

DUKE CATHOLIC

THE DUKE CATHOLIC CENTER NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2015

CREATING Christian Community



With over 500 attending Mass at the Duke Catholic Center every Sunday during the school year, the Catholic Center is growing. With that growth comes new challenges – one of them is ensuring that the Gospel message is taking root amongst the students that attend DCC activities. One of the many ways in which this is done at the Catholic Center is through small faith groups.

With the help of the group Evangelic Catholic, this year small groups at the Duke Catholic Center were completely revamped. Over the past year, seven student leaders and DCC staff attended training camp hosted by Evangelical Catholic in Florida to learn how to effectively lead a small faith group. Then in the Spring semester, all Catholic students were encouraged to join a small group for Lent.

“I was never super religious before Duke,” said Emily Brown, ’15 who joined a small group the second semester of her senior year. “I saw small groups as a way to meet others with the same hope of deepening my faith and open my mind to new ways of



seeing God and my faith. I wished I had joined a group like this prior to senior year because I fear not being able to find such a great group in the real world.”

This past year, participation in small groups exploded. Student leaders and ministry staff led 14 small groups and a total of 102 students participated throughout the year.

“Joining the small group was possibly the best decision I ever made during my first year at Duke,” said freshman Thomas Palisi. “I engaged in some of the deepest discussions I have ever had about what it means to be a follower of Christ and the responsibilities and joys that go along with it.”

The small groups have encouraged students to expand their faith practices during the rest of the week – from daily prayer to Sunday Mass.



Continued on page 2


Creating Christian Community (continued)

Because of small group, Thomas began scheduling prayer time on his iCal app. "I know it seems ridiculous, but scheduling prayer as if it were an appointment forces me to devote time to God no matter what is occurring in my life," he said.

Emily Brown began to pay better attention at Mass. "I now go in with open ears and mind and heart to really internalize the readings. I feel Mass has become much more meaningful to me since joining small group."

The small groups meet during different times of the week on different parts of campus. Four groups met on East campus where all freshman live to encourage freshman participation.

"Freshman year is a time for adjustment, and it is often overwhelming to experience an entirely new place with entirely new people all alone," said Thomas. "Well at least I thought I was alone. Joining the group made me realize that we are never alone. We are surrounded by other believers, and of course we have God."

This summer 7-15 additional students are attending Evangelical Catholic training camps in order to become trained to be small group leaders for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year. 



Fr. Mike's MESSAGE

"The community of believers were of one heart and one mind."

- Acts 5:32

I was speaking with some students the other day and some questions arose (as they often do) about my (our) life at home with the other 5 friars. One of the students asked: how do you decide what to watch on television? Great question - imagine 6 men and one remote!!!! While it happens that there are times we all like the same program (Downton Abbey; reruns of The West Wing), the short answer was simple - we talk about it. As a result, on any given day someone is willing to watch something they'd rather not simply for the benefit of spending time with the others. Often, the gesture of asking the rest what they'd like, can be a simple yet powerful act of community life.

While the early Christian community had no such clicker dilemmas, they did live well with one another working hard to be of "one heart and one mind". That did not come about by happenstance, but rather

by dialogue and reliance on one another. They did not remain in the upper room in a silent state of one-on-one prayer with the Father as a result of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Rather, they went out and engaged more and more people, carrying the dialogue and the prayer about Jesus to others who often did not see things as they did. That is the heart of a healthy Christian community: groups of believers who are willing to encounter the Lord in each other and then share that with others.

We have been blessed this year to see that happening at Duke as more and more students engage their faith on campus. In particular, we have revamped the ways in which students encounter their faith in small groups. We have been working to train small group leaders, to enlist more and more students in groups of 8-10, and give them all the resources to share their faith, support their peers and learn from one another. It has certainly helped to bring us closer in mind and heart.

The work is nowhere near where it could be, but it is growing. Imagine the challenge for students to create additional time each week for group work

as well as for some individual support of others in the group. While the result is powerful for them individually and as a smaller faith community, I am edified by those students who overcome so many obstacles of busy college life to deepen their faith. It is what made the difference for the early Church, and can also make the difference for our Duke Catholic Community as well.

Pray for these students! Pray that other students will engage this process as they are moved by the Holy Spirit. Thanks to so many of our supporters who have helped us to provide the training and resources that are making these small faith sharing groups a reality. And thank God for beginning this good work on our campus. While we have had small faith sharing groups in the past, we believe that this iteration is building on that legacy and taking it another level. May the Spirit continue to make us all at Duke of one heart and one mind in Christ.

Peace,

Fr. Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv.

Duke University

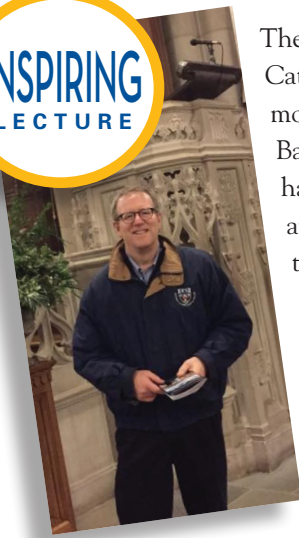
Director of Catholic Campus Ministry

Follow me on Twitter @TheDukePriest

FR. ROBERT BARRON LECTURE Draws a Crowd OF OVER 500

This past February, the Duke Catholic Center hosted Fr. Robert Barron for his first lecture at Duke University that drew over 500 students and visitors. Fr. Robert Barron is an author, speaker, theologian, and founder of Word on Fire, a global media ministry that reaches millions of people around the world. His talk at Duke was titled, "Faithful and Intelligent? The Catholic Intellectual Tradition and You."

INSPIRING
LECTURE



The academic lecture discussed the Catholic Intellectual tradition versus modern academia and secular modernity. Barron emphasized that Catholics do not have to shy away from intellectual rigor and intellectual rationality to justify their beliefs.


He highlighted impressive philosophers and theologians that came from western Christian intellectual tradition before modern philosophy. "Ambrose, Augustine, Jerome, Anselm, Thomas Aquinas,

Bonaventure, Ignatius, John Henry Newman, John Paul the Second...and I have to prove that I'm sufficiently rational? The secular academy should prove to us that it's sufficiently rational!" Barron discussed at length how the Catholic intellectual tradition is vastly different than how modern society frames human philosophy, morality and reality.



"If Jesus is a distant figure, ethical teacher, inspiring moral figure, then to heck with him," said Barron when explaining how modern society tends to describe Jesus. "The Christian claim is far more maximal than that...Jesus, the Word made flesh is the icon according to which we understand the nature of reality."

The Duke Catholic Center uses Fr. Robert Barron's "Catholicism" video series for some of its faith formation programs.

To watch Fr. Barron's lecture, visit our YouTube page: www.youtube.com/watch?v=dp21zP50cSE 

YOUNG ALUMNI GATHER FOR A Weekend Reunion AND RETREAT



A community of faith that began amongst Duke Catholic students on campus nine years ago, continues to bear fruit many years after graduation. Under the leadership of former Duke Catholic Student Director Amanda Anderson '11, ten Catholic Center alumni gathered in Park City, Utah for the first ever "Fourth Day" Retreat. Alumni gathered were from the class of 2010 through the class of 2013. During the retreat, alumni were able to catch up with classmates they had not seen in a few years and reflect on how they could continue to seek God in their daily lives.

Jonathan Amgott '11, who just finished law school at the University of Virginia, attended the retreat. "I knew this retreat would be a great opportunity for spiritual renewal after graduating law school," he said.

Continued on page 4

Alumni Reunion/Retreat (continued)

“I also looked forward to reconnecting with Duke Catholic friends who were such an important part of my college experience.”

During the retreat the participants discussed the books, Lee Strobel’s “The Case for Christ,” Jean Corbon’s “The Wellspring of Worship,” and Pope Francis’s “The Joy of the Gospel.” They also had time for Eucharistic adoration, prayer and

authentic faith discussions. “This retreat emphasized the kind of community prayer and candid discussion that kept me coming back to Duke Awakening retreats,” said Amgott. “I also learned so much simply from listening to the life experiences of my friends since graduation.”

The retreat was partially funded by the Duke Catholic Center. Accommodations were provided by the Anderson family from Plano, Texas. 




DIVE IN!


WE DON'T BELIEVE IN A Predictable SUMMER



The summer is often a time of transition at the Duke Catholic Center. Many students that leave Duke find that their faith life is in flux because they are in new environments. However, the Duke Catholic Center is inviting students to keep their spiritual lives engaged and refreshed. This year’s summer program is titled, “Dive In!”

Every Sunday, the Duke Catholic Center emails the students with a new way they can engage their faith.

The last Sunday’s reminder titled “Live it!” encouraged students to find new ways to participate in service projects. From a local Habitat for Humanity to volunteering in a local soup kitchens or giving blood at the Red Cross, students were encouraged to continue service even while they are away from Duke.

You don’t have to be a student to participate in “Dive In!” For ideas on how to keep your spiritual life refreshed this summer, please visit our website: www.catholic.duke.edu/calendar/dive-in/ 



Embark with Us!

Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before embarking on his public ministry. As we spend the summer preparing to embark on another academic year at Duke, we want to spend not 40 days, but one special day in preparation. On August 12, 2015 (the Wednesday before students arrive back on campus) Catholic Duke Students, parents, alumni and friends all over the world will unite in prayer and fasting. We believe that we will set a tone for the coming year that we are open for the work that the Holy Spirit will do in us. In a special way we want to remember new students who will be coming to Duke for the first time.

To learn how you can participate, please visit our website: www.catholic.duke.edu/calendar/embark/ 

A Spiritual Home FOR ALUMNI AND PARENTS

Many students remark that the Duke Catholic Center becomes their “home away from home” while they are on campus. Now, with increased spiritual offerings for alumni, parents and donors, the Duke Catholic Center can be your home too. We invite you to join Catholic Dukies from all around the country for two faith experiences this upcoming year.

Made for the Challenge: ACCEPTING CHRIST'S INVITATION TO SOMETHING MORE

A Weekend Spiritual Retreat for
Catholic Duke Alumni and Parents

October 16-18, 2015

Hilton, Durham, NC

Retreat Director:

Fr. Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv.,
Director – Duke Catholic Center

For more information and to register, please visit:
www.catholic.duke.edu/calendar/alumniparentretreat/

In the Footsteps of Francis: A PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND ASSISI FOR DUKE ALUMNI/PARENTS

February 15 - 26, 2016 • 12 Days

The Duke Alumni Association and the Duke Catholic Center invite our Duke alumni, parents and friends to a very special twelve-day Franciscan pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome. Pilgrimages are often described as a spiritual experience where you “pray with your feet” when traveling to a sacred site of the faith. Join us as we embark on a cross-cultural journey in the spirit of Francis and Clare to encounter the Christian spirituality of different historical and spiritual sites throughout Assisi and Rome. We hope you will join us and other Catholic Dukies for this unforgettable trip!



For more information and to register, please visit: [www.catholic.duke.edu/calendar/](http://www.catholic.duke.edu/calendar/alumniparentpilgrimage/)

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