

FALL 2017



Catholic Campus Ministry at Tulane University

We are God's co-workers; you are God's building.

1 Corinthians 3 : 9

Thanks to you, the new *Fr. Val McInnes Center for Catholic Life* has been transforming campus ministry at Tulane University for two years now. The new building opened in August of 2015 and Catholic life has never been the same since at Tulane Catholic! A special thanks to capital campaign donors and all those who have made this ministry so successful, filled with the graces of God flowing out through the doors of this wonderful new building! Thank you!



– Director of Campus Ministry, **Fr. Thomas Schaeffgen, OP**, tschaefg@tulane.edu

SEE WHAT YOU HAVE BUILT!

Looking back over the past two years, we're immensely grateful for the gift that is the new *Fr. Val McInnes Center for Catholic Life*!

Your generosity has provided a home for Catholic students and many others on Tulane's campus. You believed it was possible and never lost hope throughout the whole journey of building a new center for Tulane Catholic. Your sacrifices

and prayers have paid off! Thank you for giving new life to a once struggling ministry. In this newsletter we want to showcase for you the amazing growth that has happened especially because of the new building you helped build!



During Fall Welcome in August, Tulane University President Mike Fitts greets parents and students at the Welcome Back BBQ at Tulane Catholic.

You helped
them find
hope!

“I found
immense
hope here.”

— Nicole Roca, '20

Andrew Wierdak is a
chemical engineering Senior
from River Forest, Illinois.

MEET ANDREW



Andrew with (from left) Brooke, Sarah, and Monica at the Fall Welcome BBQ.

AFTER 2 YEARS IN A NEW BUILDING

Andrew saw the building go up 2 years ago, and he's seen the Church go out! We asked him to compare what it was like without the building to what it's like now.

“ The building was under construction my freshman year, so I experienced a full year of campus ministry with no space. The difference two years later is striking. The community is close-knit while still rapidly increasing in size largely because of the numerous encounters with Christ that happen every day inside the new building! ”

— Andrew Wierdak, '18

DID YOU KNOW?

SUNDAY NIGHT SUPPER



In 2014, before the new building was completed, we averaged **about 30-40 students** at Sunday Night Supper after the 6pm Mass. This past Sunday **we served 110 students** after a packed 6pm Mass!

Cynthia LeBreton with her husband Robert, and Luca.



MEET CYNTHIA

Cynthia LeBreton has been an
active member and benefactor at
Tulane Catholic for decades.

Cynthia is a Loyola graduate ('77) and Robert, her husband, graduated from Tulane the same year.

“ I have a long history with Tulane Catholic. I can still remember the beautiful sermons Fr. McInnes would give. I understood the need for a physical presence on campus. With my long history, I wanted to be involved to provide some continuity and perspective. ”

MEET NICOLE

Nicole Roca is a legal studies & political science Sophomore from Spanish Fort, Alabama.

Nicole by Gibson Hall at the front of campus.

FINDING HOPE ON CAMPUS

Thanks to you, the new facility has welcomed hundreds of new students over the past two years. One of them is Nicole, who came to Tulane last Fall and became a part of the Tulane Catholic family.

“ I find it shocking when I hear stories from the upperclassmen of how **uninvolved** they were when there was no building on campus. Knowing the people they are now, with Christ at the center of their lives, I find this very hard to believe. Without Tulane Catholic and this building, my freshman year would have been very different. I found immense hope here. I would not have the friendships, home-base, and support I feel, if not for **you** and **your** support of the Center. ”

— Nicole Roca, '20

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO YOUR 18-YEAR-OLD SELF?

We asked Cynthia this question. and here's what she said...

Let us know in your comments on the back what **you** would want **your** 18-year-old self to know!

“Give of yourself and to the organizations you hold dear. You will receive more in return than what you give.”

— Cynthia LeBreton, '77



catholic.tulane.edu
“tulanecatholic”
on facebook, twitter
& instagram!



EXCITING EVENTS COMING UP

ENCOUNTER RETREAT
October 27-29

HOMECOMING PORCH
PARTY, November 3rd
for alumni, family & students

TAILGATE ON LBC
QUAD, November 4th
3 hours before kickoff!
look for the Tulane Catholic tent!

Support us on
#iGiveCatholic on
#GivingTuesday,
November 28th
all day long!

SAVE
the
DATE!

ADVENT MINI-RETREAT,
December 9th
all are welcome!



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 Madelaine: mkuns@tulane.edu

HERE'S MY ONE-TIME GIFT

- ☐ **\$1000** - brings a speaker to Tulane Catholic
- ☐ **\$350** - provides a free supper for students on Sunday night after Mass
- ☐ **\$120** - sends a student on Silent Retreat
- ☐ **\$68** - provides one student Catholic formation for a month
- ☐ \$ _____

CONTACT INFO

Name _____

Phone # _____

e-mail _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

signature _____

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...

- ☐ **\$100/month**
- ☐ **\$40/month**
- ☐ **\$68/month**
- ☐ \$_____/month

PAYMENT OPTIONS

☐ **I have enclosed a check.**

Credit/Debit Card payment:

- ☐ **Visa**
- ☐ **MC**
- ☐ **Disc**
- ☐ **AmEx**

Card # _____ / Exp. Date _____

Bank Withdrawals (automatic monthly gifts only):

Bank Acct # _____ Bank Routing # _____

Please enclose a voided check to begin monthly auto-payments

- ☐ **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.**

I WANT TO CHANGE A LIFE & HAVE MINE CHANGED TOO!

☐ **Please put me in contact with a student from Tulane Catholic!**

Check the box above and we'll have a Tulane Catholic student contact you. Don't forget your contact info above and let us know how you prefer to be contacted below:

- ☐ **I prefer e-mail.**
- ☐ **I prefer phone.**
- ☐ **I prefer written mail.**

YOUR COMMENTS

What would you like to let us know?

We appreciate your feedback! Please be sure to provide contact information above so we know how to get back in touch with you.

Detach this sheet and mail it back to us to donate or share a message with the students

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE BUILDING, IT'S ABOUT YOU.

A donor suggested early on in the capital campaign that it wasn't just a new building that we needed, but a lively ministry. The building wasn't going to fix anything unless we were willing to work hard to build a vital ministry on campus. Those words have echoed in my ears ever since, and I remind the students from time to time: **"The building won't make disciples for Christ, only you can do that."** The building won't invite students, welcome them, or teach them how to know Christ and have hope and peace in a world of strife. Only **you** can do that."

So, it's not about the building, **it's really about you**. But, that's why we wanted to talk about the building in this newsletter... because the new building—the *Fr. Val McInnes Center for Catholic Life*—has been the catalyst for an explosion of life in Catholic campus ministry at Tulane University. This would not have been possible without *you and your generosity*. If you hadn't believed that the time, money and effort was worth it, none of what we celebrate now would have been possible.

Often, when I hear upperclassmen and recent alumni reminiscing, they talk about how things used to be "before the building." This year's senior class is the *last one* that will remember what it was like to not have the great gift of a center on Tulane's campus. When they came in as freshmen, the old building was a pile of rubble on the corner of Zimple and Audubon!

Over their time at Tulane, things have changed dramatically. In the 2016-17 Donor Impact Report, we noted the growing number of students we've been able to welcome at the Center and reach on campus. For instance, over four years the number of students on retreats has **multiplied by almost 10 times**, from about 30 to 274! The growth has been incredible... sometimes we joke we may need to build an even bigger building if we keep growing! But without you, none of this could have happened. You believed that all of this was possible, even during the long campaign, delay after delay in construction, and many, many years. Thank you for staying the course and continuing to support this ministry again and again!

This year, I challenge you to go even deeper. Your life can be transformed by getting to know students at Tulane Catholic. They're open and looking for more. We're preparing them for the rest of their lives. Will you join us? This is my personal invitation, please come join us for mass, or an event, be a part of this ministry. Together we can change the lives of young people and... just watch, in doing so, **they will change yours**. They've certainly changed mine.





Tucker (center) with Blake (a senior), who currently runs Sunday Night Suppers and Fr. Thomas (right).

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

MEET TUCKER CLASS OF 2016

Tucker graduated from Tulane in 2016 but can still be seen playing guitar in the choir and helping with Supper on Sunday nights. When he was a student he was in charge of Sunday Night Suppers, so it was a natural way for him to give back by volunteering.

AMAZING GROWTH OVER 3 YEARS!

Tucker started coordinating Sunday Night Suppers in his Junior year, when there was no Catholic Center. From when he started until now, the number of students at Mass and Supper has nearly tripled!

“ Leading Sunday Night Supper was and continues to be key to my personal faith development. Little did I know Fr. Thomas’s call to help 3 years ago would lead to an expanded ministry offering fellowship among strangers and friends every week. Looking back, I see the impact of providing a home-cooked meal in a welcoming environment, inviting new relationships with Christ and one another. ” — Tucker Baker, ’16

Thanks to Tucker and YOU, so many young people find a home on campus on a Sunday night!

Students enjoy (below) a home-cooked meal on Sunday night after Mass.



“I feel fortunate to be able to give back to students now, in the way YOU gave to me!”

— Tucker Baker, ’16



\$120
Sponsor a student on Silent Retreat

\$400
Send a student on a vocation discernment weekend

\$200
Sponsor a male student for “The Catholic Man” Class

\$350
Sponsor a Sunday Night Supper

\$1000+
Bring a dynamic speaker to Tulane Catholic

\$65
Sponsor a student for the Encounter Retreat

\$200
Sponsor a female student for “Catholic Feminism” Class

Questions? Contact Madelaine: mkuns@tulane.edu or (504)-866-0984