

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

newsletter

Opening Words

As the Catholic Chaplain, I meet and accompany students wherever they are on their spiritual journeys. For many young folks, college is a time to ask tough questions and in our community, one of the main questions we ask is what does it mean to be Catholic? What does it look like and what does it feel like? This kind of rigorous and authentic spiritual and theological reflection guides our congregation as we are called to creatively witness to the gospel. This is an especially difficult and painful time to be Catholic and I take seriously my call to create safe and productive spaces for meaningful connection. Our community is committed to honestly facing the sins of our church but we also go to great lengths to nourish our spirits with the wonder, beauty, and richness of our tradition. There is always more to discover. When students leave the hill, it is my hope that they are spiritually bold, bringing their gifts and questions to the world and to our church. May it be so.

Inside you will find a snapshot of what this spiritual journey looks like for our students.



Lynn Cooper, Tufts Catholic Chaplain



Catholic Community at Tufts (CCT) spends time on the beach during their annual spring retreat on Cape Cod.

Liturgy at Tufts

Each Sunday at our 5 p.m. Mass, we do our best to embrace the “Little Easter.” Our wonderful and dedicated choir pours light and joy into our liturgy as do the many voices and hands of students on the liturgical ministry team. Our Mass is at once a celebration and an exercise in simplicity. We are a constantly shifting and changing congregation and as such, we embrace our mosaic identity, which reflects back to us the beauty of God’s diverse creation and the spirit of the global church—unity in multiplicity.

Mass Reflection

By Madeline Pitera, A22A

“We are lucky to experience a variety of different priests and interpretations of the gospel which spark discussion amongst the students. Being able to talk to students after Mass who have navigated balancing faith and school and who are willing to discuss the current issues in the church has provided me with a beautiful and accepting community. I walk out of Mass feeling loved and at peace.”



Choir Reflection

By Nathan Hollinsaid, A20, Choir Director

“As a Catholic community at Tufts, we are members of the universal Church; importantly, as Pope Francis reminds us, universality is not marked by uniformity, but nurtured by diversity: ‘We are not all the same and we do not all have to be the same. We are all different, varied, each with our own special qualities.’ Like a choir, we sing ‘together in harmony, but the timbre of each individual...is never eliminated’; rather, ‘the uniqueness of each is greatly enhanced.’ The Catholic community at Tufts is greatly enriched by its diversity of voices and so too is our choir!”

Thank you dinner for choir and liturgical music team... and everyone!



Delighting in Our New Mary

Part of our commitment to Catholic social teaching is reshaping our worship space so our art includes diverse depictions from our tradition. Our constellation of Marys includes a Madonna and Child by Laura James, a Greek icon of the Theotokos, and Our Lady of Guadalupe. American Catholic churches are full of depictions of biblical figures as white. If we are to work to honor the dignity of all peoples and address our own prejudices, we must disrupt this story and tell a different one.

Chaplain Lynn Cooper and students from CCT gather around a recent acquisition: Haitian artist Patricia Brintle’s prophetic work, *The Annunciation*.

Service and Justice

Catholic social teaching defines the ethic of the Catholic Chaplaincy. This central aspect of our tradition rarely receives the attention it deserves. Each semester we offer opportunities to engage faith in the work for justice—both within the Catholic Community at Tufts and in partnership with our interfaith brothers and sisters, siblings in the University Chaplaincy. Through educational and enriching programming and service work, students are able to look inward and outward, living in that intersection of faith and action.



In the fall of 2018, Casey McClellan, GAS19, Ella Frauhofer, AS20, and Joseph Trammantozzi, E19 attended the Confront Systematic Racism program at the Agape Community. The teach-in centered the voices of people of color and addressed the of white people of faith, and specifically Catholics, in dismantling white supremacy.

Harvard Square Homeless Shelter

By Sean Moushegian, E21

"Themselves students, the staff of the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter have been welcoming, understanding, and appreciative of the help that our Tufts delegation offers. Seeing the fruits of the hard work and sacrifice invested by fellow students has helped me to realize that even I, a student, share in a call to service. Volunteering with HSHS has been an amazing way to practice the Beatitudes, and the Shelter's residents couldn't be more appreciative and receptive of our help. To anyone considering volunteering I would say: Try it out for a morning... I might just see you there!"

Green Dot Training Reflection

By Jamie Tebeau, A20

"In response to continued news of crisis and cover-up within our Church, our community decided to put faith into practice through Green Dot Training. Along with friends from other faith communities, we shared in a two-hour training session in bystander intervention which has been proven to decrease incidents of sexual violence on college campuses. We decided to *Be Church* and take action first and foremost in our university. Afterwards, we gathered in celebration of our new-found skills during dinner, which turned into a memorable moment of interfaith communion."



The Tufts Catholic Chaplaincy took a pilgrimage out to the Agape Community in central Massachusetts for their annual St. Francis Day Celebration. This intentional community is committed to nonviolence, eco-justice, and simplicity.



Spiritual Formation

Many of us lead hyper-scheduled lives. On this campus, sometimes the greatest gift (and perhaps the greatest source of stress!) is unstructured time. Retreats (fall and spring), simple suppers, shared spiritual practice, and invitations for contemplative prayer are rich opportunities for students who are hungry for meaningful experiences and for rest.

Contemplative Art Night, Spring 2019. During one of our Lenten evenings, we gathered around a practice of *Visio Divina*, or literally, Divine Seeing. Students gazed upon eighty pieces of Lenten-themed art from different historical and cultural contexts. They quieted their minds and hearts in order to allow a single piece to speak to them. This practice is an invitation to hear God speak through creative expression.

Retreat Reflection

By Amelia Hern, A20

"The spring retreat was a highlight of the semester for me. In the midst of our busy and stressful lives at Tufts, we took time to rest, reflect, and pray while surrounded by the fresh ocean air. The retreat gave me the opportunity to slow down and check in with myself and my relationship with my faith. I was also able to get to know people in the Catholic community better, and it truly solidified the CCT as a wonderful support system for me on campus. Our weekend on the Cape was a much needed break for me. Afterwards, I felt rejuvenated and ready to take on the rest of the semester, and I'm so glad I went!"



Two Catholic students, Amelia Hern, A20, and Alyssa Robichaud, E21, relax side-by-side on the beach during the CCT Retreat in Craigville Retreat Center in Centerville, Massachusetts.



Interfaith Collaborations

The University Chaplaincy is an interfaith community that promotes religious literacy, the work for justice, and spiritual development. This mission compliments our Catholic faith as the Holy Trinity teaches us that there is unity in multiplicity. Living as faithful witness to the gospel means seeking out difference and honoring difference as holy. Tufts' rich multifaith landscape serves as an open invitation for students to deepen their own faith by living and learning with those of other religious and philosophical traditions.

In November 2019, Joseph Trammantozzi, E19 and CCT President 2018-2019, attended the Interfaith Student Council's annual Open Mic Night. He shared a story about one night during his semester abroad in Sienna and how it redefined his understanding of faith: "I always thought [my faith] was a personal thing, now I know it is a communal thing."



Interfaith Student Council Reflection

By Caroline Haynes, A22, Representative for the Catholic Community at Tufts

"I view my Catholicism as a means by which I have come to understand my humanity and how I should interact with the world and other people. Interfaith dialogues have exposed me to the perspectives of others and helped me embrace the idea of mutual understanding rather than a debate over whose beliefs are more correct. Most importantly, however, has been my realization of a universal mission of love."

Caroline Haynes, A22, CCT Member and Interfaith Student Council Representative



Alumni Spotlight

By Melissa Feito, A16 and CCT President 2015-2016

"I graduated from Tufts in 2016 with a B.A. in English. During my time at Tufts I was involved in CCT, the University Chaplaincy, and the Interfaith Student Council. After graduating, I headed to D.C. to do an internship at the Women's Alliance for Theology Ethics and Ritual (WATER). I then spent two years doing post-grad service as a Loretto Volunteer. The Sisters of Loretto are a social justice oriented religious community in Kentucky, founded in 1812. As a fellow, I was placed as a producer at Interfaith Voices, a public radio show founded by Sr. Maureen Fiedler in the wake of 9/11. My experience at Tufts really got me hungry to do something off the beaten path. I wasn't looking to save the world, but I wanted to pursue something that was meaningful to me and would help me think about my place on Earth. As St. Catherine of Siena said, 'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.'"

Melissa Feito, A16, and Chaplain Lynn Cooper after the Service Corps Sunday event, which is held each year in partnership with the Protestant Chaplaincy. The evening featured representatives from four service year programs, offering students a chance to learn more about opportunities to make faith a verb.

Support Catholic Life at Tufts University

Our ministry and programs provide meaningful opportunities for students to explore and engage with their faith. Over the years, we have cultivated a Christian community that welcomes all people and celebrates the beautiful muckiness of lifelong spiritual journeys. In recent years, our programs and service have expanded in new ways. We rely on the generous gifts of folks in the pews, families, and alumni to make this possible. We invite you to make a financial contribution to help us continue to provide these kinds of offerings:



Alex Camp, A18, and Vince Hwang, E18, leading a litany at the Baccalaureate Service of the Class of 2018.

- **\$300** Community Dinner
- **\$150** Visiting Clergy
- **\$50** Post Mass Fellowship Refreshments

To give to the Tufts Catholic Chaplaincy Fund online, please visit chaplaincy.tufts.edu/giving. To discuss a major gift, endowment, or bequest, please contact Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper or our Advancement liaison Rob Ayles.

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Thank you for your support.