



**Belmont Abbey**  
COLLEGE

*That in all things God  
may be glorified*

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Belmont Abbey College Names Recipient of 2022 Benedict Leadership Award**

**Belmont, N.C. (February 21, 2022)** – The Benedict Leadership Institute at Belmont Abbey College is thrilled to recognize Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. as the recipient of the 2022 Benedict Leadership Award. This award highlights the incredible achievements of men and women whose lives reflect the heroic leadership of St. Benedict.

Belmont Abbey College founded the Benedict Leadership Institute in 2016 to develop and inspire Catholic leaders to transform society in light of their faith. For its fifth recipient, the Benedict Leadership Institute recognizes Archbishop Chaput's devotion to helping find ways to live meaningfully in light of the truth of the Gospel. "At Belmont Abbey, we live by the Benedictine hallmarks and believe that they are key in living a life of virtue," says Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey College. "Archbishop Chaput embodies the qualities of St. Benedict through his passion to build greatness in his community, empowering others to be successful, and utilizing faith in leadership." These qualities make Archbishop Chaput a worthy recipient of the Benedict Leadership Institute.

God's calling on Archbishop Chaput's life was evident to him at a very young age. He was born in 1944 in Concordia, Kansas to a French Canadian father and Native American mother and was part of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation early on. At thirteen, he decided that he wanted to become a priest and attended a Catholic Seminary high school. In 1970, Bishop Cyril Vogel ordained Archbishop Chaput to the priesthood followed by his pursuit of a Master of Arts in theology from the University of San Francisco. He taught at the collegiate level until he became pastor of the Holy Cross Church in Thornton, Colorado in 1977. This began his episcopal career where he served as Bishop of Rapid City, SD (1988-97), Archbishop of Denver, CO (1997-2011), and Archbishop of Philadelphia, PA (2011-20). He is a leader that tirelessly encourages people to share God's word with confidence and joy.

"The Benedict Leadership Institute exists to highlight Catholic leaders who impress upon society the importance of living by faith, and encourage other leaders to live by this example. Archbishop Chaput has dedicated his life to this mission with a seemingly boundless energy," says Conor Gallagher, Executive Director of the Benedict Leadership Institute. Archbishop Chaput retired at the age of 76 after heading the archdiocese for almost 10 years. In retirement, he published his third book *"Things Worth Dying For"*, where he tackles life's most important questions such as why we're here, the important things that Christians should be willing to die for, and how we can seek to live and die meaningfully. As Archbishop Chaput told the Catholic New Service, he hopes that after reading his latest book that "anybody who is a serious Christian will take the Gospel more seriously, their lives more seriously and the world around more seriously." His work is an inspiration to believers and non-believers alike, as well as other Catholic leaders. "Archbishop Chaput's enthusiasm, evangelization and wisdom have impacted the faithful on both a global and personal level. From the American prairies to Rome, Archbishop Chaput has engaged and mobilized the laity, tirelessly worked to right the wrongs and heal deep wounds in the Church, and fought for religious liberty at home and abroad," says Gallagher. The Catholic community has consistently recognized Archbishop Chaput's efforts. EWTN Global Catholic Network selected the Archbishop as the first recipient of the annual Mother Angelica Award in April of 2021.

**About Belmont Abbey College:** Founded in 1876, Belmont Abbey College is a private, Catholic baccalaureate and liberal arts institution. Our mission is to educate students in the liberal arts and sciences so that in all things God may be glorified. Guided by the Catholic intellectual tradition and the Benedictine spirit of prayer and learning, we welcome a diverse body of students and provide them with an education that will enable them to lead lives of integrity, to succeed professionally, to become responsible citizens, and to be a blessing to themselves and to others. Our beautiful and historic campus is conveniently located just 10 miles west of Charlotte, N.C., and is currently home to more than 1500 students. For more information, visit <https://belmontabbeycollege.edu/>.