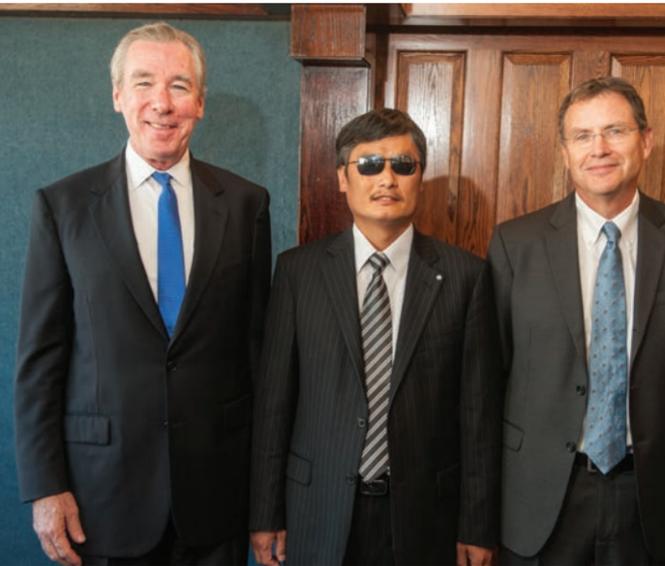




Inspiring Activism



John Garvey with Chen Guangcheng and Stephen Schneck, director of the Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies, at the October press conference.

On October 2 we announced a new affiliation with Chinese human rights activist Chen Guangcheng (see news story on page 4). Mr. Chen joins our Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies as a distinguished visiting fellow. He will also serve as a senior distinguished fellow in human rights at the Witherspoon Institute, and senior distinguished adviser focused on Internet freedom and human rights for persons with disabilities at the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights & Justice.

Mr. Chen is a human rights luminary and I am delighted that he will have a home at Catholic University. He is a self-taught lawyer who heroically defended basic human rights in China, and landed in jail for his troubles. Mr. Chen fought the Chinese government's barbaric one-child policy and brought international attention to the horrific practice of forced abortions in China. He has actively advocated for persons with disabilities, the poor, and women. His courage is all the more impressive because he has been blind since a young age.

Mr. Chen's commitment to protecting the rights of the poor and vulnerable resonates with our mission at Catholic University. As I noted at the National Press Club conference announcing our new partnership, the Catholic Church is deeply committed to defending basic human rights. Pope John XXIII wrote in *Pacem in Terris* 50 years ago:

Any well-regulated and productive association ... in society demands the acceptance of one fundamental principle: that each individual ... is truly a person ... endowed with intelligence and free will. As such he has rights and duties. ... These rights and duties are universal and inviolable, and therefore altogether inalienable.

The American Catholic bishops have likewise repeatedly urged us all to work for the protection of human rights. In a statement on faithful citizenship in 2007, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote:

Human Life is sacred. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. ... Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met.

As the bishops' university, we have a role to play in protecting human dignity and advocating for human rights. Mr. Chen will find at Catholic University a supportive and welcoming home for his advocacy. I am confident that his presence will add to our academic strength and inspire important dialogue about Catholicism and human rights on campus.

It is also my hope that our students will be moved by Mr. Chen's heroic activism. He is a remarkable example of dedication and commitment to a worthy cause. We want to inspire our students to live virtuously, and to be heroes when heroism is called for. Mr. Chen's courageous commitment to protecting human dignity and advancing human rights has inspired people around the world to be better advocates for those in need. I think he will inspire our students to do the same.

Knew the Final Jeopardy answer thanks to @ToddLidh class at @CatholicUniv #WaitingForGodot #knewitdcomeinhandy

— @StatPat89



As a Basselin, I had the privilege of writing a dissertation about the *Via Negativa* in Thomas Aquinas. Monsignor John Wippel (summer issue, page 6) was my director and offered guidance and patience during the process. By nurturing my interest in Thomistic thought, such became and remains the cornerstone of my spiritual, theological, and philosophical thinking. I congratulate Monsignor on his lifetime dedication to the Church, CUA, and the pursuit of truth.

— Dennis H. Auger
M.A. 1974

My memory of participating in Eucharistic liturgies at Catholic U. comports with the article in the summer 2013 issue (page 20). Attending Mass at CUA contributed to the wonderful time I had as a student.

Liturgy has always been of great interest to me. I learned much liturgical music at Catholic. I am certain that Catholic continues to enrich the graces I receive at Mass.

I have vivid memories of Mass in Caldwell Chapel. I was extremely fortunate and blessed to hear homilies from some of the most important theologians of Vatican II and the postconciliar period. (Indeed they spoiled me. I often find it difficult to be attentive to the homily at Mass.)

A substantial part of my fond memories of Mass at CUA is my recollection of Father McManus. He was the American Church's greatest preacher in the post-conciliar period. He was theologically profound, highly theatrical, and challenging. I will forever miss his stirring homilies.

— Richard Joseph
B.A. 1977

I really enjoyed the article "One Community: Worshiping in Word & Music" in the summer magazine (page 20). During my years at CUA, I participated in the music ministry starting with my very first Mass at the University in August of 1980 in the basement of Gibbons Hall. And now, 33 years later, I still actively participate in my parish music ministry, playing the piano, singing with the choir, cantoring, and so on. There are many times today that we sing pieces from "Glory and Praise" and I fondly remember being surrounded by close friends way back when in that dormitory basement each Sunday night.

— Phyllis Brogel Ludwig
B.A. 1984

I enjoyed "In Their Shadows" in the summer magazine (page 26).

My dad was Thomas Hall Locraft, B.S.Arch. 1926 and Ph.D. 1931. He was head of CU's architecture department from 1949 until his death on Aug. 31, 1959. Our extended family joined together to dedicate the original design room over the entrance to the School of Architecture in his memory. My dad is buried at Mt. Olivet along with many of his relatives.

Frederick Murphy, founder of CU's Department of Architecture in 1911, was my father's partner in an architectural firm which designed several buildings on the University campus. Mr. Murphy's family asked my dad to design the tombstone for him when he died in 1949. That cube, with beautiful Irish carvings, is worth seeing at the cemetery.

Bernard F. Locraft, my dad's brother, B.S.C.E. 1925, assisted him in CUA's building structural designs, and is at Mt.

Olivet.

My brother and son are also CUA alumni. Our family has many ties to the University, Mt. Olivet, and Washington, D.C., and I have many memories of it all.

— Matthew E. Locraft
B.Arch. 1964

I'm glad you featured a spotlight in Class Notes (summer issue, page 36) about Dee Shockley's book *The Horrible, Horrible Hurricane*. I can certainly empathize with the helplessness Dee felt after Hurricane Sandy. Living less than 10 minutes from the beautiful beaches of New Jersey — I was heartbroken to see the homes of childhood friends and neighbors destroyed when Sandy hit. I spent several of the next few days without power helping the worst affected in my town clear the debris out of their homes and yards, just so I could feel useful. The proceeds from Dee's book went to a good cause, as evidenced by the Sandy Ground Project playground that was built in Sea Bright, N.J., where I've seen countless kids playing this past summer. Another awesome CUA alum giving back to her community!

— Lauren Babiak
B.S. Arch. 2010

... Team Capitol DC's Harvest Home wins big points in the altruism department. ... of all the 2013 Solar Decathlon homes that I've previewed thus far, this one has the biggest heart by far.

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