



The Commonweal Fund for Moral & Civic Renewal

*A permanent endowment established by Thomas and Allison Franco
in honor of Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., President Emeritus, University of Notre Dame*

About Commonweal

For more than a century, *Commonweal* has been a trusted source for readers to engage with the Catholic tradition in a context of justice, charity, and critical intelligence. *Commonweal* begins its second century of publication dedicated to fostering rigorous and reflective discussions about faith, public affairs, and the arts, centered on belief in the common good. Independent and lay-led, *Commonweal* is a bridge between the intellectual and active lives of lay Catholics who seek meaning and justice, inspiring people in their hopes for a more inclusive future for our church, politics, and culture.

Commonweal was founded in 1924, just a year after *Time* magazine and a few months before *The New Yorker*. Today, our work includes a monthly magazine (11 issues a year), a twice-monthly podcast, live and virtual events, discussion resources for local communities, and a biennial benefit dinner that brings together our readers, writers, friends, and supporters.

A Century of *Commonweal* and Notre Dame

Commonweal and the University of Notre Dame share a relationship that goes back to the magazine's founding in 1924. George Schuster, a Notre Dame graduate, penned his first piece for *Commonweal* just four weeks after its launch. With generations of readers, writers, donors, and alumni in common, the connection is physically represented by *Commonweal*'s archives, which are housed at the Hesburgh Library at Notre Dame.

THE COMMONWEAL FUND FOR MORAL & CIVIC RENEWAL

In an era of deep polarization, democratic fragility, and widespread distrust of institutions, *Commonweal*'s independent voice is more urgently needed than ever. The Commonweal Fund for Moral & Civic Renewal is a permanent endowment designed to ensure that voice endures—free, fearless, and faithful—for generations to come.

The Fund sustains and expands *Commonweal*'s mission across five areas:

The Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C. Initiative for Campus & Early Career Formation	Provide opportunities for the next generation of writers, readers, and thinkers through campus partnerships, writing workshops, internships, and events
Independent Media & Editorial Excellence	Sustain <i>Commonweal</i> 's independent journalism across multiple media, supporting emerging writers and underrepresented voices, and building marketing capacity to reach new audiences
Public Events	Bring <i>Commonweal</i> 's events—panels, lectures, salons, and more—to cities around the country, creating spaces for serious conversation across differences
Interreligious & Secular Engagement	Expand dialogue across faith traditions and religious communities as well as thoughtful conversation with nonreligious intellectuals and seekers
Archives, Scholarship & Intellectual Heritage	Make <i>Commonweal</i> 's 102-year archive more accessible for all users, an essential resource for American Catholic history

THE REV. JOHN I. JENKINS, C.S.C. INITIATIVE

The Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C. Initiative is named in honor of Fr. Jenkins's lifelong commitment to higher education, civil discourse, and the cultivation of young people capable of moral reasoning and civic friendship. It builds on *Commonweal*'s century-long relationship with Notre Dame and extends it to a new generation.

Through the initiative, *Commonweal* will partner with colleges and universities across the country. In collaboration with university partners, we will offer a flexible menu of programs: writing workshops, internships and fellowships, live and virtual events, discussion resources, and free or subsidized student subscriptions and digital archive access.

Thomas and Allison Franco have made a founding gift of \$1,000,000 to establish the Fund. We invite you to join them.

WHY NOW

The challenges facing American civic and religious life are real and pressing. Public discourse has narrowed. Institutional trust has eroded. The spaces where people can engage one another honestly and charitably are increasingly rare. Forming the next generation of writers, thinkers, and leaders capable of meeting that moment is among the most important work any institution can undertake.

The Fund ensures we can continue our thought leadership with greater reach and resources for the century ahead.

Gifts to the Fund will be publicly announced at the 2026 Commonweal Benefit Dinner on Monday, October 5, at Pier 60, Chelsea Piers, New York City, where *Commonweal* will honor Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C. with the Commonweal Centennial Award. There is no better occasion to launch a fund established in his name and animated by his values.

The Commonweal Benefit Dinner is an opportunity to celebrate the public launch of the Fund, recognize its inaugural donors, and set the stage for *Commonweal*'s next century of conversation and community anchored in the common good. We hope you will join us.

HOW TO GIVE

Gifts to The Commonweal Fund for Moral & Civic Renewal may be made online, by check, or through a planned gift or bequest. All gifts are tax-deductible. Commonweal Foundation Federal Tax ID: 13-3174407.

Checks may be made payable to Commonweal Foundation and mailed to: *Commonweal*, PO Box 348, Congers, NY 10920

Please note "Jenkins Initiative" or "Commonweal Fund" in the memo line. Make a gift online: cwlmag.org/fund

"For more than a century, Commonweal has served all people of goodwill. The Fund secures that mission for the century ahead."

— THOMAS FRANCO

TO LEARN MORE

For more about the Fund, how to make a gift, or how your support could be recognized, please contact:

Steve Eberle, Director of Advancement, Commonweal Magazine
seberle@commonwealmagazine.org | 215-688-5154

For more details about the 2026 Commonweal Benefit Dinner honoring Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., visit cwlmag.org/benefit2026.

In a time of fragmentation, an investment in depth. In a time of noise, an investment in thought. In a time of division, an investment in the common good.