

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2022



AMORIS CHRISTI

Of the love of Christ





WORDS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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And he who sat upon the throne said,
‘Behold, I make all things new.’
Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’

Revelation 21:5

How sweet is the work of the Lord! One year ago, we finished our third year of the Amoris Christi Foundations program and eagerly awaited what the Lord was bringing forth. In the past year, the harvest had been more abundant than we could have ever imagined. Formed under the inspiration of prayer, we launched our pilot batch of School of Nazareth (SoN) in August 2021, with eight college students from across the country.



They grew in wisdom, virtue, and faith leadership through spiritual disciplines, personal accompaniment, and community living. The Anointed and Sent (ANS) program offered for young adults, completed two more semesters, while making new partnerships with different dioceses across the country. We also started the research wing of Amoris Christi, the Institute for Excellence, conducting research projects on various topics, such as the aretaic friendships and the art of listening. The Lord blessed the relentless commitment full-time and part-time staff and numerous volunteers to yield long-lasting fruits for the kingdom.

Finally, the Lord blessed us with a new campus for Amoris Christi through a five-year lease agreement with Duncan Conference Center (www.duncancenter.org). This new campus will have 40 rooms with 80 beds, seven conference rooms, a chapel, and playgrounds in a five-acre facility sharing the boundary walls of the Emmanuel Catholic Church.

With much joy and gratitude, we lift our eyes to the Lord to receive a place for young people near and far to come and receive His unique and personal love. We are pleased to offer more Ignatian Silent Retreats starting this fall 2022 and onward with our new facility. We also hope to have different conferences and workshops for the public to attend. So, please come and visit; we will have a place for you to stay!

We wouldn't be here without your love and care, and we thank you for all your generosity of heart. As we accompany the young people in the most formative years of their lives, let us join hearts to be a "Light to the Nations" and a place of hope and truth amidst the valleys of despair and falsity.

Sincerely,

Sunil Nadarajan, Executive Director



SCHOOL OF NAZARETH

Forming the Saints of This Generation



Events



July 5-9, 2022

It will be 5 days of fun, friendship, discipleship, and accompaniment to help upcoming 11th and 12th graders integrate their faith into their daily lives. Summer in the SoN will be filled with activities, service, prayer, bonfires, beach sunrises, cook-offs, music jam sessions, and so much more!



A weekend of staying at the School of Nazareth residences to experience life in School of Nazareth. Students reside in our facilities and partake in various activities, such as cooking together, bonfires, and camping in the backyard, just to name a few. There is a focus on prayer with Mass, Taize, and Holy Hour. Participants are also given the opportunity to meet one-on-one with a formator and be prayed over by the staff.



On March 12, 2022 School of Nazareth conducted a one-day program for high school students in Atlanta, GA filled with fun, faith, and fellowship. Participants attended Mass, Adoration, sessions and testimonies on living an integrated life. Various activities were offered, such as a TikTok challenge, tie-dying, and small group discussions.

Our Mission

To build a formative community for college students where they can find the joy and fullness of an authentically Catholic life, while pursuing the adventurous path that the Lord has in store for them. School of Nazareth hopes to form the future saints of the world, who are equipped and capable of influencing their peers, family and society in both their vocational and professional callings as beacons of truth and life.

Program Overview



School of Nazareth is a residential formation program for undergraduate students, studying any major in a nearby college or university in Delray Beach, or any out-of-state private or public university through an online program. Our focus is to help each student become the man or woman that they are called to be, with the freedom and courage to act as an integrated human, in union with God's grace.

School of Nazareth equips a person with seeds of prayer, Word of God, contemplation, discernment, a sacramental life, and community. The hands-on formation only takes 5% of the students' time in a week, leaving space for them to apply what they have learned in their day-to-day life.



LIFE AT



A day in SoN is never dull! It starts with Holy Hour and Mass, followed by breakfast and Taizé.

Students then go about their day studying or working. Spaces are set up in the office and within the students' own residences for this. Formation classes occur two days a week. Students also have bi-weekly meetings with their formation director.

Once a week, students, staff, and faculty gather together for SoN Community Night to pray, share about the past week, and eat a staff-cooked meal. Some students also volunteer at the Lantana community to tutor and play with the kids. We have a biweekly book study and have been reading through *The Privilege of Being a Woman* by Alice von Hildebrand.



SoN Community Night



The "SoNs", as they are affectionately called, with Br. Mathew Jacob at his vestition



One of our favorite group pictures!



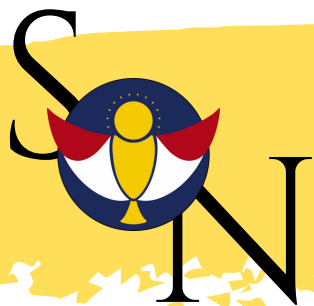
Students cook dinner in teams of two and eat together every night



Students lead an active life! Staff and students participated in a race weekend in January with 5Ks, half-marathons, and full marathons!



Mass in the Jesus Youth of America National Office chapel



REFLECTIONS

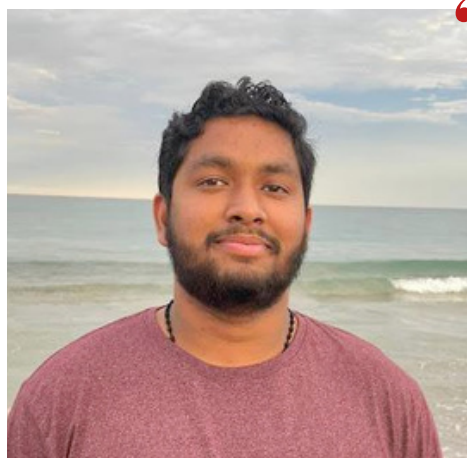


Abigail George



“When I heard about School of Nazareth, I never thought I would have joined because it was so different than what I thought I wanted. However, as I learned more about the various elements of the program, I realized that this is exactly what I needed. I wanted to have the “college experience” in an environment where I could be protected but also challenged. I wanted to become independent and be part of a Catholic community. My biggest desire is to discover who I am by coming to know who God is through intentional growth in my faith and spirituality, which is exactly what School of Nazareth provides. This past semester, I have received the gift of freedom — not just a sense of independence, but this deeper interior freedom and

making decisions that are truly authentic to me. I have a better process of dealing with my feelings and struggles and bringing them to the Lord. Being with the community and experiencing true Christian fellowship has become a source of joy and healing in my life. I have really enjoyed the Spirituality and Personhood classes and they have helped me to approach my life differently. I am slowly understanding who I am, who I want to be, and who the Lord wants me to be. I am looking forward to continuing to grow in my prayer and faith through discipline and trust. I have received and acknowledged freedom in my identity as a Daughter of God and I am excited to act in it and find out what the Lord has planned next.



Joshua Thomas

“I don’t necessarily think I chose SoN but I think God directed me to come here. It’s actually an interesting story of how I came here. It all started when I came to Florida for a 2 week vacation before starting school for the year, and conveniently I ended up helping out with the Come and See that was happening at the time. The following week was the first day of orientation for the first group of School of Nazareth participants. The day before the first day of orientation Geoffrey Merz asked me if I would like to join the program and the next day I made the decision to join.

As for what I have received here it would have to be a greater sense of inner peace and growth in both personal and spiritual formation. My time here has given me a greater sense of who I am and has also helped me to learn more about my self. I am looking to improve on my relationship with the Lord, by intentionally growing in friendship with Him. I hope that next year will be even more fruitful and that I will be able to really get to know the Lord and grow in deeper friendship and be a son in the Father’s house. I would also like to grow in friendship with everyone that will be in the program next year.

BE WHO GOD MEANT YOU TO BE AND YOU
WILL SET THE WORLD ON FIRE.

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA



ANOINTED & SENT



Anointed & Sent is a two year online course for committed young adults in the Church who are seeking to grow deeper in contemplative spirituality. The course is designed to help a person become a more dynamic member of the Kingdom of God according to his or her unique charisms and call.

COMPONENTS



2 YEAR COURSE: Split over four semesters

BIWEEKLY CLASS SESSIONS: One hour classes with practical content applications

COURSE COMPANION: Peer-to-peer accompaniment on an alternating biweekly schedule

SPIRITUAL ADVISEMENT: Monthly spiritual advisement and mentoring

FIVE DAY IGNATIAN RETREAT: Hosted at the Joseph & Mary Retreat House, Mundelein, IL

CAPSTONE PROJECT: To apply what one has received in a missionary project

UPDATES

The life of a young adult is anything but mundane! Filled with numerous opportunities, challenges, and adventures, a young adult is invited to look at life boldly with Jesus. Breaking from the pre-existing molds the world sets to offer, participants are invited to take a leap of faith to discover a new way of living with Jesus.

Over the course of the past two year, over sixty young adults have participated in Anointed & Sent. With great joy, the first cohort has completed the program this spring. Two other cohorts are continuing forward and a new cohort is set to begin August, 2022.

Young adults between the ages of 22-35 of any state of life are welcome to join! There will be informational sessions on the following dates at 8 pm via Zoom: June 8th, June 22nd, July 6th, and July 20th.

Please email us at ans@amorischristi.org for more information or an application!

ANOINTED & SENT

TESTIMONIES



“

This course truly opened my eyes to the beauty of simplicity in communing with God. I didn't realize how I had overcomplicated my relationship with God and how over time and through my experiences, I became driven by my fears and anxieties. The importance of silence and making time for renewal on a daily basis because of His great love for us is the most priceless gift we received from being part of Anointed and Sent.



Merlyn Sunny Manattu, MD
Cohort 1

“

One of the challenges of growing in faith as a young adult is having the right resources and relationships to keep us anchored. Making the journey together with others in a slow, consistent, day-to-day walk of faith has been like “iron sharpening iron,” and has been one of my favorite aspects of Anointed and Sent.



Chris Cammarata
Cohort 2

“

With my time in ANS I feel that I have received a special guidance which has helped me in my spiritual life. Whether it was the bimonthly meetings, the weekly calls, or the time with our mentors, they all have helped me grow more spiritually by allowing me to share my faith with others; which was a goal of mine by joining ANS.



Sandesh Mathew
Cohort 1

IGNATIAN SILENT RETREATS

Intimacy in the Trinity

Ignatian retreats are different from preached retreats in that the priority is given to the work of the Holy Spirit through dedicated silence. The retreatant has 4-5 hours of personal prayer each day and meets daily as well, one-on-one, with a spiritual director usually over the course of 3, 5, 8, or 30 days. During this time, the retreatant shares the fruits and movements of their prayer and receives guidance and the next set of passages to pray with for the following day. Outside of the formal time of prayer and spiritual direction, there is time for Holy Mass, rest, meals, and exercise.

The Lord is working wonders in the lives of all who take the sacrifice to step away from the world and give full priority to listening to His sweet and gentle voice.

From those just starting out on their faith journey to those who have been on the path for decades, Ignatian Silent Retreats prove to be a powerful way to grow deeper in faith and mission for anyone who is open to hear God's voice. Many of the people who have participated in retreats hosted by Amoris Christi testify that these few days of silence are truly unlike anything else they had ever done and can almost always immediately see the benefits to their overall mental, physical, and spiritual health.

It has been a great joy for us to offer silent retreats over these past few years and we look forward to offering more starting this Fall at our new home, the Duncan Conference Center. To learn more and pre-register for an upcoming retreat, please contact office@amorischristi.org.

“The human person is created to praise, reverence and serve God our Lord, and by so doing save his or her soul; and it is for the human person that the other things on the face of the earth are created, as helps to the pursuit of this end.”

#23 The Principle and Foundation
- The Spiritual Exercises

THE AMORIS CHRISTI INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE

The Amoris Christi Institute of Excellence (ACIE) is a research institute that aims to discuss challenges faced in the world today and explore them using various disciplines such as philosophy, spirituality, theology, neurobiology, psychology, nutrition, medicine, and economics.

The institute performs this in a multidisciplinary approach which will result in pragmatic research and publications through various media. The members of the institute come from various fields and backgrounds contributing to the multidisciplinary approach.



Current Projects

ARETAIC FRIENDSHIPS

Currently, the group is working on a publication on “Aretaic Friendships,” which stems from research and discussions on how social environments can affect motivation. These social environments include friendships that encourage and challenge the pursuit of virtue, truth, and greatness. The team has discussed various relevant topics, such as fear, drive, and risk management. The research will be used to aid others in their journey of striving for excellence.

LISTENING

This study aims to understand the core characteristics of listening and the effects of listening on various levels like in the field of education, healthcare, and families. The study will utilize self-reported surveys to observe listening in these environments across a population. The data will then be analyzed to understand the effects of listening and listening skills. This will be used to develop a pragmatic approach to listening to help understand others and oneself.



THE AMORIS CHRISTI CAMPUS AT THE DUNCAN CONFERENCE CENTER

Our new campus



Scenic grounds for reflection and meditation



Large meeting rooms



On campus chapel with 200 person capacity



Classrooms equipped with projectors



Residential Lounge



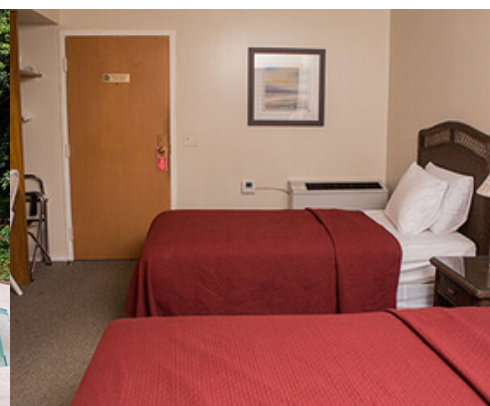
Outdoor areas



Our large conference room with 150 person capacity



Outdoor relaxation area



On campus lodging that can accommodate 80 individuals



GET INVOLVED

Pray

Contact us to join our intercession team and pray for Amoris Christi's various initiatives! Let us know how we can pray for you during our daily morning Taize!

Give

Your support means so much as each contribution provides for the staff, facilities, and resources needed for Amoris Christi!

Volunteer

Join us for Summer in the SoN!

Become a professional mentor to one of our School of Nazareth students!

Teach a seminar for School of Nazareth

Join us

Register for Summer in the SoN

Apply to School of Nazareth

Apply for Anointed & Sent

Contact us!



office@amorischristi.org

Check out our social media!



schoolofnazareth.org



amorischristi.org



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