

In the Heart of Boston

GOD AT WORK ON OUR CAMPUSES

Community's that retreat together...

UPDATE FROM KATIE HOLLCRAFT

Fall retreat this year was a time to get a pulse on our community. A lot has changed since last year, a new campus ministry director, new chapter leaders (supervisors to the missionaries), an influential graduating class leaving the Catholic Center, and a large freshmen class moving into the community. With so much change, a weekend away is exactly what our community needed. The retreat theme was "Veni, Vidi, Vicit: I came, I saw, He conquered". The talks were incredible, setting a tone for where our hearts should be at going on retreat, how we can see God in the world around us, and ultimately how we can choose Him and let Him conquer sin and death in our lives; as well as our hearts. It was a time of building community and leaving behind the old, embracing the goodness of the new. Many retreatants were first time attendees, and they encountered the Lord powerfully. Especially during the times of Adoration and personal prayer. Personally, I was struck by the words of

the priest on Sunday, "You were not born to blend in, you were born to burn." Our students hearts were set ablaze with a new love and life in the Father, and I pray they continue to burn. Not long after Fall retreat, the women's community left town for their own retreat focused on sisterhood. Our women's retreat was in a quaint town, thirty minutes outside of Boston. It was a time of prayer, conversations revolving around what it means to be sisters, and late nights of swapping stories and playing games. It culminated in a very powerful time of prayer on Saturday night. All of the women paired off and prayed over one another for healing in relationships. We ended the night with a time of worship, while other adorers were present in the chapel. After our last song, one adorer took the time to encourage us, which deeply impacted myself and any of the other women. Thank you for all 'your prayers for both of these retreats, they were incredibly powerful experiences for the students and staff.

Prayer Requests:



CANA HOUSE

Please keep the women I am living with in your prayers. We make up the first household here in Boston and we want to be a house that is unified and on mission for the Lord!



MY TEAM

(L to R, back row: Adam, Bro Logan, Michael, Sarah, Bro Jason. L to R, front row: Kevin, me, Renee, and Bro Austin). Pray that we continue to seek the Lord first and lean into His grace as we outreach.



SMALL GROUPS

Pray for our women's and men's small groups. In particular, that students would receive rest and renewal and share freely within their small groups.



STUDENT LEADERS

Pray that our student leaders would consistently seek after the Lord, even in the midst of their heavy workloads.

Student Corner

BY LORENA & RACHAEL

"Before women's retreat, I had never considered what was holding me back from sisterhood. I didn't realize comparison and jealousy were preventing me from loving and celebrating my sisters as they deserved. Throughout the weekend, I realized God has given each of us unique gifts for our unique paths, so I shouldn't feel jealous when one of my sisters is blessed. I shouldn't feel like I have to "step it up" because I am not doing something similar, but should thank God she is closer to fulfilling the plan He has for her. This retreat allowed me to pinpoint what was holding me back and how I can move forward with the beautiful gift of sisterhood." - Lorena L.

"I had come to mass at the Fenway before and had chosen to see God only when I was not busy or stressed; but the day before Fall retreat, I canceled the 5K I was signed up to run to register for and attend retreat— I came surrendering to the Lord, to witness His Glory through others and through the silence in the beauty of nature. Tucked away in the woods and over looking the lake, I felt at peace, comforted by those around me also walking on this journey. I was surrounded with caring individuals that provided me with answers to questions and doubt I had been feeling. Over late night board games, bon fires, s'mores, and runs in the forest, I had opportunities to sit with the Lord. He moved me to focus on being present in a bustling life. I am now renewed and comforted with new friends." - Rachael B.



Lorena (left) and Esme at Welcome Week Tabling



My Fall Retreat freshmen small group.

Scripture Reflection:

Isaiah 35

"Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; They will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee." (v.10)

I have been praying with Isaiah 35 lately, and verse 10 in particular. Something I've witnessed a lot as a missionary, and even more so as I enter into my second year in Boston, is the joy and freedom students experience as they open their hands and receive the life the Lord offers them. This verse stirs such a powerful image, as I think of the ways I have seen myself and others bound by the world, I can also see how the Lord wishes to rescue each of us. What joy would enter our hearts if we would recognize we have been freed!



Rachael on Fall Retreat Friday night.