



# Saint Thomas More

## The Catholic Chapel & Center at Yale

### Chaplaincy Newsletter

Fall 2001

## EXPANDING CATHOLIC MINISTRY AT YALE

**Dear Friend of More House,**

Eight years ago when I came to Saint Thomas More, I could not have imagined the vitality and growth I would witness here.

Little provides me with more hope than the participation and sincere commitment to spiritual development shown by Catholic students at Yale. And if ever there was an important time to find evidence for hopefulness it is now, as our country recovers from so much sorrow.

The Chapel presented a panel of prominent Catholic scholars from campus discussing *Realism and Morality in an Age of Terror – Catholic Perspectives*. Professors Guido Calabresi, Paul Kennedy, Bruce Russett and Lamin Sanneh brought the expertise of their respective fields to help us deal with the tragedy of September 11.

The Celebration of the Eucharist remains central to our faith community and Masses are full to overflowing. The Small Church Community program has expanded in number, with more than 100 students committing 90 minutes a week to Scriptural study. A “Catholic 101” seminar was initiated allowing students



*The Celebration of the Eucharist at Saint Thomas More Chapel maintains an intimacy despite the participation of more than 250 students and faculty at each Mass.*

with basic doctrinal questions and students who are wrestling with particular aspects of faith, to meet for instruction and discussion. Our speakers’ program continues to attract the best scholars in the country to address the topics of the day. The More House Lecture was delivered by Fr. J. Bryan Hehir who spoke on *Democracy and Social Justice: International Perspectives*.

Archbishop John Quinn spoke on his recent book *Reforming the Papacy: The Costly Call to Christian Unity*. A community retreat was held at the Mercy Center in Madison led by Fr. Timothy Backus, OSB from St. John’s University in Collegeville.

Perhaps the most telling sign of growth is the expansion of staff at the Chapel. It was with great joy that I announced the addition of a second associate chaplain, Ms. Jane Ferreira ’89 MAR, who comes with the experience of over twenty years of pastoral ministry. Assuming the responsibility for overseeing the expanding intellectual program and

*continued on page 2*

## MORE HOUSE EXPANDS STAFF

*continued from page 1*



*The Staff of Saint Thomas More Chapel during a staff development retreat. Seated from left to right are Sr. Jo-Ann Veillette, Associate Chaplain; Rev. Robert L. Beloin, Chaplain; Kerry A. Robinson '92 MAR, Director of Development; and Jane E. Ferreira '89 MAR, Associate Chaplain. Standing from left are Marie Tiberio, Administrative Assistant for Finance; Paula Schonewald, Program Director; Richard Gard, Director of Music; Mary Emerson, Administrative Aide; Amy McClenning, Administrative Assistant for Development; and Joseph Mokos, Student Intern.*

implementing new initiatives with graduate students will be her primary focus.

It remains our priority to offer the very best ministry to Catholic students at Yale. Your support of the annual operating More House Fund is what makes possible the comprehensive expansion of ministry to the future leaders of church and society. Your generosity is not only appreciated, it is vital.

If you have not been back to campus in a while, I encourage you to do so and invite you to return to the Chapel to enjoy the inspiring atmosphere that is the result of ever increasing numbers of students engaged in an expanding intellectual and spiritual ministry.

God bless you!

**Rev. Robert L. Beloin**  
Chaplain

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### From the Desk of Sr. Jo-Ann, Associate Chaplain

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#### **Sr. Jo-Ann Veillette, SASV**

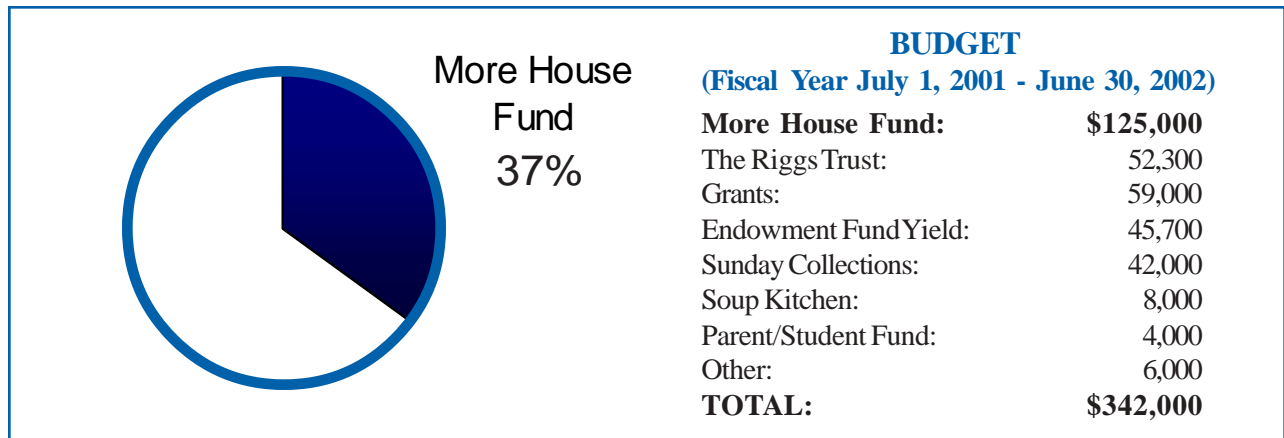
In her book, *One Writer's Beginning*, Eudora Welty speaks of her fascination with words, more precisely, of the connection they have to what they stand for. As a child, the new moon arising in the west became the rising moon for her. It was easy for her to suppose that the sun and the moon rose in the east and the west respectively, as reigning powers in their assigned places, as partners in a dance. Charmed by the beauty of this myth, she lived with it until she became a writer and was told that, in one of her stories, she had misplaced the moon. "Always be sure you get your moon in the right part of the sky" wrote the literary critic. Valuable words, said Welty. Valuable words, say I today.

How often have we prayed with Bartimaeus of Mark's gospel, "Lord, I want to see." May we continue to pray that prayer as we face the questions of today's world and live the events of our time. May we truly see. May we always place the moon in the right part of the sky. May it be gospel values, not those of our culture, that allow us to respond to the stranger on the street, to the lonely in our milieu, to those most in need. May it be gospel values that allow us to do the right thing for the right reason. So too, may the words we speak and the deeds we do truly connect to the faith we stand for.

This is my hope for all of us, for all of us who claim More House as a special place and a special time in our lives. I ask your prayer so it will continue to be so, because of the words it speaks and the gospel connections it makes. For then, and only then, will we be able to walk into the future as disciples in a still unfinished universe, confident that the God of Promise will be with us.

# Please Support The Annual More House Fund

Financial contributions from alumni and other friends of the Chapel make an enormous difference! Students at Yale need a place where their faith can be shared and their values can be strengthened. Your donation makes possible vibrant liturgies, lectures and discussions, small Church communities, retreats, opportunities for volunteer service and pastoral counseling services to help students come to a mature faith.



**We need your donation to support Catholic life at Yale.**

**Please make a generous contribution to the More House Fund, the annual appeal that directly supports the operating costs of the Chapel’s ministry for the current academic year.**

Those wishing to support the endowment, please consider a contribution to The Saint Thomas More Capital Campaign Endowment Fund.

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

### Special Note to all Graduates of Yale College

The Saint Thomas More Capital Campaign has raised \$6 million toward an expanded goal of \$15 million to build a 35,000 sq. ft. Catholic student center adjacent to the Chapel that will house a comprehensive programmatic ministry. Full details of the campaign’s accomplishments will appear in the upcoming Capital Campaign Report to be published at the end of 2001.

In support of the Capital Campaign, Yale President Richard Levin has offered to credit all gifts made to **The Saint Thomas More Building Fund** by graduates of Yale College as class or reunion gifts. This can be done by sending the gift/pledge directly to Saint Thomas More Chapel, noting that credit should be applied to one’s class gift, or by sending it to the Yale Development Office, indicating that it is to be used for **The Saint Thomas More Building Fund**. Pledges can be made over a five-year period. Both the Chapel and the Yale Development Office will acknowledge such gifts and pledges. Please take advantage of this tremendous opportunity to help Yale and Saint Thomas More Catholic Chapel and Center.



## BEING CATHOLIC AT YDN

*Matthew Matera TC '02*

In the second epistle to Timothy, Saint Paul writes:

“Preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching.” (2 Tim 4:2).

Although St. Paul was talking about preaching the Word of God, I find that this exhortation also applies to my work at the *Yale Daily News*. As News Editor, I am responsible for working with reporters to ensure that their stories are accurate, ethical, and well written.

My time at the *News* is completely in harmony with my Catholic faith, as I think the media plays a vital role in any Catholic understanding of the world. We as humans have a duty to seek the justice of Christ, and newspapers can help us find that justice. By printing truth and examining events deeply, journalists help eliminate falsehoods and dispel ignorance.

I also find my faith important in helping me understand the responsibility I have as a member of the press. Newspapers and all communications media can do a tremendous amount of good in the world, but they also can cause a tremendous amount of harm. I am proud to work for the *Yale Daily News* because it is a vibrant newspaper committed to reporting what is happening on campus in a penetrating and unbiased manner.

Every day when I go to the newspaper building, I am trying to live up to the words of St. Paul. He says that “the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths.” (2 Tim 4:3) My job as a Catholic and my job as a *Yale Daily News* editor is to help people have a reliable source where they can find truths and not wander into myths.



*Matt Matera TC '02, right, with Johnny Scaffidi '01 and Andrea Panchok-Berry TC '03 during an opening cook-out welcoming students to More House.*

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## EXPANDING THE MUSIC PROGRAM

*Richard Gard, Director of Music*

As I begin my second year as Director of Music at Saint Thomas More, I am grateful for the More House community’s responsiveness to our effort in making music an integral part of our Sunday celebrations. Last year we increased the number of singers and players in the choir at each Mass. We proudly represented the Chapel during Saint Thomas More’s *Songs for Soup* benefit concert that raised an unprecedented amount of money to support the weekly Soup Kitchen. A concert series was initiated at the Chapel that connected More House more closely with the music community of Yale and offered an opportunity for those who had not been to the beautiful Chapel to do so.

As part of the Chapel’s participation in Yale’s Tercentennial, we hosted the *Amor Artis* chorus with former More House Director of Music Johannes Somary '57, now the Director of Music at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City.

Our Triduum liturgy was an exceptional celebration on every level.

This coming year we will have a sacred music concert combining the Saint Thomas More choirs with my Yale chorus in the Vivaldi *Gloria* as well as the Latin oratorio *Jephthe* by Carissimi. It promises to be a year full of music, joy and grace. I ask for your prayers to guide and support us through the year.



*Former More House Director of Music Johannes Somary '57 with Richard Gard at Saint Thomas More’s Tercentennial Concert.*

## ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK INAUGURATED

*Colleen Kinder MC '03 and  
Daniel Kruger TD '04*

Tucked away in Appalachian Mountains lies a small school called The David School. For Spring Break 2001, ten Yale students from Saint Thomas More ventured to this remote part of western Kentucky to be a part of the school by living and serving alongside staff and students. We very quickly learned that The David School was more than just a building for learning—it was a home.



Founded and run by Danny Greene, a Fordham University graduate who first felt called to serve in Appalachia on a Spring Break trip years ago, The David School is a product of his vision of education and opportunity for those Appalachian students who fall through the cracks of the school system. An atmosphere of warmth and love flows through the halls, and can be seen in every smiling face that wanders them.

Perhaps the most rewarding and memorable experience of serving at The David School was the inner spiritual rebirth many of us felt during the week. We had come not as a few extra work hands, though we did plenty of hard labor. Most fundamentally, we trekked into the Appalachians last spring to fulfill the mission of Christ, recognizing that God's call to neighborly love knows no boundaries.

While in Kentucky, many of us were challenged on a level even more daunting and more profound than completing our daily work of painting or teaching. We were forced to confront a part of God's creation that appeared strikingly foreign—even intimidating—at first glance. Though every David School student came from a social and family background most of us could scarcely imagine, we came to realize that within our hearts, we shared the same hopes and fears.

All of The David School kids wanted to get ahead; though most could not succeed in a conventional public school. They, like us, all had personal goals and a genuine spark to give back to the community. The most striking of all their desires, however, needed no oral articulation, but shone through in their kindness and respect to us. They, like every one of us, needed to be loved.

Indeed, our time at The David School was a spiritual whirlwind of introspection. We were at the same time actively serving others as we were attempting to comprehend the poverty and lifestyle surrounding us. Through this unique situation, we grew together, as a community of believers from Yale, turning our religion from contemplation into action.



## JEANIE GRAUSTEIN: TRUSTEE AND ADVOCATE

*Paula Schonewald*

Jeanie Graustein, Environmental Justice Coordinator at the Archdiocese of Hartford's Office of Urban Affairs has enjoyed a long and fruitful association with Saint Thomas More Chapel.

In her work she has found a way to combine her faith and her interest in Earth History with her desire to do social justice work. In her ministry, she is sustained by the community and her active involvement at More House.

As she studied for her MDIV at Yale Divinity School in 1991, she frequently asked herself: "How can I put faith and science together in something I could actually do?"

She was invited to serve an internship which led to her current position at the social justice office of the Archdiocese. Jeanie develops environmental justice education programs for parishes based on statements by John Paul II and the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops as well as local and national information on ecology and health. "Care of the environment, God's creation, is an essential part of caring for our neighbor. We have a responsibility as Christians and citizens, through individual actions and public policies, to protect the air, water, and diversity of life and habitats on which all life depends," asserts Jeanie.

She maintains this philosophy in her dedication to the life and ministry of More House. A member of the Board of Trustees and the Program Committee, she is also a lector and volunteers faithfully at the Soup Kitchen. Reflecting with her small Church community, she recognizes that Saint Thomas More and her work are inextricably tied together. "The atmosphere, the liturgy and the chaplains at More House are inspiring, comforting and challenging. The community is like an extended family, known over many years. And the undergraduate and graduate students are so bright and concerned and involved in life!"

As one who has served in the soup kitchen since its inception, Jeanie says, "I love coming to the soup kitchen and the fact that we are very involved in New Haven and in caring for its needs. It is not a distant thing — it's fixing food, talking to people...being present to them."

In speaking of the future that Jeanie is helping to build at More House she says, "The new lecture series and discussions are all so exciting! They are the gift we give ourselves and the wider community. And the new student center will be a vital resource, developing Catholic intellectual and spiritual life, through the lectures and programs. It will be wonderful to have a library, with current Catholic periodicals as well as books on theology, ethics, poetry...everything! It will be helpful to Catholics of all ages."



*Jeanie Graustein '95 MDIV  
Trustee, Saint Thomas More*

"When I first came to the Chapel, I loved the building because of the clear glass windows with sunlight streaming in and the sense of lively faith community. I can't imagine life without More House!"



*Saint Thomas More welcomed Carlos Eire, the newly appointed T. Lawrason Riggs Professor of Religious Studies and History, pictured (right) with Louis Dupré who formerly held the Riggs Chair. Professor Eire delivered a talk to the More House community entitled "Being a Believer and an Historian of Religion."*

# SERVICE BORNE OF, AND SUSTAINED BY, FAITH

*Phillip McKee '94*

Shortly after September 11, Sr. Jo-Ann asked me to write a short article about my experiences that horrible day. I procrastinated, only this time it wasn't simple laziness. This time it was partly a desire not to have to confront what I saw and did that terrible day. Having finally begun to write, I do so with a heavy heart, knowing that even more people are confronted directly with tragedy. I have just heard of the crash of yet another airliner in New York.

As I look back on September 11, the first thing that strikes me is the role of the chaplain in a crisis. In almost every aspect of our secular government, religion is pushed to the wayside or expelled all together. There is no room for God in any form, at least according to how some interpret things. And yet, in those parts of our government most used to tragedy and death, there has always been room for God and for chaplains. One thing I have to give the military – they understand the need for God during a crisis.

Police and Fire departments aren't far behind. The events of September 11 horrified the nation. As an Arlington County Firefighter, I was forced to view the horror first-hand at the Pentagon. The moment I walked out of the building exhausted and covered in soot and sweat there were chaplains waiting for us. I had more than eight hours of hard work left for that day, and even more on the days to come. The chaplains were ever-present. By the end of the second day they had erected a small chapel under a tent and there were services from each denomination and faith throughout the day.

As we did the gruesome work of body recovery, our every move was watched by two very different groups. One group was made up of investigators searching through the rubble with us, looking for clues of the terrorist attack. The other group was made up of chaplains, searching our faces for clues to our emotional state. They were always there looking for people who should have been looking for them.

On the first day I helped put out the fires. On later days I helped with putting out hot spots (lingering flames) and with body recovery. The presence of those chaplains and the support of my friends in the department were absolutely essential.

In many ways, the strength of chaplains got me to that day at the Pentagon. I was the last person one would have expected to become a firefighter and risk my life. I lay the blame and the credit for that urge squarely at the doorstep of Saint Thomas More Chapel. I wasn't the most likely person to show up at the Chapel during my freshman year. My family was full of almost every denomination there is. There were Catholics for sure, but there were also Methodists, Southern Baptists, Episcopalians and even one Muslim. I had plenty of faiths from which to choose. But something deep inside directed me to More House that Sunday instead of another option. I enjoyed the service and despite many of the people being there for the first time, I could sense a definite feeling of community. I liked it and grew within that community. My first year at Yale I elected to be confirmed within the Catholic Church. In the remaining years I grew in my faith and in my understanding of what faith means in this world.



*Phillip McKee '94 standing left with Fire Academy classmates.*

Those years at More House made me keenly aware that faith without good works was not faith at all. It wasn't that volunteering and helping in the world made one faithful or proved one's faith. It was simply that the more I grew in my faith the more I wanted to go out and manifest that faith in my actions. The homilies, the chaplains, and my fellow parishioners at More House taught me the importance of instantiating my faith in my actions. I was taught by their words and by their example. By the time I graduated I knew that my love for God meant that I also had to love all people. My understanding of my faith compelled me to want to be there for others.

It took years before I realized that I wanted to live that service to others by becoming a Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician. I tried graduate school and seminary. And the one day I was urged to visit a volunteer fire company in a low-income section of Prince George's County, Maryland. The men and women who volunteered at that station were doing so to protect their neighbors. At that small fire station I fell in love with the work. I volunteered there for three years before applying for a job as a paid firefighter. What drew me first to volunteer, and then to take firefighting as a career was my understanding of that work in terms of service to God and to my community. And I would have never considered the importance of service, had it not been for my experiences at Saint Thomas More Chapel at Yale.

# The More House Fund

## 2000-2001

Thank you to all who have contributed to Saint Thomas More Catholic Chapel & Center at Yale. Without your support, More House would not be able to provide the excellence in programming that has become its hallmark.

The following list represents donors who have made gifts between **July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2001** to one or more of the following appeals: The More House Fund, The Parent/Student Fund, and the More House Soup Kitchen.

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# SAINT THOMAS MORE HIGHLIGHTS 2000-2001

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## Alternative Spring Break Program Inaugurated

Special Guest: Archbishop John Quinn speaking on his book *Reforming the Papacy: The Costly Call to Christian Unity*

Retreats at Mercy Center

Participation in Yale's Tercentennial

The Triduum Celebrated at Saint Thomas More

The More House Lecture with Fr. J. Bryan Hehir and Bruce Russett "*Democracy and Social Justice: International Perspectives.*"

Spring Concert Series Introduced

The Saint Thomas More Soup Kitchen

Small Church Community Development

Increased Participation of Students, Faculty and Alumni

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