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Inside this issue

The Ministry of Music	2
Student's Reflection on UCC Hogar Trip	2
Photos from 2004	3
Fall Quarter Activities	3
Upcoming Events	4

New UCC Director Named



Like Jerry West of *LA Laker* fame and Jennifer Garner from TV's *Alias*, Fr. Peter Abdella, CSP, hails from "wild and wonderful" West Virginia. He attended Wheeling College (now Wheeling Jesuit University) there, graduating in both

chemistry and philosophy in 1970. He holds a doctorate in biochemistry from Northwestern University and a Master's in Theology from Catholic University. Upon ordination to the Paulists in 1985, he served briefly in parishes in/near Clemson, South Carolina, before being appointed as Campus Minister to the University of California, San Diego, where he worked until the summer of 1998.

In 1999, he completed a Master's Degree in Genetic Counseling at the University of

California, Irvine. 1999 - 2000 he was a Visiting Scholar in Pastoral Counseling and Education in Genetics in the Department of Medicine at UCSD. Since June of 2000, he has served as Campus Ministry Director and Associate Pastor at Newman Hall/Holy Spirit Parish in Berkeley. With the blessing of the Paulists, he also provides pastoral care and counseling to families and individuals affected with genetic disorders.

Among his favorite movies are "A Man for All Seasons," "Casablanca," and "The Mission." He enjoys good theater and film, "Star Trek," folk guitar, photography, R&B, rock, cityscapes, fish tacos, and just kickin' it. Having lived in Southern California before, he is excited to be back.

We look forward to Fr. Peter's arrival as he joins the staff here at the University Catholic Center this coming winter quarter.

Crucifix Dedication – January 23, 2005

When the new crucifix was installed in the Wisdom of God Chapel in April 2004, many community members were unaware that the event was the culmination of a lengthy process – deciding on spiritual and artistic values, selecting materials and choosing an artist. Several artists were invited to propose their ideas, but none seemed to embody the spirit of our community. When Fr. Alan Oakes, CSP, arrived, he understood how important it was to move forward with the project. Fortunately, he knew several artists with whom he had worked previously, and the project was able to make progress, adjusting the materials and stylistic form. Everyone involved liked the idea of making the corpus of a darker wood, to reflect the cultural mix of our community, mounted on a lighter wood cross, and paralleling the glass squares to our existing processional cross.

The result was an embodiment of the crucified Christ, lifting his head toward our heavenly

Father, in a rendition both spiritually and artistically satisfying. We now have the pleasure of welcoming Bishop Clark to dedicate this crucifix on January 23rd at the 10:30 am liturgy, as we celebrate five years of worship and community in this building.



The new crucifix in the UCC Wisdom of God Chapel

UCC Facts & Figures

- 79% of registered UCC members are students
- 89% of registered UCC students are undergrads
- 36% of the non-student community is UCC Alumni
- 14% of the non-student community is UCC Faculty or Staff

The Ministry of Music

This coming year holds a lot of excitement for the Music Ministry at the UCC. Two major additions to our ministry have been added - the *Music Care Unit* and the *Choral Composition Contest*.

The Music Care Unit is a partnership between the University Catholic Center, the UCLA Medical Center, and Cedars-Sinai Hospital. A group of approximately forty musicians will travel to both the UCLA Medical Center and Cedars-Sinai to bring comfort and hope to those people who are hospitalized and their families. Using the gift of music as a tool for healing, every week the volunteer student musicians will travel the halls and bring the joy of their

song to all those who listen. Also, the student musicians this year will help out with various Christian events at each facility.



2004 - 2005 UCC Music Ministry

The UCC Music Ministry is also very proud to announce its first Choral Composition Contest for students at UCLA. Working with the Composition Department at UCLA's School of Music, the UCC has created this opportunity to promote the writing of sacred music here on campus. This announcement has already generated much interest among UCLA musicians. The winning score will receive a cash prize as well as a premiere by the music ministers at their Spring Concert on May 13th, 2005. All, of course, are invited to this wonderful evening of music which will begin at 8:00 pm in the Wisdom of God Chapel on the 2nd floor of the University Catholic Center.

More UCC Facts & Figures

- 88 students are involved as liturgical or music ministers
- 92 students are involved in social justice activities
- 23 students are involved in RCIA or Confirmation

Student's Reflection on UCC Hogar Trip

The following is an excerpt taken from a reflection written by UCLA student, Erica Pinto, regarding a recent UCC trip to Hogar Infantil "La Gloria" - an orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. The complete reflection is available on our website.

I'll start by saying that the UCC trip to Hogar Infantil "La Gloria" was by far one of the most memorable experiences of my life. It could have been like any other memorable experience, but everything was heightened to an extreme level: stress, confusion, pandemonium, compassion, love, reflection, prayer, fun and exhaustion. We arrived at the orphanage around noon or 1 o'clock. My little car had performed admirably throughout the entire trip, and finally was able to rest on the cobblestone driveway.

Several of the children were outside playing games with metal Yu-Gi-Oh caps, or running around asking the UCLA students for piggyback rides, and they were the cutest little things! Most of them were about 5-8 years old, I think. There was also a nursery section where the infants and toddlers were cared for. That's where I began my day with the Hogar kids, which is, I admit, quite unlike what I had expected

to do. I thought I'd find it easier to relate to children who had started thinking for themselves, who could run around and voice their desires and wishes, who knew how to play games and tell jokes...I finally settled on one of the little toddlers who at least knew how to walk around on his own.

It could have been like any other memorable experience, but everything was heightened to an extreme level: stress, confusion, pandemonium, compassion, love, reflection, prayer, fun and exhaustion.

Adrian had been quite surly at first, while he had been in his high chair, and didn't want to be around anyone, didn't want any toys, didn't want to watch television. But once he got outside with the tricycles and seesaws, he was all excited and wanted to run around and do everything. He needed

help with each object of his interest, for he was still too small to climb up or into anything by himself. So he latched onto me as his assistant.

There was one little girl in particular who sat next to me for a while and held a big handful of my pencils, near the end of the day. She didn't want to give any of them up, and I thought well, she might not really have any possessions to call her own. I mean, Hogar doesn't even have enough money to keep a steady supply of tissue available to wipe noses and hands. I let her choose her favorite colored pencils and keep them; she picked my persimmon colored one, and a canary yellow.

I must say that my first trip outside the country was definitely a new experience. There are so many things to reflect upon.

Thanks to all who made this trip possible, and thanks to those who kept me company on the way down and back up! You guys are all so wonderful. And a special prayer to the workers and children at Hogar; may they find purpose in their lives, and new hope through those who come to adopt.

Photos from 2004



Tutoring at Dome Village



Visiting After Mass on Sunday



Music Ministry Cantor Workshop



UCC Welcome Night



Wisdom of God Chapel (Easter 2004)



Student Leader Fall Retreat

Fall Quarter Activities

This year, the University Catholic Center has appointed twelve Student Leaders who will assist the staff in planning and facilitating numerous UCC events. As Student Leaders, Carlos Adame, Meegan Gregg, Nancy Halabi, Michael Holtz, Monica Horak, Jeremy Lautan, Corey McMahon, Zhulmira Paredes, Rhoda Pham, Michael Rael, Julie Ann Sladek and Amy Wong all attended a Planning Retreat in the beginning of the Fall Quarter. The retreat allowed the students to discern and discuss the future of the UCC as well as take time to program for the 2004-2005 academic year.

This year began like all others at the UCC, with the Fall Quarter Welcome Night.

Social Justice opportunities that were highly popular during the quarter were:

- Trips to the Union Rescue Mission in downtown Los Angeles where students helped serve dinner to those people experiencing homelessness;
- Traveling to Dome Village where students used their intellectual gifts to help tutor children whose families can not afford help;
- Spending time with children at the Hogar Infantil "La Gloria" orphanage in Tijuana.

In the beginning of October, Deacon Tom led a three part series entitled, "Why We Are What We Are: A Brief History of the Catholic Church" which drew a large crowd. Later in the quarter, a very popular event that took place was a *Pizza and Theology* night which included student led

discussions on Capital Punishment, Abortion and Stem Cell Research.

With your help, the winter and spring quarters will bring even more formation, fellowship, and social justice activities to the center. It is no secret that we rely on the generosity of alumni, parents and friends of the UCC to help us in our ministry here at UCLA. We hope that you will join us in our efforts to empower the Catholic leaders of tomorrow by financially supporting the University Catholic Center.

UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC CENTER
633 GAYLEY AVE.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

Phone: 310.208.5015
Fax: 310.208.6077
Email: staff@uccla.org
www.uccla.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE UCC

We look forward to seeing you at these events!

JANUARY 23, 2005

Five year anniversary of the new Cyril C. Nigg building and
Crucifix Dedication with Bishop Clark (10:30 am)

MAY 13, 2005

University Catholic Center Music Ministry Spring Concert (8:00 pm)

JUNE 17, 2005

University Catholic Center Baccalaureate Mass (8:00 pm)