

**Word of President Father Dr Bechara Khoury**  
**On the Charles Malik Archive at NDU**  
**At the Library of Congress on December 9, 2021**

Esteemed guests, (Add the protocol part)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening,

When shells were whizzing over his house in Lebanon in the 1970s, Charles Malik took the decision to donate his papers to the Library of Congress, as a mere spark could have destroyed all his legacy.

His son, Habib C Malik, present with us here today, later gave Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) 100 large boxes of duplicate papers from his father's archive received from the Library of Congress as well as another 100 boxes of unique private papers and other belongings of his father, which had never left the Malik house in Lebanon.

NDU, being a Christian Maronite University, fully accredited by the United States was not coincidentally chosen to hold this legacy. As we just watched together in the video, NDU is a Lebanese yet international University, Levantine yet universal, Eastern Christian yet Ecumenical, very much resembling Malik's various identities. NDU has many elements to be proud of, and high up on its list would be the Charles Malik archive. The parallel between Malik and NDU was first drawn by Father Pierre Najem, who was the President of NDU when this film was done, and he will be seen in the film touching on this point.

NDU's Charles Malik archive welcomes researchers from all over the world, encourages conferences and book publishing, both by and on Malik. NDU has edited and published in 2016 for the first time Malik's first philosophical treatise, originally written in 1937. In 2018, NDU co-published Malik's 1980, *A Christian Critique of the University*: An insightful criticism of the university where the critic is not the author but Jesus Christ himself.

The film, *Charles Malik a Universal Person*, around which we are gathered today to premiere, was produced by NDU, and is based in part on NDU's Charles Malik archive. I would sincerely like to thank all those from NDU who put much of their effort to make this film possible.

NDU's rich Charles Malik archive is not for the past, but for the present and the future. It was Charles Malik who once reflected:

"I believe that the future is more important than the past, as long as the future does not make us forget the past [...] We cannot act in the past, but we can act in the present and in the future [...]"

Not only does NDU base this concept on how it approaches conferences and publishing of books and articles related to Charles Malik, but also on all its vision forward; we at NDU are therefore not dealing with history for the sake of history, but rather history for a better future at NDU and in Lebanon.

Thank you very much.