

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

2024-2025 newsletter



**Catholic Chaplain
Lynn Cooper, DMin**

"I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me."

—Romans 16:1-2

"Our sister Phoebe" was a prominent woman in antiquity. She supported Paul on his travels and was a local minister for her community as he continued spreading the good news on foot and by boat. Phoebe is all about journey—her spiritual journey as an early Jesus follower and her embodied journey to Rome, which was many hundreds of miles away from her home in Corinth. Her story resonates deeply with the richness of spiritual life on campus—of convening community, supporting our siblings, and trusting in one another. We are each on a journey, doing our best to discern God's voice and saying yes to the Holy Spirit as it leads us in surprising directions.

The Catholic Chaplaincy seeks to 'build up the Body of Christ' by providing opportunities to ask hard questions about spirituality, meaning-making, racial justice, and what our tradition has to say about the profound inequities further revealed by the pandemic. For this reason, one of the defining aspects of the Catholic Chaplaincy is our commitment to creating spaces for students to engage authentically with one another, themselves and God. Through liturgy, retreats, meals, community service, the work for justice, small group conversations and shared spiritual practice, we support students and do our best to equip them for a lifelong journey of faith.

The University Chaplaincy is grounded in an intentional interfaith ethic wherein we learn with and from folks from other religious and philosophical traditions and folks from no tradition as well. That work begins from a place of genuine curiosity and trust. Our students have the opportunity to expand their religious literacy and to explore the sacrament of interfaith friendship. The saints here at Tufts are always teaching us, and we, as chaplains, are blessed to walk beside them.

Warmly,

Lynn Cooper, DMin

Catholic Chaplain

Regular Programming

- Sunday 5 PM Catholic Mass
- Community Dinners
- Catholic Social Teaching Series
- Harvard Square Homeless Shelter
- Christianity and Antisemitism Series with the Protestant Chaplain
- Fall and Spring Retreats
- Sacraments Class (RCIA, Confirmation Preparation)



Students enjoy dinner after Mass outside the chapel



The Catholic Chaplaincy supports sacramental and spiritual life on campus—providing innovative opportunities to deepen relationship to tradition, holding space for difficult questions, and challenging students to expand their worldview so as to live more intentionally, justly, and wholeheartedly in community.

Program Spotlight: Rolling Ridge Retreat

Each year, Catholic Chaplain Lynn works closely with students to plan and host an on-campus day retreat in the fall and an off-campus retreat in the spring. This past March, we partnered with the Protestant Chaplaincy, bringing twenty-six Catholic students and seven Protestant graduate students to Rolling Ridge Retreat Center in North Andover, Massachusetts. Time away—from campus and daily schedules—is such a gift. It is an opportunity for students grow in their faith and get to know one another. Through different kinds of spiritual practice, art, and nature walks, they connected with themselves, God, and one another.



Protestant and Catholic students together in North Andover, Massachusetts, spring 2024



Sami and her friend Maria Reyes-Palma, E25 reading at Bilingual Mass

"Helping out during Spanish/English Bilingual Mass and being able to provide this service to others was always a highlight of my month. Hearing the songs that I would hear in my Church, such as "Ozana," would always bring goosebumps to my skin. Many people would volunteer to speak, to pass out flyers and light up candles. I can't wait to see how Bilingual Masses go for this upcoming year!"

—Sami Rodriguez Sanchez, A26

SUPPORT CATHOLIC LIFE AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

A vital portion of our programs are made possible by community donations. Here are some suggestions for how you can help make a difference in students' lives:

- **\$25** contributes to post-Mass fellowship refreshments and liturgical supplies
- **\$75** provides books and resources for Catholic Social Teaching and Christianity and Antisemitism Series
- **\$150** funds guest speakers and workshop leaders



Give Today!

To give to the Tufts Catholic Chaplaincy Fund online, please visit <http://go.tufts.edu/giveCatholic>. To discuss a major gift, endowment, or bequest, please contact our Advancement liaison Tessa Buckley:

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Thank you for your generosity and support.