Let us become SAINTS, so that having lived together in this world, we may always remain TOGETHER IN PARADISE — Padre Pio

In this newsletter we’d like to spotlight our ENCOUNTRET RETREAT which has been transforming college students’ lives by facilitating an encounter with Jesus Christ. Your generosity brought 100 students to Encounter this October! THANK YOU!

— Director of Campus Ministry, Fr. Thomas Schaefgen, OP, tschaefg@tulane.edu

Your generosity is transforming the hearts of college students like Mikey and Sabrina, who would be on totally different paths if they had not gone on Encounter! Thank you!

ENOUNTER is a unique retreat students go on in the Fall and Spring semesters. It provides opportunities for students to form authentic friendships and community, strengthen their relationship with the Church, learn to share the Gospel on campus, and ask themselves deeper questions about life that lead to a greater understanding of truth and beauty. Your support is giving students the opportunity to encounter our Lord face to face and to be transformed in mind, body, and spirit!
Have you ever heard of an “apatheist”? I learned this new word just the other day. Unfortunately, as you know, many young people today are not interested in religion, and especially not the Catholic Church. They simply don’t think it matters whether there is a God or not—they’re apathetic toward him.

Yet the Encounter retreat, hosted every semester by college students from Tulane Catholic, would suggest that God is still active in the lives of young people—even if they’re not actively looking for him. In fact, that message is at the heart of Encounter: whether we seek God or not, he is actively and wholeheartedly seeking to encounter us. One of my favorite verses from scripture is Isaiah 65:1, "I was found by those that did not seek me; I revealed myself to those that did not ask for me."

Thanks to your generosity Encounter has become a huge success in the past 4 years since it began! Just in 2013, only about 10 students went on retreat at Tulane Catholic. In hopes to transform evangelization on Tulane’s campus, I got together in late 2014 with students and our FOCUS missionaries and we started Encounter. The weekend retreat is based on the “thresholds of conversion” outlined by Sherry Weddell in her groundbreaking book Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus. The whole purpose of the retreat is to facilitate a personal encounter with Jesus himself. Young people today need, first and foremost, to know and love the God who calls them to holiness and union with him and his church!

Now, this past October 19-21, 100 students attended or staffed Encounter! That’s an amazing explosion of 1000% in 4 years and it’s all due to your gifts and the work of God in the lives of college students. So many Tulanians now attribute their friendships, prayer lives, love for Scripture and God, and their desire to evangelize other students, all to Encounter.

Given that each of these retreats costs over $10,000 to host, it goes without saying that without you, Encounter couldn’t happen. We try to keep the fee for the students as low as possible—because as you may imagine, it’s a hard sell for a non-religious friend to pay to go on a weekend retreat about God. So your gifts help keep their costs down so that there are as few barriers as possible to keep them from saying ‘yes’ to that invitation! Thank you for helping college students know the love of Christ!

So, while there are quite a few “apatheists” out there, when I go to Encounter with Tulane students, I see God work in powerful ways to touch hardened hearts, heal wounds, and bring young people to conversion and authentic happiness. God certainly is not apathetic to these young people, and neither are you! So thank you for loving them with your prayers and support. They need you!

Fr. Thomas C. Schaefgen, OP, Director of Campus Ministry, tshaefg@tulane.edu

Scott Hahn Lecture:

You don’t want to miss this lecture, which starts at 7pm on Friday, January 25th in Dixon Hall! Dr. Hahn is a biblical scholar and will speak on the creed and the Mass. Discover why we celebrate the Mass and the answers to questions you may have had for a long time!

1. Go to our website catholic.tulane.edu
2. Click the “Scott Hahn” button to register.

Don’t miss out!
MEET MIKEY

Mikey Diaz is a Psychology Senior from Queens, New York who will graduate in December of this year.

Mikey went on Encounter in the Spring of his Sophomore year after being away from the Church during the beginning of his college experience. We asked him to explain how the retreat impacted his life.

“When I went on Encounter, I was struggling with addiction to marijuana and I was really ‘pleasure seeking’ and living out the stereotypical college experience. I was very unhappy and seeking something that could truly fulfill me.

I didn’t view Jesus as a person that I could speak to. Encounter helped me establish an actual meeting with God. It transformed my life and laid the foundation of my faith.

I found a community where I was loved and cared for, and this changed my life.

I am so thankful for the blessings I have at Tulane Catholic. Without them, I wouldn’t have a relationship with God. I would still be struggling, and I know that many others feel the same way!”

—— From an email written by Ariana Rebesco, Ph. D., Staff Psychologist & Outreach Coordinator for CAPS for Counseling Services to Fr. Thomas after Encounter of Spring 2018.

Look at the IMPACT this retreat is having on the lives of Tulane students! Hear from a staff member of Tulane University:

From my little corner of the campus, I have witnessed both colleagues and students feeling exhausted and overworked...the psychological aftermath of what seems to have been a particularly hard-partying weekend for many. Amidst all of this, there has been one consistent ray of hope and sunshine that has entered my room. I have met with a handful of students thus far this week who have stood out from the rest—energized, reflective, peaceful, eager to share new realizations about themselves...and to tell me that they attended a Catholic retreat this weekend. Each brought up the retreat spontaneously, spoke of it in different ways, but they all shared something in common: they seemed “ok,” maybe even better than “ok,” during a time when everyone else seems to be falling apart.

I hope you know how important the retreat was to students who didn’t even know they needed it and how much all of the other things you do (both formally and informally) mean to those around you. The underlying themes of the retreat sound so perfectly on the pulse of what Tulane students need, regardless of spiritual belief or religious affiliation.

—— From an email written by Ariana Rebesco, Ph. D., Staff Psychologist & Outreach Coordinator for CAPS for Counseling Services to Fr. Thomas after Encounter of Spring 2018.
MEET SABRINA

Sabrina Romano is a Cell and Molecular Biology and Art History Sophomore from Old Tappan, New Jersey.

Sabrina went on Encounter the Fall of her freshman year after being convinced by a friend who lived in her dorm. She considered herself a “hard core atheist” and thought that “faith was not realistic because everything could be explained by science”.

“I told myself to go into the weekend with an open mind because I was struggling in my personal life, feeling very lonely and having trouble making true friends.

On Friday night, I thought , ‘There is something here and I don’t know what it is.’ On Saturday, I moved to be open to the fact that there might be a God. Then in adoration on Saturday night, I knew He was real, He wanted to help me, and He loved me. I was like, ‘This is it.’ In that moment, I accepted both Him and my Catholic faith. I came back after that weekend, and my life was changed!”

Did you Know?

We currently have 22 Bible Studies on campus with 123 students who are signed up!

130 students came to our 9pm candlelit Mass for All Saints Day! You are helping students become the Saints they are called to be!

EXCITING EVENTS

Save The Date!

iGiveCatholic
Tuesday, November 27th

Advent Mini Retreat
Saturday, December 8th

Dr. Scott Hahn Lecture
Friday, January 25th

Baccalaureate Mass
(in case you need to plan ahead and book flights!)
Sunday, May 19th at 10 AM

catholic.tulane.edu “tulanecatholic” on facebook, twitter & instagram!
**FR. THOMAS, COUNT ME IN!**

I want to help change college students’ lives. I want to see young people active in the Church, so here is my special gift to help them grow together into saints!

**DONATE ONLINE AT CATHOLIC.TULANE.EDU/DONATE**

Questions about giving? Contact Courtney: cchisholm@tulane.edu

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**HERE’S MY ONE-TIME GIFT**

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<td>$350</td>
<td>provides a free supper for students on Sunday night after Mass</td>
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<td>$100</td>
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**SIGN ME UP FOR MONTHLY GIFTS**

I want to join the SaintMakers Society!

I authorize Tulane Catholic to automatically draft a monthly gift from my bank account or credit/debit card (given below under “payment options”) in the amount of...

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**CONTACT INFO**

Name

Phone #

e-mail

address

city, state, zip

signature

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**PAYMENT OPTIONS**

- I have enclosed a check.

Credit/Debit Card payment:

- Visa
- MC
- Disc
- AmEx

CVV2 (Card Security Code)

Card #

Exp. Date

Bank Withdrawals (automatic monthly gifts only):

- Bank Acct #
- Bank Routing #

Please enclose a voided check to begin monthly auto-payments

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- I am interested in making a **stock donation** to Tulane Catholic. Please contact me.
- I am interested in making a **planned gift** (or bequest) to Tulane Catholic. Please contact me.
- My company will **match my gift** to Tulane Catholic through Tulane University. Please contact me.

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**YOUR COMMENTS**

*What would you like to let us know?*

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We appreciate your feedback! Please be sure to provide contact information above so we know how to get in touch with you.
Will you consider helping make saints for the Church and the world?

DOUBLE your impact! Generous benefactors have offered to match gifts to Tulane Catholic to help form college students into the SAINTS they’re called to be. But WE NEED TO RAISE $20,000 from students, parents, alumni, friends and supporters like YOU to reach our goal! Show how much you care about forming young people today to lead us tomorrow!

Please GIVE TODAY at iGive Catholic!

If you have any questions, please contact Courtney Chisholm. (504) 866-0984 or cchisholm@tulane.edu

Alumni Spotlight

MEET Ward and Lynne

Tulane Catholic is where we met. It’s where I became Catholic. Particularly under the guidance of Fr. Thomas, we are so impressed with the activity and the students’ involvement that if there is any way that we can help support that, we want to do it. It is really top flight and a beautiful religious experience.

Fr. Thomas and what he is doing at Tulane really speaks to us!

— Ward

I want to allow college students to experience a connectedness with God. If you believe in something and want to keep it going, which we do, then we need to give back.

— Lynne

Ward and Lynne Howard graduated from Tulane in 1971 and live in New Orleans. They attend Mass at Tulane Catholic and support our Ministry.

#iGIVECATHOLIC

Support Tulane Catholic!

Participate in #iGiveCatholic by donating on #GivingTuesday, November 27!

It’s as easy as 1, 2, 3!

Visit iGiveCatholic.org
Search for Tulane Catholic
Donate $25 or more

Give early! Advanced day giving runs November 12 through 26.