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## Reverend John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.

### President

Elected in 2005 as the University of Notre Dame's 17th president, Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., has devoted himself to fostering the University's unique place in academia, the Church, our nation and the world. A philosopher trained in theology and a member of Notre Dame's Department of Philosophy since 1990, Fr. Jenkins earned undergraduate and advanced degrees from Notre Dame, a doctorate in philosophy from Oxford University, and a master of divinity and licentiate in sacred theology from the Jesuit School of Theology. He was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2010, and a year later appointed to the Academy's Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences, which is dedicated to the advancement of teaching and research in these disciplines.



As president, Fr. Jenkins has been committed to combining teaching and research excellence with a cultivation of the deeper purposes of Catholic higher education. While pursuing academic distinction, he has brought renewed emphasis to Notre Dame's distinctive mission, rooted in the tradition of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the University's founding community, to educate the whole person – mind, body and spirit – to be, in the words of founder Rev. Edward F. Sorin, C.S.C., “the most powerful means for doing good in the world.”

These commitments have been made manifest in the University's dedication to excellence in undergraduate education in the classroom and beyond, while simultaneously building a reputation as a preeminent research institution – all in the context of Notre Dame's Catholic identity.

Construction of new academic buildings and residence halls as well as other investments in the University's infrastructure, scholarly programs and international reach during Fr. Jenkins' tenure have helped Notre Dame to solidify its stature as one of the nation's leading universities, and to advance his vision of making it “one of the preeminent research institutions in the world, a center for learning whose intellectual and religious traditions converge to make it a healing, unifying, enlightening force for a world deeply in need.”

As a result of these efforts, Notre Dame has been highly competitive in recruiting the best students, faculty and staff and in attracting more than \$141 million last year in outside research funding. Recent research initiatives include the development of the Notre Dame Turbomachinery Laboratory, a public-private partnership that studies and test new gas turbine engine technologies; using nanotechnology to address climate change and post-silicon computer technology; and nuclear physics research on the evolution of our cosmos. On a global scale, two Notre Dame biologists are leaders of a \$23 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in the fight against malaria and dengue fever.

By identifying and implementing cost efficiencies and budget reprioritizations in units across the campus, Notre Dame has been able to redirect savings to other academic priorities. One such initiative is the plan over the next few years to hire more than 80 additional faculty in research areas of recognized excellence, including nuclear physics, analytical sciences and engineering, nanotechnology, computational data science and engineering, and economics.

Fr. Jenkins has also strengthened Notre Dame's relationship with the South Bend community in tangible ways, including leadership in the Indiana Regional Cities Initiative, which brought \$42 million to the three-county region for economic development projects; supporting and staffing the Robinson Community Learning Center, a learning center and gathering space for the community near campus; construction of the \$225 million mixed-use commercial and residential Eddy Street Commons; and the expansion of the Idea Center at Innovation Park where technology-driven research helps to create jobs locally. Notre Dame's economic impact locally amounts to approximately \$2.5 billion annually and the direct and indirect employment of some 16,700 people.

In the 2017-18 academic year, Notre Dame completed the largest construction project in its history with the opening of the 770,000 square-foot Campus Crossroads Project, in which leading-edge teaching, research, student life, hospitality, performance and digital technology buildings were built on the exteriors of Notre Dame's iconic football stadium. The additions have brought students, faculty and others engaged in scholarly, artistic and athletic pursuits in close proximity while optimizing underutilized space to preserve the pedestrian character of the Notre Dame campus. Among many other campus construction projects, Notre Dame in the fall of 2017 opened Jenkins and Nanovic Halls, the new home to the Keough School of Global Affairs and the Departments of Sociology, Political Science and Economics.

In response to the encyclical on the environment issued by Pope Francis in the summer of 2015, Fr. Jenkins has put an even greater emphasis on the University's sustainability efforts than in the past. He announced in the fall of 2015 that Notre Dame would cease using coal in its power plant by 2020 and would reduce its carbon footprint by more than half by 2030.

Expanding the University's global footprint also has been one of Fr. Jenkins' top priorities. Most recently, the Keough School for Global Affairs enrolled its first class in the fall of 2017. The University's first new school in nearly 100 years advances integral human development through research, policy and practice, transformative educational programs and partnerships for global engagement. Under Fr. Jenkins' leadership, the University has undertaken new initiatives in various parts of the world, including China, Europe, Africa, and Latin America. On a recent trip to Mexico, Fr. Jenkins remarked. "For too long, the United States and its best universities looked east to Europe and, more recently, to Asia for valued partnerships. . . . Let me assure you, the compass at Notre Dame now points south. That orientation is critical for understanding the changing demographics of the United States. It is critical for higher education. And it is critical for the future of the Catholic Church in the United States. It is also critical in confronting economic and social issues in the Americas – South and North – and in supporting Catholic education in both hemispheres on how to come to terms with providing the great equalizer – a fine education like Notre Dame's – to rich and poor alike."

All of these advances, Fr. Jenkins said, "would not be possible without outstanding students and faculty, the skill and dedication of our executive team, the guidance of our trustees, along with their generosity and that of alumni and other friends, as well as the careful stewardship of our resources."

Recognizing the significant investment families make in education, the University under Fr. Jenkins' leadership has continued to increase financial aid, providing financial assistance to attend Notre Dame to qualified students with demonstrated need. Nearly half of all undergraduate students receive institutional financial assistance, with an average award of more than \$35,600, representing 69 percent of tuition and fees.

Under Fr. Jenkins' leadership, Notre Dame has increased the diversity of its student population, achieving the highest percentage of students from underrepresented groups in the University's history. He leads the President's Oversight Committee on Diversity and Inclusion in order to sustain focus on this important issue across the University.

During Fr. Jenkins' tenure, Notre Dame's storied athletic programs have won five NCAA championships while it is routinely ranked as the top school in Division I college athletics in graduating its student-athletes. Fr. Jenkins also serves on the NCAA Commission on College Basketball, an initiative created to address issues at the Division I level of the sport.

Within the University and beyond, Fr. Jenkins has called for civil discourse – grounded in the Christian view of others as equally made in the image of God – as a way to find common ground rather than demonize those with a different opinion. As a tangible example of finding that common ground, Fr. Jenkins presented the Laetare Medal, the most prestigious award given to American Catholics, in 2016 to Vice President Joe Biden and former Speaker of the House John Boehner. “We live in a toxic political environment where poisonous invective and partisan gamesmanship pass for political leadership.” Fr. Jenkins said. “Public confidence in government is at historic lows, and cynicism is high. It is a good time to remind ourselves what lives dedicated to genuine public service in politics look like. We find it in the lives of Vice President Biden and Speaker Boehner.”

The Commission on Presidential Debates, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that sponsors and produces all U.S. presidential and vice presidential debates, cited his leadership on civil discourse in electing Fr. Jenkins to its board of directors in 2011.

Prior to assuming the presidency, Fr. Jenkins was vice president and associate provost of Notre Dame. A recipient of a Lilly Teaching Fellowship in 1991-92, he is the author of the book *Knowledge and Faith in Thomas Aquinas*, and of numerous scholarly articles published in *The Journal of Philosophy*, *Medieval Philosophy and Theology*, and the *Journal of Religious Ethics*. A popular teacher, he has taught courses on ancient and medieval philosophy, faith and reason, and Thomas Aquinas.

Fr. Jenkins is a member of the board of the Universities Research Association and was appointed to the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities board of directors in February 2006 and served through January 2012, when his term ended. He is a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, awarded to those demonstrating outstanding qualities in their personal and professional lives, while maintaining the richness of their ethnic heritage. He was also the 2009 recipient of the American Irish Historical Society's Gold Medal, and in 2015 he received the Spirit of Francis National Award from Catholic Extension for supporting and encouraging future leaders of the Catholic Church throughout his career.

Fr. Jenkins holds honorary degrees from Benedictine College (2006), the University of San Francisco (2010) and Aquinas College (2011).

In 2015, the University's Board of Trustees elected Fr. Jenkins to his third five-year term as president.