

THE
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
of AMERICA



Office of the President
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*The National Collection for The Catholic University of America
September 14 and 21, 2008*

Your Eminence/Your Excellency,

Thank you for the special effort that you make every year to promote and support The National Collection for The Catholic University of America. On behalf of the students at CU who benefit directly as a result of the generosity of the good people of your Diocese, I renew our heartfelt thanks.

As you know, Catholic University holds a unique position in our nation: we are the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States, and the only higher education institution founded and sponsored by the U.S. Bishops and chartered by the Vatican. I am deeply gratified to acknowledge that for the past 120 years, the U.S. Bishops and Catholics throughout nation have generously embraced Catholic University through their support of the National Collection.

This past year, you and your brother Bishops, as well as Catholic parishioners throughout our country, provided the largest response to our national appeal in the history of Catholic University. A national total of \$5,923,239 was collected, all of which is used to support young women and men through our financial aid and scholarship programs. That meant that in this past academic year, nearly 3,000 undergraduate students – some perhaps from your own Diocese – directly benefited from the generous support provided to CUA through the National Collection.

On behalf of our students, I ask for your assistance again this year. Please promote the National Collection in your parishes and help us to ensure that we are preparing our students for service to the Church, our nation and the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

Very Reverend David M. O'Connell, C.M. President