

**Fall Retreat 2013:
Seeking Balance, Finding Grace**

Shrouds of fog covering the narrow, mountainous road to Pinecrest Christian Conference Center led retreatants to pray the rosary for a safe trip to where the annual UCC Fall Retreat would take place. God was at work even before the retreat had officially begun, as all of the retreatants arrived safely, allowing them to spend the rest of the weekend exploring, sharing, and strengthening their faith.

In accordance with the theme, "Seeking Balance, Finding Grace," retreatants were invited to work toward balance in their fast-paced and busy lives and to recognize God's ever-present grace through reflections and personal testimonies by the retreat leaders, related small group discussion, communal reconciliation, and personal outdoor meditation.

Additionally, retreatants were provided opportunities to be grace to others. In one of the activities, retreatants paired up in twos and prayed over one another. Each retreatant shared areas in his life he wanted prayers for and his partner prayed aloud for the intentions. Grace was right in front of us in the form of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Father Peter also enlightened us with his wisdom through a Q&A session, in which he answered anonymous questions from retreatants regarding Catholicism, the Church, and faith.

In our short but grace-filled three days together, we shared immeasurable amounts of laughter, tears, and joys. We were vulnerable and strong. We were raw and beautiful. By the end of our time together, the fog mysteriously cleared away, signaling a welcoming promise of a new page in our ongoing journey together as a faith community.

Needless to say, it was a privilege and pleasure to both lead and attend this retreat. Though I have been a member of this community since my freshman year at UCLA, the individuals that make up the UCC never cease to surprise and amaze with me with their beauty and love.

Truly, the kingdom of God is present here.



Fall 2013 Retreat Team: (Back row) Kaitlin Collins, Job Sy, Regina Zweng, Eugene Del Valle, Anthony Vong, Andi Seikaly (Middle row) Helen Kwak, Mary Starks (Front row) Kurt Anderson, Fr. Peter



The Student Leadership Team presents Fr. Peter with a birthday card.

UCC Events This Quarter

Student Leadership Team (SLT)

- Fall SLT Orientation & Planning Retreat
- Welcome Night
- UCC Registration
- Finals Study Nights
- Mass on the Grass & BBQ

Liturgy Committee

- Taizé Prayer (2 times per quarter)
- Liturgical Ministers Training
- Fr. Chris Bazzyouros' talk on Liturgy
- Music Ministry Weekly Rehearsal
- Advent Planning
- Writing Prayers of the Faithful
- Bread Baking for Sunday Mass
- Christmas Coffeehouse
- New Hymnals

Education and Faith Development

- RCIA
- Bible Study
- Bible Beach Day
- Catholicism/WOW discussion on Saints
- Rosary Prayer Group
- Adoration / Bible Study on Eucharist
- Kyrie - Praise and Worship
- Saints of the Month

Outreach

- UCC presence on Bruin Walk
- UCC T-Shirt sales
- Ads in UCLA's Daily Bruin Newspaper
- Interfaith Student Council leadership
- Social Justice
- Christmas and Bake Sales for Alabama
- Mission Trip during Winter Break
- Free Rice Game Night
- SVDP's Skid Row Service and Toy Drive
- HomeWalkLA 5K to end homelessness

Community Life

- Weekly Student Dinners
- Halloween Social
- Thanksgiving Potluck
- Christmas Movie Night
- Weekly Cornerstone LGBT Meetings

Retreats

- Freshman/Transfer Student Retreat
- Fall Weekend Retreat: "Seeking Balance, Finding Grace"

A group of students at our annual Fall Retreat



A group of UCC members head to the beach to learn more about the Bible at our Bible Beach Day.

**New Music Director:
Welcoming Richard Medrano**

Richard Medrano, our new Campus Minister at the UCC, is also our Director of Music. He has served as Director of Music at various prominent churches in the Los Angeles Archdiocese for the past 15 years.



While at St. John Eudes Church in Chatsworth, California he developed one of the largest music ministries in the archdiocese. He is often invited to conduct workshops for choir directors and cantors for churches in the California area.

Richard is also the Artistic Director of the City of Angels Master Chorale and Children's Chorus. His conducting career of some twenty years has taken him from San Francisco to New York across the continental USA and abroad. His choirs have toured Italy where they sang for Pope John Paul II. In 2004, he entered into a cultural exchange with one of the top five Bavarian choirs in Germany, the Kaiser Heinrich Chor Bamberg. For Thanksgiving of 2012, he served as a guest conductor at Carnegie Hall where he made his debut with the City of Angels Master Chorale.

Richard partnered with the Los Angeles Opera in pioneering community opera for the L.A. area. His choirs have had the honor of performing several times with John Rutter and James Conlon. His television and film credits include KCET-revised L.A. Holiday Celebration at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, The Tonight Show, a Hallmark movie entitled "A Grandpa for Christmas" starring Ernest Borgnine, and as a television music judge for Killer Karaoke.

He is married to Patti Algier and has a daughter, Ashleigh, a talented singer at California State University at Northridge, and a step-son, Jayson, a student at Pierce College. In his spare time, Richard enjoys traveling with his family and running marathons.



Chelsy Sanchez, Alyssa Crowley, Zoe Bader, Jennifer Truong, and Gerardo Tellez participate in HomeWalkLA.



Fr. Paul presides over our annual "Mass on the Grass"

hymns in time for Easter. Any donation is welcome, but if you can give \$25, you also have the opportunity to dedicate the book in honor of a loved one, or to commemorate an important event. A special personalized bookplate will be placed inside each hymnal that you donate. These hymnals will be in use for the next decade or more, so this is a great way to offer a lasting gift to the UCC. Consider dedicating one as a present to your family, or to celebrate that special Bruin in your life.

As always, we are very appreciative of your continued financial support to help us provide the best programming

possible for our community. If you are able to make a hymnal donation as an add-on to your regular donation, we can get new music while still funding our many exciting activities and services!

You can make dedications by filling out the enclosed donor card and including it in the envelope with your donation. To donate a hymnal online or to pay by credit card, visit our fundraising page here:

<http://dev.ucccla.org/gather/fundraising.html>

Thank you for your generosity!

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events Open to Friends of the UCC!

Christmas Eve Mass 12/24, 8pm

Music Ministry Concert 1/25, 2pm

Easter Sunday Mass 4/20, 10:30am

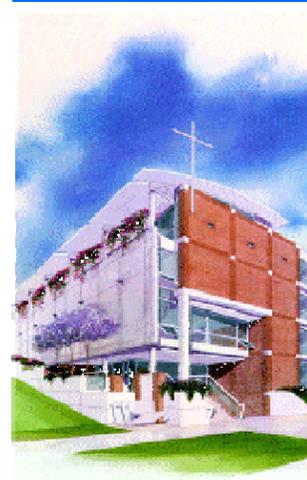
Dance Marathon 4/5-6

Relay for Life 4/26-27

UCC STAFF



Please join us in helping to minister to the Catholic students at UCLA, for “the harvest is plenty but the laborers are few.” With your help, this coming academic year will bring even more formation, fellowship, and social justice activities to the Center. By financially supporting the University Catholic Center, your generous donation along with those of other alumni, parents, and friends of the UCC assists us in our efforts to empower the Catholic leaders of tomorrow. To donate electronically (using ParishPay), go to our website www.uccla.org and click on “Support the UCC.” Thank you for your support!



Student Leadership Team

Education & Faith Development

Daniel Ojeda
2nd yr, Psychology
Abby Johnson
2nd yr, Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Liturgy

Gabby Dela Pena
2nd yr, Psychobiology
Diane Villaroman
2nd yr, Neuroscience

Community Life

Robert Gammariello
2nd yr, Marine Biology
Ana Hernandez
2nd yr, Art History

Social Justice

Zoe Bader
3rd yr, Theater
Andrea Chau
3rd yr, Physiological Science
Alyssa Crowley
2nd yr, Linguistics and Spanish

Outreach

Catherine Collins
2nd yr, Undeclared
Meg Koerber
4th yr, Communication Studies; Spanish Minor
Ariana Ricarte
3rd yr, Psychobiology



December 2013

Catholic Bruin

Volume 10, Issue 2

From the Director



“Our son who’s a sophomore at UCLA invited us to Mass with him this fall. We were absolutely amazed at the number of students who showed up to attend the liturgy without their parents prodding them. You’ve got a great community there. When we saw all the kids and their enthusiasm we were literally moved to tears of hope for the future. Please keep up all your good efforts. You and the entire UCC Community will be in our prayers from now on.” –UCC Parent

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

As our students brace for final exams and papers, notes like this one cheer and remind us that something good and life-giving is happening here at the University Catholic Center—something akin to the hopeful vision of Church offered by Pope Francis these days. If you’ve recently joined us for Mass while in town visiting your son or daughter, you know what we mean. We’re in our 85th year of campus ministry at UCLA, still blessed by students’ continued confidence in us.

Turnout has been up this fall at all our programs throughout the week—Bible studies, Thursday night dinners (students take turns preparing & serving for \$3), a lively Music Ministry, Catholic “basics & more” discussions on saints and on the Eucharist—as well as for a very successful on-campus community-wide Mass of the Holy Spirit and BBQ to kick off the new school year. A Halloween dinner-party, weekly food ministry to the Skid Row homeless, evenings of Taizé prayer, a Thanksgiving potluck & Coffeehouse evening, and a record-setting weekend retreat, entitled *Seeking Balance, Finding Grace* (65 attended!) filled out our fall schedule. Nine students will even make a Mission Trip to Montgomery, Alabama during winter break! With staff guidance, these programs are all student-led through our Outreach, Liturgy, Social Justice, Education/Faith Development, and Community Life committees!



Guest speakers this year include: Luke Timothy Johnson, professor of New Testament at Emory University and award-winning author on Jesus and early Christianity; Fr. John Cusick, founder of young adult ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago; and “Tattoos on the Heart” author Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J., telling of his ministry with gangs in L.A. In Winter Quarter, Jesuit Volunteers will discuss service options after college. Good things are happening here—and we couldn’t be more pleased.

My Christmas 2013 Wish List for the UCC

- \$500 donation – A year’s supply of candles for the chapel
- \$300 – Covers the cost of our Freshman/Transfer Student Retreat evening
- \$250 – RCIA or Confirmation resources
- \$100 – Defrays the cost of hosting one Thursday Student Dinner
- \$75 – Sends a student on a weekend retreat

This Christmas we ask once again that you prayerfully consider making a donation to the UCC. We count on your prayers and active participation as a parent, alum, or friend, and depend on your financial contributions. Donations of any amount are valuable; as ever, every little bit helps!

Thank you once again for being a crucial part of our extended UCC family. With the Holy Spirit’s guidance, let’s together make this an outstanding year of stewardship for our UCLA campus ministry!

May our Gracious God continue to bless you this Advent and Christmas—

—Fr. Peter Abdella, CSP