While many college students envision spring break on a warm, sunny beach, close to 30 Duke Catholic Center students have decided to turn their time off into a time to serve. Two different groups will be traveling March 5-12 to similar terrain in albeit different parts of the globe—the mountains of Jamaica and the mountains of Appalachia.

Nick Gorman E’12, one of this year’s Jamaican missioners “wanted to help people that I otherwise wouldn’t get to see in the world.” It is that sense of dedication to others in Christ that Catholic Center activities, and in particular mission trips, helps to facilitate. Traveling for the first time to St. Mary Above Rocks Mission—a ministry of the Conventual Franciscans in the hills north of Kingston, the Duke Catholic students will be tutoring 6th graders in the morning and painting a local school in the afternoon.

Students headed to Kentucky will be working with Christian Appalachian Projects’ annual Workfest. They will be joining with over 100 college students from across the US to do home repair projects.

Both groups will integrate prayer and reflection into their daily routines to continue to integrate Christ’s Gospel command to serve rather than be served.

**Let there be light!**

So often in many areas around the world, electricity is not a guaranteed commodity. Hearing of the Duke Catholic Center’s Mission Trip to Jamaica this Spring Break, Kelly R. Braddy ’99, President of Heat Process Technologies, Inc. in Dallas, graciously donated a Dyna 6000-watt portable generator that will assist the mission when the power goes out (unfortunately a common occurrence). Way to go, Kelly!
I was always a Christmas guy…that is until I entered the seminary. My first year in the seminary I fell in love with Lent, and in particular Holy Week, and I can say I have felt the same way ever since! As the warmer days of North Carolina spring are upon us, so too are the rich high holy days of the Catholic Church year. And while I know St. Francis was far more enamored with Christmas (he couldn’t get over God becoming one of us), this Franciscan is as excited as a kid on Christmas Eve as we prepare for our celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is so amazing to recount the acts of selfless love that Jesus came to offer us. I wonder if our students feel so redeemed.

Running to classes, preparing for exams, late nights in the library—all of these moments of student life seem more suited to Christmas: take a break and open a present—you deserve it. Spring Break this year coincides with the beginning of Lent (the week of Ash Wednesday), and when the students return they will be full throttle back into their studies and will need to capture the essence of Lent and Holy Week while balancing all of the ordinary activity of collegiate life. There is a part of me that would like to petition the Duke administration to allow us to go on some special schedule from Palm Sunday thru Easter in order to allow the students to more fully immerse themselves in this holy time. But as friendly as President Brodhead is to me, I doubt my request would even make it to his desk.

Nor should it! While Christmas gives students some time at home to relax and prepare, Lent and Holy Week will require that they find the time in the midst of regular life. Is not that the heart of the message of our faith in these 40 days of grace and the Triduum? Did Jesus not step into the ordinary and everyday lives of his disciples and ask them to believe that his death on the Cross would bring them salvation? Aren't we challenged by Jesus life, death and resurrection to find meaning in the midst of all of every moment of life, not simply the reflective quiet of some quiet time in church? His mission is to save the world: a world of work and play; a world of relationships and study; a world of basketball games and a cappella concerts. Indeed, let the students carry out their Holy Week in regular fashion so that they may take up the Gospel mandate to celebrate God's redeeming love in all of the world, not just in the beauty of Duke Chapel.

I am honored to walk with them on their journey this Lent and with some luck, the experience may even convert a few Christmas lovers along the way! We celebrate these high holy days with the Universal Church, and in particular with you the parents, alumni, and friends of Duke University. Know of our prayers that this Lent and Easter time will enable you to have your regular schedule redeemed by Christ’s saving action.

Fr. Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv
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The Duke Catholic Center welcomed new student leadership with the new year. This January we commissioned five new student directors.

Amy Wigger, a sophomore religion major from Charleston, South Carolina, will serve as our spiritual enrichment director. Nick Gorman, a junior mechanical engineer from Forest, Virginia, is our new liturgy director. Jennifer Arnold, a sophomore biomedical and mechanical and mechanical engineer from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, now leads the community building team. Shane Hunt, a junior philosophy and economics major from Chicago, Illinois and Michelle Barreto, a junior political science major from Cary, North Carolina, will serve as at-large directors.

The students are enjoying their service thus far. Michelle offered, “I am excited to be part of the Duke Catholic Center leadership team. I am looking forward to helping people grow closer to God and being someone other students can come to for guidance.” Shane Hunt added, “I am most excited about working with great co-directors to effectively provide Catholic leadership for this faith community.” The Catholic Center staff is thrilled to work with these directors and witness their growth in faith and leadership over the coming year.

The Catholic Life Series is a monthly meeting of students who gather to hear a presentation on a topic of faith. One of the goals of the group is to provide students with a better Catholic framework for issues that they will face and to give a context for living out their faith outside of Mass. An "expert" speaker is invited to speak on a topic, a student speaker gives a short testimony, then students participate in table discussions before a final question time.

The series has included: Catholic Moral Teaching, Theology of the Body, Vocations, Discipleship, and Sacraments. This past month, Campus Minister Catherine Preston spoke on the Sacraments, discussing the development and types of sacraments rooted in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New.

Jonathan Amgott, a senior public policy major from Melbourne, Florida, presented at the conference. A supervisor from his internship this past summer at the State Department's Office of International Religious Freedom encouraged him to think about how his campus interfaith experience could be leveraged for U.S. diplomacy. Jonathan wrote an article that was published this fall in *The Review of Faith and International Affairs*—www.rfiaonline.org/authors/681-jonathan-amgott.

Connor Cotton, a freshmen civil engineering major from northern Virginia, enjoyed meeting undergraduates who, like him, were interested in interfaith relations and religion.

Allison Donnelly, a freshman environmental science major from Appleton, Wisconsin, became involved in interfaith dialogue when she arrived on campus. Her hope in attending the conference was "to learn possible ways to facilitate meaningful interfaith dialogue on campus that will broaden students’ ways of looking at other faiths while helping them grow in their own.” Allison also looks forward “to using what I’ve learned to develop a small interfaith program for my Catholic high school at home in order to help students gain understanding of other religious traditions.”

Nearly 100 Duke Catholic students will come together March 25-27 for Duke Awakening 16. Awakening is a nationwide retreat program for college students. Brought to Duke by Texas A&M University, the program is in its 8th year at Duke. Centered around sacraments and student talks, the program provides an opportunity for students to grow in their relationship with Christ as well as to form deep bonds with their peers. Coordinator Stefany Kuttothara is very pleased to be leading this upcoming retreat. “One of the things I am most looking forward to is the opportunity to come together as a community and provide the retreatants with an opportunity to get closer to God. Awakening has given so much to me and has become an important part of my Duke and faith experience that I am thrilled to be able to work with a wonderful group of people and give back to the community that has given so much to me and others.”
GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT RETREAT
Resetting the Level of Faith Sharing

Duke graduate students agreed to make the effort to connect with God on an overnight retreat at Agape Retreat Center, an hour south of Duke. This was at the suggestion of Dave Nafzinger, L’73 of the Duke Catholic Center Advisory Board, who recently experienced a life-changing Ignatian retreat in which he participated as a Duke Law student and Mike Somich, Executive Director of Duke’s Internal Auditing, who facilitated witnessing at the GradCouncil organizational meeting.

Students from Divinity, Law, Psychology, Engineering, Biology, Medicine, Environmental Sciences, and Classics embraced Dave’s suggestion to step back from research and writing to pause and enjoy the beauty of the countryside. They participated and gained new insight into each other and appreciation for gratitude, forgiveness, prayer, motivation, and trust in God.

Hearty thanks to Dave Nafzinger for the excellent suggestion, Mike Somich who introduced the power of witnessing to the students, Justin Migacz, Engineering’13 and Paul Saputo, Law’12 for co-chairing, the presenters, and Duke Chapel, which accepted a grant proposal from the Catholic GradCouncil.

Did you know?

† 20% of the Duke University students are Catholic.
† There is a student dinner every Tuesday night at the Falcone Arena House while classes are in session.
† Our average Sunday Mass attendance has increased from 270 last year to 307 this year.
† Our Sunday Collection is approximately $350 a week, (less than $20,000 per year).
† Our annual operating expenses are $620,000.
† We do not receive funding from Duke University.
† A gift to the Duke Catholic Center is also a gift to the larger University. A gift to Duke Catholic is credited toward the recognition societies of the University.
† We rely heavily on the generosity of parents, alumni and friends to fund our ministry.
† Over 70% of our revenue will come from donations.
† We have a Living Faith Society.
† There are many ways to contribute to the ministries at the Duke Catholic Center:
  • Donate online
  • Cash or check
  • Stocks & Securities
  • Corporate Matching Funds
  • Electronic Fund Transfer from your bank
  • Real Estate
  • Wills, Estates & Bequests
  • Memorials and Honorariums
Mass Schedule

**SUNDAY MASS**
11am, Richard White Lecture Hall (East Campus)
9pm, Duke Chapel

**DAILY MASS**

- **MON:** 5:15pm, Goodson Chapel, Divinity School
- **TUES:** 5:45pm, Falcone Arena House Chapel
- **WED:** 12noon, Duke Hospital Chapel, 6th Floor
- **THURS:** 11:30am, Yoh Football Center
  Team Meeting Room, 2nd Floor
- **FRI:** 5pm, Fuqua School of Business
  Seminar B