FROM THE DIRECTOR ...

“I Saw God Today”. That’s the title of a song by country star George Strait. But can it be true? Can we actually see God? The words of the refrain to this song explain the title:

“I’ve been to church
I’ve read the book
I know He’s here
But I don’t look
Near as often as I should.
Yeah, I know I should.
His fingerprints are everywhere
I just slowed down to stop and stare
Opened my eyes and man I swear
I saw God today.”

When I first heard this song on my car radio I almost pulled over to hear it better. It is a song that I believe captures what St. Vincent de Paul, founder of the Vincentian Community of Priests and Brothers who serve here at NU, and co-founder of the Daughters of Charity, of which I am a member, told us about how we might see God: in other people and especially in the faces of those who are poor!

There are three forums in which this becomes possible: the prayer forum, the community forum and the service forum. Campus Ministry’s place on campus is to provide these three forums to help facilitate your experience of SEEING GOD TODAY!

THE PRAYER FORUM. As a Catholic University we are privileged to have a Chapel in the center of our campus. It’s open all day and half the night, and you are most welcomed and encouraged to stop in for personal prayer any time. We have Mass every day during the semester and three masses on Sunday. For details, see Fr. John’s article in this newsletter. He’s our University Chaplain.

THE COMMUNITY FORUM. We are a faith community within a learning community. All faith traditions are shared and respected. There are many different ways to share your faith and knowledge, such as Bible Study, Theology on Tap, sacramental preparation, and retreats. Come and visit Fr. Bruce, our newest Campus Minister, for details on Faith Community.

THE SERVICE FORUM. As a Vincentian University, we believe that the natural result of a life of prayer and community is a desire to serve the needs of others. These service experiences make it most possible to end one’s day saying I SAW GOD TODAY. Monica Saltarelli coordinates our service programs, including the BASIC SERVICE ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK TRIPS. A word of advice: sign up early as these trips fill up fast. We also have a St. Vincent de Paul Society and Pax Christi, two organizations that raise awareness to issues of social justice as well as get involved in our local neighborhoods where we can make a difference. Monica has the details. Stop by to see her and catch her passion for Vincentian Service.

QUESTIONS? If ever there are any questions about any of our programs please stop by our office IN LOWER LEVEL GALLAGHER CENTER and meet our new secretary, Marisa Barile. She knows everything and is happy to help you with anything you need!

PRAYER. COMMUNITY. SERVICE. Want to SEE GOD TODAY? Come with us and we will look for God together.

Sister Nora Gatto, DC
Executive Director of University Mission and Ministry
Welcome to Niagara!

You’ve heard that refrain a lot recently; in summer CARE sessions, during Orientation, and in Freshman Seminar, but I’ll risk redundancy to say it again: Welcome, especially to Alumni Chapel, the place where many generations of Niagarans have come to pray, worship, meditate, and even to relax- all in the presence of a loving God.

One of the hymns we often sing at the 10 pm (AKA, ‘Last Chance’) Mass has a refrain that I always find beautiful to listen to:

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, I want to see You!**

**Open the eyes of my hearts, Lord, I want to see You!**

College is a journey of faith that challenges you to allow God to open the eyes of your hearts to behold both the wonders around you as well as the beauty within you. In God’s Word, in the Sacred liturgy, in the quiet moments that you spend in chapel to ‘come aside and rest awhile’- in these ways, and many more, will the eyes of your heart be opened to God’s loving presence.

Allow yourself the luxury of time with the One who love you. Make this ‘sacred space’ your secret place and allow yourself to be present to the Presence. And consider becoming active in your ‘new parish’ as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, or in the Choir.

*Fr. John Maher, C.M.*

*University Chaplain*

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**Interested in Serving at Mass as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister?**

**Join us!**

**Training sessions for New Liturgical Ministers**

**CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TRAINING SESSION:**

- **Monday, August 25th** 6 - 7pm
- **Thursday, August 28th** 6 - 7pm
- **Tuesday, September 2nd** 6 - 7pm
- **Thursday, September 4th** 6 - 7pm

*All sessions held in Alumni Chapel*

For more information contact:

*Fr. John Maher, C.M.*

*University Chaplain*

jmaher@niagara.edu

286-8415
I am Fr. Bruce Krause, C.M., and I look forward to being with you as campus minister this year. Let me share a little bit about myself. I was born in Mobile, Alabama, and have lived most of my life in Alabama and Georgia. I have one younger brother Duncan who teaches microbiology at the University of Georgia (Athens), is married, and has two grown children pursuing careers in the medical profession. His wife Robin is into her second year as a nursing student, too. My undergraduate studies took me in an entirely different direction from my brother. I majored in German and minored in French and Religious Studies at Auburn University. In the fall of 1977 I entered the seminary in Northampton, PA, and was with Fr. John Maher whom many of you know. This was the first Catholic school that I ever attended! I was ordained in 1982, and have been in parish ministry for most of my priesthood, including assignments in Germantown, Philadelphia and in several parishes throughout East Central Alabama (about 50 miles east of Montgomery). From 1986 to 1992 I served at St. Michael’s which serves the student community at Auburn University, so I come to NU with some experience in campus ministry. I was also actively involved in youth ministry at the parochial and diocesan levels. During my last year at Auburn I began doctoral studies at Emory University in Atlanta, and finished this program in ’96, the year of the Olympics. Prior to coming to Niagara I worked with members of the Vincentian Family, particularly the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in developing formation. I lived for three years in Princeton, NJ. I also taught courses in theology at St. John’s University (Staten Island Campus) and the College of St. Elizabeth (Morristown, NJ). An area of particular interest to me has been online learning and formation. If you are computer savvy, let me know.

My interests include golf, classical guitar, reading, languages (Spanish, German, and French), and photography. I enjoy travelling, and have had opportunities to see much of Europe and Panama. If you share one or more of these interests, let me know.

My ministry at NU will be focusing on formation, and will include retreats, RCIA, theology on tap, etc. I will be working closely with NU students in planning weekend retreats and recollections. If you or someone you know is interested in learning about Catholicism, please let me know. I will be spending time with folks living in Clet and O’Shea dorms. Above all, I am here for you, and will support you any way that I can. As I am fond of saying, “Ya’ll come and see me, ya hear!” Have a great year!

Fr. Bruce Krause, C.M.
Campus Minister
**Brothers And Sisters In Christ...**

Just last week **two seniors**, Stephanie Gowan and Lauren Parkhurst, **three juniors**, Nolan Guiffre, Mary Gillig and Jesse Martin, and **two sophomores**, John Roessler and Dan Schasel joined me in visiting and serving at the Vincentian Mission in Little Rock, Arkansas for a week through a wonderful service program in Campus Ministry called B.A.S.I.C. Fr. Tom Stehlik, C.M. arranged a most amazing week. We saw the face of Christ among the homeless, the Mexican and Latin American immigrants, and those that lost their homes and loved ones in one of the devastating fifty-four tornadoes that struck Arkansas this past year. John Roessler shared his expertise in teaching us how to build decks so that people affected by the tornadoes could more easily get in and out of their mobile homes. It was very much appreciated by the people as well as by Catholic Charities Disaster Relief Team. The Southern hospitality will long be remembered. Visiting the Vincentian mission in Little Rock helped us appreciate so much, including our Vincentian heritage. Please mark your calendars for January 4-12 to go on B.A.S.I.C. in Philadelphia, Brooklyn, or another site yet to be determined. If you are interested in learning more please contact me at ms@niagara.edu. It promises to be a week that you will forever hold in your hearts.

Monica Saltarelli, Campus Minister

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**

Are you looking to do some very meaningful service this year? Be a part of the St. Vincent de Paul Society…Contact Monica Saltarelli in Campus Ministry at ms@niagara.edu or simply stop by her office in LLGC.

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**Announcements for Alumni Chapel**

- **OPENING MASS**
  The opening Mass for the start of the new school year will be celebrated on Thursday, Sept. 11, at 11:05 a.m. in the upper level of the Gallagher Center. Father Levesque invites all to join together in asking God’s blessings on all of us at Niagara University as we begin a new academic year.

- **DAILY MASS IN ALUMNI CHAPEL**
  Beginning Monday, Aug. 25, daily Mass will resume in Alumni Chapel. Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 12:15 p.m. and on Tuesday and Thursday at 12:35 p.m.

- **SUNDAY MASS IN ALUMNI CHAPEL**
  For the next two Sundays (Aug. 24 and 31), Mass will be celebrated in Alumni Chapel at 11 a.m. and 10 p.m. The 4:30 p.m. Mass will not be celebrated on either of the above Sundays. On Sunday, Sept. 7, the full Sunday Mass schedule will resume (11 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.)