



# TULANE CATHOLIC



## DONOR **IMPACT** REPORT 2019-2020

YOU'RE HELPING  
STUDENTS GROW IN  
*holiness*  
DURING THESE  
CHALLENGING TIMES!





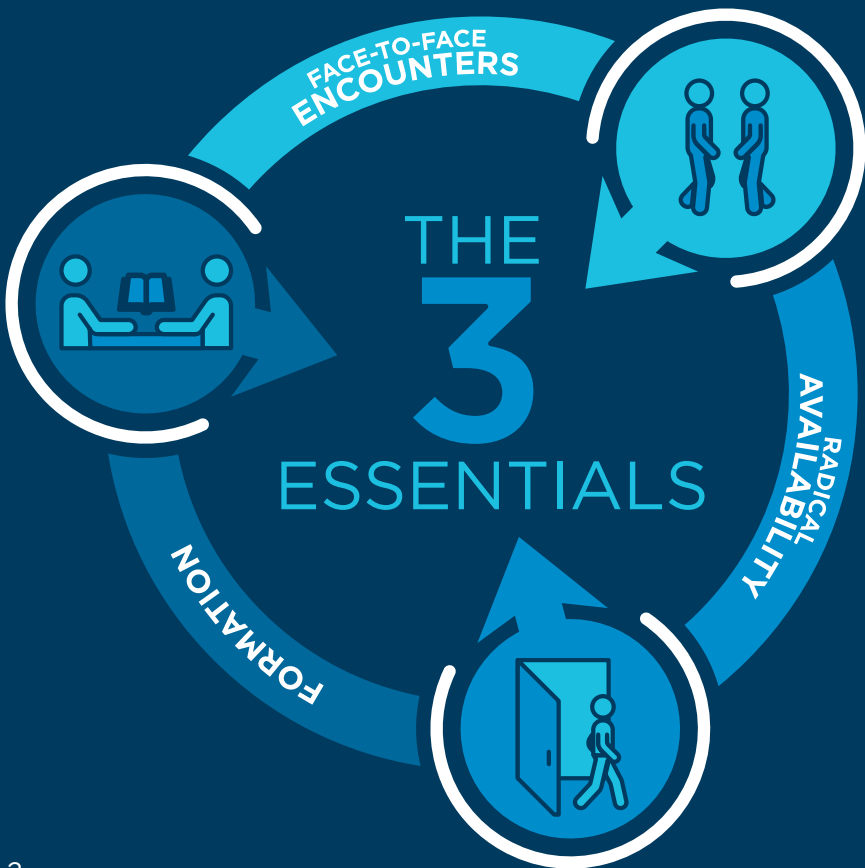


## WELCOME FROM FATHER THOMAS

It's been such a unique year—from the heights of opening the new Chapel in November to the lows of cancelling almost all of our events during the Pandemic. Guided by prayer and your support, we've found ways to keep the ministry going during these difficult times. In this Report, we'll share with you the highlights of the year, and especially how we navigated the pandemic.

Thank you so much for your words of encouragement and your gifts during this time. There's going to be a lot of work to do in the coming year to keep the Gospel strong on campus and in the hearts of young people—I look forward to it! Thank you!

Students after the Dedication Mass of the new chapel in Fall 2019



The pandemic has increased our clarity about what it takes to really help college students become saints. Everything we do is built on **three essential things**.

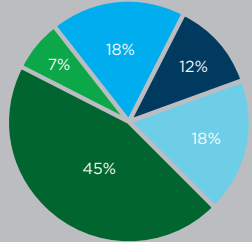
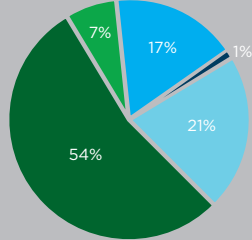
- 1 FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTERS**  
Faith and holiness come first through encounters with God, with each other, and with the poor and vulnerable.
- 2 RADICAL AVAILABILITY**  
Holiness flourishes in a culture of radical freedom to do what is essential.
- 3 FORMATION** A big part of our ministry is providing the environment and coaching necessary for growth in Christian holiness.

Thanks to you, we're still having encounters, being radically available, and providing formation. Keep reading to see how we live out our 3 essential anchors.

## FINANCIAL REPORT | 2019-2020

The information to the right represents revenue received and expenses incurred from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. As you'll note, a certain amount of our support each year comes from the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Our goal is and has been over the last few years to become a vibrant, dynamic and financially self-sustainable ministry by increasing our donation revenue and decreasing the need for this subsidy.

Five years ago, the subsidy was 61% of our total revenue. This past year it was 21%. Thank you for helping Tulane Catholic get closer to this important goal!



REVENUE	
Development Donations	\$199,600.34
Sunday Collection	\$25,341.48
SaintMakers' Society	\$61,716.43
Retreats and Merchandise	\$3,808.01
Archdiocesan Support	\$78,385.09
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$368,851.35</b>

EXPENSES	
Ministry, Formation & Evangelization	\$166,167.75
Operating Expenses	\$24,701.12
Administrative Expenses	\$66,685.19
Maintenance & Facilities	\$44,294.41
Development & Communications	\$67,002.88
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$368,851.35</b>

### *Renewed in Faith Capital Campaign*

**GIFTS RECEIVED IN FY2019-20: \$167,283.62**  
**TOTAL COST OF CAMPAIGN: \$3,205,000**

We are excited to share that we have officially closed the Renewed in Faith Capital Campaign and all debts and construction costs are paid in full. Thank you for your generosity!

*Save the Date!*  
We're going back to the Holy Land in 2021!  
**TULANE CATHOLIC HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE**  
May 26 – June 4, 2021

Dedication Mass celebrated by Archbishop Gregory Aymond

## DEDICATION MASS OF THE CHAPEL AT ST. MARTIN DE PORRES ON NOVEMBER 6, 2019

Thank you Gayle and Tom Benson and all of **YOU** who made this beautiful chapel possible through your prayers, support, and generosity! Please come visit for Mass one day!



Photographs taken by John Bihm Photography

President Fitts, Gayle Benson, Archbishop Aymond, and Father Thomas (from left to right)



ENCOUNTER

Encounter is about maximizing opportunities for people to come face-to-face with each other and with God, who is calling them to union—we believe Encounters are what change people.

Step inside our Senior Guys' Bible Study as you hear from Josh Lacoste, Chase Stockwell and Neil Blanchard. This Bible Study began in Fall 2019 and wrapped up at the end of the Spring 2020 semester. It continued through quarantine and changed the hearts of these men who participated!



Each of the guys were going through something: weekly stress of school, finding a job, not hearing back yet from medical or law school, quarantine and losing the end of their senior year...the anxieties of life were there but because they were in a bible study, they could see that their relationship with Christ is what matters the most and this is what was going to count as they moved forward.

Neil Blanchard is from Lafayette, LA and is one of our four FOCUS missionaries.

Bible Study helped me set aside time specifically to read the Word of God ...even during the quarantine when it was definitely needed...to interpret and reflect on the Word of God each day kept me in touch with my faith. It was a good way to reflect on what I believe in and carry that into my next stage of life as I go to law school.

Josh Lacoste is from Metairie, LA and graduated with a double major in Finance & Legal Studies and Business.



It taught me how to be vulnerable with a group of people in order to get to know them better and create deeper, more meaningful bonds. We had a great group of guys. We all fed off of each other and that allowed each of us to thrive.

Chase Stockwell graduated in May 2020 with a major in Business and Computer Science and is from Seattle, WA.



Over 120 students came to a Bible Study last year!



Bailey (bottom row left) with her friends at a Tulane event.

BEFORE QUARANTINE: When I have a strong prayer life, I feel much more intune to my purpose and what I'm doing with my life. Having access to the Blessed Sacrament every day at Tulane Catholic is truly a blessing.

DURING QUARANTINE: When I left school because of COVID, I left with a lot of frustration and bitterness, and I was able to find a lot of peace by having holy hours in my room. My prayer life has definitely matured because of Tulane Catholic.

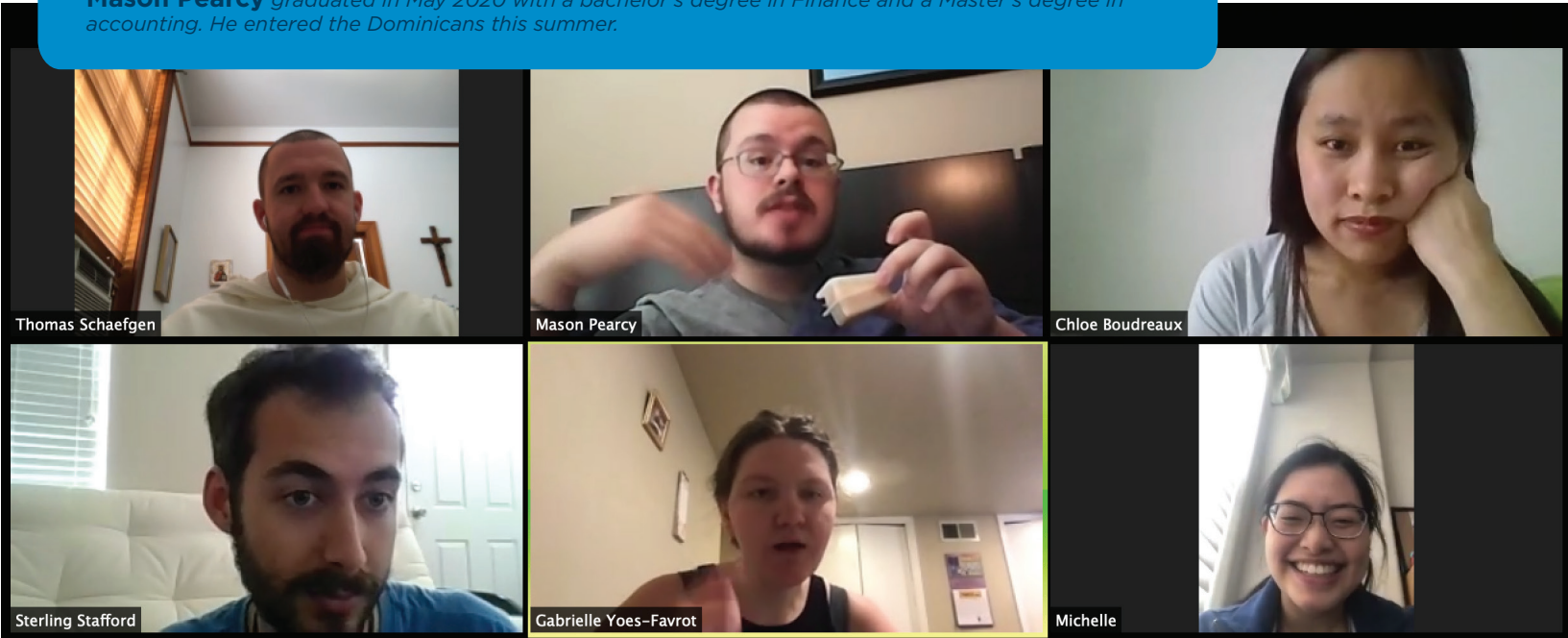
Bailey Mirmelli is a Junior studying Chemistry and Psychology. She is from Scottsdale, AZ.

Before quarantine, "Lunch with Padre" took place every Thursday or Friday on Tulane's Campus. It was a time for the students to have lunch and visit with Father Thomas. During quarantine, "Lunch with Padre" was offered everyday via Zoom.

DURING QUARANTINE: I was very sad because it felt like I was ending this chapter of my life a lot earlier than I expected. Lunch with Padre allowed us to share the struggles and joys that we were going through! It definitely provided me with community when I was lacking it!

Mason Pearcy graduated in May 2020 with a bachelor's degree in Finance and a Master's degree in accounting. He entered the Dominicans this summer.

Mason (top center) and other Tulane students and alumni having "Lunch with Padre" during quarantine.



RADICAL AVAILABILITY

Radical availability is not about having free time, it's about freedom to be able to do what is true and good—what is truly necessary. Are we free to say "yes" to the right thing... or have we tied ourselves down by our inability to say "no" to ourselves and others?



# FORMATION

Formation is to form the hearts and minds of college students to live life as faithful adult Catholics.



Seniors during a graduation celebration.



Brooke (middle) with Anna (left) and Sarah (right) at the homecoming tailgate.

“With the introduction of IKON at the Tulane Catholic Center, I can honestly say that I have never learned more about my faith, my education, and myself. Through countless conversations, classes, spiritual experiences, and authentic friendships, I was able to understand my life goal, which is to get to Heaven and encourage others to strive for sainthood with me!  
**Brooke Santagato** is from St. Augustine, FL and graduated in May 2020 with a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering.

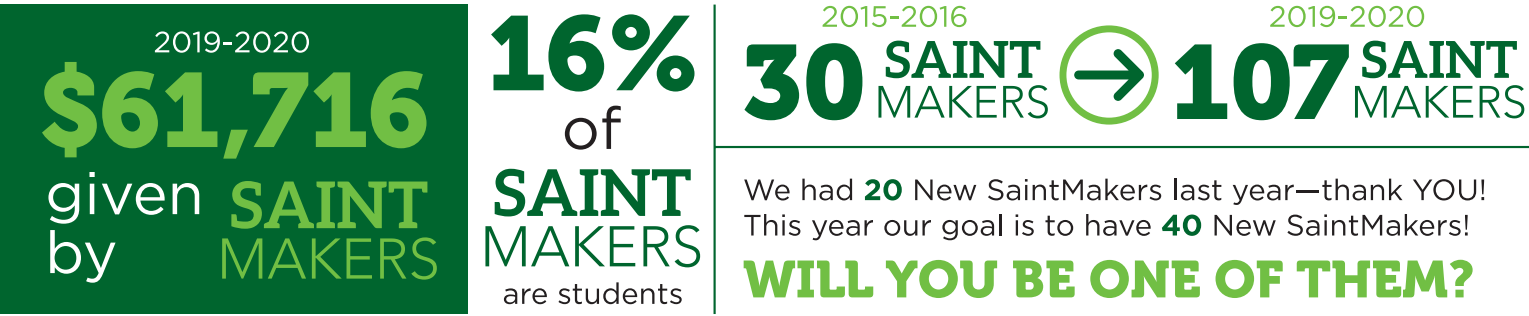
“Students are facing so much fear, discouragement, and uncertainty, but Tulane Catholic will always remain a haven for old and new faces who want to become saints alongside their fellow peers. Daily Mass, weeknight adoration, a weekly walking Rosary, and events like Night Fever were all vital to my spiritual growth and coming to develop a personal relationship with Christ.  
Even the atmosphere of Tulane Catholic fosters inner questioning as it is not uncommon to hear a group of students downstairs discussing how God is working in their lives amidst their schoolwork.  
**Laughlin Grace** is from Houma, LA and graduated in May 2020 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and English.



Laughlin (middle) with Anna (left) and Hannah (right) at Tulane Catholic's Fall Porch Party.

# SAINT MAKERS Society

**SaintMakers are monthly givers** who provide for the daily needs of Tulane Catholic through electronically withdrawn monthly gifts.  
Our mission is to help college students grow together into the Saints they are called to be. **Our SaintMakers make this mission a reality!**  
Monthly giving is one of the best ways to ensure that your favorite ministry is fully funded year round.



“I received a notification on my computer for the virtual holy hour, and felt a strong invitation to be in the presence of the Lord. [Father Thomas's words] felt as if they had come directly from [God] the Father. They consoled me and manifested the profound love of the Father, which brought with it an overwhelming sense of peace. It penetrated my heart that had grown weary from the chaos of the world, and I was in tears towards the end of it.  
I wanted to thank you and all those involved in continuing to bring Christ to us through media and to let you know that it is reaching souls in spite of these physical barriers.  
**SAINT MAKER Peter Nguyen, '19**

## BACCALAUREATE MASS | MAY 24, 2020



Seniors (from left to right) Josh Lacoste, Anna Dobard, and Chesna Climaco smile under their masks after the Baccalaureate Mass.

On May 24th, we had an outdoor Baccalaureate Mass for our seniors and their families! Many who were in town were able to come while others around the country tuned in virtually!  
“I'm so grateful for Tulane Catholic. The warmth, love, and friendship is tangible when you walk through the doors. I'm so glad my daughter was able to find her place here. I have hope that Tulane Catholic will continue to be an oasis, a blessing, and a home away from home for many students to come!  
**Joan Dobard**





Don't be  
**AFRAID**  
to be  
*Saints!*

Helping college students grow  
together into the saints they  
are called to be.

CATHOLIC.TULANE.EDU  
@TULANECATHOLIC



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL *Tulane Catholic Keynote* WITH IMMACULEE ILIBAGIZA

Immaculee Ilibagiza, a Rwandan Genocide survivor and author of *Left to Tell*, came to speak at Tulane on January 24! Just under 500 students, alumni, faculty, and friends came to hear her story of forgiveness and mercy!

Thank you for making it possible for us to bring in speakers like Immaculee!

*Photographs taken by  
John Bihm Photography*

YOU and more than **125**  
generous donors gave

# \$84,680

in ONE day!  
YOU are helping form Saints!

## #iGiveCatholic Day

#iGiveCatholic Day is the Catholic version of 'Giving Tuesday'. Donors from around the world give to Tulane Catholic on this day.



**\$67,997** IN 2018

**\$23,285** IN 2017

**\$7,400** IN 2016

**\$2,000** IN 2015

*Save the Date!*

#iGiveCatholic  
is on Tuesday,  
**DECEMBER 1, 2020**

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

"When I was a student at Tulane, the Catholic Center became the heart of my spiritual growth and stability. As medical students, I brought my new wife, Kim. To support this beautiful Mission now 30 years later is a dream come true. Pax Christi."

**Wes Ely, MD, MPH '85, '89**

"As Tulane medical school grads, Wes and I have learned through raising our daughters, who went to Tulane, Notre Dame, and Emory, just how critical the college years are for a person's faith journey. Tulane Catholic is a model template for any college faith community of how to create loving space for young adults to find truth and beauty. This is why we want to support you with all we've got!"

**Kim Ely, MD '89**

*Kim and Wes at the Our Lady of Guadalupe shrine in Mexico, on the spot where Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego!*

