

The Monsignor Chester Michael Professorship in Catholic Studies

The Department of Religion and Culture
The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
Virginia Tech

We are pleased to be involved with the establishment of The Professorship of Catholic Studies at Virginia Tech which is named in honor of Reverend Monsignor Chester Michael. The Professorship is being funded with an estate gift that will assure adequate funding for this purpose. However, the Professorship will not be “effective” until adequate current funding exists.

It is our hope and expectation that as the many friends, students, and benefactors of Monsignor Michael learn about this endeavor that, like “one little rain drop”, funds will flow to convert this vision into a current reality. That is where you come in. Regardless of your ability to make a contribution to this effort at present, we ask that you prayerfully consider the influence that Monsignor has had on your life and those around you (who have benefitted from your spiritual growth and maturity!). Reach out to others who might be in a position to make a contribution and encourage their participation.

The Virginia Tech Foundation is accepting current and future donations, including estate gifts, for this Professorship. Visit www.givingto.vt.edu for additional details on how to make a gift. Call John King @ 540.231.8734 for additional information. John is the Director of Development in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and is familiar with the Professorship. As the value of the endowment associated with the Professorship grows, the Department will be able to use the income from the endowment to further promote the Professorship. Gifts should be designated for “The Monsignor Chester Michael Professorship in Catholic Studies” through the Virginia Tech Foundation.

Some suggestions are to consider the donation of appreciated assets such as common stock or even real estate which provides an attractive charitable gift deduction and avoids potential capital gains taxes. Most of us have Individual Retirement Accounts, and we typically name our loved ones as primary and contingent beneficiaries of these accounts. Consider naming the Professorship as a beneficiary for some percentage of your retirement account. This is very easy to do by contacting the custodian of your account, and avoids any amendments to wills, trusts, etc. We can provide additional details and ideas on making a donation. Please contact us.

Our vision is that the students of Virginia Tech (Catholics comprise about 25% of the student body) will have a stream of courses focusing on the history and culture of the Catholic Church. It is even our hope and aspiration that the scholar who holds the chair might be a priest (the University of Virginia has two Catholic priests in academic positions currently!). We also intend to create perhaps a study room which will have access to the writings of Monsignor to include his library of religious books (which also include the library of Marie Norrisey!). This project has the potential to create a lasting legacy to the saintly ministry of Monsignor and, we hope, raise awareness and appreciation for the Catholic tradition of spiritual direction.

Please feel free to contact us with your questions and ideas!

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