



Rev. Robert A. Dowd, C.S.C.

PRESIDENT

Rev. Robert A. Dowd, C.S.C., became Notre Dame's 18th president in June 2024. A member of Notre Dame's political science department since 2004, he is a popular teacher. Specializing in comparative politics, his research focuses on how Christian and Islamic religious communities affect support for democratic institutions, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and he is the founder of Notre Dame's Ford Program in Human Development Studies and Solidarity.

Prior to his election as president, Fr. Dowd served as vice president and associate provost for interdisciplinary initiatives, overseeing a number of departments and institutes. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and economics from Notre Dame, and an MA in African studies and a doctorate in political science from UCLA.

Ordained a priest in the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1994, Fr. Dowd served previously as religious superior of the Holy Cross Priests and Brothers at Notre Dame, and has ministered to students on campus for many years as a priest-in-residence.