

# CATHOLIC

*The mission of the Catholic Campus Ministry at UMW is to help students grow in their faith in college and prepare them to live it out in parish life after they graduate. We strive to do this through prayer, including frequent reception of the sacraments, authentic community, and training them to use their gifts in the apostolate.*

## TO OUR READERS

Hello and thank you for your support this year! The Campus Ministry has been up to many wonderful things this semester including the dedication of our building and third annual Eucharistic Procession lead by Bishop Burbidge. We also welcomed a fantastic group of community volunteers as well as the class of 2021.

As the new year rolls in we look forward to bringing students to the Arise Conference in Richmond where we will be with hundreds of other college students from schools throughout Virginia. We also look forward to attending the March for Life in D.C. this January and preparing for our End of the Year Service Trip in May where we will be working with the Little

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Sisters of the Poor in Richmond.

We hope you enjoy this issue and have a blessed Advent, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

*- Delsa Bambao, Fundraising Chair Leader, and Cece Moschetto, Associate Campus Minister*

*Fall 2017 Upperclassmen Retreat*





## OPEN HEARTS

The trial run of a Men's Discernment group started last spring in the hopes to provide tools for discernment, particularly in relation to discerning the priesthood but also married life as well. This group was met with such a positive response that we started it back up this year and have over 15 men attending each week! The men read and discuss the book, *To Save a Thousand Souls*, with Father Vaccaro and Brother Timothy, a Dominican whom the men got to know last year. Because this group was so well received, the ministry will begin a pilot women's discernment group next semester. Please pray for its success!



## TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING!

The holiday buzz is upon us as we reflect on how much Our Lord has blessed this community this year. Our Sunday mass attendance is at its highest ever with around 100 students attending each week. We have over 80 students in Bible Studies and our Friday Fun Night events put on to combat the drinking culture consistently hosts over 50 people. We would not be able to support these programs and students they serve without the generous support of our donors. If you feel called to support us this Advent you can do so by visiting [umwcatholic.org](http://umwcatholic.org) or by mailing a donation in the envelope provided. All donations are tax deductible! (\*Hint: tax season is coming up!)



## FRESH PERSPECTIVES

We asked Zhanna Camp, a freshmen at UMW this year, to share her experience coming to the Campus Ministry this semester. She said, "Over the summer I had this fear that I would lose my faith over the next few years at college, but today I know that is far from truth. Through the Catholic Campus Ministry, I have met the kindest, most loving people and I have felt myself growing deeper in my faith throughout the semester. I especially love bible study and the wonderful conversations it brings. I am so thankful for the wonderful friendships I have created and the overall environment the ministry provides."



## THE BISHOP'S VISIT

Every year, the Catholic Campus Ministry holds a Eucharistic Procession on campus followed by Adoration. For its third year, the ministry welcomed Bishop Burbidge to lead the procession across campus to Ball Circle in the center of campus. The procession is always a great way for students and the surrounding Catholic community to come together to praise the Lord and share their faith with the Mary Washington community.

Before Bishop Burbidge lead the procession, he dedicated the newly renamed Catholic Campus Ministry building, the St. John Bosco Center. St. John Bosco was a 19th century priest who dedicated his life to minister the young people through education and kindness in Turin, Italy. Our chaplain, Father Vaccaro, proposed the name change because he has a strong devotion to this saint and he uses the teachings of St. John Bosco to help bring college students toward the Catholic faith.

Maddie Smith, a Senior, shared her

thoughts on this beautiful encounter with Christ on campus. She said, "It's so amazing to see Jesus walk through my campus. There are always people whom I've never seen before kneel as the Procession goes by because they know what's happening and Who is passing by. I also saw random people come at 3am and 4am to pray. The whole procession really brings the community together around the common goal of bringing Christ to campus."





UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON

From:

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To:

## THANK YOU BIRTHRIGHT!

The students at the Catholic Campus Ministry are extremely blessed to have welcomed a wonderful group of volunteers from the Birthright group in Fredericksburg. Linda Hildebrand, from Birthright, shares what Birthright is and the volunteers' experience being around the students at the campus ministry. "Birthright of Fredericksburg is an all-volunteer organization, offering free, non-judgmental help to women facing unplanned pregnancies. We offer love, hope and support to each woman, to help her make a realistic plan for her future and the future of her unborn child.

A group of Birthright volunteers attended a meeting at the campus ministry last spring, where we learned more about the ministry. When the Thursday night dinners were mentioned, we immediately recognized that it was a great opportunity to reach out to the students at the college. This experience of preparing a meal, attending Mass, and interacting with such a wonderful group of young people has been so rewarding to all of us at Birthright! We hope to

continue this tradition for many years to come. Birthright of Fredericksburg is located at 2006 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 202, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. We are open Monday-Friday from 10am-1pm and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-7pm. If you know of anyone who may need help from us, or is interested in volunteering at our office, please call (540)898-8558 or visit our website at [www.birthrightoffredericksburg.com](http://www.birthrightoffredericksburg.com)."

