Each year, members of the Sorin Society join in the steadfast commitment to educate and grow the hearts and minds of students at Notre Dame. Members of Sorin provide one of the largest cash gifts to Notre Dame each year to meet the needs and priorities of the University, namely undergraduate financial aid.

As the world faces one of the worst pandemics in history, economic circumstances have changed for many Notre Dame families. The University made it clear from the beginning that it would not allow this crisis to prevent any Notre Dame student from being able to complete their degree. Gifts through the Sorin Society in 2019-2020 provided critical assistance for students most affected by the crisis.

In addition to Financial Aid, the Sorin Society assisted the University in readying the campus to ensure the safety and well being of our students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Sorin Society funded, in part, the University’s testing and contract tracing efforts, physical enhancements and sanitization supplies, student education and programming, and classroom technology enhancements for virtual learning. Thanks to the flexible and unrestricted nature of Sorin Society gifts, Notre Dame was able to significantly invest in the areas necessary to ensure the return of students to campus under the watchful eye of Our Lady.

On behalf of our students, thank you for your life-changing generosity and dedication. As a Sorin member, you share in the pride, joy, and enthusiasm for all that the Notre Dame family achieves together. Thank you for giving the gift of Notre Dame.

The Sorin Society Team
Delivering Critical Financial Aid
Sorin members have always given the University the ability to address the greatest need facing our students. The economic downturn caused by the pandemic has created a need for financial aid greater than any time in Notre Dame’s history. The University remains committed to meeting this need, ensuring that no admitted student leaves Notre Dame for economic reasons.

Developing New Community
While the pandemic has altered every aspect of campus life, the University has taken every step to create a safe learning and student life environment. Before students arrived this fall the University evaluated over 300 classrooms and implemented necessary changes to follow safety protocols along with adding 27 spaces across campus (including the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, JACC, Dahnke Ballroom, the Morris Inn, and Washington Hall) to be utilized as classrooms. Over the course of the fall, the University also introduced new spaces for students to gather such as heated tents and the new Library and South Lawns: new comfortable, inviting spaces for students between the Hesburgh Library and Notre Dame Stadium and outside of South Dining Hall. These new initiatives would not have been possible without the flexibility of unrestricted gifts from Sorin members.

Creating a Safe Environment
Creating a safe environment for students to learn was an essential part of welcoming students back to campus. The generosity of Sorin members made this possible by helping to establish and enhance the University’s testing and tracing operation throughout the semester. In addition to these efforts, Notre Dame developed a robust educational program regarding necessary adaptations to normal college life activities during the pandemic and delivered masks and cleaning supplies to students, empowering them to participate in maintaining a safe and healthy campus.

$21.4MM
raised by Sorin members in 2019-2020

90% of dollars raised was directed to financial aid and provided 1,926 students with a $10,000 financial aid package.

10% was directed to assist the University’s COVID-19 efforts.
Students around the world seek to attend Our Lady’s University knowing that joining the Notre Dame family is not only about academics; it means establishing a lifelong connection to a community grounded in compassion and service. Gifts to financial aid are the most impactful and the most sought-after at the University, as they ensure that the cost of attendance will never be a barrier for students who dream of being at Notre Dame.

Raised in two small towns of less than 1,100 people, Chessley Jackson has always understood the importance of community. Though at times she felt destined to attend a state school with the majority of her peers, Chessley dreamed of pursuing a different path. With the assistance provided by a Sorin Society Scholarship, Chessley became the first ever graduate of her high school to attend the University of Notre Dame.

Now that she’s found another home at Notre Dame, Chessley has fully embraced the community in and surrounding the University—in addition to her studies of Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics and Pre-Medicine, she is also part of the American Red Cross Club, as well as volunteering at South Bend’s LOGAN Center for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.
Notre Dame has always been a place inspired by the Catholic faith, from its founding by Rev. Edward Sorin, C.S.C. in 1842 through the present day. This faith tradition has a strong presence on campus, which can be felt in the chapels in every residence hall, in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, and through various classes and service programs. At Our Lady’s University, there is no shortage of ways to be inspired.

Though he set out to study Environmental Science, Noah Gonring ’23 found additional inspiration right away at Notre Dame. After taking a “Foundations of Theology” class during his first year at the University, Noah developed plans to add Theology as a simultaneous course of study—a path he recognizes would have been unlikely at any other school. With an education of heart, mind, and spirit, Noah will be equipped to bring a uniquely informed perspective into his future scientific explorations.
At the University of Notre Dame, students are encouraged to engage with their passions both inside and outside the classroom. From residence halls to office hours, and from social events to club gatherings, students have the opportunity to meet people and pursue activities that can shape their goals and help them navigate the future.

Born in Gweru, Zimbabwe, Vongaishe Mutatu ’23 moved to Michigan when she was six years old. Now a student at the University of Notre Dame pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering, Vongaishe has joined a number of campus groups that incorporate both her heritage and her academic interests. She is part of the African Student Association, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Society of Women Engineers, and the National Society of Black Engineers. With encouragement from faculty and friends, she hopes to use these and other experiences to enact change in her community. This summer, Vongaishe worked with school administrators and peers in her hometown to make the local district’s education system more diverse and inclusive.
Elizabeth Gibson ’96
SORIN GREEN MEMBER SINCE 2011
“I joined the Sorin Society as a way to give back to the Notre Dame family who welcomed me, challenged me intellectually, allowed me to joyfully experience my faith by living in the dorm community, and provided me with so many opportunities to live in service to others.”

Albert “Skip” Counselman ’70
SORIN BLUE MEMBER SINCE 1988
“Notre Dame is the great Catholic University that Fr. Sorin envisioned in 1842, that Fr. Ted Hesburgh spent his lifetime building further and that now Fr. John Jenkins stewards into the future. It is great to be part of such a monumental effort that has extended over 178 years and I’m proud to do my part. Sorin Society gifts make a huge impact—enabling great young people to have an incomparable undergraduate experience, to inspire them to do great things now, and even greater things in their future, for our communities, for many years to come.”

Jack and Julie Rotolo
SORIN 175 MEMBERS SINCE 2019
“There is an indescribable energy that is magical when you step onto the Notre Dame Campus. It kindles in us a positive, engaging feeling that draws us in and makes us feel like a special part of the Notre Dame Family. We strive to embody the same mission, principles and values of Notre Dame and the Sorin Society within our own family and lives. We believe that this isn’t about giving back, but more about giving forward to help further the development of our students who will become the future leaders in their families, communities and careers.”
Vision for 2020-2021

This academic year, Notre Dame estimates that student financial aid need will be as high as $30 million more than in previous years due to the pandemic.

The renewed, or increased, generosity of our current members will be critical to meeting this need.

Our team is working diligently to invite members of the Notre Dame family to join the Sorin community. Our goal this year is to raise $1 million more than last year, which would equate to 100 additional students receiving $10,000 financial aid packages.

Please join us in this endeavor, and encourage your peers to consider joining the Sorin Society. Thank you for helping Notre Dame meet this moment and deliver on the promise of a Notre Dame education.
Thank You

MAKE A GIFT ONLINE AT:
GO.ND.EDU/GIVESORIN
OR CALL 574-631-5198

CONTACT:
CONOR MONTIJO ‘15
CMONTIJO@ND.EDU
574-631-1132