At the beginning of the new academic year, the Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) held their monthly Mass in the Holt Chapel (South Campus). This is the first regularly scheduled monthly Mass for the academic year. The Mass is open to all students, faculty, and staff, and it is a wonderful opportunity to gather in prayer and reflection.

The next Mass will be held on Sunday, August 28, at Numen Lumen Pavilion at 4:00pm & 6:00pm. This mass schedule is in line with Elon University's new multi-faith center, the Numen Lumen Pavilion, where the Mass will be held. The pavilion is an ideal location for religious events and activities, and it is a testament to Elon University's commitment to providing a diverse and inclusive environment for its students, faculty, and staff.

The CCM staff and leadership council are excited to welcome new members to the ministry and look forward to a year of service, prayer, and community. They encourage all students, faculty, and staff to attend the upcoming masses and events to learn more about the CCM and how they can get involved.

The CCM on social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube, have been active in promoting the upcoming events and sharing the ministry's mission and values. The CCM encourages all to follow them on social media and stay informed about their activities.

With heartfelt peace and gratitude...
In the first few months of my first year at Elon, I made a bucket list of 42 things I wanted to accomplish before the end of my senior year. I wanted to do all the typical Elon things like attending College Coffee, meeting Dr. Danieley, and surviving 24 hours at Elonthon, but I also had a lot of challenging goals. At the start of my senior year, I only had two things left to accomplish. The first being #41: to get accepted to graduate school, and the second, #16: to win an intramural championship with the Roman Cathletes.

Anyone who knows me personally knows that one of my favorite things to do is playing intramural sports. I still remember the first CCM intramural I participated in. After our first freshman small group meeting in the fall of 2012, our two small group leaders convinced the group to play in the first flag football game of the season. Since that game, I was hooked. I made the majority of my friends at Elon through CCM, and intramurals played a huge role in building those relationships. Though often the amount of losses we’ve had outnumbered our wins, I’ve never felt more like a winner than the nights we’ve spent celebrating the small victories (like one touchdown or goal in soccer). I think the losses made the wins even sweeter.

After three and a half years of participating in intramural sports, I finally got the opportunity to cross #16 off my list. At 11:30 p.m. on a Thursday night this past Winter Term, the Roman Cathletes found out that they had made the playoffs for intramural bowling. Not only had we made the playoffs, we were ranked #1. That night was one of the most exhilarating nights of my Elon career. We were all on edge every time a pin fell - celebrating a strike or encouraging each other with a split. Finally, close to 1:00 a.m., we finished our very last game and were announced the winners of the Intramural Bowling season. We finally got our Intramural Champ t-shirts.

Fellow senior Kristin Leesman and I have played almost every intramural Elon has had to offer with the Roman Cathletes, and we have made it a personal goal to get the most out of every season. We were thrilled when we were selected to be the captains of the Roman Cathletes for this spring, and this semester, we’ve had more fun than we could have imagined. The team always has a positive attitude from start to finish. Whether we’re down by a lot or winning by a landslide, we’ve given it our all in bowling, basketball, wiffleball, and currently, dodgeball. CCM intramurals transformed my college career. Our teams have become a family, and we’re always excited when new people join our team and stick around sport after sport. The Roman Cathletes have grown so much over the years, and I know both Kristin and I are extremely excited to see them continue to progress.
Unlike most students who went either to the beach, snow-skiing, or simply went home for Spring Break, I chose something else. I chose to give my time to helping build houses with Habitat for Humanity. And honestly, it was a great decision!

At first, I was nervous to go on a week long trip with total strangers. We left early in the morning on Sunday and spent most of the first three hours sleeping and listening to music with no conversation. After taking a Panera break, the five of us were suddenly more open and comfortable with each other. Although our housing was not a five-star hotel, the community center provided us with just what we needed. We may have had a few scary encounters with a creature or two in the roof, but we were just fine. It was a bonding experience!

All in all, it was a great week. We had the opportunity to help build a porch, pour concrete, stain wood, put together window and door frames, and many other things. We may not have had a nail gun, but we sure got our arm work outs in every day with hammers. Working alongside some pretty cool people, we got to contribute to society and help those in need.

Our four days with Habitat were long and sweaty, but all five of us walked away knowing we had done something good with our week off. I walked away with four new friends and a surplus of knowledge about construction work. I’m grateful that CCM and the James Leo Feeney Servant Leader scholarship provided me with this great opportunity!

By Olivia Jung, Class of 2019

I have received multiple opportunities this semester to not only strengthen my faith while being in CCM, but also to be a part of a close-knit community of Elon students. During the CATHOLICISM series, which takes place every Tuesday evening at the Catholic Newman Center, I have had the opportunity to explore Bishop Robert Barron’s videos and see why we as Catholics believe in certain aspects of Christianity and how those aspects are both similar and different to other religions. My favorite part of this experience was discussing the content of the series with not only the Peer Ministry Coordinator, Halie Reed, and CCM president, Chelsea Semeraro, but also other students in a welcoming environment. (Also, having a home-cooked meal was enjoyable!)

The most helpful episode we have watched included a breakdown of events in the Mass and a description of the importance of each individual part. It made me realize that the actions that I do every Sunday are not only done in exactly the same manner around the world, but that each aspect has its own meaning. For example, I did not realize how many times we reflect on our sins during Mass or how the raising of the Eucharist is where we respect the offering of gifts as they become parts of Jesus Christ.

I never guessed that getting involved within the CCM community would have been so welcoming and beneficial. This semester, I’ve had the chance to become certified as a Greeter and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at Mass, and I am currently on the committee to plan CCM’s first-ever “Mass on the Grass” and will be a Greeter for the event. CCM has allowed me to reduce the stress of college with game nights, intramural dodge ball, and volunteer opportunities like Habitat for Humanity. Additionally, the Alpha Omega program within CCM has given me a religious mentor and another friend at Elon. Spending time with other Catholics has given me the ability to examine my faith and to express my ideas about the religion respectfully.

Through all my experiences this year and with many more to come, I know I will have a stronger faith when graduating from Elon, and I will have a group of supportive friends no matter where my life journeys may take me.

By Lauren Ventresca, Class of 2019
With Heartfelt Peace and Gratitude: A Farewell from Father Gerry after 11 Years

Our Intramural Journey
My Alternative Break with CCM
First-Year Experiences
CCM Alumni Spotlights:
Brandon Marshall, Class of 2012
Emily Cinquemani, Class of 2015

Look Inside!
Look Online!

“My favorite part about being involved with CCM was helping to organize and put on retreats, especially for the Confirmants of the Blessed Sacrament community. Orchestrating something that means so much to so many is one of the most gratifying feelings in the world, and puts real meaning to the idea of serving God by serving others.” - Allie Kornacki

“One thing about CCM which I’ll miss very much is Sunday Supper. The food is phenomenal (and free), I’ve met some of my best friends at Elon there, and I thoroughly enjoy the clean-up process. Our work in the kitchen provided a nice, very intimate setting for fellowship.” - Max Whelan

“The thing I will miss about CCM are the people I have met and become so close with. It has been so comforting throughout my college career to have been part of such a strong faith community. (I’ll also miss Father Gerry’s hugs after Mass - those were always the best).” - Mackenzie Murray

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“My favorite part about CCM has definitely been the friendships that I have formed. During my first semester at Elon, I really struggled with the transition to a new state and school. It was not until CCM Fall Beach Retreat where I found my core group of friends that shared the same values and beliefs as me, and once I met that group, Elon began to feel more like home.” - Ashley Halinski

“After the Beach Retreat I attended my first year, I knew I had found ‘my people.’ The friends and mentors I have found through CCM have become family. We still talk and laugh about so many memories today, and I have no doubt that we will continue to look back fondly on them for many years to come.” - Grace Ahlering

“My most cherished memories in CCM are hanging out at the Newman Center with my best friends. When I first came to Elon it was a home away from home and I like to think it always will be.” - Kristin Leesman

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“The thing I will miss most about CCM is the annual beach retreat. I met some of my best Elon friends while on beach retreat, plus it’s a great way to disconnect from our busy college schedules and focus on our faith.” - Danny Kirk

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