

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

newsletter

"Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.'"

John 21:12

The Catholic Chaplaincy at Tufts aspires to embody this simple yet powerful expression of hospitality: "come and have breakfast." All else grows from that place of deep welcome. Come, and lay down your burdens and nourish your body and spirit. Come, and be present to one another and stay awake to the holy in our midst. Come, and remember that you are worthy and whole just as you are in this moment—in all your brokenness and frailty, joy and beauty. Come to this place to be the Body of Christ.

Students in the Catholic Community at Tufts (CCT) are asking hard questions about identity, 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 elements of the Catholic Chaplaincy is our commitment to creating spaces for students to engage authentically with one another, themselves, and God. Through liturgy, retreats, community service, the work for justice, small group conversations, and shared spiritual practice, we support students and do our best to equip them for the lifelong journey of faith. The interfaith work at the core of the University Chaplaincy is yet another opportunity for students to embrace a heart of hospitality. The gift and challenge of being a multi-faith community is learning to welcome others and to say yes to those holy—and often unexpected—invitations to breakfast. May it be so. I look forward to welcoming you and all that you bring.

Warmly,

Lynn Cooper

Catholic Chaplain, Associate Director of the University Chaplaincy



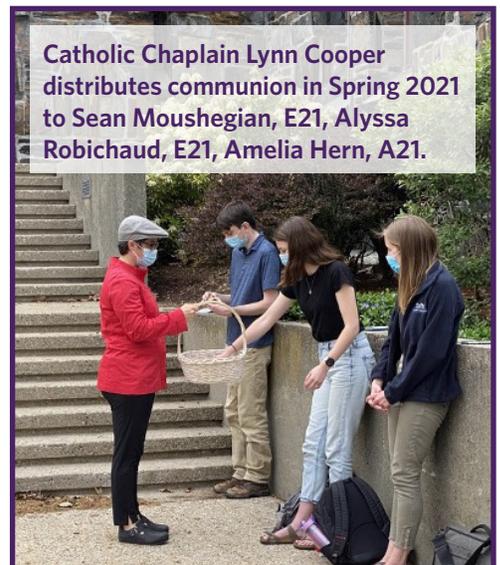
**Catholic Chaplain
Lynn Cooper, A02, D.Min**

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.

Regular Programming:

- Catholic Mass followed by fellowship
- Community dinners
- Weekly Catholic Spirituality Hour
- Catholic Social Teaching Series
- Fall and Spring retreat
- RCIA (Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults)
- Shifts at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter
- Annual Service Corps Sunday to showcase different faith-based volunteer year programs
- Annual Alumni Spirituality Panel

Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper distributes communion in Spring 2021 to Sean Moushegian, E21, Alyssa Robichaud, E21, Amelia Hern, A21.



Program Spotlight: Be-Friend

While this year was marked by disconnection and struggle, our interfaith friendship program, Be-Friend, offered students a way into relationship. All Tufts students were welcome to participate, and were placed in pairs either across tradition or within tradition. They committed to spending an hour with their friend each week, trying on different kinds of spiritual practices written by our multifaith chaplaincy team.

We invited participants to think of that time as a holy hour, a gift of their most precious resource. During the sessions, they had the chance to develop active listening skills, to talk about the things that matter, and to do the deep reading of their lives. Participants shared just how meaningful it was to not just meet someone during the pandemic, but to develop a spiritual friendship.

One week, our Buddhist chaplain invited students to take photos to reflect on their interconnectedness to the world around them. Participant Giuli Perini, A21, recorded an audio diary reflecting on the practice of sharing this photo with her friend: "It just called to me. It was such a bright and lively picture and I was on this really long run on a beautiful day... this is something I want to show my friend and tell her about how it made me feel. And the details in the picture called to me in that fiery red of the tree and were so astounding and it spoke to me and grounded me."



Photo by Guili Perini, A21

"Reading about Sister Thea's fight for inclusion and her passion to preach through songs inspired us both to make a presentation to the other members of our community. Sister Thea had us thinking deeply about how our faith can be harnessed to address the issues of our times. She emphasized the intersection between Catholicism and anti-racism, and the testimonies of those who knew her reminded us to strive to be a light to others so that they can see God's goodness."

Sebastian Fernandez, E24 and Katie Furey, A23, hosts of An Evening with Sr. Thea Bowman



Sebastian Fernandez, E24, Carolina Lopes, A23, and Katie Furey, A23, offering a tribute to the seniors on the academic quad.

Support Catholic Life at Tufts University

A vital portion of our annual programs is 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 for the community

\$75

Provides books and resources to participants in the Catholic Social Teaching Series

\$150

Funds a visiting clergy person to lead Sunday Mass

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 Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper or our Advancement liaison Lorraine Sparrow:

(617) 627-2052 | Lorraine.Sparrow@tufts.edu

Thank you for your generosity and support.