

G.K. CHESTERTON AND ST. FRANCIS

42ND ANNUAL CHESTERTON CONFERENCE | JULY 27-29, 2023



THE JUGGLERS *of* GOD

LES JONGLEURS DE DIEU



"His religion was not a thing like a theory but a thing like a love-affair."

MINNEAPOLIS MARRIOTT SOUTHWEST
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

LEARN MORE AT [CHESTERTON.ORG](https://www.chesterton.org)



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DALE AHLQUIST
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY
OF GILBERT KEITH CHESTERTON

The Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE APOSTOLATE

The Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton is a Catholic lay apostolate, recognized formally as a canonical private association of the Christian faithful.

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Our mission is to evangelize through education, inspiring people to live joyful, holy lives, with G.K. Chesterton as a model of lay spirituality.

LOOKING TO G.K. CHESTERTON AS A MODEL OF LAY SPIRITUALITY, WE ARE COMMITTED:

- To engage actively in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- To provide encouragement to lay people to be living witnesses of the Catholic faith especially in the secular workplace and secular settings, and to defend the faith when it is attacked.
- To adhere faithfully to Church teaching on marriage and family.
- To have a special reverence for the Holy Mass.
- To hold to the centrality of the Incarnation in education for a true understanding not only of theology, but of history, philosophy, art, and science.
- To acknowledge the value of studying and contemplating the classical principles of truth, beauty, and goodness.
- To promote widespread ownership as articulated in the papal encyclicals on Catholic Social Teaching and the writings of G.K. Chesterton.
- To reveal joy as “the gigantic secret of the Christian.”

Find out more at chesterton.org/prayer

Welcome Letter

42nd Annual Chesterton Conference
Chesterton & Saint Francis | July 27-29, 2023

Dear Chestertonian,

Welcome to the 42nd Annual G.K. Chesterton Conference! The conference returns to the Twin Cities after a fifteen year absence. During that time there have been some changes! New schools, new books, new faces. But one thing remains the same: the timeless truth of GKC.

In the past decade-and-a-half, the reach, the impact, and the influence of Chesterton has steadily increased. A new generation has discovered his joy and wisdom, and an older generation has been rejuvenated by it. His ideas are being taken seriously by a wider group of people, and he is “important enough to be ignored” by a shrinking group.

You are part of the Chesterton Revival. Thank you for coming and sharing your time with us. Enjoy the talks, the food, the libations, the prayers, the laughter.

Start writing your clerihow.



Your servant,

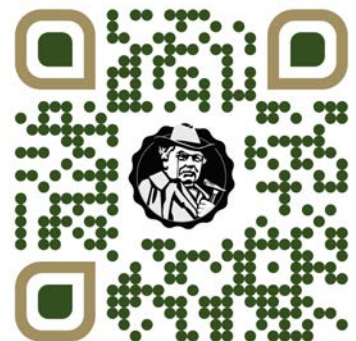
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Ahlquist'.

Dale Ahlquist
President, Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton



We can't do it without you.

The **Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton** is a non-profit charity that relies on *your generous gifts* to accomplish our mission of evangelizing through education and assisting people to lead happy, holier lives with GK Chesterton as a model of lay spirituality. *Thank you!*



chesterton.org/give

Conference Schedule

42nd Annual Chesterton Conference
Chesterton & Saint Francis | July 27-29, 2023

DAY ONE THURSDAY, JULY 27

Welcome & Registration

2:00PM - Registration and Vendor Tables Open

4:30PM - Opening Mass

All are invited to this uplifting service of prayer and worship. Spiritual reflection and Scriptural Rosary begin at 4:00PM.

5:15PM - Welcome Reception

5:30PM - Dinner & Fellowship

Opening Session

Live & Virtual

6:45PM - Conference Kickoff

7:00PM - The Jugglers of God: G.K. Chesterton and Saint Francis

Dale Ahlquist, President

The Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton

Chesterton had a strong affinity for Saint Francis even before his conversion, and ultimately chose the Saint as his confirmation patron. Dale Ahlquist explores the spiritual kinship between these two giants in the Faith.

8:00PM - Taking a Fresh Look at Chesterton's St. Francis

Bishop Robert Barron

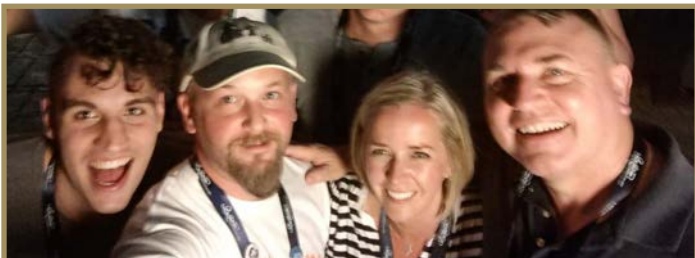
*Diocese of Winona-Rochester
& Word on Fire Ministries*

Bishop Barron takes a fresh look at Chesterton's wonderful biography of the great Saint, 100 years after its first publication.

9:15PM - Night Prayer

9:30PM - Afterglow

Greet old friends, and make new friends in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere. A legendary part of the Chesterton conference experience!



DAY TWO FRIDAY, JULY 28

7:30AM - Daily Mass (*Rosary at 7:10*)

7:30AM - 8:45AM Breakfast service begins

Morning Session

Live & Virtual

9:00AM - The Wise Men Know: Russell Kirk's Chestertonian Vision

Norman Alan Cornett

Host, Cultural Debris Podcast

Cornett discusses the Chestertonian resonances in the views of the great conservative writer whom he once served as secretary.

10:30AM - The Jongleur, the Jester, and the Gentleman Scholar

Teresa Caldecott Cialini

Editor-in-chief, 'Magnificat' (Int'l English Edition)

The daughter of the late Chesterton and Inklings scholar, Stratford Caldecott, reflects on the English Franciscan tradition as an influence in both his and Chesterton's lives.

11:45AM - Lunch

Afternoon Session

Live & Virtual

1:00PM - Two Lifetimes of Work

Geir Hasnes

Author, 'G.K. Chesterton: A Bibliography'

Geir Hasnes speaks about the recently published three-volume bibliography of Chesterton's writings, a monumental undertaking decades in the making!

2:00PM - Lived Localism (Panel): Steubenville's Revitalization

Jacob Imam

New Polity, College of St. Joseph the Worker

Robert Praetzel and Zepherine Swope

Chesterton & Co. Cigars of Steubenville

A panel of men revitalizing their dilapidated Rust Belt town by implementing the principles of Catholic Social Doctrine.

4:00PM - Running on Empty: The Priceless Gift of Failure

Brent Forrest

Failed Animal Trainer

They couldn't stockpile the Manna. It rotted immediately. Why our best laid plans usually fail ... and should.

DAY TWO

FRIDAY, JULY 28 (continued)

5:30PM - Dinner

Evening Session

Live & Virtual

7:00PM - Chesterton on Saint Francis

Special Appearance by EWTN's John Walker

Actor John Walker appears as G.K. Chesterton to discuss his devotion to Saint Francis of Assisi and his common vision of wonder in the face of Creation.

8:00PM - The Troubadours LIVE!

Following in Francis's Footsteps

Dale Ahlquist

President, Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton

Christopher Check

President, Catholic Answers

William Fahey

President, Thomas More College of Liberal Arts

Dan Kerr

President, Saint Martin's Academy

Joseph Pearce

Author and Editor of the St. Austin Review

The popular Tuesday night troupe bring their characteristic wit and banter to the live stage!

9:15PM - Night Prayer

9:30PM - Afterglow

DAY THREE

SATURDAY, JULY 29

7:30AM - Daily Mass (Rosary at 7:10)

7:30AM - 8:45AM Breakfast service begins

Morning Session

Live & Virtual

9:00AM - What They Saw in America: Chesterton and Solzhenitsyn

Deacon Tom Martin

Professor Emeritus, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Longtime professor and Chesterton scholar Tom Martin discusses the two men's views on the United States, offered nearly sixty years apart.

DAY THREE

SATURDAY, JULY 29 (continued)

Morning Session, con't

Live & Virtual

10:00AM - The Fall and Rise of the Roman Empire: Dark Ages to Middle Ages

Joseph Pearce

Author and Editor of the St. Austin Review

Joseph discusses the rise of the High Middle Ages, in which Saint Francis of Assisi was a central figure.

11:00AM - Liturgical Living: Joining Creation's Cantic of Praise

Dan Kerr

President, Saint Martin's Academy

Dan Kerr talks about living a life connected to the flow of seasons and the fasts and feasts of the Liturgical year.

12:00PM - Lunch

Afternoon Parallel Sessions

Live

1:15PM

I Practical Localism: Beyond Employment and Consumption

Susan Sucher

Gilbert Columnist and 'Domestic Empress'

II Assisi Upside Down: Chesterton and the Life of Faith

Father Spencer Howe

Chaplain, The Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton

2:15PM

I The Crisis and the Solution: The Chesterton Schools Network Difference

Katherine Kersten

Sr. Policy Fellow, Center of the American Experiment

II Chaos Is Dull: Chesterton's Mysteries and the Delight of Order Restored

Haley Stewart

Author and Editor of Word on Fire Spark

3:15PM - Confessions Available

4:00PM - Closing Mass

Scriptural Rosary, 3:20PM

7:00PM - Closing Banquet

*Jokes, toasts, songs, Clerihews, and other fun;
a can't-miss event hosted by Dale Ahlquist*

9:30PM - Afterglow





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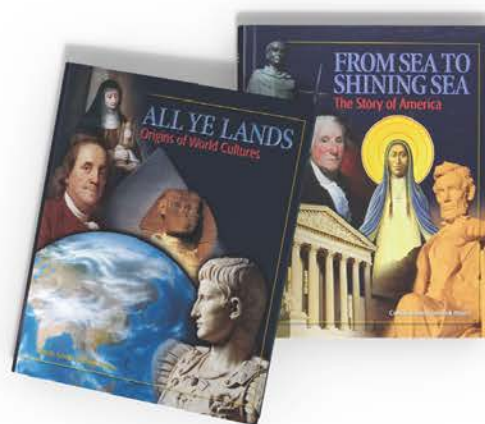
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The Frances Chesterton **ROSARY LEAGUE**

A new initiative of the Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton, the Frances Chesterton Rosary League is a global association of local groups committed to praying the Scriptural Rosary for the needs and intentions of the Society, for conversions, and for vocations. In these prayer groups, united in purpose and focus, we ask the powerful intercession of the Blessed Mother Mary for the work and welfare of both the Apostolate and the benefactors who generously support it.

OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS

- 1. For the Intentions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.**
- 2. For Peace and Spiritual Healing:** in our World, in our Country, in our Cities, in our Dioceses, in our Homes, and in our Hearts.
- 3. For the Purification of the Church:** for the sanctification of Pope Francis, our bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and the Laity.
- 4. For the Conversion of Sinners:** for each of us, for those in our families, for those in the Church, for those who've wandered away from the Church, for those separated from the Church, and for those opposed to the Church.
- 5. For Religious Vocations:** for the holiness of priests, seminarians and religious, and those discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life.
- 6. For Secular Vocations:** for the holiness of those who seek to use their literary and artistic talents for God's glory. For the holiness of journalists, educators, scientists, care providers, farmers, laborers, craftsmen, small business owners, office workers, those in technology, service, and healthcare professions, and those involved in Christian ministry and mission work. For the sanctification of all public officials and government workers.
- 7. For the Poor:** for an increase in Spiritual and Corporal Works of mercy, and works of Charity and Justice done in and through the Church, for the world. For food for the hungry, homes for the homeless, and refuge for refugees. For provision and direction for those who are unemployed or under-employed, for those who are in financial distress, and for small businesses that are struggling. For protection from evil for those who are incarcerated, and an increased respect for the dignity of prisoners and their families. For an abundance of grace, strength, and joy for those suffering religious persecution for the sake of Christ. For the repose of the Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- 8. For the Sick:** for healing for all those suffering from health problems, including chronic physical and mental illnesses, and disabilities. For wholeness for those suffering with cancer or depression. For comfort for those who live with pain or loneliness. For freedom for those suffering from any kind of addiction, and restoration for those suffering as a result of abuse or trauma.
- 9. For Families:** for the strengthening of marriage. For the honoring of fatherhood and motherhood. For parenthood for couples experiencing infertility. For an increase in understanding and meeting the needs of babies and children. For resolution of conflict and increased charity between family members. For comfort for those grieving the loss of family members. For the healing of those suffering from sexual confusion or same-sex attraction. For the respect and protection of all human life from conception to natural death.
- 10. For The Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton:** for the fulfillment of its purpose and fruitfulness in its mission and its various ministries. For the temporal and spiritual welfare of all its members. For the intentions of its benefactors, and for the private intentions of all those praying with the Frances Chesterton Rosary League, to the Glory of God.

Find out more at chesterton.org/rosary



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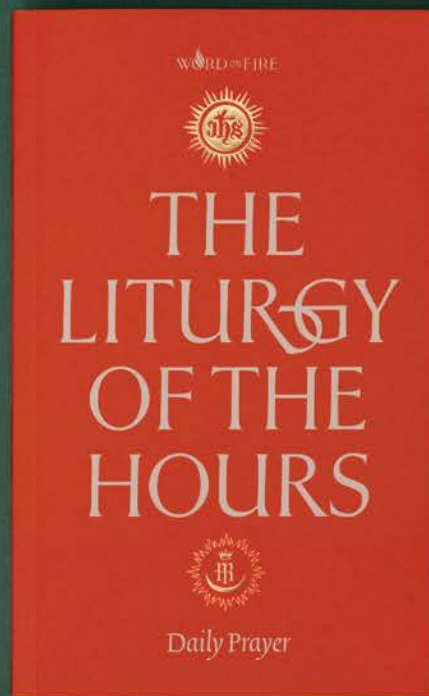


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Recommended Reading

INTRODUCTORY BOOKS

By Dale Ahlquist:

G.K. Chesterton: The Apostle of Common Sense.

An overview of Chesterton's most important books, liberally spiced with quotations.

Common Sense 101: Lessons From G.K.

Chesterton.

Chesterton's profound and prophetic insights on topics from the faith to the family.

Knight of the Holy Ghost.

Amusing anecdotes and plentiful quotations abound in this study of the life of G.K. Chesterton.

ESSAYS

In Defense of Sanity.

Chesterton's essays convey timeless truths that jump off the page as fresh and powerful as the day they were written.

APOLOGETICS

Orthodoxy.

Considered by many to be Chesterton's best book, this is a unique and refreshing spiritual autobiography and defense of the Christian faith.

The Everlasting Man.

One of Chesterton's greatest and most important books, this is Chesterton's view of history.

POETRY

The Coloured Lands.

A jolly medley of Chesterton's drawings, fables, and poetry—all laced with his signature satirical wit.

FICTION

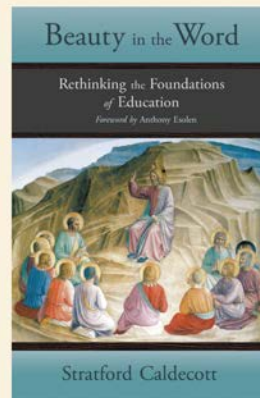
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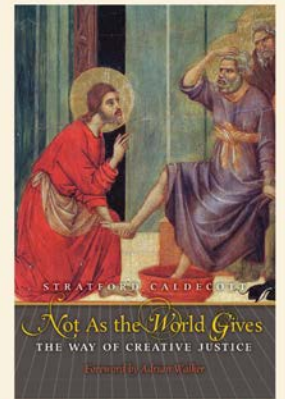


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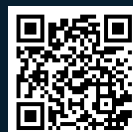




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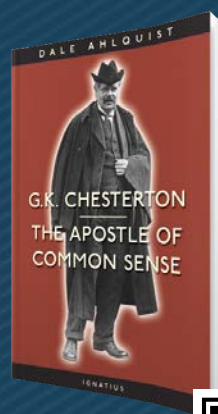
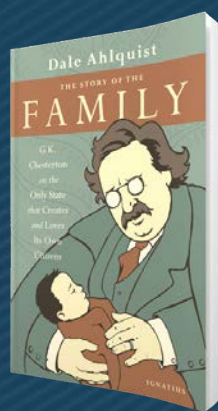
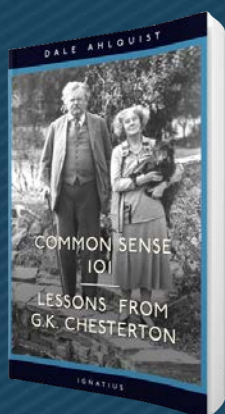
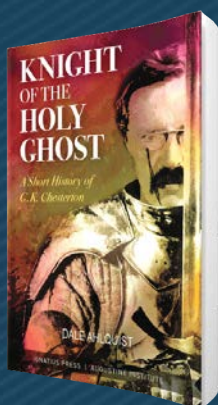
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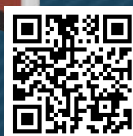
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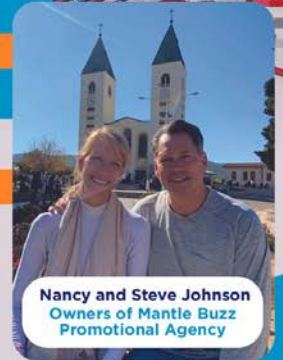
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- G.K. Chesterton: Heavyweight Champion of the Faith
- Chesterton and the New Evangelization
- Chesterton for Priests
- Chesterton and Relativism
- Chesterton on Science and Religion
- Chesterton and the Mother of God
- Chesterton and the Youth of the Church
- Beauty is Unanswerable: Chesterton on Art
- The Ordered Mind: Chesterton and Sanity
- God is Dead: Chesterton and Nietzsche
- Polls and Pews: Chesterton on Politics
- G.K. Chesterton and C.S. Lewis
- The Ecumenical Chesterton
- Chesterton on the English Martyrs
- Chesterton on Ireland
- Puritans and Pagans
- Chesterton on St. Francis of Assisi
- Chesterton on St. Thomas Aquinas
- A Walk Through What's Wrong with the World
- A Walk Through Orthodoxy
- A Walk Through The Everlasting Man
- The Art of Murder: Chesterton and Detective Fiction
- Words about Words: Chesterton the Literary Critic
- The Soul of Wit: Chesterton on Shakespeare
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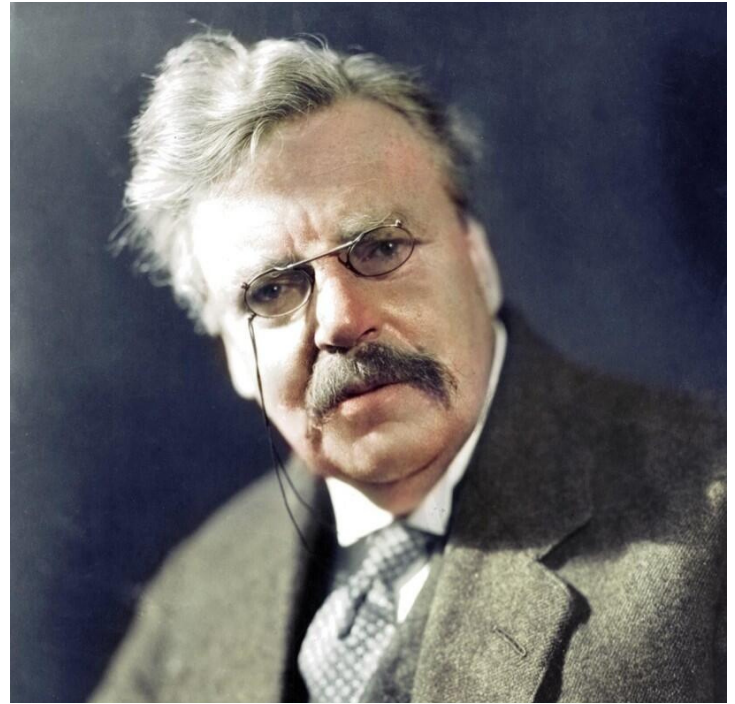
"Never a Stranger"

Excerpt from *Francis of Assisi*, G.K. Chesterton

Many thousand things that I now partly comprehend I should have thought utterly incomprehensible, many things I now hold sacred I should have scouted as utterly superstitious, many things that seem to me lucid and enlightened now they are seen from the inside I should honestly have called dark and barbarous seen from the outside, when long ago in those days of boyhood my fancy first caught fire with the glory of Francis of Assisi.

I too have lived in Arcady, but even in Arcady I met one walking in a brown habit who loved the woods better than Pan. The figure in the brown habit stands above the hearth in the room where I write, and alone among many such images, at no stage of my pilgrimage has he ever seemed to me a stranger. There is something of harmony between the hearth and the firelight and my own first pleasure in his words about his brother fire; for he stands far enough back in my memory to mingle with all those more domestic dreams of the first days. Even the fantastic shadows thrown by fire make a sort of shadow pantomime that belongs to the nursery; yet the shadows were even then the shadows of his favourite beasts and birds, as he saw them, grotesque but haloed with the love of God. His Brother Wolf and Brother Sheep seemed then almost like the Br'er Fox and Br'er Rabbit of a more Christian Uncle Remus. are I have come slowly to see many and more marvellous aspects of such a man, but I have never lost that one.

His figure stands on a sort of bridge connecting my boyhood with my conversion to many other things; for the romance of his religion had penetrated even the rationalism of that vague Victorian time. In so far as I have had this experience, I may be able to lead others a little further along that road; but only a very little further. Nobody knows better than I do now that it is a road upon which angels might fear to tread; but though I am certain of failure I am not altogether overcome by fear; for he suffered fools gladly.



Prayer for the Intercession of **G.K. CHESTERTON**

GOD OUR FATHER, You filled the life of your servant Gilbert Keith Chesterton with a sense of wonder and joy, and gave him a faith which was the foundation of his ceaseless work, a charity towards all men, particularly his opponents, and a hope which sprang from his lifelong gratitude for the gift of human life.

May his innocence and his laughter, his constancy in fighting for the Christian faith in a world losing belief, his lifelong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his love for all men, especially for the poor, bring cheerfulness to those in despair, conviction and warmth to lukewarm believers and the knowledge of God to those without faith.

We beg you to grant the favors we ask through his intercession, [*and especially for...*] so that his holiness may be recognized by all and the Church may proclaim him Blessed. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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- Weekly online Scriptural Rosary
- Daily prayer for Apostolate & benefactors

Service

- 56 member schools in Chesterton Schools Network
- 14 additional scheduled to open next year
- Development of adult education program

Community

- Special events throughout the year including pilgrimages and annual Knights dinner

chesterton.org/knights



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THE APOSTOLATE OF COMMON SENSE

THE CHESTERTON SCHOOLS NETWORK

**Today our country, our culture,
and our Church are in crisis.**

YET THERE IS

Hope
for the **Future**

Inspired and supported by the Chesterton Schools Network, Catholic parents across the nation partner with the local church to start Chesterton Academy schools.

Together, we are restoring faithful, affordable Catholic education in our time.

To serve the Network's 60+ high schools and respond to continued demand, the Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton is growing and strengthening its internal capacities.

We invite you to join us as a mission partner and make a gift today.



**You may make
your gift online at:**
www.chesterton.org



JOYFULLY CATHOLIC, CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOLS

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