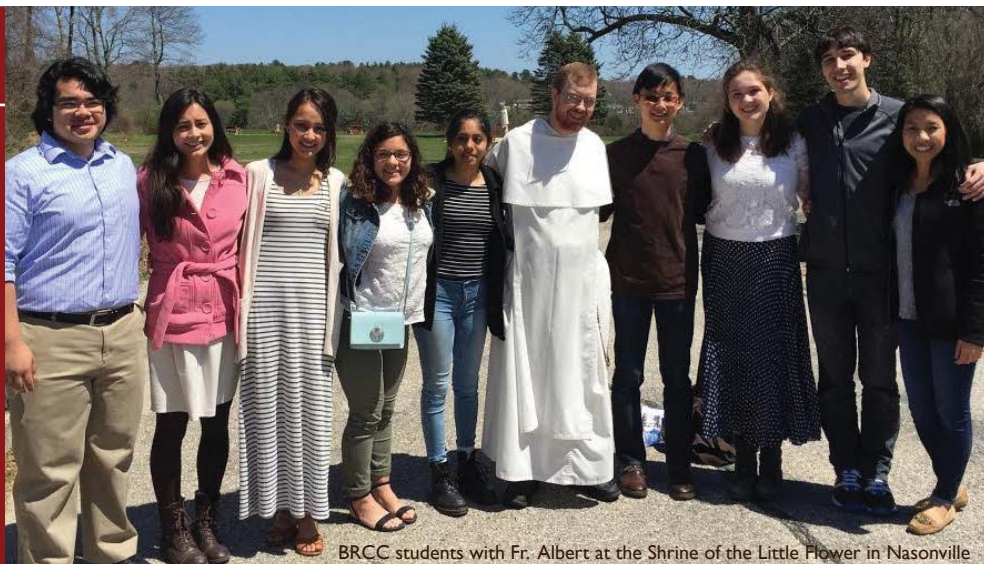


FALL 2016

Inside this Issue:
Solidarity in Appalachia
Saying “I do” to the Catholic
Faith

The Brown-RISD Catholic
Chaplaincy
401-863-2344
catholic@brown.edu
brownrisdcatholic.org



BRCC students with Fr. Albert at the Shrine of the Little Flower in Nasonville

BROWN-RISD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

MISSION & PURPOSE:

The Brown-RISD Catholic Chaplaincy provides opportunities for the students, staff, faculty, and alumni of Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design to celebrate their faith. Our goal is to help others deepen their spiritual lives within the context of community. Through worship, education, and community outreach, we hope to enable the members of the BRCC to bring their faith to bear on their pursuits within the Brown and RISD communities and beyond.

THE BROWN TOGETHER CAMPAIGN:

Brown University recently launched an ambitious campaign to raise \$3 billion for various initiatives of the University. If you are considering a gift to Brown, all or part your donation can be earmarked for the University's Catholic endowment. While this does not aid the Becket Association's annual appeal to provide a campus minister, we do depend on the interest from this endowment to fund more than half of the student programming in the Brown-RISD Catholic Community.

LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAIN



The Dominican Order, of which I'm a member, celebrates its 800th anniversary this year. Less than a year after the Order was established, St. Dominic de Guzman dispersed his friars throughout Europe—something of a risk, since they numbered less than 20 at the time. Taking his cue from Christ's own teaching, he reasoned that grain rots if it is stored up, but if it is scattered and sown, it bears fruit.

Something similar happens in the Brown-RISD Catholic Community every year when we send our graduates forth. Many go on to continue their studies or begin careers. One is entering the seminary for his home diocese in Ohio. Another is spending a year in India volunteering at a clinic run by the Missionaries of Charity. I have every confidence that wherever our students go, they will do great things in the Church and the world.

As a new academic year begins, we eagerly anticipate the arrival of new students at Brown and RISD who will come from across the country and around the world. It's our hope that they, like many students before them, will find a spiritual home in the Brown-RISD Catholic Community during their years on College Hill. Through the celebration of liturgy, small faith community gatherings, stimulating lectures, off-campus retreats, and numerous fellowship activities, students are exposed to the depth and richness of the Catholic faith. No doubt, in due time, having been enriched, and having enriched our community with their own gifts, they too will be sent forth to bear fruit!

In addition to welcoming scores of new students, we are also excited to have a team of four young missionaries from the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). FOCUS is a national campus outreach program that sends recent college graduates as missionaries to campuses to do work in evangelization and small group Bible studies, with the goal of helping students grow into a deeper relationship with Christ and his Church. We are eager to see the work that FOCUS is able to do in concert with our existing campus ministry program!

Peace,
Fr. Albert Duggan, O.P., '03

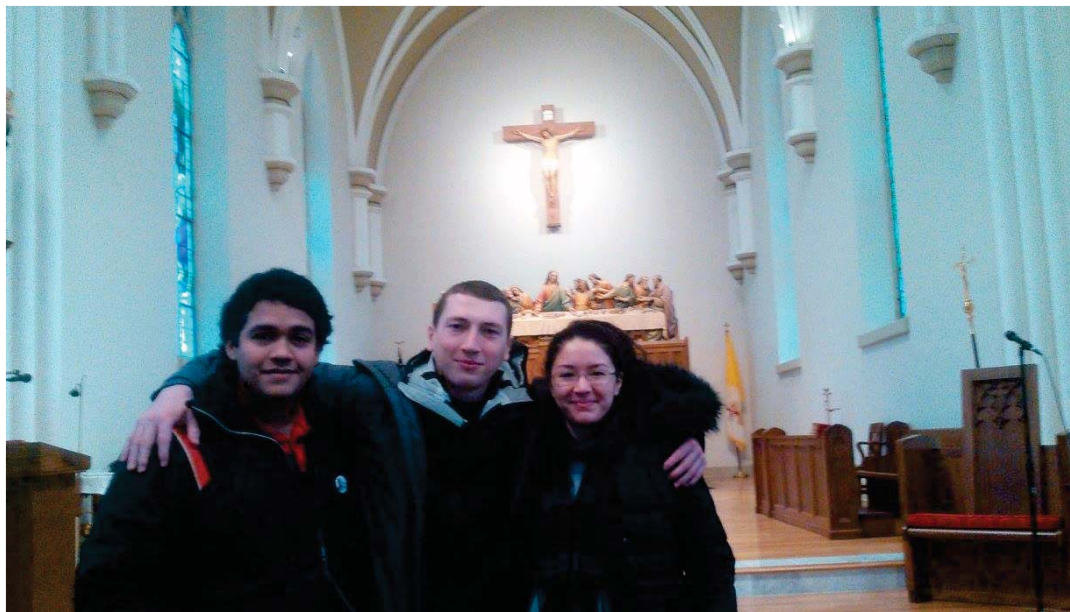
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the world of campus ministry, summer is a time for pause, reflection, and looking ahead to the new semester, and this year has been no exception. I am often amazed when I scan back over the semesters to see not only the concrete events we planned and executed, but also the extraordinary energy and faith of our students to minister to one another and to the campus as a whole.



I end each semester often exhausted and grateful, and in looking back, it is easy to see why!

Our spring semester kicked off with our annual winter break trip, this year to a new location of Appalachia, specifically eastern Kentucky, to examine issues such as rural poverty, environmental degradation and stewardship, and Catholic social teaching in action. We were lucky enough to be led on our pilgrimage by a Glenmary priest, Fr. John Rausch, who introduced us to folks doing amazing work via the Catholic Committee of Appalachia and a variety of other non-profit organizations. We visited a mountaintop removal site, prayed with the Benedictine sisters at their retreat center, were inspired by the work of Wendell Berry, and celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Berea College. The issues were vast and complex and our students had the questions and insights to match. Most nights we concluded with prayer and reflection on issues of social justice, faith, and the specifics of the region. We examined what



BRCC STUDENTS AT ST. ROSE CHURCH, SPRINGFIELD, KENTUCKY

solidarity means, how a preferential option for the poor can manifest in public policy, and why environmental stewardship is a profoundly Catholic concern.

Another highlight of the semester was the annual Avi Schaffer Shabbat, sponsored by Brown-RISD Hillel and organized by an interfaith committee of students, including our own Louisa Conwill, one of the Coordinators of the BRCC's Pastoral Council. These students organized a series of events in addition to the central Shabbat dinner, where staff and student faith leaders shared prayers, reflections on their own traditions and celebrations, and came together for deep interfaith fellowship.

The Lenten season is always a time of focused prayer and reflection in the BRCC, and this year, in addition to our much-loved blog of student reflections, we hosted Friday prayer experiences followed by simple suppers. Students were introduced, or re-introduced, to lectio divina, vespers

and the daily office, the stations of the cross, and Taize prayer. These Fridays culminated in our first "Twilight Retreat," a four-hour on-campus mini-retreat to supplement our longer off-campus retreat and rural immersion at the Agape Community in Ware, MA. Expanding our retreat offerings has enabled us to serve more students who cannot always leave campus for the weekend or who might be anxious

about the idea of a spiritual retreat for the first time.

We continued our small faith communities (SFCs) and RCIA program and initiated a study group in preparation for a Thomistic Institute lecture, as well as a group reading of St. Therese before visiting a shrine dedicated to her in northern Rhode Island. This year, we hosted the annual gathering of Ivy League Catholic Chaplains at Brown, a joyful meeting that is always motivating and informative, in which we get to know the other campus ministries and share ideas in community.

As the fall kicks off, we are excited to meet the incoming class of 2020 and to welcome them to our community here at Brown and RISD. Please keep us and those we serve in your prayers and know that families and supporters are always in our prayers as well here on campus.

Angela Howard-McParland

LEARNING THE TRUE MEANING OF SOLIDARITY IN APPALACHIA

After the first day of our January immersion trip to Appalachia, we settled back into our home for the night at the Mount Tabor Monastery guesthouse in Martin, Kentucky. Though we began our first evening conversation by discussing what we had learned about the economics of coal mining, mountaintop removal, and sustainability, our conversation shifted when Angie asked us if we had any questions about the day. At that point, I raised my hand and asked my burning question: “What can we do to help?”



Little did I know that this particular question would ignite a week-long discussion about the difference between “help” and “solidarity.” Little did I know that, to this day, I would spend much time contemplating this principle of Catholic Social Teaching.

At that point in my life, I had only been exposed to the

family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world.” It is, therefore, acceptable to say “I’m in solidarity with you, but I do not condone what you have chosen to do, or what you believe.” That is simply solidarity. That is, also, simply love. As Saint



BRCC students with Glenmary priest, Fr. John Rausch

concept of solidarity on social media. I’m sure we’ve all read on Facebook or Twitter something along the lines of “#solidarity,” so it’s quite easy to imagine my perception at the time, which was that solidarity is reserved for social movements, ideas, protests, things that are intangible in themselves.

Another night on the trip, I decided to rest my case. I said: “When people say ‘I’m in solidarity with x,’ to me, that implies ‘I support x no matter what.’ I can’t accept that. I simply can’t support some decisions some people make. I can’t support some of their ideas or beliefs. If I were to say ‘I’m in solidarity with you,’ how could I reconcile not supporting something that particular person believes? To me, I could still love that person, but not be in solidarity with them.”

Angie replied: “Well, is there a difference between solidarity and love?”

After a while, it hit me: People support or do not support social movements, ideas, protests. People, however, are always called to be in solidarity with other people. And this principle is rooted in love. In describing solidarity, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops says, “We are one human

“BEING IN SOLIDARITY WITH SOMEONE TAKES EFFORT, BECAUSE IT DEMANDS THAT WE SEE AND TREAT EACH OTHER AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AS FAMILY.”

Pope John Paul II said, “[Solidarity] is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far.” By this, you could say for certain that solidarity is not simply a hashtag on Facebook or Twitter. That requires little to no effort.

“On the contrary,” he says, “it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.”

Being in solidarity with someone takes effort, because it demands that we see and treat each other as brothers and sisters, as family. It requires a steadfast dedication to and for people. Not the abstract. Rather, the concrete. *People*. To be in solidarity with someone is to love someone. And to love someone is to feel responsible for someone and to will his or her good. This is the profound truth of solidarity that cannot be fully understood with a hashtag. But when put into practice, this truth changes you, changes others, and brings us all closer to Jesus, who is Love Himself.

RCIA REFLECTION: SAYING “I DO” TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH

My grandparents were Catholic. They grew up in the rural south, in a tiny town in South-Central Georgia—hardly Catholic country. My uncles were all altar boys, and they had eight children in total. Though they grew up in the South, they moved to California in 1950s because my grandfather was in the Air Force. My grandmother, a teacher, was able to secure a teaching contract at a local high school. There, they went to the Catholic church on McClellan Air Force Base, and raised their family as they had been raised.



But much changed for my family in the 1970s, and early 80s. My uncles, aunts, and mother were bucking tradition, becoming secular and independent. By the time I was born in 1988 no one in my family was practicing, and I was not baptized. I, like my significant other Kellen, who has an Irish-Catholic background, was the child of a second marriage. As a result, neither of us ever felt welcome in the Catholic Church. Still, I grew up very much aware of, and proud of my background. In college, as a philosophy major, I started to think more and more about it.

It was not until I was about to leave to Brown for graduate school, that I learned about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults from a deacon in Sacramento.

When the time came to act on RCIA, I had every excuse. I was too old, it was too late, I wasn't Catholic enough. But there was something in the back of my mind that said perhaps maybe none of those things were true. So, on a kind of fluke, I decided to email the chaplain at Providence College, who directed me to Father Albert and Angie. I didn't know that there was a Catholic community at Brown, but was pleased and relieved when I found out.

At first, I was cautiously optimistic. Would there be a quiz? Would it be some kind of scary indoctrination session? But, as time went on, I began to view the RCIA Sunday meetings as a safe space where I could listen, and learn, and ask questions. There was no quiz—except for the occasional review question from Angie—and the scary indoctrination session I imagined is proof positive that people ought not to watch so many movies.

The nine months really flew by. As the seasons changed, so did I. I began to understand that part of what made this special was that I was there on my own accord, and no one else's. Going to Mass every Sunday, learning about the liturgical calendar, becoming in tune with the work that it takes to be Catholic, was transformative. So, when I finally said the words “I do” at my baptism, along with all of my peers, I knew exactly what they meant.

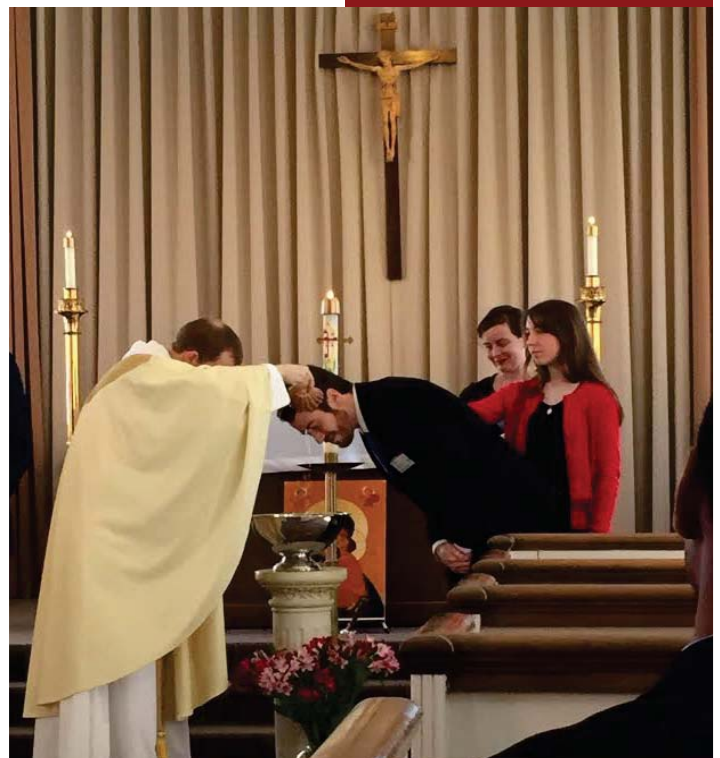
This summer I went to Poland on a three-week fellowship to

study the Holocaust, a long-standing interest and academic focus of mine. Poland is a deeply Catholic country; it has a long and complicated history with the Church. While I was in Poland, I met with two priests, a nun from the Centre for Dialogue and Prayer in Oświęcim, and a rabbi. I went to museums and met with archivists and curators that take care of Polish-Jewish history, and visited tiny towns that were once 50 percent Jewish—but are now home to no Jews at all. Today, Poland is still struggling with its past and its implications on its present, but there are many groups trying to promote interfaith dialogue among Christians, Muslims, and Jews.

“GOING TO MASS EVERY SUNDAY, LEARNING ABOUT THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR, BECOMING IN TUNE WITH THE WORK THAT IT TAKES TO BE CATHOLIC, WAS TRANSFORMATIVE.”

I had no idea when I started RCIA that my own personal journey would help me understand much more than myself, and my own beliefs. What began as a something very personal, and then extended to the Brown community, has had a much broader impact than I could have ever anticipated.

Jane'a Johnson, Brown GS



TYLER MORRISON RECEIVES THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AFTER COMPLETING RCIA



PRAYER FOR THE BROWN-RISD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

O GOD, WE ASK YOU TO SEND YOUR HOLY SPIRIT UPON OUR BROWN-RISD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY. HELP US TO BE PEOPLE OF FAITH, WHO SEE YOUR PROVIDENCE IN THE EVENTS OF OUR LIVES. GRANT US THE VIRTUE OF HOPE, THAT WE MAY HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR FAITHFULNESS. MAKE US PEOPLE OF LOVE, THAT WE MAY LOVE YOU IN ALL AND ABOVE ALL, AND SERVE YOU IN THOSE WE MEET. STRENGTHEN THE FAITHFUL, ENCOURAGE THE WAVERING, LEAD HOME THE WANDERING. LET US REJOICE IN THE COMMUNITY OF YOUR CHURCH. AND KEEP US ALWAYS FAITHFUL TO THE EXAMPLE AND TEACHING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHOM BE PRAISE, GLORY, AND THANKSGIVING TO YOU FOREVER AND EVER.
AMEN.

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The Thomas Becket Association is a private corporation made up of Catholic alumni and other supporters whose mission is to provide funding for the Catholic ministry at Brown & RISD. Contributions to the annual fund are crucial as they are the only source of support for important ministry resources including: the campus minister's position; an annual lecture by a Catholic intellectual; Becket Association operational costs; and material needs not covered by the chaplaincy's programming budget. This list includes donations received from August 2015 through July 2016. We apologize for any omissions or errors and would appreciate their being brought to our attention.

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BECKET LECTURE - OCTOBER 20TH

Lecture will be given by Brown alumna Dr. Maria Teresa (M.T.) Dávila, '93. As an undergraduate, Dr. Dávila was an active member of the Brown-RISD Catholic Community. She went on to study theology and received her Ph.D. from Boston College with a dissertation entitled "A Liberation Ethic for the One-Third World: The Preferential Option for the Poor and Challenges to Middle-Class Christianity in the United States."

She currently serves as an assistant professor of Christian Ethics at Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, MA. The title of her lecture is "The Option for the Poor and the Catholic Vote: Beyond the Culture Wars." The lecture will take place on Thursday, October 20th at 5:00pm in Room 106 of Smith-Buonanno Hall. All are welcome!

ABOUT THE THOMAS BECKET ASSOCIATION



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ABOUT THE CHAPLAINCY

The Catholic Chaplaincy, a ministry of the Diocese of Providence, is served by the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph and supported by the Thomas Becket Association.

YOUR DONATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR MISSION!



CAMPUS & ALUMNI NEWS

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Thomas Becket Association will take place on Sunday, October 2, 2016 at 12:00 pm in room 411 of J. Walter Wilson. The meeting is open to all donors to the Becket Association who have contributed \$200 or more during this year or last year. If you plan to attend, please call us at 401-863-7438 or e-mail chaplain@brownrisdcatholic.org.

Thomistic Institute Lectures

In addition to the Annual Becket Lecture, the BRCC has partnered with the Thomistic Institute to organize a lecture series for the coming year. All are welcome to attend these lectures. See our website (brownrisdcatholic.org) for more details:

September 21, 2016

Dr. Robert Royal (A.B. '71, A.M. '76)
Dante and the Mind that is Catholic

November 1, 2016

Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P. (A.B. '93)
Understanding the Christian Idea of Redemption:
Aquinas on the Ethics of the Atonement

February 27, 2017

Dr. Steven Barr
Both God and Science: the Catholic Church and Evolution

April 3, 2017

Dr. Gloria Frost
The Goodness of God and the Evil in Our World: Aquinas on the Problem of Evil

In Memoriam

It was with sadness that we learned of the passing in January of Ruth Webb Thayer, '43, at the age of 94. Ruth was a longtime supporter of the Thomas Becket Association and active in the Brown Alumnae Club of Kent County. We have gratefully received many donations in her memory.

We also received word of the passing of Fr. Howard O'Shea, O.F.M. in March. A Franciscan friar, Fr. O'Shea served as a Catholic chaplain at Brown from 1967-1994 and was beloved by many students to whom he ministered during his many years on campus. It was a desire to sustain and build up the Catholic ministry on College Hill during his tenure that led to the establishment of the Thomas Becket Association in 1969.

Birth Announcement

On August 30th, Angie gave birth to a son, Eamon Michael McParland, weighing in at 6 lbs, 11 oz. Angie, Eamon, and the entire family are doing well!