DONOR IMPACT REPORT
2017-18

YOU’RE HELPING FORM THE HEARTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS!
WELCOME FROM FATHER THOMAS:

In this 3rd annual Tulane Catholic Donor Impact Report, I’m excited to share with you how your generosity has been forming the next generation of saints in the Church!

Your gifts help form college students into amazing young Catholics who are ready to give themselves to the world and the Church!

Thank you so much!

Director of Campus Ministry
Fr. Thomas Schaeffgen, OP
eschaeffg@tulane.edu

HOW DO YOU “MAKE” SAINTS?

Here’s how your support of Tulane Catholic helps college students answer the call to become the saints they’re called to be!

1 YOUR SUPPORT

Your gifts of prayer, money, volunteered time, and spreading the word about this urgent ministry provides for formation and outreach.

2 CATHOLIC FORMATION

Retreats, lectures, the sacraments, classes, small groups, authentic friendship, and service form students to become saints.

3 SAINTS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Graduates striving to be who God calls them to be become a gift to the Church and the world, sharing themselves through their vocations.

Personal Invitation

They're sent out to invite their peers to encounter and know Jesus Christ.

13,000+ Students at Tulane

Fr. Val Meliones Center for Catholic Life
YOU'RE FORMING COLLEGE STUDENTS

In this year’s report you’ll see how your gifts are helping to form the spirit, mind, heart, and soul of college students at Tulane University.

ANDREW WIERDAK

(above, third from the left, with friends at SEEK2017) is from River Forest, Illinois, and graduated May 2018 in Chemical Engineering.

“I was not involved in my faith before college but I wanted to be the good son who called home to tell Mom and Dad I went to church. I had never been on a retreat when I attended Encounter at Tulane Catholic. That weekend I found myself crying in front of the Blessed Sacrament and I thought, ‘This is not normal and not what I do.’

“Later, at SEEK2017, I saw people sprinting to Confession. Something in me realized that they were getting something from this that I’m not. Everyone in line for confession dropped to their knees when Jesus was raised in the monstrance, and it was the most reverent thing I had seen. The walls of my heart were broken down. That’s when I knew it was real.”

JULIANNA LEWIS

(above, center) is from Houston, Texas, and graduated in May 2018 in Public Health (Pre-Med).

“When I got to college, I wasn’t active in my faith. During move in weekend, my parents took me to Mass, and I met Megan, who was a FOCUS missionary. In December, Megan texted me to go have coffee. At this point I considered myself an atheist and thought faith wasn’t for me. Megan asked me if I would consider going to a FOCUS conference called SEEK. I said yes and thought ‘If I go and hate it, I can close the door and move on.’ I had a ‘reversion’ there during adoration. When I came back to school, I wanted more than what the world could offer me.

“Tulane Catholic helped me learn the importance of knowing Jesus personally and intimately. I went from not praying to having a daily prayer life. Finding people who knew what the real priority in life was helped me realize that all the worldly things I was striving for were not sufficient. I would not have chosen to be a missionary without my experience at Tulane Catholic, especially Catholic Relief Services and Mission Honduras. My relationship with Christ allowed me to have the courage to do this.”

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You are truly changing lives!
My life has an entirely different direction. I would not be living for God right now if I did not have this community!

—Andrew Wierdak, ’18
FORMING THEIR MINDS

Justyna & Emma came to college not knowing much about their Catholic faith or how to engage it intellectually, but when they discovered the intellectual formation available to them at Tulane Catholic thanks to you, that changed!

My family has a really low income and we all went to public school. I always thought I didn’t believe because I didn’t have a formal Catholic education, and now I do because of you! So thank you!

— Justyna Przytula, ’19

EMMA HANEWINCKEL

(top, left, at Encounter 2017 with Justyna) is from Sarasota, Florida, and in her fourth year of Philosophy, Psychology, and Neuroscience.

“Once I started going to Theology Thursday, I was like ‘Wow, we can learn about God in this way?’ Fr. Thomas makes it so interesting and is so good at facilitating and answering questions. I would leave every class awe-struck about how awesome God is. God seemed so much bigger and beautiful than I could ever imagine, and I would take that to prayer.”

Emma is now the President of the Thomistic Institute Chapter at Tulane. She and her peers organize lectures held on campus to engage students with Catholic theology.

She says, “I was blown away by the talks. To see these esteemed professors talk about their own field of research from a Catholic perspective. It’s changed my path for going forward because I never realized that my faith could be so closely intertwined with my profession.”

CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL FORMATION

Through the Thomistic Institute, Tulane Catholic offered 6 lectures on topics like “Is Belief in God Rational?,” “The Catholic Who Invented Human Rights,” and “Cen Neuroscience Study the Human Soul?”

“Catholic Feminism” & “Catholic Man” classes were offered, helping students explore the dignity and vocation of women and men.

Theology Thursday, a weekly class, helps students explore Catholic theology at a college level.

JUSTYNA PRZYTULA

(above, right) is from Chicago, Illinois, and a senior studying Business.

“I was baptized Catholic but always struggled with believing. It wasn’t until I found Tulane Catholic that I really dove into my faith from a spiritual and intellectual standpoint and now have a personal relationship with God.

“I started going to Theology Thursday, and I was surprised to find substantial reasons to believe in God. What was most powerful for me were people who were convicted and living out the faith through virtuous lives. The intellectual part kept me in the faith during harder times of desolation.”
“I would have been complacent in my faith if Fr. Thomas had not lit my desire to learn about God. Going to Tulane Catholic and being surrounded by people my own age who wanted to learn about Christ had a big impact on me. It made it easier to see how everyone around me is a son or daughter of God, and I wanted to tell them that.

“The social events show that when you commit to Jesus there is joy... the Christian life is joyful! You can have fun in college and still live a Christian life. Daniel and I would not have been as close friends if we were not trying to run towards Christ together. Our friendship works so well because we are always turning each other back towards Christ. When Fr. Thomas said something thought provoking in a homily, we could discuss it and ponder it together. It’s great to have friends that you can do this with so that you are not just doing this on your own.”

“Whenever I reflect on if I made the right choice of college, I think that Tulane Catholic is what makes me realize that I made the right choice. All schools provide academics, but Tulane Catholic has been very important for me. It’s not just ‘Jesus loves me’, but it’s like who is Jesus and delving into the theology and the mystery and the beauty of both Jesus and the Church and how that relates to my life. We are here to be saints, and that’s what we strive for. It’s not just a pick me up experience. It’s really diving into your faith! This is where friendship becomes authentic because it’s not just ‘let’s show up on Sunday and pretend that we love Christ’, but it’s authentic, and we can talk about Him all night. This is what has been powerful for me.”

Thank you for donating to something that young people will carry in their hearts the rest of their lives. I went to a lot of classes, but Tulane Catholic is something I will never forget.”

—Daniel Bolus, ’18
FORMING THEIR SOULS

Emily & Carolyn’s friendship is what drew Emily to Tulane Catholic in her junior year. Both friends are singers and have been involved with music team and the choir.

“YOUR GIFTS HELP FORM SOULS FOR WORSHIPPING GOD!”

EMILY MEYER
(top, far left) is from Dayton, Ohio, and will graduate in May 2019.

I have always been nervous to sing in front of people but being able to give that directly to God has allowed me to get rid of that fear. Giving that up to God has been freeing for me, that He is taking control in that aspect of my life. Allowing him to take control in that aspect, helped me to do that in other aspects of my life as well.

“"I want to acknowledge how much of an impact the Catholic Center has on us. Having this space and this community is genuinely changing people and can really bring people back to their faith, like me. It’s a place where people want to have a relationship with you and want to bring you into having a relationship with God.

Thank you for making this possible!”

CAROLYN BABENDREIER
(above, second from left) is from Rockville, Maryland, and graduated in May 2018.

“I was so embarrassed by my faith because I thought that faith was something that was not possible in college. College and Catholicism didn’t match up for me in the beginning. So, I needed to pretend like that didn’t exist and hide it.

“I have been shown my identity here so much and ENCOUNTERED LOVE HIMSELF, not just through the liturgy and experiences but through the people here and that has forever changed me. There is no going back! Once you recognize truth in front of you, it’s really hard to turn back. There is no going back to the way that I was once before.”
THE STATS
2017-2018

SAINT MAKERS Society.

76 monthly givers in 2017-18
28% are students!

SaintMakers are monthly givers who provide for the daily needs of Tulane Catholic through electronically withdrawn monthly gifts.

Monthly giving is one of the best ways to ensure that your favorite ministry is fully funded year round!

$74/mo. cost of catholic formation per student*

7 attended conferences on music & the liturgy

6 vocations entered seminary or religious life in 2017-18

200 Est. avg. number of students at Sunday Masses

69,439 downloads of Sunday Homilies

30 Est. avg. number of students at Weekday Mass

*Based on 200 student average weekly attendance

Did you know?
#GiveCatholic is the Catholic Giving Tuesday...
Last year donors gave Tulane Catholic $23,285 in just one day!
Next #GiveCatholic is November 27, 2018!

RENEWED IN FAITH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

over $2,900,000 raised to date!

The Capital Campaign for the Fr. Val McInnes Center for Catholic Life is very near its goal, but there are still great opportunities to give!

We're grateful to all those who have made pledges to the campaign and ask you to continue fulfilling your generous pledges!

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

$1,200,000 Building
$500,000 Chapel
$200,000 Gathering Hall
$100,000 Veranda Porch
$100,000 Classroom
$50,000 Library
$50,000 Sacristy

$30,000 Stained Glass (x4)
$25,000 Conference Room
$20,000 Tabernacle
$15,000 Stained Glass (2 left)
$10,000 Altar
$10,000 Confessional
$500 Chapel Chair (35 left)

Thanks to the generosity of our capital campaign donors, we’re able to move forward with plans to complete the 140-seat chapel on the second floor of our center! We’ll begin work next summer to add stained glass and other artwork to the chapel!

2017-18 BUDGET

The information to the right represents revenue received and expenses incurred from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 and does not include the capital campaign (shown above).

Thank you for your continued support!

As you’ll note, a significant amount of our support comes from the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Our goal is to become a vibrant, dynamic and financially self-sustaining ministry by increasing our donation revenue and decreasing the need for this subsidy. Thank you for helping Tulane Catholic reach this important goal!

Tulane Catholic has 3 full-time and 2 part-time staff as well as 13 student employees and interns. Payroll expenses have been allocated according to their primary areas of activity.
“I know how difficult it is for college students because there is so much peer pressure. To have Tulane Catholic can help reinforce their Catholic beliefs. They have a place that is welcoming and non-judgmental. It is a home for the students, especially if they are a long way from home. Before Tulane Catholic a lot of these students probably drifted because all the other influences were there but nothing else.

“I was hesitant to be on the Advancement Council because I thought ‘how serious could it be if there are students on it too’, but I am so happy that I did! The students are so mature, and it’s a pleasure to be around them. It changed my perception of college students. We all have those stereotypical views of millennials. I was a victim of that, and the students I have met are remarkable!

“Tulane Catholic is a refuge from the craziness that is out there! I would encourage you to donate to Tulane Catholic. The work is worth funding!”

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, ROY!

“The fruit that comes from each of your gifts is sincerely invaluable to us!”
ALLISON JEANDRON, finance & administration

“May the Lord bless you for answering your own call to holiness by sharing your gifts and yourselves with us!”
COURTNEY CHISHOLM, development

“We couldn’t do it without YOU!”
LISA STIEBER-ALDEN, facilities & events

“Thank you for believing in young Catholics!”
FR. THOMAS SCHAEFFGEN, OP

“Thank you for believing in young Catholics!”
BEN BATALLA, music

THANK YOU FROM THE TULANE CATHOLIC MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM (2017-18)