

DUKE CATHOLIC

THE DUKE CATHOLIC CENTER NEWSLETTER



“In singing praise, one not only sings, but also loves the one about whom he sings” - ST. AUGUSTINE

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FR. MIKE'S LETTER

“Most people fail, not because of lack of desire, but because of lack of commitment.”

- Vince Lombardi

As we have come to the end of Lent and are to begin the celebration of Easter Joy, people of faith hope that the prayer, fasting and almsgiving of Lent will in some way make for a more powerful celebration of Easter. And even though our Lenten actions do not gain us God's love and favor, they do something to our hearts - they make us more receptive to the Good News of the resurrection. Too often however, we find ourselves looking at our Lenten commitment and wondering if we really put ourselves wholeheartedly into it. I know our students, who crave a challenge and long to do it all well, find themselves a bit perplexed as to how Lent and Easter are connected if our Lenten experience is less than optimal.

It is not lack of desire. We all desire to live a holy life and to engage these special moments of the Church's life to be powerful. But our commitment to that is what fails us. Too often, commitment is increased when we see signs of it making a difference in our lives (e.g. dieting, working out, studying a foreign language). But at times in the spiritual life, we don't always directly see the fruits of our acts of penance. That is when the doubt creeps in: "What am I doing this for?" "It doesn't really matter." And therein the commitment begins to crumble, as we can't see the immediate purpose at times for penance, prayer and almsgiving.

But the celebration of the resurrection should be our constant focus if we truly desire to see our commitment flourish regardless of our immediate results. A focus on Christ rather than on ourselves is the challenge of the Christian life, and often becomes the dynamic that is most "known" but most "underappreciated". It seems so obvious, but our real focus is so on ourselves that if we don't always "feel" God's presence we begin to wonder and our commitment begins to wane. The challenge in Lent and Easter then is a commitment to focus on Christ, crucified and risen, that will foster a deeper desire to engage the spiritual journey that is ours, regardless of whether we are students on Duke's campus or people all over the world.

As we have celebrated the commitment of Lent and God's commitment fulfilled to us in the resurrection at Easter, may we focus on Christ and look less for the immediate gratification that our world so desperately seeks. Happy Easter! 

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

A Grand Gift

A beautiful, new grand piano
has brought Catholic worship at Duke
to new heights this spring!

STORY CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE



“Come,
let us sing
for joy
to the
LORD;
let us
shout
aloud to
the Rock
of our
salvation.”

- PSALM 95:1



Fr. Michael Martin,
Director of the
DCC, blesses the
new piano during
Mass.



DCC Music Ministry leading worship at
morning Mass in Goodson Chapel.

Thanks to a tremendously generous major gift from a recent Duke alumnus and his parents, the Duke Catholic Center has secured a much-needed new grand piano for Goodson Chapel. Goodson Chapel is located in the Duke Divinity School and is where the DCC celebrates its two morning Masses every Sunday. The previous piano in Goodson was in poor condition, making rehearsals, Mass celebrations, and Holy Hour praise and worship difficult for Andrew Witchger, DCC Director of Music, and his Music Ministry team. Gratefully, the Duke community is now blessed with a beautiful, new Kawai GX3 grand piano!



Andrew Witchger, DCC Director of Music,
practices on the new grand piano.

“The old instrument was an entry-level, overplayed piano with a very brash sound,” said Andrew. “And, you know, we always strive to offer our Lord the very best - it’s why we build beautiful cathedrals and sacred spaces. We want to give our very best to Christ in music and praise, as well. And a new piano has helped make that a reality for our worship in Goodson Chapel.”

Beyond the benefits for the Catholic community, the Divinity School and the University are also incredibly appreciative of the generosity of this gift, as it has become a blessing for hundreds of Duke Students across campus who use Goodson Chapel for other services.



Fr. Michael Martin blesses new DCC Student
Directors to a moving tune played on the new
piano.

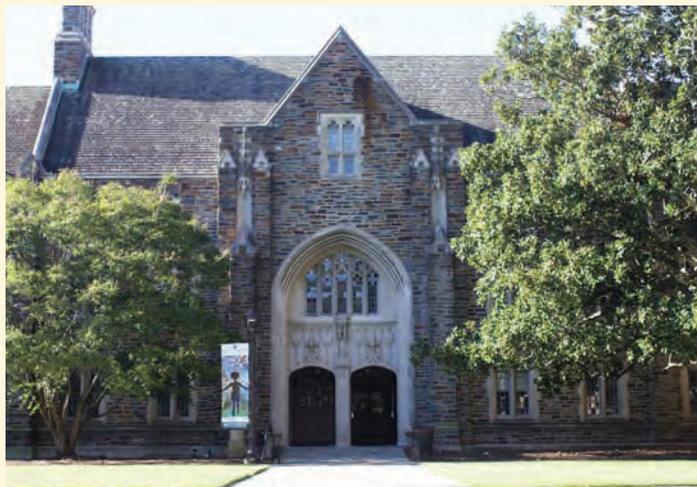
A huge thanks to our anonymous donors who provided the funding for the piano, as well as to Duke Graduate Student and DCC violinist Joanna Sipe, her father Jason Sipe, and AZ Piano in Phoenix for facilitating a discounted purchase.

The DCC is also seeking a major gift for a new grand piano for Duke Chapel. If you are interested in this opportunity, please reach out to Michelle Sutton, Director of Development, at michelle.sutton@duke.edu. 

From Darkness to

DCC HAS A NEW OFFICE ON CAMPUS

Light!



The DCC's new offices are now housed in the historic Page Auditorium building.

In October, the DCC staff moved from the basement of Duke Chapel where it had held offices for close to 50 years, to the third floor of the Page Auditorium building, just

next door to the Duke Chapel. It has been a welcome change for everyone involved in Catholic life at Duke! Complete with cozy couches, a kitchenette, and plenty of space for students to study, the new offices are an exciting step up from the DCC's previous location in the basement of the Duke Chapel.

For many students, the Catholic community at Duke offers a kind of "home away from home" on campus, and the new office location certainly factors in.



Joey Santoro '20 (left), Soren Chargois '18 (middle), and Sean Rafique '20 (right) study in the lounge space of the new DCC offices.

With an entire wall of windows looking out onto the bustling Bryan Center Plaza, the DCC offices are always bathed in inviting sunlight. Moreover, the large, beautiful photos and artwork on the walls, the openness of the floor plan, and the abundance of communal space all come together to create a warmer, more welcoming environment.

STORY CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE



DCC undergraduates (left) and Duke's Religious Life Staff (right) enjoy an open house in the new space.

"I personally *love* the new DCC office space," said senior Soren Chargois. "I used to visit the old DCC offices, but they were dark and cold with absolutely no natural lighting, which is a deal-breaker when I'm looking for reading or study space. I feel like the new offices are so much brighter and more welcoming."

Freshman Sophia Mascarena, a regular in the new space, agrees. "I never knew the old space, but this lounge space is so inviting with the couches and the desks for studying. Honestly, the natural light coming in from the windows is great."

Students aren't the only ones who love the new offices, however. The DCC staff could not be happier with the new arrangements.

"It's great that everyone has their own office now," said Emma Miller T'11, the DCC's Director of Communication.

"Before the move, some of us were completely without office space, and meeting one-on one with students was difficult. Now, we not only have plenty of room, but it's so awesome to have the lounge space to gather as a team - whether it's for a meeting, or lunch!"



Emilia Grzesiak '20 (left), Audrey Ellis '19 (middle), and Laura Naslund '19 (right) cheers with complimentary coffee at the DCC open house.

"I really enjoy my impromptu talks with Evan, the Peer Ministry Coordinator," said Sophia. "Whenever I stop by to study, he always checks to see how I am doing and spends some time catching up with me. I also love getting to know the other people who come by during the day."

This summer, two new staff members will be added to the Duke Catholic Center staff, and everyone is looking forward to the new energy they will bring to the fresh space, as well! 

FEBRUARY 16-18, 2018

Awakening RETREAT

60 CATHOLIC UNDERGRADUATE DUKE STUDENTS ATTENDED



(Left to right) Garrett Jones '19, Anna Lee '19, Lucy St. Charles '20, Katherine Haley '19, a visiting Elon University Student, and Annie Janick '19 welcome retreatants with exuberant smiles on the first day of the retreat.



John Madden '19 (center) leads a small group discussion with his group of retreatants.



Bella Abelaez '19 (center) is surrounded and embraced by students as she prepares to give a talk on the Holy Spirit.



Carine Torres '18 (left) and Marcelo Zapata '18 (right) enjoy the lakeside dock during a small group discussion on their faith lives at Duke.

JANUARY 3-6, 2018

Duc in Altum

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

13 CATHOLIC DUKE STUDENTS ATTENDED



Evan Wescott, DCC Peer Ministry Coordinator, shares a personal testimony on prayer before Mass on the retreat.



Colette Torres '18 (left) is a DCC Small Group Leader and Katherine Morawa '19 (right) is a DCC Student Director. Both women were trained for their roles on the Duc in Altum retreat.



(Left to right) Gaby McDonald '21, Laura Naslund '19, Elizabeth Bartusiak '21, and Lauren Hale '19 were four of thirteen students who spent the last of their winter break learning and sharing how to be more effective Catholic leaders.



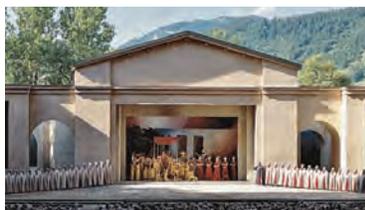
Fr. Brad Heckathorne, Associate Director of the DCC, celebrates Mass on the retreat. The addition of daily Mass has been a highlight for the retreatants!

SAVE THE DATE

JULY 9-19, 2020 • DCC ACROSS EUROPE

Travel with the Duke Alumni Association and the Duke Catholic Center across Europe and experience the Passion Play, a 386 year old tradition in Oberammergau, Germany!

July 9-19, 2020
Staff: Fr. Michael Martin,
OFM Conv., Director
Duke Catholic Center



In 1633, the residents of Oberammergau, Germany vowed that if God spared them from the bubonic plague ravaging Europe, they would produce a play thereafter every ten years depicting the life and death of Jesus. Since then, the inhabitants of Oberammergau have performed the Passion Play every decade making it one of the earliest continuous Christian dramas today. The play in 2020 will be the 42nd installment.

This trip hosted by the Duke Catholic Center and Duke Alumni Association would include a five night charter of an Amadeus River Vessel from Budapest to Passau, day visit to Salzburg, two nights in Oberammergau, then two nights in Munich. If you are interested in this trip, please contact michelle.sutton@duke.edu. 

A SEASON OF COMMITMENT



Each year, the Duke Catholic Center sets forth a specific theme for the season of Lent.



This year, *Commitment* has been the central, driving theme for the new Lenten season at Duke.

Even before Ash Wednesday kicked off, the DCC released a special episode of the *Friar Side Chats*

podcast (“#30 | Commitment: Does It Scare You?”) to help Duke Students to prepare their hearts for the upcoming season and to take time to consider how the theme of *Commitment* would play into their Lenten plan.

“I was so glad I listened to the Commitment episode before Ash Wednesday,” said Gerardo Parraga ’18. “It helped me reconsider the commitment in my life and what I wanted to commit to for my Lenten penance. I ended up switching my penance from taking something away to adding in the daily Gospel reading and a weekly rosary. It’s really helped me improve my relationship with God this Lent and my commitment to Him.”

By the time Ash Wednesday rolled around, it appeared many students had already determined their Lenten penances. Still, the DCC ministry staff wanted to do everything they could to help students stick with their commitments. So, for the first time ever, the DCC handed out anonymous commitment cards

to every student, faculty, and staff member in attendance at Ash Wednesday Mass, and everyone was encouragingly informed that even simply writing down one’s goals vastly improves the likelihood that one will achieve them.



By the time the three Ash Wednesday Masses were complete, the DCC had collected nearly six hundred anonymous Lenten commitment cards! Every Sunday, the cards are placed on

the altar as an offering to Christ and as a reminder to each Duke student of their written Lenten goals.

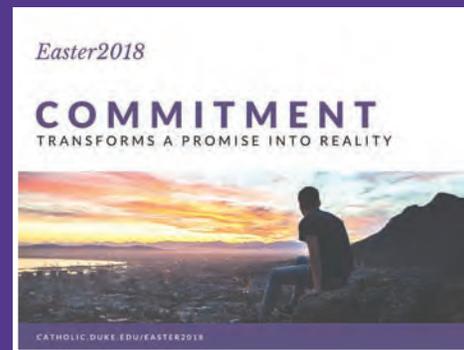
One of the most common anonymous Lenten practices written in

the cards was a commitment to daily prayer and attendance at Sunday Mass. And Catholic Dukies took these commitments to heart. Since Ash Wednesday when students made their Lenten commitments, attendance at Sunday Mass has increased by 20% - by more than 110 individuals per Mass in the Sundays that followed!

Beyond messaging the theme at Mass, the DCC broadened its reach across campus by installing inspiring signs in the Duke buses and placing large, encouraging yard signs along well-traveled footpaths.

Students have found the signs to be helpful reminders of the Lenten season, even in the midst of a busy school day.

“Remembering that it’s Lent is can be the hardest part of the season for me sometimes,” said Michelle Krogius ’19. “Once my penance becomes something of a habit, it’s easy to forget why I’m actually doing it. But when I see one of the DCC’s Lenten signs on campus as I’m heading to the cafe on the engineering quad, I’m reminded that my fasting is meant to draw me closer to Jesus. I also love that it gives me an opportunity to share an essential part of my faith with whichever of my friends I happen to be walking with at the time.”



The Duke Catholic Center was encouraged by the eager responses of students to the theme of *Commitment* and is excited to see what blessings next year’s Lenten theme will bring to the Catholic community at Duke! ✨

Super Bowl PARTY



Fr. Michael Martin and Gerardo Parraga '18 enjoy pizza and wings at the DCC's annual Super Bowl Watch Party at the Falcone-Arena House.



Elizabeth Bartusiak '21 and José Rivera '20 were two of over sixty Duke Students who attended the watch party.



Katelyn Luck '19 and Bobby Ferullo '19 cheer on the Patriots at the party.

Studying at THE FALCONE-ARENA HOUSE



Fr. Brad Heckathorne (middle) joined Luke Duchemin '18 and Audrey Ellis '19 for a coffee and tea study break at the Falcone-Arena House during finals week in December.



(Left to right) Will Smith '21, Audrey Ellis '19, Luke Duchemin '18, and Elizabeth Bartusiak '21 enjoy the spacious kitchen in the Falcone-Arena House as they take a break from studying and paper-writing.



Emilia Grzesiak '20 (left) and Maria ter Weele '20 (right) enjoy the warm lighting in the FA House Christmas tree while they crunch numbers for their engineering classes.



Mia Carlson '20 makes herself comfortable in the downstairs living room of the FA House - a favorite study spot for students.

CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS



For Karen and Coach David Cutcliffe, caring for those most in need is one of the core values of their Catholic faith. So when the Cutcliffes were seeking a new collaboration with the Duke Catholic Center, it felt like a natural fit when they decided upon a project that would serve the homeless of downtown Durham. Working with Fr. Brad Heckathorne, Associate Director, and Tuan Dat Nguyen '16, the Social Outreach Student Director, the couple developed a new charitable initiative: engaging Duke Students to make sandwiches for those in need in the Durham community.

The system is simple in concept but wide-reaching in impact. The Cutcliffes provide the bulk ingredients and packaging for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and DCC student leaders set up a table on the busy Bryan Center Plaza, encouraging Duke Students passing by to put on sanitary gloves and help make a few sandwiches for the homeless. Often, Karen Cutcliffe herself will swing by and help make sandwiches with the students!

"We generally get a good crowd of people willing to help," said Katherine Morawa '18, the current DCC Student Director in charge of the project. "It's cool that strangers will stop and make a sandwich on their way to class."

The extra hands make a considerable impact on the number of sandwiches produced, and each sandwich translates to a ready-to-serve lunch for an impoverished member of the Durham community. "Each time we run a sandwich-making event, we make about one hundred fifty sandwiches, which we then take directly to Urban Ministries," said Fr. Brad.

In addition to the direct service to the local community, the project also seems to have a positive effect on Duke.

"I think that the program really gives students an opportunity to serve others in a super easily accessible way," said Katherine. "At a place like Duke, it can be easy to get stuck in a bubble, so an opportunity to make a difference right on campus is incredibly valuable."

The Cutcliffes, together with Katherine and her project leaders Anan Henderson '20 and Mirko Tancredi '18, are creating an opportunity for Catholic and non-Catholic Duke Students alike to be Christ's hands for others in this small way. Next time you're on the Bryan Center Plaza, don't be afraid to stop by and make a sandwich or two! 



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