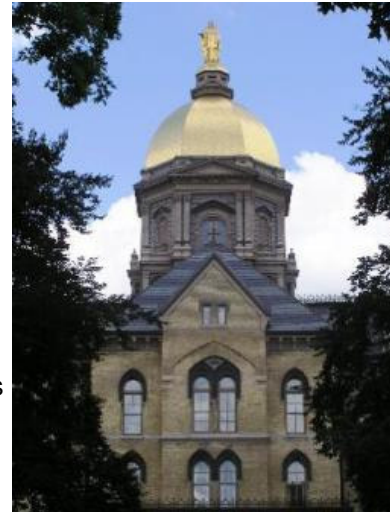


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Help Stop the Scandal at Our Lady's University

On Friday, March 20, the Notre Dame University website posted an announcement that President Barack Obama will be the principal speaker and the recipient of an honorary doctor of laws degree at the University of Notre Dame's 164th University commencement Ceremony at 2 p.m. May 17 (Sunday).

Given our president's commitment to strike down every possible restriction on abortion including the ban on partial birth abortion, and to reinstate federal funding of abortion on an international scale, this is an outrage. The United States Catholic Bishops made the following statement in their document on "Catholics in Political Life" --"The Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."



It is time to speak up and call the president of Notre Dame to obey the successors of the apostles and be true to its Catholic Identity, named as it is in honor of Our Lady, the mother of Life itself. Please take a moment to sign a petition that has already been signed by over 14,000 people. Why not also send a personal email or letter to Notre Dame's president? The info is below. Please forward the link to this page to everyone that you know!

- 1. Add your name to the petition to Fr. John Jenkins, President of Notre Dame by visiting:**
http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/library_article/1157/Stop_the_Scandal_at_Notre_Dame.html
- 2. Contact Fr. Jenkins: Call him at 574.631.5000, fax him at 574.631.2770, write a personal email president@nd.edu, or mail your letter to 317 Main Building, Notre Dame, IN 46556**
- 3. Pray for Our Lady's intercession that Notre Dame, who is named after our Lady, will stay true to their Catholic heritage and identity.**
- 4. Make sure to pass this along to your friends and family!**

Dear Father Jenkins:

It has come to my attention that the University of Notre Dame **will honor President Barack Obama as its commencement speaker** on May 17.

It is an **outrage and a scandal** that “Our Lady’s University,” one of the premier Catholic universities in the United States, would bestow such an honor on President Obama given his clear support for policies and laws that directly contradict fundamental Catholic teachings on life and marriage.

This nation has many thousands of accomplished leaders in the Catholic Church, in business, in law, in education, in politics, in medicine, in social services, and in many other fields who would be far more appropriate choices to receive such an honor from the University of Notre Dame.

Instead Notre Dame has chosen **prestige over principles, popularity over morality**. Whatever may be President Obama’s admirable qualities, this honor comes on the heels of some of the **most anti-life actions of any American president**, including expanding federal funding for abortions and inviting taxpayer-funded research on stem cells from human embryos.

The honor also comes amid great concern among Catholics nationwide about President Obama’s future impact on American society, the family, and the Catholic Church on issues such as traditional marriage, conscience protections for Catholic doctors and nurses, and expansion of abortion “rights.”

This honor is clearly a **direct violation of the U.S. bishops’ 2004 mandate** in “Catholics in Political Life”: “The Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions.”

We prayerfully implore you to halt this travesty immediately. We do so with the hope that Catholics nationwide will likewise call on you to uphold the sacred mission of your Catholic university. May God grant you the courage and wisdom to do what is right.

Sincerely,