

DUKE THE DUKE CATHOLIC CENTER NEWSLETTER CATHOLIC



SUMMER 2016



Associate Director Fr. Brad Heckathorne and four Duke Students learned a common idiom this summer – “Visitors are blessings”. They learned this while visiting Kenya for three weeks in May for the first summer mission trip hosted by the Duke Catholic Center. The four students spent the entire year preparing for the trip. Ironically, when reflecting on their journey, they found the opposite of the Kenyan saying to be true.

“In Kenya there’s a saying that ‘visitors are blessings,’” said Dillon Fernando ’18. “In this trip though we would all agree that the opposite was true – the people of all ages and backgrounds who we met in Kenya were perhaps the biggest blessings we found during the entire trip.”

The group spent the majority of their time in Meru, Kenya at a Franciscan friary. They worked in a primary school and taught a wide variety of classes. Mostly they taught English classes and got to know a lot of the



students of the school. During recess they would try to spark discussion amongst the students.

“We had to dispel a few misconceptions they had about America, such as we don’t all eat snakes and that all people in America are not the same; they come from all walks of life,” said Dillon. “But above all, the students were mostly just fascinated with our hair.”

When the Duke students taught classes of younger children, the language barrier was stronger. The children spoke Swahili and did not understand English very well. They had to quickly adapt to chaotic classroom environments.

“In spite of these difficulties, we learned to adapt, and we taught lessons to the students in a way we hope was engaging and provided a different way of learning than what they were used to.”

Another valuable experience of the trip was that the Duke Students experienced Christian community living with the friars. They celebrated Mass every day and had regular discussions about their experiences.

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“Having Christ in the center of this trip made it easier for us to empathize and learn from the people we encountered during the trip,” said Dillon.

During a reflection after the trip Fr. Brad discussed the importance of experiencing service while in college. “The important lesson the students learned is that everyone doesn’t live the way we do. You have to be grateful for the things that we have that most people do without,” said Fr. Brad. “It’s important to understand why we’re doing what we’re doing. We’re not just there to help people in need. It’s our obligation as Christians. We’re responding to Christ’s call. If the students can get that insight, then it’s worth it.” 

To sponsor Spring Break international or domestic Mission Trip or the new summer Mission Trip, please contact Michelle Sutton at michelle.sutton@duke.edu or 919-668-1472.



“Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

- 1 Corinthians 3:16

So many people have asked me over the last few weeks what it is like to be back in the Chapel at Duke again after a year of its closure for repairs. Many don’t realize that the interior looks almost exactly the same – which was the goal of the \$19 mil renovation that was mostly structural. Some wonder if our office space in the basement changed at all – wrong again. I guess my suggestion to add windows to the basement didn’t fall into the category of “high priority”. So what is my response to those who ask? It is good to be back in the heart of the campus – literally and figuratively!

When we learned last June that we would need to move our offices off campus for a year, I immediately thought of the thousands of logistical issues that would create. Consumed as I was to make sure

Reflections UPON RETURNING TO DUKE CHAPEL

we had space for our staff as well as worship locations secured for our students, I failed to fully appreciate what being off campus would really mean. With an office off campus to meet with students, there just was no opportunity for the informal contact – the sight of two or three different students in three stops along the short walk from Duke Chapel to the Bryan Center for a cup of coffee or lunch. I missed that for an entire year. That is what it is like to be back! It is a blessing to once again be at the heart of the campus, where the blood flow of the student body runs through every day. Even without windows, I prefer to be here – I need to be here.

One other insight that I gained during “our exile” is connected to the quote from St. Paul above. As we minister to the Catholic students of Duke University, it is imperative to recognize that each of them is the very temple of God. To invite them to Duke Chapel is a blessing, but to reach them wherever they are is essential to foster the life of the Spirit of God that dwells in them. That remains our greatest challenge. It is only when students see themselves as the temple of the Holy Spirit that they are open to the Spirit who

cries out in prayer. It is only when they recognize that it is Christ’s life within them that they yearn to know him more deeply. It is only when they appreciate that the love they have for others in their heart is the love of Christ, that they desire to share it freely without counting the cost nor expecting return. That is what makes a true temple; where God is known, praised and shared.

Duke Chapel is a beautiful building constructed for the glory of God. But its beauty pales in comparison to the glorious vision of Duke students coming to see themselves as children of God. These are the temples we are here to construct and renovate each and every day. These are the living stones that are stronger than any Carolina Blue Stone can match. This is the Spirit of God alive and well at the heart of Duke’s campus.

Peace,
Fr. Michael T. Martin, OFM Conv.
Duke University
Director of Catholic Campus Ministry

Follow me on Twitter @TheDukePriest

Inspiring Leaders

IN SERVICE TO THE CHURCH



Evan Wescott
Peer Ministry Coordinator

Camilla Mackenzie
Summer Intern

Evan graduated from the Catholic University of America with majors in Theology and Mathematics. He is originally from Philadelphia.

“This summer, I’ll be prepping to fill in Emma’s shoes as PMC, which will involve taking on responsibilities for Student Directors and Small Groups,” said Evan. “I’ll also be working alongside Catherine for work with Freshman Outreach, and will be assisting for now as Liturgy Director. I’m hoping to bring new perspective and insight into the DCC program, while spending my first few months growing in understanding of the Duke Catholic Community.”

With Evan as the new Peer Ministry Coordinator, Emma Miller ’11, who served as the PMC for 5 years was promoted to Director of Communication. She will continue to serve on the ministry staff and be a resource in reaching out to students in the most effective way possible.

This summer we are pleased to have Camilla Mackenzie as the summer intern. Camilla is from Cincinnati and is a rising senior at Catholic University of America majoring in Philosophy.

Friar Emanuel Vasconcelos departed the Duke Catholic Center staff in May after finishing his apostolic year in Durham. He will be taking solemn vows in August at the Franciscan Shrine of Saint Anthony. 

In the summer of 2014, the Duke Catholic Center established its very own summer internship program. That summer the DCC hired a Notre Dame student who worked for the Catholic Center for 3 months assisting the DCC with liturgical, social, and development related projects. Last summer Evan Wescott, rising senior at Catholic University served as the DCC’s summer intern. When the DCC was looking for a new Peer Ministry Coordinator this Spring, Evan applied and was chosen from a competitive applicant pool. We are pleased to welcome back Evan to Duke!



Baccalaureate Service

Over 300 members of the Class of 2016 and their families gathered in Baldwin Auditorium on East Campus to celebrate the Duke Catholic Center Baccalaureate Mass during graduation weekend.

SUMMER OF SERVICE



Refugee camp in Jordan serviced by Duke Engage students

Aside from the variety of service activities planned through the Duke Catholic Center, many Catholic Duke students spend their summers in service through other programs. One program offered through Duke is “Duke Engage” which sponsors students to go around the world and work on different service projects. Luisa Frasson-Nori '18 is spending her summer in Jordan working with other Duke Students on a project to bring basic necessities to a community of Syrian refugees.

“We’re currently working on proposals to receive funding to bring them air conditioning, cool water, sustainable housing, and medicine,” said Luisa. “We’ve also started the process of helping the women of the community make apricot jam and sun-dried tomatoes so they can make a profit for themselves even after our program has finished.”

Even though Luisa is not at a Catholic Center event she cannot reflect on her experience without being reminded of the Gospels.

“I believe it is an incredibly important cause and that as Catholics we should be aware of today’s hardships where Jesus once walked,” said Luisa. “In the Gospel, Christ reminds us that He was a refugee himself.”

In addition, Luisa reflects that her experience with the Jordanian community has helped her grow in her faith.



Luisa Frasson-Nori '18 (on left with arm outstretched) with refugees in Jordan

“In Jordan, all greetings, good-byes, compliments, and well-wishes are invocations of God’s mercy or recognitions of His love,” said Luisa. “When Jordanians accept thanks, they acknowledge that they have only been a vehicle for God’s grace. Working with refugees, I have begun to experience for myself that all we have to offer has come from God. Knowing that these families understand this far better than I do has strengthened our relationship and helped it grow.” 

FOUR DUKE STUDENTS CELEBRATE THE Sacrament of Confirmation



After a year of preparation and catechesis four students were confirmed in the Spring at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh.

(left to right)
Ellen Wieburg
PhD student

Friar Emanuel Vasconcelos
Campus Ministry Intern, Duke Catholic Center

Audrey Ellis, 2019

Bishop Michael Burbidge
Bishop of Raleigh

Laura Naslund, 2019

Tim Kowalczyk, 2019

Dr. Annmarie Kowalczyk, P'19"

Catherine Preston
Campus Minister, Duke Catholic Center

Fr. Michael Martin, OFM Conv.
Director, Duke Catholic Center

SINGING A Different Tune

Thanks to a generous donation by David J. Naftzinger L'73, the Duke Catholic Center recently purchased a Young Chang Grand piano for the music ministry. The piano will reside in the Falcone Arena House. The new piano will be used for teaching and instructing student musicians in voice, piano and accompanying instrumentalists; daily rehearsals and composing; weekly music rehearsals with the choir and weekday Mass at the Falcone Arena House.

Previously, the Duke Catholic Center was using an electric keyboard for music rehearsals. When Duke Chapel closed, the Duke Catholic Center agreed to house the Duke Chapel piano in the Falcone Arena House for one year. When Duke Chapel opened again this past May and the piano was moved back to Duke Chapel, the Duke Catholic Center began looking for a new piano.

"The new piano better reflects the pianos in Duke and Goodson Chapel where the Duke Catholic Center celebrates Mass," said the Director of Music Andrew Witchger, P'15." "It will help the students practice and make the music at Mass better."

"Properly maintained this piano will be with the Catholic Center for a very long time. It's an investment in our future and will show we really care about the music we sing to our God!" concluded Andrew.



THE DUKE CATHOLIC CENTER Looks to the Future

How do you know where to go without a roadmap? Although organizations do not use Google Maps, this very question is why organizations of all kinds engage in strategic planning. The Duke Catholic Center is no exception. In 2012 the Duke Catholic Center board enacted a strategic plan and the fruits of this process have been endless. This



upcoming year, the Duke Catholic Center is working with Tricia Cellucci to create the next strategic plan. Tricia is from Philadelphia and she has dedicated her professional life to working with different Catholic organizations, Dioceses, priests and Bishops around the country on leadership training and strategic planning. She is a Leadership Consultant at the Catholic Leadership Institute. Tricia sat down with the Duke Catholic Center for an interview about the upcoming process.

Why did you become interested in partnering with the Duke Catholic Center for the strategic plan?

I have a great passion and commitment to working with apostolates that serve the Catholic Church, specifically, our young adult population. Watching national trends of the Catholic Church for

almost 2 decades now, I find no greater need than helping young people know and love Christ and to find a home in the Church, perhaps to even one day become the leaders of our Church. As an added bonus, when I was invited to partner with the Duke Catholic Center, I was doubly excited because I have nieces and a nephew who are both graduates of and currently enrolled at the University.

Why is strategic planning important for organizations?

I believe that strategic planning is important because it provides a road map and direction for what an organization should be focusing on. Often times, the busyness of day to day work, especially in ministry, can cloud what really should be done. I find that having a clear set of Priorities and Goals, allows an organization to remain focused on their mission and vision and to remain centered on what is really important for them to accomplish. When done well, a strategic plan can help an organization to not only be smart, but healthy as well. 

Tricia lives in Philadelphia with her husband Dan and their children Annie, Katie and Peter, and a fourth baby coming in November.

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
(203) 940-3209

Catherine Preston '98

Campus Minister /Faith Development
catherine.preston@duke.edu
(919) 680-2521

Andrew Witchger P'15

Director of Music
andrew.witchger@duke.edu
(919) 323-6902

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

Ruth Anne Kennedy

Business Manager
ruth.kennedy@duke.edu
(919) 684-3354

Michelle Sutton '12

Director of Development
michelle.sutton@duke.edu
(919) 668-1472

Jane Hebert

Development Assistant
jane.hebert@duke.edu
(919) 684-8959



Duke Catholic Center • Box 90974 • Durham, NC 27708 • catholic.duke.edu