

## **Resolution 001**

### **A Resolution that the Catholic University of America Recognize the Second Monday of October Exclusively as Columbus Day**

**Sponsored by: Senator Harrington**

**Co-Sponsored by: Senator Ortiz, Senator Garza**

***Whereas,***

The online CUA calendar for the Fall 2025 semester recognizes Monday October 13, 2025 as Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day.

***Whereas,***

The Voyages of Christopher Columbus were instrumental in the spread of the Catholic Faith and Philosophy. This helped lead to the eventual conversion of many Native Peoples in order to end many horrifying practices such as human sacrifice, delivering them into a more full relationship with God.<sup>1</sup>

***Whereas,***

The Catholic University of America has benefited greatly from the charitable works of the Knights of Columbus, an organization founded in Columbus's name, in order to build the Catholic community and further his mission of evangelization.

***Whereas,***

"Columbus Day was founded by President Benjamin Harrison in 1892 in response to the horrific, xenophobic attack that took the lives of 11 Italian Americans the year before. In the face of hate, Italian Americans persisted — advancing our Nation and challenging us to live up to our highest values."<sup>2</sup>

***Whereas,***

The opposition to Columbus Day has since its beginning been rooted in anti-Catholicism and xenophobia of the Know Nothing political movement which sought to bar Catholic Immigration to America. In addition to the Know Nothing movement, the Holiday was long opposed by the Ku Klux Klan for its association with Catholicism and Italian culture.<sup>3</sup>

***Whereas,***

In contemporary American society, the reemergence of a culture hostile to Catholicism once again threatens the faith in many aspects of our lives and culture. The push to remove all markings of the faith in Western civilization has become a pervasive issue and the removal and diminishment of this Holiday, which commemorates the growth of Catholic Empires, evangelization, and Italian-Catholic Culture is only another facet of the spread of secularism and anti-Catholicism.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.history.com/articles/aztec-human-sacrifice-religion>

<sup>2</sup> <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/10/11/a-proclamation-on-columbus-day-2024/>

<sup>3</sup> Kubap, Timothy (2008). Cultural movements and collective memory: Christopher Columbus and the rewriting of the national origin myth.

***Be it enacted that,***

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in its official capacity as the representative of the undergraduate student body of The Catholic University of America, hereby requests that:

1. The Administration of The Catholic University of America will remove all references to Indigenous Peoples' Day from University websites, publications, and all other official University communications in regards to the Second Monday of October.
2. The Administration of The Catholic University of America will promote the celebration of Columbus Day as a commemoration of Christopher Columbus's Voyages as a means of evangelization, as a Holiday Commemorating Italian Culture, and the contributions of Italian-Americans to our nation and University.
3. The Catholic University of America can and should recognize Native People's contributions to American culture and society. However, this will take place on a separate date that does not contest the sole recognition of Columbus Day.

Agreed to by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ yeas to \_\_\_\_\_ nays on this date: \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ abstaining and \_\_\_\_\_ not present.

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Michael Kish

*President of the Student Government Association*

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Catherine Weatherwax

*Vice President of the Student Government Association*