



# CATHOLIC MONARCHS

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

*Catholic Campus Ministry at Old Dominion University is a Christ-centered community that seeks to be a true witness to the Catholic Faith. Through the sacraments, religious formation, prayer, and camaraderie, we strive to live out Christ's calling for ourselves both now and in the future.*

*Fall 2020*



Dear Catholic Monarch Family,

What a semester this has been! Students were both on campus and at home with classes both in person and online. Campus Ministry has adapted with all of these changes and we have had a wonderful semester!

The Holy Spirit has been moving this semester in all of the students. The student leaders have embraced all of the changes and have had an amazingly positive attitude. Our Small Groups, Soul Food nights, Fall Retreat, and socials have all be virtual this semester but we have been blessed with the ability to have Mass and Adoration in person on campus. Through all of this, the students have grown in their faith and in community. We have even had the added benefit of having speakers join us for Soul Food from afar, which has been so amazing.

We are so blessed to have the prayers and gifts from our Catholic Monarch Family both near and far. We would love for you to continue to join us in our mission as we serve the students, faculty, and staff of Old Dominion University.

May God bless you always!

*James M. Glass      Marissa Neil*



## WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW I NEEDED

While the COVID-19 pandemic has been an overall crummy experience, it never ceases to amaze me how the Lord can pull tremendous good out of any situation. Although it doesn't feel like it, I was still in high school just 8 months ago. I had been dealing with a severe case of senioritis since about the second day of school, so when everything closed in March, I was surprisingly okay with having my senior year cut short. Not having schoolwork to do, I found myself bored at home, but it wasn't long before my brother came home from college. I had always known he'd been a part of CCM at his school, but it wasn't until we got to spend some time together that I truly recognized how much his faith had grown because of it. I knew I wanted that same change for myself, so I signed up for ODU CCM without realizing how important that decision would be.



When I got to ODU in September I had high hopes. I was ready to join clubs, meet new people, and push myself academically... but instead I was met with a boring and monotonous cycle: study, play video games, sleep, and repeat. As someone who always likes to be doing something, this was far from ideal, but CCM provided me an escape. Weekly Soul Food talks, Mass, and confession have given me the resources I needed to advance in my faith, while small groups and game nights have granted the opportunity to make friends and join a community of like-minded faithful people. Thanks to CCM, I've been able to actually embrace the boredom and use it to grow in both faith and fellowship. While my first semester has been far from my initial expectations, I wouldn't want it to have any other way and I'm looking forward to seeing what lies on the journey ahead.

-Thomas Durant, Class of 2024

## FALL RETREAT

ODU CCM's Fall Retreat was amazing! It was definitely needed for not only me personally but for all who attended. Even though it was online, it was still equally as uplifting as it would be in person. Meeting with all of these incredibly faithful people really shows you how lucky you are to be in such an amazing environment and gives you the opportunity to really look at the bigger picture.



Fall Retreat was the breath of fresh air that we all needed and allowed us to bond in the Catholic Faith. I had the opportunity to lead a small group during the retreat. Through leading, I was pushed to understand the Gospel better myself and to help others do the same. It was one of the most beneficial things I think I had ever done. I am so thankful for the fact that I was able to be a part of it and share an amazing day with amazing, faithful people!

-Jenna Salzano, Class of 2021

Catholic Monarchs during our virtual Fall Retreat.



Daily Mass in the SGA Senate Chambers in the Webb Center.

## IT IS FINALLY TIME FOR THE NEXT STEP

I felt it was time to make the leap to confirmation this semester, in RCIA. I was baptized into the Episcopal Church but my mother and grandmother are both Catholic. They are the ones that pushed me to be really serious about God and Jesus as a whole. My mom has always told me that you have to find God on your own, it cannot be forced on you. She believes that if you push faith on someone, they might be lost and may never find God. You have to let that person find God on their own and give them guidance along the way if they need it. I really understand what she was saying now. Looking back at high school and middle school, my grandmother pushed the faith on me and I didn't really care or even want to go to church. Now that I am older and I have been going to church with my mom, I have found God and really want to learn more about Him and Jesus. I had to find God on my own and I am so glad that I did.



-Matthew Richmond, Class of 2022

William with his sponsor, Nick, at the Rite of Welcoming/Acceptance at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.



Savannah & Jamila deliver items from Trick or Treat so Students can Eat to the Monarch Pantry.

## UNIQUE & SPECIAL COMMUNITY

When the Spring 2020 semester was ending and Covid-19 was taking over, I was curious how campus in general would function. Social events that bring us together would not be the same. I always have to remind myself to always have an open mind. This can be difficult. I want things to go back to normal or for things to be a certain way. I want to be meeting new people in big gatherings and making new friends.



I decided to stay at home and take all of my classes online for the Fall Semester. Between having classes on Zoom and doing homework, I can easily spend hours looking at a computer screen each day. After all of this, it can be easy to not want to join another online meeting or event. But I remind myself how refreshing it can be to meet the rest of the CCM community, despite the distance. Every time I go to CCM events, it reminds me that we are not alone. Events such as Soul Food, small groups, and Fall Retreat have opened doors to build and rekindle friendships within this semester. Even though students are both on campus and at home, CCM is a unique and special community and I love being a part of it.

-Jeanelle Josen, Class of 2023

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### DONATE FOR SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

- \$50 - Provides for a week of liturgical supplies for both Sunday & Daily Masses.
- \$100 - Provides dinner and speaker stipend for one of our weekly Soul Food events.
- \$250 - Provides for needed updates to resources and supplies in the the CCM House.
- \$500 - Enables our students to attend life-changing retreats, events, & programs.

### DONATE MONTHLY

Help provide our ministry stability by establishing a monthly online gift at [catholicmonarchs.org/give](https://catholicmonarchs.org/give)

### STAY CONNECTED

Update your contact information with us by going to [catholicmonarchs.org/alumni](https://catholicmonarchs.org/alumni)

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