



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.

Fall 2021

Dear Catholic Monarch Family,

What a wonderful Fall Semester we have had! It was so refreshing to have the students back on campus and so amazing that we have seen so many familiar and new faces. The students have truly missed authentic community over the past year and a half, but they are making up for lost time. Every day there are students in the CCM House joining together for games, food, and studying. It is a joy to hear their laughter while I am working in my office!

The Holy Spirit has been moving through us all semester. We have had to request a larger space for our Masses and have had to cook extra food for Soul Food. Both are very good problems to have. Through our Fall Retreat and our fellowship events, friendships have blossomed throughout the ministry. The best part is that these friendships are not just confined to the CCM House, they are spreading throughout the campus.

We could not have reopened as well as we have without the amazing support and prayers of our extended community. Thank you!

Maissa Neil

James M. Glass



Fall Retreat 2021 "Rekindle" was held in October at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.

WE'RE BACK

Over the previous two semesters I felt like I was one of only ten people on campus and while that meant no line at Chick-fil-A, it also meant that socialization wasn't really an option. My friends were my roommates and the lack of events on campus meant that there was little to look forward to each week. My daily life became monotonous with a constant trickle of homework and classes. But every week, I was able to find a brief respite in the shelter of Mass. In that most important hour every Sunday, I was able to relax and remember why I work so hard, why I push myself to succeed.



As difficult as last year was, I feel that my faith has been rewarded tenfold this semester. Mass continues to be a vital part of my week and my life. At Soul Food, I am amazed at the food my classmates can conjure up in the kitchen and simultaneously gain new perspectives with the amazing discussions that always follow. The CCM House is almost never empty, with an eclectic mix of people "studying," playing games, and praying. CCM is a group of people as different as you could find on campus and yet easily a close-knit family that always helps each other and supports each other past any obstacle.

-James Doherty, Class of 2023

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I FOUND A HOME

As I approached this fall semester, my first time living and taking in-person classes at ODU, my greatest anxiety was finding community. As a transfer, former commuter, and upperclassman, I worried I would be lost in a sea of already-established groups on campus. In the past four years, I have attended five schools in some capacity, and have moved frequently between small towns and big cities. Living through a season of grief and healing led to innumerable fears that I would be isolated, alone, and unwelcome, but where I craved to find some sliver of community, I, instead, found a home.



I hoped CCM would provide a community to attend Mass with and a place to grow deeper in my faith, but I never imagined the extent of support and depth of love within the ministry. I remember my first day stepping nervously into the CCM House, where I was instantly received openly and warmly. Early in the semester, during the days of repetitive surface-level introductions and scripted conversations, it was unsettling to so quickly dive into authentic conversations with the Catholic community. Every night I have sat with friends sharing about faith, our struggles, and our joys. I came to CCM looking to stay tied to my faith, go to Mass, and eat a few home-cooked meals, but instead I found authentic fellowship that draws you in and tells you that you are welcome and that you belong.

Before CCM, the word “fellowship” called to mind silly youth group games, dry conversation over coffee in a parish hall, or perhaps that fleeting unmatched sense of connectedness at conferences that disappears the minute you return home. At CCM, I realized fellowship can change the way you live and think if you allow yourself to be open, be present, and to reach out. Fellowship has been praying together, nighttime texts to ask whether I am okay after a rough day, and passing rainy days together over plates of leftovers. There is no competition to be the best, the most noticeably virtuous, or the most well-versed in theology. There is only a beautiful, enduring, and unspoken agreement to show up, to try to live well, and to run toward Heaven together. It is a practical exercise in loving God in the mundane and everyday moments in which we define who we are.

-Emma Blackford, Class of 2024



Catholic Monarchs at Involvement Fair



We loved having so many families join us for our Family Weekend Tailgate!



Catholic Monarchs relaxing at the CCM House

FALL RETREAT

As a freshman fresh out of high school, I wasn't sure what to expect when I joined CCM. It was through Fall Retreat that I learned that CCM is an inviting and exhilarating community that was devoted to helping each other and growing together. I really had no idea what to expect because I'd never been on a retreat before, but the whole experience really made me feel like I belonged there and brought me closer to the people around me.



After it was over, I felt refreshed and ready to take on the rest of the semester, knowing that I could always go to the CCM House if I needed somewhere filled with people who understand and care about me. CCM has given me the feeling of belonging from the first time I went to Mass on campus and that feeling has stuck with me all semester.

-Madison Flieg, Class of 2025



A full house at our weekly Soul Food dinner and talk



Eucharistic Adoration at the CCM House



Donations from our annual Trick or Treat Food Drive went to the Monarch Pantry



Lauren-Elise at the Rite of Welcoming at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

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

STAY CONNECTED

Update your contact information with us by going to catholicmonarchs.org/alumni

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