In its broadest dimensions, the collection concerns itself with works that relate to the history of the Roman Catholic Church from its founding to the present. This vast focus has, at its center, American Catholic history and is linked to theology, philosophy, sociology, art, architecture, and music.

The Catholic Americana Collection draws scholars to Notre Dame from all parts of the world. Support from the Gibbons Endowment assists the Hesburgh Libraries in maintaining the collection at levels appropriate to the pedagogical and scholarly mission of Notre Dame.

The Gibbons family also supports three Named endowments.

John F. “Jack” Gibbons (’63) is president of Central Funding, Inc., in Columbus, Ohio, and a member of the Advisory Council for the Hesburgh Libraries. He previously served as president of the Notre Dame Club of Columbus. His wife, Kay, graduated from Saint Mary’s College in 1962. They reside in Dublin, Ohio, and have six children: three daughters, graduates of Saint Mary’s College, and three sons, graduates of Notre Dame.

One of the oldest and strongest resources of the Hesburgh Libraries, the Catholic Americana Collection dates to the founding of the University by Father Edward Sorin in 1842. It is interdisciplinary in nature and consists of book, journal, microform, audiovisual, and online electronic materials.