



The Catholic Center

Serving Colleges of Boston

Winter 2023

Catholic Center News

Students *grow their faith* during Fall Retreat



HOME AWAY
FROM HOME

Fostering community

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NEWS FROM
THE CENTER

What's new at the CC

...IT ALL CAME TRUE.

Joshua 21:45

Enter the Land!

The Lord continues to lead the Catholic Center deeper into His Life! This year, the Lord has made it clear that He wanted us to study the Book of Joshua from the Old Testament. And our motto this year, "Enter the Land," was inspired by reading the Book of Joshua.



Like the Israelites, the Lord has been leading us out of "Egypt" to the "Promised Land!" The Lord wants to help us take full possession of the Land. He wants us to become fully who we are called to be. It is leaving the "False Self" in Egypt. It is coming into the fullness of your "Real Self," this is entering into the Promised Land. It is a journey from false understanding of God to a true vision of God. And the Land, I think, represents both my heart and represents God's Heart. Jesus is the new Joshua, where He is revealing His Heart to me and He is revealing my heart to me!

Joshua 21:43-45 "And so the LORD gave Israel the entire land he had sworn to their ancestors...the LORD gave them peace on every side.... Not a single word of the blessing that the LORD had promised to the house of Israel failed; **it all came true.**"

May we all experience the Lord leading us deeper into the "Promised Land" of His Heart where all His promises come true!

Br. Jason Zink

Br. Jason Zink
Director

As our students are led out of "Egypt," please pray that they are open to bringing the hope and joy of the "Promised Land" to their family members and friends during the upcoming Winter Break!

BEING THEIR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

We often refer to our campus ministry as a “home away from home” for students. Our ministry is a place where people can feel comfortable being themselves because of the authentic love and support they receive from others in our caring community.

There are many people involved in our ministry who play key roles in fostering our community’s trusting, loving and supportive environment.

One such person is Anne Dooley, who recently joined our staff to help provide pastoral and spiritual support to the Catholic Center’s women students. Anne was introduced to our community in October and had the opportunity to deepen her connections with everyone during our three-day Fall Retreat (“Countless”) in Maine that same month.

“My role is to listen to what our women are experiencing and offer some of the perspective I’ve gained over the years as an adult woman of faith,” said Anne. “In many ways, my role is to be like a mom and mentor in our Catholic Center to these women as they develop a loving relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Anne works two days a week at the Catholic Center, meeting one-on-one with women students in addition to being involved in our community’s life and activities.

Her background includes coordinating Faith Formation at St. Patrick’s Church in Stoneham, Massachusetts. While there, she completed Advanced Training to minister using *Unbound* deliverance prayer for lay people. Presently, Anne is a second-year student with the



Anne Dooley, left, sitting with Carolina Daura, Berklee College of Music second year student, at the Catholic Center’s Fall Retreat in October.

Encounter School of Ministry - Boston campus. She hopes to share these resources with her new family at the CC when the time is right. Anne calls coming to the Catholic Center truly a Holy Spirit moment in her life.

“I attended the Catholic Center’s Alumni & Friends Retreat this past July, run by the Brothers and Alumni, where Br. Jason and I talked about the position. I told him I didn’t have any experience in campus ministry and he said, ‘Great! Let’s keep talking!’ And through many blessed conversations this summer, it became clear that the Lord was opening up an opportunity for me to join the Staff of the Catholic Center!”

While in the process of praying over her decision, Anne was given a prophetic word during her *Encounter School of Ministry* studies.

“I was told that my motherhood would be expanding,” said Anne. “With four children (teenage and young adult) of my own, I understood then that God was calling me to serve at the Catholic Center to share with women the love and life I’ve found through my relationship with Jesus Christ.”



FROM HEARTS TO MINDS

THE FAITH JOURNEY OF TWO CATHOLIC CENTER ALUMNI

Molly Foster, NU 2023, and Sam Neumann, NU 2022, shared the same conviction in their hearts following graduation. They both realized that the Lord shaped their faith in powerful ways at the Catholic Center (CC) and so, in turn they want to share God's goodness with others. A spiritual paying it forward! And they wanted their love for the Lord and desire to be with other people of faith to continue as a central part of how they live their lives.

Today Molly and Sam are living out their hearts' desires at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Brookline, which is positively impacting them and the entire parish.

"Through my first CC retreat, the Lord revealed Himself to me in a profound way," said Sam. "I realized that what I experienced, and continue to experience, shouldn't be written off as a fun college club. **No, I was gifted the foundation stone on which the rest of my life is to be built upon.**"

Molly had similar strong feelings following her years at the CC.

"I had a really positive faith experience in college," said Molly. "After graduation, I knew I wanted that same experience and sense of community to be a part of my life."

During his first year following graduation, Sam moved into a house with three other men who were committed to developing their faith after college. They started attending Mass at St. Mary's, although Sam admits they were primarily focused on activities inside their house, such as celebrating Lord's Day and holding small group meetings.

This all changed in July of the following year. By this time, there were about 20 graduates living in two men's houses and one women's house along with other graduates who had stayed in the area.

"We held a meeting to assess the past year and where we wanted to grow," said Sam. "Before the meeting, we agreed to individually turn to the Lord in prayer to hear what He had to say. One passage from 1 Corinthians 12:1-26 stuck out to many of us, 'Now the body is not a single part but many.' And just as we are many parts of one alumni group, our group is one part of the church."

This led the group to fully embrace St. Mary's and offer themselves and their "many parts" to bear fruit in the parish and local YA community.

St. Mary's pastor, Fr. Jonathan Gaspar, has witnessed the young adults' transformation first-hand.

"Each of us has a responsibility to help build the Kingdom of God with the gifts we have received," said Fr. Jonathan. **"The young adults who were formed at the Catholic Center have generously shared their time, talents and treasure to the benefit of our parish.** Clearly something is happening at the Catholic Center that is working among our young people."

St. Mary's young adults have become involved in teaching religious education and confirmation classes. They have also been inviting other young adults in the parish to join them, which is leading to even more spiritual growth individually and as a community of believers.

The expanding group of young adults has begun holding Bible study and praise and worship nights. They also participate in activities such as game nights, Theology on Tap, hikes, apple picking, holiday strolls and more.

Molly began living in the women's house this past September and is transitioning from college to figuring out as an adult how she will pursue the Lord.

"I can see myself eventually getting involved in a women's small group and teaching religious education," said Molly. **"We are building our faith in the women's house by encouraging each other in areas like maintaining a strong prayer life.** Many graduates find this difficult without a supportive community assisting them like the one we have in our house."

Fr. Jonathan understands the transition recent grads go through when becoming involved in a parish.

"My hope is that, just as the Catholic Center prepared these young adults before they came here, the ministries and formation they are experiencing at St. Mary's will spiritually prepare them for the next stages in their life."

For Sam, transitioning from college to fully embracing St. Mary's community is a dream come true.

"This desire for community has been on my heart for a long time," said Sam, "and to see the Lord answer that prayer through St. Mary's is truly amazing. We are truly living as different parts of the same body that is Jesus Christ and as 'one part is honored, all the parts share its joy' (1 Corinthians 12:26)."

*CLEARLY
SOMETHING IS
HAPPENING AT THE
CATHOLIC CENTER
THAT IS WORKING
AMONG OUR
YOUNG PEOPLE.*



STUDENTS SAY “YES” TO THE LORD!

When God called, Abraham’s unwavering ‘Yes’ turned into our Father promising to bless His faithful, childless servant with descendants as countless as the stars in the sky.

This past October, 76 students from Northeastern, Berklee College of Music, Wentworth, Simmons, Boston College, Suffolk, Emmanuel, and Massachusetts College of Pharmacy declared their unwavering ‘Yes’ to the Lord by attending the Catholic Center’s Fall Retreat.

Inspired by the story of Abraham’s faith, student retreat directors Jasmine Nguyen and

Logan Cuthill called the retreat, “Countless.” Held at Oceanwood Camp & Conference Center in Ocean Park, Maine, students received countless blessings from inspirational talks from our CC Staff and our guest, Sr. Sarah Rose Dent, T.O.R., men’s and women’s group meetings, adoration, reconciliation and Mass celebrated by Fr. Michael Zimmerman, the Catholic Center’s new chaplain. Students also had time to enjoy recreation, games and meals together. And posing for a group photo!

Please see the back cover for more photos from our “Countless” retreat.

CC BROTHERS PROFESS VOWS

Two Brothers who serve at the Catholic Center (CC) celebrated milestones in separate ceremonies this past July. Br. Austin Riordan (*standing to the right of Cardinal Seán O’Malley of the Archdiocese of Boston, facing page, bottom left*) professed his perpetual vows with the Brotherhood of Hope and fidelity to the All-Sufficiency of Jesus Christ on July 8th. The joyous occasion was marked by Cardinal

Seán celebrating Mass at St. Monica’s Church in Methuen, Massachusetts.

On July 29th, Br. Joseph McBride (*pictured 2nd from the right, facing page, bottom right*), CC campus minister, professed his third temporary vows at St. Basil’s Church in Methuen. Br. Joseph was joined by four Brothers who also professed their temporary vows.

WELCOME, FR. MICHAEL!

THE CATHOLIC CENTER'S NEW CHAPLAIN AND LONG-TIME FRIEND

We are delighted to introduce you to our new campus ministry chaplain, Father Michael Zimmerman.

Fr. Michael joined the Catholic Center's (CC) ministry team at the start of this school year after Fr. Paul Helfrich was reassigned to the University of Minnesota.

The Brothers have known Fr. Michael since 2007, when he was a freshman at Boston University and an active member in our campus ministry there. Since being ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Boston in 2017, Fr. Michael has become a familiar face to many CC students with his participation in our retreats and other outreach activities. Most recently, parents who attended our Parent's Brunch in October would have taken part in the Mass celebrated by Father Michael.

"I believe in the Brothers' mission of working with college students," said Fr. Michael. "What they do in campus ministry, they do really, really well. I'm excited about assisting the Brothers and

working with all the CC Staff in providing pastoral and spiritual direction to help students grow a deeper love for the Lord."

Along with ministering to our CC students, Fr. Michael is assistant Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Boston as well as an adjunct Scripture Professor at St. John's Seminary in Boston.

We are blessed to have such a devoted and talented servant of the Lord be our chaplain.



There are countless students who are seeking joy in their lives and have not yet encountered Christ or the Catholic Center. **We need your help to bring joy to them.**

When Ryan first came to college, he did not know the joy that comes with the Father's love:

*"Before coming to the Catholic Center, I lived from one 'big event' to the next, waiting for the next exam, the next interview, etc. I was surviving by doing what I thought I had to do, but it often didn't leave me happy or fulfilled. But now, the Lord has freed me to live in each moment fully, enjoying all of His gifts with **a joy that can only be found in Him.**"*

Will you share the joy of the Lord with more college students in Boston by giving a gift online today? Go to donorbox.org/catholic-center-23-24 to make your gift today.

Thank you for your support!

God Bless You,

Br. Jason



Thank you for your generous support!

MORE PHOTOS FROM OUR FALL RETREAT



With voices and hands raised, Catholic Center Director Br. Jason Zink and students praise and worship the Lord.



Special guests, T.O.R. Sisters, Sr. Sarah Rose Dent and Sr. Philomena Clare DeHitta, enjoy a lighter moment during one of our retreat games.



Students receiving the Eucharist from Fr. Michael Zimmerman at one of the Masses during our retreat.