Welcome, and welcome back to Niagara University!

Summer 2009 has sped by- and we are on the cusp of a new academic year. Where does time go? In summer, it races by us! A new school year brings opportunities to learn and grow, and in Campus Ministry, we offer you many ways to enlarge your spiritual life.

One of the primary ways we do this is through the Eucharist, offered in our chapel twice on Sundays (11 am and 10 pm) and midday Monday through Friday. So important is the celebration of the Eucharist that our Church defines it as the ‘source and summit’ of our lives as a Christian people. Whether Sunday or daily, Mass gives us the strength we need to be Christ to one another every day at NU. You’ll see this in a powerful way when you join the whole University Community at the Opening Mass in Upper Level Gallagher on Thursday, Sept. 10 at 11 am.

Here at NU, we make the most of Sunday Mass by involving students as choir members, lectors, and Eucharistic ministers. Look around- you’ll see your peers doing everything. Some have done this since their high school years. Others started when they came to NU. Either way, there’s room for you, so don’t be bashful- get involved! This is YOUR parish community, and we want you to be part of it.

As you can see from our newsletter, Campus Ministry offers many ways to get involved. Our first retreat (geared to you freshmen!) is scheduled for Sept.18-20 at Stella Niagara, a beautiful spot only a few miles from campus. We offer weekly Bible Study, the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), a program for students who want to become Catholic or Catholics who want to be confirmed. Watch for notices of when both programs will take place.

Finally, Niagara is most itself when we put our prayer into action by following the example of St. Vincent de Paul, founder of the Vincentians and NU patron. Serving the needs of others is something Campus Ministry does well. You can be part of this by joining BASIC (a week long of service immersion program in January), or becoming a member of two student-run campus groups, St. Vincent de Paul Society or Pax Christi that engage in a wide variety of service projects.

Although beginnings are often arduously slow, as any upperclassman will tell you, the college years race by rather quickly...So make your time at Niagara count, by enlarging your spiritual life in the many ways we offer. In St. Matthew’s Gospel, when Jesus sends the disciples out on mission, he instructs them “the gift you have received, now give as a gift.” (Mt. 10:6) May you give NU the greatest gift of all: that of yourself. And we will be all the better for your having done so!

Fr. John T. Maher, C.M. ’76
Director, Campus Ministry
University Chaplain
“Is Someone Speaking to Me?”

You are light years ahead of me when it comes to the use of technology as a means of communication! I almost believe the first words you ever spoke were a text message! You are so adept with the tools of technology, and I am firmly convinced that you have much to teach us all in Campus Ministry. We have progressed beyond the can and string method or using smoke signals, but not much more than that compared to you. Perhaps, this is a little SOS message to our friends on campus.

For example, while planning for a March retreat earlier this year, a couple of team members suggested using Facebook as a way of inviting students to come on the retreat. This idea never even occurred to me, but a student obviously knew how to get the word out most effectively. I learned a lot that day, and have come to realize that the ways we in Campus Ministry have marketed events and programs will have to adapt to the ways you and your peers find more effective for communicating. Simply putting up a poster or making an announcement at Mass does not always seem to work quite as well. To this end, then, you will be glad to know some progress has been made. Miracles still happen!

I am pleased to announce that the Office of Campus Ministry has its own Group for the Niagara University Network; it is called the Campus Ministry Corner (CMC). Folks are joining this group, and we hope to swell the number of friends we have joining CMC. Your help in getting the word out about our new group is much appreciated, too! By all means, tell your friends! You can find out about upcoming events sponsored by Campus Ministry, and you can even find out who among your friends have already signed up for an event. If he or she is participating, I definitely want to be there, too! We hope to develop a photo album of activities in Campus Ministry, and you very likely have a bunch of other ideas up your sleeves that you can share with us. Please let us know!! Believe it or not, we can learn new tricks!

While I am talking about communication, I want to mention that our first Theology under the Taps forum will be on communication. It is scheduled for Monday, September 28th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. You won’t want to miss this conversation about the strengths and drawbacks of communication in the digital age. You will, no doubt, want to share your ideas with one another at this gathering. We will have specialty coffees, teas, desserts, etc. for you to enjoy. Please plan on joining us on the 28th!!

Those of you who have a particular interest in and expertise with the tools of technology for improving communication can certainly help us in Campus Ministry. If you have ideas, please speak to me! I for one definitely want to hear from you.

Fr. Bruce Krause, C.M.

Volunteers Needed!

The National Catholic Student Coalition (NCSC) is sponsoring a Catholic Social Justice Advocacy Week Oct. 12-16, 2009. If you would be interested in helping to plan the week, contact Monica Saltarelli in Campus Ministry. The focus of each day is the following:

- Monday – Intro to Social Justice
- Tuesday – Environmental Concerns
- Wednesday - Immigration Exploration
- Thursday – Violence in the Middle East
- Friday – Now What? What YOU can Do to Help...
Welcome back! A new start – a new beginning for all! Some of the greatest adventures in my life have been trying to make a difference in a most adventurous way. Campus Ministry offers some excellent opportunities to do so… The **St Vincent de Paul Society** is an awesome opportunity to meet NU’s best students while having a great time doing service. The **St. Vincent de Paul Society** offers countless service opportunities like working in a food pantry, distributing food to the marginalized on the streets of Niagara Falls, helping out at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, entertaining children just to name a few. There is no doubt that you can make a huge difference by just doing your part. Just think a college student named Frederic Ozanam with a few buddies founded the St. Vincent de Paul Society in 1833 which has since flourished in five continents.

**Pax Christi** (Christ’s Peace) is also an international peace movement that promotes an awareness of social justice issues and works for change. It strives to protect the dignity and welfare of each individual. NU has its own chapter which is student led. Another club that is an offshoot of Pax Christi is Invisible Children. **Invisible Children** is an international organization that draws awareness and raises money for the children in Northern Uganda who are forced to be child soldiers and slaves. The chapter on campus is student run and is always looking for new members.

If you are looking to make a difference contact Monica Saltarelli, Campus Minister at ms@niagara.edu, visit her on facebook or simply stop by her office in lower level Gallagher Center.

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**On a mission... In the spirit of Ss. Vincent and Louise...**

“A year of service makes a lifetime of difference...”

These are the words that have echoed through my life over the past year. They make up the motto of the Vincentian Service Corps, the year-long service program that led me to YOU. Let me explain... I spent the last year in Saint Louis, Missouri, living with seven other women in intentional community: we shared more than a house; we shared in prayer and our experiences of service to people who are poor. My ministry site was Our Lady’s Inn, a shelter for homeless pregnant women and their children. I spent most of my time there being a friend to women who felt they had no hope, who had hit rock bottom. I saw a lot of very sad things, but also witnessed positive life-changing moments: program graduations, clean and sober anniversaries, first pay checks, independent housing, and the births of 26 brand new human beings! As a community, the ‘08-’09 VSC came to know and love our Vincentian heritage and our work in the spirit of Ss. Vincent and Louise. I fell in love with and knew I had to continue in the Vincentian mission. And that’s why I’m here... to continue on this mission.

A mission to serve, grow with, and learn from you. I am particularly excited to be coordinating the retreat program and looking forward to getting to know some other new Niagarans at the first retreat of the school year, our Freshmen Retreat. In addition to the retreat program, I will be focusing on the new Living In Faith Together (LIFT) small Christian communities, a program designed to give students an opportunity to come together in small groups to grow in their faith, and the Alumni Chapel Music Ministry, a great way to get involved with worship and share your gifts! I hope you will explore the many opportunities for living and growing in your faith that Campus Ministry has to offer.

Be assured of my prayers as you begin yet another new chapter at Niagara University. I look forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks! Peace and Blessings,

Kristina Schliesman
CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS

- Attention Musicians - Instrumentalists & Singers - Informational Meeting and Sing/Play - Along - Thursday, September 3, 2009 @ 8pm - Alumni Chapel
- Opening Mass, Thursday, September 10, 2009 @ 11:05am - Upper Level Gallagher Center
- St. Vincent de Paul Society - “Magdalene Project” – Passing out food to the homeless - Saturday, September 12, 2009 @ 5pm - LL Gallagher Center
- Grandparents Mass - Sunday, September 13, 2009 - 11 am & 10pm - Alumni Chapel
- Small Christian Communities - information meeting Tuesday, September 15, 2009 @ 7pm - Campus Ministry Office - LL Gallagher Center
- Freshman Retreat “Finding the Missing Piece” Friday, September 18 - 20, 2009
- Vincentian Week September 21 - 27, 2009
- Service Project in honor of - Feast of St. Vincent de Paul - Saturday, September 26, 2009
- Theology Under the Taps - Monday, September 28, 2009 @ 7pm - LLGC - under the taps
- BASIC Service Trip Apps - Campus Ministry Office - Wednesday, September 30, 2009
- Prolife Sunday – “Life Chain” Sunday, October 4, 2009 @ 1:30pm - LL Gallagher Center
- Catholic Social Justice Advocacy Week - October 12 - 16, 2009

Interested in any of the above events or meetings - let us know on our FACEBOOK - CMC - Campus Ministry Corner!!

- SUNDAY MASS ALUMNI CHAPEL
  11:00am & 10:00pm

- Daily MASS ALUMNI CHAPEL
  Will commence Monday, August 31, 2009
  Monday, Wednesday, Friday @ 12:15pm
  Tuesday, Thursday @ 12:35pm

Join us for Mass - Everyone is always WELCOME!!