

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In a 1961 issue of *Notre Dame Magazine*, Father Ted Hesburgh appealed for funds to construct a new library. “When you tighten your belt and give a sacrificial gift to the new library,” he wrote, “you should understand that what will happen here will in some small measure affect the world and all its problems.”

His remark hints at a deeper truth surrounding the academic enterprise at Notre Dame. We



strive not only to give our students knowledge, but to imbue them with a sense of transcendent purpose and a desire to use their education in service to a more just and humane world.

You might call this a cornerstone of our mission.

With Father Ted’s successful appeals, the Hesburgh Library stands today as a testament to our academic aspirations to be at the forefront of creating new knowledge and disseminating the wisdom

of the ages. At the base of the library, however, are reminders of the provenance of those aspirations. Etched into the granite and traced in gold are the Symbols of Christ: nearly two dozen Biblical images that represent the fullness of His salvation.

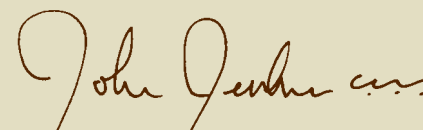
One symbol stands out as particularly apt. It is the cornerstone, a simple block adorned with a cross, suggesting that Christ is more than the foundation of the Church. He is the most visible part of that foundation.

It is on that cornerstone that this library and, in fact, the entire University have been built, with the assistance of men and women, like you, who believe that Notre Dame’s distinctive combination of scholarly excellence with religious faith and moral purpose offers hope for a world deeply in need.

In the pages to follow, interspersed with the stories of those who have generously endowed our libraries, are depictions of the Symbols of Christ that circle the Hesburgh Library. In them,



I hope you find new inspiration for the work you do on Notre Dame’s behalf. My profound gratitude and prayers are with you, always.



Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.