



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 2023

Dear Catholic Monarch Family,

What a wonderful semester this has been! It has been so wonderful welcoming our new students, both freshmen and transfers. The CCM House has been alive with students hanging out, laughing, and sometimes studying. We have continued the tradition of Soul Food on Thursday nights. We begin with Mass in the Webb Center and then return to the CCM House for dinner and a talk on an aspect of the Catholic Faith. The students enjoy spending this time together to grow in faith and fellowship. Dinner is usually prepared by one or two of the students and it has been so great to see what they come up with. In November, we held our annual Fall Retreat with the theme of Strength in the Eucharist. For the first time, we had a keynote speaker join us for the whole retreat, Kathy Williams. It was such a blessing to have her with us.

Throughout the semester, we have seen both alumni and parents come to the CCM House for visits. This has provided wonderful conversations and memories. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful Catholic Monarchs community. Your prayers and support are so important to us and we are so very grateful. May you and your family have a blessed Advent season and a very merry Christmas!

Marissa O'Neil

James M. Glass



Catholic Monarchs at Selena & McKenzie's Confirmation Mass.



Selena Alejo-Arellano (left) and McKenzie Scherra (right) were confirmed on Sunday, November 19 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church after a semester of preparations.



Catholic Monarchs with our visiting seminarian, Charlie Tamayo.

CONFIRMED IN CHRIST

On November 19, 2023, I finally received my final Sacrament of Initiation, Confirmation. Through this journey, I have grown more in love with myself and with my faith as a Catholic woman. At first, I felt ashamed, the thought that I was one of the few people at my church at my age (21) to have not been confirmed. I felt like I would be judged by many for waiting until now to get confirmed. After going through the process, I learned that doing it at my timing was the best way. Coming from a religious Catholic family, my parents always lead me in the Catholic Faith. They have always made sure that we attended Mass on Sundays and prayed as a family. They always shared with me that God works in marvelous ways. With all of this support, I wanted to make sure that I am doing this for myself and not for others.



In September, I went to my second rosary with Catholic Campus Ministry at Old Dominion University but my first for the Fall 2023 Semester. I remember, I was afraid and scared to even ask about Adult Confirmation but I knew that I was prepared to receive my last sacrament. Luckily, Marissa was very helpful and amazingly nice to help me continue on my faith journey. Through the Confirmation classes, one thing stood out above the rest: the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Through that lesson, I knew that once I was confirmed, I would be filled with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit with their fullness in Jesus Christ. I am grateful for this experience, the friendships I have formed, and all the people that have received me with the most welcoming spirit!

-Selena Alejo-Arellano, Class of 2025



Fall Retreat: Strength in the Eucharist was held on November 9-10! We were blessed to have Kathy Williams join us as our keynote speaker. Fr. James, our Sacramental Priest, was also able to join us for dinner, Adoration, and Confession.



NEW BEGINNINGS

My first week at ODU, I knew that I had to join the CCM. Before coming to ODU, it had been about 2 years since I had gone to church, yet every time that I walked past the CCM House, it felt like God was calling me back to the Faith. The first Soul Food of the year, I was very nervous and felt that I would be out of place. The moment I opened the door, I was immediately greeted and welcomed. As a student from out of state, I came to ODU without knowing anybody and have already found a family in Catholic Campus Ministry. As a freshman, the transition to college is tough, however the great people at CCM made this transition so much easier.



Fall Retreat was the best weekend that I have had since coming to ODU. There were talks about courage and the Eucharist, as well as many activities of fellowship. My favorite part of the retreat was the Emmaus walk. We were split into groups of two and walked around the neighborhood and church grounds to talk about the retreat, our lives, and other things. Fall Retreat was an incredible event, 10/10 would recommend!

-David Lairson, Class of 2027



Over the summer, we had a great time in DC, attending Mass at St. Vincent de Paul and then representing ODU at the Washington Nationals with our current students, parents, and alumni!



Catholic Monarchs had a great time at Trunk or Treat at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.



Soul Food is one of our longest running event. Each Thursday night, we join together for Mass followed by dinner and a talk. This is a great time for Catholic Monarchs to share in faith and fellowship.



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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STAFF



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FR. JAMES GLASS
SACRAMENTAL PRIEST