

# Sycamore Trust Solemn Novena

## For Catholic Higher Education & The University of Notre Dame

August 14-22, 2017

### Introduction

*By Fr. John J. Raphael, '89*

It is with profound gratitude to Almighty God, and with great hope and joy, that Sycamore Trust inaugurates its first Solemn Novena for the faithful and fruitful success of the Catholic Mission of the University of Notre Dame, and for all who are entrusted with the sacred task of promoting and protecting Catholic higher education.

In the spirit of the great Cistercian master, Dom Jean-Baptiste Chautard, we are reminded that prayer is indeed the soul of the apostolate.

In this Novena we prayerfully turn to Our Lady and ask her to accompany each one of us, our beloved Notre Dame and all who have responded to the call to bear witness to the beauty and truth of the Catholic Faith in the ministry of Catholic higher education, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, from the Heart of the Church.

Beginning on the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary—also the Feast of St Maximilian Mary Kolbe—and concluding on the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, for nine days we will come together as a community of believers and pray that the truths of the faith, and the lofty values enshrined in the expressions of Mission of the University and the Congregation of Holy Cross, will permeate and animate the work of all those entrusted with the sacred duties of Catholic education. We welcome all to join us in our prayer. We encourage you to invite others to participate with us so that with one voice we may ground the work we do in a faith-filled surrender to the Providence of Almighty God.

Whether you arrange your schedule to pray in consort with others or in quiet solitude, we thank you for joining your prayer with ours as we entrust the entire Notre Dame community and all who cherish her mission to Our Blessed Lord through the powerful intercession of Notre Dame, Our Mother. We pray that God will bless this Novena and render it fruitful for Notre Dame and for all who are prayerfully united in the bonds of truth and charity.

