

The Mustard Seed



Fall 2021

CATHOLIC
CAMPUS MINISTRY
— DRURY — MSI — OTC —
O'REILLY CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER



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A Blessing for the Season

Dear friends,

For me, the best-remembered lines from American poet Emily are these:

If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain; If I can ease one life the aching, Or cool one pain, Or help one fainting robin Unto his nest again, I shall not live in vain.



I'm Fr Bibin Mathew CMF. Honestly, here at Catholic Campus Ministry it has been an amazing journey, a courageous and joyful journey with and for our young men and women who are creative, enthusiastic, and constantly seeking to learn. I'm sure 75 long years of

accompanying them was never easy and would never have been possible without generous hearts like you. I want to say we are so grateful to you for

every single sacrifice you embraced for these men and women you may or may not know. Once again this Fall, we want to say, Thank You!

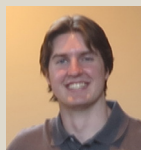
As you did it to one of the least of these, Mother Teresa's well-known "Gospel on five fingers," assures us, "You Did It To Me" (Mtt 25:40). May Christ bless you and reward you.

My blessings,

Father Bibin Mathew CMF

WELCOME JACK!

Give a warm welcome and congratulations to CCM's newest campus minister for 2022, Jack Ache! We cannot wait to see what you do for our community. Thank you!





Pictured Above: Ann Schwarts, CM, Rachel Lutz (Faith formation and Greek), Caroline Burke (music ministry), Lee Lueker (Stewardship and Greek), Jack Ache, CM, Alex Hamre (media and communications), Megan Garbee (MSU outreach and service), Danielle Plutino (social and special events), Maggie White (liturgical ministry), Mary Williams, CM

Peer Ministers

As a peer minister, I have been blessed to help others participate in and experience the beauty of the Mass. It has been extremely rewarding to not only train others in being liturgical ministers, but also to welcome all the new faces here at CCM. Throughout my years at CCM, the students and campus ministers have truly become my "Family" and our group of peer ministers is no different. Having a group of peers who want to help each other and others grow closer to Christ is something I truly cherish.

Gala 2021

CCM Celebrates 75 Years

Catholic Campus Ministry celebrated 75 years of ministry at a Fundraising Gala on October 30, 2021. The evening began with a Mass presided over by Bishop Leibrecht and Bishop Rice, several Claretians and local clergy. Following the Mass, everyone enjoyed a social hour and finally a dinner and celebration. The dinner program began with Fr. Tom McGann's blessing, followed with lots of fun, a 50/50 drawing & a student-led game of Kahoot. Speakers included Fr. Javier Reyes CMF, Bishop Rice, Fr. Eddie DeLeon CMF and student sharing by Maria Dohack and Noah Diffley and a special "Thank You" by Bev Franklin. Mike Merrigan, President of CCM's Advisory Board was our Emcee. Fr. Bibin Mathew CMF, current Director of CCM, closed us in prayer.



Alumni and friends traveled from several states including Louisiana, Texas and a group of Claretians from Chicago. Also attending were local clergy, previous CCM clergy and Directors, alumni, students, staff, sponsors, Knights of Columbus members, Advisory Council members, friends, and contributors.



Several traveled from the St. Louis area to reconnect with friends and saw it as a great reunion opportunity. The evening was also a celebration of 20 years in the O'Reilly Catholic Student Center. We were blessed to have members of the O'Reilly family attending. There were many laughs and sharing of stories from long ago. Some had not seen each other in over 40 years. The event ended with a closing Mass on Sunday, October 31 with Fr. Eddie presiding.

We would like to thank all of those that helped this great event happen and attended. Special thanks to the corporate sponsors, those that donated during the evening, all of the students, staff and Advisory Council members that worked so hard.

K of C #9533 was very pleased with the tremendous and consistent success CCM has had over these many years. We had 8 Knights and their wives attending the Gala event. We have all helped in various capacities from helping CCM directly to supporting the K of C College Council at CCM.

The history section was well thought out. While we had been around the parish through the years, we figured Fr. Eddie had fund raising experience coming to find out on the job experience and talk about divine intervention. The evening entertainment with the Kahoot game was cleverly done.

-Scott Buckman, Knights of Columbus #9533



It was a true blessing to be back at CCM to celebrate 75 years of the Ministry in Springfield. I enjoyed seeing the alumni, staff and students celebrating how Christ continues to change lives on Campus. I am grateful for all those who continue to ensure that we have a place where students can find faith, formation, and leadership.

-Fr. Javier Reyes, CMF



I know we came away having met new people at our table. I was reminded about my own active life in college at a Newman Center. It was very important in my formative years to keep me grounded in my faith. I appreciated that we began with Mass and also learning about the history of the facility with a fun game. The dinner and students were great! I was not always able to give however feel blessed to be connected and support CCM.

**-Tom & Anita Weyers,
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Awakening



"People of faith. This is what I found when I went on my awakening retreat this year at Catholic Campus Ministry-one of the best decisions I could have made. I found my friends that I will keep for the next four years and hopefully for my life. We had such fun with each other. Laughing, eating, and praying. I found my home away from home and my family outside my family. Seeing other people, young people who believe the same things I do and talking about it."

"Being able to be open and seek answers together rather than alone. This gave me the security I needed being out on my own for the first time. My experience at awakening was one of growth and peace. This opportunity gave me a chance to really dig deep in my faith and to grow in it with others. I will never forget the connections I have made through this experience and how they changed my life. The people that I can help grow in the faith as they do the same for me. A steppingstone for my future."

- Javier Wassilak Rodriguez



"Being a rector for Awakening 71 was a blessing I never would have thought I would experience. It was such a beautiful and humbling weekend full of Christ's Love and fellowship. Being on the other side of the retreat was such a fun time because I was able to get to know people in a different light."



"When you see a person truly come into their own through Christian leadership, it's a treasured thing. I am so thankful that I was asked to be rector and I will take this time with me everywhere I go."



-Maria Dohack



CCM Events

Men's and Women's Nights are a newer addition to our monthly events we offer at CCM. During these nights, men and women have fun, discuss tough topics, and grow in the faith. It is a time where women enjoy quality time with one another as sisters and men grow in their bond as brothers in Christ. The students in our community are also encouraged to invite and share this night with those who may not be a regular part of our community and is a great entry point to make friends, join a small group, and become more involved at CCM.

We have also enjoyed fun social nights such as bowling or Pie Night. Topics and those chosen in the future for these events are always picked with the utmost attention to be a source of growing deeper in identity as a daughter or son of the Father. We have enjoyed seeing the fruits of a stronger community of friendship and support between the men and women of CCM.



In November we hosted a combined service project with our neighbors, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The students gathered together, making Fleece Blankets to donate to Children's Advocacy. This is a local center in Springfield that helps children who have faced a variety of traumas. In one evening, we were able to make over 40 blankets to help the children feel loved and cared for! We all enjoyed an evening of fellowship and getting to know one another more deeply.

Knights of Columbus

In recent months our college council has been among the most active in terms of fellowship and growth. We attained 9 new members in October, bringing our total to 31 members. We have also won the Father McGivney and Founders' Award and are aspiring to earn the Triple Star Council Award.



One of our main focuses currently is increasing our faith-based activities as well as fraternity. As we look forward to the rest of the school year at Missouri State University, our hope is that we will grow in all the core values, especially our relationship with God.



- Knights of Columbus Council 11182



Alumni Update



David Herr When I first moved to Springfield, CCM was the first place I visited. I'm thankful I did. CCM became a second home to me, a place to take a break between studying, hang out and enjoy meals, scripture groups, mass and fellowship. I know my faith grew because of CCM.

I entered the Jesuits in August of 2019. I have had the joy of many wonderful experiences with them. I've worked as a tutor in a high school and have volunteered in homeless shelters. I worked in a memory care nursing home during the outbreak of COVID, and as a hospital chaplain in Chicago through the pandemic. I professed vows in August of this year and now study philosophy at Loyola University Chicago and work in jail ministry.

Deb Zerr While at CCM, I had the amazing opportunity to really grow and test my faith in a community that was very welcoming and engaging. My favorite event, the Awakening Retreat, really helped me feel my strength in my faith in a powerful/meaningful way. It helped me realize how many of us want to grow in our understanding of dating and marriage as a collective group.

Since graduating from Missouri State and leaving CCM, I moved back to Arvada, CO (my hometown) to be closer to family and pursue my future as a bridal fashion designer by opening my own business. Being a part of such a great ministry in Missouri inspired me to start up a young adult community at my church in Colorado to continue my personal growth while helping others find their deep love for God. Overall, I fully believe CCM helped shape me into becoming a business owner and advocate for young adult ministry at my church. I am forever grateful for the beautiful community of Catholic Campus Ministry for making my college journey better than I could have prayed for at the time.



Perry Key My time at MSU and particularly my time at CCM was certainly some of the happiest years of my life! People have always said the college years are the best years of your life and my time at MSU is a testament to that statement. I was always an outgoing person and wanted to meet new people and experience new things (one of the main reasons I came to college in Missouri). Coming to Missouri from Baton Rouge, LA was quite a change from what I was accustomed to. My Catholic faith was so important to me and was the center and foundation of my young life at the time. I really didn't know what to expect when I attended my first Mass at the Ecumenical Center, but I was pleasantly surprised by the large number of Catholic students at MSU and their faithfulness. Later on I was chosen as the rector of Awakening Retreat #2 and that was a moment that helped enhance my faith even more. I made long lasting friendships and became even closer to Our Lord through that experience.

Family life has been so great, I can hardly put that into words. I have been married to the love of my life Jerelyn Trahan Key for 36 years and we have 3 children: Lindsay, 34 (Sabrina), Maia, 31 (Mike), and Christian, 26 (also an MSU Grad). And of course my grandson, Ezra, 2. God has been the center of my marriage and family life from the beginning and because of His great love, we have always stayed together in all things. Lastly, my mother Marion Key is still with me at 97 years young and she helped me in my faith before I arrived at MSU and is still an inspiration for me today!

Professionally, I am a Senior Vice President at First National Bankers Bank in Baton Rouge, LA. I am in charge of the Loan Review Dept. and have been employed at FNBB for 20 years. I have been in the banking profession for over 38 years and hopefully to retire in the next 6-7 years or so. In my position in Loan Review, travel is a requirement and was difficult at times with a family at home. Through our love and God's blessing, we were able to persevere and make us even closer as a family. My prior comments I can attribute much of it to my formation and years at CCM. Lastly, it was such a blessing to have attended the 75th Anniversary of CCM and see old friends I hadn't seen in years! CCM is a special place and will always have a special place in my heart & soul! I can't wait to come back again!!



Annual Report of Giving 2020-2021

We are incredibly thankful for your generous financial support. A great big thank-you to those of you who support us with a monthly, automatic, recurring gift. We rely on you as our primary revenue source to fund programs, events, supplies, and personnel. The following list recognizes over 270 donors who made a contribution to CCM during the fiscal year July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021.

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Contact Ann Schwartz for registration information: annschwartz@ccm847.org

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