

<DATE>

<NAME>

<SPOUSE>

<ADDRESS>

<CITY> <STATE> <ZIP>

Dear <Sal> and <SpSal>,

The 2014-15 academic year has been an exciting one at Chicago Theological Seminary. Your \$<amt> contribution helped to provide more than 100 students—the largest incoming class in our history—with the highest quality of seminary education. We are grateful that you stand with us in support of this good work.

For more than 160 years, CTS students, alumni, faculty, staff, and you—our donors—have pushed boundaries to make faith relevant everyday. Your gift helps us continue to build a cadre of socially responsible leaders who answer the call to serve with a commitment to inspired change.

We hope that you will consider renewing your annual contribution before June 30, 2015.

Gifts to the CTS annual fund are **critical to institutional operations**. Nearly \$400,000 of annual contributions provided scholarship assistance for students this year. Did you know that tuition only covers 25% of the overall cost to educate one student? Your gift helps our students bridge the gap so they can focus fully on their studies.

We also provide a range of programming and opportunities for students, faculty, church congregations, youth, and the larger community with your support. This year, our spring conference “Selma at 50: Still Marching,” honored CTS alumni who attended the 1965 march. We heard from the best and brightest thinkers in social justice and public theology, including Michelle Alexander (author of *The New Jim Crow*) and Rev. Jesse Jackson, and hosted more than 360 attendees—40% of whom were new to CTS. The conference hashtag “CTSelma” trended at #10 on Twitter for 4 hours April 25<sup>th</sup>, affirming that our work is relevant.

Our students were able to turn classroom learnings into practical ministry around the world because of you. Many stood in solidarity with organizations like The Justice League (NYC), Rise Up Baltimore, and Black Lives Matter by marching, reporting, and strategizing, and one of our Ph.D. students was recognized by President Obama for his compassionate coverage of the Yazidi humanitarian crisis in Iraq.

We are also home to a world-class faculty of educators who care deeply about academic excellence and intellectual rigor. Professors Ted Jennings, Susan Thistlethwaite, and Dow Edgerton, who are currently moving to phased retirement, represent more than 100 years of combined teaching at CTS, and in July, we are welcoming Dr. Christophe Ringer to the faculty in theology and ethics. His teaching experience and research interests promises to take the seminary into new directions. We continue to serve the changing needs of our students with our fully accredited online M.Div. program, the only one of its kind in the country.

Your contribution has certainly helped our students heed the call of the divine. Please prayerfully consider renewing your gift of \$<Ask>.00 or more by June 30, 2015. Your contribution supports our community in important and meaningful ways. Join us as we connect heritage, culture, scholarship, and public theology.

Thank you for your support!

Best,

Alice Hunt, President