

## May Angels Fly With You Wherever You Roam and Guide You Safely Home



Over Spring Break week, 32 peers became family and grew in faith and fellowship. The Alaska mission trip helped us to deepen our love for God and neighbor. We started each day with morning prayer and worship. After breakfast we headed to a soup kitchen, a boys and girls club, a food pantry or shelter.

The service was the most impactful part of the trip. We ended each day with mass, adoration, confession and small groups. We had plenty of time for rest and enjoying one another. Alaska is a beautiful state with snow-capped mountains, wildlife and breathtaking sunsets.

Working with poor and homeless populations was a humbling and rewarding experience through which God showed His spirit and the power of His love. *–Dan, sophomore*

It's been a struggle being away from my amazing Catholic community. I've been able to connect with CSU friends, and know God is doing great things! *–Rae, sophomore*

The trip to Alaska truly ignited a transformation in my heart. The mission work brought me closer to God and gave me lasting friendships. *–Lilly, sophomore*



A little repayment for the good the Newman Center has done for me, my brother and the students. God bless.

So grateful for campus ministry. Happy to support this important work. Always in our prayers.

During this current time of challenge, the Alaska mission is a reminder that there is hope, that God loves me, and if I give Him my all, He will make something beautiful out of my life. *–Hanna SPO*

I never felt so close to the community of St. Lawrence as I do now. The Holy Spirit is heard through the staff videos. It's nice to hear staff like Rochelle and the SPO share, as well as Fr. Jake and the Brothers. I hope this continues as I find it helpful in my spiritual life.

We miss being with our loving St. Lawrence Community. Thank you for continuing the ministry virtually!

# GOPHER CATHOLIC NEWS

## Together We Make a Difference in the Church

When Brother Ken asked us to serve on the Senior Class Gift Committee, we immediately said yes. Our Catholic faith has matured tremendously since freshman year because of the Newman Center ministry.

Our 2020 class gift team accepted a \$25,000 challenge from the 2019 graduates of monthly giving over the next five years. In early March, our team of three met with Brother Ken and Kathy Jo. We prayed, made a plan and began reaching out to classmates.

Our efforts, along with the rest of our lives, were halted by COVID-19 and the closure of the University. For many 2020 graduates, the near future suddenly became uncertain. As of April 20, we had received less than \$7,000 and considered postponing the class gift. Through prayer we were convicted that the class of 2020 had the spirit, commitment and gratitude needed to reach our goal.

On April 26, we celebrated graduation Mass with the Most Reverend Bernard Hebda and Father Jake Anderson. The Archbishop spoke with great gratitude for our ministry and hope for the graduates.

At this livestreamed Mass, Morgan and Sophia presented a check to Brother Ken signifying the class of 2020's pledge to St. Lawrence. By God's grace and the overwhelming generosity of our classmates, we surpassed our goal and secured more than \$25,000. In the face of our current challenges, this is an incredible testament to the impact that the St. Lawrence community has made on our lives.

The YouTube Mass highlight video link is found on our website at [www.umncatholic.org](http://www.umncatholic.org)



Dear Class of 2020, You have risen to be the best in a difficult time. Your faith and trust in the Lord and willingness to give back to the Church will inspire future generations because we will be able to say, "Hey, in the worst of times, your peers of the past were able to dig deep down and be generous to the faith." *–Brother Ken*



Morgan Pfeffer, Austin Peterson, and Sophia Bursey



Father Jake Anderson and Most Reverend Archbishop Hebda



Faith is truly alive in our students

✠ We have received more than \$9,000 honoring our graduates and matching their example of faith. Please invest in Catholic leaders for the Church tomorrow by doubling their efforts. You may contribute online at [www.umncatholic.org](http://www.umncatholic.org) or by calling Kathy Jo Peterson at 612-261-2811. Thank you.



### Our Mission:

Sharing the abundant love of Christ as a university Catholic parish

### Mission Leadership:

Father Jake Anderson  
Parochial Administrator & Director

Alice King Moormann  
Trustee

Tom Hagen  
Trustee

Brother Ken Apuzzo B.H.  
Senior Campus Minister

Brother Matthew Warnez, B.H.  
Managing Director of Campus Ministry

Claire Jensen  
Catholic Students United President

Austin Peterson  
Catholic Students United Vice President

Rochelle Shirk  
Business Administrator

Kathy Jo Peterson  
Director of Development

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## Serving and Connecting With Our One Spiritual Family



Father Jake Anderson  
Parochial Administrator and Director

**Faith is like a bright ray of sunlight. It enables us to see God in all things as well as all things in God.**

–St. Francis de Sales

This global pandemic has understandably put a pause and even a full halt on many aspects of life. As you can imagine, our life and ministry at St. Lawrence has been deeply affected. Many students are asking: “what will this pandemic mean for my future?” and “will I be able to find a job this summer or when I graduate?”

However, even amidst this challenging reality, I am amazed at the light of faith present in our university community, especially in the witness of student participation and leadership. Our student-led prayer sessions are a ray of sunlight in the darkness. These students continue their community of friendship and growth in the gospel. This authentic connection is vital during this time of loneliness and confusion. The Brotherhood of Hope, our SPO missionaries and I have been offering 5-week formational courses via Zoom to small groups of students for a deeper dive into the Christian Catholic faith.

I find courage in the fact that the Lord has been leading us to be far more relationally driven than event driven. Even in trial-ridden times, our depth of relationship with the Lord Jesus, and each other, keeps us rooted and strong. Your prayers, support and generosity help us bring more souls to Christ. Praise the Lord that during this pandemic, we stay connected:

✠ Daily readings at [www.umncatholic.org](http://www.umncatholic.org)

✠ Video reflections from St. Lawrence staff

✠ Ways to watch and hear Mass at [www.umncatholic.org](http://www.umncatholic.org)

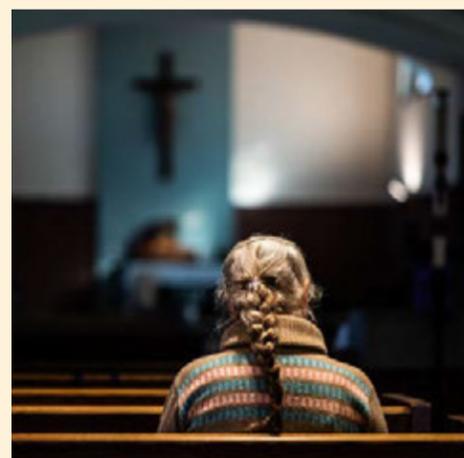
✠ The church is open with limited hours for prayer and confession

✠ Students pray daily and meet in small groups via videoconferencing

✠ Website has a prayer intention link

✠ Gopher Catholic Night honored our seniors on April 28

✠ Private masses for nine parishioners at a time started in May



## How is God Calling me to Serve?



Kathy Jo Peterson  
Director of Development

I continue to learn that helping others and doing service gives me much peace and joy. During the last month, I have felt anxiety and fear. Thank God, I know my reprieve comes from drawing near to God and serving others. That might be getting

groceries for a neighbor or bringing someone a meal. God nudges me daily to stretch and do things out of my comfort zone.

I believe God is inviting us to think outside of the box. How would God have us be? Indeed, St. Lawrence relies on contributions to keep our ministry strong. In addition, we need your prayers, support and encouragement. We are not alone. As we lift each other up we remember, our God is BIG!

## Sharing Christ's Love Through Good Deeds

A heartfelt thanks to the St. Lawrence Young Adult group for giving \$4,000 to update the lighting in Room B and the Library. This community of 50 graduate students and young adults seek to empower and encourage each other to grow in their Catholic faith. They meet every other week and continue to meet virtually via Google Hangouts during the shelter in place.

An extra thank you to the group's coordinator, Kyle Palzer, a UMN graduate. He checked in consistently to see how much money had been received and brought the results back to the group. In the Fall of 2018 they raised more than \$2,500,

repainted the room and installed window blinds.

Their efforts provide a beacon of light during this time of challenge. The group is already planning their next deed: providing a Sunday Supper after Mass in the Fall. God truly shines through them as they bless St. Lawrence.



Kyle Palzer  
Volunteer Coordinator



Growing in faith while serving the needs of the parish

This is my tax relief money. I am working from home and receive my full salary. Please use it towards the Room B lights project. God bless! –Young Adult

Dear Fr. Jake, Thank you for all you do. You have a special place in our hearts and prayers. We realize how important your vocation is, especially with the college students. God bless you!