

VANDAL CATHOLIC Voice



Dear Vandal Catholic family,

What a pleasure it is to write to you in the middle of this very full fall! Our students have come to campus more than ready and eager for community and faith-filled meaning in their life. We've risen to meet this challenge with expanded hours to encounter people in our coffee shop, a new multi-year faith formation program, and plenty of opportunities for prayer, worship, the sacraments, and just plain fun!

I'm excited for you to see some of our autumn highlights in this issue of Vandal Catholic Voice. You are always welcome to visit us here in Moscow, and please keep us in your prayers. Your support, both in prayer and financially, is critical to our mission succeeding. Thank you, and GO VANDALS!

Blessings and grace,
Fr. Chase Hasenoehrl
Pastor, St. Augustine's Catholic Center

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INVITING CHRIST INTO ALL THINGS



What a fall it has been thus far! As we welcomed our students back, we were eager to run after the Lord with them and embark on this beautiful journey the academic year will bring. **We reflect upon the start of the 2021 semester with great thanksgiving for all the blessings the Lord has brought to the Vandal Catholic family. Here at St. Augustine's, we don't only desire to walk with our students to a deeper spiritual relationship with Christ, but also to begin inviting Him into all areas of our lives.** Whether that is in our studies, intramural sports, or the clubs we join; He is there.



Thank you to all who made our Homecoming and Oktoberfest a great success. We hope you can join us next year!

One way we share the Good News to those around us is through our presence as Vandal Catholics in intramural sports. Our girls at Vandal Catholic took on the challenge of witnessing in intramural by competing with their peers on the soccer field. With a strong finish in the regular season, our Lady Vandals **found themselves in the gold bracket for the playoffs.** Following their playoff berth, our Vandals went on to win their first game, giving them a shot at the title! Our ladies **fell in the semifinals, one game shy of the championship!** We believe that at Vandal Catholic, the gospel should be shared in all places at all times by the joy of our witness for what He has done for us. Good job, ladies!



Fall outreach is a time to make the love of Christ known through our Vandal Catholic club being present on campus. With Vandal Catholic and FOCUS' efforts during fall outreach, **we had 200 new contacts with upwards of 160 students wanting to dedicate time to break open scripture with their peers.** Our students at St. Augustine's have seen a great need to not only receive the great gifts here in this community, but also have fostered a deep desire to share this good news with their sororities and fraternities, sports teams, and classmates. **Please pray for our 12 students leading Bible studies this semester.**





Fall Retreat 2021: Calming the Storm

Vandal Catholic put on its first retreat since the beginning of the pandemic. This year's retreat was themed "Calming the Storm" inspired by Rembrandt's iconic painting of Jesus and His disciples being tossed by the waves in the sea of Galilee. The weekend-long getaway brought 50 of our students to Silverlake, Washington, and gave them the opportunity to step away from the accelerating semester's end, take a breath, and reflect upon God's presence in the midst of the raging academic waters. The beautiful retreat center lent itself to a contemplative weekend, leaving our students centered on Christ and the task at hand, finishing the semester strong with Christ at the center of it all.



Many of our students came away from the weekend reflecting on the ways they can refocus on God's hand in all areas of their life.

Alex Cupp, a sophomore Forestry major from Los Angeles County, decided to take the weekend "to get reconnected with God" with some of his fellow Vandals. He said, "Before the retreat there was too much noise; something wasn't right." But during the silence of the retreat, he was "able to be in front of the Lord and just communicate with him. It helped get things back in right order."



Our students face a lot of challenges to their faith on the college campus. Often time they hear competing voices that contradict or are outright hostile to this life-giving hope. It is through your support and prayers that we are able to put on retreats for our students to come and encounter the One who gives us calm in the storm.

Please continue to pray for our students who went on this soul-lifting retreat; pray that their hearts may be at rest in Him who is there in the midst of the waves.



THE WORDS THAT I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU ARE

Spirit & Life

John 6:68



Fr. Chase presenting on the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation to Vandal Catholic students and parishioners.

St. Thomas Aquinas once said, "Love follows knowledge." **It is our mission at St. Augustine's to become disciples of Jesus Christ and change the campus and our community through our witness of faith, hope, and charity. In order to do this, we must know Who it is we are following, what He taught, and how He taught it so that we can love as Christ loves.** We are grateful to have an intellectual department at St. Augustine's that provides countless opportunities to come to know God and be awed by the mystery that lies within this ancient faith.

This fall we kicked off a great, new, parish-wide approach to teaching the Catholic faith in all its glorious breadth and depth, "Spirit & Life."

Each month Dr. Gracjan and Fr. Chase choose a theme that is central to our faith journey as Catholic Christians. One student said, **"I always knew I wanted to practice my faith, but through the intellectual formation at St. Augustine's, I have learned why I need to practice my faith."** Spirit & Life allows our parish community to interact and be a witness of their desire to continue to grow and be formed in their Catholic faith to our students.

When asked why we should learn about our faith more deeply, Dr. Gracjan said, **"Because of Christ being the Divine Logos, the complete intelligence, through which the Father brought existence into being, we, Catholics, share in this joy whenever we exercise our mental faculties."**



Our annual Great Debate hosted Fr. Robert Sirico and Joshua Davis to discuss how and if Socialism and Capitalism can be a part of a healthy Christian society.

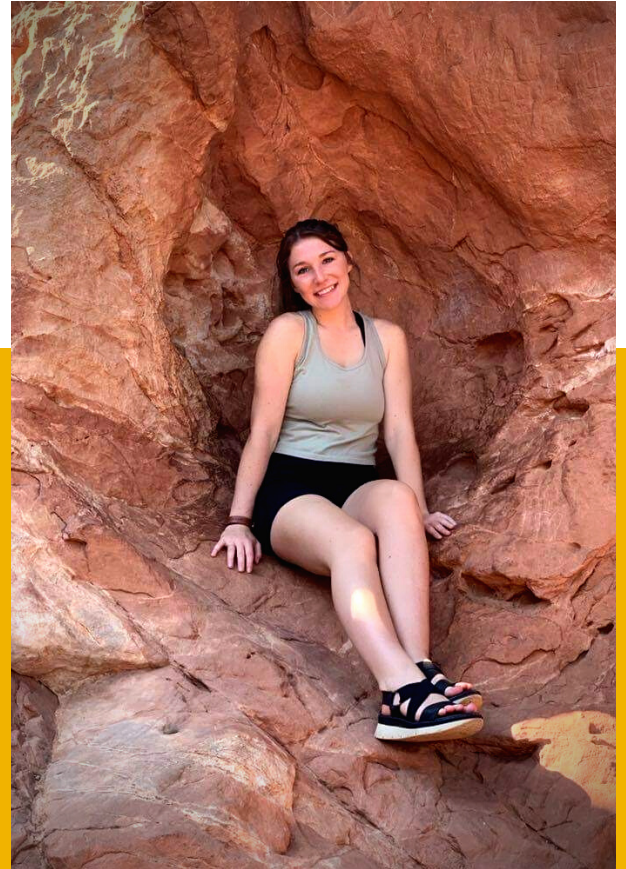


Dr. Gracjan presenting his **monthly Hippo Lecture** to the parish and Vandal Catholic club. Hippo Lectures focus on a variety of topics and are a way for students to stay engaged in the community.

Vandals on Mission

Your support led to Sandra's desire to be on mission.

FOCUS missionaries have been serving Vandal Catholic since 2016, bringing the Gospel to our students at the University of Idaho. The mission of FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) is to walk with students to an encounter with Jesus Christ and equip them to bring Christ to their classmates, sororities and fraternities, and sport teams. **Our missionaries spend their time leading Bible studies, walking with students in living as a disciple of Jesus, and taking our students to conferences and mission trips with the desire to equip them to go out and do the same with their peers.** Sandra, a senior Elementary Education major, has found just that.



Sandra at FOCUS Summer Projects, thanks to your support!

"What is going on in your life that you are not satisfied with? What's holding you back from giving it all to Jesus? "



"There are people just like you, searching -you are not alone. You can trust Him."

When Sandra arrived at the University of Idaho, she was unsure about diving deeper into her faith. She would slip out the back right as Mass ended. When Sandra was 16 her father died, leading her to search for a deeper meaning in her life, knowing there was more. One day, while praying, she found an old note that encouraged her to trust in the goodness of God and to abandon herself to His mercy.

After many meetings with a FOCUS missionary, Sandra discerned to go on Summer Projects, a ten-week program where college students roll up their sleeves and work at a paid summer job by day and receive faith formation from FOCUS at night. **Sandra came back to Moscow "having the drive to share Jesus with others" that led to a strong community and a deep love for prayer.**

"I just feel I needed to do more because He has given me so much." Sandra, a Delta Zeta at the University of Idaho sees the emptiness that can be offered by the culture, so she is dedicated to bring the love, joy, and meaning of the Gospel to those around her. **Sandra is going to co-lead a Bible study in her sorority this semester!**

It is through your contributions and prayers that students, like Sandra, are able to have these encounters with Christ and impact their peers on campus. You are changing lives. When asked what **St. Augustine's** means to her, she said, **"Transformation."** **You help transform through your generosity and prayer. Thank you!**



Want to support
Vandal Catholic?

Join the **Mug Club**:

We have partnered with **Yeti** to create a limited number of Vandal Catholic 20 oz tumblers. By supporting Vandal Catholic Ministry with monthly support of \$100 or more, you will receive this one-of-a-kind mug and a monthly email update, highlighting how your contribution is reshaping the hearts and minds of the students at the University of Idaho.



Mission Statement:

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

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Encounter the Sacred. Discover the Truth. Change the World



Happy fall from St. Augustine's Catholic Center! In this edition of our newsletter, read all about the incredible ministry your support has made possible:

- The success of our fall outreach and our **Vandal Catholic Intramural team**
- The impact of our student-led retreat, "**Calming the Storm**"
- **Our new parish-wide faith formation program, Spirit & Life**
- The story of a student's desire to go on mission for Christ

Thank you for your prayers and support for these remarkable students! **This year, St. Augustine's students have organized a retreat, started 12 student-led Bible studies, hosted incredible speakers through the Vandal Catholic club, and had a successful Oktoberfest and Homecoming! Your generosity makes a huge difference!**

