



**CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER**

**2018-2019**



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# STATE OF THE UNION

## Fr. Rob Walsh

Hello friends!

I pray all is well for you, our supporters of the Catholic Student Center. We've had another great year here - as you can see from our updates which follow - and we're growing at a pace which is hard to believe. I keep hearing from people that numbers are down, things are tough - and yes it's been a tough year in the Archdiocese of Washington. But things are looking up with our new Archbishop Wilton Gregory, and things are really looking up at the CSC. We've had record numbers for Wednesday Mass and dinner, bible studies, retreats... the list goes on and on. I'm particularly proud of another Catholic Terp headed to seminary studies for the Archdiocese of Washington and a former FOCUS missionary from the CSC headed into religious life! God is so very good to us.

With such growth, we've found it necessary to undertake an expansion and updating to our insufficiently sized and outdated CSC facility. I'm not going to go into a ton of detail right now, but we will be in touch (if we haven't already been) to share our plans for the exciting new Catholic Student Center. It's going to be a lot of work and we will need help from all of our supporters to make this project possible, but honestly, we just can't keep up with the ever growing number of Catholic Terps! Stay tuned for more information.

Please know of our prayers for you and your families and please continue to pray for our ministry here at University of Maryland. I can confidently say that our future here is getting brighter and brighter!

In Him,

*Fr. Rob Walsh*

Fr. Rob (aka Frob)



# FOCUS MISSIONARIES

David and his wife Frankie are leaving us as our FOCUS team director and missionary. They are so thankful for an amazing year here at the CSC and are sad to be leaving, but are looking forward to whatever the next chapter holds. Hannah Dragonas will be coming in as our new team director, and we are so excited to welcome Hannah to the CSC family. Hannah is a third year missionary from Massachusetts and served the last two years at George Mason. She loves the outdoors and traveling and is pumped to be serving here on the right side of the Potomac!

We are also saying goodbye to Heather Addington and Jordan Cannella, who will be moving to Massachusetts and Colorado, respectively. However, this also means we are welcoming three new missionaries: Maura Blanchfield, Kassandra Sanchez, and Reese Tollette!



Left to right: Mike Cassidy, Heather Addington, Jordan Cannella, Frankie West, David West.



Left to right: Hannah Dragonas, Maura Blanchfield, Kassandra Sanchez, Mike Cassidy, Reese Tollette.

# FAREWELL TO FR. CONOR

It has been a joy to serve at the Catholic Student Center these past three years. I remember my very first moments at the CSC very fondly: I had just pulled up with a carload of clothes and books for school, and before I even unpacked the car, Fr. Rob asked: "Hey, I'm headed over to dinner and some beers with Dominicans who are helping us out this year... you want to come?" From that moment on, it has been a great adventure working here. I really enjoyed working with college students, and they have done so much to inspire me these past few years: the strength and intentionality of their faith, the thoughtfulness of their questions, and their very real love for God and His people—all grounded in a desire for community and true leisure. I am particularly thankful to Fr. Rob and all the staff of the CSC. It has been a joy to work with them and to grow as a priest inspired by their examples as well. I will miss the CSC very much, but I hope to be back soon to visit. Until it pleases God for our paths to cross again, I carry the CSC with me in my heart, and will meet everyone there at the altar!

--

Fr. Conor Sullivan





# ALUMNI NEWS

## Milestones



Recently ordained Deacon Stefan Yap '14 with Fr. Rob to the right as well as (from left to right) Grace Hegarty '14, Meg Waters '15, Ann Gradowski, Matt Aujero, and Jess Nahmias '17.

Fr. Frank Donio S.A.C. celebrates 25 years in the priesthood with former chaplain Fr. Kyle Ingels and Catholic Terps alumni David Burky '14, George Jin '11, Josh Horne '09, John Junghans, '10 Jay Schaefer '13, Nick Wagman '11.



Recently ordained priest, Fr. Joe Cwik '15 (with the white stole), and (to the right) recently ordained Deacon Stefan Yap '14, celebrate with other Catholic Terps alumni among which are six priests and three future priests.

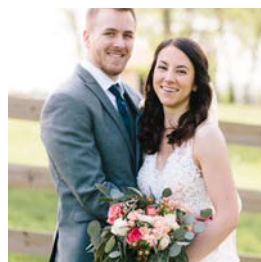
Recently ordained Deacon Zach Crowley '12 with Fr. Rob to the left and some fellow Catholic Terps alumni.



## Joys



Catholic Terp alumni, Kevin '11 and Cathy McTighe '12, are expecting their first child!



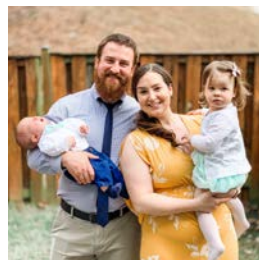
Catholic Terp alumni, Brandyn '14 and Julie Miller '16, got married on May 3, 2019.



Jeana '13 and Matt Curley '13 added Ronan to their family on January 5, 2019.



Catholic Terp alumni, Matt and Shaina Cullens '17, got married on May 11, 2019.



Doug '12 and Elizabeth McMillin '12 added Atticus to their family on January 22, 2019.

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Got married in 2016, and am currently working in research and development outside of Columbus, Ohio. I have continued to volunteer with the Knights of Columbus through St Joan of Arc Church in Powell, Ohio. My wife and I are beginning the process of starting a podcast focused on the lives of the saints. -Nathan Cloeter '14



I have lots of great memories of the CSC. I met my husband, Dan Venedam '86 at the CSC. We served on the retreat committee together with Sr. Rita and Fr. Bill. Fr. Bill married us in 1988 and we have been married 27 years and raised three wonderful girls who have listened to all our CSC stories through the years. -Beverly Venedam '87

add new people and photo



# BRANDYN, JULIE, AND FR. JOE

## Vocational Story

We have had quite the journey to our vocations, both separately and together. By God's providence, Joey and Brandyn started their friendship as random roommates during their freshman year at the University of Maryland. Brandyn had a small group of friends who were active at the Catholic Student Center, including his brother, Colin Miller, and friend Anton Kallungal. They started a Bible study and Brandyn quickly joined in. Throughout their first semester, Brandyn and Joey made many memories together and became close friends who would spend most of their free time together. They began to share their Catholic faith and often went to Sunday mass together. Brandyn asked Joey if he wanted to join the Bible study and come to some of the events at the CSC, and after a semester and summer of asking, Joey said yes to going on a CSC retreat. This retreat was a huge moment when Christ worked in Joey's life. Brandyn and Joey continued to grow in friendship and began sharing their faith more and more.

The CSC provided a supportive environment for Joey and Brandyn to begin to discern their vocations in daily life, work, and in a call to marriage or the priesthood. Over the next few years, Joey discerned entering seminary and Brandyn found God calling him on multiple medical mission trips, through which he found God calling him to become a nurse.

Brandyn and I first met through our older siblings one summer while in Ocean City. My older sister, Christina (also a Catholic Terps alumnus), asked me if I would like to grab ice cream with her and some of her Catholic Terp friends, Becca Vanover, Colin Miller, and Brandyn Miller. I was transferring to Maryland for the upcoming school year so I was happy to meet some new people. Brandyn was a senior at UMD while I was a sophomore. We got to know each other through CSC Wednesday Night Dinners, mutual friends, and a well-planned flag football team. Before we started dating, Brandyn came to support me in one of my club lacrosse games and he brought along one of his friends that had just recently joined the seminary. That is one of my first memories of Joey, and after the game the three of us drove around campus in Brandyn's car. We continued to see Joey from time to time around the archdiocese and occasionally on campus when he would come back to visit. The next five and a half years of for Brandyn and I included several academic degrees, a long distance relationship, an abundance of grace, and immeasurable growth in faith. Throughout this time, we remained close with Joey through prayer and occasional video chats while he was in Rome studying at the Pontifical North American College. When Brandyn and I got engaged in September of 2017, we knew right away that we would want Joey (who would then be a deacon) to help Fr. Rob celebrate our wedding mass and help us say our vows. Unfortunately, Joey was unable to return for our wedding on May 3, 2019. But God is never outdone in generosity! We had planned to go to Italy for our honeymoon and were blessed to share more than two days visiting Joey while we were in Rome. About a month later, Joey returned to the Archdiocese of Washington and we had the honor of attending Joey's priesthood ordination mass and his mass of thanksgiving. It was a powerful and beautiful experience to watch someone we love so joyfully give his entire life for the service of God. After that weekend, we could do nothing but praise and thank the Lord for the very real and beautiful ways He was acting in all of our lives. We have already experienced a deeper love of God and each other through our marriage, and we had the opportunity to watch our dear friend follow God's call as well. It is crazy to look back on where we started and how we have each grown, both individually and together. God has been so good to us. He has given us eyes to see how our vocations are different yet complimentary, and how he has been active in our lives from the very beginning.

-Julie Miller '16



# CLASS OF 2019

Where Will They Go?

2 becoming  
missionaries

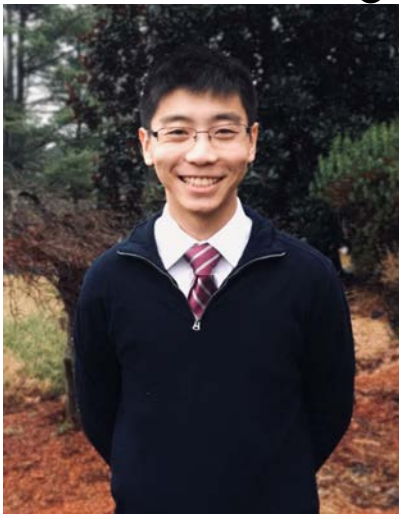
2 becoming  
teachers

20 students  
have jobs lined up

3 students  
going to grad  
school

## UNIVERSITY MEDALIST

Eric Wang '19



"I was raised in an atheist family and held those beliefs for most of my life. However, in my senior year of high school, I was invited on a retreat, and I decided to go on a whim. I remember quietly rolling my eyes when they explained the Real Presence of the Eucharist and prayed the Rosary. However, after meeting and talking to a young seminarian, I saw joy that I lacked in my own life. It was hard to explain, but it went beyond just being kind and welcoming. That made me more curious about the faith, and I decided to join RCIA as a freshman at Maryland.

RCIA was great because they always brought snacks. Frob would talk for an hour straight while I sat there munching on my chips. Before I knew it, the Easter Vigil came around, and I received Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion all at once. Afterwards, I became an altar server. The Easter Vigil is always my favorite liturgy because I

get to see the new RCIA class entering the Church each year.

I am incredibly grateful for the awards I received in college, but these quickly come and go. What will I remember in thirty years? I will always remember being baptized in the CSC."



# CATHOLIC TERP DONORS

Thankful for the blessings of our partners and patrons who sustain our ministry

327

Monthly

200

Appeal

148

Offertory

101

Alumni

30

Parent Fund

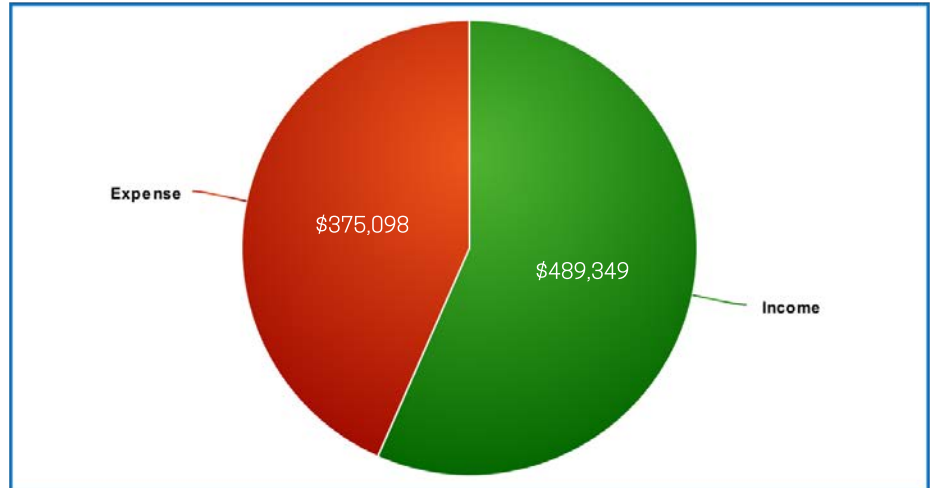
\*48

40for40

\*Undergraduate Lenten Challenge: 48 students participated

Annual Appeal 2018-2019: **\$79,870**

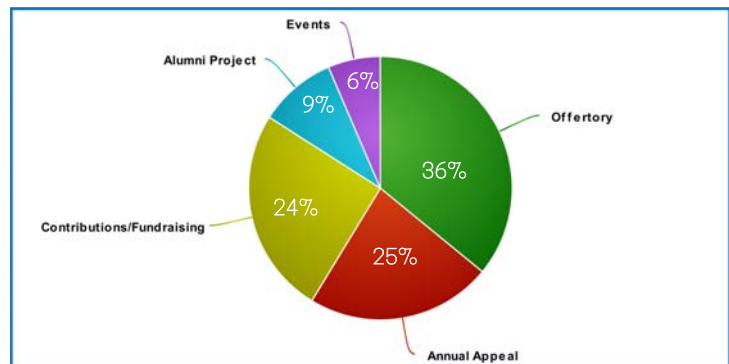
Income v Expense



Income Expense

meta-chart.com

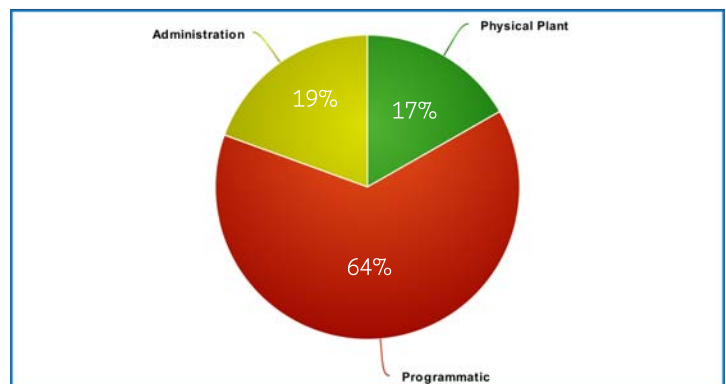
Income



Offertory Annual Appeal Contributions/Fundraising Alumni Project Events

meta-chart.com

Expense



Physical Plant Programmatic Administration

meta-chart.com

SUPPORT

# CATHOLIC TERPS ALL OVER CAMPUS!

## Intramurals



The Catholic Terps were involved in several intramural sports this year, ranging from soccer to volleyball to basketball to softball. We even won a couple championships! Our teams won the Coed B Basketball championship (pictured top), Men's B Soccer 11 v 11 championship (pictured bottom), as well as the Coed B Soccer 7 v 7 championship.



"Intramurals is a great way to meet people and have fun playing sports, and winning makes it better. It really builds friendships and they're great people."

-Matt Tobin '20

Top photo: Coed B Basketball

Bottom photo: Men's B Soccer 11 v 11

## Out of the Darkness

On April 7, UMD held the Out of the Darkness Campus Walk for suicide prevention and to raise awareness about mental illness. Some of our own Catholic Terps helped by fundraising or by joining in the walk. In total, the Catholic Terps team raised \$587. From left to right, those in the photo are Kaitlin Ouyang, Gabby Reyes, Samantha Kennedy, and Laurie Ruhlmann.



## Immigration Week

Together for Justice week brings Christians from various groups on campus together for a week of prayer, education and advocacy about a social justice issue. This year's topic was Immigration. Catholic Terps hosted candlelit Stations of the Cross. We also attended the panel event and were excited to have a Catholic speaker, Celia Rivas from Catholic Charities, on the panel.



# STUDENT LEADERS

## President, MJ Acevedo '20

"When Lisa sent me a calendar invite to a 15-minute meeting last May I thought we would be talking about upcoming social events. Next thing I knew, Matt and Frob were joining us too and at that point I had no idea what to expect. My immediate thought was that I had done something horribly wrong and that I was being banned from the CSC but little did I know that they would be asking me to serve as president. That 15-minute meeting would change my college experience in a way I would have never expected and am truly grateful for. Entering this past school year at a difficult time for both the Church and UMD forced us all to ask the important question of why we are here. Day after day at the CSC has helped me answer that question in such a beautiful way. The answer has been in the people we meet, in the conversations we



have, and the family we build; all being rooted in the awareness that where two or more are gathered in His name, Christ is in the midst of us. This newfound awareness of our call to service has led to many major projects for our student leaders and the CSC community as a whole. We have launched our campaign to renovate the CSC, reorganized student leadership creating an Executive Board, traveled to Mexico to serve the poor and much more. Most importantly though, we have led initiatives focusing on encountering Christ present in each person we meet, building this culture of encounter that Pope Francis has called us all to do. I have no doubt that this next year will be filled with many blessings and exciting times for the CSC and am honored to be returning for a second-term. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we enter this new year filled with joy and expectation for what Christ has in store for us!"

## Executive Board 2019-2020



"In the first couple years of my college experience, I had hoped that I would form good Catholic friendships through my time at the CSC. Little did I know, I would find a family here. As a student, I am honored and blessed to serve others by inviting them into our family!" -Amelia Congedo

"Being a leader at the CSC has been one of the best ways to give back to this amazing community that has done so much for me throughout my time at UMD." - Benji Bock

"I'm so grateful I get the opportunity to serve my CSC community in this intentional way! It's the least I can do for the home that keeps me grounded and shows me so much joy (and gives me so much free food). I am so pumped for what God is going to do through this new exec board and I cannot wait to see my CSC family grow deeper in faith and stronger in love!" -Megan George

"I love being a student leader because it gives me a unique opportunity to reach out to my peers and to really show people that they are not alone in their pursuit of Christ. I found companionship here at the CSC and I want other people to have that too." -Ty Cao

# MEXICO CITY 2019

Undergrad Trip - January 13-18

Alumni Trip - April 4-7



## Testimony - Tori Wesley '17

"During my years at Maryland, I never really considered myself a "service" or "mission" trip person. I kind of left that category to those who I thought were stronger or just anyone who wanted to be in different situations. I didn't really have a concept of what a mission trip or what encountering the poor really meant. I always thought I couldn't really do it or do it well. I went to Craig's talk in the Spring of 2018 and I was captivated. By the end of the talk I decided I had to go on the alumni mission trip, and for the first time I didn't feel intimidated by the idea of serving and encountering the poor - I felt excited. When I finally made it to Mexico, the initial fear of not knowing Spanish hit me, but it was the smile and reassurance of those I encountered that helped me. The love of God broke through any barriers or self-doubt I originally had. The next couple of days were spent encountering God through the moments spent with the poorest of the poor. One of the extra benefits of the trip was the proximity and relation to Our Lady of Guadalupe. This was a great example for me that sometimes all it takes is for you to show up or be present, just like Our Lady presented herself through Juan Diego's tilma. The fears I originally had about going on a mission trip were taken away and by the time I left I was already thinking about how to go back."



## JOIN US NEXT YEAR!

Undergrad Trip: March 14-20, 2020

Alumni Trip: January 16-20, 2020





# **CENTERED ON CHRIST**

## **THE NEW CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER**



**Coming Fall 2019**  
**Capital Campaign**  
**\$3 million**



# CATHOLIC TERPS 2018-2019



Welcome BBQ  
August 29



Junior/Senior Retreat  
October 19-21



Christmas

Family Weekend

Fresh/Soph Retreat  
September 8-9

September 21-23

Loyalty Brunch  
October 14







Welcome BBQ - August 29  
Frsh/Soph Retreat - September 8-9  
Family Weekend - September 21-23  
Junior/Senior Retreat - October 19-21  
Loyalty Brunch - October 14  
Christmas  
SEEK - January 3-7  
Spring Retreat - February 15-17  
FOCUS Spring Break Mission Trips  
Lent/40for40  
Easter/RCIA  
Finals and Baccalaureate

# STAFF PAGE

Ann to add infor for mailing and Save teh  
days