



Dear Friends of the Harvard Catholic Center,

IT IS MY HUMBLE PRIVILEGE TO SHARE WITH you the joy of celebrating, this April, the 40th year of my ordination. Well over three quarters of my priestly life has been lived at Harvard University, first as a doctoral student in biochemistry and then as Chaplain to the Graduate and Professional Schools. It has been, and continues to be, my sincere joy to be able to share the love that Jesus Christ has for us with the graduate students, and to help them understand the meaning and significance of living an adult Catholic life.

The reach of the Harvard Catholic Center (HCC) expands across the entire University's 12-degree granting schools, graduate and undergraduate. It is estimated that 20% of the Harvard graduate student population identifies as Catholic; approximately 3,000 students. Serving the spiritual needs of these students, with whom I work directly on all of the graduate school campuses, is an important mission of the HCC. It is my firm belief that the Catholic Church needs to have a caring



A post-Mass selfie with Fr. George and HBS students.



Harvard Divinity School grads Shelton Nally (l) and Sean McNair (r) with Fr. George, commencement 2016

vision on-campus, to guide the decisions that these leaders in society will make beyond their time at Harvard.

Many young people come to the University with joy in their hearts due to the opportunity presented to them to shape their futures. Here they are met with demands and pressures that compete with the good of persons and the teachings of Christ. The Harvard Catholic Center, through intentional outreach and community building, serves as a faith-filled support system for graduate school campuses. We enthusiastically gather as Catholics in bountiful ways — at Mass, Bible study, film night, theology discussion groups, retreats, and the ever popular Graduate Student & Young Professional pasta dinners (!), to name but a few. All these, and more, are the Lord's vehicles through which we connect, reflect, and thank Him for his abundant blessings. In these years students are constantly offered the affirming embrace that comes with the love of the world (*John 15:19*).

The Harvard Catholic Center implores

the support of Catholic alumni, parents and friends, like you, to continue to nourish the faith of all students during a very important time in their lives. I am writing to ask for your help with our ministry by making a gift to support Catholic life at Harvard. You and I, as committed Catholics, have a tremendous opportunity to combine our efforts and resources. Let us together allow Jesus Christ to remain a force throughout the campus, and beyond, and leave an indelible mark on these young adults.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and go with God in all you do.

Reverend George S. Salzmann, OSFS, S.T.L, AM '84, Ph.D. '87

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“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” – Romans 15:7

IN AUGUST OF 2016 INCOMING MEMBERS OF THE Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Class of 2020, participated in the traditional ‘white coat ceremony.’ Eager students received their medical school garb, and listened to several speakers share substantive words of advice and inspiration. HMS Acting Dean Barbara McNeil, MD’66 particularly encouraged students to be mindful that, “No matter what aspects of this mission call to you most deeply, you will find partners and a home here.”

Dean McNeil’s observation resonated strongly with Kristin Sweeney, DMD candidate class of 2020. A native of Tallahassee, FL, alumna of Rice University, and a deeply committed Catholic, Kristin is intent on living a life to help serve others which is why she is pursuing a career as a medical professional. Yet, she had concerns upon entering Harvard last fall as to how best integrate her faith with her academic pursuits. The “training is intense” according to Kristin, and it is “easy to lose sight of God amidst academics.” Wanting to be part of a Catholic community, to attend daily Mass, and to receive the Eucharist were all paramount to her. Luckily Father George Salzmann, who celebrates his priesthood ordination of 40 years this April, has been a godsend, quite literally, for Kristin Sweeney.

“Fr. George,” as he is affectionately known across Harvard’s graduate and professional school campuses, is no less than “amazing” and has had a very positive impact on Kristin’s



White Mass of the Archdiocese of Boston October 15, 2016, St. John’s Seminary, Brighton, MA. Celebrant, His Eminence, Sean P. Cardinal O’Malley, O.F.M., Cap. (center); Fr. George Salzmann (6th from right); and Kristin Sweeney (5th from right).

first year as both a Harvard medical student and as a young Catholic. She noted that Fr. George meets students’ spiritual needs with great flexibility, responsiveness, and openness — and a keen wit! Fr. George is highly adept at navigating students through the occasionally chaotic logistics of Harvard Catholic community-building — i.e. scheduling Masses, organizing events, offering referrals, connecting people, etc. Kristin, however, is thrilled to be part of, and volunteer within, the HMS Catholic community; it is clear to her that Fr. George is humbly serving God, in part, by serving students. “It is good to commune with other Catholics,” Kristin enthusiastically shared.

And then there have been times when she, as a devout Catholic, faced the challenges of working through thorny ethical and medical issues. Kristin was able to seek, and find, camaraderie in Fr. George’s background as a biochemist, Harvard, PhD ’87, and as a post-doc, molecular biology Princeton ’91. His scientific expertise, his role as a spiritual advisor, and the engaging fellowship that he offers, plus connecting with like-minded Catholics, all truly helped keep her “on track.” There is no doubt, for Kristin Sweeney at least, that Fr. George Salzmann embodies what can only be described as a force for Jesus Christ at Harvard...and beyond. [HCC](#)

Thank you for your generous support!

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The **HARVARD CATHOLIC CENTER** invites students, faculty, alumni and the greater university community to grow into a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ through the Roman Catholic tradition of worship, inquiry, prayer and service to develop informed and compassionate individuals who use their intellectual and spiritual gifts for the benefit of the Church and the World.