

Baltimore Catholic colleges ranked in top tier

The three Catholic colleges in the Archdiocese of Baltimore were ranked among the region's best colleges in U.S. News and World Report's annual college rankings.

Loyola College in Maryland maintained its second place rank among northern master's universities. This year it tied for second with Providence College in Rhode Island and Fairfield University in Connecticut.

College of Notre Dame of Maryland and Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg tied for 30th place among northern master's universities, with College of Notre Dame moving up one place and the Mount sliding back five places since last year.

Once again, Villanova University in Pennsylvania was ranked first in the group.

Loyola College was rated as "more selective," and its alumni giving rate was the highest among the top 10 universities in its category. The Mount and College of Notre Dame were both considered "selective."

The rankings are based factors such as on peer assessment, graduation rate, retention rate, student-to-faculty ratio, acceptance rate and average alumni giving rate.