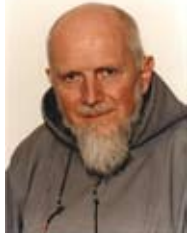


## A Note from Father Benedict Groeschel on Faithful Catholic EDUCATION



Dear friends,

As I wrote in the foreword to *The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College*, presumably families choose a Catholic education because they are seeking someplace that will educate the mind, body and soul by seeking truth in the light of faith.

But for too long Catholics have been sending their sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, grandsons and granddaughters to Catholic colleges that sell themselves as offering a Catholic experience, but for all intents and purposes what they are actually doing is very much secular.

As they say in Brooklyn, the devil is in the details.

This is why I *used* to tell parents that they would be better off sending their children to secular colleges that have a good Catholic campus ministry rather than risk exposing them to dissent and the kind of debauchery that occurs on too many Catholic campuses these days.

But my advice to them has changed.

**I now tell parents that they should send their children to one of the growing number of authentic and faithful Catholic colleges**, those recommended at [TheNewmanGuide.com](http://TheNewmanGuide.com), which will provide a student with a true Catholic education.

You can't get anything close to this kind of education at a state university.

You will also not find the degree of moral decadence that pervades our culture at these faithful Catholic colleges.

Please spread the word to your family and friends about the tremendous opportunities for faithful Catholic education available to our youth.

## A RESOURCE TO HELP YOU CHOOSE A CATHOLIC COLLEGE

*The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College* recommends 21 colleges for their strong Catholic identity plus eight unique, online and international programs.

In addition to full profiles of the recommended colleges, the *Guide* includes a foreword by Father Benedict Groeschel and a series of essays to help families find a Catholic college, including:

- "Finding God on a Catholic Campus" by Father C. John McCloskey, III
- "Why Study Philosophy and Theology" by Dr. Peter Kreeft
- "Can You Afford a Catholic Education" by Phil Lenahan
- "What's So Catholic About Campus Living" by Kathryn Jean Lopez
- "The Value of a Catholic Education" by Eileen Cubanski

The entire *Guide to Choosing a Catholic College* is available as a [free online resource](http://TheNewmanGuide.com).

[TheNewmanGuide.com](http://TheNewmanGuide.com)



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## How to Choose a Catholic College



## How to Choose a CATHOLIC COLLEGE

adapted from "Finding God on a Catholic Campus"  
by Father C. John McCloskey, III

Given what is at stake, the choice of a college for one's child should be an overriding concern of any Catholic parent. The university is usually the last place to form the pre-adult Catholic. The important transition between the teen years and young adulthood should be one from dependence to responsible independence in all areas of one's life, especially the moral and the spiritual.

Character formation, built upon the natural law and perfected with grace, will determine the question of happiness or unhappiness both in this life and the next. Through the years many parents have asked my advice on selecting a Catholic college for their child. Their concern about making a wise choice is well-justified.

"Colleges are places where students are able to find God or to have God hidden from them. Where they can learn to live a virtuous life or experience how easy it is to embrace the lies of our... culture."

~ Fr. Benedict Groeschel, from the Foreword to  
*The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College*

First, examine the educational philosophy of the colleges you are considering along with their curriculum and requirements. Be sure to read the colleges' mission statements. The more you encounter words like belief, maturity, conviction, commitment, marriage, family, evangelization, culture, character, truth and knowledge, the closer you may wish to continue looking.

Here are some basic things to look for when choosing a Catholic college:

### SERIOUS ACADEMICS

A Catholic university should have a philosophy of education that emphasizes a well-rounded liberal

arts education centered on a core curriculum. A well-rounded program of study of the Western intellectual and cultural tradition includes literature, philosophy and the arts.

"...the reason for going to college in the first place [is] not to make money, or things, or even to live better, but to *be* better, to be more, to grow your mind as you grow your body."

~ Dr. Peter Kreeft, "Why Study Philosophy and Theology?" available at [TheNewmanGuide.com](http://TheNewmanGuide.com)

If the university views itself merely as a place that prepares students for a career rather than a place that prepares them for life and gives them a deep appreciation of knowledge as an end in itself in the natural sphere, then it disqualifies itself as anything other than an academic supermarket.

### FAITHFUL CATHOLICISM

An important concern for the Catholic student and family will be the emphasis on religious practice and formation in a particular school's campus life. I am not referring here simply to religious statuary or saints' names on buildings, which may simply be relics of a bygone age.

What percentage of the faculty is Catholic? What percentage practices their faith in the traditional sense? Does anyone on campus know or care? Do not underestimate the impact that fully formed and committed Catholic faculty can have upon students.

### HEALTHY CAMPUS LIFE

Take a look at the quality of the social and moral environment of campus life. For non-commuters, living arrangements are of the highest importance.

Do the college dormitories have basically the same rules and regulations, moral tone and adult supervision that you would wish for your college-age child if he were living at home? Are the dormitories places where character can be built and where virtue can grow and, if need be, protected? This

is not a question of turning a college residence into a cloister, but rather of assuring an environment where young men and women can live as Christians without being subject to unnecessary temptations and provocations. Are the dormitories single-sex? Or is that at least an option?

Throwing hundreds of young men and women together in close quarters produces inevitable and natural results, most of which at best do not prepare them well for Christian marriage and at worst cause irreparable damage. If you dare, spend the night or even a day or two living in a dormitory.

"Catholic families would do well to look for a campus environment where the focus is eternal life and not scoring a hot date."

~ Kathryn Lopez, "What's Catholic About Campus Living?" available at [TheNewmanGuide.com](http://TheNewmanGuide.com)

In my experience, most parents do not want to believe the atmosphere of hedonistic immaturity and boorishness that reigns in these places. High spirits are one thing; animal behavior raised to an art is another. Remember, it is your child that you may be placing at moral and physical risk.

### CONCLUSION

Some of the above criteria should help in identifying faithful Catholic colleges. You may have additional criteria of your own. In a society caught up in secular goals, it is easy for even good Catholic parents to feel the tug of considerations such as selectivity, earning potential and bragging rights. However, your children, who are negotiating the Perfect Storm of a permissive and materialistic culture, need better guidance than that.

If they spend their college years exposed to good influences, they will be fortified to form healthy Catholic families and function as humane Christian leaders at home and in the world.