



CATHOLIC MONARCHS

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2026



Summit 2026

From the Director's Desk

Once again, we have reached the end of the Spring semester and the end of another school year. This semester has been unlike any other. The ODU community has both celebrated and mourned together over these past few months and CCM is no different.

Together, we attended the CCM Summit in Richmond as well as numerous events on campus. Over our spring break, we traveled to Hampton to build decks, weed gardens, clean out construction areas, and overall help to beautify the grounds of the Saint Clare of Assisi Retreat Center. We were also able to assist a family in need on Fort Monroe.

Throughout the semester, we continued to pray as a community through Mass,

Rosary, and Eucharistic Adoration. We also came together as a community through Soul Food along with fellowship and service events.

Following the tragic events on campus on March 12, CCM was a safe place for both students and the community. We invited students to join us for breakfast for dinner that evening and to be in the comfort of others. CCM continued to be a respite for students in the days and weeks following.

Throughout this semester, we have seen the love and support of our vast Catholic Monarchs community. We are so very thankful for all of the wonderful support we have received from our alumni, family, friends, and community members. Thank you!

May God bless you and your family this summer!

Maissa Neil

MISSION

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.

1306 W. 49TH STREET
NORFOLK, VA 23505
CATHOLICMONARCHS.ORG

Alternative Spring Break

HAMPTON, VA | MARCH 15-20

Washing Christ

BY JAISINGH RISKE
CLASS OF 2027

While on Alternative Spring Break, I was tasked with washing a statue of Christ crucified. As a Greek Orthodox Christian, we don't typically use statues, so when I approached the statue, I was a little nervous about how to properly care for it. The support seemed to sway a little, and His body seemed as if it could shatter if I was careless. As I cautiously washed His body, I found myself crying. How often is anyone given the opportunity to trace their fingers over the nails in His hands and feet or to feel where the spear pierced His side? Is this how the myrrh bearers felt when they washed His body and prepared it to be placed in a tomb. When Joseph of Arimathea assisted in His descent from the cross,

did he also fear letting His body fall?

As I reflected further, I remembered a unique feature of the Latin rite to recount the words of the crowd to Jesus on Good Friday: "Crucify Him." Words that I could barely say when I attended a Catholic Good Friday service a few weeks later. The wounds I touched and beheld, were wounds that I had inflicted on Him. With my own sins I had pierced His side and laid the nails in His hands and feet.

Every apostle besides John the Theologian had abandoned Jesus because they thought it was over; they didn't realize His death had a purpose for our salvation. The women disciples came to the tomb three days later and found an empty grave. Our God descended into Hades and, as the Byzantine rite says, "trampled down death by death and upon those in the

tombs, bestowing life."

I think everyone should step outside of their liturgical tradition and experience the same Gospel in a new light. When Christ commanded us to preach to all nations, He knew that many would come to know Him in legitimate and diverse ways and that we would be mutually strengthened through each other. It was painful for me to see and behold, but it offered me a greater insight into the thoughts of those faithful servants of the Lord who stood by His side after His trial and even after His death.



Alternative Spring Break 2026



Raphael working on a HVAC platform



Sarah building a deck extension



Jai weeding in the Rosary Garden



Luca preparing materials for a future retreat



Leo raking at a parishioner's home



Summit

RICHMOND, VA | FEBRUARY 20-21

Eye-Opening

BY BRADY SEMTNER
CLASS OF 2026

This year, I had the opportunity to attend Summit in Richmond. This 24-hour conference was a blast. I was able to go to confession and it was such a relief because it had been quite a while since I had gone. It was so cool to connect to Catholics from different schools across the state. I know that Christianity is the largest religion in the world and other Catholics are everywhere, but it is often hard for me

to see that in my life. Summit really opened my eyes to the wider community that I am a part of.

We had several excellent speakers, but the one I found most interesting and the most relatable to me was a presentation by Paul Albert about being a Catholic man. It opened my eyes to a lot of the reasons why we are who we are and how we can best serve God in our lives.

The final culminating event was Adoration. Let me tell you, it had been way too long since I've had a chance to

attend Adoration and appreciate the Lord's presence one-on-one.

Summit is a rare event that must be cherished. We only have so much time on this Earth and any time spent deepening one's faith and connecting to other people is time well spent.



The Ladies of CCM at Summit



Zachary, Brady, & Jayden before a session



Sarah & Luca at the DYC College Fair



Jeremy on stage for a game on Friday night



The Gents on a Silver Diner adventure



Waiting for the next session to begin



Relaxing before the next keynote session



Jeremy & Natalie proudly waving our flag



Luca and Nabeeha hanging out





Rite of Election with CCM & Blessed Sacrament



Egg Dyeing with Orthodox Christian Fellowship



Natalie cantoring at Holy Thursday



Sarah adoring the cross on Good Friday



OCIA Students with Fr. Gerry



A few CCM students at the Easter Vigil



Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk



Virginia March for Life



Natalie, Raphael, & Sarah at Small Group



Students enjoying the new porch furniture

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Your Monthly or One-Time Gift can ...

\$50 - Provide for a week of liturgical supplies for both Sunday & Daily Masses.

\$100 - Provide dinner and speaker stipend for one of our weekly Soul Food events.

\$250 - Provide for needed updates to resources and supplies in the the CCM House.

\$500 - Enable our students to attend life-changing retreats & events.

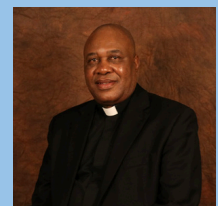


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CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF



MARISSA O'NEIL
DIRECTOR



FR. GERRY KAGGWA
SACRAMENTAL PRIEST



PRAYER REQUESTS

THE CCM STAFF AND LEADERSHIP TEAM WOULD LIKE TO PRAY FOR YOU AND YOUR INTENTIONS!
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