



BOBCAT CATHOLIC

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023



THAT'S A WRAP

Hi friends,

Welcome to the Bobcat Catholic Campus Ministry (BCCM) newsletter!

We are excited for this opportunity to reach out to you regularly and share the immense goodness that our Lord is lavishing upon our ministry.

As of late, it has been a whirlwind of grace as we wound down the school year and begin to reload and prepare for another great year of expanding our outreach to Montana State. For sure it was bittersweet as we celebrated our largest graduating BCCM class in memory (14 students), but then had to bid a final farewell to the graduates and two of our FOCUS missionaries,

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NEWSLETTER

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John and Kathryn. We are confident that our graduates, students and former missionaries will continue doing the Lord's work, but we are sad to see them go nonetheless.

Thankfully there was one final hurrah as ten of us went down to Moab right after graduation for an outstanding time of fun, sun and faith in the desert. Then in mid-June we bade farewell to Fr. Matt, who the Lord has called to shepherd the people of Conrad, Power and Dutton. This was a very tough goodbye as Fr. Matt worked tirelessly in his first and only year at Resurrection to expand our campus ministry and provide a great foundation for future expansion! The students absolutely loved him (parishioners too!) and he is already greatly missed.

But alas, the Lord didn't leave us hanging. We have subsequently welcomed Sophia Chumich, our new full-time Campus Minister, and the newly ordained Fr. Kyle Tannehill on board! Both are wonderful additions to the team and have already hit the ground running in getting up to speed and preparing to welcome the students anew in the Fall. You will be introduced to both later on in the newsletter.

So yes, we do have much to look forward to and we are very much looking forward to taking campus by storm! We have already had strong engagement of incoming students at the summer orientation sessions, thanks in no small part to the efforts of our student leaders- Katelyn, Emily and Dylan. We are also preparing to welcome three new FOCUS missionaries, Ryan, Jeff and Gabrielle. All of whom are fired up and ready to get after it once they arrive in early August. Combined with the wisdom and experience of their fearless leader Jess, this team is poised to help spread holy fire across the campus and rapidly expand outreach this year!

One final note: we are excited to continue with our capital campaign which will enable us to build a rectory, a student center on site and expand our increasingly cramped parish center. Having the priests living right on site will be a huge win for ministry due to increased availability. Enabling the students to have their own center will also provide various opportunities that aren't possible right now.

God has blessed us so abundantly in leading us to this very moment. He wants to give us so much more. Let's keep each other in prayer and work together to welcome His gifts and watch His grace work itself out before us!

In Christ,
Fr. Joe Paddock

HATS OFF TO OUR GRADUATES



This past May, we said goodbye to some of the most incredible students. To commemorate our graduates, we celebrated our students and their families with a Baccalaureate Mass and party at Story Mansion.

Please keep the graduates of MSU in your prayers as they transition to new jobs, mission fields, and graduate programs!

READ ABOUT WHAT TWO OF OUR STUDENTS ARE ON TO NEXT



HALEY BUCKBEE

I was a member of Bobcat Catholic for all four years of my undergrad. Through Bobcat Catholic and the greater Resurrection University Parish community, I made some of my best friends and found a community of people who supported me and encouraged me to strive towards holiness in every aspect of my life. In times of struggle in the past four years I always had Tuesday night fellowship, weekly Bible studies with the FOCUS missionaries, an upcoming retreat, our amazing priests, or the Adoration Chapel to run to. I am forever grateful for my experience with Bobcat Catholic and am proud to have called Bozeman home for the past four years.



I graduated from Montana State University this May with a degree in Environmental Science. After prayerfully considering many different options and applying to a variety of things, I decided to do a year of volunteer service before starting a career. I will be serving in Syracuse, New York through a small



Catholic group called FrancisCorps. During this next year I, along with the other volunteers, will be serving the in need community of Syracuse by means of providing support to those needing shelter, food, and community. I will specifically be serving at Assumption Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen. Additionally, this next year will be spent living in community with the other volunteers and learning about the spirituality of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi. I am so excited by this opportunity to grow in faith, community, and perspective of others.

Please keep the other FrancisCorps volunteers and the community we will be serving in your prayers and know that I am always praying for the community at Resurrection and Bobcat Catholic as well!



MICHELLE LEONARD

Hi, My name is Michelle Leonard! I recently graduated from MSU in May 2023 with a Microbiology and Environmental Health degree. Bobcat Catholic Campus Ministry (BCCM) helped shape and form me throughout the past four years. I remember when I came to MSU, the one thing I knew I could find anywhere on campus was Resurrection Parish. I spent my Sunday mornings at Mass and Tuesday evenings meeting new friends at campus ministry nights while learning new content about the faith and growing in my relationship with God.



Flashing forward to my senior year, I realized how much I desired to grow in the faith! During my last year at BCCM, I was able to lead content on Tuesday nights, join a FOCUS bible study, help lead the volunteer committee, and enjoy all the fun outreach activities, like swing dance nights!



My time at BCCM called me to dive deep into my faith while growing in friendship with those around me. During this last year, I was able to consider post-graduation plans prayerfully, and through this time, I genuinely believe that God called me to serve as a FOCUS missionary. So, when God calls, we answer! I am now a first-year FOCUS missionary serving at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Sko Buffs! As a missionary, I aim to give students hope and teach them about the authentic relationships I experienced through BCCM. Through this outreach, I want to show others the goodness and light of Christ.



NEW BEGINNINGS

MEET OUR CAMPUS MINISTRY TEAM

Fr. Kyle Tannehill

I was born and raised in Kalispell, MT. Following high school I attended MSU and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education. The summer following graduation I worked as a camp counselor at our diocesan



summer camp, Legendary Lodge. It was there that I first learned how to pray. Though I was raised as a 'Cradle Catholic', I didn't know much about prayer apart from attending Mass and praying the rosary.

As I grew in relationship with Jesus, I began to have a sense that He was asking me to go to the seminary. I wasn't able to go to the seminary right away though because I had already accepted a music teaching job at a little Catholic school in my hometown. Part of my job description was to teach first grade religion. During that year of teaching, I realized that I was having an experience of fatherhood, not natural fatherhood, but spiritual fatherhood. After only one year of teaching, I decided, to enter the seminary.

I attended seminary at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, CO for seven years. I had no idea if I was supposed to be a priest when I arrived, and it wasn't until my third year in seminary when I finally received the grace to choose to be a priest.

In short, seminary formation is about becoming a good father, which is exactly what a priest is supposed to be. A good father provides for the needs of his children and is both gentle and firm, always speaking the truth. Jesus says, *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart"* (Mt 11:29).

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I moved to California at eighteen in pursuit of my childhood dream. The goal was to live a luxurious and adventurous life in the fashion industry: going to the beach, attending fashion shows and working for the most popular celebrities.



After a year spent in LA, the Lord asked me to step out of the boat of my own desires in exchange for His grander plan saying, *"You are made for more."* I enrolled at Boise State where I was immediately welcomed by the community at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center.

It was through the pursuit of a FOCUS missionary and the Campus Minister at the time that I began to see what Jesus meant when He told me I was made for more. I finally grasped the reality that my life is not my own, I belong to Him. I am here to walk with poor souls and show them what it truly means to love and be loved by God.

Understanding this Truth dramatically changed the trajectory of my life. I was being asked to spend my time on earth serving the Lord in ministry. Shortly after graduation, I was hired as the Campus Minister at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center.

Three years later, the Lord once again has called me to step out of the boat and leave Boise. I can't help but acknowledge God's intentionality. I traded a career in the fashion industry for a life poured out for the Lord with love.

This new life is more abundant than anything I could possibly imagine as the Lord is constantly surprising me. I am so excited to be a Bobcat! I hope to continue to be a vessel for the Lord.

FOCUS Team

M o n t a n a s t a t e



WIN. BUILD. SEND.

MSU is blessed to welcome back FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) for another school year.

Our FOCUS missionaries play a crucial role in helping students experience a personal, intimate relationship with Christ through real, life-giving friendships.

Three new FOCUS missionaries will be joining Team Director, Jessica Figoni. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to arrive the first week of August!

Jessica (Jess) Figoni, Team Director

From: Sacramento, CA.

Favorite Saint: St. Juan Diego

Most used emoji: ❤️

Jeff Zelkin, First Year Missionary

From: Colorado Springs, CO

Favorite Saint: St. Augustine

Most used emoji: unapologetically 🤪



Ryan Vlaminick, First Year Missionary

From: The small town of Ghent, MN

Favorite Saint: St. Peter

Most used emoji: by far 🤪

Gabrielle Cattan, Second Year Missionary

From: Chicago, IL

Favorite Saint: St. Joan of Arc

Most used emoji: has gotta be 🤪



From left to right- Gabrielle, Ryan, Jeff, Jess

MOAB 2023

a week of adventure & camping in the Utah desert

What makes the Moab trip such an amazing experience isn't found just in the beautiful landscape, outdoor activities, or the chance to get away. It's found in the chance to live in community with other Catholics, something that is an increasingly rare opportunity for many of us who live in an increasingly secularized world. The Moab trip provides us with a glimpse into what life should be like; living intentionally in community with other Catholics."

-Dylan G.



There is something very special about a trip to the desert with your closest friends a few days after graduation. My roommates and I, along with close friends from Bobcat Catholic, did exactly this following our graduation and had a wonderful time.

After lots of singing and storytelling on the drive down, we arrived in Moab and set up camp in a beautiful, secluded canyon along the river with two dozen other young Catholics from Missoula.

Our nights were filled with Holy Mass, delicious meals, new friends, and stargazing. Our days were jam-packed with adventures and sightseeing. We were fortunate to have COR Missionaries lead us on daily climbing and canyoneering adventures in the Moab area.

While these excursions were filled with beautiful red rock

canyons and many laughs, they also tested our faith and pushed us out of our physical and mental comfort zones. I will never forget Fr. Joe reminding me that I "can do hard things" as I attempted to trust the ropes and make the scary walk backward off a 180ft rappel.

Before this trip, I never would have imagined I would be doing these hard things, but I did and it was a blast! I felt Jesus's presence the whole week through the encouragement of my friends, the beauty and grandiosity of the landscape, and the peace we found in escaping from the virtual world.

With core memories and many stories to tell, we came back to Bozeman refreshed and ready to begin the next chapters of our lives.

-Julia H.



NEW BEGINNINGS

MEET OUR CAMPUS MINISTRY TEAM

Fr. Kyle Tannehill Continued

Jesus is the perfect example to imitate if we want to be good Christians.

At the end of the Gospel of John, Jesus reveals Himself to His apostles while they are fishing:

Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" (John 21:4-7)

Not only is Jesus the High Priest, but He is also a father. He is not God, the Father; He is God, the Son, but priests are supposed to imitate the fatherhood that Jesus expresses to His apostles.

We are supposed to be meek and humble of heart. We are supposed to take up our cross and follow Him. We are supposed to give of ourselves just as Jesus laid down His life for His friends.

This is the kind of father that I want to be; this is the kind of priest I want to be. Bishop Vetter says that the priesthood will be more blessed and more challenging than we could ever imagine.

I believe his words whole-heartedly! Certainly, life as a priest will be difficult, but *"I can do all things in [Christ] who strengthens me"* (Phil 4:13).

I'm so excited to do campus ministry here at MSU! Bobcat Catholic has grown a lot over the years, and I'm excited to see it continue to grow and flourish. I hope to go explore Bozeman with parishioners and MSU students who are looking for adventure and looking for God. My prayer is that many souls may come to Christ in Bozeman, especially at Resurrection University Parish.

SAVE THE DATE(S)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

PARENTS, MSU ALUMNI AND PARISHIONERS

Become a member of our Alumni Association! Stay up to date and receive monthly info on whats happening at BCCM.



SCAN ME!

ARE YOU A STUDENT AT MSU? THESE DATES ARE FOR YOU:

Follow us:

 @bobcatcatholics

Football tailgate (3 hours before kick-off):

Sep 2 (Sat) | Sep 16 (Sat) | Sep 30 (Sat), Homecoming
Oct 14 (Sat) | Nov 4 (Sat) | Nov 11 (Sat)

Park your car in our lot and stay for the food truck, music, and good company!

September 10th - Parish Picnic

Following 10:30 am Mass

October 7th - Blessed Is She Women's Brunch

11 am Resurrection University Parish

All that's asked of you is to bring a heart open to other women and a little potluck dish to share!

October 15th - Parent Weekend Mass,

All parent's and alumni are invited to attend our Sunday 10:30 am Mass followed by a social hour.

October 23rd- Oktoberfest

Join us for Mass as we celebrate Resurrection's dedication anniversary followed by bratz, beer, and live music!

August 20th - Welcome Back Mass

Join Bobcat Catholic for 7 pm Mass followed by a relaxed backyard hangout! Volleyball, food, yard games and good company.

August 23rd - First Day of School Pictures

Find us hanging out with Spirit the Bobcat. Snap a first day of school pic to send to mom!

August 25th - Catapalooza

Bobcat Catholic want to get you connected to all the good things we've got in store for the year. Come find us in the quad from 10 am - 3 pm!

August 27th - Meet n Greet

End the first week of school at our annual Meet & Greet Luau. Free food & Ice Cream| Raffles | Good Company

September 22nd - 24th - Fall Retreat

This retreat is held at Legendary Lodge! You can expect student testimonies based on their experience, rest, abundant joy, and great conversation.