



St. Elizabeth's Catholic Student Center

Mission Statement: To Provide College students with a welcoming faith community that will facilitate personal development and foster a culture of servant leadership through student ministries in communion with the Catholic Church.

Shout Out From the Interns

This has been a truly exciting semester. We had a large number of freshman come in that have already begun to do great things. Our close knit community is growing quite well and so many have found a home away from home.

We have already had dinner theater auditions for our annual show that takes place in the spring and we along with the cast are very excited. This year we will have two one act shows that are quite hilarious. One being Dark Comedy by Peter Shaffer and the other is Actors Nightmare by Christopher Durang.

The passion of the organizations is truly amazing and we can't wait to see what comes next semester with so many great things happening for everyone. Raider Awakening is having their 50th retreat next semester. Chi Rho is also having their 50th anniversary. The Diocesan Youth Retreat Team (DYRT) is running the Lubbock diocesan youth rally with over 500 kids in attendance. The Knights of Columbus just received the award for outstanding college council. The Lord has truly worked through these students to bless us with such success as a community. We as interns are truly proud to be a part of this community and call ourselves Red Raiders.

Chris Smith and Kevin Mantooth

CSC Interns



Words From Our Pastor

As I begin to write these few lines, I am aware that the days are getting shorter and the nights progressively longer. We enter into a new liturgical cycle and all of a sudden we find ourselves in the Season of Advent when the readings at Mass urge us to "Be Prepared", "Stay Awake" and "Be ready for the coming of the Messiah". We find ourselves preparing for the WORD to be made Flesh. There is a lot of anticipation on our part and we find we have a lot of "To Do's" on our list.

I glance at my own list of "To Do's" and find that next on my list is to read Pope Francis' new Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel) written to the Bishops, Clergy, Consecrated Persons and the Lay Faithful on the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World. It is a 217 page document that I'm looking forward to reading because Pope Francis has certainly challenged us in his previous speeches and writings as to how we can proclaim the Gospel message to those who have been marginalized in society. This exhortation will probably be challenging as well.

As we enter into this most Holy Season of Advent, and as we wait with great anticipation for the Birth of our Savior, maybe we can take time out of our busy schedules to reflect on how we proclaim and live out in our daily lives the Joy of the Gospel that Pope Francis exhorts us to live. The very first words of his exhortation read – "The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus."

Wishing you a blessed Advent Season with your hearts and lives filled with Joy as we encounter Jesus at the crèche this Christmas.

fr. Emiliano Zapata, OP



Words from Our Chaplin

40 Days for Life

Dear Catholic Texas Tech Community,

“In days to come...” (Is 4:2-6)

As I write these words, we are beginning the Advent Season, and with it a new liturgical year, a new beginning. The prophet Isaiah speaks of a vision about the promises for the people of God “in days to come.” Four promises are implied in this vision: God will be close to us; God will instruct his people; God will be a just judge whose judgment is rooted on justice and mercy; and God will restore and renew history and creation. Now, these promises became concrete in history, in time and space, in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is Jesus, the Lord who has brought to fulfillment God’s closeness to us, his teaching, his mercy, and the renewal of our lives. He still does it through you and me, through our active participation in the life of the Body of Christ, the Church.

We are living in a time when God’s promises have been fulfilled and we are invited to embrace these fulfillment in our everyday lives. This is what I experienced with the Catholic community here at Texas Tech. I see that God keeps fulfilling his promise in, with, and through every student, every faculty member, every staff member, every person involved with our campus ministry. Many other people can see this and the come to join us. I also can see that “in days to come” our campus ministry will become stronger and more fruitful. I want to thank every person for your time, your talents as well as your financial and spiritual support. May the Lord bless you abundantly so that “in days to come” many other people come to encounter Christ!

Blessings,

fr. Jorge Rátiva, OP
Campus Ministry Chaplain



This fall, from September 25th through November 3rd, Lubbock joined hundreds of cities around the world in prayer during the Fall 2013 40 Days for Life Campaign. Through prayer and fasting, vigil participation, and community outreach, 673 lives were confirmed saved through the campaign. Here in Lubbock, we experienced our most successful campaign to date. Not only did we see a continued rise in the awareness of the problem of abortion in our city and increased vigil and prayer participation, we also had ONE confirmed save out on the sidewalks in front of the local Planned Parenthood and only days before the campaign ended got news that the Lubbock Planned Parenthood had been bought out by a pro-adoption healthcare provider, Generation Healthcare.

Our local campaign kicked off with a rally right outside of Planned Parenthood at the Nurturing Center, with well over a hundred in attendance enjoying food and several local pro-life speakers, including Lawrence Desouza from the Nurturing Center, Sandy Cisneros, a pro-life sidewalk counselor and Krysten Haga, the current Campaign Director.

At the end of the campaign a Closing Celebration was held again at the Nurturing Center, where participants not only heard from Krysten about the success of the campaign, but from sidewalk counselor Dorothy Boyett and Rachel Casares, a mother who had considered abortion and chose life during the last campaign, who spoke about their reactions to the closing of Planned Parenthood.

Throughout the campaign, students participated in peaceful vigil out on the sidewalks, often praying rosaries or reading scripture.

Krysten Haga
Campaign Director

Raider Awakening #49

Something crazy is that we spent 8 months planning every detail of this retreat, and as soon as we showed up, the Holy Spirit took over and everything changed; and it was beautiful! Raider Awakening #49 was held on October 18-20th at the High Plains Retreat Center in Canyon, Texas. The theme was "Illuminate", based off Isaiah 42:16.

We were blessed to have 100 retreaters, and the staffers made their experience unforgettable. From wonderful meals to loving table leaders to talks that changed lives, these staffers were rock stars 100%. We had a bonfire, and everyone got a bed and warm shower, which are things RA hasn't had in years!

Witnessing 300 college students laugh, cry, and grow in fellowship together is something special to be a part of, and cannot be forgotten.

With the new site, additional costs were met by fundraisers. A firework stand was run over the summer, and staffers manned the stand 24/7 and managed all inventory and sales. While this was hard work, new friendships were formed and we had a great time. Staffers helped worked the parking lots at St. Elizabeth's during Texas Tech football games as well. We've also been blessed with countless donors, including alumni, family, and friends. We want to thank everyone who donated, whether financially or through prayer. This ministry would not be successful without you!

Raider Awakening #50 will be held on February 21-23 in Levelland, Texas. RA is in great hands, as Ellen Smith and Elisa Gonzalez are already doing amazing things as the RA #50 Coordinator and Rector.

Remember friends: crank it like a chainsaw.

Lizzy Ferris
Raider Awakening #49 Rector



Raider Awakening #50

Believe it or not, it has been 25 years since a small group of Aggies drove to Lubbock to share a program that has, since it began, has touched thousands of lives and spread the Gospel across the nation. A small but dedicated group of students has been meeting since last May to put into place a plan for the anticipated return of many Raider Awakening participants. Raider Awakening #50 will be held on Feb. 21 – 23, 2014 at St. Michael Catholic Church in Levelland. The retreat will happen as normal, but there will be some special events planned for any and all alumni returning to Lubbock for the weekend. A hotel has set aside a block of rooms for a special rate and several events are planned in Hanly Hall for the alumni to gather and share stories, spend time in fellowship and prayer, and also do a bit of exploring of Lubbock. The final schedule and link to the hotel as well as other details can be found on www.raidercatholic.org. There is a lot of excitement in anticipation of this event and we look forward to seeing you in February. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any specific questions in regards to this event. Contact information can be found on the website.

Greg Ramzinski
Director of Campus Ministry



Women Of Faith

Women of Faith had a wonderful fall semester growing and loving the Lord. We meet once a week to share in faith discussions and fellowship with the women in Catholic Student Ministry community. Every other week, girls participate in a bible study. This year, we focused on studying 1 Corinthians, where we read and learned St. Paul's advice to Corinth. The following week, members of the Women of Faith Leadership Team facilitated a small faith group, where girls had the opportunity to come together on a more intimate setting. This year's small faith groups were Hope, Love, Patience and Strength. We had a joyous and fruitful year and are looking forward to the spring semester, when we will continue bible study and small faith group. Thank you for your prayers and support.

In Him,
Women of Faith Leadership Team



CHI RHO

Another great semester has come and gone for Chi Rho. Through our three pillars, faith, service and brotherhood, we have bonded as brothers in Christ and created memories that will last a lifetime. This semester we had an enthusiastic pledge class of 18 pledges. Congratulations to Ashley Leal, Elizabeth Reyna, Jackie Vizcaino, Jon Montanez, Nate Cabezuela, Raul Gonzalez, Javier Luna, Gabe Payan, Ryan White, Amanda Lujan, Mari Salazar, Aislím Athie, Marissa Martinez, Elizabeth Kobty, Fernando De Leon, Jon Bernal, Anthony Leija, and Tim Poilcarpio who were all initiated into our active chapter on November 23, 2013.

As a Catholic, service fraternity, we do our best to serve both the church and the Lubbock community. Some of our services this semester included: Catholic Charities, Habitat for Humanity, Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat, and writing letters to soldiers for the holidays. We even hosted our first annual Harvest hoedown dance for the St. Elizabeth's community in October. We would like to thank everyone who came and helped us make it a great night.

Chi Rho has much to look forward to in the next couple of months such as Carol of Lights in December, which we help out every year with, and our 50th anniversary in the spring that we have been preparing for with our alumni chapter. Lastly, we would like to congratulate our new pledge trainer for spring 2014, Sherrye Buchanan!

Sarah Flores
Vice President



Catholic Student Association

The Catholic Student Association (CSA) had a very successful and fun-filled Fall semester! We started the semester off with Welcome Week, holding events such as game night, Dinner and Rosary and other socials to welcome new and returning students. The annual Block Party, where all CSM organizations get to tell students about their ministries was very successful and brought in over 200 students. We continued to welcome new students with the weekend retreat, Encounter, aimed at getting at new and transfer students plugged into our Catholic community at St. Elizabeth's. We have continued our weekly events that include Dinner and a Rosary, Mass on Campus and The Rock- praise and worship with student speakers with growth. We have been blessed to be able to minister to our fellow Tech students in many different ways. We also brought many students together in fellowship through our social events, such as a trip to the corn maze, movie night and most recently a combined winter formal with the Knights of Columbus. Throughout this semester we had several partnerships with other organizations to expand our outreach; our most successful collaboration was our Halloween Festival. Students from all CSM organizations came together to put on a fun, safe Halloween night for parish families and benefited Food-2Kids, a local nonprofit that provides food to children who need it. We also partnered with Catholic Charities for a service project. Another exciting partnership that CSA has expanded this year is with Catholic faculty and staff at Texas Tech. We have brought together students and faculty in a casual setting to allow us to learn from one another and expand our knowledge of our faith. We can't wait to expand more on this next semester. CSA has been truly blessed this semester to have so many opportunities to reach out to fellow students at Texas Tech!

Shelby Williams
CSA President



DYRT

The St. Elizabeth's Diocesan Youth Retreat Team (DYRT) is a group of college students who are in love with God whose passion is to reflect this love to the youth in the Diocese of Lubbock by preparing and giving Catholic retreats to Junior High and High School students in their journey of Confirmation. Our retreats offer catechesis, spiritual direction, and fun. In return, the students of the DYRT community are blessed with faith development and friendships that last a lifetime. DYRT's numbers continue to grow and the number of staffers has tremendously increased from previous years. In each meeting about 55 students help in the preparation of retreats while approximately 45 of them are able to attend the retreat and minister to the youth.

In the fall of 2013 DYRT reached out to youth with three retreats held at the following parishes: St. William's in Denver City, TX; St. Lawrence in Garden City, TX; and Holy Spirit in Lubbock, TX. DYRT eagerly anticipates three more retreats in the spring as well as collaborating with the Diocese for the annual Youth Rally in May. The Diocesan Youth Retreat Team thanks you for your continued support and prayers for our ministry!

Rob Tragni
DYRT Director
ilovedyrt@gmail.com



Our Graduating Seniors

“St. Elizabeth’s was my home away from home in Lubbock. The campus ministry at St. Elizabeth’s was instrumental in my faith formation the past four and a half years. I’ve made great life long friends and have been abundantly blessed. Thanks be to God for four and a half amazing years here, and I will greatly miss my friends and community at St. Elizabeth’s.”

-Alejandro Briseño



“CSM has been a blessing to me for my four and a half years of college. God has guided me in life through this ministry and the genuine friends I have made within it. I have learned numerous things in college to help me in my future career, but I learned the most from this community to help me in life. This ministry has taught me how to love others and trust in God. I believe it will continue to do this even from afar. I already miss this community and what it has to offer dearly, but it will continue to hold a special place in my heart as I move on to a new chapter in life.”

-Lauren Pocsik



“CSM has brought me numerous blessings, but the one I count the most among them all is a community of believers I can look to for support and growth. Just as Christ and St. Paul sought to help people grow through tough love, I have found friends here to not only support me in my endeavors, but, more importantly, to call me out when I am not living to my greatest potential. Love isn’t always kind, but it is true and positive, and the love I have found from people within CSM to help me grow more as a man of God is something I will be forever cherish.”

-Kevin Mantoath



Words From Our Campus Minister

From the Director's Desk...

Merry Christmas to all. It seems like only last month we were welcoming the newest Red Raiders to the Catholic community here at St. Elizabeth's and here we are already in December, wishing them a blessed and holy season and saying good-bye to those graduating and continuing on in their life's journey.

This semester has been one full of many joys and blessings as well as a few struggles. The greatest blessing was the significant bequeathing of a major gift of \$5 million toward the construction of a new student center by one of the long-time members of the parish. This gift has given us the jump-start toward the realization of our dream for a new facility that will meet the space needs of the many ministries we have and those we are seeking to start. Nathan, our development officer, has already been diligently holding meetings around the state to meet with alumni and present a detailed plan for what this new facility will mean as well as the necessity for ongoing alumni support to meet the daily expenses of our ongoing operations. Please look for him to be in your part of the state in the spring semester and plan to attend one of his gatherings. If you are unable to attend one of the gatherings, please contact him or myself with any questions you may have. The Board of Trustees is in the process of putting together a building committee that will begin to meet in the new year and get the process started for a ground-breaking in the next couple of years.

You can help us to make this new facility a reality by helping us in two ways:

1. Please think of any friends and other alumni and would possibly be interested in donating to this project. Please send us their contact information and let them know we will be contacting them about making a contribution to this great ministry.
2. Please become a "Giving Raider" by signing up online for our automatic payment system. These deductions can be made using a debit or credit card and deductions can be made on a weekly, monthly, or yearly basis. It will be with your help that we can break ground and be in our new facility as soon as possible.

Additionally, we have been diligently planning for Raider Awakening #50. This great event, to be held Feb. 21 – 23, 2014 will celebrate 25 years of Raider Awakening at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Student Ministry. Please go to www.raider-catholic.org for a complete schedule of the events for alumni as well as were to book your hotel for this once in a lifetime event. We look forward to seeing many people returning to Lubbock to meet with old friends and share many laughs and memories.

Thank you for all the prayers and support you provide to the many students here in Catholic Student Ministry. As you can see from the content in this newsletter, the blessings are abundant and the lives being touched are changed forever thanks to the gifts you share. I pray the Lord will continue to bless you and shine His face upon you in this holy season. God Bless.

Greg Ramzinski
Director





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