



Office of Mission and Ministry

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Λόγος LOGOS



VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1 • Fall 2009

OFFICES

Office of Mission and Ministry

Fr. Joseph J. Guido, O.P., *Vice President*

Fr. Kevin D. Robb, O.P., *Associate Vice President*

401.865.1210

www.providence.edu/Mission+Ministry

Center for Catholic and Dominican Studies

Fr. Thomas D. McGonigle, O.P., *Director*

401-865-2870

www.providence.edu/CDDS/

Chaplain to the National Alumni Association

Fr. John S. Peterson, O.P.

401.865.1520

Office of the Chaplain/Campus Ministry

www.providence.edu/Student+Life/Spiritual+Life/

401.865.2216

Fr. M. James Cuddy, O.P., *Chaplain*

Fr. Thomas J. Ertle, O.P., *Assistant Chaplain/*

Campus Minister

Ms. Gail Berkowitz, *Campus Minister*

Ms. Meghan Griffiths, *Campus Minister*

Ms. Sherry Humes Dane, *Director of Liturgical Music*

Mrs. Jane Larson McGuirk, *Administrative Assistant*

Mrs. Patricia Campellone, *Wedding Consultant*

Mass AT ST. DOMINIC CHAPEL

(when school is in session)

WEEKDAYS

11:35 A.M., 4:30 P.M., 9:00 P.M.*

* *except Friday*

WEEKENDS

4:30 P.M. Saturday (*vigil*)

4:30 P.M. Sunday

7:00 P.M. Sunday

10:30 P.M. Sunday

Confessions AT ST. DOMINIC CHAPEL

(when school is in session)

WEDNESDAYS

3:30 P.M.-4:30 P.M., 8:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.

SATURDAYS

3:30 P.M.-4:30 P.M.

A MEDITATION *Memento Mori*



Most summer evenings I take a walk across campus and stop at the Dominican cemetery to say a prayer. It is always quiet and peaceful there, and in its own way rather

lovely. This summer the grass remained thick and green well into August and the trees were full of leaves and new growth. Some of the graves are adorned with flowers and mementoes left by family and friends. Those of veterans are marked by small American flags. Above each grave is a simple stone cross, all of them the same and set one after another in four long rows. In the light of the setting sun, each of the crosses casts a lengthening shadow until at day's end and with night descending, they cast no shadow at all.

Years ago when I first visited the cemetery I found myself among strangers. I had never met many of the friars buried there, some of whom had died years before I entered the Order and a few before I was born. Others I knew only by name or reputation. They were reputed heroes and minor

rogues, the gentle and the quirky, the stuff of legend and the subject of humorous reminiscence. Mostly they were ordinary good men who tried to do what God had asked of them and, in this way, bestowed what grace and guidance they could on generations of students.

Now when I take my evening walk I find myself among friends. One is the man I confessed to as a student. I had been away from the sacrament for several years and he was gentle with me and unruffled by my youthful follies. Another is the man whose preaching touched me as few others' has. Some were patient with me when I was not, young and headstrong as I was. Still others had been kindly and interesting companions or a steadying presence at common prayer. Several had invited me into their lives on a more personal level. Ill and dying they asked me to hear their confessions, anoint their bodies, and preach at their funerals. Such is a privilege and one I ill deserved but for which I am deeply grateful.

Some might think it odd that there is a cemetery at the very heart of campus, what with so much youth

and vitality within reach. But I think it is apt. Amid the bustle of students entering Moore Hall for a Civ lecture or talking and texting on their way to McVinney or the fitness center, the cemetery is a silent reminder of what we need always remember.

It is a reminder that I too will be laid to rest there, will have my own simple cross like all the others, and that with the passage of time I will be a stranger to those who stop by to say a prayer, a name perhaps but little more. Humility does not come easily but come it must, and with it a desire to do only what is good and what God asks of us. There is deep grace in laying aside pride and ambition, and the projects of one's own imagining; grace, and solace too.

More than this it reminds us of the deepest truth of all. For the many small crosses are arrayed around one large one. It is no one's, and everyone's. Its shadow falls upon all the others, sheltering them from the sun and dimming memory of whatever sin or fault lies buried below. It is a reminder of a single, eternal love, freely given to all for all time. Once crucified it is now risen never to be dimmed, or daunted, or finally turned aside. It makes possible all our lesser loves and blesses our most meager efforts.

Like the friars buried here we are at best ordinary men and women seeking to do God's will. Few of us are heroes, fewer still are villainous, and the measure of our success is not for us to assay. What matters is that we allow ourselves to be rescued from ourselves by the only one who can. If we do we will be changed, our hearts opened to one another. And having been changed we will be able to bestow what grace and guidance as God ordains on this and future generations.

In the evening shadow of the cross there are no strangers, only friends.

—Fr. Joseph J. Guido, O.P.

NEWS AND UPDATES

Signs and Symbols

Under the direction of Fr. Kevin D. Robb, O.P., Associate Vice President, we continue to place sacred art and symbols throughout the campus as an expression of the College's Catholic and Dominican identity. Through a collaborative effort with Residence Life, each residence hall now has a crucifix displayed at its main entrance. The crucifixes were chosen by students and blessed at mass on Passion (Palm) Sunday. A beautiful hand carved wooden crucifix from northern Italy now hangs in the central area of the new addition to Slavin Center, and can be seen from every level of the building. It will be blessed along with the addition itself during a ceremony in September. Finally, reproductions of four sacred works by the Dominican artist Fra Angelico have arrived and will adorn the walls at the entrance to the renovated lower level of Harkins Hall (the old Blackfriars Theater). They will complement the several crucifixes and a previous Fra Angelico that hang in the classrooms and amphitheater that now occupy the renovated space.

Project SAVE

In collaboration with Residence Life and several other offices and student groups at the College, Campus Ministry is co-sponsoring Project SAVE (Sexual Assault and Violence Education) during the last week of September. The week begins with a mass in St. Dominic Chapel and includes various workshops and educational programs designed to help stem the tide of violence against women and to provide resources and support for those who have been victimized. Although Campus Ministry has been a longtime co-sponsor of this event, this year it is especially intent on demonstrating that the church can be a source of understanding and support for victims, and a powerful advocate for the God given dignity and integrity of every human being. Far too often victims fail to receive the help that they need because of the perception that no one cares, or cares only to condemn, and it is just this perception that we hope to correct.

Transitions

It is with much gratitude and some sadness that we bid farewell to Fr. Thomas Blau, O.P. and Fr. Augustine Judd, O.P. Fr. Blau served as Chaplain for the last four years and was known especially for his good humor, enthusiasm and generosity, and for his work with bereaved members of the Providence College community. He requested a transfer to be closer to his ageing and ailing parents, and is now an associate pastor at St. Patrick Church in Columbus, Ohio. Fr. Judd was an assistant chaplain for two years. Keenly intelligent and with a dry wit, and an avid Red Sox fan, he was often a source of compassion and mercy to students late at night when they wandered into the Campus Ministry Center looking for someone to talk to. He has been transferred by the provincial to St. Joseph Parish in Greenwich Village where he will also minister to students at New York University.

At the same time we are delighted to welcome Fr. M. James Cuddy, O.P. as Chaplain. A native of Braintree, Massachusetts, Fr. Cuddy is a member of the Providence College class of 1998. While at PC he majored in marketing, worked in advertising, and was actively involved with Campus Ministry, Friars Club, and Intramural Athletics. After graduation he served as an AmeriCorps volunteer in Charleston, South Carolina where he worked as a wildfire fighter, mentor and tutor in afterschool programs, a Special Olympics volunteer, and on restoring schools damaged by hurricanes. He also served as an inner-city youth minister in South Boston before entering the Dominican novitiate in 2000. He was ordained in 2007 and was a parochial vicar at St. Louis Bertrand Church, Louisville, Kentucky before coming "home" to the College.

Fr. Cuddy's goals for Campus Ministry in the year ahead include reaching out to those who might not be "regulars" in the Church, helping students see the interconnectedness of what they do in Church and what they do during the rest of the week, and preparing students to live lives of faith beyond Providence College