

THE CHURCH ON CAMPUS



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CAMPUS  **ABLAZE!**
the official CCM Newsletter

"My young friends! You are the disciples & the witness of Christ in the University... You must build the Church within your Universities, as a visible community which believes, prays, gives account for our hope, & lovingly welcomes every trace of good, truth, & beauty in University life." -John Paul II



From the desk of Fr. Stephen...

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to the first edition of "Campus Ablaze!", a newsletter for Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) at UCF that is being distributed to alumni, family of current students, benefactors, and friends. With so many students being involved in CCM over the past several years, it is a great blessing to see our graduates becoming leaders in their professions, families, parishes, and even some in formation for the priestly or religious life. I hope that the information found here will keep you up to date and connected to our latest news and happenings. Let us join in prayer together for the mission of building up the Church on campus.

May we meet each day in our prayers!
Fr. Stephen Parkes



Fr. Stephen serves as the Director of Campus Ministry and is the Pastor of Most Precious Blood Catholic Church in Oviedo, FL.

CCM STAFF: Fr. Stephen Parkes Director of Campus Ministry | Fr. Jorge Torres Campus Minister | Tony Marco Associate Campus Minister | Michelle Ducker Admin & Womens Group | Michael Rosario Music Minister



What does a week look like in the life of CCM?

SUNDAY

-Mass on campus
6PM, UCF Student Union 316

TUESDAY

-Mass & free Meal
5:30PM, off campus at the Catholic Student Center

WEDNESDAY

-Sacrament of Reconciliation
1:30-2:30PM, UCF Student Union 222
-Knight Fire 8PM, off campus at the Catholic Student Center. A topic night on the faith with praise & worship, speakers, small groups, skits & more!

THURSDAY

-Mass 5:30PM, off campus at the Catholic Student Center
-Men's Group at 7PM
-Women's Group at 7:30PM

Throughout the month we also have IM Sports Teams, Socials, Bible Studies, Service Events, Eucharistic Adoration & more!

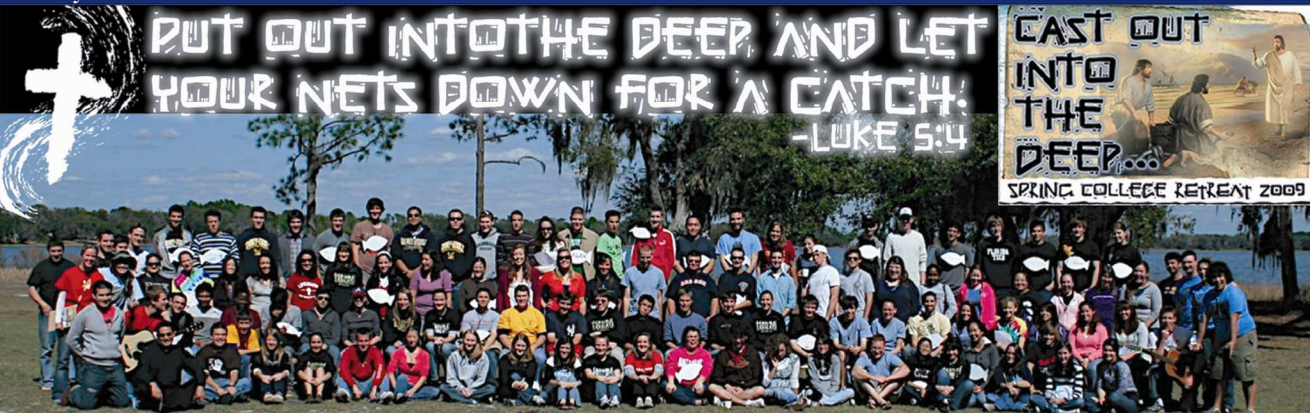
The Case for Campus Ministry! (Part 1)

In its November 1985 pastoral letter entitled *Empowered by the Spirit: Campus Ministry Faces the Future*, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops concluded that campus ministry "is vitally important for the future of Church and Society." With over 4.5 million Catholics in college today, 90% of these are at non-catholic colleges. It would be a disaster to neglect the college student who is at a critical time of their life—where they can find a deeper understanding of their faith and a greater knowledge of Catholicism or a time and place where they leave their Church.

On secular college campuses, Catholic Campus Ministries creates a holistic experience for the person. It meets the spiritual void that would otherwise be felt. It compliments the rigorous academic challenges by refreshing the student and rounding out their collegiate experience. Campus Ministry seeks to work in partnership with the college to give the college student a full education of faith and reason.

College students enter university asking questions such as, "who am I?" "for what was I created?" "where am I going?" Campus Ministry enables the student to ask these questions and find meaning in their lives by creating a climate in which one can hear God's call more clearly.

"...vitally important for the future of Church & Society."



SPRING RETREAT 2009! A word from one of the student directors...

"Hmm how could I describe being a retreat director? How about AMAZING!!!! God has given me such a wonderful blessing through my involvement with CCM. The opportunity to simultaneously grow and lead others in my faith was remarkable. Throughout the retreat, I was able to use all of my previous experience and put it to work for God. I have been learning a lot about my interaction and personal relationship with Jesus from CCM but this project gave me an irreplaceable chance to fully bring myself to God's feet in His service. My prayer life has strengthened significantly and I find myself interacting with God more than I ever have before. Furthermore, I am finding that I am much more comfortable professing and talking about my faith to people. Both during and after the retreat, I was approached many times by people telling me what a great job we were doing. However, I must confess that it was truly those who were giving me the praise who deserved it the most. They were the ones who said yes to Jesus and opened their hearts to trust in Him for the weekend. I would pray that opening only grows wider with time and that God grants me even greater opportunities to reach out and touch my brothers and sisters in Christ." -Scott Chuchla



Meet our last retreat directors!
Mary Miller and Scott Chuchla



Interested in learning about ways to get more involved in helping us further our mission of building up the church on campus? Email mducker@CCMknights.com for more info.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS & SUPPORT!

www.CCMknights.com 407-382-7063

