



BEAR CATHOLIC UPDATE



Walking Along the Journey

Arriving on campus in the fall in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and not having any idea at all of what to expect from college I found myself at a crossroads between developing my faith further or letting other aspects of the “college experience” dominate my decisions. I chose the first option and it has opened doors for me that I didn’t know were locked. In my short time being involved in Bear Catholic, I have met amazing people who are walking along the same journey that I am in ways that I never knew before. The crowning moment so far of my time with Bear Catholic was saying “Yes” to God and retreating on Bear Awakening 28! Leading up to agreeing to go on Bear Awakening I was hesitant not because I doubted that God loves me or that this is the path that he has intended for me, but because of how my life would change. I am no saint like everyone else, but I was scared that what I could potentially leave behind in my life if I said “Yes.” By the grace of God I signed up for BA 28 two days before the deadline, and Bear Awakening opened my eyes to a whole different side of the Catholic faith. Because of Bear Awakening, I have developed a new understanding of what it is like to be a Catholic and be involved in a community of Catholics who are all there to support one another and strengthen each other's faith. Bear Awakening also helped me understand who I want to become in the eyes of God and how to get there and gave me the support system to strive to become the man that I want to be. My experiences with Bear Catholic and Bear Awakening have been nothing but excellent as I have met amazing people and my life will be ever changed for it!



Blake is a freshman at UNC studying History and earning a Secondary Education Teaching Certificate.





A Message from the Pastor

When I began writing this message, I realized we all have been experiencing the worldwide pandemic for over a year now. This full year of restrictions, challenges, trials and sacrifices, crammed between the two seasons of Lent, brings a reflection on the meaning of life for a Christian person.

On the first Sunday of Lent we always hear the story of the Spirit driving Jesus out into the desert, where He experienced a very similar time to what we're going through right now. It seems, in the last year, our lives have become barren, empty, devoid of joy, unproductive – we have been driven out into the desert. And just like Jesus, we are challenged by an invisible opponent, who pushes us to our limits. In circumstances like these it is easy to break down, to collapse in resignation, to give up. However, in knowing that Jesus understands our experience, we find the motivation to go on.

When Bear Catholic was driven out into the desert of a lockdown last Spring, there was no doubt we needed to carry on. We were pushed to do things we never knew were possible: despite the restrictions we prayed more and grew in a deeper relationship with God; social distancing didn't prevent us from reaching out to new students; wearing masks didn't stop us from seeing the face of God in every single person in the community. Even more, by adding a new Campus Minister and more FOCUS missionaries, we equipped ourselves for the renewed approach to the task God has set before us. All of this wouldn't be possible without the recognition that the "desert experience" is sometimes necessary for us to see things differently.

Quite often we perceive challenges and difficulties as obstacles in fulfilling our call, our mission; meanwhile Jesus invites us to see them as opportunities for a greater good to be revealed. This season is a reminder that our lives depend on whether we want to grasp the Good News or not. I am certain that with this approach to cast wider nets and to build the culture of reaching one more student will bear much fruit. I pray that this time is for all of us an opportunity to see further and reach wider. May God bless you now and always.



Meet the New Campus Minister

My name is Robert Delfin and I am the new full-time campus minister for Bear Catholic. This is my sixth year in campus ministry, serving as a FOCUS missionary for three years in Florida and as a campus minister for two years in Milwaukee, WI. My wife Teresa and I are happy to be here and looking forward to growing our family here in Greeley!

A word that has come to mind this semester is URGENCY. Coming into the Fall, it seemed like it would be a difficult year with COVID and its restrictions. However, all of this put fuel to the fire, knowing we had to respond in sharing the Gospel. This urgency reminded me of the words of St. Paul: "Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor 6:2).

The result of this fire? Our numbers being unaffected by this pandemic. Nearly 60 students at our weekly Sunday dinner. 100 students involved in Bible studies. 30 retreaters at our fall Bear Awakening, the most we have had at an Awakening retreat in a long time. Even more consoling is that our students are seeing the bigger picture. They desire their peers not just to be a part of a good community, but to invite them into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Our students see how the power of intercession, investment, and invitation are vital to bringing souls to the heart of Jesus.

None of this would be possible without your spiritual and financial support! Thank you for keeping us in your prayers and investing in Bear Catholic. Know that your support is not only preparing the Church for the future, but changing the Church today. I look forward to seeing how God will continue to bless the good work that we all do: to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and save souls.



A Life Impacted Through FOCUS

This year, I experienced Jesus in ways I did not know were possible. I came into this year having a very minimal relationship with God and the church, and I am coming out a completely different person. I have all of my friends at FOCUS to thank for that. If it had not been for the missionaries and students at UNC, I would have never found the Catholic community I knew I desperately needed. They showed me how to live my life according to Christ and how to truly live out mission. They were my constant support when I needed it and saw potential in me before I hardly knew their names. Because of this, I was able to encounter Christ in a whole new way. I learned so many new ways to pray, studied Scripture, and found a new love for Jesus in Adoration. I am now not only stronger than ever in my faith, but I am also actively learning how to bring the Gospel to others. God the Father has shown me so many graces this year. He knew I needed FOCUS now more than ever and I am eternally grateful for the year He gave me.



Mikayla is a graduating senior studying Business Management. After graduation she hopes to pursue job opportunities in human resources and project management.



Alumna Reflection



Annamaria graduated from UNC this Fall 2020 with a degree in Communications Studies. She currently works for Wipe Every Tear, a non-profit that serves women rescued from human and sex trafficking.

For me, Bear Catholic was a pivotal place during my re-conversion back to the Catholic faith. The first two years I was at UNC, I was not active or aware of any activities that were associated with Bear Catholic but I had a couple of influential missionaries that pursued me, especially when I was stubborn and reluctant to change. I had been in Greek life for a little over two years when I decided to finally go on my first Bear Awakening retreat as an attendee. It was on this retreat that I really grappled with my life choices and how I conducted myself in college thus far. It wasn't until my senior year after attending SLS in Phoenix that I fully surrendered my life to Christ and His mission. I thank the Lord nearly every day for my campus ministers, Mikala Daughenbaugh, Rick Hoines-Brumback, and Robert Delfin, as well as the Cardinal family and other parishioners of St. Peter's. I can confidently say that through discipleship, friendship, and accountability, I am a very different woman than I was before I came to Bear Catholic. And through my brief time on the Bear Catholic Leadership team, I was able to help guide and walk alongside other students in their own faith journeys and share my experiences and my heart with them. I am also very thankful to Father Tomasz in his patience with me and his being always available to the students, sacramentally and otherwise. I'd known Father Tomasz briefly from his last parish and I am so thankful that his light and wisdom can be shared with college students at such an important time in their lives. I can whole-heartedly say that I am a much happier, more vibrant, and joyful person than I was or would be without Bear Catholic and its community.



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BEAR CATHOLIC



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Bear Catholic
FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Growth in the Desert



Bear Catholic
GROWTH IN THE DESERT

PRAISE HIM

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE MIDST OF
THE DESERT (A YEAR WITH COVID) WE
HAVE SEEN MUCH GROWTH :

90% INCREASE IN BIBLE STUDY
PARTICIPATION

111 STUDENTS ON
BEAR AWAKENING

40 ATTENDED THE FOCUS SEEK
CONFERENCE

20+ STUDENTS TO THE HOLY LAND

PLEASE CONSIDER TO HELP FURTHERING THIS GROWTH
DONATE PART OR ALL OF YOUR STIMULUS CHECK TODAY
BEARCATHOLIC.COM

THE GREAT NATION OF ISRAEL WAS
MULTIPLIED IN THE DESERT. AND HERE
WE ARE TODAY, IN A VERY SIMILAR
DESERT, AND WE WANT TO INVITE YOU TO
BE A PART OF THIS GROWTH.

IF WE GET 10 INDIVIDUALS TO DONATE ALL OF THEIR STIMULUS, THAT'S
\$14,000 FOR THE MINISTRY. IF WE DOUBLE THAT, WE WILL ALMOST REACH
OUR OPTIMISTIC FUNDRAISING GOAL FOR THE YEAR!

WE ARE BRINGING HOPE TO THE HOPELESS AND BUILDING THE FUTURE
SAINTS OF THE CHURCH. WE ARE IN AN APOSTOLIC AGE WHEN THE
CHURCH NEEDS TO LIVE THE FAITH IN A RADICAL WAY TO INSPIRE
CHANGE IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE AROUND US AND THE CULTURE AS A
WHOLE. BEAR CATHOLIC IS DOING THIS IN A TANGIBLE WAY AND WE
DESIRE YOU TO HELP US MULTIPLY IN THE DESERT !

PLEASE CONSIDER FURTHERING THIS GROWTH
DONATE PART OR ALL OF
YOUR STIMULUS CHECK TODAY
BEARCATHOLIC.COM

OUR AIM HAS TO BE THE "MULTIPLY"



*Blessed Carlo Acutis.
Pray for us!*



FUTURE SAINTS IN THE MAKING