



ELON UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

Truitt Center
Campus Box 2960
Elon, NC 27244
336-278-7355

www.elon.edu/ccm

SUNDAY MASS TIMES:

Elon Community Church
6pm & 9pm

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CATHOLIC:

Holt Chapel (South Campus)
7:07pm - Rosary, 7:30pm - Mass
Program Follows

RECONCILIATION:

Before Sunday Mass
or by appointment

Campus Minister
Fr. Gerry Waterman, OFM Conv
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Administrative Assistant
Trung Huynh-Duc
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Faculty Advisor
Dr. Mary Knight-McKenna
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Student Leaders
Erin Bradley, President
Stephen Ferguson, V. President
Brianna Bailey
Brian Dudiak
Krickie Feeny
Mallory Hinzman
Rachel Zimmermann

So You Want to Be Confirmed? A Student's Experience with RCIA

By Edith Veremu

For many Catholics, the sacrament of Confirmation is logically the next step after Baptism and receiving First Communion. Some receive Confirmation when they are young while others such as myself wait until young adulthood to receive the sacrament. RCIA, or the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, is a process that one goes through before being confirmed.

At first, I thought that RCIA was just another mechanism that the Catholic Church had devised to make me feel guilty for having lost touch with my faith. At first, I didn't always enjoy having to rush after class on Friday afternoons to the Truitt Center to make it in time for my meetings with Fr. Gerry. Yet, as I understood that RCIA was a process and experience in which I rediscovered and came to understand my faith, it no longer felt like a chore.

There were times where I had doubts about RCIA and the journey of my faith. Was I really doing the "right" thing and was I getting confirmed because I wanted to, or was it because I had to? The Blessed Sacrament and St. Ju-

lia Confirmation Retreat, which took place in Burlington, NC, on Saturday, March 6, helped me answer my questions. At the retreat, which was led by many fellow Catholic students at Elon, I began to notice how my relationship with my faith and others had changed. I developed strong relationships with CCM members, of whom two are my Confirmation sponsors, as well as a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God.

I am thrilled to have been confirmed with other collegiate students in the Diocese of Raleigh on April 9th, and I can't wait to move forward in my relationships with God, CCM, and those who have stood by me throughout this RCIA process.

The RCIA process is offered every year to students at Elon. Please contact Fr. Gerry if you are interested, or you can find more information on our website!

Below: Confirmandi have their picture taken with Bishop Michael Burbidge, Fr. Gerry, and their sponsors; Edith Veremu to the left of Bishop Burbidge, Alexander Griot to his right.



Alternative Spring Break 2010

Another Big Success

By Katie Dirks

Fourteen members of the Elon CCM community recently spent their spring break in Mt. Pleasant, SC, volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. The thirteen Elon students and one recent Elon grad arrived at their residence, the Isle of Palms Baptist Church, on Sunday, March 21st, and spent four days of their week-long spring break on a worksite for East Cooper Habitat. A typical day for the group included breakfast and travel to the worksite, several hours of service for Habitat (generally from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM), an afternoon at the beach, supper, and prayer and reflection time before bed.

The group worked on their Habitat house Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and was immediately welcomed by Kate, the on-site supervisor, a host of regular volunteers, and Mike, a supervisor from a nearby Habitat build. The extraordinary charisma and enthusiasm of the East Cooper team combined with the high energy of the Elon volunteers was unstoppable, and the week ended with the build ahead of schedule. It was a dramatic change: on Monday, little more was visible than several concrete columns and a few piles of dirt. During the week, the group framed and laid the floor supports, hammered together the pre-builds for the walls and window frames, and constructed almost an entire tool shed to boot. Finally on Friday, the Elon volunteers cheered as they raised and secured the outer walls of the house.

Of course, it wouldn't be spring break without a little recreation. During their free time on Wednesday, the group visited Boone Hall Plantation in nearby Charleston (a filming site for the movie "The Notebook"), where they toured the plantation house and slave quarters, rode through the extensive grounds, and participated in a live Gullah performance. They ate dinner in Charleston on Wednesday, and were also able to revisit the historic city on Friday, where they strolled down the Battery and went on an evening ghost tour.

It goes without saying that all involved had an incredibly rewarding and memorable experience this spring break. It is extremely humbling to give up one's spare time and personal space, and to consider the circumstances of those less fortunate. On the same note, however, it is truly inspiring and empowering to know that there are good-hearted, like-minded people out there, doing their part to help others and make the world a little brighter. Our volunteers returned to Elon on Saturday, March 27th counting their blessings and eager to share the hope and the energy that they experienced over their meaningful time on CCM's Alternative Spring Break.





Confirmation Retreat

By Justin Sposato

After what turned out to be an ELONGated winter, the snow finally cleared and before we knew it, March was upon us. March in Elon means only one thing (no, not the NCAA Tournament); it was time for Blessed Sacrament's Confirmation Retreat. Over 100 confirmandi attended this year's retreat, hailing from Blessed Sacrament Church in Burlington and St. Julia's Parish in Siler City.

An unprecedented number of student volunteers came out to help with this year's event. Not only did Elon students help, but also there were numerous high school volunteers who have taken part in the retreat in the past. Again this year, we were fortunate enough to enjoy more music from David Tamayo and his incredibly gifted family and friends.

"I Believe", a skit performed during the morning session, and the theme of the retreat, got the kids thinking about their faith and why they believe. Throughout the day were various stations that taught them about different areas of their faith, including Saints, the Tower of Babel, and a trust walk. All of the kids had a different opinion when asked what their favorite part of the day was, and in the end, everyone had a great time.



Habitat for Humanity®

Volunteering at the ReStore

By Daniel Glass

Habitat ReStore is a chain of retail stores that accept donations from individuals, local businesses and contractors. With donations that range from kitchen sinks to ply wood that come to the store daily, there is a great need for volunteers to assist in organizing the warehouse and storefront.

Their largest need is in organizing, labeling and stocking the warehouse and shelves of the store, basically what the employees in the warehouse of a Home Depot would do. However, Habitat is a non-profit organization and does not have a large hired work force. That's where volunteers come in! As a volunteer we help the

managers with anything they need that day. In my experience, I have done tasks ranging from measuring and stocking carpets to organizing oversized boxes of hardware and anything in between.

Volunteering at ReStore is not only fun but a very rewarding experience as well. While every day does not result in a noticeable change in the warehouse, the tasks that are accomplished go a long way and will always make the job of others easier; knowing that is enough to keep me going back every week. Sacrificing a couple hours of my time each week is nothing compared to the help it brings to the store.



The Catholic Phoenix
CCM Newsletter

Catholic Campus Ministry
Campus Box 2960
Elon, N.C. 27244-2010
Phone: (336) 278-7355

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Building a Catholic Community...

CCM Dinners

By Kelsey O'Leary

One of Elon's hidden treasures is the great community that has been built through Catholic Campus Ministry. This community thrives off of the many fellowship opportunities offered through CCM. Among these opportunities are the Sunday Night Suppers the organization hosts and the other meals hosted throughout each month. The Sunday Night Suppers, held at the Elon Community Church once a month, are free, always delicious, and a great chance for making new friends and having conversation with old ones. After meeting Peter Guyton at one Sunday Night Supper, my boyfriend, Richard Schulz, and I ended up taking him to Tennessee the very next weekend for a University of Tennessee basketball game. Everyone in CCM is always open to meeting new people and forming new friendships.

This year, CCM has been blessed with the opening of the Newman Center on South Campus. This gives us the opportunity to enjoy dinners aside from Sunday Night Suppers. The Lenten Fish Fry dinner held on a Friday last month was a great success! Father Gerry joined us as we enjoyed fish and fellowship. Join CCM for dinner and I promise you will enjoy friendships and a full belly!

Intramural Sports

By Stephen Ferguson

Catholic Campus Ministry has taken its intramural sports program to new levels this spring. The Cathletes (formerly known as the God Squad) have already displayed their athletic prowess on the flag football field and basketball courts, and have brought their game to the indoor soccer scene. With a little divine inspiration, the Cathletes finished the regular season in style, finishing in first place in their division with an amazing undefeated record of four wins, no losses, and two draws.

Their most recent game, a fierce physical matchup against the perennial powerhouse Campus Recreation team, featured perhaps the most action-packed, nail-biting action the Cathletes had seen all season. The two teams took turns exchanging the lead before the Cathletes scored three unanswered goals midway through the second half to take a 5-3 lead. Campus Rec equalized, however, netting two goals in the last two minutes to make it 5-5. Despite conceding the two late goals, the Cathletes maintained their undefeated record heading into the playoffs, where the team hopes to preserve its impressive performance thus far and continue to play with fire (for Jesus, of course).