

UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC CENTER
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events Open to Friends of the UCC!

Christmas Eve Mass 12/24, 8pm

Easter Sunday Mass 3/27, 10:30am

Dance Marathon 4/2-3

Spring Retreat 4/8-10

Relay for Life 4/23-24

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!



UCC STAFF



Student Leadership Team

Education & Faith Development

Jonathan Lee
4th yr, English

Ariana Bussio
3rd yr, English

Liturgy

Anne Marie Alwan
2nd yr, Undeclared

Eugene Del Valle
PhD Candidate, Structural Engineering

Lisandra Uribe
4th yr, Psychobiology

Community Life

Hannah Nava-Holstein
2nd yr, Psychology

Matthew Zahn
2nd yr, Biology

Social Justice

Andrea Cervantes
3rd yr, Psychobiology

Vanessa Lopez
3rd yr, Physiological Science

Kevin Miller
4th yr, Psychology

Outreach

Joseph Fromm
4th yr, Bioengineering

Carina Marsella
2nd yr, Undeclared

Thang Tran
3rd yr, Biology



Catholic Bruin

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From the Director



“Dear Fr. Peter & UCC Staff: Thank you for giving our daughter such a wonderful spiritual home at UCLA. She can’t stop talking about all the great activities there, and we are so grateful. Please keep up your fine efforts, and spirit of welcome.”

As staff serving the University Catholic Center, a Paulist ministry since 1925 (90 years!), we’re glad so many at UCLA are involved and registered with us. We believe that providing a safe, hospitable environment for students to claim and deepen their faith, plus offering opportunities for strong lay involvement is what we do best.

Nearly 750 students worship here on Sundays, singing and participating fully. This fall, there have been crowded weekly Student Dinners (40-90 folks); Bible studies; evening discussions on Eucharistic adoration, the afterlife/last things, & Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si*; a lively, growing Music Ministry; a “Welcome Night”; Bible Beach Day; weekly meals for the Westwood homeless; movie nights on Dorothy Day & Archbishop Oscar Romero; a make-your-own-art night; a final-home-football-game party; Eucharistic adoration; plus a book group discussion of Shusaku Endo’s inspiring novel *Silence*. While presenting for a 6th year a pioneering national program, ESTEEM, aimed directly at fostering and holding onto the leadership abilities of our Catholic young adults, this fall we also welcomed a missionary team from the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) to enhance our already-considerable evangelization efforts on campus. Nearly 150 students turned out to hear Fr. John Cusick, founder of young adult ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago, speak on “Why Should I Go to Mass?” & “An Adult Appreciation of the Christmas Story.” Sixty students had a vibrant, faith-filled time on our fall student retreat weekend, *When Heaven Meets Earth...* A special Thanksgiving dinner, a Christmas concert including a full *cantata*, a pre-finals brunch, plus “Study Hall” during finals filled out our fall activities—most of which were 100% student-led, under UCC staff guidance. For Winter Quarter, plans are in the works for Jesuit Volunteers to speak about service options after college, and for Fr. Richard Leonard, SJ—a popular Paulist Press author on prayer, suffering, why are we here—to preach and speak here as well.

My Annual Christmas Wish List for the UCC:

- \$500 donation – A new computer or 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

However, this Christmas, our need is even greater! With *El Niño* storms looming, a pressing, unavoidable roof repair costing \$43,000 will far outstrip our accumulated “rainy day” savings. So we ask once again that you prayerfully consider making a generous 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 as always for being a crucial part of our extended UCC family. With the Holy Spirit’s guidance, let’s together make this coming year of stewardship for our UCLA campus ministry truly outstanding!

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

Fr. Peter Abdella, CSP

Fall Retreat 2015 When Heaven Meets Earth...

On the weekend of November 20th-22nd, the 2015 Fall Retreat team, Monica Aguilar (2nd year), Kurt Anderson (Community Member), Catherine Collins (4th year), Alyssa Crowley (4th year), Michael Dumas (5th year), Matt Fontana (grad student), Delaney McComb (3rd year), Nick Prunty (3rd year), and Mary Starks (alumna '13) ventured to the San Bernardino Mountains to find out what happens "When Heaven meets Earth..." so conveniently, also the title of the retreat!

With lead from Fr. Peter Abdella, the team members took 52 other students to reflect on both their heavenly and earthly relationships. There were talks and activities led by the retreat team as well as small group sharing and personal reflection times. The talks given by the retreat team members were well written, well delivered and well received by the retreat attendees. The talks ranged in topic but all were relevant to the lives of young adults in the Catholic Church. Topics included selflessness, accepting Catholic teaching, living through loss, understanding God's works, finding a home in the Catholic Church, and establishing and maintaining lasting and faithful relationships. Other activities on retreat included a communal reconciliation service, silent adoration, praise and worship, a prayer-buddy walk, an "everything" skit performance, and Sunday Mass. Fr. Peter also offered a time for Q&A where students could ask questions about various topics, a very popular activity.

I can speak for the rest of the team when I say it was a faith-filled weekend where we became closer as a UCC community and a greater UCLA community. This is my 3rd time leading a UCC retreat and my umpteenth time attending one. Every year, the Fall Retreat offers something new and invigorating to reflect upon and hopefully bring down the mountain to our home at UCLA.

—Mary Starks, '13 Anthropology

The retreatants gather after a weekend of fellowship.



Students gather together to watch a UCLA football game.

UCC Events This Quarter

- Student Leadership Team (SLT)**
- Fall SLT Orientation & Planning Retreat
- UCC at Enormous Activities Fair
 - Welcome Night
 - UCC Registration
 - Mass on the Grass & BBQ
 - Finals Study Nights

Liturgy Committee (+Music Ministry)

- Liturgical Ministers Training
- Fr. John Cusick's talk on "Why Should I Go To Church?"
- Music Ministry Weekly Rehearsal
- Advent Planning
 - Eucharistic Adoration
 - Writing Prayers of the Faithful
 - Bread Baking for Sunday Mass
 - Christmas Concert: "Sing Noel"
 - Immaculate Conception Mass

Education and Faith Development

-RCIA

- Fr. John Cusick's talk on "An Adult Appreciation of the Christmas Story"
- Bible Study & Evening Discussions
 - Bible Beach Day
 - Romero Movie Night
- Kyrie Praise and Worship Group
- Book Discussion on Endo's *Silence*

Outreach

- UCC at UCLA Summer Orientations
- UCC presence on Bruin Walk
 - UCC T-Shirt sales
- Ads in UCLA's *Daily Bruin* Newspaper
- UCC Weekly Newsletter & "Wednesday's Word"
- Trip to 39th Catholic-Jewish Women's Dialogue

- UCC Facebook and Instagram pages

Social Justice

- Entertaining Angels Movie Night
- SVDP's Westwood Service
- SVDP "Meal in the Park" with Homeless

Community Life

- Weekly Student Dinners
- Thanksgiving Student Dinner
- Weekly Cornerstone LGBT Meetings
- UCLA Football Tailgate
 - Art Night
 - Sunday Brunch
 - Faculty/Staff Social

Retreats

- Freshman/Transfer Student Retreat
- Fall Weekend Retreat: "When Heaven Meets Earth..."



Some samples of the work produced by students at Art Night.

FOCUS Missionaries at UCLA: Building Up the Church

What an honor it has been to start our first year serving as FOCUS missionaries here at UCLA. FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, is an organization dedicated to inviting students into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. We walk with college students as they explore their faith, giving them tools to seek the truth and to live out and share the Catholic faith in their daily lives.

Our team consists of four recent college graduates who are full-time missionaries, engaging students on campus through Bible studies, large group events, and one-on-one mentorship. We are: Jessica Kunz, a 5th-year missionary from Chicago, IL, who previously served at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of California, Santa Barbara; Marcus Vargas, a 2nd-year missionary from Flagstaff, Arizona who previously served at Colorado State University; Anthony Thompson, a first-year from Oceanside, California and recent graduate of San Diego State University; and Tally Latcham, a recent convert and first-year missionary from Denver, Colorado and graduate of Texas Christian University.

Although we come from different backgrounds we are all united in the Great Commission to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Mt. 28:18). The students at UCLA have brought us so much joy through our friendships with them. It is amazing to see the growth in our Bible studies and to watch these students increase in their desire to know God. When members of the Body of Christ are built up, the whole Church benefits. We are working to raise up the next generation of dynamic Catholics because we believe that these students can change the culture, which is in desperate need of change. We've had many fun events like girls' nights of baking and nail painting, and guys' nights of pizza and video games, a group hike up to the Hollywood sign, and ninja-style Laser Tag on Halloween. We love fostering community among the students and watching them form intentional, Christ-centered friendships. We are so excited to see what the Lord has in store for the rest of the year. Please keep the FOCUS team and the students in your prayers!

—Tally Latcham, FOCUS Missionary



UCLA's FOCUS Missionaries (L to R): Marcus, Jessica, Tally, and Anthony.



The first Student Dinner of the year, prepared by our own Student Leaders