‘We don’t just care about being a place of academic excellence. [We want to] hopefully help you to become the person you want to be, but we will be helping you to grow in your faith and your relationship with Christ.’ My hope is that people continue to listen to that restlessness in their heart and come to places like Notre Dame or other places

where they can have that faith cultivated.”

Wills looks forward to continuing to lead the team in faith and brotherhood going into his fifth season as chaplain of the Fighting Irish. He expressed enthusiasm in getting to know the new coaching staff and working with both them and the seasoned veterans in leading Notre Dame onward to victory.

William Hunter can be reached at whunter2@nd.edu



Provost Speaks on Critical Issue

Strongly-worded letter makes the university's position clear

WILL GRANNIS
Staff Writer

[The university's administration, we think, released the following statement on Tuesday, September 24, of this or some other year.]

Dear members of our university community, as well as members of our community from outside the university, and all members of any communities of which our university may be a part:

In recent days, we have been made aware of certain occurrences that have taken place which may have had an impact on our community members, and in particular those either inside or outside of our community. As you can surely understand, we as a

university have needed time to process these events, and each of us has responded in unique ways. We wish to convey our commitment to addressing the present situation, and we will be taking every necessary step to ensure the safety of our campus.

The safety of our students (as well as all members of our community, especially those who are not our students) is not only our highest priority and chief objective, but also our most highly prioritized goal and principal object of our concern.

We want to emphasize that students are expected to behave as anticipated, though not necessarily as proscribed, by the code of conduct, and it is our firm stance that actions which contravene this code may result

in an appropriate response, if we deem it necessary. The values that our institution upholds, as articulated in our mission statement, hold great significance for us. We would not be able to boldly step into who we are, or into whom we are called to be, if we did not have these critical values to guide us. And, for the inclusion of all the members of our community, we also make a firm commitment to all the values which we do not hold, but which might be held by any members of our community, and especially by members immediately outside our community. We recognize that a fully inclusive society means accepting all values, especially those which directly conflict with our own.

Consequently, we cannot—

accordingly, we will not—tolerate any actions that undermine these values. Our community standards office is currently in the process of reviewing the events in question to determine what consequences, if any, the university code might prescribe. Let it be known unambiguously that all appropriate consequences, as determined by the office, will be implemented if deemed appropriate, safe, possible, and acceptable by all involved (and uninvolved) parties.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we navigate this situation with the highest regard for all affected parties. Rest assured, we will continue to decide whether or not to consider taking action as needed, in

accordance with our principles and, as always, our commitment to our shared values.

As unambiguously as possible,

A Consortium of Some People from the Office of the Provost, But, Importantly, Not Necessarily Including the Provost, and Equally Importantly, Not Necessarily *Not* Including the Provost (ACSPOPBINNIPEINNNIP).

Will Grannis is an off-campus senior majoring in Honors Mathematics and theology and pursuing a minor in constitutional studies. He can be reached at wgrannis@nd.edu.

Notre Dame Shuts Down Confession Hotline

Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?

JOE RUDOLPH
Staff Writer

The confession hotline at Notre Dame has been forced to unplug its phones after a series of heretical actions were uncovered.

"Confession Hotline was created to provide students a quick and easy absolution without the humiliating experience of standing in line at the Basilica," said Rayfa Loll. "When I'm in line, everyone just looks at me as if they know that I was the one who put the asbestos in Baumer's drinking water. That makes me uncomfortable."

Notre Dame's rigorous academic schedule made it difficult for students to receive confession. This hotline was an easy fix to the problem. Their jingle even made a comforting appeal as well: "To Avoid Being Possessed, Call 1-800-CONFESS!"

After a month of success, it expanded to a 24/7 service. "We wanted to make ourselves available for everyone at any time," said Fr. Doug. "Unfortunately, the hotline received a lot of prank calls."

He continued, "One time a kid confessed arson on Ryan Hall. I just hung up the phone. Thankfully he was lying. Another time, a student offered me eighty thousand dollars and a free trip to Kokomo in exchange for permanent indulgence. He may have been bluffing, but that one was tempting..."

Though the hotline faced challenges, it persisted. That was, until the interns arrived.

According to our whistleblower, one priest in particular would let their student interns take the night shift on weekdays. "God doesn't rest, but I do," said Fr. José Siesta.

This information was uncovered by a freshman in Fisher Hall. "I called the hotline after a long day of academic dishonesty, and I suspected I wasn't speaking with a priest. I expected to hear some comforting words of advice after my confession. Instead I heard, 'Bro, don't even worry about it. I cheat all the time in my physics class, and the TA never notices. She's also super hot.'"

The line was traced to the eighth floor of the Hesburgh Library, and I decided to return to my investigative work. I dressed up as a visiting priest with a name tag labeled, 'Father Daniel Tuttle' and quickly rushed to the scene.

I searched until I found a large office in the back. There, I found some suspicious interns, one of whom was talking to a penitent, saying, "Dude, I threw one of those Grubhub bots in the lake too, you're totally fine."

I began to investigate the scene of the crime more thoroughly. Behind the intern desks were chalkboards filled with sins and tally marks. At first I thought they were forming a statistical analysis of confessions. But when I saw the cash I smelled gambling. Feeling nauseated, I called my mom immediately.

The chalkboard revealed that in the second week in September, callers confessed vehicular manslaughter just once, vandalism 12 times, and



Image by the Irish Rover

305 times for impure thoughts. "Certain students really need to dress more modestly," said an overwhelmed freshman. "The boys wearing leggings to Mass are killing me."

Police confirmed that a significant amount of confessions

were not administered by a priest. "We're tracing all the non-priestly calls right now. If we can catch the person who committed vehicular manslaughter, their case is admissible in court."

To issue a complaint, please contact **Joe Rudolph** at jrudolp3@nd.edu.

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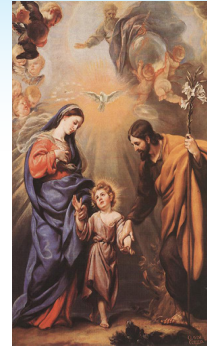
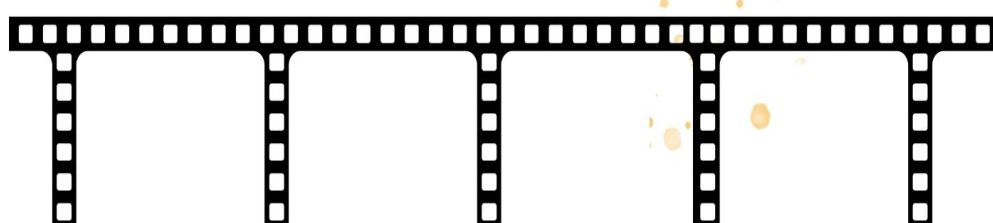
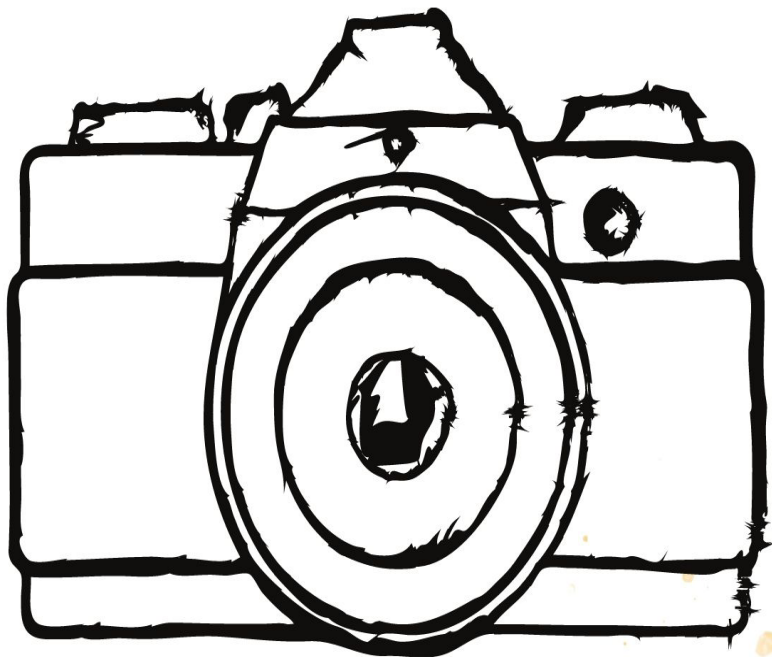


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