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Souvenir Programme.





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Souvenir Programme.

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LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE  
OF THE  
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
OF  
AMERICA.

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W. H. LEPLEY, PUBLISHER.

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WASHINGTON, D. C. :  
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1888.

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THE

# CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY of AMERICA.

In all ages of Christian history the Church has been the great educator of the world. Before America was discovered she had covered Europe with educational institutions of every kind. No educational system is complete without the university. The foundation and walls of a building demand the roof; hence, before the sixteenth century, great universities existed in every country of Europe, many of them numbering hundreds of years of existence.

When civilization set foot in this country it was the Catholic Church that brought her. In the English colonies the number of Catholics was naturally few, but they proved themselves devoted champions of American liberty. During the first century millions of Catholic immigrants have flocked to this land of freedom. They have proved their desire to be the best citizens of our country by their assiduous efforts for moral and intellectual elevation.

In 1866 the bishops of the United States were assembled in the Second Plenary Council of Baltimore. After legislating for the multiplication and improvement of schools and colleges they debated whether the time had come to crown the educational system by the establishment of a university.

They decided, with deep regret, that the numbers and means of our Catholic population did not as yet justify the undertaking, but they put on record their prayerful hope that the time for its realization was not far distant.

Able pens and eloquent tongues have since advocated the speedy accomplishment of the Council's desire. Rt. Rev. Bishop Becker, now the learned Bishop of Savannah, pleaded for it earnestly in the pages of the *Catholic Quarterly Review*. Then Providence set the heart of Bishop Spalding on fire with

yearning for its realization. With burning eloquence he urged the necessity of the highest education for both clergy and laity. Many hearts caught fire from his, and, first of all, those of the venerable Bishop Grace and the energetic Bishop Ireland, both of St. Paul, Minn.

In 1884 the bishops of the United States were again assembled in the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore. Their legislation naturally led up again to the question of the Catholic University. They saw that the time had come to accomplish what had so long been hoped for. Providence supplied the means for making a start in the magnificent gift of \$300,000 offered for the purpose by Miss Mary Gwendoline Caldwell.

She considered that to lay the foundation of such an institution would be the noblest monument that she could erect to the Catholic faith of her father and mother. The Council, after mature deliberation, accepted the gift, and pledged themselves to the establishment of the Catholic University of America.

Since the Council the work has been superintended in all its details by a carefully selected committee of sixteen archbishops, bishops, priests, and laymen. All Preliminaries having been agreed upon, Rt. Rev. J. J. Keane, the distinguished Bishop of Richmond, was selected to be the first Rector, and to undertake the special superintendence of the organization of the University.

In the winter of 1886, Bishops Ireland and Keane were sent as delegates of the bishops of the United States, to lay the matter in all its detail before the Holy See.

Leo XIII welcomed the project with all the ardor of his noble soul. He saw that it would be a fountain of incalculable blessings to the Church and the people of the United States. By an Apostolic brief of Easter Sunday, April 10, 1887, he gave to the establishment of the University his solemn official approval. On innumerable occasions since then he has given expression to the earnestness of his desire that all the bishops, the clergy, and the people of our country should unitedly and zealously co-operate in the great work.

He yearns that his heart may be gladdened by seeing it accomplished before he dies.

The ceremony of the laying of the corner-stone of the Catholic University of America, on Thursday, May 24, 1888, is a pledge of the fulfillment of what the hierarchy of the United States and the illustrious successor of St. Peter have so long and so earnestly desired. The great assemblage of representative men in Church and State to which this ceremony gives occasion is an evidence of the deep and widespread interest with which the great project is regarded, and an augury of its success.

Cardinal Gibbons, who officiates on this solemn occasion, has been the most ardent as well as the most influential advocate of the noble undertaking, and his name, as well as that of Leo XIII, will be forever associated with its future glories.





JAMES CARDINAL GIBBONS,

ARCHBISHOP OF BALTIMORE.

President of Board of Trustees of the Catholic University.





RT. REV. JOHN J. KEANE, D. D.

RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY.



RT. REV. JAMES L. SPALDING,

BISHOP OF PEORIA, ILL.

Orator of the Day.

# PROGRAMME.

1. Opening Anthem, "The Heavens are Telling," HAVDN  
Choir and full Marine Band.

2. Blessing of the site of the Chapel by His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, during which two hundred choristers from St. Mary's Seminary and St. Charles' College chant the following:

## PSALM LXXXIII.

*Quam Dilcta.*

**H**OW lovely are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts:

My soul longeth and fainteth for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh have rejoiced in the living God.

For the sparrow hath found herself a house: and the turtle a nest for herself, where she may lay her young ones.

Thy altars, O Lord of hosts: my king and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house, O Lord: they shall praise thee for ever and ever.

Blessed is the man whose help is from thee: in his heart he hath disposed to ascend *by steps*.

In the vale of tears, in the place which he hath set.

For the lawgiver shall give a blessing, they shall go from virtue to virtue: the God of gods shall be seen in Sion.

O Lord God of hosts hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob.

Behold, O God our protector: and look on the face of thy Christ:

For better is one day in thy courts above thousands.

I have chosen to be an abject in the house of my God: rather than to dwell in the tabernacles of sinners.

For God loveth mercy and truth: the Lord will give grace and glory.

He will not deprive of good things them that walk in innocence: O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

3. Blessing and laying of the Corner-stone by the Cardinal, the choristers chanting—

## PSALM CXXVI.

*Visi Dominus.*

**E**XCEPT the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.

Except the Lord keep the city, he watcheth in vain that keepeth it.

It is vain for you to rise before light: rise ye after you have siffen, you that eat the bread of sorrow.

When he shall give sleep to his beloved:

Behold children are the inheritance of the Lord: *their reward*, the fruit of the womb.

As arrows in the hand of the mighty: so the children of them that have been shaken.

Blessed is the man that hath filled his desire with them: he shall not be confounded when he shall speak to his enemies in the gate.

# PROGRAMME.

4. Procession of the Cardinal and the attendant clergy around the building blessing the foundations. Meantime the choristers chant—

PSALM CXXI.

*Lectulus sum in his.*

**I** REJOICED at the things that were said to me: We shall go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet were standing in thy courts, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem which is built as a city: which is compact together.

For thither did the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord: the testimony of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.

Because there seats have sat in judgment, seats upon the house of David.

Pray ye for the things that are for the peace of Jerusalem: and abundance for them that love thee:

Let peace be in thy strength: and abundance in thy towers.

For the sake of my brethren and of my neighbours, I spoke peace of thee:

Because of the house of the Lord our God, I have sought good things for thee.

5. Invocation of the Holy Ghost, "Veni Creator Spiritus."

Choir and full Marine Band.

6. Discourse by Rt. Rev. JOHN LANCASTER SPALDING, Bishop of Peoria.

7. "Oremus pro Pontifice Nostro Lenne."

The Choristers.

Let us pray for our Chief Bishop Leo. The Lord preserve him, and grant him life, and make him blessed upon earth, and deliver him not to the will of his enemies.

8. Benediction by His Eminence Cardinal GIBBONS.

9. *Alléluia* Chorus, - - - - - HANDEL

Choir and full Marine Band.



*The following is what was put in the  
Corner-stone:*

The Catholic Directory.

The Congressional Directory.

The *Church News*, Washington.

The *Catholic Mirror*, Baltimore.

The *Evening Star*, Washington.

The *Post and Republican*, Washington.

The *Baltimore Sun*.

Coins from one cent to one dollar: The dollar being one of  
gold.

The Inscription on parchment.

The Decrees of the Third Plenary Council.

Pictures of all the Presidents for the past hundred years.

One of these Souvenir Programmes, which were prepared by  
Wm. H. Lepley, of Washington.







