



**CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER** *Igniting Faith*

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## *Igniting Faith: Living the Mission of the CSC*

**THE CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER** at Washington University is a house of Catholic formation and a community of hospitality to students of all faiths. The Catholic Student Center strives - through education, service, and a worshipping community that seeks to know and become Christ - to form students intellectually, morally, socially, and spiritually according to the wisdom of the Catholic Church, so that they become active participants in parish life and moral and spiritual leaders in Church and society

**SO HOW DO WE  
ACCOMPLISH THAT  
MISSION?**



*Awakening Retreat, Spring 2013*

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## WITH YOUR HELP THESE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS IT HAPPENED IN 2012/13

### Students Leading Students

Few things at the CSC excite me more than seeing students reaching out to other students, helping others experience something of the faith and the community that they have found at the CSC. It is a profound witness of a maturity, service, and "other-centeredness" to focus not just on what *I* can *receive* from a community, but on what I can *give* to help *others* discover something similar. It is a privilege to work with upperclassmen on the Welcome Team as they welcome new students to Wash U and the CSC with open arms, helping them find a home away from home here too. I am blessed to advise the Catholic Student Union board members that commit themselves to serving the larger student body in so many ways. I love when students introduce me to friends who they brought to Sunday Mass that day for the first time, in case they might find something life-giving here too. And it fills me up to see students pour so much time and energy into things like the Awakening Retreat because they know the love that they experienced there and they want to help others possibly experience something similar. The most amazing things happen 'round here students lead and serve in ways such as these!

-Mark Zaegel

### Spring Break Service Trip

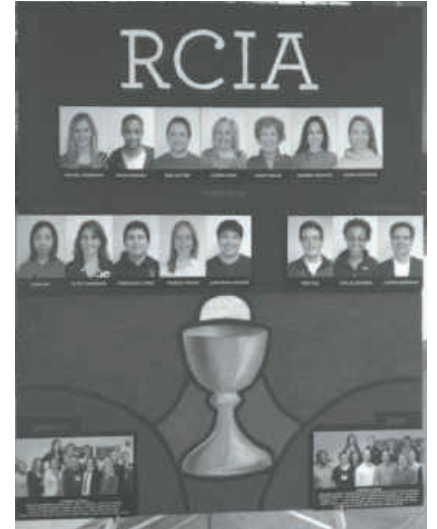
This year I had the pleasure of co-leading the Spring Break Service trip team with Angela Kress to Cincinnati, OH. During this trip, we lived in community with two other college groups in a former convent and were connected to service sites through Franciscan Sisters for the Poor. Our service took us to six different sites, ranging from the Ronald McDonald house next to Cincinnati's Children's Hospital to Mercy/Franciscan at St. John, an organization that provides everything from healthcare to haircuts for people who are experiencing homelessness in the Over the Rhine neighborhood. This trip was an incredible opportunity to learn more about urban poverty and homelessness, the forces that perpetuate it, and the ministry that can enact change. I've met so many students unsettled by social injustice and students who feel a calling to a lifetime of service, students who believe another world is possible. Many of these students first realized this after a service trip like this

one, and I can honestly say that I think the service we did during spring break is just the beginning for the students on that trip.

-Matt Schwab

### RCIA

As I write this reflection on the year in RCIA I am looking at the poster that Lee Essner created of our 15 candidates. What a journey in faith we have shared this year. There are undergrads, grad students, dating couples, engaged couples, and long time married folks. Each of their stories is a testament to the love and welcoming spirit of this community. Many of them you heard during their introductions during lent. Tuesday nights were filled with prayer, questions, insights and laughter. All of this is possible because of the generous sponsors and team members. Holy Saturday is by far my favorite day of the year.



We begin the day in prayer and end in jubilant celebration. As anyone who was able to attend the vigil will testify, the joy is contagious. Alleluia!!!!!!!

-Sr. Linda Straub

### Awakening Retreat

As someone who had never been on Awakening, I was astounded by the insight, genuine vulnerability, and Love that was shared over the Awakening weekend. The things that I saw, heard, and felt revealed that precious core of humanity that exists in each one of us, and I could tell from the twinkle in each retreatant's eye that they were aware and connected to their own center of Love in a renewed way. On more than one occasion, I had to lift my eyes and just say, "Thank you." Thank you community for all your prayers, baked goods, and support to allow this retreat to happen. The fruits of this retreat are ripe as well as still yet to be seen.

-Chris Place

### Choir Success

This past December the CSC choir had the privilege of being featured in a Christmas Concert at St Francis of Assisi parish. We performed some CSC favorites for Ordinary time along with traditional Advent and Christmas songs. The 40 member choir was comprised of student and community voices along with instrumentals. What a show it was, displaying the talent of our choir!

## CommuniTea

One of my favorite parts of the week this year has been our Thursday night women's conversation group, CommuniTea. The group is never the same as undergrads, grad students, young adults, and community members come and go each week, but the tea is always hot, the cookies delicious, and the discussion thought-provoking and meaningful. It has been a beautiful witness of true Christian community to see these women each week open up and share their stories vulnerably with each other. Through this sharing, we have grown together, learned from each other, and perhaps become more aware of who we are in the eyes of God.

*-Michelle Verner*

## Contemplatives In Action

This year the CSC expanded its service and social justice ministry through a program called Contemplatives In Action (CIA). In addition to a clever acronym, CIA is a service-reflection program sponsored by the Catholic Student Center committed to intentional practices of faith, justice, and education. As the program continues to take shape this year, I am continually inspired by the students' desire to move beyond the understanding of service as "something we do", and rather as a way we live. I am humbled by our shared experiences of recognizing the dignity of others, examining the frustrating disparities of public education in the city of St. Louis, and the reflective dialogue we share on how our faith names a responsibility within each of us to the poor and marginalized in our midst.

## LXG

League of Extraordinary Gentlemen is a men's brotherhood for undergraduates. I have been inspired by 40 men, including our adult male mentors, who strive to live out the values of our **BROTHERHOOD** by searching for **TRUTH**, working for **JUSTICE**, and proclaiming **AUTHENTIC MASCULINITY**. They do this not only on a monthly basis in the six small groups that meet for an hour, but also in their daily lives, witnessing to a brave way of living out their masculinity – one that embraces life as it comes, sharing their inner selves with others, and striving to make the world an extraordinary place. I have felt honored to share my life with these Extraordinary Gentlemen – **Join Us!**

## THE EASTER MATCH

Each year since 2009, when several CSC board members joined together to challenge the CSC community by matching every gift contributed to the collection on Easter weekend dollar for dollar up to \$24,000, a variety of beloved friends and supporters have stepped up to issue similar challenges. This year, Jerry & Judy Kent will be matching every donation made to the Easter collection.

In 2012, Jerry & Judy Kent matched every dollar contributed to Easter and the holy weekend garnered \$148,562, including the match from the Kents. This holy outpouring of gifts provided 15% of the CSC's annual budget. It was truly a loaves and fishes type event.

Thank you to everyone who shares their gifts with this faith community, whether it is the gift of financial support, volunteer hours, prayers, homemade soup or love, we are grateful that you are our partner in building faith and moral leadership among young Catholics. Together we are building God's kingdom here on earth!

## Newman Gala

This year's Newman Gala will be on October 5, 2013, at which we will celebrate Archbishop Carlson's support of Catholic campus ministries by presenting him with the 2013 Newman Award. Please mark your calendars to join us in that celebration, as well as the celebration of the student ministry and growing community here at the Catholic Student Center.

*"Could We Love You Anymore?"*  
*-Fr. Gary*

If you enjoy event planning and would like to be involved in the Gala process, please contact Jamey at [stegmaier@washucsc.org](mailto:stegmaier@washucsc.org).  
*-Jamey Stegmaier*

**Notable Events for Remainder of 2013 Spring Semester**

- \*Sunday Mass 11am & 9pm
- \*Weekday Mass & Soup: Tuesdays 5:15pm, Fridays 12:05pm
- \*Med Campus Communion Service: Wednesdays 12:10pm
- \*Confession: 15 minutes before weekday Mass or by appt.
  - \*Theology on Tap: "Making this Generation Great" Tuesday, April 9th, 7:30pm
- \*Foundations in Catholic Theology: "50th Anniversary of Vatican II", Tuesday, April 16, 7pm
- \*GSYA Happy Hours + Seniors: April 12, May 3
- \*GSYA Day of Service: Saturday, April 20
- \*Baccalaureate Mass & Lunch: Wednesday, May 15, 12pm
- \*Graduation Open House: Thursday, May 16, 12-2pm



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