

THE CATHOLIC PHOENIX

ELON CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021

FUN, FAITH, AND PHOENIX

CCM hosts a student tailgate before cheering on the Phoenix at the first home football game of the year.



ELON UNIVERSITY



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The new year brings lots of hope and encouragement for CCM staff, servant leaders, and interns.

3 A WEEK OF WELCOME

CCM hosts over a full week of events to welcome our incoming first-year class.

7 ALUMNI CORNER

The Class of 2020 returned to Elon for their Commencement Weekend and celebrated with CCM.

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Catholic Campus Ministry celebrated its annual Mass of the Holy Spirit to pray for a blessing for all students, faculty, and staff at Elon in this new academic year.

Be Not Afraid

A NEW YEAR

By Father Peter C. Tremblay, OFM Conv.

For this year's annual fall Beach Retreat, our student Servant Leaders chose the theme, "Be not afraid." It was the central message of former pope St. John Paul II throughout his papacy, and while many of our current students do not remember his time as pope, his message still rings true today.

We have had a lot to be afraid of this past year and a half, and with the Delta variant being more contagious than previous strains of COVID-19, we could allow fear to overwhelm us. However, as we remain responsible and continue to adjust to ensure the health and safety of our students, we are not discouraged, and we press ahead to build up the Catholic community at Elon.

Feeling confident in the university's policies and vaccination rates, we are blessed to no longer have limitations at our in-person Masses. I cannot express what a joy it is to see a full congregation again. We still continue to livestream at least one of our services each weekend, but full access to the Eucharist is available to all.

Our Servant Leaders have been busier than ever, putting on a full slate of events and programs to welcome first-year students and re-engage returning students. The Week of Welcome events, a CCM tailgate, Small Group kick-off, and the return of our popular Front

Porch Friday have been some of many highlights. Of course, being able to travel off-campus again and return to the coast for an incredible Beach Retreat tops the list. Retreatants were able to hear several talks from their fellow students on what it meant to not be afraid and live a life for Jesus Christ.

Our CCM Engagement Internship is now in its second year, and our four interns have been actively reaching out and meeting many of our first-year students. With more than 400 first-years identifying as Catholic this year, they are excited to help them not be afraid to be involved in their Catholic faith at Elon. Christy McKiernan, a first-year from Rougemont, NC, shared, "I really love how supportive and kind everyone is in CCM, and I look forward to attending more events so I can continue to grow my faith as well as meet new people. This group has been a comfort to me as I start this new chapter in my life at Elon, and I am so glad to be a part of it!"

Although we realize we may have to pivot at any moment if cases get worse, we are proud to be able to serve our students in ways that they need. As our ministry enters into year three of our five-year strategic plan, we heed St. John Paul II's advice in building up this community and this Church on the university campus.

A Week of Welcome!



Move-In Open House

Catholic Campus Ministry held an open house for first-year students and their families during Move-In Weekend. Thanks to the many who stopped by to find out more about CCM and all that we provide on campus!

Holland House BBQ

CCM always begins the year with the Holland House BBQ! First-year students join us to visit the Catholic Newman Center for the first time and meet our leaders, while upperclassmen get the opportunity to reconnect with friends. Of course, the food is always good!



Elon Org Fair

Elon University boasts more than 250 student organizations on campus, so Org Fair can often be overwhelming. However, CCM was there to provide friendly smiles, opportunities to get involved and grow in faith, and ice pops on a warm day.

S'Mores in Historic

Who doesn't love s'mores? CCM's Servant Leaders held a s'mores night in the middle of Historic Neighborhood for our first-year students. Building community and relationships are incredibly important to what we do, so thank you to all who joined us!



Small Group Ice Cream Social

Small groups provide students with the opportunity to build community, discuss their faith, and study Scripture in a smaller, informal setting. Our small group leaders held an ice cream social to welcome new members and kick off their groups for the year!

ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING 2020-2021

Catholic Campus Ministry at Elon University is incredibly grateful for the generous financial support we have received over the past year. We rely on our donors as our primary revenue source to fund our programs, events, supplies, and personnel. The following list recognizes all donors who made a financial gift to Catholic Campus Ministry during the Elon fiscal year from June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please send any questions to T Huynh-Duc at tduc@elon.edu.

* Parent, alumni, faculty, and staff donors who have made gifts of \$1,500 or more (not including Offertory collections) are recognized by Elon as members of **The Elon Society**, the university's premier donor recognition society for annual giving.



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ALUMNI CORNER

CLASS OF 2020 EDITION



The Class of 2020 were finally able to participate in their long-awaited Commencement Ceremonies at Elon over Labor Day weekend. CCM welcomed back several members of the class with a long-standing tradition - the CCM Senior Dinner at the Holland House - celebrating their involvement and achievements in the ministry!



Isabella Santelia

What are you up to?

"I'm in Westchester, NY, pursuing my Masters in Childhood & Special Education at Manhattanville College while working at a local elementary school!"



What do you remember most about CCM?

"CCM gave me a family away from home. I was so fortunate to immediately have this strong loving community with people of similar values. It's incredible to be a part of such an inclusive and kind group of people of all ages because I was supported to be myself, mentored by many older students, and provided with opportunities to to deepen my faith. Some of my favorite memories - I always loved Sunday Suppers because of the way it brought so many people together. Additionally, celebrating Mass outside during Mass on the Grass and beach retreats are special moments that I miss."

Chris Pottorff

What are you up to?

"I've been calling Arlington, Virginia home for the past year, where I work in Human Resources for a federal software contractor."



What do you remember most about CCM?

"CCM quickly became a home away from home, and I thoroughly enjoyed going on beach retreats and serving as CCM Treasurer!"

Julia Mercurio

What are you up to?

"I moved to Boston in the midst of the pandemic and am working in Human Resources at Fidelity Investments in a rotational program!"

What do you remember most about CCM?

"CCM was one of my favorite parts of Elon. It was a close knit community that allowed me to grow in my faith. I met some of my favorite people in it and hold them near and dear to my heart. My favorite memories were meeting one of my best friends on the ride to Beach Retreat my freshman year and leading Elon Awakening 2 my senior year."



Rachel Sword

What are you up to?

"I moved to Wilmington, NC this past June and have been working at a biotech/healthcare public relations agency for over a year now. I love it!"

What do you remember most about CCM?

"CCM brought me to two of my closest friends at Elon as well as many other people that will hold a special place in my heart forever. My favorite memories were spending spring break 2018 at Blessed Assurance in Jamaica & leading the trip in 2019. Fingers crossed I'm able to visit BA again one day!"



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