

St. John Paul the Great Catholic Campus Ministry
2603 Old Omen Road.
Tyler, TX 75701
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Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament at the JP2 Center Chapel



February 2017 Newsletter

St. John Paul the Great Catholic Campus Ministry
Serving the students of the University of Texas at Tyler and Tyler Junior College

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Chaplain's Message

As we get into the groove of the semester and continue the beautiful work of salvation here at UTTyler/TJC I want to share a brief reflection from my experience of this past month that sums up well the joy I experience in this ministry. As our students stood outside on a crisp Monday this past month visiting with their peers about the Pro-Life stance of the Catholic Church, they slowly started moving towards the amphitheatre on campus to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.



What I witnessed from them was what I find most convincing about the Pro-Life stance of the Church: it has everything to do with God, His Love, and His desires for human flourishing. Our students may not have all

the answers, they may not always want to take this radically counter-cultural stance, and they may not always live perfectly, but they are radically convinced that the dignity of every human life is worth fighting for, and their is no better place to enter into this work than in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass! The joy, the honesty, the sublimity of the Mass is something that gives them fuel to work for their salvation and the salvation of their peers: it is in recognizing The Other, the One who sustains them, the Lord present in the Eucharist, that continues to inspire and direct the activity of our ministry and our students whom we serve. Thank you for continuing to make this possible through your generous giving, and I ask you keep us in prayer as we get ready to enter into the season of Lent! God bless, and Mary pray for us!

In Christ, through Mary,

Father Justin S. Braun

College Ministry in Tyler, Part 2: Promoting Knowledge of the Faith

Lay Campus Minister,
Jodi Phillips

As I mentioned in our last e-newsletter, over the next few months I am going to be presenting a column touching on the various areas of ministry I most particularly work in at St. John Paul the Great Catholic Campus Ministry. I hope that it gives you a better idea not only of the work that I personally do for the Ministry, but also of the great things that are happening in the lives of our students!

This first month I will be focusing on 'Promoting Knowledge of the Faith.' There are several reasons why this is a particularly important area of approach to ministry for me and the other staff members at St. John Paul the Great. In *Catechesi Tradendae*, an Apostolic Exhortation on Catechesis in our time, our Patron reaffirms that Catechesis, or the teaching of the faith, is an essential and "remarkable" moment in the process of Evangelization (CT 18).



Jodi Phillips at Mount Precipice, just outside of Nazareth. (Lk 4:16-30)

The *General Directory for Catechesis*, a document of the Congregation for the Clergy, reaffirms and expands upon these statements of St. John Paul II, and goes on to say that, "catechesis is thus the necessary link between missionary activity which calls to faith and pastoral activity which continually nourishes the Christian community. This is not, therefore, an optional activity, but basic and fundamental for building up the personality of the individual disciple, as it is for the whole Christian community," (GDC 64).

It is because of the necessity of understanding the faith that 'Intellectual Formation' is one of the four pillars of Seminary Formation presented by St. John Paul II in *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, and why the 1985 USCCB document on Campus Ministry *Empowered by the Spirit* puts 'Appropriating the Faith' as one of the central aspects of Campus Ministry. 'Promoting Knowledge of the Faith' takes on several forms here at St. John Paul the Great. I oversee our Christian Initiation program, in which we currently have eight men and women discerning entrance into the Catholic Church. In addition to our weekly classes, I meet individually with these students throughout the course of the year to discuss difficult areas of theology and check in on their discernment. If a student is unable to meet our regularly scheduled class (there is at least one each semester), then I will typically Catechize them on an individual basis.

On Wednesdays we host a program called "Catholic Underground," which serves not only as an avenue to promote knowledge of the faith, but also for community development. Father Braun and I work together closely on this program to prepare a schedule that will engage our students and help them grow closer to God. This semester we are focusing particularly on Truth, Beauty, and Goodness, and we will each give a number of presentations. Our last formal program for is on Thursday evenings. This semester Father Braun developed a semester long Apologetics course entitled 1 Corinthians 1:23, which covers heavier questions such as the

existence of God, monotheism, Relativism, and more. Father Braun and I will each be presenting a number of times, along with a few other Priests and educated laymen in the area.

Of course, 'Promoting Knowledge of the Faith' doesn't always look so programmatic. It often takes place in casual conversations in our front lobby as students discuss difficult conversations they've had with their peers or articles they came across on facebook. It happens in our offices when a student just can't quite wrap their mind around *transubstantiation* (to be fair, even those of us with Theological training still find that difficult!). And it happens on campus when we do various forms of outreach and a student wants clarification on something they've "always wondered" about Catholicism. The more we teach them in at Catholic Underground and 1 Corinthians 1:23, the more curious they are about deeper questions of the faith – and the more they want to share what they've learned with their friends and family, thus increasing their activity in the missionary activity of the Church.

I'm very grateful for the education I received as an Undergraduate Philosophy student at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and a Masters of Theology student at Franciscan University of Steubenville (not to mention my own Christian Initiation formation in the Diocese of Lincoln!). Both degrees have helped prepare me to guide our students in understanding the faith; but I still devote time to study, especially on weeks I am preparing to give presentations on topics I haven't spoken on before. It is because of your generous support and prayers for this ministry that I am able to do this, and thus able to help our students understand the depth of the Deposit of Faith we have received!

Tyler College Students Stand Up For Life!

Students from the JP2 Center pray for the unborn on a daily basis. This January marked the 44th anniversary of the tragic Roe vs Wade decision, and our students were active in prayer and standing up for life in Tyler, Austin and Washington, D.C.

On January 23rd, students met at 9AM at the University Center at UT-Tyler for prayer and outreach. Mass was celebrated at noon on campus at the amphitheater (pictured below)

In the afternoon, students led praise and worship at Harvey Deck, followed by a walking rosary on campus.



Texas Rally For Life

Our student leadership organized a trip to Austin on January 28th to attend the Texas Rally for Life.

12 of our students departed Tyler at 5AM and attended Mass in Austin. At 11AM, participated in a prayer service at a Planned Parenthood Clinic. At noon, the Pro-Lifers gathered downtown and began a march that concluded on the capital steps.

Tara Bridgeman, a UT-Tyler student commented on her experience at the Rally for Life:

"I feel honored that I was able to participate in the Texas Rally for Life. I believe that a peaceful, prayerful march is a great way to be heard.

I think it was especially cool because I saw people from my hometown, friends from around the state their. It's a special feeling marching with people you've never met but know you are united in your passion for Life and the rights of the unborn.

I am looking forward to next year an encouraging as many of my friends to attend."



March For Life, Washington D.C.



Irene Rosa attended the March for Life in Washington D.C.

"The March for Life in Washington, D.C. was an incredible experience. It was the first I have attended. An estimated 800,000 people of all backgrounds, were gathered for the the fundamental right to live. The best way I could describe it, was like being in a river; you look downstream and cannot catch a glimpse of the river mouth, you turn around and look upstream, but cannot see the source or the beginning, and you find yourself engulfed, pushed by the current of people to continue forward to the supreme court, surrounded by so much joy, lifted by so much hope.

I realized then the March for Life is more than a peaceful protest. The March for Life is a celebration, a celebration of our lives, a celebration that included singing and laughter and prayer and unity. I was inspired by the youthful presence and I could not have been more proud to be Catholic in my life, as the Catholic presence was blaringly apparent. I would encourage anyone to participate at least once. I thank God for the opportunity to attend. It was a beautiful movement to be apart of and to bring home with me. May we continue

Spring 2017 Schedule

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

Adoration and Confession: 4:45-6:00pm @ JPPI Center
Mass: 6:30pm @ Cowan (FAC 1009)

MONDAY

Adoration: 9:00-10:00am @ JPPI Center
Campus Rosary: 6:30pm @ Harvey Deck
Monday Funday: 7:00pm, location changes

TUESDAY

Adoration and Confession: 4:00-5:15pm @ JPPI Center
Mass: 5:30pm @ JPPI Center
Christian Initiation Classes: 7:00-8:30pm @ JPPI Center

WEDNESDAY

Adoration: 1:00-5:00pm @ JPPI Center
Confession: 3:15-4:45pm @ JPPI Center
Mass: 5:30pm @ JPPI Center
Catholic Underground: 6:00-8:00pm @ JPPI Center

THURSDAY

Adoration and Confession: 4:00-5:15pm @ JPPI Center
Mass: 5:30pm @ JPPI Center
"Your Body and God": 7:00-8:00pm @ JPPI Center

FRIDAY

Adoration and Confession: 11:00am-12:00pm @ JPPI Center
Mass: 12:15pm @ JPPI Center



Development Corner

If you would like more information about how you can support John Paul the Great, please contact:

Dan Onderko
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Thanks to all our generous benefactors!



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