Christmas 2013

Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

When the artist Millard Sheets was asked about his inspiration for the famed Word of Life mural on the Hesburgh Library, he spoke of a never-ending line of scholars, saints, and teachers—the best humankind has to offer—and of this line unfolding, a continual process of one generation giving to the next.

Current Notre Dame students are beneficiaries of an unbroken lineage, drawing on the gifts both practical and profound of those who have gone before them. Whether through a scholarship that makes the unattainable suddenly possible, an affinity for Notre Dame that inspires a young person to higher academic achievement, or the powerful example of a life lived in faith and service, each generation passes on to the next the spirit of Notre Dame, a legacy deepened and enriched by each person’s unique contributions.

Although they do not come wrapped in Christmas paper or adorned with ribbon, these gifts affect our students deeply—encouraging them, in a very real sense, to make a difference in the world and to strive to live out the Gospel call.

As we contemplate our many blessings this Christmas, know that those of us here at the University are profoundly grateful for all you do. Please accept my prayers of gratitude and warmest good wishes for the season.

Yours in Notre Dame,

Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.

Visit Christmas2013.nd.edu to view the University Christmas greeting.