

## 60th Anniversary of SHU Announcement

Fri 10/7/2022 9:17 AM president=sacredheart.edu@mg.regroup.com; on behalf of; President Petillo <president@sacredheart.edu>

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

Today is the 60th anniversary of the announcement by the Most Reverend Walter W. Curtis that he was planning to open Sacred Heart University—a commuter college that would provide higher education for area Catholics. We will celebrate by ringing the chapel bells at noon today.

In creating Sacred Heart, Bishop Curtis saw the need for a reasonably priced college education. He made the announcement just days before the opening of the Second Vatican Council noting that “A college education is almost a necessity for our young Catholic people if they are to adequately prepare for the problems and opportunities of today’s world ... It is our sincere hope that this new facility will give opportunity to those who though desiring a Catholic education would not previously have found it financially feasible.”

Next March will mark the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of Sacred Heart, and you will see many events connected to our celebration of 60 years next year. Some that have already been planned include:

- This fall’s Vatican II and Catholic Higher Education: Leading Forward Conference, which commemorates both Vatican II and the announcement of the founding of Sacred Heart University
- The post-COVID return of the University’s Discovery Gala to kick off the celebration
- A series of Contemporary Conversations on a variety of topics
- The Center for Catholic Studies Lecture Series
- A series of Bergoglio lectures for which we have invited several distinguished guests

There will be much more to come, including a website page dedicated to the 60th anniversary celebration events. You can also expect to see the timeline in the hallway of the main academic building updated to reflect the tremendous growth the University has experienced in the past decade.

In the meantime, let’s enjoy the bells today and take a moment to acknowledge the anniversary of the very beginnings of this University.

Thank you.

John J. Petillo, Ph.D.  
President



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