



The Mustard Seed



MSU-CJC-DRURY

Spring 2019

Counting our blessings!



**Fr. Francisco
Javier
Reyes,
C.M.F.**

The academic year went by fast. We just witnessed another generation of students graduate. It is an exciting time: uncertainty and mixed emotions, but full of hope that the Lord is guiding and opening the way.

As this generation moves on, a new generation of students is on the way. They are facing difficult questions and doubts. It is believed that 80% of students in college will stop attending church by the time they graduate. We are doing all we can to help them find this community and continue to journey with God and peers that will keep them accountable, a community of role models and guides that will help them become the faithful leaders of tomorrow.

CCM has been serving the collegiate community in Springfield for over 73 years. Just imagine how many lives have been changed through the personal and tangible encounter with Christ. Take a look in this letter and see all the amazing things that took place during the Spring Semester. It was a time full of many blessings.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who supported our Spring Appeal. Thank you for your contributions and all you do for CCM. Without your support, we would not be able to do what we do. Please continue to join me in making CCM a better place for the next generation. Know that you and your family are in my prayers.

CCM's Future Leaders Summit 2019



CCM started out as the place where I went to church to try and be a 'good' Christian. But now, it is the place I go to for just about anything. Thanks to the people there, and all the ways to get involved, I find myself wanting to go to mass and adoration not just to be a 'good' Christian, but to spend time with God and the people He has placed in my life."

- Jessica Kantra

30th Annual Jack Frost 5K Run



Jack Frost was definitely a cold one. Thank you to all the runners and volunteers who came out for a great event!

Hosea Retreat



I definitely think coordinating Hosea Retreat was my most successful effort over spring semester. A lot of hard work was put into the retreat, and everyone seemed to enjoy it, so that's what really made me happy!

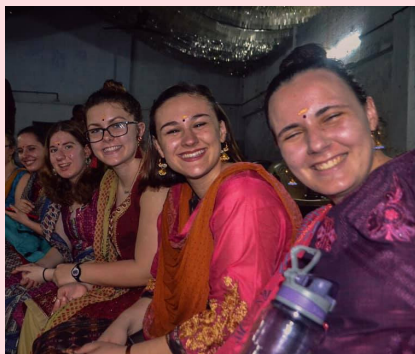
-Morgan Ladyman

The Hosea Retreat was filled with talks, small groups, praise and worship, a campus scavenger hunt, and lots of singing and dancing. Thank you to Morgan Ladyman and Greg Kelly for leading a fantastic retreat and helping the students grow closer to the Lord.

Service and Justice Immersion Trip

This mission trip was one of the most impactful experiences I have ever had. I was especially amazed at the connections we were able to make with the people that we encountered. Each person that we encountered both at the Sadhana Renewal Center and in the neighboring communities was so inviting and welcoming. We were all touched by their openness to us. This trip for me also further solidified the importance of service to our fellow man, as we are all called to live out as Catholics. Jesus taught us to treat those around us with love and compassion, to see God in those we serve. Coming back from this experience has allowed me to reflect on how I can not only better serve others, but also what more I can give, whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually.

-Connor Macke



This March, I was one of twelve CCM students who had the opportunity to travel to Kerala, India for our Spring Break mission trip. While there, we assisted Claretian Missionaries in their ministry at the Sadhana Renewal Center, a haven for men with mental illnesses in Kerala. Our days were spent in relational ministry, where we were able to help prepare and serve meals, clean laundry, and assist with maintaining the residents' personal hygiene. It was an extremely humbling experience to uphold the dignity of Christ's people simply by trimming their nails, shaving their faces, and giving them haircuts. One of the most rewarding aspects of this mission was getting to know so many selfless individuals. The Daughters of the Heart of Mary served us meals, the Jesus Youth Ministry program joined with us in worship, and countless Claretians and families in the fishermen community welcomed us into their homes and churches. This experience is one that I will never forget, mainly because it showed the true universality of the Church, the joy among the residents of Sadhana, and the beauty of a part of the world that I never would have known.

-Abby Ludwig

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)



Why wait? Is the question my dearest friend and soon to be sponsor asked. Up to that point I had been to a couple of mass services, made a routine of adoration, and was praying the rosary daily. My thirst to deepen my relationship with God grew and I was in awe over how much more of Jesus I had yet to discover. There was no excuse left to hold off on choosing a denomination, as I was certain Catholicism is what would help quench my thirst and fill my hunger for more of God. Being a non-denominational Christian had been a journey in itself, little did I know, transitioning to mass, and learning the teachings and meanings of the Catholic faith wasn't going to be the hardest part. By becoming Catholic I was saying yes to God. With each step taken to become closer to God, it would mean spiritual death to my old self, grief over the toxic things and people I had been clinging to in attempts to fill the emptiness where only God belonged and spiritual warfare. I couldn't help but wonder about my brokenness, my sin and my unworthiness to be loved. Though it was in the darkest moments of the RCIA journey where God revealed Himself to me the most. Each time the pain of these thoughts attempted to separate me from God, He pulled me closer to Him. Becoming Catholic has been one of the best decisions I've ever made. I couldn't have embarked on such an intense journey without my best friend and sponsor, the community at CCM and the encouragement of my family. When the day came for confirmation into the church, I knew whose I was and that the journey had only begun. The lifelong journey continues of saying "yes" to God and rediscovering Jesus.

- Chiyierja Grant



Two of our students, Rachel Yaros and Nicole Paden, along with Fr. Javier, traveled to Washington, DC for the Catholic Social Gathering in February.

This year I had the privilege of going to our nation's capital and meeting with members of Congress to express the desires of the Catholic Church in the US. I feel truly blessed to have represented the young members of the church!

-Nicole Paden

When I was asked to be a representative from CCM at the Catholic Social Ministries Gathering in Washington, D.C., I was honored, excited, but also had no idea what was in store for myself. Upon arriving in D.C., Father Javier, Nicole, and I had the pleasure of meeting with a Missouri State and CCM alum who was kind enough to show us around town and bring us out to dinner. It was awesome to know that people from CCM are making an impact in different parts of the country and are thankful for the time they got to spend there in college. As the conference started, Nicole and I got to meet so many young adults that represented their Catholic Campus Ministries. We learned about their stories, what they love about their ministries, and what tools they hoped to bring home with them. The keynote talks that were given at the conference were packed full of information and awareness on what issues humanity is facing in 2019 and how the Catholic Church is actively in the field trying to bring justice and peace to others.

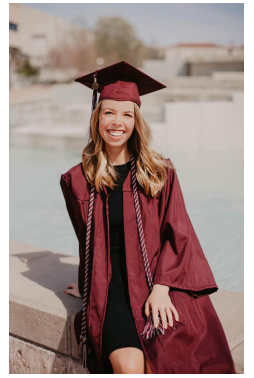
Before I went to CSMG, I was unfamiliar with the social teachings of the Catholic church (even though I have been raised Catholic since birth). After my time in D.C., I was opened up to the great organizations that are available and how I can better serve those around me through social justice and the teachings of the church. Not only that, but Father Javier, Nicole, and I got to talk to Representatives, Senators, and their aids at the actual Capital of the United States. To see all the Catholics from around the country coming together and going to Capital Hill to bring awareness and peace to issues facing America today was so humbling and rewarding. When we stand together, we are strong!

I am unbelievably thankful for the trip to the CSMG conference, for Sister Michelle and Father Javier's guidance and help, and for the Lord making this opportunity available to me. I pray that this opportunity can forever be a part of CCM as it is vital to the education of my fellow peers. The social justice mission of the Catholic Church is often overlooked or not even known about by a lot of young Catholics. After going to this conference, I feel like a more responsible member of society and a better steward of my Catholic Faith.

-Rachel Yaros

When I signed up to volunteer at Mercy Hospital, I was simply looking for a way to care for those who were hurting and lonely. I wanted to leave myself - my worries, plans, and deadlines - at the door and completely make myself a vessel for God. I was ready to give, but I never expected to receive so much. Each week, I visited with patients who didn't have many other visitors. The patients told me stories of love, heartbreak, and adventure. I watched and sometimes joined them, as they laughed and cried. I never saw any of them more than once, yet so many of them left a lasting impact on me. We serve with the intent to give and heal, but God often surprises us by turning the healers into the healed.

-Morgan Partlow (Visiting the Sick)



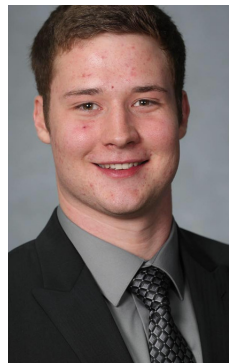
Bringing communion to the homebound is one of the most eye opening experiences that I have had at CCM. Many of the homebound parishioners at St. Agnes really enjoy the visits and it is a pleasure to hear about what is going on in their lives. Some homebound parishioners can feel abandoned and being able to bring communion to them is an enriching way of living out my Catholic faith. The Catholic faith revolves around the Eucharist and this opportunity has been a great example of that principle. Many students at CCM have expressed an interest in participating in the program and we hope to continue into the next year "...Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40.

-Zane Pezley (Homebound)



When I initially agreed to join my classmates in visiting one of Missouri's correctional facilities and participate in one of the corporal works of mercy, visiting the imprisoned, I did not know what to expect. It was easy to think that it was going to be intimidating, scary, and certainly filled with a great amount of unknown. However, as we walked through security, crossed the prison yard, and ultimately entered the small yet adequate prison chapel I couldn't have felt God more. In the eye of the inmates I was able to see, not a prisoner, not a criminal, but men who had simply made some mistakes and were none the less loved by God. This allowed me to have the wonderful realization that these men were no different than you or I, and that they cannot be forgotten simply because they are incarcerated. The talks that were given were moving, the liturgies we celebrated were beautiful, and the men we met were inspiring. This visit has truly changed my perspective on so many different things and I am immensely grateful to CCM for the opportunity to be able to serve in this way.

-Will Steppig (Prison Ministry)



At the beginning of this year, I started volunteering with Catholic Charities doing many different jobs, including mulching, mailing, and clearing out rooms for the women's shelter. I became close with the workers there and learn a lot about Catholic Charities. This organization helps out not only citizens in the community but people all throughout the Cape Girardeau-Springfield Diocese. Catholic Charities lends a hand to those who need help getting back on their feet, and it has been an amazing blessing to have worked with these people throughout the past semester. I loved volunteering at Catholic Charities and I cannot wait to continue helping out with this organization in any way I can in the future.

-Mya Kemper (Catholic Charities)





At the beginning of the month, I received a phone call, then an acceptance letter, accepting me as a scholastic novice to the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). The news has given me a profound sense of happiness and peace. It was not always that way. Discerning to enter religious life involved a lot of confusion, anxiety, and even headaches when the topic came to mind (which was constantly)—I was a mess for months. But in a moment of grace from God, while on retreat with the Jesuits, a great moment of clarity came. The confusion, anxiety, and headache evaporated, leaving only consolation. There is a long road ahead. I will be a novice for two years, study philosophy for two years, and serve for years before entering theology studies. It will be twelve or more years before I am ordained a priest, but I am in no rush. I have no idea where all I will live, or who all I will meet, but I trust God to take care of me. My advice for people in discernment is this. Know yourself, your deepest desires, and what brings you joy. Fear is normal. Seek help from many people. Remember that we can only reach our fullest potential by making serious, life-long, loving commitments.

-David Herr

If I'm being honest with myself I had really pushed the question out of my mind. Priesthood was an idea that really scared me. The way that I used to think about discernment was that I brought to God the thing that I wanted to do to see if he approved it. So, when God seemed to be approving my desire for marriage I thought I was on the right track. Last summer I went on a program called FOCUS Summer Projects in Colorado where we spent our time growing deeper in our faith. Because of my experience there, I realized some of my mistakes in discernment. I knew that I needed to start discerning through action, so I went on a discernment retreat in Saint Louis at Kenrick Glennon Seminary. That weekend God showed me that he desired me to be there next year. When I shifted my discernment process away from asking God to approve what I wanted and instead asking God to show me what he desires for me I was able to find peace in this decision. I never would have come to this decision had it not been for the people that I met at CCM and the opportunities that I had there to encounter the sacraments and grow deeper in my faith.

-Alex Shannon



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Questions? Contact Bev at bfranklin@ccm847.org or (417)865-0802

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EXCITING EVENTS COMING UP!

August 18th
Mass of the Holy Spirit
(Opening Mass)
11:00 a.m.

August 19th
Carnival & Live Music
7:00 p.m.

September 6th-7th
Freshmen
Camping Trip

September 22nd
Family Weekend Mass and
Luncheon
11:00 a.m.

September 27th -29th
Awakening Retreat

October 26th
Homecoming Tailgate
Party with CCM Alumni
11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.