

DUKE

THE DUKE CATHOLIC CENTER NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC



SENIOR SENDOFF



Seniors Nelia Ekeji, Shannon Malloy, and Anna Lee were all smiles at the Duke Catholic Center's first annual Senior Night!

Read more on page 7.

FROM FR. MIKE

As we send the Class of 2019 out into the world beyond Duke, the plans of these newly minted graduates and God's plan come into sharp focus. While most of them have at least a broad idea of the former, they have less idea of the latter. The former seems very dynamic and the latter rather static. The former is understood by trial and error while the latter seems to be learned by "20 Questions" with God. Have we done the best we could to allow these graduates to see these plans as not two distinct realities, but rather a unified vision for their life in Christ?



Only time will tell if our graduates understand that plans in life are a bit tricky. As the old Hebrew maxim goes: Humans plan - God laughs. However, why must we always assume that God's plan is some fixed reality that will condemn us all in the end if we do not get it right? As if God has determined the best color shirt for me to wear today, and woe is me if I chose poorly. Can we understand God's plan for each of us in terms of the freedom with which He created us? From that perspective, the future of our graduates looks bright with God giving them the freedom and the power to co-create a new heaven and a new earth with Him. I am excited about that plan that God has in mind for the Class of 2019!

The Strategic Plan of the Duke Catholic Center focuses on empowering students to claim and live their faith beyond the confines of West, Central or East campus. One of the ways in which we tried to attend to that challenge this year was Embark - our senior sendoff. Listening to students at that event and others, I feel confident that many of them will celebrate their Catholic faith in powerfully creative ways all over the globe. I have been honored to see that blossom in them - accepting their faith as their own. For those graduates for whom that was less a reality, I still rely on the grace of God who has awesome plans for them. I am confident that their time at Duke will in some way trigger a future response to the Holy Spirit at work in them, bringing their plans and God's into one. I am excited for the day that they see that blossom in their lives. That will be another commencement! 🌟

“FOR
I KNOW
WELL THE
PLANS
I HAVE IN
MIND FOR
YOU...”

-JEREMIAH 29:11

Catherine Preston, Director of Small Groups, gives a talk on the power of a regular prayer life at a special retreat for Duke graduate students.

GRADUATE STUDENTS STEPPING UP

After witnessing the undergraduate community come alive in their Catholic faith following the Awakening Retreat in February, two graduate students were inspired to instill the same fervor for growth among their peers. Theresa Rizk, a first-year medical student, and Min Jin Lee, a first-year Ph.D. student, collaborated with Duke Catholic Center staff to plan a retreat tailored to graduate and professional students.

Wanting to ensure the retreat directly addressed the needs of their community, Theresa and Min Jin released a survey to help them understand what would be most helpful, practical, and fulfilling to graduate students. The results overwhelmingly revealed a desire to grow more in personal prayer. With the topic delivered, the team decided to host a one-day retreat focused on deepening one's prayer life.

On the morning of Saturday April 6, thirty graduate students gathered at the Falcone-Arena House to kick off the retreat with the rosary and Mass. Throughout the day they participated in many different prayer practices such as adoration, confession, praise and worship, as well as small group discussions and staff reflections. Fr. Matt Monnig, S.J., a graduate student in the Religion Department studying New Testament scripture, spoke on lectio divina, and Catherine Preston, DCC Director of Small Groups, spoke on the need for daily prayer in the spiritual life.


Each student was placed into a small group for the day where they discussed prayer, scripture, and portions of a film on the life of St. Peter. One of the highlights of the day was their praise and worship session, during which Andrew Witcher, DCC Director of Music, led the group in song outside on the back deck of the house. To cap off the day, retreatants joined together for dinner out in Durham.



First year graduate student Min Jin Lee and first year medical student Theresa Rizk envisioned, planned, and executed the hit graduate student retreat.

The feedback Theresa and Min Jin received after the event was incredibly positive.

"The retreat gave me a whole day to take a break, connect with God, examine my faith, and gain deeper insights through readings and group discussions," said Rabih Younes, a young assistant professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. "I also made new friends and started regularly attending a small group for Duke grad students and young professionals."

With the help of self-starting graduate students like Theresa and Min Jin, the DCC hopes to continue the program, hosting a graduate student retreat each semester going forward. 

A New Witness on Campus

WELCOME BROTHER TIM



Duke Catholic students welcomed Brother Tim to the community with a birthday surprise!

know Duke Students one-on-one. Together, they share their experiences in life and faith. Br. Tim often opens up about how he first felt called to his vocation in middle school after being invited to attend a retreat given by the Conventual Franciscans.

This summer the Duke Catholic Center has an additional friar on campus: Brother Timothy Blanchard, OFM Conv. A young friar in the midst of formation, Br. Tim has stepped into the DCC's Summer Ministry Intern position.

"It is always a blessing to have another friar with us on campus," said Fr. Mike Martin. "Br. Tim brings us fresh ideas while getting a chance to see what full-time ministry looks like on a university campus."

In between running Tuesday Night Dinner for the students and coordinating Sunday Masses, Br. Tim sets aside time to get to

"That retreat was a transformative experience for me," said Br. Tim. "I began falling in love with the vocation of becoming a friar. I really enjoy getting to share that part of my journey with other young people."

Like the other friars on staff, Br. Tim wears the traditional Franciscan habit; however, he is not in formation to become a priest. Instead, Br. Tim will live out his vocation as a Franciscan brother working to build Christ's Kingdom through a career in Communications.

"I am excited for our students to appreciate how God continues to call young men and women to religious life in so many different ways," said Fr. Mike.

As the summer weeks fly by, Br. Tim will continue to work with Duke Students and serve as a unique witness to the Franciscan charism. 🙏



Br. Tim joins Sr. Marcia in ministering to Duke Students during Tuesday Night Dinner.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF SPRING BREAK


While many Duke Students head to the beach for spring break, three Duke Catholic women opted for a more unique experience. Michaela Reinhart '21, Valerie Muensterman '20 and Alina Perez '21 spent their break visiting the motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist in Meriden, Connecticut.

With two Franciscan sisters on staff and building relationships with Duke Students, a trip to the mother community was a no-brainer.

“The students have loved getting to know the sisters this past year,” said Emma Miller, DCC Director of Communication. “It made so much sense to host an opportunity for them to meet the larger community of sisters and explore what life as a sister looks like.”

During the visit, Michaela, Valerie, and Alina stayed in a retreat house on the 52-acre property and participated in the daily activities of the sisters, including mass and adoration. They also ate their meals with the community and helped out with different projects around the house while getting to know many of the sisters.

“At the motherhouse, I learned how intentionally we are called to live: slowly and simply, always leaving time for those we care for,” said Michaela Reinhart '21. “The sisters showed me that no moment is too small and that it is often these moments in which God’s beauty is most apparent.”

Both the FSE community and the young women enjoyed the trip and their time together. The DCC and the FSE sisters hope to expand the visits to more Duke Students in the future! 



Top: At the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist motherhouse, a statue of St. Francis of Assisi greets visitors.

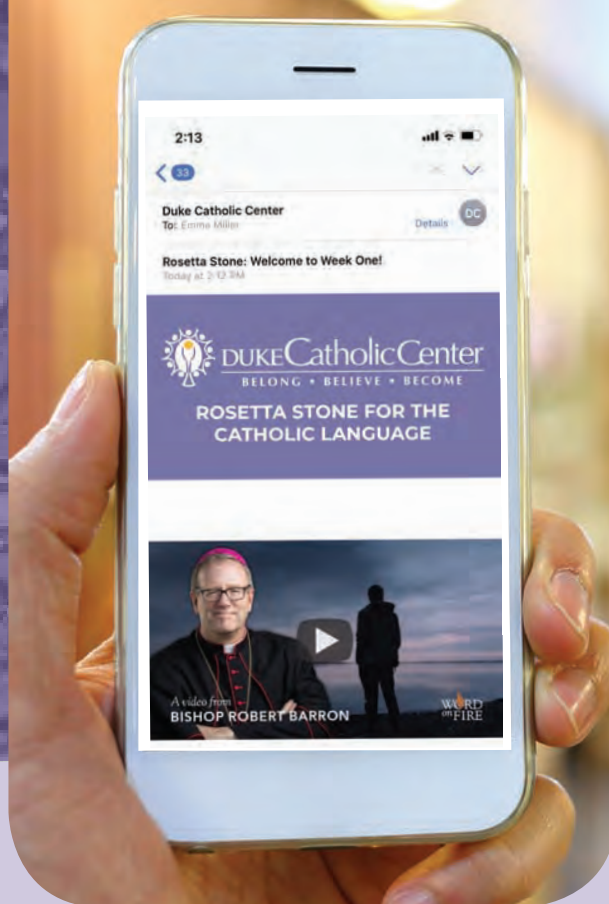
Second: The visiting Duke Students prayed and celebrated Mass with the sisters inside their Chapel of St. John.

Third: The young women worked alongside sisters like Sister Rosario Ongayo and Sister Janet Marie Bagniewski.

Bottom: Valerie Muensterman (right) and Michaela Reinhart (second from right) enjoyed a powerful experience of community and prayer with the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist.

Rosetta Stone

for the Catholic Language



Lent offers a special opportunity for Catholics to engage more seriously in their faith as they prepare for the death and resurrection of Jesus. Each year the Duke Catholic Center puts together a number of different resources to help students journey to Holy Week. This year, in addition to the increased opportunities to engage in the sacraments and practical guides to fasting, praying, and almsgiving, Sr. Marcia Ternes and Bruce McCuskey, a master's student in Theology, created a program to help Duke Students further their Catholic education.

Rosetta Stone for the Catholic Language was a six-week online program to which Duke Catholic students, faculty, and staff could subscribe in order to learn more about their Catholic faith. The 40 participants received weekly emails featuring videos of Bishop Robert Barron from Word on Fire Media and questions for personal reflection.

The videos educated the viewer on a different topic each week, equipping them with more knowledge about the Catholic faith in order to be stronger witnesses to the faith. Emails also featured a short introduction to the content matter of the video, as well as questions to inspire participants to consider the topic's connection to their daily spiritual life.

The videos helped develop interest in further exploration on the topics, with some students noting that the program influenced them even after Lent ended.


"It definitely sparked my interest in learning more about my faith," said Michaela Reinhart '21. "It prompted

me to make it my goal to read a few books this summer in order to do just that." In an anonymous survey, another participant shared their thoughts on the program.

"Each video only took 15 minutes," said the anonymous graduate student. "But it helped me to think more about my faith throughout the day and helped me to be more mindful while I prayed."



We invite you to click either video shown here to experience one of the Rosetta Stone resources firsthand!

It's clear that students are excited to grow in their faith through digital media and reflection on their own time — a reality of the Duke Student's busy schedule. Sr. Marcia and Bruce are already at work on a second, next-step Rosetta Stone curriculum to continue meeting students' catechetical needs in new ways! 

Bon Voyage!



Seniors gather at the end of the night for a group photo. Not pictured: All the many outtakes and goofy group shots!

[Click here:](#)

The end of senior year can be an emotional time for many college students. As graduation nears, Duke Students begin to say goodbye to friends and communities with whom they have been involved throughout their four years.

This past spring, as an initiative of its Strategic Plan, the Duke Catholic Center hosted its first ever Senior Night. Entitled *Embark: A Catholic Senior Bon Voyage*, the event was aimed at recognizing graduating seniors, expressing gratitude for their time with the Duke Catholic community, and encouraging them in their faith after graduation.

Open to all students, the night brought in 23 soon-to-be graduates and 10 underclassmen wishing to send off their friends. The event kicked off with hors d'oeuvres and music before moving into a moment of prayer, after which, dinner was served and two speakers took to the podium. Alum Joseph Yetter '14 spoke first about how he has kept his faith alive post-graduation, despite the different challenges he has encountered. He was followed by senior Michelle Krogius who shared insights on offering the Church time, talent, and treasure as a young Catholic professional.

"I am really grateful to the DCC for allowing me to be a part of a celebratory event for the seniors," said Michelle. "Being able to

talk about giving post-graduation was fantastic because it allowed me to take time to really reflect on how I can bring my faith into something as supposedly boring as a budget."

For many seniors this event was their "last hurrah" with the Catholic Center and spirits were high throughout the evening.

"I'm so thankful for the DCC Senior Night," said Alec Lintz '19. "The Catholic community has been such an influential part of my faith journey and coming together for one last time was so symbolic and meaningful. I know that going forward I will always have this community."

Along with many unforgettable memories of the evening, all seniors received a "survival kit" in the form of a canvas tote bag complete with prayer cards, tips for finding a parish, how to make friends in a new city, as well as various Catholic books to enhance their spiritual life outside of the DCC. The books were a particular hit, and students enjoyed swapping with one another based on their spiritual interests and reading list.

A successful first-time event, DCC students and staff are looking forward to replicating the night for many seniors to come! 🌟

Left: Fr. Mike greets Kyla Brezitski '21, Marco Gonzalez '21, Gregory Blazek '19, and Sophia Mascarena '21. **Middle:** A delicious catered dinner enticed Duke Catholic students of all years to attend! **Right:** Seniors and former DCC Student Directors Michelle Krogius and Dylan Tamayo share a hug as they greet one another.



Catholics Around Campus



Top left: Duke sophomore Marco Gonzalez organized a Latin dance night – complete with lessons from Duke’s Sabrosura dance group!
Top right: The DCC’s Tuesday Night Dinner team gathers for prayer every week before kicking off the dinner for Duke Students.
Middle: The warm weather and longer days allow Duke Students to hang out longer at Tuesday Night Dinner during the summer.
Bottom left: The Music Ministry continues to thrive even during the summer months!
Bottom right: The Falcone-Arena House chapel overflows with Duke Students on Tuesday nights for daily Mass.

Stations of the Cross



Duke Catholic students and faculty gathered on a Friday in Lent to walk and pray the Stations of the Cross. Stopping at key places on campus for each station, students shared reflections and testimonies relating campus life to Jesus' experience in His Passion.

Easter Sunday



Over 1,100 Dukies gathered together for Easter Sunday Mass in Cameron Indoor Stadium this spring. After a celebration complete with powerful music, excellent preaching, and special resources handed out to students, 300 Duke Catholic students enjoyed a delicious catered brunch in the Krzyzewski Center.

Baccalaureate Mass



The Duke Catholic Center celebrated 2019 graduates with two special Masses over commencement weekend. Students were welcomed forward, presented with a San Damiano Cross and a rose, and congratulated by the Duke Catholic community and their families.

Stay Tuned!

THE DUKE CATHOLIC CENTER ANNUAL REPORT IS COMING YOUR WAY EARLY THIS FALL

Get excited to hear from students about their pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, to meet the new Peer Ministry Coordinator, and to learn how the DCC Music and Small Group ministries are growing! Look for it (and more!) in your mailboxes this fall.

MEET OUR DCC STAFF

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