

VANDAL CATHOLIC Voice

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

Happy Easter! He is Risen! These past weeks have been extraordinary, yet God is extraordinary! **With so many people with whom I speak, God is using the challenges we are facing to deepen our faith.** His victory over sin and death draws people to accept their own difficulties, and to love and appreciate him all the more.

I'm very proud of how our Vandal Catholic family has pulled together in this time. Our campus ministry, FOCUS missionaries, musicians, and scholar-in-residence have all adapted to serve digitally. Most importantly, our students have shown creativity and flexibility to continue to engage our campus ministry and connect with one another. In this newsletter, you'll hear about the various ways that Vandal Catholic has adapted to meet the challenges of avoiding COVID-19. We may be physically isolating, but we are still together at heart, and digitally!



My reading for Holy Week and Easter Week has been from St. Ephrem the Syrian, a contemporaneous figure to our own St. Augustine. While both are Doctors of the Church, St. Ephrem is known for doing theology through poetry and hymnody, as well as having a clever wit. He is able to capture the paradoxes of life, observing both the unfathomable grandeur of God and the humility of His Son who descends to be one of us:

**Wonderful is this bounty,
that our Lord should reside in us continually:
He has left the heavens and descended,
let us make holy for Him
the bridal chamber of our hearts.**

Armenian Hymns 47



These moving words echo St. Augustine's, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O Lord!" **Indeed, resting in the Lord is true holiness. These trying times include an invitation to trust and rest our hearts in the Lord.** We have dedicated this past year to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Our hearts find rest in Jesus' own Sacred Heart.

I am deeply grateful to all who support us in a variety of ways, especially those who sacrifice for us financially. We depend upon your support, and we work hard to use it well so that more may know the wondrous bounty of resting in the heart of our Lord. If you're able to support us financially during this time, we are very grateful. Either way, please keep us in your prayers and be assured of ours.

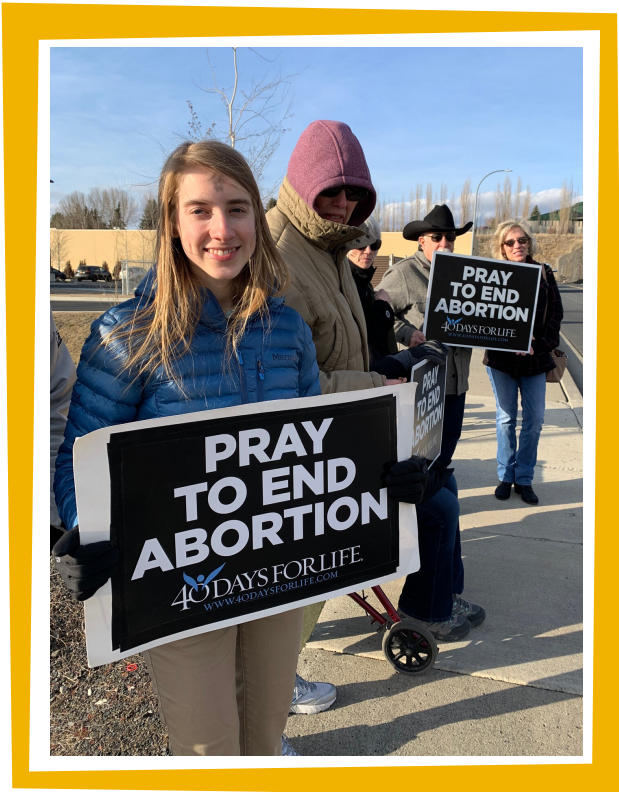
In the joy of the Resurrection,

Fr. Chase Hasenoehrl

**Fr. Chase Hasenoehrl
Pastor, St. Augustine's Catholic Center**

Alum Brings 40 Days for Life to Palouse

Most every day of the week between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm, Anna Green's slight frame could be seen on the sidewalk, silhouetted against the setting sun. Bundled in hat and gloves, she'd smile and wave at each car passing by the Planned Parenthood in Pullman, Washington. Some responded with smiles and words of gratitude, others with vulgar gestures and angry taunts. No matter the reaction, Anna kept smiling. And she kept praying. **What would motivate her to brace herself against the cold wind and smile with joy day after day?**



For Anna, it's a passion and reverence for the Lord and His creation. "We can't care for the least and poorest in the world if we can't care for our children. This is God's beautiful creation—He called it into being. He has something planned for each one of us and we could never fathom what that could be." For us, she explains, the call is to protect these women and children so that they might discover God's great plan for them.

Anna is a 2019 alumnus of the University of Idaho, graduating with a degree in Biology. She has always loved creation and the environment and has been fascinated by how it works. "That's the reason that I'm so strongly pro-life," she says.

From the very first day she set foot on campus, Anna was heavily involved with St. Augustine's Catholic Center. It was through the Catholic Center that she learned about Students for Life, the pro-life club on campus, of which she eventually became president. Anna quickly formed relationships with the team of FOCUS missionaries at St. Augustine's who invited her to a conference. There, she heard a speaker who shared stories about his work with 40 Days for Life with beauty and passion. She came home convicted that 40 Days for Life was needed on the Palouse.

"This is God's beautiful creation—He called it into being. He has something planned for each one of us and we could never fathom what that could be."

40 Days for Life is a 40-day campaign that seeks to end abortion through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and peaceful vigils in front of facilities that perform abortions. Anna began with the Students for Life club, and then reached out to the Moscow Right to Life and local churches in Moscow and Pullman. She coordinated her first campaign in the spring of 2018 and just concluded her third one this spring. **Each year, more people have signed up to be a part of the peaceful vigil outside of the Planned Parenthood in Pullman. There are now a little over 200 people on the email list for this campaign.**



Anna shares, **“For me personally, the biggest challenge has been overcoming how shy and introverted I am.** This entire campaign is about reaching out and inviting people into this, and standing in front of a bunch of cars who stare you down.” She’s had to contact countless people she’s never met before, share with Bible studies, and speak at Masses, all of which is out of her comfort zone. But, she adds, **“When you put yourself in a vulnerable situation—when you say to God, ‘I’m giving you this time and this place’—He’s going to use it.”**

All of the struggle pales in comparison to the joy Anna experiences through the people she’s encountered on the sidewalk: the post-abortive woman protesting the vigil who let Anna sit with her, the big burly man with a large pro-choice sign who talked with her for an hour, the strangers who brought coffee and notes of gratitude. **“The ability to have genuine conversation about these really important issues makes it all worth it.”**

SLS20: You Were Made for Mission

From December 30th to January 3rd, 20 University of Idaho students traveled to Pheonix, Arizona, for a conference called SLS20. This bi-annual conference brought together nationally-known Catholic speakers with 8,000 students from all over the country who were eager to grow in discipleship. We were blessed to have students from a local community college and high school also join our group. The focus of the SLS Conference was on evangelization, and students came back equipped and eager to share Christ with their campuses.



“I left inflamed with the desire to help students on campus encounter the Lord as deeply and personally as I did in Phoenix. My fears around spreading the Gospel paled in comparison to the realization of the graces Jesus has in store for those who abandon everything to Him.

I am truly so grateful for this experience and cannot wait to begin my mission for Christ.”

--Molly Schwartz, Sophomore at the U of I



“I learned so much from the keynote speakers and impact sessions and am still reading over notes and listening to those talks over again to catch all the info.

I got a sense of communion with the Church that I've never felt, with the 8,000+ other young Catholics in one place!”

--Jacob, Freshman at Walla Walla Community College

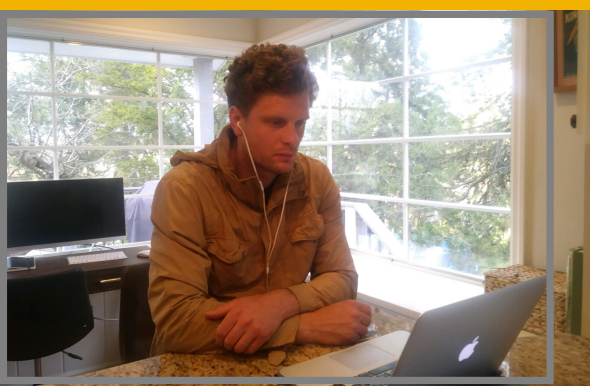


What Does Ministry Look Like in the Midst of a Pandemic?



Above: Student Chris Salcido hosting Friday Night Fellowship over Facebook--baking garlic knots!

Below: Dr. Gracjan live-streaming his Vandal Catholic Intellect course from home



The COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge for all of us. For our students, it has meant substituting online learning for in-person classes, missing spring break mission trips, foregoing graduation and many meaningful spring events, and leaving the campus community they love. **Yet in this season of Easter, we are reminded that absolutely nothing can stop the resurrection power of our Lord. Though the doors of the Catholic Center may be locked, ministry at Vandal Catholic is still going strong in new, innovative ways!**

- **Dr. Gracjan's Vandal Catholic Intellect Class** on Tuesday and Thursday mornings via Zoom
- **Wednesday Night Speakers** live-streamed
- **Friday Night Fellowship** hosted by students via Zoom
- **6 digital Bible Studies led by FOCUS missionaries** via Zoom
- **4 digital Bible Studies led by students in discipleship** via Zoom
- **Group Lectio Divina** on Tuesdays via Zoom
- **Rosary on Friday** via Zoom with **Live Streaming Mass** after
- **Thursday Lunch** via Zoom where we engage students in community
- **FaceTiming and Zooming with students daily** to check in and continue their discipleship formation
- **The Virtual Catholic Conference** the weekend of April 3-5th
- A live **Easter Week FOCUS Mini-Conference** for students involved in Bible Studies to hear from speakers and engage in community
- **Regular posts on Facebook**, including beautiful photos of Fr. Chase's Holy Week Masses, to offer spiritual encouragement and connection

What Has the Lord Been Teaching You Through the COVID-19 Pandemic?

By Hayden Gorham, Freshman at the University of Idaho

I think that in times like these, it is easy for us to think that God is hidden. We look around and wonder, "Where is God?" Even the prophet Isaiah says of the Lord, *"Truly you are a God who hides himself, O God and Savior of Israel."* (Isaiah 45:15). It is in these moments, during the dark night of the soul, or when calamity strikes, or days when we just can't sense His presence, that we have the opportunity to seek Him. **Like a father playing hide-and-go-seek with his kids, our Father sometimes hides Himself so that when we finally find Him, we are filled with a delight and joy that we would not have had otherwise.** For God promises that, *"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,"* (Jeremiah 29:13-14).

I believe that when we finally are able to receive the Sacraments again, we will do so with a renewed love for the Lord, filled with awe at the incredible gifts He gives us. Although He may be temporarily "hidden," the joy that we will share when He reveals Himself to us will bring about revival in our hearts. So for now, I wait in hope for revival and for our union with Him in heaven, and I continue to seek Him, listen to His voice, and press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.



Winter Retreat



70 students from area campuses gathered for our winter retreat. The theme, "The Way of the Disciple," equipped students to live and pray as disciples. Highlights included three hours of Adoration, praying the Stations of the Cross together, and lots of time for fellowship!

Prayer Corner

Please keep us in your prayers!

Praises

- Praise God for Fr. Chase and the Vandal Catholic staff who have worked so hard to minister to students in this time of crisis
- Praise for all those whose faith has deepened during isolation
- Praise for technology that enables us to connect virtually since we cannot connect physically right now

Intentions

- For all those suffering physically, emotionally, financially, spiritually, and otherwise during this pandemic to find solace and hope in the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- For students to finish their studies well and find employment
- For preparations for the Vandal Awakening Retreat we hope to launch in the coming year
- For departing music director Dr. Chris Nakielski and FOCUS missionaries Natalie Nowland and Anthony Thompson who have served this community so well



VANDAL CATHOLIC

Changing the world one student at a time

www.vandalcatholic.com

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"To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him the greatest adventure; to find Him the greatest human achievement." --St. Augustine of Hippo



VANDAL CATHOLIC

Mission Statement:

To live, foster, and proclaim
the Gospel of Jesus Christ
to the University of Idaho.

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Happy Easter from St. Augustine's Catholic Center! This certainly doesn't feel like a typical spring at the University of Idaho--the sun is shining, and the flowers are blooming, but all the students are missing! **We are living in unprecedented times this spring, but God's grace continues to surprise and sustain us...and student ministry is still blossoming!**

Perhaps you can take a break in the sunshine to read this spring edition of our newsletter where you'll find:

- a pastoral letter from Fr. Chase
- the inspiring story of the remarkable pro-life work one of our alumni is doing
- an update on the SLS20 Conference students attended in January
- the ways we've been adapting to continue ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic
- and the powerful testimony of a student's spiritual growth in the midst of isolation

Thank you for your prayers and gifts that guide and support these remarkable students!

