

# DUKE

THE DUKE CATHOLIC CENTER NEWSLETTER

# CATHOLIC



**Marisol Colon-Leyva '18, Colette Torres '18 and Carine Torres '18 with their mothers after Baccalaureate Mass on Mother's Day Weekend.**

## FROM FR. MIKE

“JESUS,  
WHERE  
ARE  
YOU  
STAYING?”



I recall my days as a high school principal interviewing candidates for teaching positions and being amazed at the responses that some would offer. My favorite question was asking prospective teachers what they thought of high school students today. Invariably, there would be the candidate who would launch into a diatribe on how students today were (insert negative descriptor here). I found it curious that someone who found young people so offensive would want to spend all day with them! Next applicant! The same can be said of some in our Church who look at the declining number of college students who claim Catholicism as a descriptor (and the corollary increase in “nones”) and lament Generation Z as (insert negative descriptor here). I have no such proclivity, nor do I believe that we as a Church have the luxury to declare engagement with Christ in community as a narrow gate. It is important to recognize that when Jesus uses this metaphor in Matthew 7, it is the latter part of the Sermon on the Mount. Interesting that Jesus first went out to meet people where they were (and where they were in droves) in order to invite them to someplace greater. Maybe we should consider the same!

Where are college students in droves? There is not enough space in this column to fully answer that question. Suffice it to say, that our mission at the Duke Catholic Center is to encounter students where they are, literally and figuratively. There is no place on this campus where I can't imagine trying to be present: from the Brodhead Center and athletic fields, to Greek life and SLGs, spending time with undergrads, grad and professional students, and post-docs. While the where and the who are important, sometimes the how is even more of a challenge to embrace. Electronic engagement, while not a substitute for personal touch, is obviously where many students are and if we can be there, setting the stage for invitation, then we can and will explore that as well.

But more to the point, meeting students where they are figuratively is the hardest and most significant challenge of campus ministry for one simple reason: the enormity of the continuum. We all want to know that we belong, and we will not take one step into a community that seems to message the opposite. So how can we appeal to a community that no longer describes itself in monochromatic ways, but rather in a kaleidoscope of color with hues and tones that are subtle in difference and important in distinction? One way only: just be Jesus! The more we reflect His light more radiantly, the more Dukies of every stripe will be drawn to first “simply touch the tassel” (Mt 9:21). Then, Belonging to something greater, we can together approach the narrow gate, Believing that where He went, we too must follow. Only then can we Become the generation that we were all created to be, to go where He has gone before us, to Come and See!

““COME  
AND  
SEE’ HE  
REPLIED.”

- JOHN 1:31-32



# speaking to SPARROWS

## WOMEN FINDING COURAGE TO CONFRONT THE UNCOMFORTABLE

In an intentional effort to address many common questions and hurdles of young women at Duke, the Duke Catholic Center screened *Speaking to Sparrows*, a documentary produced by a team of Catholic women, and hosted a conversation on struggles women experience in today's culture. Over 50 students attended the screening.

The documentary, released last year by Project Light Ministries and 4PM Media, featured both everyday young women and prominent Catholic female figures, including singer-songwriter Audrey Assad, speaker Mary Bielski, and former college athlete Sr. Miriam James Heidland. Throughout the film, women of all walks of life discussed sexuality, the pressure to be perfect, body-image, disordered eating, and other common struggles through the lens of experiencing unconditional love through Jesus Christ.

For many like Anna Lewis, a second year Duke graduate student studying Civil and Environmental Engineering, the film was just what was needed.

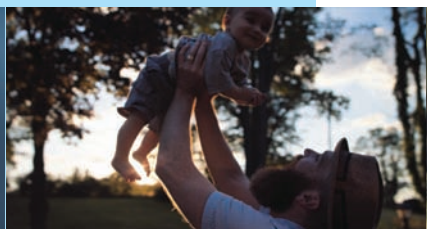
"I have to say, although I do wish I had seen it earlier in life, it could not have been a better time for me," reflected Anna Lewis, a Duke graduate student in Civil and Environmental Engineering. "It's so vital that young women and men realize that we are far from alone. This was exactly what I needed to help me push forward as an adult woman beloved by Jesus."

Campus Minister for Faith Formation, Catherine Preston, opened up the event to the broader Duke community, and welcomed two of the film's creators, Liz Sams and Janine McGann, to help facilitate a post-screening reflection. Jane M. Floyd, PsyD, MA, a clinical psychologist at Duke Health who worships with the DCC every week, was also invited to help students process the film and provide care in the event of emotional stress.



"The stories I heard in *Speaking to Sparrows* were so touching because they spoke directly to me and my experiences," said senior Maria Luisa Frasson-Nori. "After watching the movie and sitting in on the women's reflection group, I felt more closely connected through Christ with my whole Catholic community - from my roommate to my yoga teacher."

That night, *Speaking to Sparrows* sparked many new friendships and ongoing discussions. The filmmakers are currently filming a similar film for men which will feature a Duke Student and former DCC Student Director. The DCC is eager to screen and reflect on the new film when it is finally completed.





# A Fond Farewell

## SO LONG FR. MATT

For the past seven years, the Duke Catholic Center has been blessed by the presence and involvement of Fr. Matthew Monnig, SJ. From the first week he matriculated as a doctoral student in the Religion Department, Fr. Matt has been an integral part of the Catholic community at Duke. Now that he is finishing his doctoral studies and will graduate, the DCC came together to thank Fr. Matt for his service at Duke and bid him farewell.

“Fr. Matt brought a wonderful combination of compassionate care and intellectual pursuit in engaging students at Duke,” said DCC Director Fr. Michael Martin, OFM Conv. “It was a blessing to see someone who had a full academic load as a doctoral student, giving so much time for spiritual and academic guidance in our community.”

Beyond serving every week as the celebrant at the Wednesday Daily Mass and as a confessor after Holy Hour, Fr. Matt built relationships with students and offered spiritual encouragement and support for so many. His impact on the students was big as he individually met with and mentored students throughout his time at Duke.

In fact, he was the spiritual director for former DCC Student Director, Br. Charles Maria Rooney, who entered a Dominican seminary after graduating Duke in 2016. (He was also a fixture in Cameron Indoor Stadium, cheering on the Duke Basketball teams at every home game!)

“Every time I walked away from a meeting with Fr. Matt I always felt respected and that what I said mattered,” said sophomore José Rivera. “He helped me grow a ton in my spiritual and everyday life.” Fr. Matt’s role in the lives of students and his support of the DCC nearly led the community to forget he was still a student. However, as the 2018 spring semester came to a

close, Fr. Matt had begun to make preparations to graduate with his Ph.D. in New Testament Studies and move on to Boston College.

To celebrate his time and impact at Duke, the DCC bid a fond farewell to Fr. Matt at a send-off party hosted at the Falcone-Arena House. In attendance were over forty students, young professionals, professors, and alumni whose lives had all been touched by Fr. Matt’s friendship and Christian witness.

“Fr. Matt is always searching for truth in the world and isn’t afraid to share his faith with others,” noted sophomore Quinton Tran. “I want to follow in his footsteps.”

As a token of gratitude, the DCC presented Fr. Matt with two unique gifts to serve as a reminder of his time with the DCC Community. The first, a beautifully framed photo of Duke Chapel, was a tribute to his pastoral presence on campus. The second, a Duke basketball signed by all those in attendance, commemorated both his passion for Duke Basketball and the lives he impacted. Fr. Matt will certainly be missed on campus for many years to come.

### ALSO THESE TOP PICKS:

#### [The DCC Mobile App](#)

How the DCC is reaching students in innovative ways and how our online tools can help you.

[Story on page 6](#)

#### [Speaking to Sparrows](#)

How a documentary is changing how women at Duke view themselves.

[Story on page 3](#)

## CALLED TO SERVE SEMI-ANNUAL CONVENTION



**This past May**, the Duke Catholic Center staff attended *Called to Serve*, the semi-annual convention sponsored by the Catholic Campus Ministry

Association. Held in Minneapolis, the convention offered the opportunity for Catholic campus ministers from secular and Christian universities alike to meet and workshop on how to best evangelize students on their respective campuses. Over 270 campus ministers attended the convention with the DCC staff.

The DCC ministry staff flew out from Durham on May 29th and attended the first three days of the conference. There, keynote speaker Sherry Weddell posed a simple question: how are we forming students into disciples? Each day highlighted an essential pillar of campus ministry: evangelization, discipleship, and mission. With each day, the focus of each theme pointed to that singular goal of bringing students and staff to a lifestyle built around a relationship with Jesus. To take in as much as possible, the DCC staff divided and conquered the break-out sessions and workshops. With workshops ranging in topics

from spring break service trips to marketing strategies for college students, each DCC staff member attended talks relevant to his or her own work at Duke. "It was really great to see what other campus ministries are doing with their social media and how they're engaging students in new, creative ways," said Emma Miller, Director of Communication. "I definitely came away from the week with some fresh ideas I'd never considered!"

DCC staff also returned from the conference with a renewed spirit and a reinvigorated sense of purpose. "It was an encouraging experience," said Evan Wescott, DCC Peer Ministry Coordinator. "The staff really grew closer with one another up in Minneapolis, and I feel like we became a stronger team. We were also able to build relationships with campus ministers from other universities, bonding over the fact that we all face similar obstacles, that we are not alone."

The Duke Catholic community will doubtless be abundantly blessed this year by the wisdom and new ideas that were brought back from the CCMA convention!

### RECOMMENDED:

#### [The DCC Mobile App](#)

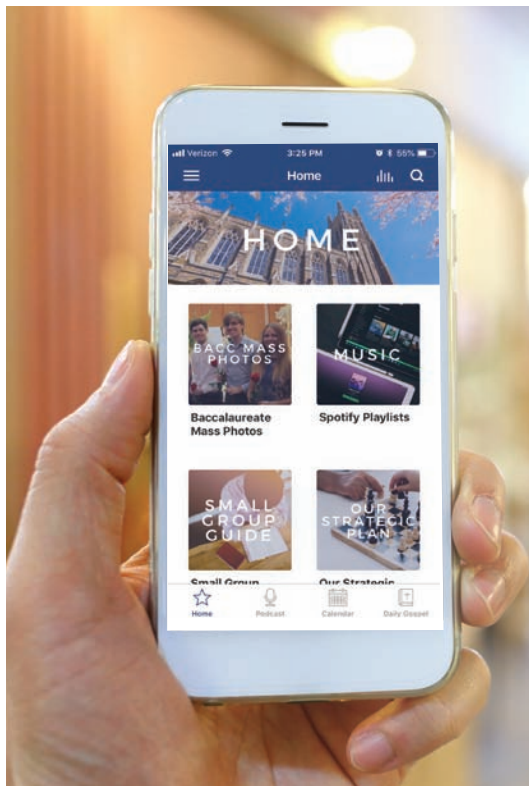
How the DCC is reaching students in innovative ways and how our online tools can help you.

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# We are with you in the palm of your hand

## Introducing the DCC mobile app

for so many of our student resources,” said Emma Miller, Director of Communication. “Looking for the weekly small group guides? Check the app. Searching for some solid praise and worship tunes? Check the app. Can’t find the Sunday bulletin in your email? Don’t worry, just check the app.”

From prayer prompts to Spotify playlists, the DCC has revamped the pocket guide for the digital age. Feel free to download the app (iOS and Android only – sorry Windows folks!) and explore the resources.

### A Resource for You, Too!

We believe that many of the app’s resources are great for Catholics of all ages and backgrounds. Here are some of our recommendations for Duke Alumni and Parents.

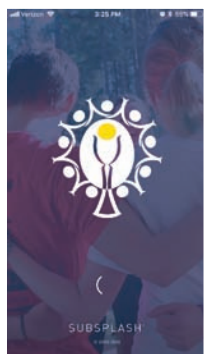
**The Daily Gospel** – Actually includes all the daily readings! It’s a great way to kick off the workday.

**Small Group Guide** – Both the questions and reflections are great for anyone. Simply read through the Gospel passage and slowly pray through the questions for a solid prayer time that feels like a guided Lectio Divina!

**Spotify Playlists** – If you don’t already have a Spotify account, 10/10 we recommend it. Then you can follow and listen to the various curated playlists we’ve set up for you.

### Our Strategic

**Plan** – We are really pumped about our current strategic plan! It’s a great reminder of what the DCC’s priorities are. But it’s also a phenomenal personal reminder of key components of an active life in Christ and the Church! How does your life of discipleship match up?



The Duke Catholic Center is always exploring fresh, creative ways to meet students where they are and provide resources for students’ spiritual lives. Striving to bring useful content to students’ pockets and everyday lives, the DCC designed a brand new mobile app.

Launched on Easter Sunday to the crowds of students and families in Cameron Indoor Stadium, the app offers many different

ways for students to stay connected, pray daily, and engage their faith.

“The app was really helpful for me during the semester,” said junior Michelle Krogius. “I used it to keep up to date with DCC news and events. I prefer it because it was easier to navigate on my phone than the mobile website.”

For others, a key component are the daily Mass readings, pulled in directly from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops website, and the daily Minute Meditations provided by Franciscan Media.

“It’s so useful to have the daily readings right on my phone,” said senior Juan Pablo Gonzalez. “I can pull them up on my walk to class or when I’m sitting in Holy Hour. It’s so convenient and helps me read more Scripture.” Even Duke Catholic Center staff have found the app to be a blessing! “It’s helpful to have one place that’s a hub



## READ MORE:

### Fr. Mike’s Reflection

Meeting students where they are – literally and figuratively.

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### Speaking to Sparrows

How a documentary is changing how women at Duke view themselves.

[Story page 3](#)

# Catholics Around Campus



**Top left:** Graduates were honored at a special Baccalaureate Mass in May. **Top right:** Joey Santoro '17, Mary Ziemba '18 and Tuan Dat Nguyen '17 on Commencement Weekend. **Middle left:** Fr. Mike congratulates wrestler Alex Belaia-Martiniouk '17 MMS '18 at Baccalaureate Mass. **Middle right:** Seniors Marcelo Zapata and Soren Chargois catching up. **Bottom left:** Undergrad and graduate students enjoying Tuesday Night Dinner al fresco. **Bottom right:** Catholic young professionals at Duke also enjoyed the *Speaking to Sparrows* screening.

## AND DON'T FORGET:

### Meet the DCC Staff

Photos and full contact information of our entire staff.

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Thank you for reading our newsletter. We look forward to bringing you the latest news from DCC every season.

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# OUR 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  
603.203.8088



**Catherine Preston '00**  
Campus Minister/Faith Development  
catherine.preston@duke.edu  
919.680.2521



**Emma Miller '11**  
Director of Communication  
emma.miller@duke.edu  
704.267.3439



**Evan Wescott**  
Peer Ministry Coordinator  
evan.wescott@duke.edu  
215.495.7941



**Andrew Witchger P'15**  
Director of Music  
andrew.witchger@duke.edu  
919.323.6902



**Michelle Sutton '12**  
Director of Development  
michelle.sutton@duke.edu  
919.668.1472



**Ruth Anne Kennedy**  
Business Manager  
ruth.kennedy@duke.edu  
919.684.3354



**Michelle Naehring**  
Development Assistant  
michelle.naehring@duke.edu  
919.684.8959



DUKE Catholic Center