

EAGLE'S WINGS

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RCIA Information
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Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Wednesdays 5 - 5:30pm
Alumni Chapel

Weddings & Baptisms
Alumni Chapel

Call Fr. John Maher, C.M.
286-8415

Mass Intentions:
\$10/ Mass

Call 286-8400 / stop by the office.

Check out our website:
www.niagara.edu/ministry

Check us out on FACEBOOK
"Campus Ministry Corner"

Easter: Springtime of the Soul

After the drab days of February and March, April ushered in a Holy Week that exploded in a series of sunny days, shattering area weather records for warm temps. As spring stubbornly comes to the Niagara Frontier, we find ourselves rooting for that annual resurgence of the natural world: sunny days, longer light eves, flowers popping up, birds singing, and warm days outside after a long winter's plight.

Easter is a spring time of the soul- when Christians hear those three simple words that made all the difference: *He is Risen!* Winter is perfect for Lent. Still, cold, and barren days remind us of our mortality and fragility, calling us inward. But after the dramatic stories of Holy Week- the suffering, passion, and death of Jesus- we find once again that God is not finished with us. What appears to be the end of the road on Good Friday is really the start on a new road on Easter Sunday.

Recently, articles in the popular press have examined how Christians view Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Most Christians assent to it as a necessity of doctrine and a 'happy ending' to an otherwise gloomy Holy Week . But they are at a loss to articulate what Jesus' resurrection means. Jesus' words provide the clue: *"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believe in me shall live, even though he dies"* (Jn. 11:25).

After suffering the worst and triumphing over death, Jesus extended that hope to us. But we must be willing to make that leap of faith, as did the apostles and the early Church. Resurrection is not only a future hope, but a present promise. When we allow Jesus' life and teachings to touch our hearts and direct our actions, we are led into deeper life with God, and find a way to live peacefully with life's ambiguities. The Resurrection shows us that God takes the worst of humanity and transforms it for good by his love.

The following reflection from the Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Creighton University capture what I believe is the challenge of deepening our Easter faith:

"We may be in the dark about how the Resurrection took place. We can stay in the intellectual tomb of our prideful minds. The early believers saw and believed what they could not see. They began by living in the light in the day of hope. Having to see signs and evidence is a form of blindness. Thank God, those who came to the empty tomb on Easter did not stay until they figured it all out. We would all still be in the dark."

- Larry Gillick, SJ

In these last busy weeks of school, try to live calmly and confidently in Jesus' gift of resurrection. Let the Sunday and weekday scripture readings open your mind and heart to the One who knows you better than you know yourself, and gave all in love for You.



Fr. John T. Maher, C.M. '76
Director, Campus Ministry
University Chaplain

Thank You!

NU Students for Life, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and Campus Ministry would like to extend a huge THANKS to everyone who contributed to our Baby Needs Drive for Summit Life Outreach Center in Niagara Falls. Your donations were delivered and well-received by the Center's volunteers and will be put to good use. Because of your generosity, we raised over \$200.00, which we used to purchase two new infant car seats and over 300 diapers to help families in need!

If you come across any other items you would like to donate, they can be dropped off with Kristina or delivered directly to the Center, 1622 Pine Avenue. For more information on the great ministry of Summit Life Outreach & now...

Outreach and how you can be involved, please visit their website:

www.summitlifecenter.com.

Winter Retreat

On February 26-28, Campus Ministry sponsored its annual Winter Retreat, "Encounter with Christ: You and Me." After some last minute changes early Friday morning due to winter weather, twenty Niagarans braved the blizzard and ventured off-campus for an exciting weekend of self-discovery, prayer, and fellowship at the beautiful Stella Niagara. Some highlights of the weekend included: comfy accommodations, off campus food, learning new ways to pray, late-night bonding (complete with games of Mafia and Charades), snow-ball fights, engaging talks on topics of faith and relationship with Christ, singing, and meeting new people.

Be sure to keep your eyes and ears open for information on next semester's retreats!



Pictured from left to right: Back row: James Kemnitz, Campus Minister Kristina Schliesman, *Logan Rudemiller, Lauren Merrick, Karin Freyer, *Anna Hoffmann, Anastasia Kouliachia, Justin Hulme; Middle Row: *Rosie Lauzon, Sam Evans, Kristina Foderaro, *Jen Budnar, *Carmen Schaff, Max Christ; Front Row: *Frank Arena, Sara Enser, Ashley Serwon, Campus Minister Monica Saltarelli, Lizzie Trzaska, and Steven Gruhalla

*Denotes student team member

Dying and Rising...

"Ultimately it takes a courageous spirit and a generous heart to Make a Difference"

Holy Week for me was much different this year for me. I had the pleasure of spending it in the Vincentian Mission in North Little Rock, Arkansas with six students: **Vanessa Cipolla, Carmen Schaff, Scott Sobiegray, Ashley Serwon, Lisa Arnst, and Anna Toepp**. We left on a cold brisk day and landed in Little Rock to a very warm welcome from Fr. Tom Stehlik, CM... There was certainly uncertainty about the trip being that I was the only one who had been to Arkansas as well as the students themselves did not really know each other very well. It did not take long to make a bond in our group but also with the genuinely warm Southern hospitality. Of course staying in an old orphanage certainly enhanced the experience of the week.

The BASIC trip was a combination of experiencing Holy Week at St. Anne's Church and doing service mostly outdoors. Highlights of the week were making a community garden with an elderly gentleman named Charlie, making and sharing a meal with a senior community, attending a Seder meal. It was a moving experience to witness the "Way of the Cross" by the Hispanic Community. Although for most of us we were limited with our Spanish the drama was most moving. Climbing Pinnacle Mountain sealed the bond of the group.

This BASIC trip was unique in the sense that it really captured the concept of being welcomed into a faith community while doing service. We were treated truly like family! It was very difficult to say good-bye for we made some very meaningful relationships. We returned to warmth and a renewed sense of energy to make a difference in our community. We really did see both the suffering and the resurrected Christ with those we met which has given us the inspiration to extend hospitality to the stranger!



Kristina Schliesman,
Campus Minister



Monica Saltarelli,
Campus Minister

Campus Ministry Events

- ⇒ **Blessing of St. Vincent de Paul Society** - Sunday, April 18th - 10pm Mass - Alumni Chapel - Join us for Mass and social to follow after Mass
- ⇒ **Theology under the Taps - Slavery Today? Human Trafficking in the US & Globally** - Tuesday, April 27th—7pm Under the Taps—LLGC All are welcome—Free Food.
- ⇒ **Niagara University's Chapter of The Invisible Children Campaign** will hold a Basket - April 28th from 10am to 4pm - Study Lounge - LLGC Pizza, Chips & Pop Lunch \$3 Special for sale, baskets auctioned off, drawings at 4pm. Join us & Support us by: donating a basket, donating money towards creating a basket and come to the event and make donations by participating in the Basket Auction and or by buying lunch.
- ⇒ **Birthday Blessing & Social** - Sunday, April 25th - 10pm Mass - Alumni Chapel - Join us for Mass as we celebrate Birthdays for April & May - Social to follow
- ⇒ **"Gratia Plena—The Story of Mary," Benefit Concert for Vincentian Missions in Ethiopia** - Wednesday, May 5th @ 7pm—Alumni Chapel - a recital of sacred scripture & song give by Campus Minister Kristina Schliesman. Free & open to the public. Donations collected for Vincentian Mission in Jimma, Ethiopia. Pre-concert talk on Marian Devotion in the Vincentian family given by Rev. Thomas McKenna, C.M.
- ⇒ **Niagara University's Chapter of The Invisible Children Campaign** will host a Dodge ball Tournament - May 6th 4pm-6pm - Kiernan Center - Sign up by April 28th.

SUNDAY MASS ALUMNI CHAPEL

11:00am & 10:00pm

Daily MASS ALUMNI CHAPEL

Monday, Wednesday, Friday @ 12:15pm

Tuesday, Thursday @ 12:35pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Wednesday's 5 - 5:30pm - Alumni Chapel



Join us for Mass - Everyone is always WELCOME!!