

St. John Paul the Great Catholic Campus Ministry
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www.uttylecatholic.org



2016-2017 St. John Paul the Great CCM Staff

January 2017 Newsletter

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

[Visit our Website Click Here](#)

Chaplain's Message

As we begin again the great work of saving souls and forming our students in the faith, I want to first of all say thank you for your generous financial support and your prayers for our little ministry that is impacting the lives of so many! On a personal note, as I begin this semester having just spent 5 days of vacation with my brother priests from all over the country, it is dear to me that Christ is alive and well and the work of the Holy Spirit is abundant!



Many of you know already that I had the amazing opportunity this Christmas to bring my dad into the Catholic Church through the rite of Confirmation and reception of Holy Communion on Christmas Day at my home parish, St. Mary's in Longview, TX. This wonderful and love-filled moment is a great reminder to me of one

very essential truth of our faith: the Eucharist is the reason for our life, and we as Catholics have a great gift to share with the world if we are courageous enough to do so! My father's conversion story will be featured in the coming Catholic East Texas, and I would encourage you to read it, as he expressed to Ben Fisher and I that the Eucharist is THE reason-and Catholics need to celebrate this gift with great reverence and joy. With this in mind, I would ask your prayers for our ministry, as we prepare to offer to our students this semester a very robust amount of programming centered around the use of reason in faith, ultimately united and oriented towards Holy Communion, THE source and summit of our lives. Please be assured of our prayers for you and your intentions, and stop by for daily mass sometime if you have a chance, we'd love to see you!

In Christ, through Mary,

Father Justin S. Braun

College Ministry in Tyler:

Lay Campus Minister, Jodi Phillips

"It is the duty of the Church to proclaim always and everywhere the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He, the first and supreme evangelizer, commanded the Apostles on the day of his Ascension to the Father: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt 28:19-20). Faithful to this mandate, the Church—a people chosen by God to declare his wonderful deeds (cf. 1 Peter 2:9)—ever since she received the gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (cf. Acts 2:14), has never tired of making known to the whole world the beauty of the Gospel as she preaches Jesus Christ, true God and true man, the same "yesterday and today and for ever" (Heb 13:8), who, by his death and Resurrection, brought us salvation and fulfilled the promise made of old. Hence the mission of evangelization, a continuation of the work desired by the Lord Jesus, is necessary for the Church: it cannot be overlooked; it is an expression of her very nature."



Jodi with Fr. Braun and Bishop Strickland at
SEEK 2017

This quote is taken from the beginning of *Ubicumque et Semper*, a letter written by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI as he established the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization in 2010. Following the great work of his predecessor, and our Patron, Pope Saint John Paul II, Pope Benedict reiterated once again the mission of the Church. The document goes on to discuss the depths of this mission of evangelization and the need for what Saint John Paul II called a "New Evangelization," reaffirming the need for the Church to "constantly seek the proper means and language for presenting, or representing, to [people] God's revelation and faith in Jesus Christ," (Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 56).

St. John Paul the Great Catholic Campus Ministry is a direct response to the call of so many of our Holy Fathers. Our ministry is dedicated to seeking the proper means of presenting and representing the Gospel message to God's people, particularly those attending college at UT Tyler and Tyler Junior College.

I am often asked how I, as a lay Campus Minister, participate in this work of Evangelization. While I can usually give some quick answers that help break down what I do on a weekly basis, we realized that it can still be somewhat of a mystery to those of you who were never able to be active in a Campus Ministry (or if your ministry only had a Priest when you were in college). For this reason, over the next 5-6 months I will be writing a column in our e-newsletter to better explain how I contribute to St. John Paul the Great.

Each month I will write about a particular area of my ministry: Promoting Knowledge of the Faith; Outreach and Evangelization; Leadership Development; Individual Spiritual Mentorship; Building Community Life; and Human Formation. These columns will give a brief background of what the Church is asking for and how each area contributes to the greater work of the Mission of the Church before breaking down what this looks like particularly in my ministry.

I look forward to sharing with you more about what I do here and how the Holy Spirit is moving at St. John Paul the Great Catholic Campus Ministry! Please continue to pray for our ministry as we begin a new semester, and be assured of my prayers for you.

SEEK 2017



College students from the Diocese of Tyler in San Antonio for SEEK 2017

A group of 48 students from UT-Tyler and TJC attended the SEEK 2017 conference in San Antonio from January 3-7. SEEK is a biennial conference held by FOCUS, and in 2017. In addition to our students, Father Braun, Father Denzel from SFA and Bishop Strickland were also in attendance.

Our students from St. John Paul the Great, along with over 12,000 other college students from around the country heard talks from Bishop Charles Chaput, Dr. Scott Hahn, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Jeff Cavins and many more.

Below is a link to an excellent article recapping SEEK 2017.

[SEEK 2017 CNA](#)

"The whole conference was excellent. The combination of engaging speakers and Mass and adoration every day made the experience very memorable and uplifting. Seeing 13,000 other Catholics my age in one place was encouraging and inspiring. It was a phenomenal experience."

Anthony Trojacek
Canton, TX
Freshman, Criminal Justice Major, UT-Tyler



"Adoration night was my favorite part of SEEK; it was beautiful to be with 13,000 people worshipping Christ. The week was a great reminder of the love Christ has for me. This is something I will meditate and reflect upon during this upcoming semester."

Rachel Carney

Athens, TX

Junior, Nursing Major, UT-Tyler



"For me, SEEK and all the talks I heard there gave me the practical, hands on tools I needed to authentically live my Faith out on campus, where it can be so hard to hear God's voice amidst so much noise. I was so blessed with a deepened trust in Christ's Love and plan for my life, especially through getting to celebrate Adoration with 12,000 other students. Not only that, but getting to experience this with all my friends from the JPll Center was so much fun, and really gave us the chance to bond more deeply and connect with so many other students from across the country!"

Mary Shauna Kane

Tyler, TX

Freshman, Psychology Major, TJC



Spring 2017 Schedule

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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



Development Corner

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

Dan Onderko
Development Director
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dancmtyler@gmail.com

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