On May 24, 1888, the cornerstone for Caldwell Hall was laid with President Grover Cleveland as well as members of Congress and the U.S. Cabinet in attendance. On March 7, 1889, Pope Leo XIII formally established Catholic University with his apostolic letter *Magni Nobis Gaudii*.

Bishop John J. Keane of Richmond, Va., was appointed rector of the fledgling institution, and when the University first opened for classes in November 1889, the curriculum consisted of lectures in mental and moral philosophy, English literature, the sacred scriptures, and the various branches of theology.

Under the bylaws of the University’s Board of Trustees, the archbishop of Washington (currently Cardinal Donald Wuerl) is ex officio the chancellor of the University. He serves as a liaison between the University and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, as well as between the University and the Holy See.

The private and coeducational campus has approximately 3,600 undergraduate and 3,100 graduate students from all 50 states and 86 countries enrolled in 12 schools of architecture and planning, arts and sciences, business and economics, canon law, engineering, law, music, nursing, philosophy, professional studies, social service, and theology and religious studies.

It is the only American university with ecclesiastical faculties granting canonical degrees in canon law, philosophy, and theology.

Eighty percent of undergraduates and 57% of graduate students are Catholic. The campus is adjacent to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The University motto is *Deus Lux Mea Est* — God is My Light.

Catholic University is one of only three universities in the United States to have hosted the Pope on its campus and it is the only one to have done so twice — Pope John Paul II in 1979 and Pope Benedict XVI in 2008. In both cases, the pontiff used the occasion of his visit to address educational leaders gathered from around the United States.

Since its founding, the University has been led by 15 presidents (earlier known as rectors). The current president, John Garvey, has been at the helm of the university since July 1, 2010.

*The Catholic University of America is located at 620 Michigan Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. For more information on CUA, go to www.cua.edu.*