



# DUKE Catholic

FALL 2014

NURTURING CATHOLIC LEADERS

## ENC<sup>COMPASS</sup>—Finding True North

Last year the Duke Catholic Center began its first self-study catechetical program for students, **Csox**. One of the huge draws of **Csox** was the flexibility it gave students to complete the program at their own convenience, given their busy schedules. The program was so popular that the Duke Catholic Center brainstormed a follow-up program for all the **Csox** graduates—hence the inception of **ENC<sup>COMPASS</sup>**

a 10-week program to help students find the true north in their faith lives!

The **ENC<sup>COMPASS</sup>** program uses Fr. Robert Barron's Word on Fire video series entitled "Catholicism". It is a ten-part video series that uses art, architecture, literature, music and all the treasures of the Catholic tradition to illuminate the teachings of the Catholic faith. Fr. Robert Barron narrates the video series and unveils the limitless richness and beauty that is the Catholic Church. The episodes were filmed in 50 locations throughout 15 countries to reveal truths about our faith in a visually breath-taking and compelling way, with beautiful and original high-definition cinematography.

"I am so glad that I've decided to continue deepening my faith with this Encompass program," said Sara Pak, Class of 2017. "Though I've been Catholic all my life, I'm realizing more and more how little I know and how much more there is to learn."

Students participating in **ENC<sup>COMPASS</sup>** watch a one-hour episode of the series per week; then they use the



accompanying study guide as they see fit. Some students elected to have **ENC<sup>COMPASS</sup>** "partners," getting together with them during the week to watch the episode and then go through the study guide.

This semester 23 students are participating in **ENC<sup>COMPASS</sup>**. So far they have watched the following episodes: Jesus as the revelation of God that became man; the teachings of Jesus; the ineffable mystery of God; Mary as the Mother of God; and the missionary adventures of St. Peter and St. Paul.

"It's very intriguing, stimulating, and faith-enriching to learn about the various facets of Catholicism, especially some parts that I wasn't knowledgeable enough about prior to watching the videos," said Sarah. "I'm looking forward to what the remaining weeks have in store for me and can't help but feel so joyful to be able to learn more about God and Catholicism through this amazing program! And I'm further energized to at least attempt to spread God's message and love in one way or another every day."



## Remedial Duke?

Placing the word “remedial” and the word “Duke” in the same sentence seems so counterintuitive. Given Duke’s acceptance rates and the scores that are required to gain admission as undergraduate or graduate/professional students, we should be confident that all Duke students are competent in most, if not all, areas of study. And yet, much as the Admissions Office might not want to admit it, most Duke Catholic students come to us with a less than basic understanding of their faith. This is not to slam our students or their families. It is rather an honest assessment of the current state of affairs of base knowledge of the Catholic faith among most (young) people in our Church. We could spend hours explaining why, but we really don’t have time. The more important question is: *what are we going to do about it?*

The primary challenge is getting Duke students to admit the weakness: I don’t know what I need to know about my faith. Like most of us, admitting a weakness has all the appeal of going to the dentist. As a result, many of our students simply stay clear of the subject. In much the same way as an ill-prepared student in class works hard not to be noticed, so too the Duke Catholic student who has a sense of not knowing the basics of the faith can tend to stay on the margins of the Church. They deserve better! They deserve to be welcomed into the classroom of Christ that requires no prerequisites, that simply accepts us where we are and takes us from that place to a level of depth that not only transforms our minds, but our hearts as well. Can we create that environment at the Duke Catholic Center?

As a ministry located on the campus of one of the world’s top centers of learning, we have the benefit of working with students who, even if

they lack a knowledge of the faith, they certainly do not lack the capacity to know the faith, nor do some of them lack a real desire to know. That combination—desire and ability—met with the engaging presence of the Holy Spirit, can be a powerful one-two punch that can make a huge impact in the life of our students. I get excited when I see these forces come into play with one another. It gives me hope for the future of the Church. Programs for faith formation such as Encompass and C90X are opportunities for our students to engage their faith and learn more about the great tradition that is ours as Catholics.

However powerful, no program, class or coursework on its own can satisfy our deepest longings. I know that what is at the heart of the search of our students here on campus and for the rest of their lives is an engagement with Jesus Christ. It is our Lord who calls to all of us to come to know Him—the way, the truth and the life. Learning more about Jesus should only encourage all of us to grow in love of him who came so that we might better know the Father. In that regard, we are all in need of remediation—we all need to find ways to make up for the ways in which we have not yet fully come to know the joy of loving Christ.

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### FR. ROBERT BARRON IS COMING TO DUKE!

Fr. Barron, who narrates the *Catholicism* series, will be at Duke on March 19. He will share how students’ faith is not in contradiction with what they learn inside Duke classrooms and how it can stand the test of academic rigor.

# Advent

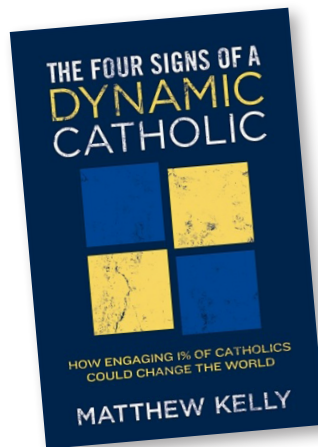
## REFLECTIONS



The winter Holiday can be one of the busiest time of the year with shopping, holiday cooking, visiting extended families and children home from school. It is sometimes very difficult to take a step back and reflect on what Christmas is all about. This year, the Duke Catholic Center is sending out Advent Reflections to students while they are on break. The 5 minute reflections will be given by Fr. Mike. We are inviting all of our parents, alumni and friends to join the reflection! To be placed on the email mailing list, please email or call Michelle Sutton at michelle.sutton@duke.edu or 919-668-1472.

## Francis week

This year, to honor the DCC's Franciscan heritage, we celebrated the feast of St. Francis with *Francis Week*. It began on Sunday, September 28 and culminated with the feast of St. Francis on October 4. Each day emphasized a different spiritual theme that was important to Francis of Assisi. These themes were Dedication to Christ in the Church, Outreach to the Marginalized, Strong Community Connection, Peaceful Resolution of Conflict and Concern for the Environment. We celebrated with a Friar Fest at Tuesday Night Dinner, a Holy Hour dedicated to peace, service projects, and an environmentally-focused Theology on Tap titled: "How Green was St. Francis of Assisi?"



## THE FOUR SIGNS

Thanks to a generous donation by Eric '96 and Emily Callaghan the Duke Catholic Center was able to purchase 650 copies of *Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* by Matthew Kelly. The books were handed out to all students at no charge during the first two weeks of classes. So far, over 550 books have been handed out to students.

"When I first got the [*Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*] book at Mass, I wasn't sure I was going to read it. It just sat on my bedside table for a few days," said Duke senior Molly Culhane. "During free time over the weekend, I decided to open it up and read the first chapter. Little did I know I was in for a treat; I literally couldn't put it down."

The book discusses the four signs of a highly engaged Catholic. *Spoiler Alert:* The four signs are prayer, study, generosity and evangelization. Kelly delves into the small concrete ways that everyone can engage these signs of the faith in a more meaningful way.

"One of the best aspects about this book is that everything it asks you to do can start out small," said Molly. "Whether it be praying for one minute a day, giving a little more at mass, or reaching out to others, everything he encourages us to do is very reasonable. Matthew Kelly is inspiring in ways I didn't think would even be possible; and I loved the book so much I read the book in a little over a week. It was truly amazing, opened my eyes to the great impact our Catholic Community can make."

The handing out of *Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* books marks the latest way the Duke Catholic Center is encouraging students to study, learn, and pray about their faith.

# SAVE THE DATE!

Adam Petty '14 and John Hosey '15  
in front of Trevi Fountain in Rome



Michelle Sutton '12 and Fr. Mike in front  
of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi



## A Franciscan Pilgrimage ASSISI & ROME FEBRUARY 15-26, 2016

**It is never too early to save the date for something special.** In February 2016 the Duke Catholic Center, in conjunction with Duke Alumni Travel, will be hosting a twelve-day Franciscan pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome for Duke alumni, parents and friends. Pilgrimages are often described as spiritual experiences where you "pray with your feet." This Franciscan pilgrimage will be 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.

The Duke Catholic Center already offers pilgrimage opportunities for two students every year. As we continue to iron out the particulars of the trip, be on the lookout for details in future DCC communications! To be placed on the pilgrimage interest list, please email or call Michelle Sutton at [michelle.sutton@duke.edu](mailto:michelle.sutton@duke.edu) or (919) 668-1472.



# Alumni & Parent RETREAT



Tim Jeffries '03 discusses faith with peers during small groups. (bottom left) Fr. Mike preaches during Alumni and Parent Retreat. (bottom right) Beth Oliver P'15,17; Jacinto Oliver '84, P'15,17; Mary Eileen Anderson '85, P'16; and Jon Gockerman during retreat social hour



**During the first weekend in October over 25 alumni, parents, faculty members and their spouses descended into Durham to experience the Duke Catholic Center's first-ever Alumni and Parent Retreat: *Living a Life that Matters*.** Some who came were hoping for a weekend away from the daily routine; others wanted an excuse to visit their Duke Student in Durham; and others wanted to spend a weekend in prayerful reflection. The weekend was filled with all of that and more!

Throughout the weekend Fr. Mike presented talks on different topics related to the theme of *Living a Life that Matters: Living a Life that Matters with God, Living a Life that Matters with Others, and Living a Life that Matters at Work.*

"What made it so valuable was the insight of the talks, which examined both what holds us back from growing in our spiritual lives, but also what can lead us closer to Christ," said Dave Naftzinger, L'73.

After each talk the retreatants had an opportunity to discuss in small groups and reflect during inspiring prayer moments. There was also built-in free time for the retreaters to grab lunch with their Duke Student or get reacquainted with Duke and Durham, as well as time for the retreat group to be together socially for meals and drinks.

"I didn't know what to expect, but everyone at the retreat was so warm and kind. I really enjoyed meeting various models of what it means and looks like to be a "grown-up" Catholic," said Christine Lim, '07. "I also loved having some down time to get reacquainted with Duke and Durham to reflect on who I was when I was here, how I've changed, and who I want to strive to be."



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Look for us online!



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