

**Statement regarding Notre Dame University's commencement ceremony invitation to President Barack Obama and the need for continuing catechesis of U.S. Catholics**  
April 24, 2009

It is evident that action on the important issue of defending unborn human life must proceed along various fronts simultaneously.

Public outcry over Notre Dame's decision must be accompanied by ongoing catechesis in our parishes, public witness by the entire Catholic Church and involvement in the political process in order to promote a culture that protects the sanctity of unborn human life.

The problem of the lack of respect for the right to life of the unborn is so serious in our society that this multi-front approach is essential.

This is a task for laity, clergy, religious, parents and teachers — in short, for everyone.

— Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis  
Bishop of Charlotte