Over the past four years, the Duke Catholic Center (DCC) has seen exponential growth in many activities. There are so many activities to get involved in as a Catholic Duke Student: the C90X catechetical study program, weekly and monthly service projects, music and choir ministry, one-on-one RCIA and Confirmation catechesis, retreats, Tuesday Night Dinner, and many more.

However, the largest growth the DCC has seen is in Sunday Mass attendance. Since 2010, attendance while students are on campus has grown 67%! In fact, this past year, many of our Sunday morning Masses in Goodson Chapel where standing room only. We attribute the growth to several different factors. First, is the music ministry. Our music minister, Andrew Witchger, has taken liturgical music to a whole new level. Every week, more students join the choir to sing and play a wide variety of instruments including violin, harp, and trumpet. The choir plays a great mix of contemporary and traditional hymns appealing to students of many different backgrounds, some of which are composed by Andrew himself! The second factor is the second priest. A second priest on campus allows for the homilies to come from another person with different perspectives and reflections. This allows our homilies and message to touch and resonate with more students. Third, is the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit instills in all of our hearts a desire to know Jesus through the Eucharist.

While we are very excited about the growth, we never want not being able to find a seat at Mass to become a reason for someone not to come. That is why this year, we are adding a new Sunday morning Mass at 9:30am in Goodson Chapel. When students come back to campus, they will be able to pick from three Sunday Masses to attend, instead of two. We pray more flexibility and more availability of Mass will only result in more growth. We are excited about what this new year will bring!
Try selling that logic in today’s world! Sadly, in our culture it is all about what the majority wants and needs. Not that the needs of the many aren’t important (I can hear Spock’s voice—“The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one” - Star Trek II, The Wrath of Khan). But, if that is what logic dictates, what is the logic of Jesus in calling us to leave the needs of the many behind in order to respond to the needs of the few or the one?

In Church circles, this quote has been used often to get people to think less about the needs of the people in the pews, and look out to “the lost” one(s) that aren’t in our midst (translation: don’t go to Church). Rightfully, we are called to think about those whose shadows do not darken our doors, and it is that truth that has kept our ministry team at the DCC hopping to find ways to get in front of those students whom we never see. I guess the real question is whether Jesus’ ratio is a bit off. If current statistics were employed in this parable from Luke, it should probably be more like “…leave the 33 and go after the 67 who are lost.” Nationally, about one-third of Catholics come to Church on Sunday and the DCC is increasingly reflecting those statistics so much so that we are adding an additional Sunday Mass to handle increased attendance. God is blessing us—may we respond well to those who answer the Spirit’s call to come each Sunday and worship.

A more striking statistic comes to us that 80% of people nationally who leave the Church leave before the age of 24. WOW! The pressure is on in campus ministry across the country, and in particular at the DCC, to take a bite out of that number. We want to make sure that we create an environment where young people who are more regularly leaving the Church, find their way to come in and celebrate their faith in such a way as to make it more their own. In doing so, we have got to be creative in finding ways to get in front of those who don’t come (whatever their number) as well as finding ways to allow those who are coming to deepen their response as disciples of Christ. Pray for us as we respond to this challenge to the lost and the less lost (of which I consider myself the first).

Fr. Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv
Director
919.684.1882
fr.mike@duke.edu

Looking Ahead to 2015

• New Franciscan friar joining the DCC Staff, Fr. Brad Heckathorne, OFM Conv.
• Engagement with Evangelical Catholic organization to revamp small groups.
• Continuation of several programs including C90X, Plus One, and the implementation of new programs to help students grow in faith.
• The Free Beach Weekend Retreat for incoming freshman.
• The Duke Catholic Center Alumni Parent Retreat, Living a Life that Matters in October.
• Fr. Robert Barron, founder of Word on Fire, coming to campus to speak to students in the Spring.

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PLU$: ONE

There is always room for one more! The only way in which we can fully experience the discipleship that Christ calls us to in Baptism is to invite others to join us. That is why this past year, the Duke Catholic Center created the “Plus One” invitational program to encourage students to become active participants in the New Evangelization.

The Plus One program is inspired by Jesus’ method of invitation. We encouraged students to pray about their friends, especially those who they knew to be Catholic and not practicing their faith regularly. Then students would approach these friends with a simple invitation to join them for Mass during four dates during the year and arrange to meet with them before Mass. Students who came to Mass through the Plus One program received a free copy of the DCC prayer book, “Pray With Me”. We are looking forward to continuing this program next year!

You don’t have to be a student to participate in the Plus One Program! Invite some of your non-practicing Catholic friends to Mass with you this Sunday and see how it goes. Remember to pray for them!

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ONE VERY SPECIAL COMMUNITY MEMBER

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tom preston

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There is one special community member that spends a lot of time with Duke Students and staff—Tom Preston. Tom is the brother of Catherine, our campus minister for faith formation. He also has Down Syndrome. Tom always puts a smile on your face. He works part time for the Refectory Café, a popular brunch spot for students after Sunday morning Mass. He takes his job bussing dishes seriously and loves the opportunity to hang out with students while he cleans and organizes the tables. He also loves to greet students when they come to Tuesday Night Dinner and invite staff and students to his yearly birthday celebration at Dame's Chicken and Waffles. For the DCC, Tom cleans the altar appointments (or “Mass napkins” as he likes to call them) and on Sundays, he frequently serves as an altar server for Catholic Center liturgies. Staff and students alike are so grateful Tom is a part of the community. “Tom brings a playful and welcoming spirit to the DCC community,” said Kirsten Osborne, ‘14. “Whenever he’s at the FAH, he’s ready to give you a hug and ask you how you’re doing. Seeing Tom always brightened my day!”

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The Bishop of Raleigh has asked the Fr. Mike’s order, the Conventual Franciscans Friars, to accept additional pastoral responsibilities in the Durham area. In addition to the Duke Catholic Center, the friars will now be staffing a local Durham parish, Holy Cross, as well as the Newman Center at UNC Chapel Hill! Yes, the friars are headed to convert the Tarhees. Their new friary (home) in Durham will be truly be a house divided!

To staff UNC-Chapel Hill, the Friars have asked our very own Fr. Michael Lasky to “cross over to the dark side” as it were and serve as the administrator of UNC-CH parish. Our loss is their gain! While he will have to put up a good front, we know his heart will always bleed Duke blue!

To take Fr. Michael Lasky’s place we are excited to welcome Fr. Brad Heckathorne, OFM Conv. as our new Associate Director. Fr. Brad is a native of New Hampshire and has spent his years of ministry as a high school teacher and administrator, missionary, and college campus minister (Western Connecticut State Univ., Catholic University). Fr. Brad holds an undergraduate degree in English, and graduate degrees in Theology and Education. Fr. Brad is looking forward to getting started in the coming weeks and work with the students.
THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the Duke Catholic Center at Duke University. Over 600 donors contributed a financial gift to further Catholic life for undergraduate and graduate students at Duke. Your generous support during the 2013-2014 fiscal year to the Duke Catholic Center is greatly appreciated. The following list represents donors to the Duke Catholic Center from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. If we have made an error or omission, please contact us so that we may correct our records.

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REVENUE $775,477
July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

EXPENSES $831,204
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* denotes members of the Cornerstone Society who have been giving for five or more consecutive years
Over 30 alums gathered for the Duke Catholic Center Breakfast, hosted by Director of Athletics Kevin White, during Reunion Weekend.
The Duke Catholic Center is grateful for your generosity as its primary source of revenue. Your gifts provide funding for all programs, supplies and personnel. Here are just a few items that we are looking to have funded during the 2014-2015 year. If you have interest in funding any of these projects, please contact Michelle Sutton.

$7,700 Sunday Mass media services
$5,400 Tuesday Night Dinner meals for one year
$3,000 Fr. Barron’s Catholicism series for C90X graduates
$2,500 Youth Catechism and study guide for C90X program
$1,750 Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic by Matthew Kelly, handed out to all students
$900 Music ministry retreat
$500 RCIA catechesis books
$300 Ice cream social for freshman
$250 Confirmation catechesis books
$250 - Purchase of musical instruments for choir* $1,000

*we are currently looking for a clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, violin and a flute for the student choir. If you have any of these instruments to donate or let us borrow, please contact Michelle Sutton.

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Clive Mudana ’16 takes care of an orphan in Costa Rica during a Duke Catholic Center Spring Break mission trip
Exam time at Duke is filled with study breaks! Resident Assistants plan pizza parties, Duke Wellness Center hires a physical therapist to give out free massages to stressed out students. Here at the DCC, we know the true peace that can come by connecting to God in prayer. So this year we planned Nom@9 study breaks in Perkins Library. At 9pm during Exam week, students gathered in a meeting room in the library to pray during a meditation guided by a DCC staff member. After prayer, there were a few snacks to eat and then they rushed back to their book, study guides and papers.