



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

December 26, 2025

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On the weekend of January 4, the parishes in our diocese will participate in the national collection for **The Catholic University of America** in Washington, D.C. Established in 1887 by pontifical charter, the university is the only American university with ecclesiastical faculties granting canonical degrees in canon law, philosophy and theology.

Under the guidance of President Peter K. Kilpatrick, Ph.D., through its 12 schools, 32 research facilities and more than 250 academic programs, the University community works tirelessly on behalf of its more than 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students to help educate them to serve the Church and nation as the Catholic leaders of tomorrow.

Support of this national second collection not only provides critical support to students but also helps the University serve dioceses and parishes through innovative research initiatives and training programs. Examples of this include the Catholic Identity Professional Development program for teachers, staff, and school leaders in the Archdiocese of Chicago and an innovative program that provides lower-income, primarily Hispanic and Latino students access to a Catholic University undergraduate degree affordably and locally in Tucson, AZ.

I encourage you to be generous in the special collection for The Catholic University of America to be taken up on the weekend of January 4, 2026.

With every prayerful best wish for a Blessed New Year, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Robert J. McManus

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester