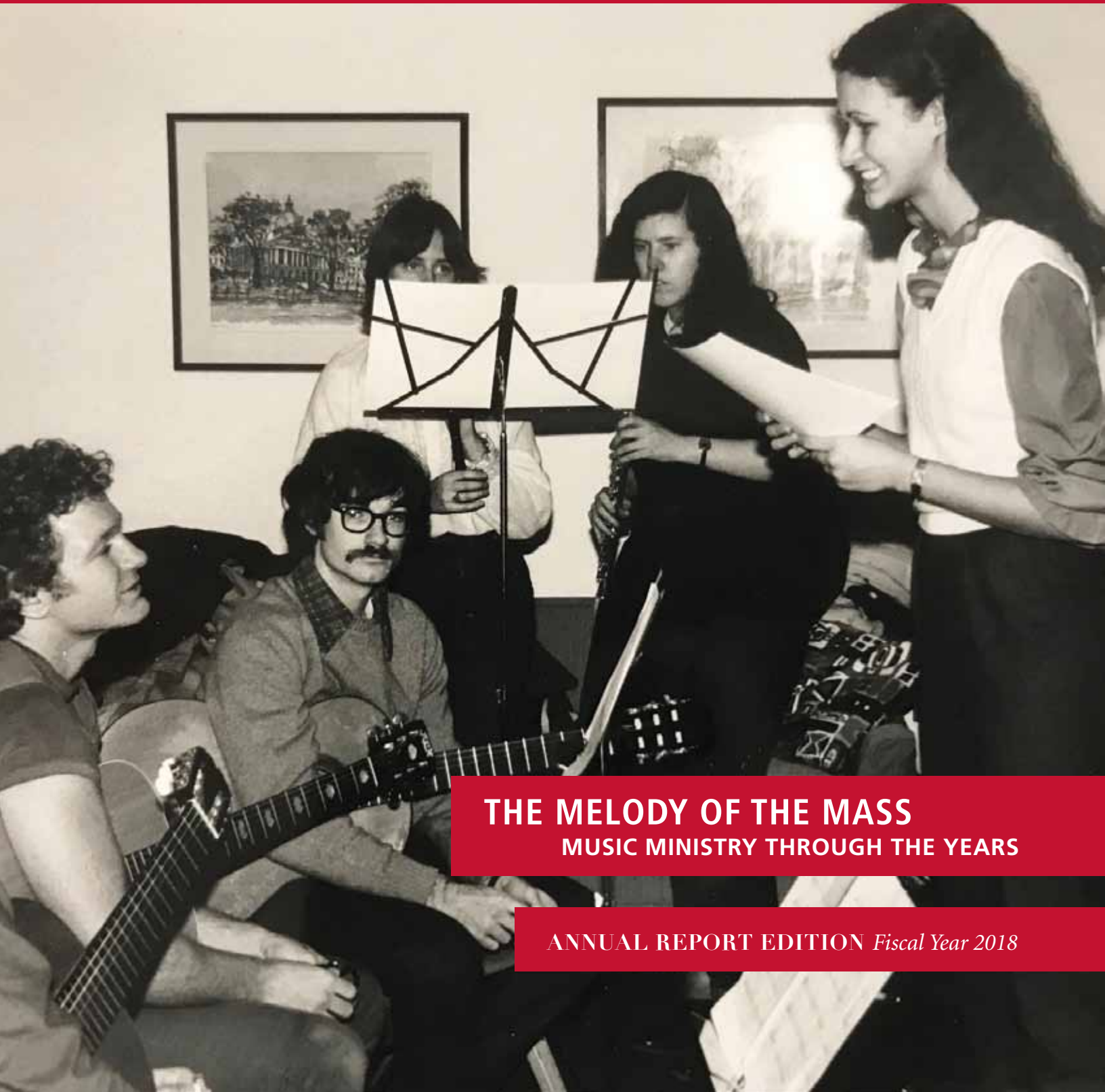




HARVARD CATHOLIC

Magazine

SUMMER 2019



THE MELODY OF THE MASS
MUSIC MINISTRY THROUGH THE YEARS

ANNUAL REPORT EDITION *Fiscal Year 2018*

IN THIS ISSUE

HARVARD CATHOLIC *Magazine*

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MISSION STATEMENT

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.

3

2 News and Notes

6 Becoming Catholic: Harvard's RCIA

8 Our New Chaplain: Father Patrick Fiorillo

12 "Nota Bene" - The Melody of the Mass

20 Harvard Vocations: Father Abishai Vase '12

24 Father George Salzmann Endowed Chair

26 Annual Report of Contributors

32 Chapel of the Women Doctors of the Church

33 Harvard Catholic Center Income & Expenses



FROM THE DESK OF

THE SENIOR CHAPLAIN



Dear Friends,

We are always so pleased when people reach out to us and ask: “When is the next Harvard Catholic Magazine coming out?!” We, too, are very excited when a new edition is ready and sent worldwide to our Harvard alumni and many friends.

Once again, we are happy to fill you in on many of the people, places, and things that make up our daily lives here at the Harvard Catholic Center. This edition has a particular emphasis on the music ministry of the HCC which has so animated the prayer life of our students for decades. With St. Paul’s Parish renowned for its entire music program, we are proud of how our students offer their time and talent to enrich our Masses and many opportunities for prayer. As a graduate of St. Paul’s Choir School myself and as one who has spent much of my life involved with liturgical music, I am very happy with the topic at hand.

We are also pleased to provide a profile of our Undergraduate Chaplain, Fr. Patrick Fiorillo, whose time has begun with great success. There are other stories of students, our retreats, RCIA program, and much more.

This magazine is an important way for us to keep in contact with alumni and other friends, which means so much to us. I had the opportunity this year to travel to a number of cities, meeting with you and your contemporaries. I am always edified by the stories of how the Harvard Catholic Center enriched your time at Harvard and your interest in our students and activities.

We are always delighted when alumni come back for a visit. Whether you are here on business, for a class reunion, to visit your children, or for a Harvard Square holiday, we hope that you will stop by to visit our thriving Catholic Center, to see our many physical improvements, and to chat with our chaplains and staff.

If there is anything we can do for you, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Thank you for praying for us.

God’s blessing on you and all your loved ones.

Rev. William T. Kelly, S.T.D.
Pastor and Senior Chaplain

Norbert Keliher, AB '10 to be Ordained

We joyfully share with you the news that Norbert Keliher, Harvard College Class of 2010 will be ordained in the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans) on Saturday, May 25th at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Washington DC. The ordaining bishop will be Bishop Robert Barron.

Brother Keliher is from the Seattle area, and grew up in St. Olaf Parish in Poulsbo, WA. His family lives in Indianola, a small town across the water from Seattle. At Harvard his concentration was Classics, focusing on Latin and Greek composition. About his vocation he says, "I was drawn to St. Dominic's example of compassion for sinners during his nighttime prayer vigils. It is a joy to discover how that compassion animates all the observances of Dominican life, from chanting the psalms to studying at our desks."

Please pray for Brother Norbert and the Dominicans! ♦



Brother Norbert Keliher, Harvard Class of 2010



Brother Norbert gathers with Harvard classmates and friends including former chaplain Father Bill Murphy at Norbert's ordination as a transitional deacon.

“Pure joy, just simply delighting in the Lord.”

That’s how Nam Hyun Kim ’20 described her experience with the Catholic Student Association retreat, March 2019 at the Franciscan Guest House, Kennebunkport, Maine. The theme of the retreat was “The Beauty of the Cross,” and was led by Fr. Marvin Bearis, OFMCap.

Undergraduate Chaplain Father Patrick Fiorillo is working closely with the CSA to make each weekend experience memorable. “More so than anything the Harvard Catholic Center offers, the weekend retreat is the prime opportunity for students to grow in their relationship with Christ, deepen their sense of vocation and form closer bonds with fellow Catholic students,” says Father Patrick.

The parents of the Class of 2019 are raising money for a collective class gift to benefit future retreats and to help make them affordable for anyone who wants to attend. At the March retreat, 37 undergraduates attended the weekend, making it one of the largest group of students in recent memory.

Sam Ho ’22 summed up his retreat experience this way: “I came to appreciate the necessity of a supportive community in the spiritual life. Throughout our lives, it is inevitable that we will face many struggles and will have to bear numerous crosses; therefore, we must try and find others with whom to bear our crosses so that we are not

trying to bear our crosses alone. The retreat showed me that I did not need to search far and wide for these people when I had members of the CSA to lean on.”

Because of the success of the retreat, the leaders of the Catholic Student Association and Father Patrick are already planning for a return trip to the Franciscan Guest House in October. ♦

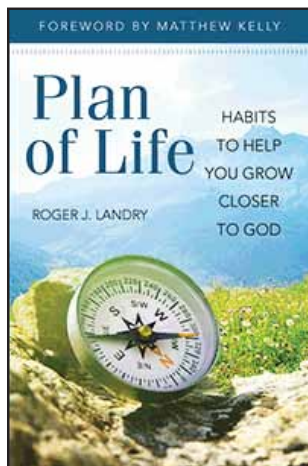


Deacon Tim O'Donnell, AB '76 returns to St. Paul's

It is with great joy that we welcome Permanent Deacon Thomas "Tim" O'Donnell to St. Paul's Parish. Tim is a graduate of Harvard College and earned a masters degree from the Graduate School of Design. He and his wife Elke live in Cambridge and are long-time parishioners at St. Paul's. Tim was recently ministering at St. Peter's Church near the Radcliffe Quad when Cardinal O'Malley assigned him to our parish. Welcome back to St. Paul's, Tim and Elke!



Alumni Authors

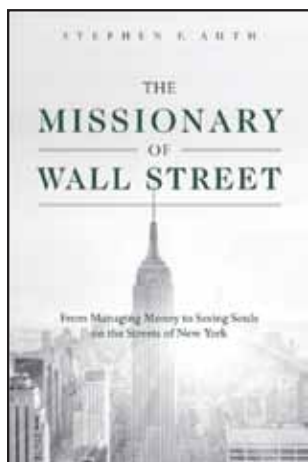


Father Roger Landry, AB '92, *Plan of Life*

Published by Pauline Media. Forward by Matthew Kelly.

There is no better time to change your life than to change it right now, and *Plan of Life* is the guide you'll need. Landry discusses how people form habits, and how in particular you can form holy habits, habits that will bring you closer to Jesus.

Father Landry is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, who works for the Holy See's Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations in New York. He writes for many Catholic publications and is a popular retreat preacher.



Stephen Auth, MBA '85, *The Missionary of Wall Street*

Published by Sophia Institute Press.

In 2009, Steve Auth and his wife, Evelyn began a street evangelization on the streets of New York City. Now, he is bringing his own experiences ministering to the marginalized in what Jim Towe, the president of Ave Maria University, had this to say about the book: "These inspiring tales of Steve Auth's faithful band of Catholic missionaries working the street

corners of New York City reads like a 21st century version of the Acts of the Apostles."

Steve serves as the chief investment officer for Federated Investors and is currently traveling worldwide to share this very personal story, recently appearing on EWTN, Relevant Radio and Fox Business with Maria Bartiromo. ♦

FOCUS on Evangelization

Three from the Class of 2019 to join the Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

The Harvard Catholic Center is now in its seventh year with FOCUS, and the partnership continues to yield dividends for many students. Three Harvard graduates have committed to serving as FOCUS missionaries next year, bringing the total number of Harvard alumni who are missionaries to 11!

NICK COLON

Harvard Class of 2019 from Brockton, Massachusetts shares his thoughts on what FOCUS has meant for him.

“Over the past few years I’ve been able to experience God’s love in so many incredible ways, and FOCUS has been central in my growth as a Catholic and as a man. By growing in my relationship with FOCUS missionaries, I’ve grown in my relationship with Christ through a commitment to daily prayer and Mass, leading and participating in Bible studies, and participating in three mission trips. It’s been said that you cannot give what you do not have; at this point in my life, I have received so much of God’s love through the men and women of FOCUS that I’ve felt called to give that love to others, to grow in communion, and to share my joy with others.”



Nick Colon '19

AUDREY MAGHIRO

Harvard Class of 2019 from Coral Springs, Florida speaks of her experience with FOCUS and what she looks forward to at her college assignment next year.

“During the last two years of my Harvard College experience, FOCUS has been the primary instrument in my spiritual growth. It has provided the avenue for me to bring questions and find answers to my doubts. FOCUS has called me into living a prayerful life as a student, and I can’t wait to see how that call grows deeper as a missionary. I am so excited for the privilege to help students like me fall in love with this beautiful God and learn to accept the love that God has for them.”

BRYANT HUGGINS

Harvard Class of 2019 from Weatherford, Texas served as the vice-president of community development for the Catholic Student Association during his time at Harvard.

“FOCUS has been the primary agent in helping me grow closer to God during college. This organization helps its employees and the students they work with live out the Gospel in a genuine and beautiful way by bringing people into deeper lives of prayer and virtuous friendship. Praise God! I am honored to be able to join the FOCUS mission in the coming year, and I hope that God is able to work through me to reach many diverse students at the college in which I will be stationed.” ♦



Bryant Huggins '19, Audrey Maghiro '19 and Fr. Patrick Fiorillo



RCIA coordinator Marieke Bues (third from left wearing scarf) and the catechumens and candidates at their retreat in Duxbury, Massachusetts.

BECOMING CATHOLIC

“MY DEAR FRIENDS, THESE CATECHUMENS WHO HAVE been preparing for the sacraments of initiation hope that they will be found ready to participate in the rite of election and be chosen in Christ for the Easter sacraments. It is the responsibility of this community to inquire about their readiness before they are presented to the bishop.”

Affirmation by the Assembly - “Sending of the Catechumens for Election”

Marieke Bues serves as coordinator of the RCIA program at the Harvard Catholic Center/St. Paul’s Parish.

As a convert herself (in 2008 in Cologne Cathedral, Germany), she understands fully what these young adults are experiencing on their journey to becoming Catholic.

“St. Paul’s is a great parish because it’s easy to become Catholic here! When I took over as coordinator this fall, I told Father Kelly that we can create an awesome adult initiation program. He got on board right away and along with Father Patrick Fiorillo we instituted some new concepts,” Marieke says.

“The catechumens met at the five o’clock Vigil Mass each week at St. Paul’s, and after the homily they move to the Catholic

Center student lounge to socialize with each other before heading into the practical aspects of the program. We use the newly-renovated Chapel of the Women Doctors of the Church, to learn to pray and understand the different devotions and ways to pray, such as the liturgy of the hours, the rosary, and lectio divina. Then it’s on to topics of deeper discussion.”

“We’ve been able to tap into the Harvard University community, inviting astronomy professor Karin Öberg and Harvard Law School professor Adrian Vermeule to speak to the group about their own conversion to Catholicism and about aspects of the Catholic faith that are important to them - faith and science for Karin, Catholic social teaching for Adrian,” Marieke says. “In February we gathered as a class at the

Miramar Center in Duxbury, Massachusetts for a day-long retreat. It really helped us to have time to reflect and to pray, to bond and to build a sense of community with one another. Many candidates made their first Confession there.”

Marieke notes that the RCIA program has a highly intellectual vibe, which should come as no surprise with twelve Harvard students in the program (seven of them undergraduates) and one Harvard alum. “They really want to dig deep into the faith, to know God - and they grapple with what the Church believes. It is so powerful to see them start to pray in a more meaningful way and add a layer to their path, intellectually and spiritually,” she says. “The Harvard students are very inquisitive and take this journey of conversion very seriously, and they are very enthusiastic. Many are already practicing protestants. They are like sponges, very engaged.”

Grace Chao ’19 and Patrick Magee ’21 certainly fit that description. Grace, who grew up near Centennial, Colorado, describes her family as committed Christians, with parents who started her on her faith journey at a young age.

“I came to Harvard and got involved in Harvard College Faith and Action and their Bible study,” Grace remembers. “There wasn’t one single catalyst that drew me to the Catholic Church; rather, it was a culmination of things. In 2017, I went Rome with the Harvard Vatican Leadership Summit, where

I got to meet many people who led me to a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church as the pinnacle of Christianity and the ‘Truth’ - that communion is the real Blood and Body of Christ. Earlier this year I traveled to SEEK 2019 which is hosted by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. SEEK was the most consequential and spiritual learning experience of my life. I was so moved by the outpouring of joy from everyone I met that I knew I was making the right decision to join the Catholic Church.”

Harvard sophomore Patrick Magee ’21 grew-up in Dallas, Texas. He is concentrating in philosophy and physics and he serves as a mentor/tutor for EVKids, the inner-city tutoring program at the Harvard Catholic Center. Patrick’s journey is similar to Grace’s.

“I’m from a Protestant family who went to church every Sunday,” Patrick recalls. “I can remember going to Mass with one of my friends growing up and feeling drawn to certain aspects of the service, especially the Eucharist – I even would go to an Episcopal church to take communion, because it seemed like the closest think available. In middle school, I started to have some doubts about what I believed, and I got into studying theology. I gradually came to believe that while a lot of Protestant doctrines were individually plausible, Protestantism as a whole wasn’t ‘grounded’ — there seemed no clear way to tell which doctrines

and interpretations were correct, and it lacked the historical continuity one would expect from divine revelation. Catholicism, on the other hand, had a really coherent and integrated worldview, one that seemed to account for all of my questions.”

Harvard is such a secular institution and can sometimes feel like a vacuum for religion. But St. Paul’s and the Harvard Catholic Center fill that void with an active campus ministry.

“I can honestly say that the people I have met at the Harvard Catholic Center and Catholic Student Association are the greatest group of people on campus,” says Grace Chao. “The people I would encounter at the Center are very intelligent and think deeply about how to live out their Catholic faith in concrete ways.”

And Grace is just as enthusiastic about the RCIA program, which introduces practical instruction on how to pray or praying the rosary, but also deeper discussions on the Catholic faith and tradition.

“Studying the saints and their writings, especially St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Augustine have helped me know where to turn. And I really enjoyed having Dr. Sarah Byers, a philosophy professor at Boston College, come and speak to the class.”

Asked if they had any fears or doubts about joining the Church, both agreed that they are “all in or nothing”. With the sincere belief that this is the truest faith and that Catholic teachings are true. Patrick says, “I think my parents will support my decision, knowing it’s something that’s important to me.”

“My pitfall,” says Grace, “is overintellectualizing things. But we have to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us. I went to the Easter Vigil at St. Paul’s last year and I remember thinking to myself, ‘A year from now,



Patrick Magee ’21 serves as a tutor for EVKids. Here he is with Marcellus.

will I be standing here?’ I had to learn to let God lead me to the altar this year.”

“The best part of RCIA is its systemic introduction to Catholicism, laying out the fundamental doctrines week by week,” says Patrick.

Grace agrees. “I like learning how to pray, and about the liturgy of the Church - knowing what the Catholic Church practices and why the priest does what he does during the Mass.”

Each RCIA catechumen has a sponsor who will stand as witness to the candidate’s moral character, faith and intention. Grace’s sponsor is her suite mate, Meredith Jones ’19 who has been influential in her journey to joining the Church. Grace fondly remembers Meredith quoting Saint Josemaría Escrivá: “When you approach the tabernacle, remember that Christ has been waiting for you for over twenty centuries!”

Patrick’s sponsor is Juan Carlos Fernández-del Castillo ’20, who coincidentally has a younger brother, Juan Pablo, who attends St. Paul’s Choir School and will be singing at the Easter Vigil at St. Paul’s Church.

“I truly believe that what we offer to become Catholic is very attractive for young people,” declares Marieke. “And if the Harvard Catholic Center and St. Paul’s didn’t exist, students might not be drawn to converting to Catholicism. It is so important for the Church to have a strong presence at Harvard.” ♦



Meredith Jones ’19 (l) and Grace Chao ’19 at the SEEK Conference, January 2019.

FATHER PATRICK FIORILLO

THE CATHOLIC CENTER'S NEW CHAPLAIN





"VATICAN III" PERFORMS AT ST. PAUL'S FEB. 2019.
From left to right is Matt Laird, Larry Valliere,
Fr. Patrick Fiorillo, Fr. Matthew Gill, and Kevin Kearns
(Harvard Class of 2020, special guest performer).



Father Patrick Fiorillo was named parochial vicar of St. Paul's Parish and undergraduate chaplain of the Harvard Catholic Center in May 2018. Born and raised in the Boston suburb of Franklin, Father Patrick attended St. John's High School in Shrewsbury and then the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford with the idea of a career in music. His vocation to the priesthood was very much influenced by the same kind of Catholic activity center as the one here at Harvard, where he now serves as chaplain. Father Patrick was ordained by Cardinal Séan O'Malley in 2016, and was first assigned as parochial vicar to the St. Brendan's/St Ann's collaborative in Dorchester before coming to Harvard Square. He keeps music in his life with his jazz-funk quartet, "Vatican III."

What was your dream as a young person?

To become a rock star! (Laughs) I started playing drums when I was ten, and I was a decent performer, but not so good that I could do it for a living. Then the thought of being a studio producer came to me, and I pursued that idea for a while with no clear plan in mind. At Hartford, I started attending the Newman Club. Initially it was a means of making friends, nothing more, but I started to form deep friendships there - friends who were devout and passionate about the faith in ways I had never seen before. That really had a strong impact on my freshman year, and set me on a different path. And the particular experience of a retreat at school was a special time of encountering Christ personally and deepening my faith.

I know you're a huge fan of sacred music. You're at the right place, with the St. Paul's Choir School such an important part of the parish.

Since many of my friends at Hartford and the Hartt School of Music were classical musicians, including one of my closest friends who was studying organ and sacred music, I came to appreciate the genre. My recording focus shifted to classical, mainly recording choirs in churches, and over time it became a great passion of mine. It took

my musical interests in a direction I wasn't expecting, and is certainly applicable to the priesthood, and now here at one of the most respected centers of sacred music in the country in the St. Paul's Choir School.

So when did the music idea give way to a consideration of the priesthood?

It was during my third of my five years at Hartt. I was 21 years old. There were many seeds planted before that, but the turning point - the defining moment - was junior year when I found myself involved in so many things, but was still unsatisfied somehow. A pivotal moment was watching a vocational documentary called "Fishers of Men," a powerful video that takes you through the lives of priests, real priests, and I saw myself exactly in those roles. And the answer came to me: the fulfillment of these desires was priesthood - to give myself totally to the service of the church.

How would you describe your experience in the seminary?

There are always questions along the way. The easy part was deciding to go into the seminary; the hard part was staying in the seminary. The natural process of formation is to purify your own desires and intentions, so I didn't become fully confident in my decision until halfway through my time

at St. John's. I looked back on my initial discernment in college and wondered if maybe I didn't feel the same way I did before, so I had to work through that, and understand how God was purifying my intentions and forcing me to go deeper, beyond that initial zeal to a more mature resolution, using all the resources the seminary gives you to grow in your interior life.

You also serve as a spiritual director for Pure in Heart America, a Boston-based young adult group dedicated to promoting the Church's teaching on chastity through the study of Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

John Paul II's teaching on the human person and sexuality helps people today understand what the church has always taught on the big issues: Who are we? What does it mean to me a human person? What is this idea of making a gift of ourselves? What is authentic human love, and how do we express it in a way that is most fulfilling it? By extension, we can ask: What is a vocation? What is marriage, and what does that mission entail? The movement was brought here from Ireland 10 years ago to uphold the virtue of chastity and the dignity of human life. It meets each week for prayer and discussion in the quest to be pure in heart, and hopefully to form deep, authentic friendships, which is an essential part of living a chaste life.



Alex Youn '21, Hasani Hayden '19, Father Patrick, Elizabeth Hofer (Harvard FOCUS missionary), Frances Choi '21 and Adam LaBarthe (Harvard FOCUS missionary) at World Youth Day, 2019.



Father Fiorillo meets up with Harvard alumni and students at World Youth Day, Panama. (l-r) Sister Ann Kateri '99 CFR (Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal) and from the Harvard Class of 2021, Joey Barisas, Gabriel Oliaro, Pedro Paulo Weizenmann, Caleb Stickney.

This flies in the face of all that society is teaching us today.

True, but in the last decade it has caught on in the broader church, and countless people have experienced conversions by studying John Paul II on this issue, and experiencing the joy and peace it brings to our lives. I know from my own experience that when we can articulate these issues, everything else falls into place. All the “no’s” that seem to turn people off are actually for an even greater “yes.” Our challenge, then, is to uncover the beauty of that “yes” to authentic love because when we do, it becomes very attractive and transforms our entire life.

So you’ll never be a rock star, but you are still playing music. Tell me about your jazz band, “Vatican III.”

We started in the seminary together. There was a guy who played bass and we just started jamming together. A year later, another entered who played guitar, and the next year a sax player entered. There are now four of us.

I love the name - whose idea was it?

Mine - I take all credit! (laughs) Everyone had his own idea, but we settled on Vatican III - it was a trio at the time. We play “jazz funk” - everything from Herbie Hancock, to Billy Cobham, to Miles Davis. We try

to perform a few times a year at various events. We’ve played at most of our parishes - it’s an opportunity to bring the parish community together for a fun night.

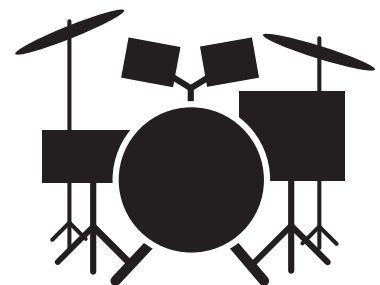
What do you enjoy most about your assignment at St. Paul’s?

What I love about it is campus ministry. My own personal conversion came through campus ministry. It was the center of my whole life socially and spiritually in college, so I’ve always been passionate about sharing the faith with young adults. It’s a unique time in their lives, a formative time, so it’s an honor and a privilege to walk with them on their journey. I have to remind myself that I’m 10 to 14 years older than these undergrads. They’re like spiritual sons and daughters, but also friends. It’s why I wanted to become a diocesan priest: to establish long-term relationships in a stable setting - you are here where they live. It’s a great community.

How much of a challenge do you find the culture at Harvard?

One could argue that Harvard is currently the epicenter of secularism in the United States and beyond, so that naturally presents challenges for the students in striving to live out their faith. But anyone looking for a vibrant Catholic community will have no trouble finding

it at St. Paul’s and the Harvard Catholic Center. For one thing, I’ve been pushing getaway retreats - they’re a crucial part of the mission here for formation. We had a great retreat this fall, and are preparing another for the spring. For growing in understanding and love of God, retreats offer a unique experience to go deeper. It was where I first experienced spiritual conversion, so I know the power personally. And every student came back from our fall retreat renewed and on fire. Our secular society is so pervasive that it truly affects the way we view ourselves, and the world. So the retreat is a great opportunity for the students to really step back from it all and refocus their prayer lives, their understanding of the faith, and their vocation. ♦

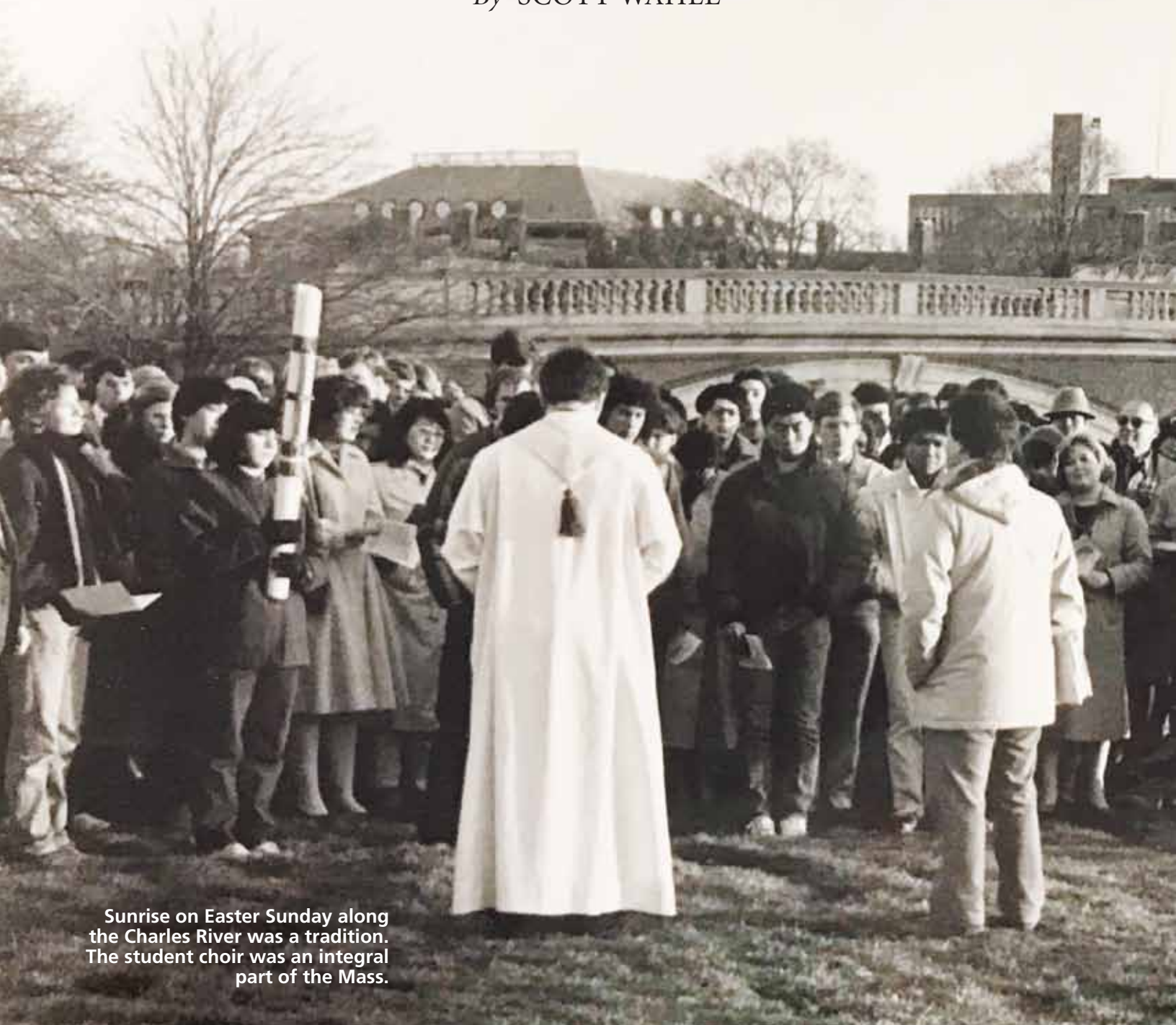


“NOTA BENE”

The Melody of the Mass

Harvard students carry on the music tradition at HCC liturgies.

By SCOTT WAHLE

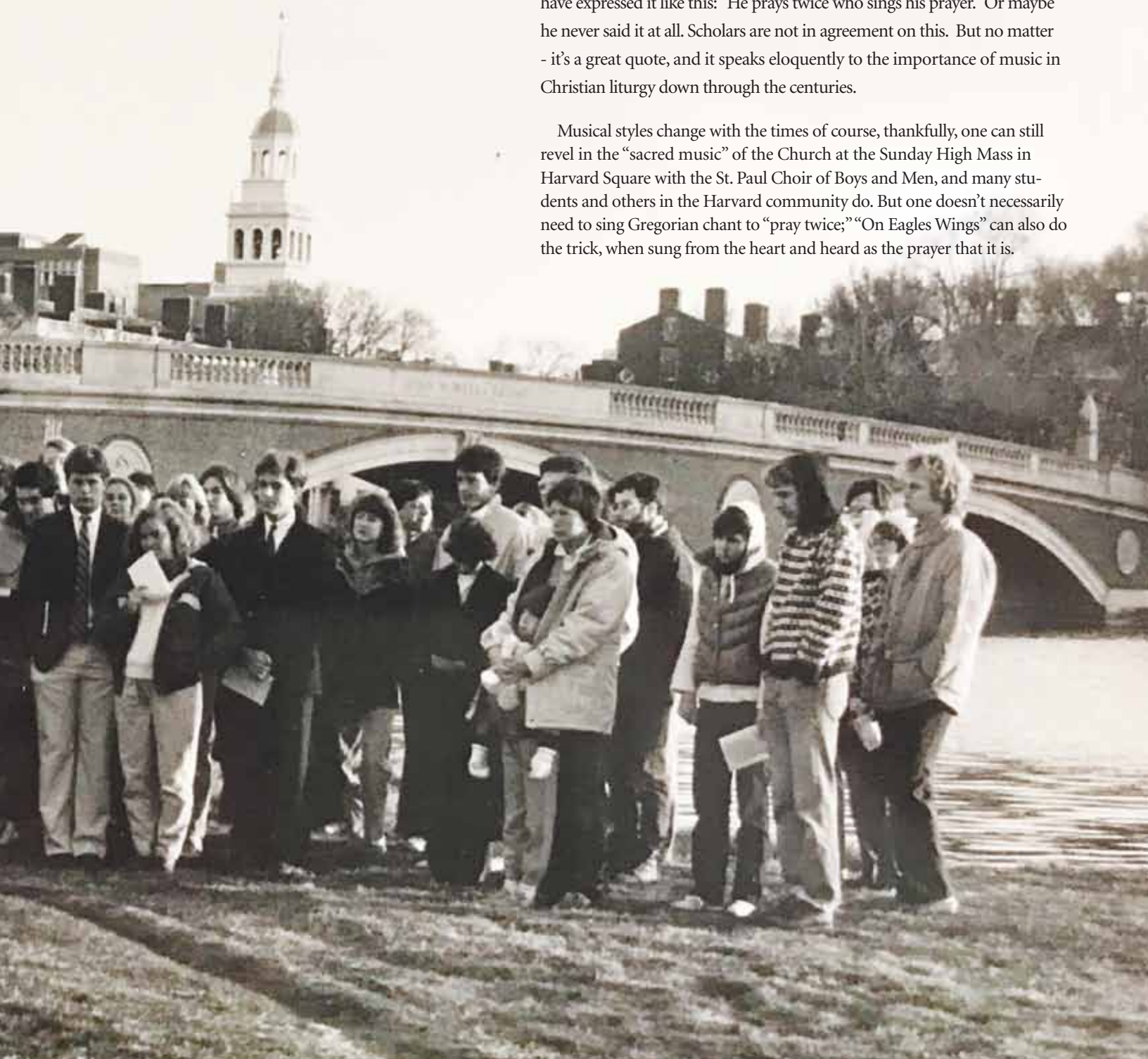


Sunrise on Easter Sunday along the Charles River was a tradition. The student choir was an integral part of the Mass.

“He who sings prays twice.”

ST. AUGUSTINE IS COMMONLY CITED AS THE AUTHOR of this quote; he even gets credit for it in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Now Augustine may have said, “He who sings well prays twice.” Or he may have expressed it like this: “He prays twice who sings his prayer.” Or maybe he never said it at all. Scholars are not in agreement on this. But no matter - it’s a great quote, and it speaks eloquently to the importance of music in Christian liturgy down through the centuries.

Musical styles change with the times of course, thankfully, one can still revel in the “sacred music” of the Church at the Sunday High Mass in Harvard Square with the St. Paul Choir of Boys and Men, and many students and others in the Harvard community do. But one doesn’t necessarily need to sing Gregorian chant to “pray twice;” “On Eagles Wings” can also do the trick, when sung from the heart and heard as the prayer that it is.



There is a great tradition of music at Harvard’s student Masses down through the years, and the men and women we spoke with — some who prayed and sang at this year’s Sunday evening student Masses — all echo the same themes: that music is an important element in the Catholic liturgy, and that it can be an aid to a prayerful disposition at Mass when approached prayerfully. Maybe it’s even like praying twice.

“I always think singing is an elevated way of praying, so the music was chosen with prayerfulness in mind. There were certain themes we wanted to bring out...even in (liturgical) ‘ordinary’ time,” said Annie Dang ’16, who as an undergrad led the music at the HBS Mass all four years at Harvard College. She moved away for two years, and is now working at the business school and once again playing at the Sunday evening graduate Mass at the Class of 1959 chapel on the HBS campus.

“I started at Harvard College in the fall 2012, and saw an ad in the St. Paul’s bulletin asking for people to play music at HBS. The 8:00 p.m. Mass

worked better for me, and I started playing regularly. When I moved back, I looked to see who the current music leaders were. I missed it.”

All the current and former students we spoke with expressed that same commitment to participating in the music liturgy throughout their Harvard careers. Tom Nunan ’15 is another student who got involved directly with the HBS Mass when he came to Harvard, and he continued to play at Mass for three more years after graduation. For Tom Abel ’19, who with Alana Davitt ’19 is the current music leader of the student Masses at St. Paul’s on Sunday evenings, it’s the same story.

“I fell into it at the beginning when the choir director sent out an email asking for fill-in help with the music liturgy. I had always wanted to get involved in Catholic life at Harvard, specifically at Mass, and the fill-in turned into four years of a great experience. This has been one of my big commitments here at Harvard, and none more satisfying. It’s truly been a humbling and amazing experience. I will miss it greatly.”

Brett Giroir ’82
(at left with guitar)
and Linda (Schmidt)
Selwa ’82 (right) were
an important part of
the student choir.



*“Address...one another in psalms
and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing and making melody to
the Lord with all your heart”*

(Ephesians 5:19)

WHEN FATHER TOM POWERS became chaplain of the Harvard Catholic Center in 1975, he engineered the move from the main church upstairs at St. Paul’s to the lower church, where it remained until 2013.

“The basement of the church had been abandoned, so with a group of students, we cleaned the lower church out, painted it, and began the student Mass, which became our primary vehicle for building up a sense of student community, because they then took over the music,” said Father Powers. “We pulled up benches in piles, and had to empty out everything. The floor was all dug up, and we couldn’t afford a new floor, so we just painted it red.”

Fr. Powers remembers that as a time when the music shifted as well.

“Students came with an extraordinary range of ability, and built up a choir of about 30 students,” he



Music at the HBS chapel is an important part of the liturgy. Here Tom Nunan '15 and Annie Dang '16 rehearse prior to Mass.

recalled. “They organized it, conducted it, and we had about 600 to 700 students for Mass on a Sunday night. They did wonderful work with music - it was eclectic, incorporating the contemporary with the classical, and very strong on incorporating the congregation.”

“He packed the place,” remembers Harvard graduate chaplain Father George Salzmann. “The piano and guitar carried well in that lower ceiling space.”

Linda (Schmidt) Selwa '82 and Brett Giroir '82 were students at that time, sharing music responsibilities during their years at Harvard, with Linda focusing on the singing, and Brett on the musicians. (Both would become doctors; Linda is a neurologist at the University of Michigan, while Brett’s concentration was pediatric medicine before adding a teaching role at the University of Texas med school.)

“We were a tight group of people who worked together, cared for each other, and enjoyed enhancing the liturgy of the church,” said Giroir, who today holds a senior position in the government as the assistant secretary for health in the Department of Health and Human Services. “I don’t know if they came for the music, but good music gets the heart ready to receive messages. We really worked hard to make the music as good as possible, and link it to liturgical themes.”

Musically, it was what one would call a “guitar Mass,” with other instruments joining in when available (“We recruited a trumpet player for Easter,” noted Linda), playing the music that is commonly heard today in parishes all over the country.

Mass at dawn was an Easter tradition in those days, It would start at an outdoor location, and the congregation would process to the church at the Offertory for the rest of the Mass. Linda remembers a year when it started at the river, and the walk back to St. Paul’s took longer than expected, “and we had to repeat the same song for about 20 minutes.”



Tom Abel '19, helped to lead the student choir for four years.

“How I wept,
deeply moved by your hymns,
songs and the voices that echoed
through your church!
What emotion I experienced in them!
Those sounds flowed into my ears,
distilling the truth in my heart.
A feeling of devotion surged within me,
and tears streamed down my face
—tears that did me good.”

St. Augustine

“I learned that Easter in Boston was a whole lot colder than in Texas,” said Giroir, who practiced for many years in Dallas after earning his medical degree at the University of Texas. “And it was a lot harder to play my instrument!”

Harvard’s student body is, of course, quite diverse, and Catholics have the choice of music from the

Church’s sacred catalogue at 11:00 am, or that of an excellent adult choir at the 9:30 a.m. liturgy. And then there are the student Masses: “the five” at St. Paul’s church, the HBS Mass at the Class of ’59 inter-faith chapel, and a law school Mass at Wasserstein Hall.

“Looking back, that Sunday evening Mass, with music for the general population of students became known as the key gathering point for Catholics on campus. The reason it took hold was the music,” remembered Father Powers, who today lives in residence at St. Agatha’s in Milton, Massachusetts.

“Ted Marier (St. Paul’s Choir School founder) wouldn’t like it, but the contemporary music galvanized the community.”

“We played just about everything from the St. Louis Jesuit music books,” Linda recalled. ‘Be Not Afraid,’ ‘King of Glory,’ ‘Earthen Vessels,’ ‘Eagles Wings’...but we would occasionally spice thing up for the high Holy Days or just for the fun of it, playing music we found in other places like Latin choral music and Gregorian chants.”

“No drums or amps,” added Brett. “The music was modern for the 80’s but we didn’t push any limits - although we did play an occasional Beatles tune.” Well, we had to ask: which Beatles tune? “Let it Be,” said Brett.



“The repetitive aspects, for me, offer a way to pray...” Liz Engle, PhD candidate in economics

“Song and music fulfill their function as signs in a manner all the more significant when they are more closely connected... with the liturgical action.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church

“FOR ME, THE MUSIC SHOULD BE very familiar; when you say a prayer you settle into those words,” said Liz Engle, currently a doctoral candidate in economics, who alternates singing and playing with Annie Dang each week at the HBS Mass. “The repetitive aspects, for me, offer a way to pray - out loud and with people. I also really love how liturgical music starts the Mass, welcomes people, and gives them a song to lead with and go out with.”

“We have great music at the HBS Mass and that makes all the difference,” enthused Father Salzmann, who has held that post for a quarter century. “The HBS chapel is a fascinating place architecturally with a glass pyramid of an entry, and it comes to life with a great cantor leading everyone and a pianist who brings the keys to life. One hears hymns anew as she plays rapturously with the enthusiasm of faith.”

For New Jersey senior Tom Abel, music ministry is part of a larger Catholic experience at Harvard.

“I’m in the Catholic Student Association,” he says. “Most of my close friends whom I didn’t meet in the dorm were in the CSA, a great community of undergrads, and the choir is one small part of that group. I love that we are the ‘come one, come all’ group, an avenue for people who come to the Mass to be a part of that larger ministry.”

Like so many music directors before him, Tom pays special attention to match the music with the message of the readings.

“Looking back, that Sunday evening Mass, with music for the general population of students became known as the key gathering point for Catholics on campus.”

Fr. Tom Powers, Former Catholic Center Chaplain (1975-1986)



“If there is a clear thread through the readings—love, discipleship, praise—we include songs on that. When I first started, I had experience with the ‘Gather’ hymnal (the collection of songs used in most churches), but didn’t have everything on my fingertips. Now I can tell you the number of the song and which book it’s in, so when I see the scripture readings for the week, I’ll recognize a line from the hymn, and we will often sing that hymn.”

But there was at least one occasion when there was another motive for a song selection. Or was there? Father Salzmann, who grew up in Philadelphia, was the celebrant on Super Bowl Sunday a year ago, when the Philadelphia Eagles beat the New England Patriots. He happened to be wearing green vestments, the Eagles’ color (“a liturgical directive,” explained Father George). The hymnal in use was not the red parish hymnal but the green student hymnal, and when Tom Abel and his fellow musicians played #611 in the green hymnal, ‘On Eagles Wings,’ “The other shoe dropped,” said Father George. “Completely causal, in my view.” Pats fans needn’t be reminded that the Eagles won the game.

Sunday evening
student Mass – 1980’s

*A cry from deep within our being,
music is a way for God to lead us
to the realm of higher things.*

St. Augustine, as quoted in
Pope Pius XII’s Encyclical On Sacred Music

HERE IS THE SUNDAY MUSIC LINEUP for a 5pm student Mass earlier this year:

- » We Gather Together
- » Shelter Me, O God
- » Father, We Thank Thee
- » I Am the Bread of Life
- » God of Our Fathers

Familiar? These days, the choir sings in the loft of the main church, making use of St. Paul’s historic organ - and filling most of the pews.

“Above all, it’s important to remember that my role is to be a facilitator of praying,” says Abel, “not to put on a concert. But in terms of expanding





The student choir, circa 1979, performs in St. Paul's lower church.

repertoire, yes - I try to pick songs people have grown up with, but people have grown up with different things.”

“Music is critical to the liturgy,” said Father Powers. “Students were always very responsive during my time, and the student Mass was an uplifting experience. Our musicians and singers understood their peers better than we did and were able to figure out how to connect musically. After a while, even Reverend Peter Gomes (professor at the Harvard Divinity School and minister at Harvard’s Memorial Church) said, ‘I have to come over sometime and see what’s this is all about!’

What it’s all about in its essence...is the Mass. But there is a tradition of lending one’s musical talents in service to the liturgy that goes back to the very first guitar Mass.

“It was a happy time, and a safe place where we didn’t fall victim to the ‘imposter syndrome’ — you know, thinking, ‘I’m the dummy at Harvard,’” recalled Linda Selwa about the people she played with on Sunday evenings 35 years ago. “This gave them a safe place where they could feel they belonged to something.”

The same has been true for the congregation. And music has played an important role in creating that sacred space.

“Last Sunday I heard someone whistling our song as they were leaving,” said Liz Engle. “That’s the way it’s supposed to be.” ♦



HARVARD VOCATIONS

FATHER ABISHAI VASE, AB '12

For much of its history, the Archdiocese of Boston's seminary in Brighton was filled to capacity, with a lot of guys from Dorchester and Southie. After decades of declining enrollment, St. John's is once again a bustling center of study for priesthood discernment, but now the seminarians come from all over the world. Among them is a Harvard man, the recently ordained Abishai Vase AB '12, who was born in India and raised in the Arab Gulf countries, mostly Dubai (UAE).

"Like many Indians at that time, my father went to the Arab Gulf because of the better economic opportunities," explains Father Vase. "I was raised as a Protestant, but my four siblings and I were all enrolled in the Catholic school because it was the only school at that time that was exempt from the mandatory Islamic studies courses that non-Muslims had to take. Looking back, I remember being quite impressed with the older Italian missionaries — both priests and sisters - who had come to a very isolated part of the world at a time when communication and travel was more difficult, to serve the migrant Christians there. At the age of 16, not long before coming to the United States for college, I became a Catholic."

That college was Harvard, where Abishai got involved with the Catholic Student Association, and helped out at St. Paul's parish with religious education and serving the early Mass on Sunday mornings.

"I still have memories of waking up late on Sunday morning and having to run all the way from the Radcliffe Quadrangle to St. Paul's to be in time for the 7:30 a.m. Mass," he recalled. "A number of my friends

were involved in the CSA, especially in the early years, and there was also a group of us who used to attend daily Mass and then get breakfast together."

And when did Father Vase first have the thought that he was being called to the priesthood?

"If we feel that there are bad ambassadors aplenty, how much more are good ambassadors needed? So that is what I pray that the Lord will make me."

"I actually did not seriously consider the priesthood until my senior year, although some of my friends claim that they saw it coming a long time before! It's hard to pinpoint influences. But I was quite struck with the general kindness and availability of some of the priests. I remember once

Father George (Salzmann) walking back all the way from the Divinity School to the Student Center to open a locked door for me (and then walking back), all in very good humor; Father Bill Murphy going to the dining halls and sitting down with random students; Father James Savage faithfully coming down at 10:00 p.m. to close the nightly Eucharistic Adoration for the students in the Chapel of the Women Doctors of the Church. I would also say that volunteering in the homeless shelter, working with students, and a variety of other experiences really gave me a sense of how much people in all walks of life are searching for God, and how important it is to be accompanied on that journey.”

And that is what Father Vase will be doing when he takes his first assignment in the Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia, which covers the UAE, Oman and Yemen. (As he explains it, an Apostolic Vicariate is functionally equivalent to a diocese, but is usually missionary territory.) When asked about committing to the priesthood in the midst of the current crisis in the Church, Father Vase had this thoughtful answer:

“I think it is a good reminder to us of what can happen when we trade in Gospel values for secular clout or prestige, or place

people on a pedestal. Our faith has to be based on Christ. One of the tragedies of the crisis is that this love of God is obscured for many people because of the actions of those whom they looked at as being Christ’s ambassadors. But that doesn’t change the truth about the Cross, and God’s love for humanity. If we feel that there are bad ambassadors aplenty, how much more are good ambassadors needed? So that is what I pray that the Lord will make me. Our present crisis is hardly unique in the history of Christianity - but I think this is the vision that has always prompted renewal and re-commitment.”

Like every Christian who seeks friendship with God, Father Vase’s faith journey will take him to different places during his lifetime. But for now, sharing that faith is the simple focus of his priesthood.

“In John 10:10, Christ says, ‘I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.’ For me, that summarizes the heart of the matter: we find such joy and happiness in knowing and following Christ, who reveals God’s love. It really gives meaning to life and it’s something that once you’ve experienced, you have to share with others. That’s why I always liked the motto of the CSA from John 17: ‘Ut



Father Vase celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Paul’s, March 3, 2019.

cognoscat Te’ (‘That they may know You’). It really captures the point of being a priest.”

.....
Father Abishai Vase was ordained a priest on January 4, 2019 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. He completed his degree this spring at St. John’s Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts.



Over 4,000 people attended Fr. Vase’s ordination Mass at St. Joseph’s Cathedral, Abu Dhabi. In fact, the crowd was so large the Mass had to be moved outdoors to the school next to the Cathedral.



HARVARD CATHOLIC CENTER VOCATIONS



Our community and life at the HCC encourages students to make full use of this special time in their lives for discerning their vocation.

In just the past few years, we've counted four marriage proposals in our Women Doctors Chapel alone! We're

also blessed to be able to count dozens of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life. As a way of highlighting those vocations and encouraging students to consider it themselves, we've designed a HCC vocations poster, which proudly hangs around the center and the church!

Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
(Matthew 4:19)



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AB 1972
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Come spouse of Christ, receive the crown which the Lord has prepared for you for all eternity.
(Magnificat antiphon for Common of Virgins)



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MA 2010
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MOTHER OF THE EUCCHARIST



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STRONG OBSERVANCE
MOUNT SAINT MARY'S ABBEY



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AB 1995
FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF
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Believe what you read. Teach what you believe. Practice what you teach.
(Mass for the Ordination of Deacons)



**DEACON THOMAS H.
O'SHEA, JR.**
AB 1983
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON



**DEACON
CHRISTOPHER E. RYAN**
AB 1982
ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES



**DEACON TIM
O'DONNELL**
AB 1976
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON



**DEACON DAN J.
PAGNANO**
AB 1971
ARCHDIOCESE OF HOUSTON

May he be a shepherd to your holy flock, and a high priest blameless in your sight, ministering to you night and day.
(Prayer of Consecration of a Bishop)



**MOST REVEREND
BERNARD A. HEBDA**
AB 1981
ARCHBISHOP OF ST. PAUL/
MINNEAPOLIS



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ROBERT W. MCELROY**
AB 1976
BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO



**CARDINAL AVERY R.
DULLES, S.J.**
AB 1948
SOCIETY OF JESU
IN MEMORIAM

“THERE IS ALWAYS SO MUCH JOY WHEN FATHER GEORGE IS AROUND”

Harvard graduate students share their thoughts on what Father Salzmann’s ministry has meant to their Harvard experience.

WHEN I WAS DECIDING ON GRAD SCHOOLS, the fact that Harvard had a dedicated Catholic chaplain for graduate students was one of the reasons I chose Harvard’s chemistry program over other top programs. Moreover, as I’ve gotten to know and work with Father George over the past several years, I’ve always appreciated his encouragement and trust in my work, and in me personally, even when the trials of grad school would cause me to doubt my own abilities. Having earned a Harvard PhD in biophysics himself, Father George has been a tremendous source of inspiration to me and many other students over the years.

Josh Shutter,
PhD candidate in chemical physics



The graduate student and young professional pasta dinners which Fr. George started are still very popular. (l-r) Josh Shutter, Dr. Connemara Doran, and Scott Siegler help organize the monthly gatherings.

I HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING FATHER GEORGE through the Catholic Student Association as a first-year medical student. Father George takes the time to get to know students one on one and there is always so much joy when Father George is around. He was instrumental in my decision to help lead the Harvard Medical School CSA. Thanks to Father George, the medical students have had a consistent champion of the Catholic Faith, and a deeply committed spiritual community where so many virtuous friendships have been fostered that might otherwise never have happened. I owe a lot to Father George.

Joe Sedlak,
5th year student, Harvard Medical School



Joe Sedlak, MD, PhD candidate (far right) after Mass at St. Paul’s along with (l-r), Daniel Salem, his fiancé, Kate and Mary Broker ’20.

THE FATHER GEORGE SALZMANN GRADUATE CHAPLAIN CHAIR

Father George Salzmänn has served as chaplain to Harvard's graduate students since 1992. The Harvard Catholic Center intends to honor his achievements and ministry by creating the Father George Salzmänn Graduate Chaplain Chair.

.....

This endowed fund will give the Harvard Catholic Center the resources necessary to ensure that a priest chaplain will be on staff to nourish the faith for graduate students, young professionals and new families studying and working at Harvard, and we invite you to join in honoring him. You may use the

enclosed envelope with your gift/pledge or by visiting www.HarvardCatholic.org/Salzmänn. Gifts to this endowed fund will be invested in a stand-alone fund within the Catholic Community Fund (www.catholiccommunityfund.org) a separate trust from the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston Corporation Sole. Your participation will allow us to achieve our goal so that future priest chaplains will carry the title, "Father George Salzmänn Graduate Chaplain Chair."

This endowed chair celebrates Father George's commitment to sharing God's love with all of us – and always with humility and a warm smile. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration, and please keep Father George in your prayers. ♦

Thank you to our generous benefactors who have already made a commitment to the Father George Salzmänn Graduate Chaplain Chair. (Includes Gifts and Pledges as of May 1, 2019)

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California Supreme Court Justice & member of the Harvard Corporation, Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar AB'93, spoke at the invitation of the Harvard Catholic Law Students Association, March 30.

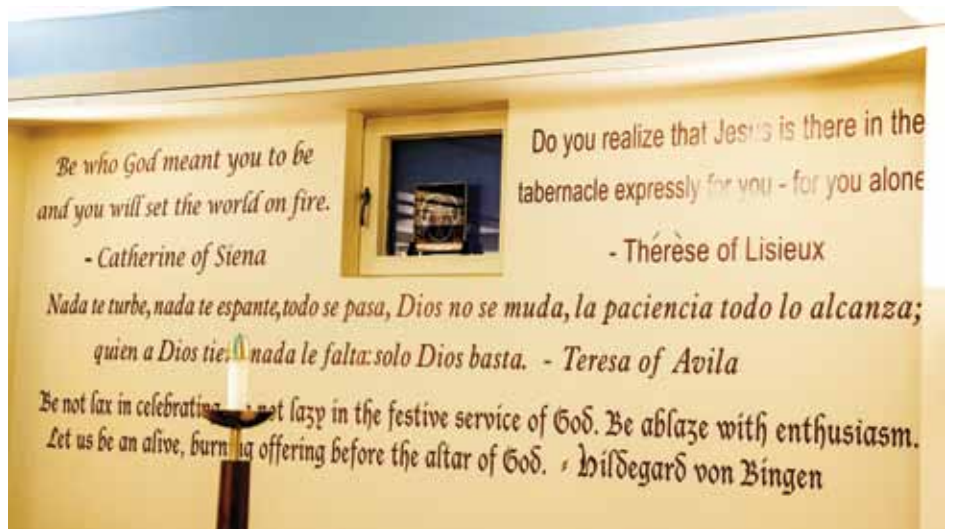
SENIOR CLASS GIFT

The Class of 2018 came together to help raise up our Catholic faith in a significant way with the renovation of the chapel inside the Catholic Center, which was renamed “The Chapel of the Women Doctors of the Church.” According to senior chaplain Father Bill Kelly, the renovation has had a tremendous impact on the devotional life of the students. “Not a day goes by when there isn’t a student in the chapel, praying or sitting quietly, reflecting on God’s many blessings. The chaplains regularly celebrate Baptisms there and even the occasional Mass for small groups. This gift will benefit Harvard Catholic students for many years to come. We are so thankful for the Class of 2018 and the members of the St. Paul’s Parish who made this renovation possible.”

The Class of 2018 Senior Gift Committee:

Paul and Jackie Haley
Kevin and Patti O’Meara
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Special thanks to Francesco “Chip” Piatti for his many hours working with the project.



Thank you to our benefactors for the gift of the Chapel of the Women Doctors of the Church.

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FISCAL YEAR 2018 (JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018)

The Harvard Catholic Center relies on the support of alumni, parents, foundations and friends to be able to provide essential evangelization and ministry to the undergraduate and graduate student communities.

Our ministry does not receive funding from Harvard or the Archdiocese of Boston. That is why the Annual Fund is so critical to our mission: bringing students closer to their relationship with Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, inquiry and Catholic social teaching.

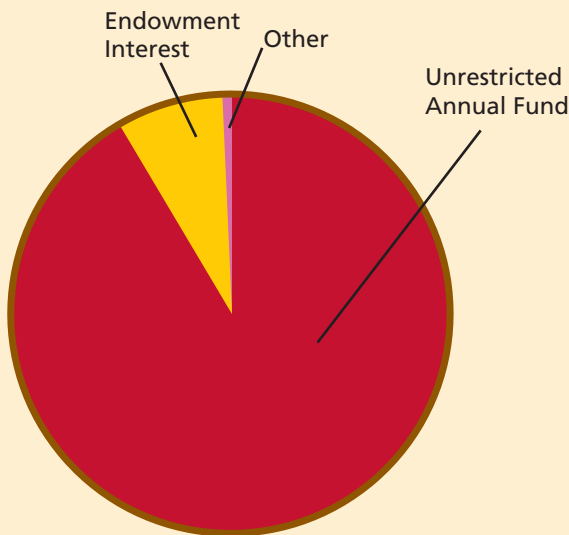
Thank you for your ongoing support. Please continue to pray for the Harvard Catholic Center.

INCOME

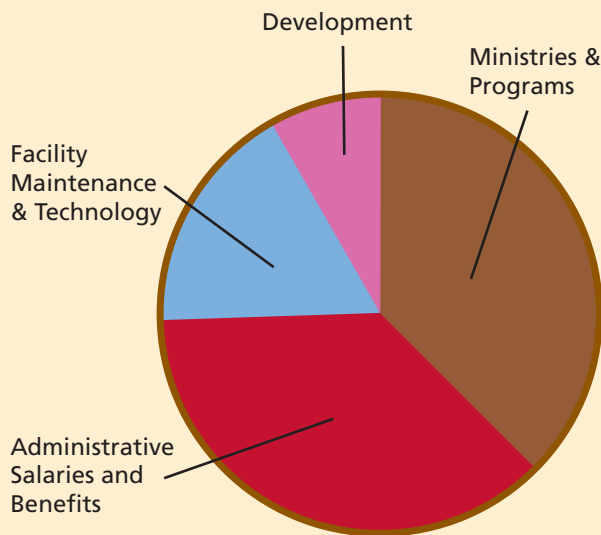
Unrestricted Annual Fund	\$477,589
Endowment Interest	\$41,954
Other	\$2,263
TOTAL INCOME	\$521,806

EXPENSE

Ministries and Programs <i>incl. three priest stipends and FOCUS</i>	\$216,017
Administrative Salaries and Benefits	\$211,410
Facility Maintenance & Technology	\$99,729
Development (<i>including printing & postage</i>)	\$46,461
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$573,617



INCOME



EXPENSE

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Please contact Doug Zack, Director of Advancement
by email dzack@harvardcatholic.org or by phone (617) 491-8400 ext. 325
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Save The Date

Mass of the Holy Spirit

Sunday, September 15, 11:00 AM
St. Paul's Church
Bishop Robert Reed, Celebrant

Freshman Family Weekend Mass

Sunday, November 3, 9:30 AM
St. Paul's Church
Reception in the HCC Student Lounge following Mass



Ash Wednesday Mass @ Harvard Kennedy School of Government