

FALL 2023

Newsletter

# CATHOLIC BEARCAT

LOVE LIVES HERE.



## UPDATES

We have some new faces bringing fresh perspectives on campus!



## EVENTS

The '23 - '24 school year is well underway and we wasted no time stepping into ministry!



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

UC Students are being impacted by what God is doing at Catholic Bearcat.



## NEWMAN CENTER

Tour the student center



# FAREWELL FR. ETHAN

BY LARA GIGANDET

FALL 2023



Catholic Bearcat received a message last week from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati that read, “Fr. Ethan Moore will not be returning to the Uptown Catholic Parishes following his time away but will be reassigned upon return in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The Priest Personnel Board has open-listed the position of Pastor for the Uptown Catholic Parishes. The Board will meet in October to look at possible nominations and then move forward with assigning a pastor. Please keep Fr. Ethan Moore, Fr. Jeff, the Uptown Catholic staff and the parishioners in your prayers

during this time of transition.” The Archdiocese has appointed Deacon Ed Bayliss as the temporary administrator to oversee all the administrative aspects of the region until a new pastor is appointed.

Fr. Ethan has truly made an everlasting impact on the students and alumni of Catholic Bearcat. He has played a HUGE part in the explosion of our ministry and led countless students to have personal encounters with Our Lord and His Church. For that we will be forever grateful and he will be deeply missed. We entrust the decision of a new pastor entirely to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and we thank you Fr. Ethan for everything you have done for our students!



# UPDATES

NEW FACES FALL 2023

## *Fr. Jeff Stephens*

*Parochial Vicar*

Fr. Jeff Stephens grew up attending St. Susanna parish in Mason. After graduating from the University of Cincinnati, he became a FOCUS missionary and began to attend daily Mass, pray the Rosary and make Holy Hours. It was then he discerned a call to the priesthood and was ordained a priest July 2023. He is excited to serve as the head of Catholic campus ministry at his alma mater.



## *Deacon Ed Bayliss*

*Temporary Parish Administrator*

*The Archdiocese has appointed Ed to oversee the administrative aspects of Catholic Bearcat @St. Monica St. George and Uptown Catholic. He has extensive background in business, including his role as Vice President of Quest Diagnostics. He converted to the Catholic faith from Judaism and was ordained a Deacon in 2019.*



## *Karissa Dunn*

*Campus Minister*

Born and raised in Sioux City, Iowa, Karissa attended the University of Iowa where she encountered Jesus for the first time! Karissa then decided to spend 3 years as a missionary here at UC, and has now stepped into a different role as campus minister. She and her husband enjoy spending time with their daughter Frances, and are thrilled to continue to be a part of the bearcat community.



# MISSIONARY TEAMS

FOCUS and SPO FALL 2023



Meet the missionaries of FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students)! One of our goals this year is to help our 18 student leaders launch and grow their Bible studies. Student leaders will be reaching out to their classmates and friends who otherwise wouldn't be in contact with Catholic Bearcat. Bible studies are a great environment for helping students grow in their relationship with Jesus and invest in deep friendships. We are also excited for this year's SEEK conference over Christmas break. SEEK is

our national conference where over 17,000 college students gather to participate in Adoration and the Sacraments, learn about the Catholic faith, experience fellowship, and encounter Jesus. This year's conference is in St. Louis and we are hoping to take 100 students with us. Additionally, this spring break we will be making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with 25 of our students. We are so grateful for your support, which allows us to create opportunities for students to encounter Christ. Please keep us in your prayers!



This year is SPO's (Saint Paul's Outreach) second year on campus and the Lord has been graciously blessing the growth of our team and our community!

On our team this year are chapter leaders, Paul Stucker and Olivia Hemmelgarn, and missionaries, Abby Cronin (4th year), Noah Rescate (2nd), Sam Beykirch (1st) and Will Leija (1st). The mission of SPO is to live in deep relationship with God and one another. This year we continue to build community and are grateful for students from last year, who are now joining us as missionaries on campus! Through household and small groups, we are confident God is going to move by knitting us together as brothers and sisters! In our unity, the team is eager to meet more men and women on campus through outreach, building relationships, and free cups of coffee! Our goal is to connect students with Christian community so that they might come to an encounter with the love of the Lord!



# EVENTS

WELCOME WEEK FALL 2023



MASS ON THE GRASS



THE GUINEA PIGS  
STOLE THE SHOW ON  
CAMPUS



RED C PARTY



ORG FAIR



PARKING LOT PARTY

The Fall 2023 semester is off to a great start! Sunday Mass was standing room only and was packed full of students and their parents. We were on campus everyday reaching out to new students., playing games, tabling, and getting the word out about Catholic Bearcat.

Mass on the grass outside of Sigma Sigma was beautiful to behold, as students kneeled in prayer and brought Jesus to campus. The Red C (Catholic men's house) Party was a blast as students got to experience a college party that didn't include heavy drinking and drugs!

Chi Rho night was a great opportunity for students to have fellowship, meet new friends, and take a tour of the Catholic Center.

The week ended with a bang at the Parking Lot party where students played pickleball and other games late into the night. Please keep our students in your prayers.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

SOPHIE SHOCKEY FALL 2023

"The world is thy ship  
and not thy home."

On May 9th, 2023 my world was turned upside down. I received the phone call that nobody wants to receive. As I was getting ready for my first day of grad school, I received a call that my father passed away. This was the worst day of my life. Since that day, I have felt so many emotions. I have never experienced grief in this way before. It has impacted every area of my life. Feeling hopeless, sad, angry, confused, and numb all at once is an experience that no one can ever be prepared for.

After learning about the passing of my father, Catholic Bearcat and its students surrounded me with support. Students and missionaries were dedicating Mass to my father and my family, offering up their day in prayer for my family, and reaching out with their support. Fr. Ethan even showed up on my family's doorstep in Dayton at 9:30 pm the day my father died to be with my family and pray with us. We were so blessed to also

have Fr. Ethan and Fr. Komo say my father's final Mass. I have never experienced the power of prayer so strongly until after my father's passing. In a time of such sorrow, it was as if the Lord was holding my family in his arms in the moments where it felt like we could not go on, protecting us and getting us through this difficult time.

The community here at Catholic Bearcat is like no other. I can wholeheartedly say that I would not have been able to get through any of this without the support of the Catholic Bearcat community. I would be lying if I said that my father's passing hasn't affected my faith life in any way. Trying to accept his death and sort through all of my emotions has been extremely difficult. My friends here at Catholic Bearcat have shown me that grief is a prayer and an expression of love. They have helped me to understand that the Lord is helping me to find peace in His presence, trusting in His comfort and in His love.

A quote by Saint Therese inspired my father to live his life to the fullest with integrity and honor; "The world's thy ship, and not thy home." Our actions everyday are guiding us to our final destination of eternal life with the Lord. I choose to live by this quote everyday, spending every moment seeking God's grace, and this community has made it possible for me to do this. I am forever grateful and proud to be a Catholic Bearcat!





# GROWING THE MINISTRY

KARISSA DUNN

FALL 2023



I am so grateful to be able to serve this year as UC's Campus Minister!

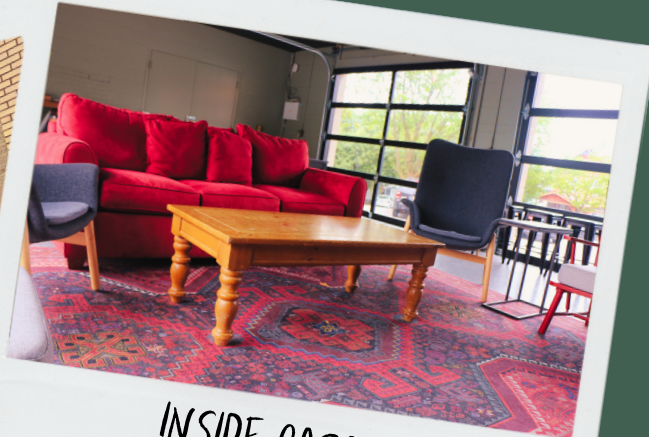
I have been with this ministry now for 3 years as a FOCUS missionary, and what a gift it is to stay. It has truly been an honor to walk closely with so many of these men and women. All I desire for each and every one of them is to know Christ Jesus and His Church. The Lord has provided such an abundance of college students who have a deep longing and desire for this very thing. Jesus has blessed us and continues to draw more of the 50,000 students to Catholic Bearcat! This year I am focusing on the depth of the interior lives of the students here, and walking with them in the mission of each and every Christian. Matthew 28 says, "Go therefore and make disciples

of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and lo I will be with you until the end of the age." Jesus promises me and each student to be with us, but he also calls each of us to be disciple makers. To raise up those around us and arouse them to a changed life in a relationship with Jesus Christ. The Lord on the cross spoke of this great thirst. He thirsts for you, me, and each and every person. My prayer and desire is to grow in this thirst for the students of UC. That each student can look at their neighbor and truly love them, and thirst for them to know love itself.





GARAGE HANGOUT



INSIDE GARAGE

Want to see a video  
tour of our  
Newman Center?

Scan this QR code!



SPIRITUAL DIRECTION ROOM

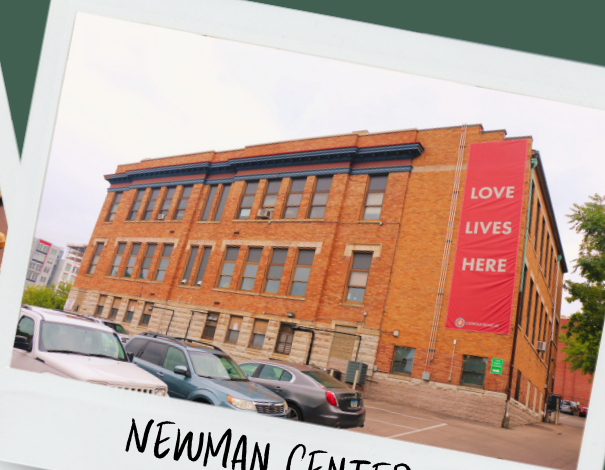


BIBLE STUDY SPACE

# OUR NEWMAN CENTER



GAME ROOM



NEWMAN CENTER



KITCHEN



BASEMENT



# A MESSAGE TO DONORS

FR. JEFF STEPHENS FALL 2023



Greetings and blessings to you from Catholic Bearcat! We remain humbled by the way the Holy Spirit is awakening the hearts of so many University of Cincinnati students and drawing them into a deeper relationship with the Catholic Church, the Bride of Christ. I am so thrilled to be serving here at my Alma Mater as a newly ordained priest, and I can't thank you enough for your support. Our ability to maintain strength in this fight for souls in part comes from the abundant generosity from you, our donors.

Whether it is financial gifts or your prayers for our success, a very heartfelt thank you for being with us and supporting our mission. You have played a huge part in our success. Over the last three years we've come to more fully embrace that Catholic Bearcat isn't just a ministry at St. Monica St. George (SMSG), it is the predominant ministry of the parish. In fact, Masses at SMSG the first weekend of this Fall Semester were literally standing room only of mostly students. Praise be Jesus! **Your gifts of time, talent and treasure support the Catholic Bearcat ministry and the operating expenses for the beautiful SMSG.** It is truly a unique gift that we have use of such a beautiful Church and facilities for Catholic Bearcat. In order to continue to advance our campus ministry, we've had several meetings with key Archdiocesan personnel to help confirm the inseparable mission of Catholic Bearcat and SMSG. There is great enthusiasm within the Archdiocese for the way we've been conducting our ministry and also for the future to which we believe the Holy Spirit is calling us.

Despite the vibrancy of our ministry to students, SMSG currently operates at a financial deficit of \$150,000. Clearly, this is not sustainable. The leadership of the parish is developing a stewardship plan to bring income and expenses in line, but we also need your help! We ask that you would prayerfully consider making a donation this fall using the enclosed envelope or online at [www.catholicbearcat.com/give](http://www.catholicbearcat.com/give). Please know that we will be specifically offering several Masses throughout the year for you, our benefactors. Thank you and God bless!



# Mug Club Monthly Givers

The Mug Club is an initiative of our sustained giving program. The purpose is to encourage dependable support for our students and Catholic Bearcat @ St. Monica St. George. To be part of the "Mug Club" the following criteria is necessary:

Non-Students: \$100 per month

Students: \$20 per month

We will mail the mug to the billing address provided. Please email [development@catholicbearcat.com](mailto:development@catholicbearcat.com) to provide a separate mailing address if needed.



JOIN THE MUG CLUB  
[www.catholicbearcat.com/give](http://www.catholicbearcat.com/give)





# JOIN US FOR GIVING TUESDAY NOV. 28

## LOVE GIVES HERE

Gift matching opportunities  
and giveaways available to  
generous donors like you.

Follow us on Instagram live  
@catholicbearcat to see Fr. Jeff  
and students as we reach each  
incremental goal!!



70K	Cruise giveaway for 2*
65K	Chilito's for students
60K	Frosted tips
50K	Eat fried worms
40K	Pie Throwing
30K	Perform Tik Tok Dance
20K	Fr. Jeff get's slimed
10K	Student 100 Yard Dash
5K	Swag giveaway!

SCAN  
TO  
GIVE



**\*DONORS WHO GIVE \$1,000 OR  
MORE ARE ENTERED INTO A  
RAFFLE FOR A CRUISE VACATION**



