

# Campus Ministry Events

## Vincentian Week Events:

**Saturday, Sept. 25**-As a lead-up to Vincentian Heritage Week, Niagara University faculty and staff, along with members of the freshmen class, will perform a Day of Service in honor of the deaths of St. Vincent and St. Louise. University volunteers will spend the morning cleaning waterways, planting trees and stenciling storm drains with workers from LaSalle Pride, the Niagara Beautification Commission and the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper.

**Monday, Sept. 27**-12:30 to 1:30 p.m., the Chameleon's Coat Christian band will perform "noon tunes" in the lower level of the Gallagher Center. During this time, a St. Vincent look-alike contest will take place, with Niagara students and employees donning 17<sup>th</sup> century garb in hopes of winning the largest audience approval.

**Tuesday, Sept. 28**-11 a.m., votive Mass for the Feast of St. Vincent, also marking the opening of the 2010-2011 school year, in the upper level of the Gallagher Center. 12 to 1 p.m., a showing of the DVD *St. Vincent DePaul, Charity's Saint*, LLGC study lounge

**Wednesday, Sept. 29**-12 noon, The Niagara University community is invited to participate in a game of Vincentian Jeopardy, hosted by Peter "Alex" Butera, chair of the psychology department. Three teams (students, faculty, and admin/staff) will compete for bragging rights and an awesome prize.

**Thursday, Sept. 30**-4 p.m., Niagara University's annual Vincentian Heritage Convocation will take place in the Alumni Chapel. This year's honorees include Robert and Connie Dwyer (President's Medal), Fr. Vincent O'Malley, C.M. (President's Medal), Vincent Agnello (Vincentian Mission Award), Paul McManus (Niagara Legacy Alumni of Distinction Award), and Sr. Mary Fran Martin, D.C. (honorary degree).

**Friday, Oct. 1**-12 to 1 p.m., a showing of the DVD *St. Vincent DePaul, Charity's Saint*, LLGC study lounge 3 p.m., A poverty simulation workshop, organized by Dr. Kevin Blair, associate professor of social work, will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of St. Vincent's Hall. The role-playing experience affords student participants with an opportunity to gain insight into the realities of living in conditions of poverty. Karen Edmond, a professional-in-residence and field practicum coordinator at NU, will direct the simulation.

**Saturday, Oct. 2**-9 a.m., EAGLE, a leadership development program at Niagara, is sponsoring "Lead Niagara," a forum that aims to take the university to higher levels of excellence by fostering collaboration among the community. Students and alumni who are passionate about enhancing Niagara's future are invited to a networking opportunity from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Under the Taps in the Gallagher Center. For registration information, please contact Mitchell Alegre at [malegre@niagara.edu](mailto:malegre@niagara.edu).

**Sunday, Oct. 3**-Masses in honor of Sts. Vincent and Louise are slated for 11 a.m. and 10 p.m. in the Alumni Chapel.

### SUNDAY MASS ALUMNI CHAPEL

11:00am & 10:00pm

Daily MASS ALUMNI CHAPEL

Monday to Friday @ 12:15pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Mondays 5 - 5:30pm - Alumni Chapel

Join us for Mass - Everyone is always WELCOME!!



## DUC AD ALTUM!

Welcome... and welcome back!

Are you tired of hearing that, either as a new or returning student? It still bears repeating! The return of students to campus is always exciting; the start of another year filled with hope and many possibilities for growth. Growth in the college years occurs in varied ways: intellectually, socially, and of course, spiritually.

In college, you "make your life" through the choices and decisions you embrace. The effects of these choices stay with you well beyond your time on Mont Eagle Ridge. Your course of study, your roommates and friends, your co-curricular activities and internships, classes, your mentors among faculty and staff; all are a rich source of blessing to equip and carry you through life challenges.

But still, it can be scary, whether a new or returning student. How do you "make your life" when confusion sets in a number of fronts? Pope John Paul II, who had a tremendous connection with today's youth, told a wonderful story with a phrase from Luke's Gospel whenever he spoke to young people on the myriad challenges they faced.

The story concerns St. Peter, a fisherman, frustrated after a night of fruitless fishing. Jesus appears on the shore and tells him to get back into the boat and try again. Peter, a forthright soul, is not pleased with this request, and tells Jesus they've tried all night, to no avail. Jesus words are simple: "Put out into the deep, and lower your nets for a catch." (Lk. 5:3-4). He does so, and catches so many fish that they send out an extra boat to haul it all the fish. The phrase "Put out into the Deep" - in Latin- "*Duc ad altum*" was John Paul's signature remark to bring hope to youth who came seeking help with the uncertainty and anxiety of life in today's world.

"*Duc ad altum*"- *Put out into the deep* is coda for entrusting life's challenges and problems to Jesus. Allow him to walk with you in moments of joy and times of difficulty. Don't give in to conventional wisdom or peer pressure and take the easy way out. Be willing to take prudent and courageous risks. Maybe you'll succeed, maybe not. Either way, you will learn and grow. If you allow the Lord Jesus to walk with you, in the words of an old song, you'll never walk alone.

We in Campus Ministry stand ready to help you "put out into the deep" to grow in your faith, make new friends, and serve others in the way of Jesus and of St. Vincent de Paul. "*Duc ad altum*"- *put out into the deep* and join us as we have a great year!



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Sacrament of  
Reconciliation  
(Confession)  
Mondays 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](http://www.niagara.edu/ministry)

Check us out on FACEBOOK  
"Campus Ministry Corner"

## Called to Give... and Receive

Welcome home, students! I pray that you are smoothly settling into your semester routines and enjoying being reunited with your friends and NU family. You were sorely missed over the summer! It's so great to have you back on campus, and it's been wonderful to meet our new students over the past few weeks.

One of our top priorities in Campus Ministry is to provide you with places and experiences to grow in your faith with one another. We are communal, social people. We need each other! St. Vincent really hit the nail on the head when he said, "To rely on our talents is a cause of great loss. When someone places confidence in his own prudence, knowledge, and intelligence, God, to make him know and see his insufficiency, withdraws from him His help and leaves him to work by himself. This is often why our undertakings miserably fail." We each have gifts to share and are called to accept gifts from others. We are called both to give and receive.

Campus Ministry provides students with lots of opportunities to find and build community while sharing your gifts and learning with and from one another. Our small faith-sharing groups offer you an opportunity to come together in a safe, welcoming, and relaxed environment, to talk about issues of faith and living out your faith on campus. This semester, we have a women's group that meets on Mondays nights at 7 in the Chapel for Bible study. Our two LIFT (Living In Faith Together) groups kicked-off the semester with a pizza party on the 15<sup>th</sup>. These groups meet Wednesdays at 7pm in the Chapel and Thursdays at 8:30pm in the Rare Book Room on the second floor of the library. Each of these groups welcomes all students for a weekly hour of prayer, study, reflection, and fellowship.

If you'd like more information on this semester's faith-sharing groups, contact Kristina.



Kristina Schliesman,  
Campus Minister

## "God Does Not Make Ugly"

"Art is a space in my life where I relax for a while. It is my place for peace.... Because of art, I now see things in detail with splashes of colors with different mixtures, textures and the way things flow. I can enjoy a world of dancing leaves as they float to the ground." - Sandy

"I enjoy art because it takes me out of myself and gets me absorbed in other things such as color and beauty.... Now I notice a world of color." - Millicent

"I am now observant of my world because I do art." - Arnie

"If more people could do art all the time, I think the world would be a better place." - LuAnn

These quotes and others, which accompany the artists' works as part of the exhibition, "Creative to Infinity", at the Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University, suggest just how transformative art can be for artists and viewers alike. This exhibition will be showing at the Castellani now through December 5, 2010 in celebration of the 350<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Sts. Vincent and Louise de Marillac.

As one visitor to the museum commented to me last weekend for the opening of the exhibition, "I am rather surprised at the vibrancy and hopefulness conveyed in these various works of art." She had expected to see much more tragic and pessimistic images since these artists themselves have experienced the grind and hardships of poverty for any number of years. Four artists from the Roarke Center, in Troy, New York, and two Daughters of Charity who serve at the same center came for the opening of the exhibition. They conducted two workshops (one was primarily for students at NU) and discussed the works of art on display with patrons of the Castellani. These gifted artists remind us that with God's help and inspiration we can all become co-creators for something beautiful. Whereas God never creates anything that can be considered ugly (see Genesis 1 and 2, or Psalm 8), we have the potential for creating much that is good and beautiful (again, with God's help), or that which can be considered denigrating and dehumanizing. Sad to say, the poor are often the ones whom society deems least capable of creating something marvelous to behold. Instead of works of art, the poor are most often held responsible for the filth, crime, and misery in their neighborhoods and elsewhere.

These and other artists from the Roarke Center teach us that all persons are capable of creating something beautiful if only given the chance. Their works give expression to the human quest for transformation and a world that is colored by beauty and harmony. Consider how art provided a sense of hope in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center or Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and along much of the Gulf Coast in 2005. Art, rather than being a luxury, should be considered a mainstay of our cultural heritage for all persons to enjoy, including the poor. In the face of the serious economic downturn now confronting us, funding for the arts is lamentably one of the first line items to be cut. As you view the exhibition in the Castellani Art Museum (and I hope that you will take the time to do so), please consider anew the place art has in our society. St. Louise de Marillac was herself a painter. Perhaps for the first time ever, you will consider yourself as an artist. Let us take to heart LuAnn's words: "If more people could do art all the time, I think the world would be a better place."



Fr. Bruce Krause, C.M.,  
Campus Minister

## Plunging into Service

*"When the demands of life seem unfair to you, when you are exhausted  
And have to pull yourself out of bed yet another time to do some act of  
Service, do it gladly without counting the cost and without self-pity. For if  
You persevere in serving others, in giving yourself to the poor, if you  
Persevere to the point of completely spending yourself, perhaps someday  
The poor will find it in their hearts to forgive you."  
St. Vincent de Paul*



Monica Saltarelli,  
Campus Minister

This academic year began quite a bit differently for NU Campus Ministry. Fourteen incoming freshmen came to school a week early to learn about the Vincentian Mission, do service, and familiarize with Niagara University and the outlying area.

**Mitch Willie, Jessica Bialkowski, Becca Yuhas, Tracy Schmidt, Kyle Kohler, Liam Surry, Andrea Nicolia, Bethany Leggett, Erinn Hill, Joanne McKeon, Nathan Miller, Nate Resila, John Kasprzak, and Kayla Carrasquillo** were the freshmen participants and **Carmen Schaff, Ashley Serwon, and Patrick Teixeira** were the dedicated student leaders who helped make this week such a huge success. Highlights of the week were working with Jill Shuey at the Community Garden, using their muscles by building a fence, being at the Heart, Love, and Soul Soup Kitchen, Our Lady of Lebanon Food Pantry, and the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. The students were really impressed with visiting Our Lady of Victory Basilica and the impact the modern day Vincent de Paul, an NU grad, Fr. Nelson Baker had on countless people especially orphans. On a fun note, ask one of the plungers who has the best ice cream – is it Hibbard's, the Silo, or is it Dee Dees? Check out Campus Ministry's website to look at all the great pictures of the week! It will give you a genuine understanding of what the week was really like. The "Plungers" have enthusiastically volunteered for next year's plunge! To quote one of the 14 plungers, "This program has made me fall in love with Niagara!" The Student Plungers and the student leaders are such a rich blessing to NU!

### SCENES FROM NIAGARA PLUNGE



Service has just begun! The St. Vincent de Paul Society has a myriad of service opportunities at an array of times with all age groups in the Niagara Falls area. It is about making relationships with those you are doing service with and those you are serving... The founder of the St. Vincent de Paul Society was a twenty year old college student and little did ever realize that it would grow to be the largest Catholic organization. The next meeting is Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Study Lounge. All are welcome and bring a friend! Any questions contact Monica Saltarelli at [ms@niagara.edu](mailto:ms@niagara.edu).