

alumni profile: Allison Grojean

Growing up Allison was somewhat of a Spartan fan. She was interested in becoming a veterinarian and decided to apply to MSU.

Well, she changed her mind a few times between her senior year of high school and her freshman year of college, but she found her vocation – Education. As a trumpet player her other goal was to be in marching band at a big university. She was a member of the Spartan Marching band for four years.

Her mother often shared how much she enjoyed going to SJSC when she was a MSU student. Because of this, Allison began attending Mass during her Freshman year. She loved going to 5:00 pm Mass because there were so many other students there. It was an awesome feeling for her to know that so many other people her age shared her beliefs. Also, the priests impressed her with their caring and genuine interest in supporting college students. She looked forward to going to Mass each week.

Allison really got involved at SJSC when she took part in an Alternative Spring Break Trip her freshman year. She went on to participate in the Habitat for Humanity trip all four years. **“Seeing some of the devastation in the areas where we worked was an eye-opening experience, but seeing the faith of the people we helped reassured me that God is a part of everyone and everything.”** Plus, it allowed her to form some lasting friendships.

St. John offered Allison many ways to be involved and to share her gifts. She looks back fondly on undergrad retreats, Sunday spaghetti suppers, the Friends Dinner Dance and being a member of the choir. **“St. John helped me take ownership of my faith. Before college, I felt a lot of that “going through the motions” feeling. In contrast, St. John offered me so many opportunities to explore and deepen my Catholic faith and my relationship with Jesus. Over the years, I have truly felt my faith strengthen in terms of how much God loves me and how He has taken care of me and always will.”**

Currently, Allison is teaching middle school English at St. Thomas Aquinas School in East Lansing. She absolutely loves her job and the opportunity to stay connected to St. John. She sings with the St. John choir and participates in a women’s book club with SJSC friends. She is pretty active outside of this, too. She plays the trumpet in the Lansing Concert Band, plays Ultimate Frisbee with the St. Gerard young adult group, and plays softball in the summer.

Allison is very grateful for her experience at St. John. The time here gave her a solid foundation to move out into the world. **“I am more confident in what I believe. I definitely pray more and talk to God in my journal. Teaching at STA allows me to bring my faith into the classroom, and I enjoy setting an example of Christ’s love for my students. In fact, the first rule on my classroom rules poster states, “Treat others how you want to be treated.” Jesus said so! (Mt. 7:12, Lk. 6:31)”**



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Dear Friends, Alumni and Permanent Community Members,

In August we welcomed Sister Dorothy Ederer, a Grand Rapids Dominican as the Director of Campus Ministry. Fr. Joe Krupp, our former Director of Campus Ministry, became pastor of two parishes in Southern Michigan. Sister Dorothy comes to St. John Church & Student Center from St. Mary Student Parish in Ann Arbor where she spent the past 8 years. She also was campus minister at St. Thomas More Student Parish at Western Michigan University for 14 years. Sister Dorothy brings her expertise in campus ministry and also her experiences in giving retreats and workshops. The addition of Sister Dorothy to the St. John campus ministry team is personally exciting and the fulfillment of a dream for me. I have known her since my days as associate pastor at SJSC from 1987-91. Her energy and enthusiasm, her joy and prayerfulness, her love of Christ and love of people will make her a gift to the Catholic students, faculty and staff of our MSU community. Sister Dorothy is finally a Spartan!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mark

Fr. Mark Inglot, Pastor

Meet Sister Dorothy

Our New Director of Campus Ministry

"I am so excited about coming to work at St. John Church & Student Center. I know God led me here and I definitely believe this is going to be one of the best chapters in my life!"
Dorothy K. Ederer, O.P.

If you walked into St. John Student Center today you would begin to notice some changes. In the bathrooms there are plants and little "spiritual nourishment" notes. Walk downstairs to the student lounge and you will see great sectional couches, a refurbished coffee table and some huge, Spartan Green bean bag chairs with "Catholic Spartan" embroidered on them.

Every class room has been repainted this summer and furniture has been moved around to make each room welcoming, great for small or large group meetings and fantastic to study in. We have a small 'café' set up in McDevitt Hall where students can have a cup of coffee, meet with friends or study. This has all happened in 3 short weeks because of the vision and creativity of Sr. Dorothy Ederer, O.P.

You could find yourself being greeted with a warm smile and probably a hug and you might be thinking who is this woman? Why, that would be our new Director of Campus Ministry, Sr. Dorothy Ederer, O.P.! Sr. Dorothy, a Grand Rapids Dominican joined our staff

this summer. She grew up in Saginaw, one of seven children.

Sr. Dorothy has an extensive background in ministry spending many years at St. Thomas More serving the students of Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College, most recently she spent the last eight years at St. Mary's Student Parish serving the students of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Early in her career she taught junior high students. Sr. Dorothy has been co-director of the Joshua Foundation for the last nine years and has traveled the world with Fr. Joseph Girzone, author of the "Joshua" books.

Sr. Dorothy received a BA from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI. She has an MA in Secondary Education from Central Michigan University and a MA in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University.



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A quote from Sr. Dorothy:

"If there is one particular theme I'd choose to describe my many years in ministry, and it's hard to pick just one, it is this:

We all have a story.

My story is one of being called always to something greater, something more, something new, something to celebrate!

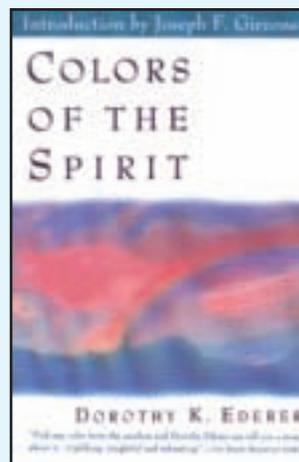
The story of people connecting to each other; reminding us we're not alone.

The story of hearts growing alive.

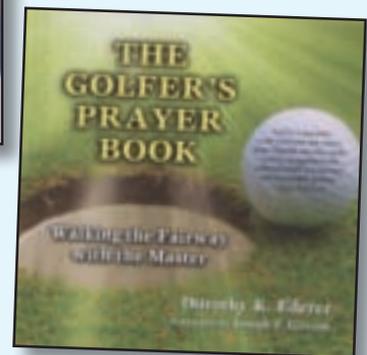
The story of Jesus redeeming, forgiving, making old things new.

The story that is common to all; a hunger for love and connection."

Sr. Dorothy has published extensively. Among the titles of her books are: "Who Will Teach Me" (study guide 1997); Companion Study Guide to "Joshua" (1998); a book of prayer services; "Symbols In Prayer" Vols. I and II for use by religion teachers, DRE's, pastoral ministers, Bible study groups, and prayer meetings. She has written a book of "Wake Services" (1998) and "Reconciliation Services" (1998). Also on her book list are "Colors of the Spirit" (Doubleday, 1998), "A Journal of Personal Reflections"; a companion for "Colors of the Spirit"; "A Golfers Day with the a Master" [Doubleday 2000] along with three volumes of "Stories that Warm the Heart" (2000). A DVD titled "Connecting with God" by Oblate Media, "A Quilters Prayer book" (2002), "Everything in God's Time" (2003). "Good News Card Game" (St. Mary's Press 2009), "A Golfers Prayer Book" (Paulist 2010)



The Golfer's Prayer Book and Colors of the Spirit are available at Meijer. 10% of the sale goes to the Grand Rapids Dominican Sisters, 2025 East Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



meet sister dorothy, *continued*

She has attended the Notre Dame summer program on Liturgy, Counseling and Scripture and has attended the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, IL to study scripture.

She is an award winning author of books such as "Colors of the

Spirit" (1999) and "A Golfers Prayer Book" (Paulist 2010). She is an accomplished golfer, even earning a Hole in One in 1994. She loves to play the guitar and most especially she loves people. Sr. Dorothy says, "I love to know people deeply and see them reach their potential."

In this newsletter you will learn more about Sr. Dorothy. We hope that when you find yourself back in East Lansing you will come to St. John and check out our refurbished spaces and meet this dynamic addition to our staff!

Sister Dorothy's favorite quotes.

"The only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found a way to serve."

Anonymous

"I wish for you ... dreams so big ... that you have to grow into them."

Lance Wubbels

"Celebrate the Gift you are."

DKE

"I hope you do what you love, find work that makes you happy and live life with Gusto."

Lance Wubbels

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Colossians 3:17

"We are born to manifest the Glory of God that is within us."

Nelson Mandela

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!"

St. Catherine of Siena

"It's not the words of our enemies that hurt us but the silence of our friends."

Unknown

"With every stich comes a prayer."

Anonymous

"I hope that you will always feel fearlessly free to be you"

Lance Wubbels

... home away from home

One of my goals for St. John is to make this place feel like a home away from home for our Catholic students.

Everything on this wish list will make the student center comfortable, warm, and welcoming. We hope this will be a place where they will want to hang out, study and pray with us.

Sister Dorothy's Wish List

- 1.** The "Make It a Million" Campaign to reach a million
- 2.** To make the student lounge a place where kids can come hang out and study. Many updates have already been made but I am looking for nice metal recycling containers and under counter cabinets.
- 3.** 8 round tables that seat 8 and 8 table cloths for spaghetti dinner.
- 4.** Large cookie jar for the lounge and individuals who will make cookies to put in the cookie jar on a weekly basis.
- 5.** Permanent community members, friends and alumni to support our ministry by providing snacks for events (i.e., study tables, retreat & Catholic Student Organization meetings)
- 6.** 6 bar stools for the Student Lounge.
- 7.** Corn hole and Bean Bag toss set.
- 8.** Amazon and iTunes gift cards.
- 9.** Starbucks, Cosi, Biggby, Meijer, Kroger and gas gift cards
- 10.** Helium tank and balloons with St. John logo

If you would like to come and see what we have done to make the center homey and welcoming please contact me and I would love to show you around.

Celebrate the gift you are,

S. Dorothy ☺

Cheers! Let's Make It A **MILLION**

The Legacy Endowment for Catholic Spartans Celebrating Our Past—Planning Our Future

At St. John, exceeding high standards relates not only to preparing 21st century Catholic leaders but also to giving.

The Legacy Endowment for Catholic Spartans was established in 2007 for the purpose of securing gifts to financially support current and future ministries and programs at St. John Church & Student Center. The endowment is a permanent endowed fund held at the Capital Region Community Foundation. Through this endowed fund we can continue the programs we currently offer and provide the financial resources to plan programs for future students. When you make a gift to the Legacy Endowment you are helping us to continue what we do to make St. John such a special place. It is a reflection of your faith in us to prepare future students to become 21st century leaders. Contributions guarantee the financial resources to ensure that future Catholic Spartans have the opportunities for the growth in faith and knowledge that students have had throughout the history of St. John Church & Student Center.

CHEERS! Thanks to a very generous gift of \$750,000 from an anonymous donor, assets in the Legacy Endowment for Catholic Spartans now total \$894,530!

Help us get halfway to the endowment's goal of \$2 million by making a gift to the Legacy Endowment's "Make It A Million" Campaign." We need \$105,470 to Make It A Million and your gift, large or small, can help us achieve our campaign goal!

YES! I want to support the Legacy Endowment for Catholic Spartan's "Make It A Million Campaign."

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of \$_____.

Please make your check payable to The Capital Region Community Foundation with a notation in the memo line that the gift is being made to the Legacy Endowment for Catholic Spartans. Please mail your check to the Capital Region Community Foundation at 330 Marshall St., Suite 300, Lansing, MI 48912. Donations may also be made by credit card by calling the foundation at 517-272-2870. Giving is also possible through the Foundation's website at cfcfoundation.org. Click "Make a Gift" and enter "Legacy Endowment for Catholic Spartans in the Fund Name field under "Donate to a Fund of Your Choice."

“St. John Church & Student Center provided me with a safe, loving environment in which I could foster my leadership skills during my undergraduate experience at MSU. I will not forget how much I have been shaped by my years at St. John.”

Emily VanGessel
Class of 2008

ESTEEM Capstone Conference 2012

Ten MSU upperclassmen represented St. John Student Center at the ESTEEM Capstone Conference at Yale University's Catholic Chapel this spring. Our students were in good company: nearly 80 students from prestigious universities across the country were invited, including UCLA, Stanford, Yale, Ohio State, Purdue and Sacred Heart.

Throughout the academic year, these students met twice a month for catechetical sessions, retreats, field trips and special guest speakers. They studied topics related to spirituality, theology, and church management. Additionally, they met throughout the year with parish mentors in career fields related to the student's fields of study to learn how active lay Catholics balance career, family life, and service to their Church.

Our students had the opportunity to hear some incredible speakers, including Kerry Robinson, Executive Director of the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, and Chris Lowney, author of "Heroic Leadership: Best Practices from a 450 year old Company that Changed the World". Both challenged our students to engage the Church as lay leaders, elevating

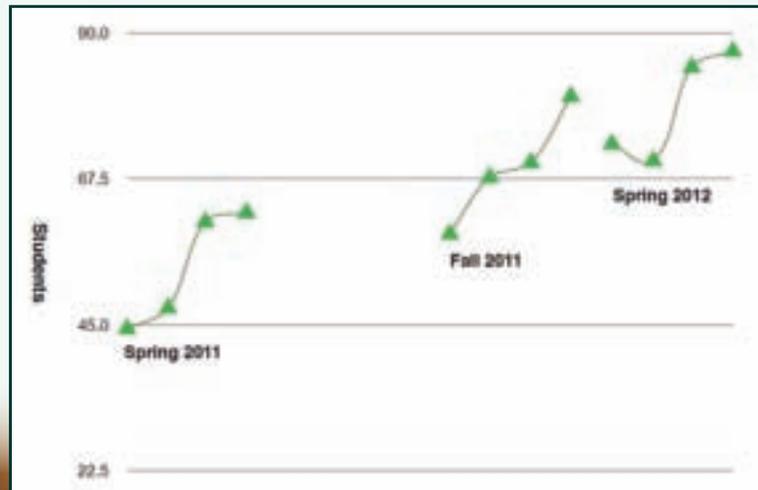


and celebrating Catholic discourse on contemporary issues with people of diverse viewpoints.

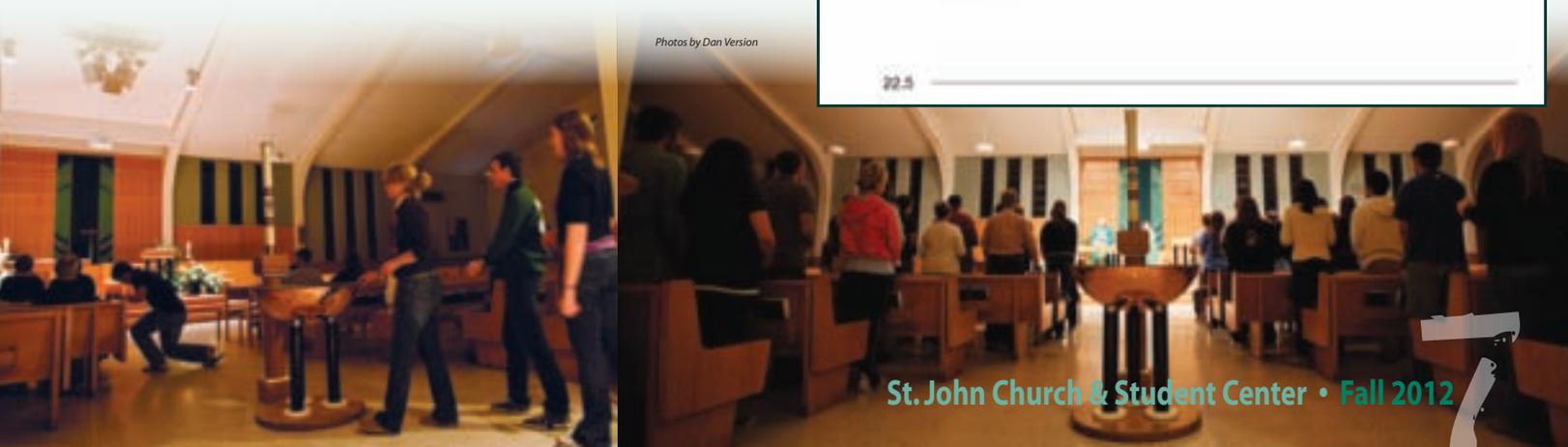
Upon return, one of our students described the conference as "finally being invited to sit at the grown-up table." The ESTEEM program thanks all of our supporters for making our participation in such a phenomenal national movement possible!

Daily Mass Attendance Doubles!

Over the last three semesters, attendance at the Tuesday & Thursday 9:15 pm student Masses has doubled. Each semester has seen an average increase of 20 students in the weeknight pews. Significant emphasis has been placed on the Mass as the source and summit of our faith, and students are responding. The night Masses offer students an opportunity for spiritual nourishment, fellowship, and prayer at the end of the day.



Photos by Dan Version



**St. John Student Center
Catholic Student Organization**

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St. John Church and Student Center
Serving the Catholic Community at Michigan State University since 1957

Light Up the Night!

Even though it is months away, we're already in high gear planning for the 2013 Dinner Dance and Auction. After many years at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, we've moved the 2013 event back to the East Lansing Marriott. This event will have all of the favorites, but we've added babysitting services at St. John provided by members of our Youth Ministry (a less costly option than in-home babysitting!) This evening will be a wonderful opportunity to spend some time with Sr. Dorothy Ederer, O.P., our new Director of Campus Ministry. So, put this on your Google calendar, sync it to your smart phone or use an old-fashioned Post-It—
St. John Church & Student Center is having a party!

Date: February 9, 2013

***Location: East Lansing Marriott at University Place
300 MAC Avenue***

Time: 5:30 – 11:30 pm

Tickets are \$60 per person

Tables of 10 are \$500

Student tickets are \$35

If you're coming from out of town, we have a block of rooms reserved at the Marriott at a special rate for our event. **Funds raised by this event directly benefit the operating budget of St. John Church and Student Center, the Catholic campus ministry at MSU, the nation's 8th largest and pioneer land-grant university.**

Photo by Mackenzie Mohr, 2012 Dinner Dance

