

BROWN-RISD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER



A Season of Hope

As the Advent season approaches, we are invited to pause in anticipation of the Lord's coming at Christmas, and recount the events of the rapidly passing days of the fall semester. Bible studies are full, the pews of Manning and the Center Chapel are packed, and Munderground speakers and topics are abundant and varied. Thirty-five students had the opportunity to deeply encounter the Lord and his wisdom away from the demanding lives of responsibility they face on campus through our Fall Retreat, and before we know it the Annual Thanksgiving Potluck and Christmas Party will have arrived!

In the midst of these days marked by busyness, God has invited students to nourish a contemplative soul which seeks the quiet of his eternal gaze, and trusts in his gracious providence. In their sacramental, social, and intellectual lives, God has led them further up and further into his loving inspiration.

We hope that this newsletter supplies insights into these student experiences which will aid your own contemplation of the ways in which the Lord desires your heart. By witnessing his providential guidance in others' lives, we pray that you, too, will learn of his abiding presence. Be assured of our prayers for a joyful Advent season, confident in the promise of God's nativity to come.

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"A voice of one calling;

'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'"

Isaiah 40: 3-5



FALL UPDATES

Bishop Henning at Munderground

On October 30th, Bishop Henning visited the BRCC where he delivered a talk focused on the role of faith and culture in the history of the Church, and the ways in which looking to the difficulties of the past can increase our hope in the future. Citing the many challenges which have plagued our world, and the Church, he proposed that the building up of the mind through the preservation of intellectual and spiritual goods can help to recover a semblance of a theocentric culture. It was a huge success! Students turned out in large numbers, and many spoke of their gratitude for the wisdom that the Bishop shared with them, and the hope that his words instilled.



From left: Sean, Mary, Erin, Tyler

Our New FOCUS Team

Our new missionaries have been such an integral addition to our community! Tyler, Sean, Mary, and Erin given themselves wholeheartedly to loving students and leading them to Christ. They've spent time doing outreach on the main green, meeting one-on-one with students, hosting social events, and leading and co-leading Bible studies. **There are currently 22 Bible studies happening on campus!**

Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage

At the end of September, the BRCC team traveled with Brown students and PC students to Washington D.C. for the inaugural Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage. The event took place at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where thousands of people gathered to hear conferences from the Dominican Friars, pray the rosary, attend mass, and connect with like-minded Catholics who had made pilgrimage to seek the intercession of Our Lady.





FALL RETREAT: LIVING HOPE October 27-28th, 2023

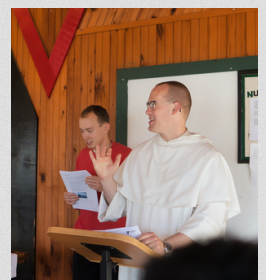
Our fall retreat theme this year was "Living Hope," based upon the words from the first letter of St. Peter, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3-9) The retreat was broken up into three talks: Understanding Christian Hope, the relationship between Hope and Suffering, and Transforming Hope. A group of about 35 students left their studies and work behind for two days so that they could experience the closeness of Christ in the Sacraments, in His creation, and in the community of one another. Even a few weeks after retreat, students are still talking about how the weekend impacted them. We are so grateful to God for the ways He poured His love into our hearts over retreat weekend!



Student Testimony

My name is Jack Murphy and I am a first year medical student. The BRCC has been a very important part of my first several months of school. Not only has the BRCC provided a space for me to pray and attend mass, through the Center I have also found a very faithful, close-knit community. I have had the opportunity to share in fellowship with other Catholic students every week in activities like Munderground and the Faith and Medicine group. Even when there are no events going on, I will sometimes swing by BRCC on my way home from the medical school to pray at the chapel. In October, I had the chance to go on the BRCC fall retreat. It was an extremely prayerful 24 hours at the retreat center on a lake in Connecticut when I had the opportunity to turn off my phone, unplug from my school work and listen to God. While I did not know anything about BRCC prior to starting at Brown, it has been a breath of fresh air in my busy medical education

-Jack Murphy '27G



ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT

ISABEL ARANGO '22G

My name is Isabel Arango, I'm 24 years old and I'm a Brown Masters degree alumni. I had the privilege to be part of the BRCC community during my time at Brown and I can say, without a doubt, it was the best part of my whole student experience. There's so many things I can highlight about the Catholic Center but I would summarize it in a short sentence: The BRCC is a home away from home. Coming from abroad and in a time where academics can be so demanding, having a place and a group of people that are waiting to receive you with open arms, is incredible. One of my main concerns before attending Brown was being able to find a community where I felt engaged. The BRCC turned out to be more than that. Funny as it may be, arriving to the BRCC in Providence was providential.



Isabel with fellow BRCC members in Mexico City in 2022.

I found myself in a beautiful, well maintained space, where my faith would flourish immensely. The people I met: students, missionaries, Christina and Father Edmund, are among the most beautiful gifts God has given me. I felt embraced, nurtured, challenged, and truly loved. I came to the BRCC with a flame of faith within my soul that quickly lit up into a fire. I am profoundly grateful to the BRCC for being that sacred space where the shared devotion fuelled my spiritual journey into profound depths. I entered with a simple desire to cultivate my faith and left with the precious gift of friendship and communion. During my time at the BRCC "I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'" & with the guidance of Father and my community I can now say I've been able to respond to my Lord generously: "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8



Isabel with Julia Gugulski '25 & Morgan Gillis '22G

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the Catholic ministry at Brown and RISD! We hold you in our prayers and wish you and your families a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas season!