

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ESTEEM PARTNERS WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME'S MCGRATH INSTITUTE
FOR CHURCH LIFE TO EXPAND PROGRAM THROUGH NETWORK OF CAMPUS MINISTRIES**

NEW HAVEN, CONN. — ESTEEM will join organizations across the United States in 2025 in a new initiative aimed at deepening the Catholic faith of young adults through intentional service and reflection.

Led by the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame and funded by a \$10 million grant through Lilly Endowment Inc.'s National Youth and Young Adult Initiative, the Pathways to Communion Project will support ESTEEM as we work to expand our support to current campuses and extend our network of campuses nationwide. Over the five-year project, ESTEEM will engage in a cohort of organizations working to impact the faith lives of young adults through the support of the McGrath Institute's expert guidance in program evaluation and improvement.

ESTEEM will expand its programmatic support and select ten small liberal arts colleges to initiate ESTEEM on their campuses, enhancing service experiences through leadership formation and reflection opportunities, cultivating a sense of servant-leadership among the young adult participants. ESTEEM will supply financial and pastoral support to those sites to make the programmatic experience robust and enriching, as well as remove as many resource-based limitations as possible. That cohort will also be integrated into the regular life of the ESTEEM program, connected to a national network of campuses and experiences.

"We are so grateful for the confidence in ESTEEM that the McGrath Institute and Lilly Endowment have shown," said Nicole M. Perone, National Coordinator of ESTEEM. **"This incredible investment in our organization will provide an opportunity for students on campuses across the country to be formed, engaged leaders in faith communities post-grad. For ESTEEM,**

being part of this community will allow us the chance to provide the invaluable experience of ESTEEM to more college and university campuses without prohibitive barriers to entry.”

More details on ESTEEM’s participation and the Pathways to Communion Project can be found in the [University of Notre Dame’s official press release](#). For more information about ESTEEM, visit www.ESTEEMLead.org.

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About: ESTEEM is a leadership formation program for Roman Catholic young adults on college campuses, focused on preparing them to be engaged leaders in faith communities after graduation. ESTEEM supports young adults in their baptismal call to use their gifts and talents in service to the Church, and cultivates “ecclesial confidence” in them to engage in the life of the Church, in addition to their temporal work. ESTEEM is on 18 college and university campuses across the United States and the Caribbean. ESTEEM is a partnership between [Leadership Roundtable](#) and [Saint Thomas More Catholic Chapel and Center at Yale University](#).

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