

# **CATHOLIC MONARCHS** CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

*Catholic Campus Ministry at Old Dominion University is a Christ-centered community that seeks to be a true witness to the Catholic Faith. Through the sacraments, religious formation, prayer, and camaraderie, we strive to live out Christ's calling for ourselves both now and in the future.*

*Spring 2023*

Dear Catholic Monarch Family,

We cannot believe that we have come to the end of another wonderful semester! Throughout the semester, we have worshiped, served, and laughed together. In February, we attended the Virginia CCM Summit in Richmond, VA with students from campus ministries all over Virginia. We had an amazing time learning from the wonderful speakers: Bishop Knestout, Jimmy Mitchell, and Sister Mary Casey O'Connor. We have also had the opportunity to serve both our local community and our broader community. We have made casseroles for the local parish to distribute, made blankets for the children at CHKD, and did manual labor for both St. Charles Catholic Church and Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church! The CCM House is also a place of fun, laughter, and prayers adjacent to a busy campus.

We are so grateful to our Catholic Monarchs community far and wide. Your support and prayers are vital to our mission to spread the Gospel to the campus of Old Dominion University. Thank you!

*Maissa O'Neil*

*James M. Glass*



Catholic Monarchs at the Virginia March for Life.



Duncan receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.



Catholic Monarchs at the Easter Vigil at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.



CCM joined with other campus ministries for the UCA Service Night.

## THANK YOU, CCM

Being raised Catholic, I made a promise to my parents that I would continue to attend Mass while at ODU. I wasn't really involved with my home parish: I was an altar server and briefly an usher, but nothing more. I felt slightly disconnected from my faith when I first came to ODU. My freshman year, I only attended Mass with CCM on Sundays and did not go to any other events. However, as time went on, I became more familiar with the regular faces I would see at Mass and soon began developing friendships. My new friends, who were more involved with CCM than I was, began trying to convince me to go to more events such as Soul Food and Fall Retreat. With their help, I slowly became more involved with CCM. I started going to Soul Food, attending game nights, going on retreats, even lecturing at Mass, and eventually taking on the role of a small group leader. All of these things I have come to greatly enjoy and appreciate, as every event, activity, and role drew me closer to my faith as well as the CCM community.

Looking back, I am very grateful to my "accountability buddies," as they made me become more involved with this amazing ministry. I am grateful to the CCM leadership and community for being so welcoming, as it was this welcoming atmosphere that made me feel both comfortable and at-home while away from home. Because of this organization, I began to read (and continue to read) more scripture in my free time. I have learned so much more about my faith and I feel much more comfortable discussing my faith with others. Now as a senior, the time is nearing for me to move on from ODU and begin the next stage of my life and career, but I will always cherish the memories and relationships from these last 4 years of my life. Thank you, CCM!

-Evan Dodd, Class of 2023





## PALPABLE JOY

Sister Mary Casey O'Connor's women's talk stands out as one of my favorite memories from Summit 2023. Each session was meaningful in its own way, but Sr. Mary Casey's discussion about the beauty of femininity through the lens of the Church was particularly striking. How often are we told that femininity is a source of weakness? Sister Mary Casey, however, reminded us that to be feminine is to emulate our Blessed Mother. In a world that tells me that being a woman means I am somehow less than, there is something powerful about the idea that I was created to be like the Mother of God.



Another notable aspect of the weekend was the overall atmosphere. Catholics, especially young adults, frequently hear that our faith has no place in the modern world. However, Summit demonstrated that this couldn't be further from the truth. There were hundreds of college students in attendance; every single one was on fire for Christ. Everyone around me passionately embraced Him and His Cross, and wanted to develop a deeper relationship with Him. The joy was palpable from the time we arrived until the bus ride home. In an environment like Summit - where everyone is striving for Heaven - you are invited to partake in that joy. I greatly enjoyed my experience and I am looking forward to returning next year!

-Anna Weingart, Class of 2025



## SERVICE ON THE SHORE

In March, we had the opportunity to participate in a Day of Service with ODU CCM & Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Cape Charles, Virginia. At first, we were doubting whether to go or not as we did not know how it was going to be or what we were going to do. After having experienced the Day of Service, we can say that it was one of the best activities we have participated in this year. The day was full of highlights, from mowing the lawn to cleaning out a basement, from weeding to mulching. But the main one was that we were able to attend Holy Mass and have Communion with the community at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church. Throughout the day, we were able to help the community of St. Charles Catholic Church and that made us all feel very rewarded. In addition to working, one of the things we liked the most were the people we met. The parishioners from Blessed Sacrament were so positive, so generous, so genuine, all that, made working with them a pleasure. We would for sure return to the Shore again if we have the opportunity to do so!



-Gonzalo & Fernando Lopez de Ayala, Class of 2024



ODU CCM Students along with youth and young adults from Blessed Sacrament for a Day of Service.



Gonzalo, Milton, Jem, Phillip, Jackie, and Fernando (left to right) worked hard all day mowing the lawn, cleaning/organizing the basement, weeding, and mulching for St. Charles Catholic Church during our Day of Service.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### DONATE FOR SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

- \$50 - Provides for a week of liturgical supplies for both Sunday & Daily Masses.
- \$100 - Provides dinner and speaker stipend for one of our weekly Soul Food events.
- \$250 - Provides for needed updates to resources and supplies in the the CCM House.
- \$500 - Enables our students to attend life-changing retreats, events, & programs.

### DONATE MONTHLY

Help provide our ministry stability by establishing a monthly online gift at [catholicmonarchs.org/give](https://catholicmonarchs.org/give)

### STAY CONNECTED

Update your contact information with us by going to [catholicmonarchs.org/alumni](https://catholicmonarchs.org/alumni)

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY  
STAFF



MARISSA O'NEIL  
DIRECTOR



FR. JAMES GLASS  
SACRAMENTAL PRIEST