



The Mustard Seed



Summer 2020

Growing in Faith During COVID-19 From the Director

First, I'm proud to congratulate our graduates of the class of 2020. You graduated during one of the most uncertain times. Things did not go as planned and, yet, you made it! You are at the beginning of something new and exciting. No matter what the next steps on your journey might be, learning will continue to be a part of it. Like the disciples, you are sent to proclaim good news to the ends of the earth. Here at CCM, we understand it has been a rough transition and want you to know that you are in our prayers.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted us in different ways. Some have experienced illness, others have experienced loss of family members or a job, and still others have wrestled with loneliness and isolation. At the same time, others have experienced a new vibrancy in their family relationships or a new flourish in their spiritual life. In the midst of all this change, CCM has continued to reach out to bring the good news of the gospel. We have been challenged to do ministry in a different way, but our mission remains solid. Christ is at the center of all we do and we will continue to do as we plan to welcome new students to campus for the fall semester. Many good things are coming ahead as we are getting close to celebrating the 75th anniversary of CCM. This celebration will take place during the Spring Semester of 2021. Stay tuned for the date!

The work of CCM is vital in the life of the Church, especially in a time when younger generations are less likely to practice their faith than previous generations. With your financial support you will help us keep Generation Z and future generations invested in the faith and growing in their commitment to discipleship. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and feel inspired to join us in our mission. Together, let us share with joy and love in this mission!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Francisco Javier Reyes, CMF



Thanks to your generosity, five of our student leaders were able to attend the FOCUS Student Leadership Summit (SLS) held in Phoenix, Arizona from December 30th - January 3rd, 2020.



It really helped getting to be surrounded with people my age and I saw the importance of having a Christ-filled community within a college campus. This was an amazing conference in which I was able to grow and learn so much about the Catholic faith. Being surrounded by people who have a fire to pursue Christ was an amazing experience.

-Elizabeth Knipp

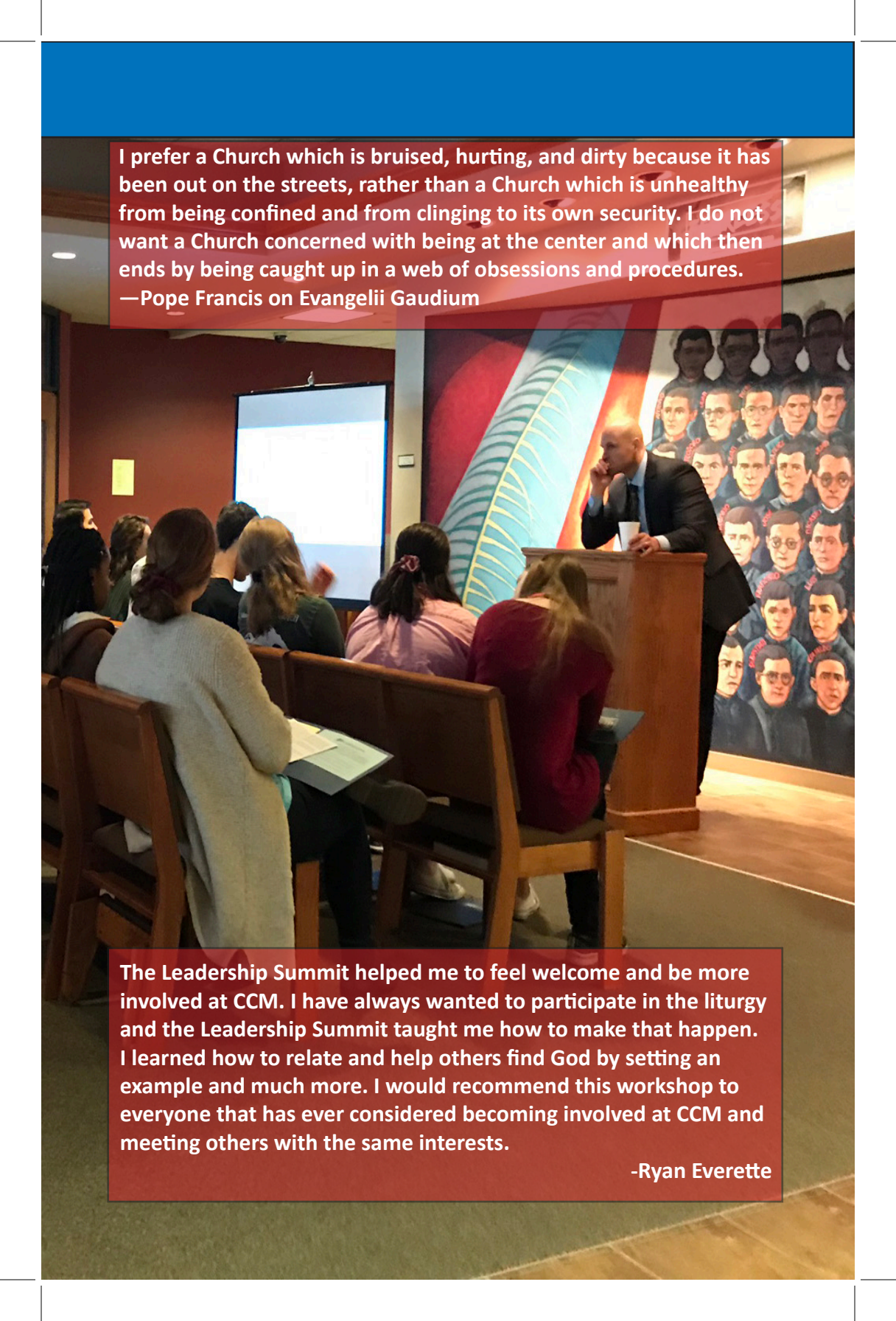
SLS was extremely helpful for our ministry. I have seen the students who have attended living a more faithful life and desiring a deeper intimacy with the Lord. This Summit truly allowed us to encounter Jesus in a unique way, with over 8,000 other college students. Topics like learning how to lead a Bible study, one-on-one discipleship, and how to dive deeper into our relationship with the Lord were extremely useful back on campus. I would absolutely recommend this for future participants.

-Claire Fraser

CCM's Leadership Summit: Fearless

On January 17 - 18th, 2020, we hosted our annual Leadership Summit. The students were very inspired by the speaker, Peter Andrastek, and the practical ways for evangelization with the heart of disciples.





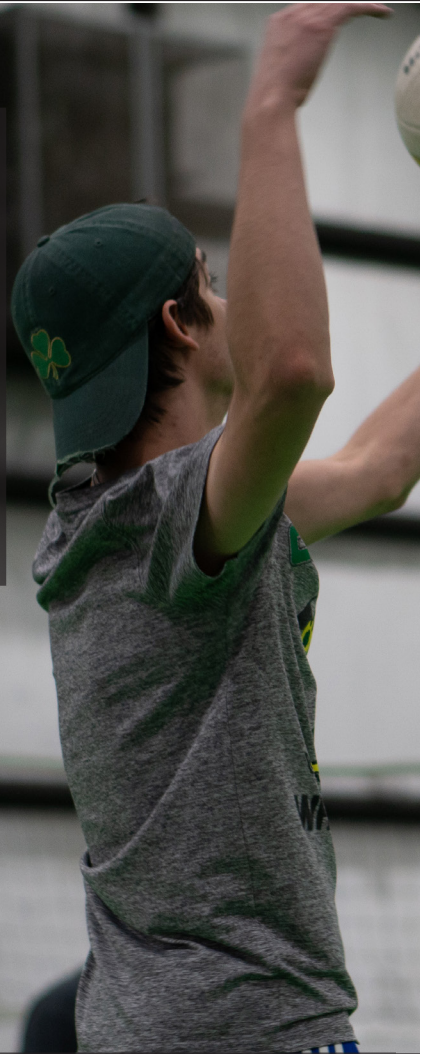
I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting, and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. I do not want a Church concerned with being at the center and which then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures.
—Pope Francis on *Evangelii Gaudium*


The Leadership Summit helped me to feel welcome and be more involved at CCM. I have always wanted to participate in the liturgy and the Leadership Summit taught me how to make that happen. I learned how to relate and help others find God by setting an example and much more. I would recommend this workshop to everyone that has ever considered becoming involved at CCM and meeting others with the same interests.

—Ryan Everette

Girls/Guys Night

Setting aside time to spend with just the ladies of CCM is important for developing strong friendships and learning to lean on each other as sisters in Christ. Girl's Night was such a wonderful opportunity for us to do just that through both fun activities and prayer. It is such a comfort to know I am surrounded by so many women striving for holiness! I am hopeful that events like this can be launching points for developing an even stronger Women's Ministry at CCM!
-Daria Wiederkehr





“For if we received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?”

- Pope Francis

“To see dozens of college men spend their Friday night together like this was incredible. We put in some hard work assembling this massive inflatable volleyball game, then enjoyed the evening in some healthy competition and fraternity. ‘Shout out’ to Bishop Rice and five other priests who showed up, and to the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity who also had strength in numbers that night! We are already looking forward to many more awesome Guy’s Nights.”

**-Arick Middeke
Campus Minister**



Growing in Faith During COVID-19

COVID-19 changed everything on campus, but it also gave us a golden opportunity to minister in new ways. CCM did not stop reaching out to students during this entire time. Here is some example of our numbers of programming during COVID-19: 5 -Zoom RCIA meetings, 4 -Zoom Peer Minister's meetings, 6 -Livestream Sunday Masses, 6 -Thursday Candlelit Masses and Adoration, 5 -Holy Week reflection videos, a Livestream Senior Graduation Mass and reception, 3 -Livestream prayer opportunities on Facebook/Instagram, and 5 -Source and Summit Zoom and Livestream events. Our Campus Minister, Ann Schwartz, was able to minister at least 26 students online. Marriage prep continued via Zoom and in-person meetings. We learned that ministry doesn't stop just because students are restricted to their homes.



“ I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for.” Jer. 29:11

Congratulations Class of 2020. You will not be forgotten at CCM!



Building Upgrade

We are praising God for the tremendous support we received during these trying times! Thank you to all who donated to our Spring Ring back in March and to all who have been contributing and praying for our ministry! Thanks to some of these contributions, we have been able to make a few improvements in our basement.



Spring Ring pledged:
\$33,140.00

#GivingTuesdayNow Total:
\$3,720.00



No amount is too large or small to make a difference.
Text "give" to our number 417-551-6005. By remembering CCM in your will, you will continue to live on through the lives of many students that become leaders of our Church. What a wonderful tribute to you!
Contact Bev at bfranklin@ccm847.org or call 417-865-0802

SCAN ME



Why do I continue to give to CCM?



I attended MSU (then SMS) from September 1959 to June 1963, and graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Math on June 2, 1963.

I was an active member of the Newman Club (Catholic Student Organization) the entire time, served as VP my junior year and as President my senior year, and served as Student Body President the same year.

As a cradle Catholic with 13 years in parochial schools (Sacred Heart Grade School and St Agnes High School - both in Springfield), my faith was always important to me. Coming to a secular campus, I wanted to be sure I remained connected to my faith and many Catholic friends who were also attending SMS. Belonging to the Newman Club was one of the ways I saw I could remain connected.

Joan, my wife of 51 years (LSU 1968), and I continue to support the Catholic Student Center because we know how many challenges our young people encounter trying to make good, faith-based choices as they negotiate being away from home, encountering new friends and experiences and preparing for life after completing their education. We raised four children ourselves, all now with families and faith-filled homes. We know first hand how challenging the faith formation of young adults can be. We are very thankful for Fr Reyes, Bev, and the staff at the O'Reilly Student Center in guiding our young adults. We are also thankful that God has given us the means to help in small ways.

-John E. Miller

Alumni Spotlights



During my time in school (2010-2015) and afterwards, CCM has always been a place of acceptance for everyone that comes through their doors. My wife, Rachel, is not Catholic, but when Fr. Tom prepared us for marriage and when he performed our ceremony, it was abundantly clear that he aspired to be a true reflection of Christ's love. No judgement, no preconceived opinions, and an appreciation for everyone's role (Catholic or non-Catholic) in God's plan and in their ability to spread the Good News.

I found truth in my faith and I find in it what I need to move forward, to guide my family, and to use the talents that I have been given to better the world and help those around me. "Treasure, time, and talent..." I've always been told that when my time comes I'll be asked how I used those to better humankind. I hope that when that day comes, I'll have an answer rather than standing there with nothing to say.

-Jake Heithaus



We contribute to CCM because we are called to pay it forward for all the times that CCM has supported us in our walk with Christ to then allow our giving to provide those same resources for college students. College can be a very trying time in one's life and CCM is there as a family to support and offer guidance in an environment that is safe and holy.

CCM gave me (Allison) the fullness of God's presense within myself. I came to CCM feeling like my faith was an empty shell and I had an conflict of satan and God fighting for my spirit within. CCM helped me trust more fully in God and to dive deeper into His plan for my life. Bobby and I met after I had graduated from MSU and he proceeded to accompany me in masses at CCM. CCM then provided our marriage preparation and celebrated our wedding day. I (Allison) was a student at MSU 2009-2012.

-Allison and Bobby Leisenring



I was at CCM from 2004-2007. I support CCM because I believe in its mission and how important it is to students during their most important formative years of becoming an adult. CCM provides a 'home' and place for students outside academia and college campus life. I have many fond memories of being at CCM and lifelong friends from when I was at CCM.

-Keith Seiwert




When Lindsey and David were at SMS (1999-2004), CCM transitioned from a hidden gem buried between the retro world of the Ecumenical Center and the grandmotherly Nancy McGregor House to the O'Reilly City on the (Holland) Hill. This transition and transformation mimicked our own faith journeys as we came from small Bible-belt towns where our identity was split among the competing Christian clubs. CCM provided us with the space, time, retreats, community and friends to see the fullness of truth on display. The best part was that it was OURS and we had the opportunity to make the kind of community that we had always hoped for. With the blessing of the amazing student center, we had the resources and responsibility to showcase the beauty of Catholicism.

We took that challenge to heart and in the time and talent categories, we were heavily involved. We met at choir and loved playing music for the 10:15 pm Mass (with the occasional midnight buffet) and led music and small groups for countless Awakening retreats. David had the honor of being on StuCo during the transition to the student center and led the infamous Man Cubs guys group. In the treasure category, David was unlike the poor widow, and he was much less generous as his stingy business senses justified that he'd contribute when he was able.

In hindsight and after numerous conversations with former youth groupers who had "ok" college faith experiences (even at Catholic institutions), we recognize the unique opportunity for CCM to act as a beacon among a secular university in the heart of the Bible Belt. We believe in investing on the frontlines in the battle for young hearts and minds among the skeptical and indifferent because we were once among them. It is our privilege to pay it backwards. We feel like the tax collector who pays back twice what he took because we are eternally grateful for all investments CCM and its benefactors invested in us.

-David and Lindsey Roscoe

A photograph of a young man and woman smiling and embracing each other outdoors. The man is in the background, wearing a maroon sweater, and the woman is in the foreground, wearing a yellow sweater. They are both smiling warmly at the camera. The background is a soft-focus view of trees with autumn foliage in shades of yellow and orange.

I give to CCM because CCM helped me to find myself not just through the faith and sacraments, but through the joyful community I found in CCM. CCM is where friends became more like family and where my now husband and I grew in faith and decided to say yes to our vocation. At the moment, I give to CCM through my time and energy. During my time at CCM (2016-2020) I served as a Peer Minister and Small Group Leader. As a recent alumni, I have begun to transition to offering my skills to CCM to help with various needs such as mentorship and helping with marketing and through any service I can give. CCM gave so much to me, I am honored to give it something in return.

-Robbyn Rose

Catholic Campus Ministry became a spiritual home for me while I was in college. I continue to support CCM as an act of gratitude and in hopes that others are aware they have a place to continue their faith.
-Kim Castelli



Together.
we can invest in faith and grow in discipleship.



\$60

Sponsor a student for Awakening Retreat

\$150

Sponsor music for 3 Sunday Masses

\$200

Sponsor a Sunday Supper

\$300

Sponsor a Student for SEEK 2020 Conference

\$600

Sponsor a Freshman and Transfer Student Camping Trip

\$1,000

Sponsor a leadership formation weekend

\$3,000

Sponsor Back to School Activities

Catholic Campus Ministry
O'Reilly Catholic Student Center
847 S. Holland Ave
Springfield, MO 65806

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