

CatholicCenterNews

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY AND NEIGHBORING HUB SCHOOLS

CAMPUS MINISTRY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS: THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT

At the core of our campus ministry is connectedness — with Jesus Christ and with each other. The coronavirus has dramatically altered our daily lives, including our faith life.

“The easy thing to say would have been, ‘Well, we really can’t do campus ministry since all of our students have gone home,’” said Br. Austin, Catholic Center campus minister. “But it is exactly during these times that we are called to preach the Good News of the Gospel.”

Thanks to your prayers and support, we were able to do so much at the Catholic Center (CC) to maintain, and even strengthen, the connectedness between us and students after campuses closed in March.

The students from Northeastern University (NU) and the Neighboring HUB schools normally join together for Mass at 12:30 p.m. on Sundays. To maintain continuity and to help foster spiritual communion, we streamed Fr. Paul celebrating Mass online for students at the same time.

We concluded our online Mass celebrations with Pentecost on May 31st since churches were starting to open up across the nation.

“Just having the opportunity to see Fr. Paul celebrating Mass, even though it was online, gave me great comfort that I was staying in touch with the Catholic Center community,” said Nicolas Casilli, NU 2022. “Receiving Spiritual Communion was a special way for me to remain connected with Christ.”

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Our Women’s and Men’s House Students stayed connected as we streamed Fr. Paul celebrating Mass every Sunday.

We also started holding our large weekly meetings as well as our men's and women's groups meetings online. And, we held 1-on-1 spiritual advising by phone and video to meet with students wherever they happened to be.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING CONNECTED

Lastly, we encouraged students to continue staying connected with one another through virtual small group meetings on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

"I didn't fully realize how important the relationships I have with other Catholic Center students are to me," said Daniella Spadini, Berklee College of Music 2021. "Even though we're all on social media separately, using it to stay connected with other students meant so much to me at a time when I needed it most. These are my friends in Christ!"



To keep our ministry going during the pandemic, Zoom meetings like this one took the place of in-person large and small group meetings to keep us connected.

*YOU SHALL LOVE
YOUR NEIGHBOR
AS YOURSELF.
MARK 12:3*

During these trying times of social unrest, we believe our Catholic Center offers students the opportunity to prayerfully explore how to help foster racial harmony and justice for all. On Tuesday, June 16th, Brita Vitello, one of our CC campus ministers, hosted a Zoom presentation called "Justice & Dignity: The Catholic Stance Against Racial Injustice." David Woods, NU Class of 2010, and Abby Blake, NU Class of 2018, joined Brita in the presentation. They shared deeply about this topic through the context of a beautiful conversation that was inspiring to all.

In the end, our hope and prayer is for us all to become more Christ-like by following His command to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Will you give students an encounter with the Lord and His love?

This generation is seeking to love and to be loved. You can partner with us to provide a joyful community where students can encounter Jesus, the true source of love, by returning the enclosed envelope or donating online at donorbox.org/catholic-center-nu-2020.

Thank you for your support and prayers! - Br. Jason

SAVE THE DATE

Alumni Retreat
June 11th - 13th, 2021

More details coming soon.

CCNU | 68 St. Stephen St, Boston, MA 02115
(617) 297-7364 | nucatholic@gmail.com