Along with the often-present financial and personal constraints, the addition of another societal consideration can make the decision process seem overcomplicated. Yet in our Catholic history, we have many examples of men and women who have made (sometimes) quite radical decisions about how to best give over their lives to the service of God. Surely there is some understanding of college.

The knowledge of one’s own gifts and limitations should entail a greater understanding of college.

“Educe” would be to lead out — to develop the virtues you need to live a joyful and fruitful life in the search of truth.

How does the college decision potentially influence one’s ability to discover His or her vocation? It could be either an amazing help or an amazing harm, but what you are getting at is the question of formation. The 18- to 22-year-old range is a very impressionable age. The influences which govern or inspire young men and women of that age can have lifelong consequences. You shouldn’t think of that in a dramatic, formative way, but it’s a sobering fact that the ideas that you come across in college can and will influence you throughout your life, perhaps more strongly in the short run, but they do become roots that shape the ground of your soul.

You obviously found your vocation, so I think we can say that you righteously attended the University of Dallas. How did you decide to attend UD for your undergraduate studies? From my own experience, I can say that no vocation or deductive logic could lead you to the mathematical certainty that you should go here or there. I wanted to go to Notre Dame, and Notre Dame was my first choice. I had to figure out something else. God often spares us from wanting the one we want to walk through! Absolutely. When a young man inquires about life in our monastery, I often begin by saying that God allows us to be drawn towards particular examples or instances of community life that are tailor-made for us. Regarding vocation, a young man who does not marry the form of woman; there is someone concerned who comes into his life and serves him. Sometimes similar things happen in the religious life. You have to be drawn to a particular community’s charism in order to want to be a part of that. Don’t you want to join a community whose interactions with each other are clearly holy or whose ministry does not correspond to your talents and desires? You are going to be drawn to a community which will appeal to your most noble desires and talents and empower them for the greater glory of God.

A similar process at work in the discernment of the college choice. There are many things that colleges can be known for — whether it’s a law school or a Rome program. I was just developing a fascination with the intellectual life, so the online curriculum didn’t initially appeal to me because it still had that “book-smart” in me, but it was eventually the Rome program — the allure of studying on a study abroad program for five months and traveling Europe and hanging out with the Pope — that sold me.

I believe my vocation introduction to UD. She had heard that it was a solid Catholic school with a Rome program. I was just developing a fascination with the intellectual life, so the curriculum didn’t initially appeal to me because it still had that “book-smart” in me, but it was eventually the Rome program — the allure of studying on a study abroad program for five months and traveling Europe and hanging out with the Pope — that sold me. I remember meeting a list of pros and cons of UD and Villanova. On several occasions I mulled the Villa- nova numbers up or the UD ones down. And I took it to prayer on several occasions. No thankful in the sky was flawless. I was not confident that the idea was supposed to be at UD. And I begrudging gave in, but from-day-one I met friends who are still my baddies, and the first result of a fascination with theology and philosophy that was planted in high school exploded.

For a time, you were also the voca- tion director for the Cistercian Abbey. Do you think there are any parallels that can be drawn between someone who is trying to discern the religious life and discerning which college to attend?
In Catholic Identity Questionnaire, offers objective question on about understanding Catholic identity. We design question so that a “YES” answer reflects essential elements of the renewal of Catholic identity called for by Pope St. John Paul II and the theologians’ oath.

**The Institution**

**President’s Oath**: Canon and president of the Rome College of the Holy Cross in Washington, D.C. is a member of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. The president signs the “Oath of the Roman Catholic Faith” on his or her appointment to the presidency of a Catholic college or university.

**Catholic Board**: Faculty: The Institution: The president and faculty of the Catholic College have a corresponding duty to present authentic Catholic teaching. Catholic faculty members have a corresponding duty to present authentic Catholic teaching.

**Catholic Distance Learning**: The University of St. Mary of the Lake offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the field of religious studies. The school offers a wide range of courses to adults, both on-campus and online, that can be taken at their own pace and location. The school offers programs in theology, philosophy, and interdisciplinary studies, as well as minors and certificates in religious studies.

**Campus Culture**: The Franciscan University of Steubenville is a private, Roman Catholic, undergraduate college located in Steubenville, Ohio. The university is renowned for its strong academic programs in the arts, sciences, and humanities. It is also known for its commitment to faith and community, with a strong emphasis on religious education and service. The university is affiliated with the Franciscan Order, a religious order of monks and nuns who have been active in education and ministry since the 13th century.

UNIVERSITY OF MARY

We are faithful.
We are a Christian, Catholic, and Benedictine community with a rich sacramental life, including daily Mass, adoration, and prayer. We integrate career preparation with solid Catholic teaching in our world-class, top-ranked programs in healthcare, education, the humanities, and business. And we've just opened a new School of Engineering!

We are joyful.
We are dedicated to forming students into joyful, courageous, virtuous leaders through a vibrant campus culture with 18 NCAA D-II teams, 35+ student organizations, and abundant service opportunities.

We are grateful.
We are an innovator in higher education with our Year-Round Campus option, which offers tremendous economic benefits of earning a bachelor’s degree in 2.6 years or a master’s in 4. Because of generous donors who believe in the value of a Catholic education, eligible graduates from Catholic high schools receive free room and board.

We are the University of Mary – the nation’s most affordable, serious Catholic university – ComeToMary.com

enroll@umary.edu • 800-288-6279 (MARY)
mandatum. This differentiates it from “teach in the name of the Church” — the phrase typically used to receive a “canonical mission” from the Church. A mandatum is not legally affiliated with the Catholic Church. Thus our professors do not have religious in residence — one female residence hall with one sister priest living in one of the male halls.

Scholars’ Comments: In 2015 as a section of an existing boys’ school, we are the only Catholic theology school in the world to “teach in the name of the Church” — it is different from the mandate.

Theological Gifts: The Catholic faculty provide the “Theology of Faith” in the presence of and along with the local bishops/leaders and proceed at the rate of faith. The Catholic faculty have not been required to take the “Thal’s of Faith” because of the canonical mission/VA status binding the ecclesiastical faculties.

Dorms: Beginning Fall 2015, all undergraduate students reside in single-sex residence halls. Students have religious in residence — one female residence hall with one sister priest and one priest living in one of the male halls.

Campus Culture:
- NO COED DORMS
- UNOBJECTIONABLE CLUBS
- SPEAKERS VETTED
- MASS AND CONFESSION
- THEOLOGIANS’ OATH
- REQUIRED

The Institution:
- Catholic faculty
- President’s oath
- Mandatum

Donnelly College
36 S. Potomac St., Suite 203
The Collegium
Center Valley, PA 18034
Enrollment: 1,736
Average SAT: 1020
Average ACT: 21
Acceptance Rate: 32%
School’s Comments: Donnelly College is a Catholic institution in higher education that seeks to continue the mission of Jesus Christ in our time. The Collegium is the academic institute of Donnelly College to provide education and preparatory programs with personal concern for the needs and abilities of each student, especially those who might not otherwise be served.

DeSales University
2705 Station Ave.
Center Valley, PA 18034
Enrollment: 3,100
Average SAT: 1010
Average ACT: 21
Acceptance Rate: 75%
School’s Comments: Everyone who works for DeSales must be practicing Catholic and must sign the “Oath Against Modernism,” which is a form of the “Oath of Fidelity.” Even though we are on-call for the unenlightened, we are not legally affiliated with the Catholic Church. Thus our professors do not have a mandate. We are the only four-year college specifically dedicated to serving traditional Catholics.

The Institution:
- Catholic faculty
- President’s oath
- Mandatum

Continues on Page B5

**American University**
Washington, DC 20064 (202) 885-3100
Catholic University
Center Valley, PA 18034
Enrollment: 350
Average SAT: 1220
Average ACT: 27
Acceptance Rate: 54%
School’s Comments: The faculty does not have these statistics.

Donnelly College
Center Valley, PA 18034
Enrollment: 1,736
Average SAT: 1020
Average ACT: 21
Acceptance Rate: 32%
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DeSales University
Center Valley, PA 18034
Enrollment: 3,100
Average SAT: 1010
Average ACT: 21
Acceptance Rate: 75%
Franciscan University of Steubenville
2500 Fifth Avenue
Steubenville, OH 43952

School’s Comments:
Institution: The Franciscan University of Steubenville is different, set apart, and focused on that which matters most—a joyful life pushed to its fulfillment by a transformational education of the whole person. This education is informed by human flourishing and community, animated by the personal support of a faith-filled faculty, nourished by a diverse theological and cultural context, and oriented toward true freedom and a vision of the Good. Branded Malkin College offers all within the community the environment and opportunities to move across the ages and cultivate a life of virtue, poetic imagination, service and life-giving faith.

Maryvale Institute
1000 East Main Street
Birmingham, AL 35205

School’s Comments:
Institution: Maryvale Institute provides a beautiful New England setting to the next generation of artists and innovators with academic excellence, a comprehensive understanding of marriage and family, and a holistic vision of life. Our students are taught. All of the institute’s professors are experts in the subject matter taught. All of the professors have received approval from the local bishop and the national Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. An Institute: Maryvale Institute is a Catholic liberal arts college that is committed to the transformation of the whole person. This education is informed by human flourishing and community, animated by the personal support of a faith-filled faculty, nourished by a diverse theological and cultural context, and oriented toward true freedom and a vision of the Good.

Belmont Abbey College
1200 Fifth Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

School’s Comments:
Institution: Belmont Abbey College is different, set apart, and focused on that which matters most—a joyful life pushed to its fulfillment by a transformational education of the whole person. This education is informed by human flourishing and community, animated by the personal support of a faith-filled faculty, nourished by a diverse theological and cultural context, and oriented toward true freedom and a vision of the Good.

Maryvale Institute
We promise only to educate but to set you on a path toward a life full of blessings. You will learn, but you will also seek that which is beyond this life.

Belmont Abbey College is different, set apart, and focused on that which matters most—a joyful life pushed to its fulfillment by a strong educational and spiritual foundation.

We promise only to educate but to set you on a path toward a life full of blessings. You will learn, but you will also seek that which is beyond this life.
Discern

CONTINUING EDUCATION INTERVIEW

Kathryn Wallice writes from Hartford, Connecticut.

In-person visits now available!

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Saint Vincent College is ready to study for you for a successful, meaningful life.

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the “Oath of Fidelity” and make the “Oath of Fidelity,” publicly before the bishop and receive the man-

Health Services Okay: The archbishop and receive the

to see the Truth for themselves. It is only after a student has had the
delightful experience of knowing and what they bring. It is, rather, with the
to their series to help students to become capable of fulfilling their ultimate

Thomas Aquinas College

271 Main Street
Northfield, MA 01060
1-800-626-8773
enrollmain@ThomaAquinas.edu
Enrollment: 167 (both campuses)

The Institution:

Gothic

Mediterranean

The Institution:

Mediterranean

Gothic

Mediterranean

Gothic

Campus Culture:

Theology professors take the “Oath of Fidelity” at the
time of their hiring.

School’s Comments:

Faculty: The university does not have

Dorms: Our coed residence hall is

members of the opposite sex do not have

University of Mary

7500 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504
(800) 288-6279
UMary.edu
Graduate Main campus: 2,500
overall enrollment 2018-2019: 4,601

The Institution:

Mandatum

Catholic Faculty

Mandatum

Catholic Faculty

Catholic Board

State law, U Mary does not maintain

a record of the religious affiliation of

students. A student’s religious affiliation

is not disclosed to any other institution,

organization, or individual without the

written consent of the student.

University of St. Thomas

3800 Manitoba Blvd.
Houston, TX 77040
(713) 525-6000
st.edu

National Catholic Register, September 13, 2020

WHERE GREATNESS BEGINS

Check out a truly authentic Catholic College.
- One of the Best Catholic Colleges in America - Newman Guide
- One of the Top 5 Catholic Colleges in America - First Things Magazine
- Top 10 in the Midwest - U.S. News & World Report

Benedictine.edu/visit
In these turbulent times, faith remains the bedrock for many Americans. And this November, we face one of the most consequential elections in our nation’s history. As Catholics, we amplify our voice and our vote by forming one of the most important and influential voting blocs in the country.

What issues are important to today’s Catholics? In our third and most comprehensive poll to date, EWTN News and RealClear Opinion Research offer an exclusive window into the minds of Catholic voters. How do they feel about issues like the economy, race, political unrest, attacks on churches, abortion and the pandemic? Have our leaders done an adequate job? And how important are God and the Church in charting a path forward?

Watch EWTN News Nightly on September 21st and 22nd at 6PM Eastern as we take an in-depth look at the views of America’s Catholics. Results from our third poll will be available on ewtnnews.com/poll during the show, and updated regularly as EWTN News tracks the latest developments in voter attitudes all the way to Election Day.

ewtnnews.com/poll  Brought to you by RealClear Opinion Research and EWTN News