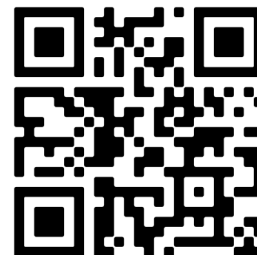


The Catholic Center

QUARANTINE CHALLENGE!

We want to have some fun from home and make a community dance video! Play “**Good Morning**” by **Mandisa** and send a video of you and your family dancing to Bulletin@ccatuga.org. We will compile a community dance video to spread some joy in these stressful times!

Link to the song on Spotify:



OPEN CHAPEL

The Chapel will be open from 8:00AM-8:00PM until further notice. Our members are welcome to visit the Chapel to pray and reflect. We ask that you practice social distancing and follow safety guidelines.



TUNE-IN TO MASS



Each Sunday our **10:00 AM Mass** will be live-streamed weekly on our Facebook Page; The Catholic Center at UGA. Find more *info on livestreamed masses at:* <https://archatl.com/catholic-life/broadcast-or-livestreamed-mass/>

CATHOLIC CENTER CONTRIBUTIONS

With the recent concerns and forced closure of the Catholic Center due to COVID-19, our Center is facing the following concerns:

- *Our work at the Catholic Center Continues and our expenses will need to be paid while our revenues could decrease significantly. Our staff will continue to be paid as they work from home and our bills will still be due.
- *Weekly Cash/Check collections at mass represent around 70% of what we bring in each week.

To help us get through this crisis and to ensure we will have greater stability going forward, we are encouraging everyone to transition to online giving. Online Giving allows you to make one-time or recurring contributions to the Catholic Center from your Credit/Debit card.

If you typically give in the offertory basket, now is the time to go online. Simply go to the Catholic Center website at ccatuga.org and go to Catholic Center Online Giving. You may still mail donations/offertory to the Catholic Center. Please contact the office at secretary@ccatuga.org if you have any questions.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Edward Adrian, Rosilyn Andrews, Bob Brownlie, Bill Burden, Brian Carr, Grace Byrne, Brenda Critch, Norma d'Azzo, Betty DeGuilo, Elena Dekazos, Pilar Delaplaine, George Dougherty, Carol Garbon, Rachel Gauna, Mildred George, Noleen Casey, Pat Goggin, Pilar Delaplaine, Kurt Huberty, Ann Johnson, Meth McElhannon, Barbara O'Brien, Dorothy Peltier, Sharon Perrine, Tom Risher, Joel Rivera, Carole Seeley, Jimmy Simons, Doug Tigert, Martha Tucker and Joan Weiss

With deepest sympathy, our community prays for the souls of the faithful departed and for their loved ones especially Bern Allard and Mildred George.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for March:

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

OFFICE

Closed Until Further Notice

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Fax: 706-543-2541

CONNECT

www.ccatuga.org



CC at UGA



@CatholicDawgs

Mass Readings

Saturday - Jer11:18-20/Jn7:40-53

Sunday - Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45

Monday - Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday - Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday - Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday - Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday - Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42

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ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK: JAMAICA



Ozzy Taborda:

First of all I would like to thank the parish, the friars, all the donors, and all the people that made this trip possible and especially for the price it was! Going into a mission trip where the majority of the focus was not on manual labor or construction but rather interacting with a community of people made me nervous about what to expect. After getting to teach and interact with young kids, helping to paint homework centers, cooking and serving food to the less fortunate, and even growing closer to everyone who went on the trip, I can say without any doubt that this trip has been one of the most meaningful and impacting experiences in my life. One of the hardest parts about the trip for me was dealing with the felling guilt of leaving Jamaica and everyone we met without being able to radically change their living conditions. Like the guilt you feel when you realize you've been doing something wrong, I believe that my guilt was rooted in the fact that I realized how little I am doing in my own community. During one of our reflections, a question came up about how much of our lives we should dedicate towards helping others. Should we give up our entire lives and all our possessions to help the poor like Mother Teresa or Saint Francis? After more reflection I realized that even though we are all called to be saints, that isn't an overnight change for most of us. It is rather something we all have to work towards one step at a time. This mission trip was that step I needed to realize how much more I can be doing in my community at home, especially in a city as poor as Athens. Hopefully this mission trip also inspired others to help more in their daily lives. Once again, thank you so much to everyone who made this trip possible.



Regina Metz:

Our week in Jamaica was truly renewing. We experienced Christ in so many ways; through the local Jamaicans who showed us around, the school children who struggled to read and write, the houses we painted, conversations we had, bathrooms we cleaned, the beach sunsets, songs of praise we sang, and in the silence of prayer. I am so grateful to the Catholic Center for this week that taught me the truth of what it means to live as a child of God. Serving the needy in Negril expanded the joy of my heart and reminded me the importance of serving God's people everywhere. It is through touching others that God fills our own hearts, and He was able to touch mine in a profound way through the people of Jamaica and the generosity of the Catholic Center this Spring Break.



Olivia Fertig:

I recently returned from Negril, Jamaica on a service trip opportunity provided by the Catholic Center. Some of the projects we got to work on included tutoring kids at a local school, helping paint at a homework center, and volunteering at a soup kitchen. Through this experience, I was able to explore new cultural traditions and form relationships with those I interacted with. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to visit this beautiful country and see God working in so many ways. I never would have expected to gain so many new relationships with Jamaicans and other students from UGA. This experience was unforgettable.



ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK: APPALACHIA

Caroline Solomon:

Over spring break, I went on the Catholic Center's spring break mission trips to Appalachia, Virginia, where we volunteered with the Appalachia Service Project in Jonesville, VA for a week. Our group was assigned to work on a floor in a mobile home that was experiencing some issues with rot.

Throughout the week, we all learned so much about construction and teamwork as we kept encountering problems and working together to solve them. The homeowner was very kind and helped us every bit of the way, all while telling us about his life and his family. He had faced some very real hardships in his life, but he had more hope and hospitality than almost anyone else I have met. I realized that this region was truly the America that most of us do not see; the part that is close geographically yet many times not considered "exotic" enough to warrant help or missions. The people who lived there had gone through the most difficult experiences and faced the most difficult stumbling blocks I have heard, from economic hardships, to drug addiction, to having to choose between working at the federal prison or in fast food since those were the only two places to work after the coal mines shut down.

By the end of the trip, I had learned much more about floor anatomy and construction, but also about how privileged and lucky I am to have grown up where I did. I had been allowed a peek inside the workings of this unexotic, poverty-ridden America, which gave me a new outlook and a new perspective from which to view our country. I am so grateful to the Catholic Center and to ASP for making this trip possible.



ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK: EL SALVADOR

Caroline Coomer:



I arrived in El Salvador, knowing very little about the culture and history, but I left with abundant knowledge from the people and their experiences that no class could ever teach me. I saw Christ working in everything we did and witnessed in this beautiful country. I was shocked to hear about the horrific war that recently occurred. We learned about many catholic people who stood up for their faith and for the poor people of El Salvador. We even met many people who served in this war. We also did service in the village, Las Delicias. Seeing this village opened my eyes to how fortunate I was to be born in the United States. These families were impoverished, and most of them did not have clean water. Two people that had the most significant impact on me were from this village. First is a man named Don Lucio. Don Lucio has a cleft palate and does not leave his house because others will bully him. We visited him, and one of the other volunteers, Kathy, and I got to read the bible to him. He was so grateful to hear God's word. He told us that his biggest trial in life was not being able to read because he cannot read the bible. As he said this, I teared up because it made me so grateful for my education and the ability to read and write.

The fact that I can write this reflection is such a blessing. The one thing he said that I remember very clearly is when he said, "I only feel happy in the church." I felt the Lord's presence in Don Lucio at that moment. I realized how much the people of El Salvador have been through, but they remain joyous by practicing their faith and trusting in the Lord. The second person that impacted me most was Karla. Karla lives at the volunteer house and recently became a doctor. She inspires me so much. My sister is currently working very hard to get into medical school, and I have witnessed how hard that can be. Karla is from Las Delicias and is the kindest and most selfless person I have met. She was eager to learn more English and would talk to all the volunteers. She even helped out some of the volunteers when they got sick. She inspired me so much because she came from Las Delicias and did not let any boundaries stop her from attaining her goal. Now, she is a doctor and serves in the free clinic in the village. I think that is the epitome of "giving back to your community." She has inspired me to work harder in school and know that anything is possible through Christ. Being In a country that predominantly shares my faith was an amazing experience. Every church we visited had such a light and welcoming feeling. I am so grateful I got to meet so many amazing people and grow closer to the other volunteers from the Catholic Center.



Kathy Nguyen:

El Salvador was a blend of emotions that I will attempt to put into words. The timing of our trip coincided with the rise of the global pandemic of COVID-19. No matter how much I tried to mentally prepare myself the week before, or even on the plane, nothing could truly prepare me for El Salvador. Upon arrival, the heat and humidity engulfed by the sounds of traffic and the life around the airport. We quickly dove into the various tasks apart of the trip. On Sunday, we visited a home for abandoned and abused children. It was there I talked to Katherein, one full of dreams and aspirations. She was quite close to my age, only three years younger. Stumbling through conversation with my limited Spanish and her basic understanding of English, I was able to find out that she wanted to become a cosmetologist and really liked science. The next day, we were off to Las Delicias, the village where the community the volunteers have been working at. The work that I did there was hard and labor intensive. I tried to do what I could digging up the tree stumps. It was very difficult but rewarding. One of the most valuable parts of the trip was truly seeing the never-ending joy in the faces and smiles of the children of Las Delicias. After days of work, we would visit the community center and enjoy lunch with them. It was an honor to be amongst them, breaking bread together. One of the most eye-opening things on the trip was walking around to the houses. There I met Don Lucio. After talking to him, he admitted that one the greatest pains in his life was that he wasn't able to read or write. Reflecting upon this conversation, I was mountains more thankful than I already was to be blessed with the ability and opportunity to go to university to absorb in such knowledge. All around El Salvador, I saw God in the eyes of the people. Their reverence for St. Oscar Romero was amazing and their persistence through the tough times of civil war and hardships has stuck with me and continues to inspire me each and every day. It proved to me that God works in many ways that we cannot begin to comprehend. Leaving El Salvador has made me a person of deeper thought and prayers, as well as humbling me to even the simplest actions in my everyday life. I hope to be able to share this continued love to the communities around me in this time of crisis.



ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK: PINE RIDGE, SOUTH DAKOTA



Megan Phelan:

This past spring break I had the privilege to return to Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. It was my second trip to Pine Ridge, but stepping back onto the reservation, it felt as though I never left. It is difficult to articulate my experience on Pine Ridge, as it is a place you can't truly understand until you've been there, but here is my attempt.

Pine Ridge is a beautiful place. There are rolling hills, sweeping plains, and sunsets you would not believe. It is easy to get swept away in the beauty and forget about the difficult history of the Lakota people there. Tipi Raisers, the organization that we work with while on Pine Ridge, does a fantastic job of including community members in nightly gatherings and dinners. These gatherings with friends, are the primary way that I have created bonds, heard stories, and learned about the Lakota culture. I wish that I could share the stories of these individuals, but they are simply not my stories to tell, and I could never do them justice. What I can say, is that the Lakota people consistently amaze me with their resilience in the face of adversity.

Our days on Pine Ridge are filled to the brim with activity. In the mornings we woke up, and breakfast was prepared for us by community members and volunteers. After we finished eating, crew leaders would come in, and volunteers would break into work crews and go with their leader to a work site. These work sites involved anything from construction, chopping wood, or farm work, to distributing supplies around the reservation. While at work sites, volunteers got a chance to get to know the men and women on their work crews, talk to them, and see the realities of what it is like to live on Pine Ridge. There are two days of being on work crew that particularly stood out to me. One of the days that I was on work crew, I went to the home of a man named Kevin Poor Bear. I had met Kevin several times, both last year and this year. He has been an active member in educating and speaking to volunteer groups who work with Tipi Raisers, and sometimes comes for dinner in the evenings. He is an incredibly talented artist, and shared with me that art was the way that he coped with addiction and the loss of his legs, it is his outlet, and he uses it as a tool to spread awareness about his culture and show his love for his people. While at Kevin's house, we were working on repairing his porch and his wheelchair ramp. While we were working, Kevin sat in his kitchen working on a painting and during breaks, I would go in and speak with him. He told me about problems with suicide on the reservation. We talked about the poverty and crime. I heard the hard truths and realities of living there that I often did not see amidst the landscape and culture I was diving into.

Another day, I went with two sisters, the Weasel Bears, to bring donations to the homeless shelter and youth shelter on the reservation. Entering into these spaces is always humbling, and I was able to see that with the little that this community has, they still look after their own vulnerable populations. The Weasel Bear sisters are dear friends, who opened their homes and their hearts to me and some others in our group. Those of us who had been to Pine Ridge before met them last year, and kept in touch over the year. It was such a treat to reunite with our sweet friends and from them learn about the issues the Lakota face. The Weasel Bears do not want their people to be known for their brokenness. There is so much more to the Lakota than poverty and addiction. There is strength, beauty, resilience. That is what I want to emphasize about my experience on Pine Ridge.

Something that is very important for volunteer groups is the tour of Wounded Knee. Wounded Knee is the site where 300 Lakota were massacred at the hands of the United States military. Of the 300-people murdered, the majority were women and children. The soldiers who carried out the massacre were awarded medals of honor for their task. Wounded Knee is an extremely important and revered site among the Lakota, as it is a stark reminder of their mistreatment at the hands of our government. Stories were shared with us, passed down through generations of survivors.

This day weighs heavy on everyone's hearts, as there is nothing easy about recognizing and acknowledging our own ugly history. After the massacre, the dismembered bodies of these women and children were left out in the cold, and were eventually buried in a mass grave. On top of this mass grave, a Catholic church was built. The church is now an abandoned building, a dumping ground for garbage and a constant reminder of the injustice done to the Lakota people by the Catholic church. There is so much reconciliation that must take place between the Catholic church and the people of Pine Ridge, but I am thankful to be a small part of this process.

On the day that we toured Wounded Knee, we were also able to attend an informational session at the Oglala Lakota College to learn about the history of the Lakota and Pine Ridge reservation. This history is difficult to hear, as historical figures often revered for their patriotism and good deeds were exposed for discriminatory practice and violation of treaties with indigenous tribes.

Aside from Wounded Knee, the other most powerful experience that we as a group had was Inipi. Inipi is part of a Lakota ceremony that involves a sweat hut and prayer. The purpose is to purify the mind, body and spirit, and to unite with our creator and each other in prayer.

The experience of Pine Ridge is one that pushes you to your limits. It requires a certain "toughness" I often feel that I lack. The physical labor is hard, hearing the heartbreaking reality for those who live on Pine Ridge is even harder. But the beauty of the culture and the people cannot be put into words or pictures. The hearts of those who welcomed us into their homes and the friends I reunited with are the reasons I hope to return.

Mitakuye Oyasin (We are all Related)