

DUKE CATHOLIC

THE DUKE CATHOLIC CENTER NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2017



INTRODUCING THE CATHOLIC NETFLIX

FORMED®

Thanks to a generous gift from David and Lori Haley, the Duke Catholic Center was subscribed to a new program that has been dubbed ‘the Catholic Netflix’. While Netflix focuses on TV shows and movies – FORMED is so much more. It is a resource that allows individuals and parishes to have access to hundreds of Catholic on-demand videos, movies and books online. All students have been given the DCC parish code that allows them to access this resource for free. The resources include productions by Bishop Robert Barron, Fulton Sheen, Dr. Scott Hahn and much more!

Some students are using it to enhance their personal faith lives: “On FORMED there is a weekly video and prayer journal for each Sunday’s Gospel,” said Sarah Doom ’18.



“The prayer journal also has a prompt for each day of the following week that continues on the themes of that week-end’s Gospel, so it’s pretty handy to print out and use throughout the week.”

The application goes beyond personal use. Couples who are preparing to baptize their newborns now use FORMED to watch a baptism preparation video “Reborn”. “It allows couples to do some of the baptism preparation on their own time – which is important especially for moms caring for newborns,” said Director Fr. Michael Martin, OFM Conv. “There’s been great and positive feedback from this approach.”

Small group leaders have been using it too to enhance their small group conversations. “I really liked using FORMED when we entered the Lenten season because it had content that allowed me to transform Lent from a boring liturgical season to a time of spiritual renewal and challenge for my small group,” said Shannon Malloy ’19 who leads a small group. “We watched Father Mike Schmitz’ video one evening during small group as an entrance into Lent. He gave some great insight on how our Lent should consist of prayer, sacrifice, and almsgiving, not just one or two out of the three. As a small group leader, I am constantly giving of myself to help others grow in faith, but sometimes this leaves me spiritually thirsty myself. FORMED was wonderful to allow me to sometimes be the follower so that I could be nourished in my faith, turn around, and give that love back to my small group.”



A MESSAGE FROM FR. MIKE

“TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU AND LEARN FROM ME...”

(Matthew 11:29)

One of the things I love most about the summer, is the opportunity to read more. I always have a stack of “to read” books that call out to me during busy times with a promise for what is to come. And so in these dog days of Durham heat, I have enjoyed a few treasures. Some of the books that I have recently read include *The Love That Made Mother Teresa* by David Scott, *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance, and *Douglas MacArthur: American Warrior* by Arthur Herman. While diverse in subject matter, they all share one common truth: our environment forms us in ways that are powerful indeed. Working on a college campus, I am all too familiar with the truth of that statement.

The environment at Duke has many, many admirable qualities that help to form the young people who come (as well as those of us a bit older who work here). While the university has some areas that are less desirable, on balance it is, like most of our world, a place in which we can all learn more about life. But I wonder if that is enough. Does Duke University, or any worldly book or entity teach us all that we really need to know? And isn't it possible, that some of what we have learned has in fact, taken us further away from the Truth?

In one of the more poignant passages of the 11th chapter of Matthew, Jesus invites all of us who are weary to come to him. I have found refuge in that passage on many powerful occasions in my life. But until recently, I think I have skipped passed the words above from vs. 29: “learn from me”. The entire project of learning from Jesus should be at the heart of our mission of life-long learning. Certainly, as you can read in this issue of our e-newsletter, faith and conscience formation is a key component of the ministry of the Duke Catholic Center. But what is hard to articulate without sounding snooty is that the current state of book learning from Jesus by undergraduates coming to Duke is nowhere near their other levels of learning. Try telling that to Duke students who have been accepted at one of the more prestigious universities on the planet! Is it their fault? Maybe, but I believe we all need to look in the mirror on this one.



Stations of the Cross



Luke D. gives a talk at Awakening about Faith

As a Catholic culture, we need to take on Jesus yoke and learn more from him. In so doing, we need not just act like him with his yoke upon us, but we also need to think like him. How can we yoke our minds to him? Read more about him! Unlike any time in human history, we have a wealth of literature to inspire our minds to learn more from Jesus. And even when all of that may fail, we have his Word, which in many regards, should be our first school of learning his mind. May this summer's reading (and the fall, winter and spring) include more of this, given that it is after all, the #1 Best Seller of all time! 🙏

YOUNG DUKE
ALUM REFLECTS ON

Decision to Enter the Dominican Friars



Wills Rooney introduces Christopher West during DCC Lecture Series. Wills led the DCC Lecture Series when he was a Student Director.



For many, college is a time to make decisions about the future. At the Duke Catholic Center, we encourage students not just to think about their professional careers but also to contemplate their personal vocations. Where is God calling them to go? Wills Rooney '16, former Duke Catholic Center Student Director and Duke Student Athlete, reflected deeply on this question while he was a student at Duke. Recently, he entered the pre-novitiate for the Dominican Order in the Eastern Province of the United States and began formation toward becoming a Dominican friar and a priest. Before he left for the novitiate house in Cincinnati, we caught up with Wills about his faith journey and how his experiences at Duke led him on this path to enter religious life. Some excerpts from that interview appear on the next page.



Wills Rooney and his teammate William Hague after Duke Catholic Center Mass. Wills and William were on the Duke cross country team.

Q What were some of your most influential experiences at Duke that put you on the path to enter consecrated life?

A couple of moments at Duke stand out. The first was the fall semester of my junior year. After attending a talk in the Divinity School by an esteemed scripture scholar, N.T. Wright, Father Matt Monnig, a graduate student in New Testament studies, mentioned to me that he had yet to offer Mass that day, and so he invited me to join him for Mass in the small closet-chapel of the Catholic Center offices in the basement of the Duke Chapel. It was an experience of grace that I will never forget. There I was, the sole congregant, responsible for all of the responses of the faithful—and I sheepishly stumbled over a few that I found I did not yet have memorized. Then, during the consecration, I was mere feet away from Fr. Matt as he raised up our Lord in this tiny chapel, literally the size of a large closet, at 10:30 p.m. on a weeknight. I remember leaving that Mass so excited that I immediately told three different people in the library what had just happened. I never looked at the Mass the same way again after that.

The second was the overall experience of directing the Duke Catholic Center Lecture Series. I am exceedingly grateful to Fr. Mike and Fr. Brad for granting me such latitude in running the speaker series. The opportunity to take ownership over an apostolate, to prepare for each talk, both spiritually and materially, and to engage the wider Duke community in dialogue over central questions of faith, reason, and culture was very challenging and led to much intellectual and spiritual growth.

Q Why did you choose the Dominicans to live out your vocation over other orders of religious priesthood?

My return to the faith in college was by the path of truth. During my underclass years, I was a seeker. Through various classes, I became particularly enamored of the insights of Plato and Aristotle and, later, during my junior year, the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas. I found what those thinkers had to say about God, creation, the human person, and virtue to be not only profound but also, more importantly, true. My thirst for the truth only increased, and I continued to seek

answers through my studies and conversations with friends and mentors. Ultimately, I could not resist the beautiful coherence, rigor, and richness of the Catholic faith, and by the grace of God, I received certainty that the faith of the Catholic Church is true.

The Dominicans (the Order of Preachers), by their very nature, are stalwarts of the truth. The Order's motto is "Veritas," and the charism is "to preach the truth for the salvation of souls." St. Dominic founded the Order of Preachers in 1216, during a time in which there was grave doctrinal confusion within the Church. His friars spread rapidly across Europe, often settling in cities and university towns to share the truth of Christ, and with it and by it, to lead people back into the wellspring of life and enduring happiness that is the Church.


Dominican life is specifically designed to form the friar preacher to engage the world with charity and share the full truth and brilliant light of Christ. The pillars of the life—common prayer, study, and fraternity—along with the Order's classic emphases on reverent, "vertically oriented" liturgy and deep devotion to Our Lady through the daily praying of the Rosary together pour forth into vibrant, catechetical, and edifying preaching. Though I was always attracted to the nobility of secular (diocesan) priesthood and its front-lines charism of caring for souls from birth until death, I could not help but be moved when I encountered the Order of Preachers. The core of the Dominican life is exactly what drew me to Christ and so charges me spiritually, and the thought of living that everyday within such a tradition was exciting.



Wills Rooney with Fr. Matt Monnig, graduate student in New Testament studies. Fr. Matt became Wills' spiritual director when he was at Duke.

Q What would you say to a Duke student today who might be wrestling with God calling them to a similar path?

I would quote my hero, Pope St. John Paul II: "Do not be afraid! Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure." And how true it is!


Rooney entered the pre-novitiate in Cincinnati on July 25 and will be clothed in the habit of St. Dominic and receive a religious name on August 8, thereby beginning the novitiate year. If you would like to write him a letter, please address it to St. Gertrude's Priory, 7630 Shawnee Run Road, Cincinnati, OH 45243. To read more of the DCC's interview with Wills, please visit: www.tinyurl.com/dccsummer17 

THOSE WHO SING Pray Twice



This Spring, the Duke Catholic Center Lecture Series presented an evening with Audrey Assad, critically acclaimed singer-songwriter, author, producer, and speaker.

Assad is the daughter of a Syrian refugee. She refers to her music as “soundtracks for prayer” and she converted to Catholicism in 2009.

She spoke to the students about topics ranging between art, faith, womanhood, justice, and pornography addiction. She also visited with Catholic Center music students, performed crowd favorites such as “I Shall Not Want” and spoke to the students about how music has influenced her faith. 



DUKE CATHOLIC MUSIC HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL MUSIC AWARD TO CELEBRATE STUDENTS THAT SERVE IN THE CATHOLIC CENTER CHOIR



St. Cecilia Award was presented to Dylan Tamayo (far right) in recognition of musical contributions to the Music Ministry of the Duke Catholic Center



Director's Award was presented to Audrey Ellis (far left) in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Music Ministry of the Duke Catholic Center




Pray With Me



For many college students, there can be many obstacles when it comes to making time to pray. Many students do not know how to pray and others do not find the time to fit it into their schedule. With prayer being a key part of the spiritual life, the Duke Catholic Center decided to implement a new program to encourage students in their prayer habits.

After 9pm Mass in Duke Chapel, the DCC began a new prayer program - where the Mass celebrant would invite the congregation to stay 10-15 minutes after Mass to pray. Student leaders and DCC staff were available to those students that wanted someone to pray with them or lead them in prayer. Other students prayed on their own. Each Sunday, an average of 30 students would take advantage of the dedicated prayer time after 9pm Mass.

“It can be very uplifting seeing how God loves me through the eyes of other people in the prayers they have for me. It makes me want to do the same for other people,” said Dylan Tamayo a rising junior who participated in the program. “Jesus said where two or more are gathered He is there. It’s important to go beyond praying alone - and inviting someone else into that space, really deepens your relationship with God and with each other. It’s very valuable.” 

Staff

Fr. Michael Martin, OFM Conv.

Director
fr.mike@duke.edu
(919) 684-1882

Fr. Brad Heckathorne, OFM Conv.

Associate Director
fr.brad@duke.edu
(203) 940-3209

Catherine Preston '00

Campus Minister/Faith Development
catherine.preston@duke.edu
(919) 680-2521

Andrew Witchger P'15

Director of Music
andrew.witchger@duke.edu
(919) 323-6902

Emma Miller '11

Director of Communication
emma.miller@duke.edu
(704) 267-3439

Evan Wescott

Peer Ministry Coordinator
evan.wescott@duke.edu

Ruth Anne Kennedy

Business Manager
ruth.kennedy@duke.edu
(919) 684-3354

Michelle Sutton '12

Director of Development
michelle.sutton@duke.edu
(919) 668-1472



DUKE Catholic Center

Duke Catholic Center • Box 90974 • Durham, NC 27708 • catholic.duke.edu