



**Memorial Tribute for Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.,  
1917-2015**

MODERATOR: "Amazing Grace" is one of the most famous and recognizable songs in the English language. The first verse was penned by Englishman John Newton, a merchant involved in the slave trade. In 1748, off the coast of Ireland--his ship on the verge of capsizing in the midst of a storm--he had a spiritual conversion experience.

Later, Newton became a clergyman and a poet, and he completed the hymn in 1773 to share with his congregation. The hymn bears the message of forgiveness and redemption and that the soul can be delivered from despair through the mercy of God.

*(Choir sings.)*

>>: He stood for those who could not stand. He spoke for those without a voice. The enduring legacy of Reverend Theodore Hesburgh is one of faith, conviction and service to justice.

Where there was a human need, there was Father Hesburgh, and as a result, there was Notre Dame. Father Ted forged a legacy of service to the cause of Christ through service to his fellow man. His wisdom and courage provided leadership on global issues and transformed Our Lady's University academically, socially and spiritually.

DONALD KEOUGH: He lived every minute of his life for the people he loved, Notre Dame itself. You just have to say that Ted Hesburgh is and always will be the spirit of Notre Dame.

REV. JOHN JENKINS: I'd often go to Father Ted for advice. He said that in trying times, he'd look up at Mary and the Dome, and say, "Mary, this is your university. Help me with this problem." That was the best advice I ever received from Father Ted.

PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH: His reputation is one that stood for and worked for world peace, goes far beyond any political bounds, far beyond the boundaries of the United States of America.

PRESIDENT CARTER: He honored me in my first year in the White House by inviting me to Notre

Dame when human rights was becoming the foundation of our foreign policy.

>>: Father Hesburgh was a relentless advocate for human and civil rights often before it was fashionable. When the mayor and archbishop of Chicago turned down invitations to a Martin Luther King Jr. rally, Father Hesburgh looked at his watch and replied, "What time?"

His work as a member of the Civil Rights Commission included the landmark 1960 legislation that effectively ended segregation in America. Never one to allow political winds to chart his course, Hesburgh served a higher purpose.

ANDREW YOUNG: The key to the success of the Civil Rights Movement was to keep it from being a radical leftist movement and recognize that it was truly a movement coming out of the Judeo-Christian U.S. Constitutional tradition of justice. Well, nobody could represent all of those forces like Father Ted could. And he did it in such a quiet, unassuming, nonjudgmental way. When he was with you, you didn't have to worry about who was against you.

REV. PAUL DOYLE: When there weren't a lot of voices agreeing with him, he still did what he thought the Holy Spirit wanted done and let the chips fall.

>>: He led Notre Dame during one of the tumultuous times in our nation's history, yet the man who walked so closely with God provided steady leadership marked by empathy and moral conviction, qualities on display when he opened Notre Dame to coeducation for the first time.

DONALD KEOUGH: We were at Mass he was celebrating at the grotto with these girls. In the middle of Mass, he stopped and he looked up at Mary, sitting atop the golden dome and he said, "Mary, I want to apologize for taking almost 140 years to bring your daughters to your place. They'll be here forever."

SHEILA O'BRIEN: I was going up the steps of the law school, and Father Ted was coming down the steps, and I said, "Hi, Father." And he said, "Hi, Sheila." And I thought here's a man who can get anybody in the world on the telephone and he remembered my name.

>>: And we remember his name. We remember his work to resolve the moral issues of our day, the way he lived out his singular calling to be a priest. We remember his sense of obligation to serve and to love, and the way the man who stood with world leaders personally touched the lives of everyone he met.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I think that all of your friends, the people who have known you over the years and admired everything you've done for civil rights and world peace and for Notre Dame would say that the most important thing about you and the greatest honor you will ever wear around your neck is the collar you have worn for 57 years.

ARA PARSEGHIAN: This is the man we celebrate and love. He meant so much. The world needs more Father Hesburghs, the priests' priest, complete in every way that you can think of.

MELANIE CHAPLEAU: He had such a good life and such a full life, that, you know, I think we just have to be grateful that he was here and that we had him.

SHEILA O'BRIEN: I hope he enjoys heaven. He changed our lives, so thanks a lot Father Ted.

REV. JOHN JENKINS: For a man who was advisor to popes and presidents, he was first and foremost a priest. May God bless him and keep him.

MODERATOR: Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the 17th President of the University of Notre Dame, Father John Jenkins, C.S.C.

REV. JOHN JENKINS: Thank you, thank you. Thank you for coming. Thank you for being here tonight. On behalf of the University of Notre Dame, our board of trustees, and Chairman Richard Notebaert, welcome to this great event.

When I was a student here at Notre Dame in the '70s, Father Hesburgh invited his friend President Carter to speak at Notre Dame, and in this very auditorium I had the privilege of listening to President Carter give a courageous, important address on the role of human rights in United States foreign policy. It's just a personal pleasure and it's an honor for all of us here at Notre Dame to welcome back President Carter and Mrs. Carter, traveling here from

Georgia tonight to join us in our mourning and our celebration of Father Ted. Great to have you here. (*applause*)

We also -- Father Hesburgh's life was serving the church in so many ways. It was central to what he did. We're so fortunate to have some distinguished leaders of the Church, Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Roger Cardinal Mahony, Bishop Dan Jenky and Bishop Denis Madden. We're also just so pleased to have important Holy Cross leaders, Father Richard Warner, our Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and Father Tom O'Hara, Provincial Superior of the U.S. Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross; and Ted's good friends, dear friends, Father Austin Collins and Father Paul Doyle, from whom we will hear shortly.

We're also joined by Father Hesburgh's immediate successor as president, president emeritus of Notre Dame, who last night gave a beautiful remembrance of Father Ted. Please join me in acknowledging Father Edward "Monk" Malloy. (*applause*)

As we gathered over the last few days to reflect on Father Ted's life, we were all inspired by the love and support of the Hesburgh family, and I'd like to ask Father Ted's brother, Jim Hesburgh, and Jim's wife, Mary, to please stand so we can all recognize you. (*applause*)

(It's) been a remarkable day, two days. Overnight, into the early morning hours, over 12,000 people filed into the Basilica of the Sacred Heart to pay their final respects to a priest we all loved, and it seemed--and who it seemed at times--the whole world loved as well. Our faculty, our staff, trustees and advisory council members, alumni, the public, all assembled in thousands. Our maintenance, police and fire crews, janitors and cooks all found time despite their yeoman responsibilities, the long hours, this week especially to pay their individual respects to our beloved Father Ted. And tonight in this arena, we assemble 10,000 strong to celebrate his life.

I'll tell all of you students, I just can't think of a more fitting tribute to Father Ted



than to see you gather today in the cold to line the path to his final resting place. (*applause*)

Father Ted loved many, but he loved no one more than the students of the University of Notre Dame. He would have been so very proud to see you there today.

Father Ted loved stories. He was a great storyteller. Some of them were even true. (*laughter*) We should start off this evening with a little story. So a Jesuit dies and goes to heaven. (*laughter*) He tells St. Peter that he's very happy to be there, but he's intimidated by this prospect of meeting the indomitable Holy Cross priest Father Ted Hesburgh. St. Peter says, "Don't worry, there are a lot of other people waiting to see him."

So the first thing the Jesuit does upon entering the gates is seeing this big, handsome man with white hair, flowing white hair, smoking a cigar, looking confident and affable, and the Jesuit is absolutely intimidated and runs to St. Peter and says, "I thought I wouldn't have to meet Father Hesburgh right away." "Oh," St. Peter says, "don't worry, that's not Father

Hesburgh. That's God. He just thinks he's Father Hesburgh." (*laughter*)

Ted, we know you're listening. Please pray for us (*laughter*), and enjoy the program. Thank you. (*applause*)

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome our emcee for this evening, a Notre Dame alumna and a board of trustees member, NBC News correspondent Anne Thompson.

ANNE THOMPSON: Father John, I never knew you had that talent to tell a joke. That was wonderful.

Thank you so much, and welcome to the celebration of the extraordinary life of Father Theodore Hesburgh. For his many family members who are here, for the alumni, his brother priests, the faculty and staff who are all with us tonight, this will be a cherished journey down memory lane.

For our current students, it is an opportunity to experience history not through a book or a website or a film, but firsthand. That, as you will see tonight, is the power and significance of the man we come to praise.

When I was a student, also back in the late '70s, the other joke that was told on campus was, What's the difference between God and Father Hesburgh? The answer, God is everywhere, Father Hesburgh is everywhere but Notre Dame. Very good.

Back then, we were very jealous children. Father Ted used our University here in South Bend as his launching point to change the world. Believe me, we are oh so very proud that popes and presidents consulted with Father Ted, but we wanted his undivided attention and we wanted it 100 percent of the time.

But, as always, Father Ted knew best. He knew that by engaging with society far from home, he could demonstrate the power and the value of a Notre Dame education. He could raise the profile of the University and expand its mission. He could introduce Catholic beliefs into the discussion of the day's issues and promote acceptance for people of all faiths. And he proved that faith could and should play an essential role in the progress of society, not contained to the four walls of a church, but a

living dynamic resource infused in thought and action.

Tonight, you will hear from those who worked side by side with Father Ted on higher education, civil rights, government service and the church. You will learn how this man of Notre Dame became a man of the world. The embodiment of the University's mission, and that no matter how far he traveled, he was always happiest when he returned here and he could once again see Our Lady on top of the dome.

We begin our celebration tonight with an invocation, offered by the Provincial Superior of the U.S. Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross, Father Thomas O'Hara.

Father O'Hara? (*applause*)

REV. THOMAS O'HARA: So let us pray. Good and gracious God, we thank you for bringing us all together this evening to celebrate the life of your servant, Father Ted Hesburgh, of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

We come here together from different parts of the globe, with different backgrounds, different faiths and different perspectives on life.

Though different, we are all united in this arena tonight in thanking you for sending this special man into our lives. For through his service, his dedication, his faith and his commitment to justice and peace, he gave us glimpses of you, the God and creator of us all.

We will hear from this stage the many ways that Father Hesburgh served as a blessing to his sisters and his brothers, and yet there will be many other stories in this arena that many of us hold in the silence of our hearts, how this man, this priest, touched our lives.

Thank you, Lord, for this opportunity to be with one another, to comfort one another, to celebrate with one another the life of this good and holy man, Father Ted Hesburgh. We pray this to you, our one God, forever and ever.

ANNE THOMPSON: Thank you, Father Tom.

We begin tonight with Father Hesburgh's leadership in higher education. He was fond of saying that one of his two greatest accomplishments as president of the University, was making Notre Dame coed. And personally, I couldn't agree more. *(applause)* Yes, a big round

of applause for that! I want to express the unending gratitude that we, the daughters of Notre Dame, have for Father Ted's vision.

We will now hear from one of Father Ted's presidential contemporaries. He served as president of Princeton University from 1972 until 1988, and then he led the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation from 1988 until 2006. Please welcome Dr. William G. Bowen. (*applause*)

WILLIAM BOWEN: Thank you. It is a privilege to be here this evening and add my voice to the chorus celebrating the life of a truly great man.

Others will describe Father Ted's great contributions to higher education, by no means just Catholic higher education, to civil rights and other large causes. As a tiny contribution to this list of contributions, I would mention Ted's staunch defense of openness and mutual respect, as illustrated by his remarks at the time Notre Dame offered President Obama an opportunity to speak on this campus and received an honorary degree. Not surprisingly, many loyal Notre Dame adherents objected vigorously on the simple ground that Obama's views on issues such

as abortion were at odds with the teaching of the Catholic Church.

Speaking in defense of the invitation to President Obama, Father Hesburgh said that Notre Dame was both a lighthouse where the beliefs of the church should be promulgated strongly and without qualification and also a crossroads where people of every faith and every belief could come together to discuss controversial issues. As always, Ted said what needed to be said courageously and clearly. The beautifully blended image of the lighthouse and the crossroads will always stay with me. It is powerful in its own rite and a striking example of Father Ted's passionate defense of both the teachings of his own faith and the importance of recognizing, learning from and, yes, honoring those with different views. At a time of so much partisanship in American life, we need to heed this enduring message.

But my main -- (*applause*). Thank you. But my main focus tonight is not on the big picture lessons that Ted taught us through his actions as well as his words, rather I want to highlight

Father Ted's extraordinary humanity, his wit, his compassion and his eagerness to do the small things that made so much difference in people's lives.

As evidence of Ted's wit, I recall a time he presided at Harvard over a large alumni group gathered outdoors when there was a torrential downpour. He offered this one-liner: "Harvard has always known how to soak the rich."

*(laughter)*

As evidence of his compassion, I take the liberty of recounting a personal favor Ted did for me. My widowed mother lived alone in South Bend during the last decades of her life. And as time moved on, she became less and less able to take care of herself. But she was a stubborn, irascible soul who resisted, indeed sabotaged, all my efforts to get her into an assisted living setting. *(laughter)*

At one point she was so badly off that I couldn't reach her by phone. I summoned up all my courage and called my lifelong friend Ted to ask his advice. He immediately took action, ably joined by Father Bartell. Ted went to my



mother's apartment, recognized at once that she desperately needed help and arranged for her to be transported to a nursing center tied to Notre Dame where she lived happily for the rest of her days.

I can only imagine how many similar stories there are, surely thousands. Believer as he was in the need to be active on the world's largest stages, Father Ted was every bit as committed to helping an aged lady whom he did not know.

Thank you, Ted, for decades of inspiration and friendship, and especially for all that you did not only for my family but for the family of man writ large to encompass all races and religions worldwide. Thank you. (*applause*)

ANNE THOMPSON: Dr. Bowen, you are a marvelous friend.

So now that we've heard the university president's perspective, let's hear from a student. How about a double Domer. He got his undergrad degree in 1977. He went to Notre Dame Law School and graduated in the class of 1981. Today we call him Senator, Indiana Senator Joe Donnelly. (*applause*)

SEN. JOE DONNELLY: Thank you very much. It's such an honor to be here. Father Jenkins, distinguished people, all of the crowd here (*laughter*), you're all distinguished in my eyes. On behalf of the people of the United States, we want to thank the Hesburgh family, the Congregation of Holy Cross and a Notre Dame family for this extraordinary gift.

Before I left, all of my colleagues were coming up going, "Please tell him thanks. Father Ted changed the world." And he did. He performed extraordinary work everywhere he went.

I am the grandson of immigrants. When I got accepted into Notre Dame and got the letter that day, my father wrote the check out that night and said, "I want to mail it before they change their minds." (*laughter*)

Coach Holtz, that's real confidence in a player, isn't it? (*laughter*)

I was a scrawny kid. I'd never gone more than a couple hundred miles from my house, but Father Ted let me come to Notre Dame. And I never dreamed that such a thing could happen, but Father Ted did. And that's the story of all of

us here at Notre Dame. He gave us hope and he gave us a chance.

As Father Jenkins said, he counseled presidents and he counseled popes, but, first and foremost, he was a Catholic priest. He ministered to the homeless, to the poor and to those in need. And that is when Father Ted was happiest. He made this place a worldwide center for excellence through hard work, through perseverance and through a constant faith in God and in Notre Dame, Our Mother. And everyone, everyone, from the richest to the poorest, of all faiths, has always been welcome here.

Father Ted, in his infinite wisdom, broke the barriers when he admitted women--he and Father Ned--in the early 1970s. And that was a good thing, because I met my wife in a history class here at Notre Dame. (*laughter*) And my daughter thinks it was a great thing too, and my son as well. They're both Notre Dame graduates. We've been extraordinarily blessed by this University and by the vision he had.

He stood up to presidents and he stood with Martin Luther King, and he never, ever gave a

second thought about preaching truth to power. And to all the students here, I will tell you, he never put up with second best. If you gave him a flimsy excuse, you wanted to crawl in a hole and die. (*laughter*) He would look at you and go, "I admitted you here and this is the best you can do." At that point you'd go back to the library.

He always said, "Do what's right, not what's easy." That was the Hesburgh credo. And the light in his small campus room here in Corby Hall was always on late at night, midnight, 2 a.m., and it was for students who may have lost a parent, who were wondering how am I ever going to pay the rest of the tuition bill, how am I ever going to pass my test, I've got a broken heart and it will never heal.

Father Ted was our pastor and he wanted us to all know how loved we were. And Father Ted loved the South Bend and Michiana community. He loved the weather here a great deal. (*laughter*) I laugh because he grew up in Syracuse. Our weather is better than Syracuse, New York's weather.

We would see him tooling around town in his little Mustang, waving at us. We'd see him smoking a big cigar and a big cloud of smoke as he was there. I asked Father Paul Doyle, I said, "Father Paul," --we were together at Holy Cross House one night, my wife and I and them, Father Hesburgh and Father Paul. I said, "Where is Father Ted allowed to smoke his cigar?" He said, "Father Ted is allowed to smoke his cigar anywhere he wants, any time he wants." (*laughter*)

He had a deep love for this country and an extraordinary love for the Notre Dame ROTC. His first posting he asked for after his ordination was as a chaplain on an aircraft carrier. All of our military branches before I left said, "Please, please give our condolences and our gratitude." Father Ted had a special love for the Navy and the Navy folks said to me, "Tell him anchors away. Tell him anchors away."

Our Notre Dame family, all of you, the students, the cooks, the policemen, the firemen, the gardeners, the professors and all of our sons and daughters all over the world, we remember these words that are etched in stone on the

Sacred Heart Basilica: God, Country, Notre Dame.  
No one ever lived that credo better than Father  
Ted.

Father Ted, you are our rock, our  
larger-than-life leader and our priest. May you  
rest in a loving arms of Jesus and his Blessed  
Mother. God bless you, Father Ted. We love you.  
(*applause*)

ANNE THOMPSON: Thank you, Senator Donnelly.

Father Ted and Father Paul Doyle were true  
brothers of the Holy Cross. They also enjoyed  
that special closeness to students that comes  
from being a rector. Father Ted was Farley  
Hall's first rector.

Today, Father Doyle, God bless him, is rector  
of Dillon. Please welcome Father Paul Doyle.  
(*applause*)

REV. PAUL DOYLE: You keep hearing this name  
Austin Collins. Father Collins and I somehow  
were selected by Ted to help him in the last  
decade or so. He's been surrendering his sight  
to macular degeneration, and we assured him he  
was not losing his vision. But his sight was  
failing and Austin and I provided the eyes.

Several times in recent years, Father Ted has volunteered that he's giving more thought these days to what happens after death. He would say that a certain amount of humility is appropriate because there's a lot we really don't know.

One night last summer, under a starlit sky on Notre Dame's property in the north woods, Father Ted broached this topic again. He couldn't see the night sky that awed the rest of us, but he said, "You know, when we die, we shed the encumbrance of our immortal bodies. We're no longer bound by time and space. So what I'm going to do first is to go check out that star they named after me a few decades ago."

*(laughter)*

Father Ted never stopped learning and growing in his 97 and three-quarter years here with us, and he anticipated an afterlife that is the fullness of life. The Father Ted we know had a rich interior life. Now that he has gone to be with others whom he loved and with our God, his life will be expanding and deepening forever. He looked forward to that.

The faith of his mother and dad, the faith of his siblings and his wider family, the faith and trials of his fellow Holy Cross religious and the faith of countless others with whom he associated contributed to his own love affair with God and God's people. We know of Father Ted's love for the Mass. He prayed the Mass virtually every day of his nearly 72 years as a priest. To see Father Ted preside and preach at Mass was inspiring. The Mass was at the center of his interior life and it is from this amazing interior life that we saw so much goodness flow.

It was also inspiring to hear him talk with Mary, as we would pause driving by the Grotto in recent years. You would think that she was on the front seat with us.

Recently, he asked the people at Holy Cross House who cared for him in the latter part of his life to take him over to his office one last time. He had been faithful to being in the office right through Christmas. And when Melanie returned afterwards, he wanted to resume but the weather was so bad, his trips over there were scarce. But he asked these people at Holy Cross



House to take him over there and so they did. He said that he felt better there and that he wanted to talk to Our Lady on the Dome one more time from his office.

Those who helped Father Ted make that visit to his office report that Father Ted talked to her from his gut, thanking her and trusting this place and us to her continuing care.

Besides the Mass and Father Ted's remarkable way of talking to Jesus and Our Lady from his gut, there were three short prayers that Father Ted prayed often. Each one of them reflects aspects of his beautiful interior life and what flowed from that core of goodness. First, you may recognize a prayer that he prayed before countless meals and banquets. He first heard this prayer in Santiago, Chile decades ago. 'God give bread to those who are hungry, and to those who have bread, give a hunger for justice.' This prayer resonates well with so many of his efforts on behalf of the human community, doesn't it?

The second brief prayer that seemed to be a favorite of his was: 'May the Virgin Mary bless you with her child Jesus, and I bless you in the

name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' Father Ted wrote this on a piece of steel that was going into the construction of our library more than 50 years ago, and he prayed this prayer over many, many people who asked for his blessing.

The third prayer, 'Come, Holy Spirit,' was ever close to his heart. As we surrender Father Ted to the Lord who sent him to us, it might be tempting to be discouraged about our future. If that sentiment arose and Father Ted were physically present here with us tonight, he might well say about all the adulation that the Italians have a saying for this. He studied in Rome and had to come back to complete his doctoral work in the United States because of Mussolini's rise to power. So he would say this Italian saying in Italian--his linguistic gifts for enormous--and then translate it for us. "It sure sounds good. It may not all be true, but it sure sounds good." So Ted might remind us of that as we sing his praises tonight.

Then he might say, "Our cemetery is full of indispensable people, Paul." Then he might say,

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." Then he might say, "Fear is a poor counselor, get Our Lady and the Holy Spirit involved."

In the name of all the Holy Cross communities of sisters, brothers and priests around the world, and in Father Ted's name, thank you for your devotion to Father Ted and to what he stood for. It was from his inner goodness that he always said thank you, even for the least gesture on his behalf. And so in his name, we in Holy Cross and for ourselves--thank you.

And he would invariably add, "Let me know if there's anything I can ever do for you."

*(applause)*

ANNE THOMPSON: It seems only appropriate that as tonight we remember the longest-serving president in Notre Dame's history that we invite our next speaker who holds the record for the most football games coached at Notre Dame. In fact, in 1988, he led the Fighting Irish to the national championship. Ladies and gentlemen, the one and only Lou Holtz. *(applause)*

LOU HOLTZ: Thank you. Thank you very much. I've really been blessed in so many ways being at the University of Notre Dame. I've had so many wonderful thrills and experiences, and I've always been proud of Notre Dame.

Ladies and gentlemen, I don't think Notre Dame ever shown any brighter than it did today, the way Notre Dame did things first class. And I'll never forget the procession to the cemetery with the students lining the ways. I got a thrill and a chill walking in there. Because that's what Notre Dame's all about. That's what Father Hesburgh was about. It's about love. It's about a commitment to excellence. And everything that Notre Dame does, it does very well.

I was hired by Father Hesburgh. And before they announced it, he said, "I want you to know I'm going to announce to the world today you're the head football coach at Notre Dame. I'm going to announce to the world you're the head coach. I cannot announce to the world that you're the leader of the football team." He said, "I can

give you that title because titles come from above. I can't name you the leader."

I said, "What makes a leader, Father?" He said, "If you're going to be a leader, you have a vision of where you want to go and a plan of how to get there." One thing for sure, Father Hesburgh had a vision of where to go and how do get there.

If you look at Notre Dame when he became President in 1952 and you look at it today, it's unbelievable and there is no doubt that the Lady on the Dome had a great deal to do with it.

See, Father Hesburgh wasn't a very complicated individual. I was blessed that twice a year for ten years, my lovely wife of 53 years down here, Beth, and I had dinner with Father Hesburgh and Father Joyce twice a year. And I was usually asked about the football program. And I would ask Father Hesburgh a question, and four and a half hours later after he answered it (*laughter*) -- one time I said, "Why did you make Notre Dame coeducational, and after he went through Martin Luther King and the pope and President Kennedy and Mother Teresa, (*laughter*)

his answer was, "I did nothing. Notre Dame could never be a great academic institution if we eliminated one-half of the talented people in this country." (*applause*) That was his logic.

He wasn't a very complicated man. You know, I think he tried to keep Come Holy Spirit. How simple was that? You know, we complicate life. You realize there are only five colors of the rainbow? But look what Michelangelo did with them. There's only seven musical notes and look what Beethoven did with them. There are only ten numbers, look what Bernie Madoff did with those ten numbers. (*laughter*)

One thing is obvious here at the University of Notre Dame, there's two educations you get when you come to this great University. One, you get education on how to make a living. The other education you get is an education on how to make a life.

See, ladies and gentlemen, we are so blessed to be part of this. I want to tell you for somebody that spent 11 years here, had three children graduate and I will be buried here--the alumni buried me every Saturday, so it's only

appropriate. (*laughter*) We have a cemetery plot over there that overlooks the golf course and the Golden Dome, beautiful view, a little better if you're sitting up (*laughter*), but we feel so blessed to be part of it.

Let me tell you a typical Father Hesburgh story, as I get ready to close, because my time has already rapidly ended. (*laughter*) Father Hesburgh was with a friend of mine. They had my friend's 3-year-old daughter there. He said, "Honey, show Father Hesburgh what you learned at only 3 years of age." She proceeded to sing beautifully and completely the "Notre Dame Fight Song." And Father Hesburgh looked down and said, "That's beautiful, sweetheart. Can you say the "Our Father?"" (*laughter*) That is the way he was.

But, you know, ladies and gentlemen, I have truly been blessed. And you know, I always had a saying, I said, "if you didn't show up, who would miss you and why? If you didn't go home, would anybody miss you and if they did, why? If you didn't go to work, would anybody miss you?" Put

that question on Father Hesburgh. Think of the difference he made in people's lives.

See, ladies and gentlemen, the only people we miss in the world are those that valued other people's lives. We have great leadership here, Father Jenkins, the board of trustee. Great confidence in them. We can never duplicate Father Hesburgh. We can never replace him. But I think if we really want to show the positive influence he had in our lives, let's make sure we live the way Father Hesburgh wanted us to do. That is the only way we can ever repay him. Thank you. (*applause*)

(*Choir sings.*)

ANNE THOMPSON: Four popes sought Father Ted's leadership and counsel. And among his best friends in the hierarchy of the Catholic Church is Theodore Cardinal McCarrick. Cardinal McCarrick received an honorary degree and delivered the commencement address here in 2008. Now to reflect on Father Ted's service to the Church, minus the Bono glasses, is the Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C., Cardinal McCarrick. (*applause*)



THEODORE CARDINAL McCARRICK: It was bad enough having to talk after Lou, let alone after that great music. (*applause*)

I have three minutes. (*laughter*) I was going to start by saying, "Cardinal Mahony, my brother bishops, Father General, Father Provincial, Father President," I just say, "Hi, everybody." (*laughter*)

Many old cardinals tend to be somewhat verbose, they tell me, (*laughter*) and to cut them down to three minutes requires extraordinary discipline. Or failing that, a miracle. So here's my plan: In the first minute, I will tell you what I want to say. In the second minute, I will say it. And in the third minute, I'll thank you for listening. (*laughter*) Seriously, more or less.

Father President asked me to speak about Father Ted and the Church. One could speak hours on that. Of all the great things that could be said about Father Hesburgh, we've said them tonight. As a brilliant educator, an outstanding patriot, as a fearless champion of the poor and the voiceless, one thing stands out above all,

Father Ted knew what it was to be a faithful priest. His love for Our Lady, his unflinching devotion and his wise and constant service to the popes are eloquent signs of his fidelity. Four popes recognizing both his talent and prudence and trusted it with service that proved his loyalty and his courage. Not just ordinary popes, if there are ordinary popes, (*laughter*) but two saints and a Blessed. That's not bad for starters.

Of course, like every great teacher, Father Ted had his critics. You're too young to remember, but in the exciting and sometimes uncertain days after the Second Vatican Council, he signed a document that some felt not to be in keeping with the Council's teachings. In the interest of total disclosure, I signed it too. (*laughter*) It is true that some of the language could give a false impression, but if one reads the whole document, its essential Catholic character would be clear.

But, of course, the greatest proof of Father Ted's fidelity and love of the Church is not to be sought in the cold test of scholarly opinion,

but in the living testimony he has left behind:  
a great university, truly Catholic and truly  
dedicated to the principles of the Council and to  
the teaching of the Holy Fathers. The old gospel  
criterion is still correct. We are judged by the  
fruit of our labors, and this beloved University  
is his gift, his gift to the Church, his gift to  
our nation, his gift to ourselves, his gift to  
the future of the world. Notre Dame, inspired by  
Blessed Basil, built by Father Sorin, built by  
Father Ted as a second founder, today brilliantly  
guided by Father Jenkins together with an  
extraordinary faculty and staff, serving  
thousands of bright young people and some older  
ones too. He will always stand as the gift of  
the genius and faithfulness of our brother, our  
father and our friend Theodore Hesburgh, priest  
to the Congregation of Holy Cross. May he rest  
in peace.

That's three minutes, but it comes from the  
heart. God bless you. (*applause*)

ANNE THOMPSON: You were wonderful. Thank  
you so much. Yes, another round of applause for  
Cardinal McCarrick, please. (*applause*)

Now we're going to talk about Father Hesburgh's legacy and his lifelong advocacy for civil rights. I'm joined here with Senator Harris Wofford and Marty Rodgers, who is a member of the board of trustees, a 1988 grad and was a legislative aid to Senator Wofford when you represented the state of Pennsylvania.

What you don't know about Senator Wofford maybe you don't know, is that you were also Father Ted's legal counsel on the Civil Rights Commission. So what I want to know is back then, in 1957, who or what was the biggest obstacle to getting that Commission going?

SEN. HARRIS WOFFORD: Yes, well, when I look at this picture of Father Ted with the Golden Dome--if you take the Golden Dome away and put the White House there--it takes me back to the moment when I got this telephone call from Father Ted Hesburgh, who said, "We have just finished the first Civil Rights Commission since reconstruction really, and we've all agreed that each of us will have a legal counsel and they'll be the staff of this new entity that can move the civil rights movement forward." "And in any

case," he said, "I'm coming out of our first meeting, and I read this proposition you made that contrary to the media and the expectation of a lot of people, that a Commission finally authorized by Congress but consisting of three northerners, including a priest, Father Hesburgh, and three southerners committed to segregation, the most obstacle among the three, but all three, was John Battle, the former governor of Virginia who had led the walkout from the Democratic Convention 1948."

And you said that that can be actually an asset if we can bring those two threes together into one, and that's what I want to do. And could you meet in Lafayette Square. And with the same kind of confidence and hope that you see in that picture.

Two hours later, I had a distinct feeling that he would ask me to be the counsel for him on what became a night-and-day effort to achieve the first great federal ending of voting rights denial for people because of their color.

And so how does he break the pattern for John Battle? He said at the end of the first meeting

he had, "We're in luck." All six of the Commission, they fished, but they didn't drink alcohol.

ANNE THOMPSON: That must have been a boring convention.

SEN. HARRIS WOFFORD: Only Father Hesburgh and John Battle thought at the end of the day a drink would be nice. So they started taking turns. They both liked bourbon. At every commission meeting, they took turns on who brought the bourbon. They said they never argued civil rights, but they became friends. They talked of family and friendship and how you live a good life.

And when the time came to see whether they could agree that voting was being denied by reason of color throughout a section of the country, whether they could come together on it, and unanimously they came together. And John Battle said, "You can't get to know Father Hesburgh and the Constitution together unless seeing that we've got to do something." And they did.

And I don't have the time to turn to how they got Doyle Carlton of Florida, a very stubborn man that no one thought would really support bold expansion of civil rights in America. And he said, "After the facts that Father Hesburgh helped us to think about, I've concluded that I have to at last take the bull by the tail and look the ugly facts in the face. And doing so, I have to vote yes for this far-reaching plan."

So I hope all of you here can -- I can't believe you're here through the cold and ice. If you didn't feel already that in some way Father Hesburgh is affecting your life, he affected my life from the time he asked me to say yes. He said, "With one-third of the salary you're getting, but doing something your country needs." He said -- I have to believe that you recognize that he is influencing in different ways your lives and think that thousands of young people who get old, like some of us, you have the ability to do what Father Hesburgh did as part of his trade, and that is wherever you're put down, he said, in a hard problem, your needle must move toward justice and action. And I wish that that

spell of Father Hesburgh will be part of your life and I think it will when I look at how you came here through ice and cold. Thank you.

ANNE THOMPSON: Senator Wofford, thank you. How about a big round of applause for Senator Wofford. (*applause*)

Marty, your family lived civil rights here at Notre Dame. Can you tell us about your family's experience?

MARTY RODGERS: Absolutely, Anne.

First, let me begin first by thanking Senator Wofford, thanking him for his service to the Notre Dame family and thanking him for his service to the nation on his adventures with Father Ted. Together Father Ted and Senator Wofford marched with Dr. King. Senator Wofford marched from Selma to Montgomery.

Senator Wofford and Father Ted helped start the Peace Corps together. Notre Dame was the only nongovernmental institution that was charged with starting the Peace Corps and Senator Wofford was a co-founder of the Peace Corps. They also helped conspire to create AmeriCorps and the Alliance for Catholic Education.



So another round of applause for Senator Wofford. (*applause*)

Senator Wofford and Father Ted had more impact on my life than anyone other than my parents, my mom and dad. I was reminded of my dad today because he loved Father Ted so dearly and revered him. My dad was one of the first African Americans to enroll at the University of Notre Dame in 1951. That was before *Brown vs. Board of Education* and it was before the Commission on Civil Rights.

Back then, when he enrolled and when he showed up, his roommate refused to room with him because of the color of his skin. My dad was alone, he was scared, he was uncertain what would transpire, but he needn't have been. He needn't have been because Father Ted Hesburgh, who would assume the presidency a year later, his values, and the values of all the Holy Cross priests, were already in the bricks and the mortar of this place. He needn't have been scared and worried because this is the University of Notre Dame, the University of Our Lady. And so the University, back in 1951, told my father's roommate that he

would have to be the one to pack his bags, not my dad. (*applause*)

As I mentioned, my dad loved Notre Dame because of this and because of many other things, including having met my mom. He also revered Father Ted. On the one hand, he thought of him as kind of the American pope, and on the other hand he thought of him as a parish priest of our second home, namely Notre Dame.

I was reminded today that I got in an argument with my dad on graduation day. On graduation day, we had an argument because he insisted, even though I graduated in 1988 under Father "Monk" Malloy, he insisted that Father Ted sign my diploma too. (*laughter*) Needless to say, I lost the argument and my dad said, "Get over it, and you're going to thank me one day." I think today is that day. And so thank you, dad. (*applause*)

ANNE THOMPSON: Tell me about when you were a freshman, you wrote an op-ed in The Observer that caused a bit of a stir and got Father Ted's attention.

MARTY RODGERS: Yeah, so I was typical freshman, potentially had come to Notre Dame and was idealistic and emboldened and thought I knew everything. As I came to Notre Dame, I was disappointed because it wasn't as diverse as I thought it could be and should be. I was thinking about transferring, and my dad said, "No, why don't you stick it out for just a little bit while longer, be part of the solution versus being part of the problem."

And so I started to research what were other universities doing in terms of diversity and in terms of trying to improve admissions in terms of inclusion. As I did my research, I decided to write an op-ed piece. I went in and I dropped it off at The Observer.

I went in the next day to lunch at the South Dining Hall, and I remember clear as day walking into the South Dining Hall and everybody was reading the paper. And I was horrified because the editor had chosen for my editorial to call it, "Father Hesburgh's Commitment to Civil Rights Has Waned."

And I thought as I left the cafeteria and I went back to my dorm, Wow, they're going to throw me out of school, (*laughter*) and that will be the least of my problems because my mom and dad are going to disown me. And sure enough, as I got back to my dorm, I hadn't been there very long when the phone rang. And sure enough, it was the Administration Building and it was Father Ted's office. I was like, 'Wow, they are really efficient at kicking me out of school.'

(*laughter*)

But that wasn't it. Father Ted had seen the article and the short but sweet message was, If you think you can do better, there's a job waiting for you in admissions. So I went to the admissions office the next day and they had absolutely no clue what I was talking about.

(*laughter*) I didn't know if I had been dreaming and they thought I was the delusional, but after a couple phone calls it turned out that Father Ted and John Butkovich and Kevin Rooney had indeed created a new position in admissions, a student counsellor position, and we went to transform the campus.

We went from four percent underrepresented minorities in my year, to the last class we recruited was 21 percent underrepresented minority. (*applause*) And so if you pause just for a moment to think about that, just imagine a counselor to presidents, a counselor to kings and queens, a counselor to commissions, and here he is taking advice and empowering a lowly freshman. Amazing and only done with amazing grace.

ANNE THOMPSON: I think he had very good taste. (*applause*)

Senator and Marty, I'm going to ask you to sit here with me for a minute, because I want to direct your attention to the video screens around because we have a very special message.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Good evening, everyone. I'm sorry I couldn't be with you tonight to remember a friend and celebrate a remarkable life on this earth.

As you know, Father Ted Hesburgh filled many roles throughout his life: spiritual leader, allies of popes and presidents, even representative to the International Atomic Energy Commission. But beyond any other title, the one

he cherished most was Father Ted, humble servant of God.

Father Ted took the helm at Notre Dame during a time of great change for the Church and for the nation. A steady hand guided by his fundamental decency helped to turn this University into a world-renowned center of higher learning, a place where faith and reason, clergy and laity could all come together and flourish.

Fifty years ago this week, as Catholic priests and nuns traveled to join brave marchers in Selma, Father Ted was one of the six leaders serving on our nation's Civil Rights Commission.

There's a story that I love from the early years of that commission, back when Father Ted was a founding member. As you can imagine, those discussions were often long and difficult because, as he later wrote, the commission agreed on very little outside of the Constitution. So when it came time to write their final report, Father Ted had an idea. He took them all to the Notre Dame retreat up in Land O'Lakes, Wisconsin. There he said they realized that despite their differences, they were all fishermen in the

literal sense. So they fired up the grill, caught some walleye and ultimately the report they produced served as a major influence on the Civil Rights Act of 1964. That's the spirit that we celebrate today. A leader, a thinker, a man who always saw that we are all children of God and that together we can do incredible things that we can't do alone.

I was so honored to meet Father Ted and encourage graduates to follow his example when I delivered the commencement address of Notre Dame almost six years ago. It's an example worth following in our own lives, as we reflect on his.

Rest in peace, Father Ted. May God bless you all and may God bless the United States of America. (*applause*)

(*Choir sings.*)

ANNE THOMPSON: How about another round of applause for the combined choirs and orchestra of the University of Notre Dame. That was extraordinary. (*applause*)

And now to pay tribute to Father Ted, the Honorable Mike Pence, Governor of Indiana. Governor?

GOV. MIKE PENCE: To Jim Hesburgh and Mary, the rest of the Hesburgh family, to the religious of the Holy Cross, Father Jenkins, President and Mrs. Carter, Secretary Rice, Cardinal McCarrick, if you think you had it tough, try following the President of the United States of America.

*(laughter)*

To all of you gathered here today in body and those who gather with us in spirit tonight, we offer our deepest condolences on the behalf of the people of Indiana for the loss of your cherished brother, your pastor, your teacher, your mentor and your friend, Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh.

We are told to mourn with those who mourn and grieve with those who grieve, but not like the rest of men who have no hope. And men like Father Ted give us hope. Not only the longest-serving president of this storied institution, he was a giant on the global stage. As you've heard here tonight in more eloquent terms, a champion of human rights, a voice for justice all over the world, serving presidents and popes, the Commission on Civil Rights, his



career would earn him recognition in the form of the Congressional Gold Medal, the Medal of Freedom and our state's highest honor, Sachem Award, for a life that was epitomized by faith and character and humility and service.

But while he worked around the world, I come tonight to cherish the thought that Father Hesburgh always came home to Indiana, to South Bend and to his beloved Notre Dame. This community and this state held an unequivocally special place in Father Ted's heart. And I rise to say tonight that Father Ted held a special place in the hearts of people all across this state. Hoosiers are proud and will always be proud that Father Ted called Indiana home.

We've all been inspired by his example of faith or his voice for the Church, his leadership that shaped the world on matters of human rights and civil rights, and we mark his passing with a sense of personal loss.

Upon the death of Abner, King David wrote words of condolence to his people that speak into this moment. He said, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day?"

Today all of Indiana mourns and every community in this state marks the passing of a truly great man. May his example ever inspire. May he rest in peace and may those who cherish his memory always know that the people of Indiana will always remember the life, the work and the character of Father Hesburgh. Thank you all.  
*(applause)*

ANNE THOMPSON: Like Father Ted, our next speaker never shied away from difficult issues. Together they confronted one of the thorniest subjects in our nation, serving on the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy. He said of Father Ted, "My life is richer for having shared a portion of it with him." Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the former three-term U.S. senator from Wyoming, Alan Simpson.  
*(applause)*

SEN. ALAN SIMPSON: Of all the introductions I've ever had, that was the most recent.  
*(laughter)*

Mr. Presidents--Jimmy and John--and to the rest of you, this is a rare treat. Father Ted was one of the dearest friends that I have ever

known. We worked on the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy appointed by this gentleman here who I greatly respect, President Carter. We kept very close track of each other after we did that work in the '80s, had wonderful visits and lunches and dinners and much happy correspondence through the years.

No one ever gave Ted any soft issues to deal with in America. Various American presidents, congressional leaders always turned him loose into areas filled with emotion, fear, guilt and racism, and he would always bring reason to the four. He always had a marvelous way to defang things and people who would run out of facts and use flash words and flash points.

We had another common credo: 'If you're damned if you do and damned if you don't, then do.' (*laughter*) Don't ever forget that one, young people. (*applause*)

Ted always felt, as my mother did, that humor is the universal solvent against the abrasive elements of life, and that's why I gravitated toward him like a compass magnet. He was fair, firm, prepared, principled, productive, patriotic

and had a grand sense of himself and the world around him and the ability to even chuckle at himself.

Indeed we served in the trenches, actually down in the foxholes sometimes when the verbal shells were being lobbed in. I remember one particular day, a pretty testy hearing with one of the great provocateurs of our time, who happened to be of my faith, an Episcopalian, William Sloane Coffin. (*laughter*) He was at his most diabolical that day and he had a rare ability to ignite a rhetorical bomb wherever he appeared. And at this particular prickly hearing, he referred to Ted and I as racists and bigots. I remember that Ted then did a classic job of smiting him lightly about the head and shoulders with gentle banter and badinage and warded him off with a chuckle or two, which really irritated the reverend. But Father Ted raised his hand and parted the waters of conflict and discord and confusion.

We walked back to my Senate office. He said, "Alan, do you have any spiritual beverage here?" I said, "I do." He spotted this bottle of

bourbon, he said, "I'll take three fingers of that." (*laughter*) "And you have one too." And I said, "I did." He said, "Now a toast, Alan, a toast to good fellowship, friendship, the joy of working with you and the sometimes real strain of praying for that onerous son of a bitch William Sloane." (*laughter*)

We did toast each other on that occasion and many more, and he would say to me as we would -- he loved an old-fashioned and other times we were together, we'd tell a few rich stories. And he'd say, "Al, you are going to heaven, but your jokes and words are not going to heaven." (*laughter*)

He never carried bitterness. That was never an emotion he had under any circumstances. So one day he said, "Where did you go to school?" I said, "The University of Wyoming." I said, "I couldn't have got into Notre Dame if I'd picked the locks." (*laughter*) I said, "I never graduated *cum laude*, I graduated *thank the Lordy*." (*laughter*)

He said, "Well, we'll see about that." And so it came to pass, in the year 1987, Ted called

and said, "I'm going to have my final tour of duty here as president. I get to pick my own honorary doctor of law recipients and you're going to be one of them." And, boy, what a thrill.

Rosalynn, you were one too.

Well, that was a great thrill. I can tell you, I'll never forget the time, just a couple of these, time is running and people are very eager with their time here (*laughter*). I'll never forget the time when there was a reception for one of his great friends, and of course that was Eppie Lederer, known to the initiated as Ann Landers. She referred to Ted as her Catholic rabbi. (*laughter*) He loved an awful lot of joshing around with her, and the good humor that those two would go through would charm you.

He and Father Joyce were running this motor home and traveling through America, and they turned to Eppie and they said, "We want you to come along and do the cooking." (*laughter*) I can't repeat how that went, but she really nailed both of them. And he told me this, that he had been at her bedside when she died and he said--

you can hear his voice--"You know, Eppie, I love you, but I can't give you the last rites because you're not Catholic, but you will do okay.

You're Jewish and you will get to heaven. And after all, Christ was Jewish and he got in."

*(laughter)*

He loved my wife Ann and he would say to her, "How do you handle him? And don't forget, Ann, if you get into difficulty with him, I'll be on your side." And then that big, big smile and the chuckle.

When I got back in Wyoming after the degree, I received, of course, the season ticket application for the football season *(laughter)* and also a picture of the two of us, me with this marvelous purple robe and that cap. I don't know what they call that thing in academe, but it is a doozy. And he wrote on the picture. He wrote on the picture, 'Dear Al, it is with great joy that I send best congratulations to one of our most distinguished honorary doctors of law. We now claim you as a son of Notre Dame with great pride. Ever devotedly and love to Ann, Father Ted.'

This was a marvelous human being. As Will Rogers once said, 'It's great to be great, but it's greater to be human.' And I think there are fewer occasions in life than we imagine where the true grace of God is instilled in a human vessel. This man was that vessel. All the emotions of the Good Book, or the works of Shakespeare, or all the great books and philosophies of the world were somewhere embedded in this jewel of a person. To me he was the epitome of grace in man.

The torch of truth that he carried for 97 years has lighted many a path and lightened many a burden. What we all really saw in this magnificent life lived was the true essence of religion lived out. That was it. Truly we were all children of God, very few of us truly become men of God. He was.

But more personally and more selfishly, he was my friend. And as Shakespeare said so well, 'What friends thou hast and their adoption tried, you should bind them to your soul with hoops of steel.' And we all knew that on one unknown day, his God and Lord would come to take him back, and



now we give him up to his creator and we are here to celebrate his life with joy and spirit and thanks. But it would have been a hell a lot more fun if the great man had been here too.

So as his brother said today, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." And Jim said that today. And the master awaits. God rest him in his peace. Thank you. (*applause*)

ANNE THOMPSON: Thank you, Senator.

No tour of Father Ted's office was ever complete without looking at his many photos and he always pointed with special pride to his picture with Condi. She earned her master's degree here at Notre Dame in political science in the year 1975. She rose to be provost at Stanford. She served as the national security advisor and the 66th U.S. Secretary of State under President George W. Bush. Today she is back at Stanford as a professor of political science. Here to share her thoughts on Father Ted's international service is Dr. Condoleezza Rice. (*applause*)

SECRETARY CONDOLEEZZA RICE: Thank you very much.

Father Jenkins, members of the Notre Dame family, my fellow speakers and those who remember Father Hesburgh, President and Mrs. Carter, I'm just grateful to have a chance to join you here to remember our great friend and to celebrate his life.

All of us remember how we first met Father Ted. And for me the story actually begins because the Civil Rights Commission came to the University of Denver to hold hearings in 1970. Now, the great civil rights legislation was already done. But for this little girl, still a teenager, but whose memories were of life in a segregated Birmingham where her parents couldn't take her to a movie theater or to a restaurant, where she'd gone to segregated schools until she moved to Denver, Colorado, for this girl Father Ted's clear understanding and belief that America had to be so much better than it was, was reassuring and it was inspiring.

That night my dad, John Rice, and Father Hesburgh would strike up a friendship based on that common belief that America had to be what it said it was, a place of equal justice, of equal

rights, of equal opportunity. And the relationship that they struck up would enrich my family for years to come.

It would lead to a lunch at Morris Inn in 1973, when this newly failed piano major was looking for a place to do graduate work. I would hear Father Hesburgh extol the value and virtues of a Notre Dame education. And he would say, "If you're interesting now in studying Russia, this is really a great place to do it." But maybe seeing the slight disappointment in the eyes of my musician mother that I was giving up all those years of piano, he got that little Ted Hesburgh twinkle in his eye and he said, "And you can keep studying music too, because one should never ever give up on the gifts that the Lord gave you." My mother thanked him for that at that moment.

My parents were so happy that their 19-year-old daughter, leaving home for the first time, was going to come to Notre Dame. They knew that Father Ted would watch over her, and watch over me he did, just as he did the entire student body. You could walk along the quad, you could see Father Ted talking to students about the

issues of the day, equality and peace and justice. He had us engage in a day of fasting to remember what it was like to be hungry.

And when a light was on in the president's office just beneath the Golden Dome, students would point and say, Father Ted is working late tonight. Somehow his touch was so personal that even those who met him once or maybe never at all knew him and they loved him, just as he loved Notre Dame.

Throughout the years that followed, my life was truly enriched and my spirit was refreshed by that friendship with Father Ted. As provost to Stanford, we would sometimes talk about higher education. He would send me a note of thoughts about the great challenges. But the note that he sent me most proudly was the one that told me that, for the first time, Notre Dame's valedictorian was a woman. (*applause*)

Father Ted had a habit of making those calls and sending those notes and undoubtedly the one that touched me most was when my dad died. He recalled his history with my family, and the letter ended, 'Your dad is resting in the hands

of the Savior, bathed in the warm light of eternal life.' Oh, how I needed to hear that.

But perhaps what connected us most over the years that would come was my understanding of his love of the global humanity, a belief that human beings had somehow gotten themselves into a situation in which difference was a license to kill, had somehow come to care less about the needy and the hungry and the dispossessed and those that could not speak for themselves. And that we, so blessed as Americans with so much, had a special responsibility to reach across our shores and care for those who could not do for themselves.

He chaired the Overseas Development Council in 1982, and he led efforts to relieve famine in Cambodia in 1979. He was passionate, uniting scientists and people of faith to point the world toward a future without nuclear weapons. And of course, at the request of Pope Paul VI, he built the Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem, which exists and flourishes to this day.

When I was national security advisor, he called me a few days after September 11--those

were horrible days--just to offer prayer. And when I was secretary of state, he would call once in a while. He called one day. I had just returned from one of my 24 trips to Israel and the Palestinian territories to try to forge peace between Palestinians and Israelis, and he said, "You sound tired." (*laughter*) Of course I was tired, but I wasn't about to tell Father Ted that I was tired. He said, "I know the work is hard, but it has to be done." And then he made an offer. He said, "Why don't you bring the Israeli prime minister and the Palestinian Authority president to our retreat, the Notre Dame retreat in Wisconsin, and get them away from Washington."

Now, I have to admit, my mind was spinning at the thought of telling the prime minister of Israel and the Palestinian Authority president that they ought to come to Catholic Notre Dame to discuss peace. (*laughter*) I would have loved to have done it! I never quite got them that far, but somehow I was encouraged and spurred ahead to try because Father Hesburgh understood that you can never accept the world as it is. You have to work for the world as it should be.

It was because of that vision that Notre Dame established the Kellogg Institute and the Kroc Center, places that are famous across the world because faculty and students can study and advance global causes for peace. He reminded students everywhere that education is a privilege and that it is, therefore, an obligation and responsibility to give back to society here at home and abroad.

His name will ever be synonymous with the principles of faith and reason. Knowledge and belief are not just consistent with one another, they are a part of God's plan for us.

Today we know that we've lost a fearless fighter for what is right, because Father Hesburgh was that fearless fighter. But he inspires us all to take up that motto and to fight for what is right.

I last saw Father Ted in his office atop the library just a little more than a year ago, and of course his sight had been severely limited by that time, but he motioned to me anyway to join him at the window that overlooked the Golden

Dome. And he would do what he so often did, he would talk to Our Lady.

He pointed straight ahead and he said, "Whenever I feel troubled, I look out at her and I say, 'Our Lady, please help me' and she always does. His faith was infectious. I will never forget that moment.

When we have run our race and returned to our Father, our true legacy rests not in headlines about us, but in the lives that were made better because we walked this earth. Father Ted touched us deeply because of what he believed and because of how he lived. He was quite simply a faithful servant worthy of the grace that our Lord grants to us, and now he rests in the hands of the Savior bathed in the warm light of eternity.

Rest well, Father Ted. You often challenged us to be bolder and better, but you always knew too when we simply needed the comfort and consolation of a friend. I will miss you, Father Ted. The Lord blessed me with your presence in my life for more than 40 years, and for that I will always be grateful. (*applause*)



ANNE THOMPSON: They were friends for almost four decades, drawn together by a mutual passion for human rights. They traveled to Southeast Asia on a fact-finding mission that led to relief efforts to aid Cambodian refugees. Please welcome former First Lady, Rosalynn Carter.

*(applause)*

ROSALYNN CARTER: Well, I'm pleased to be here tonight and honored to be here. But to hear all these wonderful stories about Father Ted, I am continually overwhelmed by his compassion and love for those in need, and tonight I can say for everybody.

My friendship with him began when Jimmy was President. There was a crisis in Thailand with refugees pouring in from Cambodia. The oppressive government of Cambodia had exterminated more than one million of its own people, half of the total population, in an effort to create a new society. And now hoards of Cambodians were amassed along the border of Thailand, but the Thais were reluctant to let them in. They already had so many refugees. Something desperately needed to be done in

addition to what our country and other countries were doing.

Finally, Jimmy and the National Security Council staff suggested that I go to the refugee camp myself to call attention to the need for help, and so I had intensive briefings. And I left for Thailand with a group of highly qualified advisors and a lot of media. Nothing had prepared us for the human suffering we saw when we arrived there. Acres and acres of blue plastic on sticks covering human beings who were sick and dying, lying on the ground on dirty blankets or rags. Many of them, most of them, starving. The babies were the most heart wrenching, their bodies emaciated. And I remember them being in one place, hundreds of them, eerily quiet, not even crying, only an occasional whimper.

All the way home I felt this great responsibility for Jimmy and me and our whole country to do something about this tragic situation. Well, when I got back to the White House, I had a call waiting, and guess who was calling me? Father Ted, eager to go to work to

help. And two days later he was in the White House helping form a national crisis committee which staves a large fund from private donors to support the refugees. He was our most effective leader and inspiration in the whole effort.

Later Father Ted invited me to serve on the advisory board of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies here at Notre Dame. At that time he was mostly concerned about the needs of Latin America. He also asked me to co-chair the De Burght Conference with him, a conference concerned about religious freedom in the Soviet Union. We worked to free Russian Christians who'd been put in prison for their religious beliefs. And we were very successful, by the way.

I remember that on one of our visits to Russia, Father Ted celebrated Mass with six of us in his hotel room in the private Central Committee Hotel. After the ceremony, he said, "I'm sure this is the first time a Catholic Mass has ever been said in this building." (*laughter*)

Well, during these times we worked together frequently and I was able to see his deep

commitment to addressing the needs of, I think, the whole human family, anywhere and everywhere in the world. And he continued until his last days to be an optimist who saw not with his eyes, but who saw the world as he would like it to be with his help.

Well, Father Ted was one of the greatest humanitarians I have ever known and I am honored to have been, and I always will be honored, to have had a wonderful friendship with him. Thank you very much. (*applause*)

ANNE THOMPSON: In this very arena, 38 years ago, Father Ted introduced our final speaker at the 1977 commencement. Paraphrasing a speech President Carter had given on his inauguration day, not the speech we all saw, or at least some of us saw, but rather a smaller talk, a talk he had given on Voice of America, outlining his vision of America's role in the world. Father Ted called it an extraordinary speech. "The best of its kind," he said, "he had ever heard from any President." Here to remember his friend is former President Jimmy Carter. (*applause*)

PRESIDENT CARTER: Thank you. Thank you.  
Thank you again.

Well, with all the dignitaries here, I'm not sure that they would agree with me when I say that Father Hesburgh was a layman's kind of priest. I admired him during the civil rights years, when I was a Baptist Sunday schoolteacher and a farmer and later a governor, and when I became a presidential candidate, he was one of the first persons I called. And I asked him to help me, and very quickly he said, "I do not endorse presidential candidates." And I said, "That's not why I called. I'm in trouble with the Roman Catholics." (*laughter*) And Father Ted said, "I know it." (*laughter*) He proceeded to say, "You brought it on yourself."

And then as a professor will do, he began to explain to me the procedure and the U.S. Constitution for a Constitutional amendment. He explained you have to get two-thirds of the vote in the House and Senate, you have to get three-fourths of the votes from all the legislatures in the country. And he said, "I don't remember a President's name being mentioned

in that particular part of the Constitution, and my advice to you is to stay out of it as long as you are a candidate." And I took his advice.

Well, that was my first experience with Ted, but the conversation wasn't over. He then said, "I just came from Panama and I have a message to you from General Omar Torrijos. And he wanted me to remind you that the Christian thing to do as a President is to support a new treaty for Panama," and eventually that resulted. And I have to say I never did blame Father Ted when it became a very unpopular thing to do, because there were 20 senators who voted for the Panama Canal Treaties in 1978, 20 of them that had to run for office again that year. Only seven of them came back to the Senate, and the attrition rate was almost as bad in 1980, but I never blamed Father Ted for that, which I could have done. (*laughter*)

He also blamed me -- called me later on and said he advised me to appoint Cyrus Vance as the Secretary of State, which I did. I took his advice usually.

Once when I asked him, "How can you advise anybody to be a leader of a great nation?" He said, "Be human." I took that advice as well.

We would remained friends from then on, and he invited me to give, as has just been mentioned, the commencement address here at Notre Dame in May 1977, on human rights. And I commented then in my speech, and I quote, "Father Ted Hesburgh has been the most consistent and effective spokesman for the rights of human beings that I have ever known."

I nominated Father Ted as ambassador to lead the U.S. delegation to the United Nations conference on how science and technology could be used to improve human life. And then later I put him on the commission to create a Holocaust museum in Washington. As you well imagine, he was one of the few Roman Catholics on the commission. There were no Baptists, by the way (*laughter*).

And then finally, as Alan Simpson has already mentioned, I made him chairman of the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy.

And they made the recommendation just shortly after I left the White House.

In October of 2003, I was honored to join Father Hesburgh in California, as we both, just the two of us, gave eulogies for Joan Kroc, who was so generous to Notre Dame and to the Carter Center and to many other causes.

Well, Father Ted was in the Oval Office, I remember, in February of 1979, and he had done so much for me and for the country, many times taking on responsibilities that he didn't much want to do, and I said in a weak moment, "If I can ever do anything for you, let me know."

*(laughter)* And he said, "Well, I notice that yesterday you came back from a trip with Admiral Hyman Rickover on an atomic submarine, on which you used to serve, and you have a great interest in the ocean and I have a great interest in airplanes."

I didn't know what was coming. And he said, "I've always wanted to ride on one of the fastest airplanes in the world." He began to teach me again, as though I didn't know, *(laughter)* that there was a plane called the SR-71, always



painted black. In fact, it was called a Blackbird. And he said, "I would like to ride on a Blackbird." And I said, "Father Hesburgh, it's not customary for civilians to ride on a top secret (*laughter*) airplane." He said, "That's all right. I thought you were Commander-in-Chief." (*laughter*)

So I called Secretary of Defense Harold Brown, and told him I had one of my few requests to him. And then I sent word to the pilot of an SR-71 that he would be having his first civilian passenger who was a special friend of mine, and I asked him how fast the Blackbird had ever flown. He said, "2,193 miles an hour." It was the fastest plane on Earth. And I said, "I would be very pleased (*laughter*) if you could go a little faster than that when you take up Father Ted." (*applause*) And on the last day of February 1979, Father Ted went up in an SR-71 Blackbird airplane, and he and the pilot went 2,200 miles an hour, which set a new world's record for the fastest any human beings had ever flown except the astronauts in a rocket.

Well, we all know how Father Hesburgh has an almost indescribable list of achievements in education and human rights and service to others. But in his autobiography, he gives me credit for arranging this fast ride, and he says that was one of the greatest achievements that he remembers. Well, I'm proud that I was able to do that for him, because he did so much for people everywhere. And the world will really miss the wonderful man. Thank you. (*applause*)

ANNE THOMPSON: I feel about this night the way I felt about Father Ted. I want this night to go on forever, in the same way that I wanted him to go on forever. But neither can. And so we are going to close tonight with the benediction from the Superior General of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, Father Richard Warner, to be followed by the singing of the alma mater, Notre Dame, Our Mother.

Father Warner. (*applause*)

REV. RICHARD WARNER: Before the benediction, I would like to offer words of thanks to each one of you on behalf of the Congregation of Holy Cross and the family of Father Hesburgh.

Father Ted's brother Jim was going to speak this evening, but since he offered the eulogy at the funeral Mass today, I was asked to extend their gratitude to each one of you for your loving care, your meaning, thoughtful and comforting words and your presence during Tuesday's and today's special moments of prayer.

May Father Ted rest in peace in the embrace of the God he served and loved so well, and in the company of Mary, the mother of God and our patroness to whom he entrusted his life and all the work of his hands. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

And now the benediction. Oh, Lord, our God, during these days of grief and loss, you have gathered us together to pray with and for Father Ted, to use his favorite prayer, Come Holy Spirit, and making it our own. That same spirit who so often inspired Father Ted during his incredible years of service to the Church and to society has been present among us as well.

We praise you for raising up such a man of vision and grace to create over the years a great

Catholic university through his untiring efforts and his ability to rise to every occasion. We thank you for a religious priest who extended his love to all your beloved sons and daughters, especially those who lived at the margin of society and could have easily been overlooked.

We are honored, as was Father Ted, that the patroness of our congregation and of the University of Notre Dame is the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, the mother of the Church, and a woman who with Joseph was one of the first people to school her son in the ways of God, in the great mystery of God's saving plan that we accept even as she did, even when events would unfold which required faith in God's unconditional love and care for each one of us.

As Our Lady of Sorrows, she was always more easily able to be at our sides, as well as we try to let our faith be like hers, despite our sinfulness which is overcome by the light and the peace of Jesus, our loving Lord and redeemer.

Almighty God, help us to reach out to Jesus, to try to imitate His love for all people and to let all the moments and days of our lives be

opportunities despite our unworthiness, to love the light and the grace which is His and which can conquer all darkness and sin.

Oh, Lord, our God, thank you for Father Ted. Thank you for the Congregation of Holy Cross and thank you for the University of Notre Dame. The cross is our only hope. Amen.

MODERATOR: I would like to give you an Irish blessing: May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the very palm of His hand. Amen.

*(Orchestra plays and applause.)*