



Catholic Bruin

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From the Director



“When Julie told my wife and me that she’d been going to Mass and getting involved at the UCC, we were really touched. Our daughters have been pretty skeptical of church since they started at UCLA, but both Julie and her younger sister, Sara, really enjoy the people and the things you’re doing there. I know they wouldn’t be attending if it wasn’t important to them. That means a great deal to us. Thanks for being so welcoming, and for taking care of them. Keep up the good work.”

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In his widely-acclaimed 2003 book, *A People Adrift: The Crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in America*, *New York Times* religion editor Peter Steinfels presses the need for persuasive and bold leadership—at all levels—if the 21st century church is to thrive. That means providing a safe, hospitable environment for students to claim and deepen their faith, plus offering opportunities for strong lay involvement. Parents’ letters such as the one above show that our hard work here seems to be paying off.

This quarter shows our strengthened commitment. If you’ve been to Mass here recently, you’ll know that students gather in great numbers, participate fully, and sing with fervor. They’ve gotten involved in newly-inaugurated “Mystagogia” faith-sharing groups as well as in Bible study, very popular Thursday Night Dinners (which they take

turns preparing and serving for \$2), ice-skating, evenings of prayer and praise, preparing food for the homeless, an outreach trip to an orphanage in Mexico, a caroling visit to the elderly, and movie nights. Building on our successful spring retreats, we added one this fall (postponed to early January because of the wildfires), and another especially for first-year students. Leadership for all these comes from the students themselves through our UCC ministry teams!

In addition, nearly 100 students and community members had the privilege this fall of hearing Fr. Gregory Boyle, SJ, longtime minister to the gangs of Los Angeles, truly put a human face on gang members with his talk, “Tattoos on the Heart.” Future Speaker Series topics include just immigration reform and Islam, topics much in the public eye these days.

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Freshman Retreat

The start of this academic year looked and felt a little different at the UCC. As many of you know, the first month of every new academic year is marked with an annual Welcome Night put on by the Student Leadership Team for all students at the UCC. This year, in addition to that event, the UCC decided to have an on-campus evening retreat just for first year students – and what a success it was!

Close to 50 Freshmen spent their first Friday at the UCC learning, sharing, and creating some of their first friendships here at UCLA. This evening, put on by third-, fourth-, and fifth-year UCC students, was a way for the class of 2011 to explore their dreams and fears for the next four years. The students putting on the retreat guided many small groups in discussion and presentations centered on relationships (self, friends, family, and significant others) and helped to explain what wonderful opportunities are available for Catholic students here at UCLA. Fr. Peter also gave a talk on the different levels of faith development and explained the challenges and opportunities that are always present in an individual’s faith journey. The staff is pleased that many of the students who attended this retreat immediately became involved with our liturgical, educational, social justice, community life, and outreach events!



The retreat ended with s’mores on the patio, and many students stayed well past midnight talking with new friends and staff, as well as gaining wisdom from the “older UCLA students” who were their guides that evening. The staff hopes that this event will become a staple of the ministry here at UCLA each fall. Be sure to check out the pictures on page five– do you see someone you know?

Meet Father Ivan



Life seems to work in cycles, and being back at UCLA is one of those cycles for Fr. Ivan Tou, CSP. He received his PhD in Computer Science from UCLA in 1994. Back then he was an active member of the UCC, particularly with the RCIA and Newman House.

He grew up in Gainesville, FL, home of the UF Gators. From Florida, he went to MIT and earned a B.S. in Management and a B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science. There he first met the Paulists at the Tech Catholic Community. From Boston, he went on to seek his fortune in Silicon Valley, California. There he worked for Hewlett Packard Laboratories doing research in Artificial Intelligence.

After 5 years, he felt that though life was good, there must still be something more. That “more” led him to UCLA to work on a PhD with the intention of becoming a professor. What started as a three-year venture became a five-year journey because life was too good in Bruin land. With an excellent advisor, wonderful colleagues, great friends, and all the amenities of UCLA, there was little reason to leave too soon.

After UCLA, he worked for two years and then joined the Paulists. He received an MDiv at Catholic University and was ordained on May 25th, 2002. After four years at St. Austin in Austin, TX, and one year at Old St. Mary’s Cathedral, in San Francisco, he is now an Associate Director at the UCC.

When he’s not at the UCC, he loves good friends, movies, plays, reading, hiking, yoga, and music. He also loves learning new things. This year, it is figuring out the guitar, which number he is on the Enneagram, finding good hikes in the LA area, and reading the numerous unread books in the library that he has carried across the country.

Welcoming New Students to the Faith

The universality of our Catholic faith is an inspiration to all who come into contact with it. Here at the UCC students from abroad are eagerly welcomed, and whether our stay is short or long we bring a unique part of ourselves to this increasingly rich community. Felicia Yong (Singapore) and I (New Zealand) came to study here at UCLA for this year’s Fall Quarter and as soon as we arrived we both found our niche and became involved in the RCIA and Confirmation programs. Felicia says, “Hearing the stories of how the candidates were brought here and seeing the group growing closer together as time passes affirms the presence of God and his wondrous works.” I serve as an Assistant Tertiary Chaplain back home in NZ, and likewise for me, the experience of being involved in RCIA was highly rewarding. **It’s amazing how much we can continue to learn about our wonderful faith. Being in the position of a leader was not so much about teaching as learning new perspectives from a dynamic group of young people.** As the quarter draws to an end and we prepare to leave the United States, I would like to thank everyone at the UCC, and especially Ceci, for making my stay a very fulfilling and memorable one.

-Dione Joseph, class of 2009



It is truly inspiring to see how our faith welcomes everyone from everywhere. One of my initial worries about coming such a long way from home on exchange to UCLA for the fall quarter was finding a community in which I could continue grow and learn on my faith journey. **I felt at home at last when God sent an angel who (literally) showed me the way to the University Catholic Center, and I have not looked back since.** Attending Masses and getting involved with the nine RCIA members and ten Confirmandi members have been fulfilling experiences. Hearing the stories of how people found their way and seeing the group growing closer together as time passes affirms the presence of God and his wondrous works. I want to thank everyone for being so welcoming and making my short stay at the UCC such a fulfilling and affirming one.

-Felicia Yong, class of 2009

UCC Speaker Series-Father Greg Boyle, SJ



The University Catholic Center's first speaker for the 2007 - 2008 Academic Year was Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ. Fr. Greg is the man behind Jobs For a Future and Homeboy Industries. These were created to assist those involved with gangs in re-directing their lives by providing employment opportunities and counseling, as well as training and work experience.

in working with those who feel hopeless. After the event, those who gathered were able to meet some of the young men whose lives have been changed by Fr. Greg.

The next speaker in our series is Melinda Henneberger, a former reporter for *The New York Times* and former contributing editor for *Newsweek* magazine. Co-sponsored by *Commonweal*, Melinda will spend the evening talking about her work as a journalist covering politics and the church, and how her Catholic faith informs, affects, and is affected by her career. We are excited that we will be able to welcome her during the Winter Quarter.

We are still looking for people to help financially sponsor this speaker series. You may do so by visiting our website (www.ucla.org) and clicking on Support the UCC.

Born in Los Angeles, "G-dog," the name given to him by the Homeboys and Homegirls with whom he works, holds degrees from Gonzaga and Loyola Marymount Universities, Weston School of Theology in Boston, and the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley. He is currently a member of the State Commission on Juvenile Justice, Crime and Delinquency Prevention, and serves on the National Youth Gang Center Advisory Board. As Executive Director of Jobs For a Future and Homeboy Industries, he is a nationally renowned speaker whose message about the importance of adult attention, guidance and unconditional love in preventing youth from joining gangs has inspired many throughout the world. We here at the University Catholic Center were privileged to hear Fr. Greg talk about the importance of hope and unconditional love



Alumni News

We had our first Alumni event for the year on Dec 1st. Because nothing is too good for our UCC alumni, we recently subscribed to Dish Network and acquired an InFocus projection system for the event. With that, we had a **UCLA-USC game viewing party**. In total, we had 18 folks attend. The most venerable alumnus attending is class of '53 and the newest one is last year. Thanks to all who watched and cheered on our struggling team. We still have a great basketball season ahead of us. Go Bruins!! We plan to have events throughout the year and would love for more folks to attend and reconnect. **To get the latest information about Alumni Events, be sure to visit us on the web at www.ucla.org and fill out our Alumni Registration.**



God continues to send us new children to nurture: Cody William (parents: Julie & Mike Scarpato), David Edward (parents: Suzanne (Kounas) & Paul Dainko), and expecting in December are Connie (Salgado) & Victor Sanchez. We give thanks for the life of Fr. Tom Jones, CSP whose birthday into heaven was Jan. 16. He served the UCC from 1986 to 1994. After 29 years of service to God's people as a Paulist priest, Fr. Pat Hensy, CSP celebrated his retirement at a rollicking party at the UCC on Nov. 18th.

An Alumna's Thoughts on the UCC



“You eventually find out that you are at home.”

Other than meeting my husband at the UCC on January 9th, 1994, yes, there are many more reasons why I love the UCC. When you go there, you have no choice but to get to know people on a personal level. I was reeled in by the pre-mass greetings that Fr. Tom Jones was used to doing. And once they have you coming back for more, they hypnotize you with their thought-provoking, attention-grabbing sermons. And then, they draft you to be an active part of the Mass by asking you to give out communion or do a reading during mass. Before you know it, you are a card-carrying member and show up every Sunday, and not just for the doughnuts. At one point, you figure out, that there is a reason why you continue coming. You know everyone by name, you want to do lunch with them after Mass, and the priests and lay ministers become a part of your life. You eventually find out that you are at home. Despite the fact that you have moved to another city, you continue to return for more. How many times can you say that about another Catholic community? Thank you UCC for being a part of our lives for the last 18 years.

Elia Perez has been a UCC Member since 1988. Elia married Jacob Rael (UCC Member since 1991) in 1998. They have 2 kids, Mia (5), and Lucas (3).

Freshman Twilight Retreat Pictures



Electronic Giving a Success!

Many of you have already discovered the great benefit that comes with supporting the UCC with electronic donations. Not only does giving electronically allow you to plan your giving in the same way you budget your other financial commitments (setting up a monthly transfer), but all enrolled contributors can print out an annual receipt every January for IRS documentation. Contributors have also appreciated the fact that they can easily adjust the amount of the automated contribution through the UCC office, or by using our secure website access.

We here at the UCC know that sometimes it's easier to give a little every month than to write a large check once a year. Because of this advantage, we strongly encourage you to consider supporting the UCC on a monthly basis with our automated giving program called "ParishPay." In addition to the above benefits, here is something to consider:

If you are UCC Alumni, and you enjoyed a Retreat, Speaker, Special Liturgy, Concert, or similar event when you attended the UCC, chances are that other UCC Alumni helped to fund that program. Now that you've graduated, this is a simple way to help the UCC continue to put on events that inspire and transform the Catholic students at UCLA.

If you are a UCC Parent, our hope is that as your child continues to succeed academically at UCLA, his or her faith life will continue to flourish as well! The UCC Staff and Student Leadership Team is continually committed to challenging, strengthening, and helping

students develop an adult appropriation of the Catholic faith in each student we encounter. We do this through our Liturgical & Communal life together, our commitment to Social Justice and Outreach, and our ongoing offering of Educational and Faith Development opportunities throughout the year.

If you are a member of our community, you can come to Mass without worrying about bringing your checkbook or whether or not you are carrying any cash on you. Also, you no longer have to be concerned about making up missed donations when you are out of town.

If you are a friend of the UCC, you know of the great things that are happening here at the Center. For many students, the years at college can be the "make-it or break-it" time in their faith journey. We are here to provide them with a safe environment in which to question, struggle, and live out their Catholic faith more deeply.

By making a donation, you can help the UCC empower the Catholic leaders of tomorrow.

You can sign up for Parish Pay now!
Just go to www.ucla.org and click on "Support the UCC" located in the left hand menu options.

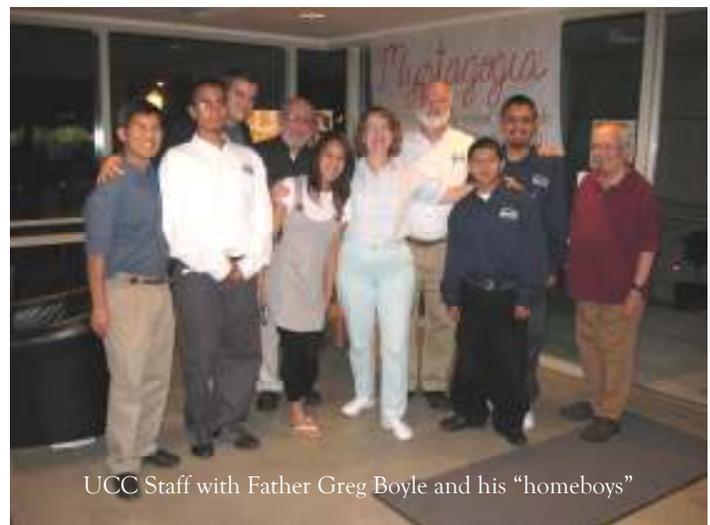
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As you know, our operating budget (salaries are subsidized by the Archdiocese) depends primarily on the contributions of our students and on your generosity as parents, alumni, and/or friends of the UCC. Your gift will help us minister more effectively to those who enter our doors, as well as assist us in reaching out to Catholic students who for one reason or another have stopped being involved in the Church.

In this semi-annual appeal, \$10 can help pay for wine and bread used in our Sunday liturgies, \$50 can help a student attend a retreat he or she might not be able to afford, \$100 can help purchase resources for those interested in receiving the sacrament of Confirmation in spring, and \$500 can help bring a noted speaker to the UCC. Every little bit helps.

Thank you in advance for your generous support, and for keeping us all in your prayers as we minister to this dynamic UCLA student community. On behalf our new Paulist campus minister, Fr. Ivan Tou, CSP, as well as Ms. Ceci Gray and Mr. Chad Rehmann, may God bless you and your loved ones this Advent and Christmas.

- Fr. Peter Abdella, CSP



UCC Staff with Father Greg Boyle and his "homeboys"



Father Peter



Father Ivan



Ceci Gray



Chad Rehmann

UCC Groups and Events

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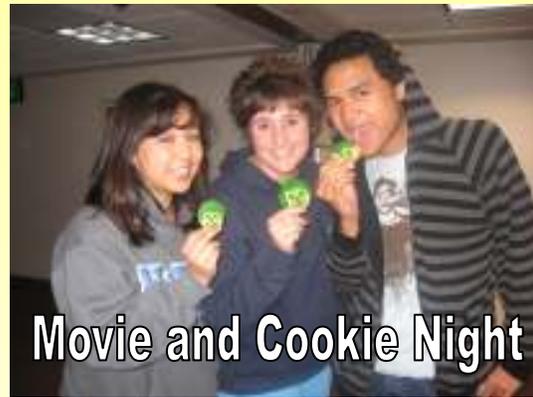
S'mores Night



Music Ministry



Mystagogy



Movie and Cookie Night



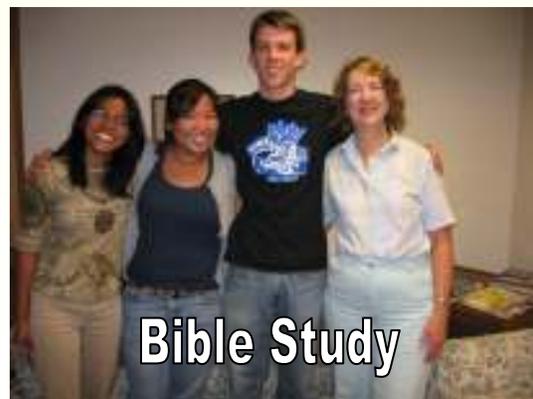
Father Pat's Retirement Party



Thanksgiving Potluck



Ice Skating



Bible Study

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events Open to the Public

Music Ministry Concert	January 26 th at 2:00 p.m.
Evening With the Bishop	February 7 th at 7:30 p.m.
Speaker Series	February 21 st at 7:30 p.m.
Holy Thursday	March 20 th at 8:00 p.m.
Good Friday	March 21 st at 8:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday	March 23 rd at 10:30 a.m.



To view our complete Calendar of Events or Photo Gallery,
please visit www.uccla.org

With your help, this coming academic year 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.