



## CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY *at Christopher Newport University*



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## JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

*by Riley Park '23*

On a beautiful November day, a host of disciples followed Jesus in procession through the CNU Campus on the Feast of Christ the King. It was an amazing and unprecedented experience, and a tradition we hope to celebrate for years to come.

When Fr. Brian Capuano celebrated Holy Mass at CNU early in the fall semester, he mentioned to the congregation that he was interested in providing support for the CCM whenever he could. Thinking it a long shot, I mentioned the idea of a Eucharistic Procession. The next thing I knew, Cate and the Leadership Team asked for servers and began advertising the event.

The Procession was a powerful opportunity to participate in the beauty and reality of our faith. CNU students were the servers, cantor, and canopy bearers. There was gratuitous incense, and men and women dressed in their finest clothes walking behind their King praying the mysteries of the Holy Rosary. An enormous group of students, faculty, Dominican Sisters from Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and other parishioners from around the Newport News area attended.

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**"The best way to live our call to evangelize while in college is to bring Jesus to the University."**

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As we circled the Great Lawn and kelt in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament outside of the Pope Chapel, I realized the best way to live our call to evangelize while in college is to bring Jesus to the University, letting the campus know that Jesus is present and deeply loves us all.

*May Jesus Christ, our Eucharistic King, be praised now and forever!*



## OUR 2021-2022 LEADERSHIP TEAMS



*Top: Our 2021-2022 Academic Year Team*

*Bottom: Our Fall 2022 Team*

*We are transitioning to a Calendar Year Discernment.*



## A REFLECTION FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By Matt Wood '23*

One Sunday in March of this year, I walked in (late!) to Sunday Supper and saw Catholic Captains gathering in every single room of our CCM house on Shoe Lane. I walked past people laughing in the front room, friends cooking in the kitchen, a full table in the sunroom, to a backyard where every single seat was taken at our long folding tables.

That was the moment when I thought to myself, "this ministry is huge."

My Freshman year, Sunday Supper was 20 people meeting in the Crow's Nest, playing Two Ball, and having great conversations. Each weekend, 50-60 people would come to Sunday Mass on campus. We didn't have a house, and our three small groups were held in the DSU. Despite our numbers and lack of "home," the CCM was a place where I came to learn about and grow in my faith, create solid, faithful friendships, and encounter the Lord in His Church. The Catholic Campus Ministry at CNU was small, but it was a place where the Spirit worked, calling college students to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

That same Holy Spirit has blessed this ministry with a community of strong Catholic Christians, a house, and a place where people can truly be themselves, coming together in belief and prayer. Sunday Supper now hosts 40 or more people, Holy Mass attendance is between 80-100 each weekend, and our five small groups meet in our well-loved CCM house. We are responding to the needs of this growing community by offering more events, more opportunities for prayer, and yes, more food!

The CCM at CNU is and will always be my community. It's been the most impactful part of my college experience. I'm so grateful to have found it and to be able to provide that experience to others. As president I pray that we are able to work with the Holy Spirit to evangelize, form, and bring the college students of CNU closer to Christ through holy friendships and authentically Catholic community.

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# Holy Week

## LENTEN RETREAT

*"Behold, the man...behold your King."*

Our Faith Formation Chair, Laura Paquette, was struck by the image of Pontius Pilate speaking to a frenzied crowd, with an innocent, brutalized Jesus next to him. Pilate tells the mob, "Behold, the man!," seeking to release Jesus and be rid of this matter. When they would not be satisfied and accused Him of sedition, Pilate comes back before them with Jesus and says, "Behold, your King!" as he turns Jesus over to be crucified.

The theme of this year's retreat was "Holy Week," with talks on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday. Each of these days has "Behold!" moments with our Lord placed in front of us for our recognition and worship. Our students were presented with the opportunity to enter into internal meditation on the reality of Christ's identity and call for their lives.

After a Friday evening of talks, fellowship, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the Sacrament of Confession, we awoke on Saturday to walk with the Lord in His creation. We continued to pray and reflect together as we drove to the Shenandoah National Park. There we met Fr. Brian, hiked five miles, and shared a picnic meal together.

Our retreat culminated with the source and summit of all our lives, the celebration of Holy Mass, on top of a beautiful mountain overlook. The prayers of the Church came alive as we knelt in a parking lot in the cathedral of the creation. Behold, our King!







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**"Through the CCM, I have met a wonderful group of friends that encourage and inspire me everyday with their passion for the faith. God has truly blessed me with this lively community as I have been preparing for my Confirmation at Easter."**

TAYLOR DORSEY, '22