



Brother Ken Jesus
Campus Minister prays in
John 17 for the Church that
would emerge from the labors of
His first Apostles: *"I pray not only
for them (the apostles) but
also for those who will believe in
me through their word. So that
they may all be one, as you Fa-
ther, are in me and I am in
you..."* I wonder if as Jesus
prayed this prayer, in His divini-
ty, he could foresee the eventual
shattering of His Church into
hundreds of denominations? It
must have broken his heart and
still must bring Him great sor-
row.

The Catholic Church has made
great strides in the last 60 years
in reconciling with other Chris-
tian Churches around the world.
She has gone as far as to make
fostering Christian unity a funda-
mental aspect of being a faithful
Catholic! The students at St.
Lawrence have taken this call



This February, around 120 stu-
dents met for an evening of Christian
unity, consisting of prayer, praise and
worship, an exhortation, and inter-faith
dialogue in small groups. The event was
organized by Catholic Students United's
(CSU) Spiritual Team and received much
support from other Christian groups on
campus. The night took the place of the
weekly Gopher Catholic Night: CSU's
main event to reach Catholic students
on campus.

For Christian Unity Night, the net
was cast wider drawing students from
different Christian backgrounds. We got
to listen to and participate in a tradi-
tional Coptic hymn. Andrew Hansen
from Anselm House gave a talk about
the importance of Christian Unity, espe-
cially in the context of the 500th anni-
versary of the Protestant Reformation.
The chaplain for the Coptic Orthodox
students closed the night in prayer.

The small groups during the night
and fellowship afterwards gave many
opportunities for students to meet and
connect with one another over their

faith. As Michael (2017) shared, "this
night was a great opportunity to meet
fellow Christians on campus and to
break down barriers which would oth-
erwise prevent us from interacting with
each other and sharing our love of
Christ."

Christian Unity is very important to
our identities as Catholics. However,
this can easily be forgotten as we can
too quickly turn to our differences. This
inevitably leads us away from what
unites us in our shared faith in Jesus
Christ and His sacrifice for our sins and
salvation. This is the central truth of our
Catholic Faith, and it is shared with our
Christian brothers and sisters.

In a world growing increasingly hos-
tile to religious freedom and religious
expression, we as students need a re-
newed respect of other Christians if we
hope to maintain a presence on cam-
pus. We are different, but the body of
Christ is diverse. We cannot let this di-
versity hinder us from looking upon our
fellow Christians with love and respect.

- Alex Hall, 2017



It has been a great joy for me to be here at St. Lawrence. There is a lot of wonderful priestly ministry with Mass and lots of confessions. One of the things that I have encountered that has brought life to me is seeing visitors come and join us on Sunday. On a number of occasions, as they come out of Mass, they have a look of joy and are filled with hope at seeing all the young people. They will often describe it as so hopeful and alive. For me these encounters increase my joy in the fruit that is being born in this ministry.

Father Jon
Pastor

and put it into action. Three years ago, when our new student association held the first annual Christian Unity Event on campus, many ministers and students attending informed us that a prayer event bringing Christians together had not happened for quite some time. Our students, in collaboration those of other Christian groups, have sponsored this prayer night every year since.

Pope Francis has an immense passion to see Christians come together around our one savior Jesus Christ! Our unity night is all about a personal encounter with another Christian and the fruits of greater trust and understanding.

Please pray that our students' efforts at reaching across a divided Christian body would continue to grow and build mutual respect, understanding and unity!

Alaska is the most beautiful state I have visited: snow-capped mountains, beautiful wildlife, and breath taking sunsets. And while the views are unforgettable, the most impactful part of the trip was the people we met and development of our faith. Over one week, sixteen peers became family and grew in faith, fellowship, and service.



We divided our time between sightseeing, prayer/reflection, and service. We spent a good portion of each day in either daily mass, adoration, confession, or individual prayer. This was a chance for us to grow in our relationship with God and prepare ourselves for the rest of the trip. By investing spiritually during the first few days, we were better equipped to share our faith with those we encountered on our mission.

The service was the most impactful part of the trip. We spent time volunteering at multiple Catholic organizations—all revealing a unique experience of God's love and joy in all people. Hearing stories and experiences from those individuals we served helped mold our perspective on how we view others. We are all children of God and loved by Him. We must love and serve our brothers and sisters in Christ. This mission trip helped us to deepen our love for God and neighbor.—*Ethan Dado, 2018*



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