



Saint Thomas More

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September 30, 2009

Dear Friends,

As we welcome back to campus returning students and the class of 2013, it is inspiring to begin a new academic year celebrating the Eucharist in our renovated Chapel. The University Chaplain's office collects religious information cards and over the past four years, with up to 65% of students returning the card, an average of 28% of incoming first year students identified as being Catholic. This makes Catholicism the single largest religious denomination on campus: what a wonderful opportunity! I write to you to be part of this dynamic and vital ministry through your investment in the *More House Fund 2010*.

Here are the stories of two fantastic undergraduate students involved here at the Chapel and who directly benefit from your generosity!

Chris Sweeney, Berkeley College 2010, is the Social Activities Chair on the Undergraduate Council (UGC) at Saint Thomas More Chapel (STM). The Social Activities Chair helps plan and coordinate the social events at the center designed to bring in new members and allow current members to enjoy one another's company. Chris also participates in the Small Church Community structure, *Cathletics*, and is a liturgical minister. Chris is majoring in economics, a member of the Varsity Baseball team, a part of the Kiputh Leadership Academy, and participates in the Yale Sports Empowerment program.



Chris writes, "I am involved at STM because of the sense of community, which is greater than any other group I have been involved with during my time at Yale. I think that my Yale experience would have been entirely different had I not found my way to STM during my freshman orientation. STM has provided me with a strong faith foundation, great friends, mentors and countless ways to serve others. In addition, the Chaplain's are always available to talk if I'm having a rough day. I will always remember 10:00 pm Mass on Sundays, late night studying in the library during finals (and maybe sneaking down to the dining hall for a snack), the renovation and re-dedication of the Chapel, and all of the excellent speakers. Thank you!"



Marysa Leya, Silliman College 2011, is the Spirituality Chair/Strategic Planning Committee Representative for the UGC at STM. In addition, Marysa is a lector at Mass

and was a member of the Alternative Spring Break trip this past March to Lima, Peru. Marysa is majoring in molecular, cellular & developmental biology, a co-captain of the Women's Club tennis, the Secretary for the Polish Society, and volunteers in the Emergency Department at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Marysa writes, "STM has been such an integral part of my Yale experience that I can't imagine Yale without it. STM has made Yale a richer experience because it's given me a chance not only to grow in academics but also my relationship with God and with others. I've met many of my closest friends here and it has given me a chance to grow as an adult in the Church. I have also been able to engage in enriching dialogue with people from different faith backgrounds; what faith means to them, what challenges it poses, and how it impacts their lives? I greatly value the vibrant, committed, and enthusiastic community that is apparent not only at Mass but also in the many activities offered. I know I will always remember the incredible friends I made, the community members I have met, the 10 pm Mass, the UGC meetings, going to Peru, the Soup Kitchen, and the fact that STM felt like a second home and family. Thank you!"

The faith and passion of students such as Chris and Marysa serve as an inspiration for our programs here. Your investment in these life changing experiences will help us build and maintain a foundation of excellence that is the hallmark of the Chapel.

As our programs continue to expand in order to accommodate this increasing number of Catholic students on campus, so does the need for greater support. Please prayerfully consider increasing your 2009-2010 gift by 10% or enough to qualify you for a higher *Gift Recognition Circle* found on your pledge form.

Thank you for participating as generously as your means allow and for making Saint Thomas More Chapel a philanthropic priority.

May our good and gracious God, bless you and those dear to you.

Sincerely,



Rev. Robert L. Beloin

P.S. Living Faith Devotional: Become a monthly donor via PayPal, ParishPay or credit card and as an expression of our appreciation for your commitment receive a free one-year subscription to *Living Faith: a Catholic daily devotional*. (See pledge card for details)