



The Mustard Seed



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

Fall 2020

Dear Friends of CCM,
WOW! Who knew we would find ourselves where we are today. A lot has changed. Covid-19 has impacted our lives in ways we never imaged. Even here in our ministry, everything looks different, but we have not stopped doing what the Lord calls us to do. Even with the challenges of this pandemic, we have offered Men's and Women's nights, Eucharistic adorations, weekday and Sunday Masses, weekly small groups, faith formation nights, hiking, and camping trips, and many more opportunities for fellowship. CCM continues to be dedicated to the mission of helping students grow together into the saints they are called to be. Your prayers and support help us make this possible. To you, my deepest appreciation.

Now as we slowly begin to welcome Autumn and Winter, we continue to experience change. The multicolored leaves have fallen. Every day gets colder and colder, soon it will be freezing. Change is part of our lives. It surrounds us. If we take the opportunity and are grateful, we shall indeed benefit greatly. As you and I continue to change so will this ministry of ours. May we be open both individually and communally that God will continue to do great things through our openness. Therefore, may our lives give glory and praise to God.

In the last issue of the Mustard Seed, I asked you to stay tuned for the date of our 75th anniversary celebration, tentatively planned to take place during the Spring Semester of 2021. Our plans are to still have some sort of celebration in 2021, but it may be postponed until the fall semester. It will all depend on how our situation continues with the pandemic. I ask for your thoughtful prayers that we may be able to celebrate in one way or another.

Again, thank you for all you do. May you enjoy this newsletter, and the work done bring you some joy during these holy days. God's blessings on you and your loved ones!

Fr. Francisco Javier Reyeses, CMF
Director



I was a "Roaming" Catholic, someone who doesn't go to any particular Catholic Church but rather to many different ones. I am also a "Daily Masser" Catholic, one who goes to Mass every day of the week. Since I came to MSU, CCM has given me much needed communal stability. Especially since we started doing Monday Masses (thank you Father Bibin!), I seldom go to another church—except St. Agnes on Saturday mornings—a uniformity I haven't had in years. Going to one church, consistently, builds recognition and belonging in the community, something I lacked as I roamed from church to church. In the community here, I have built up my community with God: nowadays, you'll find me engaging in our community by proclaiming the liturgy for daily Mass, singing in the choir for Thursday night Candlelight Mass, and attending most any event held by CCM with my newfound friends!

-Peter Kershaw



Staff Highlights



I have had the joy of joining the staff and students at CCM during such a unique time. As I began this mission during the Covid-19 pandemic, I found Christ reminding me that "If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labor" (Psalm 127:1). It is tempting to come in with a plan or agenda as to how the year should look. Yet, each day has unexpected adventures, and I am in awe of all the ways God is creatively revealing His love to the students and my own heart. Whether it is witnessing someone return to the faith or simply laughing with students over a cup of coffee, the friendships are drawing me into a deeper trust of God's work during the uncertainty of these times. I pray that I can continue to let Him teach me how to surrender and let him build His kingdom in this community and in my own life.

-Sr. Agnes



Just a year in the US, many things came to me to be totally new and different. Yet, now that I'm close to four months here at CCM, I feel it so exciting to be here: great staff and inspiring students, cordial environment, lots of friends and fun and a lot to learn, a place of great welcome. Everyone I have come across here tries to make the lives of those around them awesome. Praise and worship, trips, men's and women's nights, praying, playing, planning, speaking, listening, sharing... enrich life. Proud to be part of this great, Christ-centered community.

-Fr Bibin Mathew CMF



Emmaus Night is a community time of prayer that offers a chance for praise and worship as well as adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The praise and worship team has worked hard and provides beautiful music to help the CCM community worship the Lord! The name "Emmaus Night" was newly chosen this year to emphasize the encounter with Christ that happened on the road to Emmaus. This scripture focuses in a particular way on encountering Christ through the Eucharist ("the breaking of the bread" Luke 24:30). We pray that Emmaus Night will continue to lead hearts to be more in love with Jesus as they grow in their walk with the Lord.



"Emmaus Night has been such a great way to encounter the Lord through the Most Holy Sacrament. This is truly one of my favorite nights because students can come sit before our God and offer up praise and thanksgiving."

-Claire Fraser



I'm so glad I went to PAUSE! It was a great break from my schoolwork and responsibilities. Sister Agnes' testimony really got me thinking about my relationship with Mary and her presence and love in my own life, and I got to experience that even more through our living Rosary!

-Megan Garbee



PAUSE was a special event that focused on growing deeper in relationship with the Blessed Mother. There was a talk as well as small group time and the opportunity to pray a "living" rosary together. The living rosary allowed the students to vocalize their intentions before lighting a candle which, when completed, created a large candlelit rosary. This helped to foster praying for one another as a community as well as surrendering everything to the intercession of Mary. It was a joyful and simple afternoon of pausing together as a community to spend time with our Blessed Mother and one another.

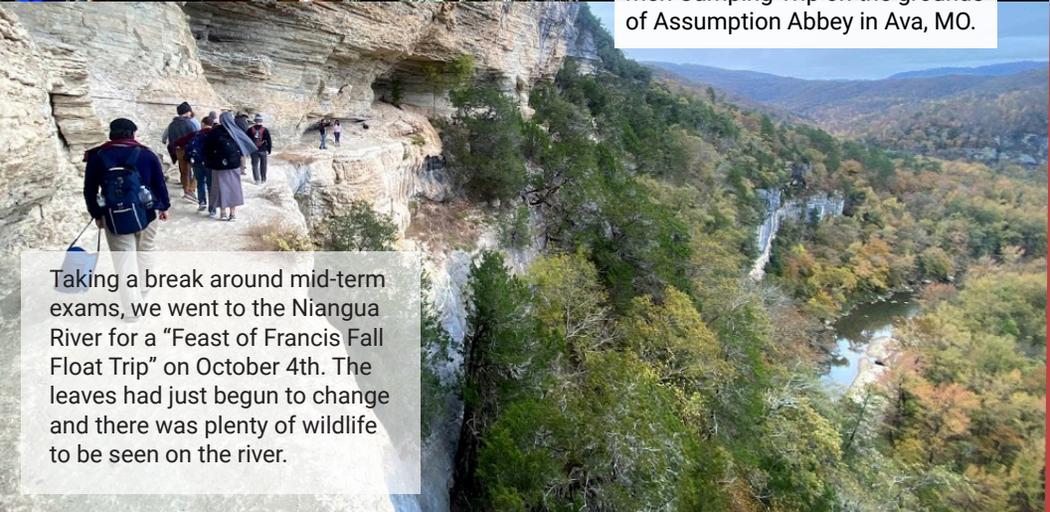




This semester, CCM has been getting out and enjoying the fresh air and the beauty of the Ozarks!



Back in August, we had our Freshmen Camping Trip on the grounds of Assumption Abbey in Ava, MO.



Taking a break around mid-term exams, we went to the Niangua River for a "Feast of Francis Fall Float Trip" on October 4th. The leaves had just begun to change and there was plenty of wildlife to be seen on the river.

This year's Peer Ministry team consists of 6 students from multiple colleges in the area. Although this year has looked different, the peer ministry team has been creative in finding new ways to engage students. One new program we have started is monthly men's and women's nights that have been very successful. In addition, this year our small groups are meeting hybrid style, moving between zoom and in person during this time of Covid-19. Many groups have continued to grow throughout the semester as students seek out community.



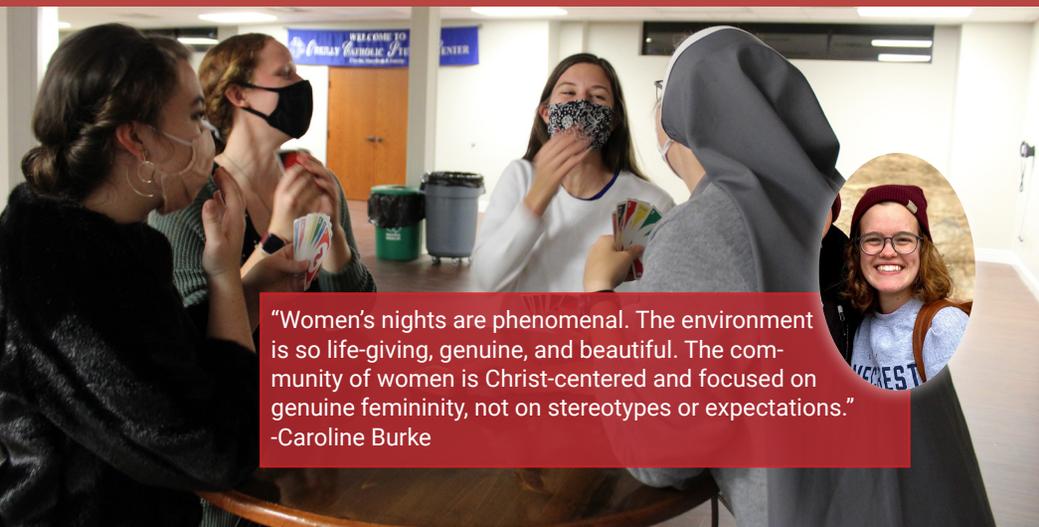
"Being a small group leader is such a blessing! I love getting to know my group and growing closer together, while also growing closer in our relationship with Christ. It's an amazing judgement-free zone in which we can dive into Sacred Scripture and truly hear what God is speaking to us. I've definitely grown in understanding and faith through leading my peers!"
- Maria Dohack

"Peer Ministry has helped me to grow personally in my faith as I see the in-depth fruit of faith filled events! Through social events, I have seen how we are built for community and how God works in this space. I've been truly blessed to get to know the CCM community better through peer ministry!"
- Elizabeth Knipp

Women's nights



Women's Nights provide a space for women to truly come together and build each other up through authentic community as sisters in Christ. By encountering a transparent and joyful sisterhood, the women can experience how loved they are by God and what a gift they are to the world. This semester has already included a 1920's themed party, testimonies, small groups, bonfires and plenty of laughter. St. John Paul II summarizes beautifully what Women's Nights strive to teach. He writes that "In the light of Mary, the Church sees in the face of women the reflection of a beauty which mirrors the loftiest sentiments of which the human heart is capable: the self-offering totality of love; the strength that is capable of bearing the greatest sorrows; limitless fidelity and tireless devotion to work; the ability to combine penetrating intuition with words of support and encouragement." We look forward to growing deeper in this truth as the school year continues!



"Women's nights are phenomenal. The environment is so life-giving, genuine, and beautiful. The community of women is Christ-centered and focused on genuine femininity, not on stereotypes or expectations."
-Caroline Burke

Alumni Spotlight: Richard Middeke



I graduated from Southwest Missouri State University in May 1984. Do the math, that ends up being a long time ago.

During my years in Springfield, in addition to getting a BS in Accounting, I also met lifelong friends, the best on earth. The most wonderful person that I met at CCM was Lynda Hanrahan who later became my beautiful and awesome wife. I was heavily involved in Catholic Campus Ministry, even had a stint as a paid staff member. I can't recall my salary, it seems like it may have been like \$10/week, but that's like \$12 in today's money! I served under the legendary Fr. Ron Stua and Fr. Len Brown. Life at CCM for me was really great and extremely impactful in my journey back to my Catholic faith. Lynda and I have 5 sons ages 23-28). Two of our sons are in Springfield at this time, Luke is a student and has played guitar at mass at CCM, just like his dad, and Arick is on staff at CCM, doing a way better job than his old man did.

If my fellow alums haven't gotten back to Missouri state, you gotta see the CCM facility there. It's awesome and a far cry from the corner office at the Ecumenical Center we enjoyed 'back in the day'. Also, if you talk with Bev Franklin, don't believe a word of any of the stories she might tell about me and Kevin Carmody!



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