

The original documents are located in Box C2, folder “Hesburgh, Theodore M. (Rev.)” of the Gerald and Betty Ford Special Materials Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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University of Notre Dame

Notre Dame, Indiana

Office of the President

November 8, 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

AH

Honorable Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Ford:

I know I speak for about two hundred million other Americans when I tell you that we will all be deeply in your debt for all of the years of our history. You walked into an impossible situation at a very difficult time and somehow brought order out of chaos and dignity out of disgrace. There are not many people in the country who could have given such needed leadership at such a low point in American history, but you did and, for that, you deserve the unending gratitude of all Americans.

I know you must feel badly about not winning the election, but it would have been impossible to have come closer and still not win, in another almost impossible situation. The many millions of votes that were cast for you certainly are testimony to the affection of practically half of the people who voted. I would venture a guess that even those who did not vote for you gave you a vote of affectionate gratitude on that day.

We will always be proud to count you as an honorary alumnus of this University and I look forward to being with you on another future day when Notre Dame will face an impossible situation in playing Michigan. Your own courage and integrity will give me heart on that day, as it has on many other days and will continue for days to come.

I know that your wife and sons and daughter were also largely responsible for this stellar performance on your part.

WHITE HOUSE
MAIL ROOM

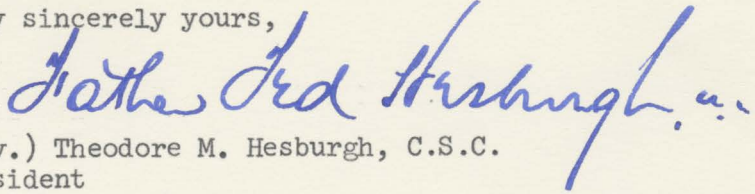
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Because of the supportive role they always played, may I send my best wishes and prayers for blessings upon all of you.

With affectionate best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Father Ted Hesburgh, C.S.C." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

(Rev.) Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.
President

