

DUKE CATHOLIC

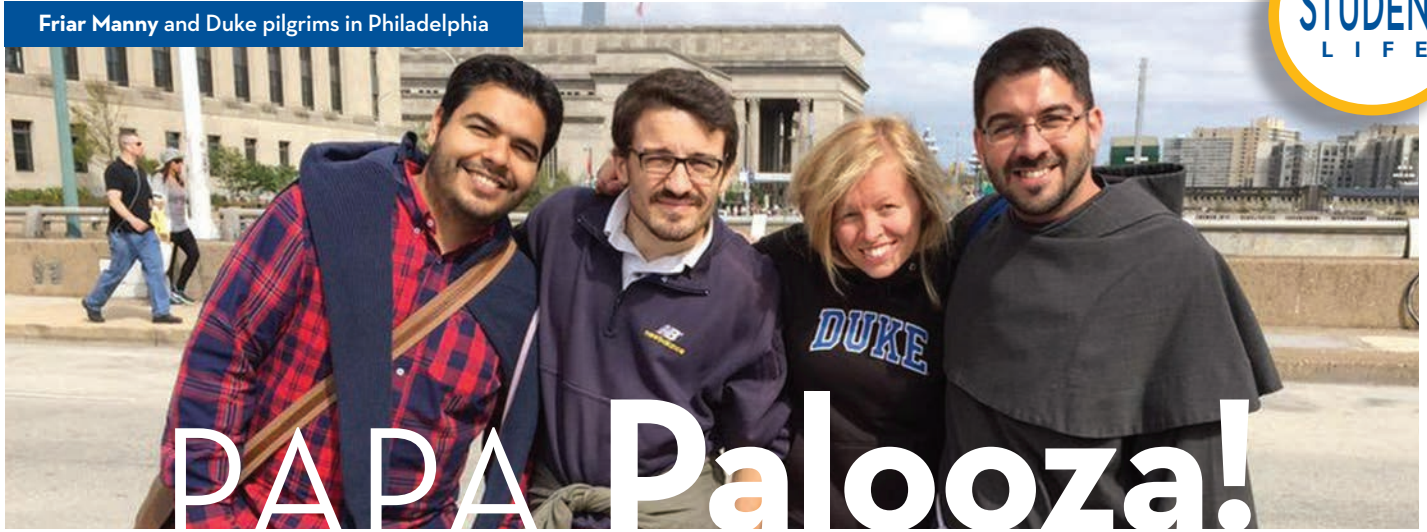
THE DUKE CATHOLIC CENTER NEWSLETTER



FALL 2015

STUDENT
LIFE

Friar Manny and Duke pilgrims in Philadelphia



THE CATHOLIC CENTER CELEBRATES POPE FRANCIS' VISIT TO AMERICA

For the few months leading up to September, there was a lot of buzz surrounding the Pope's visit to the United States. Pope Francis was going to be visiting multiple U.S. cities; he would canonize a saint on U.S. soil, deliver a speech to a joint session of Congress, and much more. The buzz made it to Duke and the Catholic Center jumped on the opportunity to be a part of the Pope's historic visit.

Duke Catholic Center ministry intern Friar Manny Vasconcelos led a group of 14 Duke Students to Philadelphia to see Pope Francis. They traveled to Philadelphia early Saturday morning, September 26th and that evening they attended the Festival of Families in downtown Philadelphia.



Duke pilgrims pose with a life-size Pope Francis cutout

"That is when we really got to see the Pope," said Friar Manny. "That evening Pope Francis traveled around in the Pope-mobile to greet the crowds and we saw him up close. It was a wonderful celebration."

On Sunday, September 27th the Duke pilgrims attended the last Mass Pope Francis celebrated in the United States before returning to Duke at 3 am on Monday morning. Despite the 20+ hour journey in a span of 48 hours, everyone who attended said it was worth the trip for the experience of seeing the Pope.

"I'm so glad that the Duke Catholic Center was able to see Pope Francis in the US," said senior Anne Talkington. "Since I've gotten back I've had so many people asking me what it was like to be so close to the pope, and the only words that come to mind are 'beautiful' and 'incredible.' It was definitely an experience that I'll never forget!" A huge thanks to the Oliver family in Philadelphia for hosting the Duke pilgrims in their home! Thank you also to the Oliver and Merz families for snagging last minute tickets to the Pope events for the Duke pilgrims.



Papa Palooza (continued from page 1)

CELEBRATING POPE FRANCIS IN DURHAM

Back in Durham, the Catholic Center celebrated the Pope's visit for the entire week he was in the United States. The Catholic Center began in a festive spirit by putting yellow and white bunting outside of the Falcone-Arena House and passing out yellow and white Pope Francis wristbands at Sunday Masses. Over the next several days, the Catholic Center held several events, including Papal Trivia night at Tuesday Night Dinner and a "Watch Party" to watch the Pope's speech to Congress, followed by a group discussion. Over 400 students participated in the events throughout the week.



In October, the Catholic Center joined Duke's Kenan Institute of Ethics in welcoming George Mason professor Helen Alvare, who gave a public lecture about the impact of Pope Francis's visit to the United States. Professor Alvare is also a consultant for the Pontifical Council of the Laity (Vatican City) and an advisor to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Duke Catholic Center invited Professor Alvare to Mass followed by a luncheon with Catholic Center students at the Falcone-Arena house. Over 30 Catholic Center students attended the public lecture that evening. 🌟



Fr. Mike's MESSAGE

"80% of life is just showing up!" (Woody Allen)

Really?

Our country has been blessed by the recent visit of Pope Francis. It has been amazing to watch the reaction of faithful Catholics and bystanders alike to his presence. Certainly on a university campus, Catholicism gained some "street cred" by having as its leader someone whom many professors and students alike find likeable. I think to myself that all of the energy that was put into his trip (the endless hours of planning that must have taken place) certainly paid off with the wellspring of enthusiasm with which he was greeted and his message was received. But I wonder if we may not have missed an opportunity. Have we spent enough energy to prepare for what is to come now that he has returned to Rome? Was it enough that he just showed up? Was it enough that we just showed up to enjoy his visit? I think not.

Just showing up is hailed as sufficient and even laudatory on so many levels. If I attend a meeting it is a sign that I'm

interested. If I go to a game it means I am a fan. If I travel to spend the weekend with you it's an indication that I care. If I go to Mass on Sunday it implies that I am a Catholic. But does that really signal anything of lasting substance? Am I not called to deeper relationship in any and all encounters of significance? Doesn't my showing up call forth a response of engagement whose lasting impact is the real indicator?

In so much of life it is just the opposite - maybe 20% is showing up and so much of what matters is what you do after you show up. Tell an athlete all you need to do is show up. Tell a doctor all you need do is show up. Tell the president all you need do is show up. Then why is it that so many come to their faith experience with this same approach: all I need do on Sunday is show up. I guess God will do the rest. It's never that simple.

At the Duke Catholic Center so much of what we try to message to our students is that there is more than just showing up. Granted, showing up is a great start, but we are constantly invited deeper into relationship with Christ in the Church that calls for more of our heart. I am edified by the many young men and women who respond to that message and more fully allow Christ to be a part of the rest of their lives - to show up in their

dorm room, in the library, on the court, and make his showing up the difference maker. But that response is work and that work has greater impact when it has greater constancy and is less episodic. That work may not have fanfare or even be noticed by others, but the payoff is phenomenal (dare I say . . . eternal)!

Pope Francis didn't just show up. His life and message are the result of a life dedicated to ongoing engagement with Christ. The four people he held up for the U.S. to celebrate (Abraham Lincoln, MLK Jr., Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton) did the same and gave us examples of what can happen in the world when we go beyond just showing up and dedicate ourselves to a mission that is greater than ourselves. May we explore the ways in which Pope Francis' visit can continue to inspire our response to God's call to deeper relationship with him; to a greater concern for the marginalized; to a more authentic expression of faith that always asks what more I can do than just show up. If we can expend even half of the energy that we used to prepare for the Pope's visit on what we intend to do now, I believe we will move the needle in ways that would make our Holy Father Father proud. 🌟

Peace,
Fr. Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv.
Director

Eruditio et Religio IN ACTION

The Duke Catholic Center hosted seven lectures this year. For the keynote lecture of the semester, Duke Catholic Center welcomed bestselling author and Theology of the Body expert Christopher West for a lecture titled, "God, Sex, and the Meaning of Life". West spoke how Saint John Paul II's Theology of the Body changed how he viewed his body and sexuality. Over 200 attended the lecture held in Duke's Bryan Center.

The talk resonated with a lot of students. Senior Wills Rooney '16 liked the analogies West used to explain the different views society gives us about sexuality.

"Referring to the sort of upbringing most Catholics experience as the 'starvation Gospel' (a series of impersonal "no's" to all things pleasurable), Christopher West also offered an alternative to the 'fast-food diet' of popular secular culture," said Wills. "A sexual life oriented toward God, the source of infinite pleasure and fulfillment, and nourished by the "gift of finest wheat," the Eucharist."

"Christianity does not invite us to repress our desires and longings, but to infinite-ize them," said West. "To turn them not down, but up, and aim them at the infinite."

Christopher West gives talk on Theology of the Body



INSPIRING
LECTURES

THE OTHER TALKS OF THE SEMESTER INCLUDED:


The Decline of Christianity in Syria with Dr. Christian Sahner, Princeton University

Diversity in the Church? Chaos or Communion with Sister Dr. Jamie Phelps, Director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana

Natural Law and Prayer with Dr. Fulvio Di Blasi, Director Thomas International Center

Church, State, & the Common Good with Dr. Peter L P Simpson, Professor of Philosophy and Classics at the Graduate Center of City University of New York

The Priest Who Discovered the Big Bang with Jonathan I. Lunine, Director of the Cornell Center for Astrophysics and Planetary Science

You can watch Christopher West's talk on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHUsnDwB8Ww> 



Freshmen **Ana Lee, Katherine Haley, Isabella Arbelaez** and **Gregory Blazek** gather after Christopher West Talk


ENCOUNTER: Capital Punishment

During the month of November, the Duke Catholic Encounter team is raising awareness about capital punishment. Associate Director Fr. Brad Heckathorne and Student Director Julia Bellantoni '16, worked with the Encounter student team to put together a series of lectures and events in November.

"The goal of Encounter's Social Justice month is to bring to light a social issue of our world through a lens of faith," said Julia. "Due to its historical relevance in the state of North Carolina and in recent national trials, we have chosen capital punishment as our initiative this year. Through movie screenings and discussions, we seek a greater understanding of capital punishment, with both its secular and spiritual implications."

The Encounter team hosted a movie screening and a panel on capital punishment that was co-hosted by several groups at Duke and in the Triangle including the Duke Human Rights Center

and the Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation. The panel event drew 28 student participants.

The Encounter team will end the month by putting some of their work into action. "We will conclude our month by participating in an interfaith collaboration of writing letters to NC Death Row Inmates," said Julia. 



Tarrah Callahan, Director of the NC Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty; **Mark Rabil**, the Former Asst. Capital Defender; **Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.**, Director of Murder Victim Families for Reconciliation; **Rose Clark**, co-founder of Capital Restorative Justice Project - discuss the death penalty during panel

DUKE CATHOLIC CENTER IN THE FALL

❖ TUESDAY NIGHT DINNER ❖



❖ FAMILY WEEKEND MASS & BRUNCH ❖



❖ DUKE AWAKENING 25 RETREAT ❖



❖ PUMPKIN CARVING ❖



❖ SERVICE ❖



Wish List

If you would like to sponsor any of these programs, please contact Michelle Sutton at michelle.sutton@duke.edu or 919-668-1472.

Winter Break Student Training at Small Group Camp	\$350/student
Exterior Trim Painting at the Falcone-Arena House	\$2000
Interior Painting of the Falcone-Arena House Basement	\$1500
Refinishing the floors at the Falcone-Arena House	\$7000
Blinds for the first floor of the Falcone-Arena House:	\$7800
Adding exterior lighting at the Falcone-Arena House	\$2000
Musical instruments [alto sax, flute, piccolo, trombone, keyboard, trumpet]	\$600-\$1500
Easter Paschal candle	\$400
Work study students	\$3000
Summer Intern	\$3500
Easter Brunch for Catholic Students	\$2500
Busy Guys One Day Retreat	\$1500
1000 Lenten Wristbands with Theme	\$311
Ministry Scheduler Pro - one year subscription	\$600
Holy Week Booklets	\$1100
Palms for Palm Sunday	\$150

Coming Soon! Advent Reflections

Be on the lookout in December for Duke Catholic Center Director, Fr. Michael Martin's Advent Reflections. Each video will be released during each Sunday of Advent.

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