



St. Peter Catholic Student Center

Baylor Catholic

Spring 2019

Serving the Catholic Community at Baylor University, McLennan Community College, & Texas State Technical College

SEEK 2019: An Arena of Grace

Thousands of students. Arms raised, clapping. Some students calling out. Some in silence. At times everyone singing.

It sounds like a Baylor sporting event, but this past January, 17 thousand young people gathered in Indianapolis, not to support their school's sports teams, but to worship, to listen, to confess, and transform their lives by attending SEEK.

SEEK is a biennial conference hosted by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) in major cities across the United States. This year, 60 Baylor Catholic students joined thousands of other students, priests, consecrated persons, and speakers to learn what they truly yearn for: encountering Christ. A common thread in the talks was the speakers' gratitude for and recognition of the sincere faith, witness, and commitment that flows from this Catholic community.

During the five-day conference, our students attended talks by notable Catholic speakers like Sr. Mirian James (right), Leah



Darrow, Jason Evert, and Sarah Swafford. Talks like these are the heart of all the FOCUS conferences and known for their inspiration, but also for having a strong call to action. "During Fr. Mike Schmitz's talk on the last day, I heard how destructive indifference can be," said Will Mullen (left), '20. "He talked about how if we truly believe in the Catholic faith then we are being selfish in not sharing its truth with those that we love. I needed this to give me the encouragement to share my faith more boldly with my friends."

Kate Ballantyne, '21, was particularly struck by a talk on prayer.

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St. Peter 2018-19 Leadership Council

Bill Moyer, *Chairperson*

Terry & Sinda Vanderpool
Antonio & Paula Macias
Erich & Lori Baker

David & Kathy Alexander
Chelsea Kramer, class of '14
Kevin Renois, class of '16

SEEK: An Arena of Grace (continued from p. 1)



"I loved hearing about the different ways to go about praying and spending time with The Lord. It was refreshing because the talk provided great tips and guidelines for those who are struggling with prayer or "coasting" in your relationship with Christ."

Our students also had the opportunity to meet hundreds of other students, even some from Baylor they'd never met before. "I met some amazing people from my own campus," said Will, "We had this instant bond, being Catholic and from Baylor. This allowed us to engage in fruitful discussion throughout the entire conference."

Other students got to meet notable Catholic speakers, like Scott Hahn, Jason Evert, and Fr. Mike Schmidt. "On the second night of SEEK I just so happened to walk into the same elevator as Leah Darrow," Kate Ballantyne, '21, said, "She was fantastic when

she gave a keynote talk about our call to purpose."

Fr. Daniel Liu was among the 400 priests who heard confessions and concelebrated daily Masses. He and the students joined other parishes and student centers from the Diocese of Austin for a shared meal on the last day of the conference.

Baylor Catholic students strongly recommend the experience to others who've never attended before. "This conference gave me so much peace knowing that I am not alone in my desire to seek holiness. I was exposed to the legitimacy of the Catholic Church and it is something that I cannot help but share with my loved ones. SEEK is truly a place for everyone. It is where a developing faith blossoms into understanding and an established faith is solidified in our salvation."

Noah Hupp, '20, said, "For the first time in a very long time I'm truly excited to be living life! We aren't called to be existing but meant to be living. We are called to set the world on fire... Life gets hard from here on out, and things will be much more difficult. Nothing worth fighting for doesn't come easy and what I encountered these past few days is worth fighting for."

Mission Advancement News

Annie Donovan to Join Staff as Campus Pastoral Associate

A sign of sure growth and need at the Student Center: we're adding to our pastoral staff! We're delighted to welcome current FOCUS missionary Annie Donovan as our forthcoming Campus Pastoral Associate. She's the first layperson in a full-time pastoral role at St. Peter Catholic Student Center. She's served here for two years as a FOCUS missionary. We're blessed to have her join the staff and help us grow and develop the campus ministry. She starts her new role at the end of May 2019. For a Q & A with Annie, check out our blog at baylorcatholic.wordpress.com.



Reason for Hope Receptions

Hosting a reception is a simple and lovely way to enjoy fellowship and support the Catholic campus ministry at Baylor University. The main purpose is to build community and help people become more familiar with the Student Center and our work. If you feel blessed by the Center's mission, consider hosting a Reason for Hope Reception wherever you live. Contact John Smith for more info.



Your Amazon Shopping Can Support the Center

Did you know you can support St. Peter Catholic Student Center every time you shop at Amazon? The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to us, at no cost to you! See www.baylorcatholic.org/amazon-smile for more info.

A Counterfeit Faith Transformed: Luke Ungarino's Story

Luke Ungarino entered consecrated life last fall. Just two years earlier, though, he was struggling interiorly with his faith. On the outside, he was attending Mass, sometimes around the Catholic Center, and even defending the faith at times. But on the inside, he said, he was doubting, struggling, and holding "a kind of private atheism."

Luke saw Christian life as good, but he wasn't completely committed.

Looking back, he was an unlikely person to struggle so keenly with the essential truths of God.

Raised in a devout Catholic family in Metairie, Louisiana, a suburb of New Orleans, he went to Catholic schools. From junior high on, he was involved with the Legionaries of Christ and Regnum Christi, its lay branch of the movement. Luke was active with Regnum Christi from age 10, taking part in the movement's Conquest boys' club. By about age 14 he was leading Conquest. Although initially reluctant to get involved, he was the picture of young Catholic leadership, receiving spiritual direction and taking on increasingly key roles in his Catholic circles.



to be religious and to have faith, even as he was struggling.

By the fall of his sophomore year, Luke reached a critical point. He'd developed key friendships, people like Oliver Ha and Jackson Perry, and had started to get involved. He knew he needed to make some decisions about his faith.

He was going to give God a chance and see if He showed up.

For that Christmas break, he resolved to stay in a state of grace, go to daily Mass, and pray the rosary. Not surprisingly, God showed up in a big way for Luke. His faith revived profoundly. He recognized Jesus as God and recognized Jesus truly present in the Eucharist. He resolved to put aside his ambitions that were disconnected from his relationship with God.

What a grace to receive confirmation of the faith in his heart that he'd professed for so long on his lips!

After months of reflection, prayer, scheduling community visits, and direction, last year Luke decided to enter the Community of Jesus Crucified. The new community, founded in 1986, has a charism "to freely consecrate their lives in service of a suffering and wounded humanity"—"to make up for what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ for the sake of His Body, the Church (Col. 1:24)."

When asked what advice he'd give to those discerning a vocation but attached to the idea of marriage or afraid of what consecrated life might mean, Luke said, "Get accustomed to detachment in little things and practice detachment in little things. I had a lot of attachments that kept me from being too open to it."

Join us in praying for Luke, for the fruits of his studies and for his vocation!



Luke with his parents, Matt and Julie Ungarino

In April of 2013, with a deposit down at Tulane University, he decided to attend Baylor. A conversation with a Tulane professor ended with the professor recommending that Baylor might be a better fit.

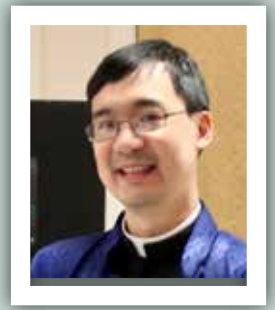
When he decided to come to Baylor, Luke didn't know that he was coming to an authentically Christian School. He quickly learned otherwise.

He jumped into student government and set his priorities: school and career ambition, partying, then faith. He went to Mass, even sometimes attending daily Mass. He was trying hard



Director's Spotlight - Fr. Daniel

We've had a blessed spring semester. We were especially blessed to have the opportunity to take 60 students to SEEK, where they could share the joy of their faith with 17,000 other young Catholics over 5 days. Since returning, I've seen a renewed sense of mission in many of the students who went: praying more, going to Mass more, starting Bible studies, and inviting their friends. Please pray that we fight to maintain the flame of faith alive in our hearts, that we remember that nothing is more important or joyful than that. Thank you for your support and prayers which makes these opportunities possible for our community.



Knights of Columbus: Brothers Proudly Supporting Seminarians

The Knights of Columbus Council #13577 is an incredibly active council, offering regular meetings for fellowship, lectures and talks, service projects, and other ways of engaging the student community.

If you're a practicing Catholic young man over the age of 18 and would like more information about joining our council, please contact them at Knights@baylorcatholic.org.



The Knights made a quilt for a brother Knight, Trey Chapa, a current Diocese of Austin seminarian, for his birthday. It's made out of t-shirts he helped to design for the Center during Trey's time here.



Louis-Gustave de Torcy, a member of Council 13577 and former student at Baylor. Louis is a seminarian in the Community of St. Martin in Evron in Northwestern France. Louis wrote to the Council recently to thank them for the stipend we sent last spring. He used it to purchase his first cassock.

Alumni Updates—Keep in Touch

Baylor Catholic alumni! What have you been doing since you left Baylor? Milestones, vocations, kids, jobs, awards—we want to hear your stories! You can also update your address and other contact information, as well. Reach out to jessicasmith@baylorcatholic.org.

Calling Baylor Faculty & Staff!

Would you like to be part of a community of Catholic faculty and staff at Baylor? The Confraternity of Mary gathers monthly for coffee and fellowship. Reach out to jessicasmith@baylorcatholic.org for more information and to get connected.

St. Peter Catholic Student Center *Happenings*



The Catholic Student Association (CSA) held its annual Christmas Coffee December 1.



Fr. Daniel celebrated a Baccalaureate Mass on December 14 in honor of December graduates.



March for Life in Washington D.C.: On January 18, eight Baylor Catholics joined upwards of 200 thousand people in the National March for Life.



February 1, Sarah Swafford came to give a talk, "Emotional Virtue: A Guide to Drama-Free Relationships." She chatted with students and posed for pictures afterwards. Her talk is posted on our website.



Students enjoying games for the CSA's game night on March 1.



Students on mission with FOCUS missionary Annie Donovan in Lithuania over spring break.



Students on mission with FOCUS in Mexico over spring break.



St. Peter Catholic Student Center

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SUNDAY MASS

9:30 am, 11:30 am, 9 pm
Extraordinary Form Latin
Saturday 5:30 pm

Daily Schedule

Mass: M, T, Th, F 5:30pm
Mass: W 12:15pm
Confession: 4:30pm
Adoration: 4:30pm

STAFF

Director

Fr. Daniel Liu

Director of Development

John Smith

Development Coordinator

Jessica Smith

Center Coordinator

Amy Lopez

Music Director

Dr. Janya Martin

Communications Assistant

Marlene Gonzalez

Administrative Assistant

Simone Roach

Pastoral Intern

Christiana Hernandez

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**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

- Senior Reception..... May 11
- Baccalaureate Mass..... May 17
- Commencement..... May 17-18

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Alumni: Let us know who you are, what year you graduated, and what you are doing now! We'd love to hear from you!

www.baylorcatholic.org

SEEK Conference 2019

