



the evangelical Catholic
forming disciples. training leaders.

Ministry Update

The EC Launches Regional Outreach Conferences

The EC has built a reputation for being a resource for speakers and trainers that are theologically astute, while also being in-tune with the practical needs and struggles of Church leaders. Through a combination of respected keynote speakers, engaging workshops, and contemporary music, our conferences have helped Catholic ministry leaders to understand, embrace, and execute the Church's call to the New Evangelization.

Over 1000 Catholic ministry leaders have attended the EC's conferences over the last six years. This represents over 80 campus ministries and over 60 parishes.

This year, the EC is launching a new type of conference with the particular focus of evangelizing attendees. Jason Simon, the EC's executive director, explains this new initiative, "Our Madison Institutes equipped Catholic leaders, lay and ordained, for apostolic work in the Church. Over the years, we realized that these leaders were increasingly hungry for events that would evangelize and catechize people they knew at their parishes and college campuses. We felt confident that we could work with local leaders to launch a conference that would open people's eyes to the power of God at work in their lives and in the world. We're excited to offer at least two of these conferences within the next year."

His Eminence Francis Cardinal George sent a letter of support for the Chicago Conference and Bishop Michael Burbidge is supporting another conference next fall in his Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina. In both places, the Evangelical Catholic is working with a strong team of local ministry leaders to plan and execute the conference.

The aim of these conferences is to provide a setting for conversion to Jesus and the initiatory catechesis needed in order to ground these young adults in the life of faith. We hope that they will bring renewed life to the campus ministries and dioceses to which they return.

In order to reach the largest number of young adults possible, we are diligently working to find financial supporters of these conferences who will subsidize the registration fees. Our goal is to keep the fees for the young adults to \$50 per person. This, however, will mean a shortfall of at least \$150 per person. We are confident that Catholic donors will see the value of this initiative and support the effort to make it widely available.

Special points of interest:

- EC launches Young Adult Outreach Conferences in Chicago and Raleigh
- 49 evangelization small groups in Diocese of Madison
- EC Ministry Internship Program foundations being laid
- EC Reunion 2/21/09, in Madison

"Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him."
- LUKE 9:32 -

CHICAGO YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

For College Students and Young Adults under 33
April 17-18, 2009

Evangelization on Campus

The EC directs Alpha-Omega, a weekly outreach large group on the UW-Madison campus. We also provide one-on-one formation for students and serve as evangelization consultants to St. Paul's in other pastoral matters. We are currently laying the groundwork for an EC Evangelization Internship Program at St. Paul's next year, open also to graduates from other universities.



A Story of Conversion & Evangelical Impact

Jason J. Simon, Executive Director

EC Mission Statement
The Evangelical Catholic forms and trains Catholic disciples in evangelical life and ministry to be leaders in the Church and witnesses in the world.

Our dear and esteemed advisor, Avery Cardinal Dulles, passed away on December 12th. For more on his amazing life and relationship to the EC, please visit our website.

Ecclesial Advisors

- Avery Cardinal Dulles**
Fordham University
- Archbishop Timothy Dolan**
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- Bishop Robert Morlino**
Diocese of Madison
- Fr. Robert Barron**
Mundelein Seminary

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Professor, Duke University
- Sandra Kruse**
Catholic Author and Mother of 11!
- Brad Klingele**
Emmaus Journey Ministries

The goal of EC ministry is ultimately to equip Catholics to bring the good news and care of Jesus to others. This is, of course, the ultimate goal for all Catholic ministries that seek to embody Christ's call to go and make disciples of all nations.

Unlike my periodic goal of not driving more than 5 mph over the speed limit, this goal is achievable. A Catholic ministry can actually equip people to reach out in life-changing ways to their peers. I recently met with a student for spiritual direction who told me his story. It illustrated so well the power of achieving this goal.

Paul grew up Catholic and came to UW-Madison particularly excited to be attending the country's #1 party school. (They have since dropped in this prestigious ranking.) Like many freshmen, he was eager to be free of home, to do whatever he wanted with his friends, and to not have a curfew to hold him back from *quality time* with his girlfriend.

His freshman year went the way that you might think, given his aforementioned goals and objectives. Still, he continued to attend Mass on most Sundays. One particular Sunday, an attractive woman invited undergrads at Mass to attend

Alpha-Omega on the upcoming Thursday. Alpha-Omega is the weekly large group (begun by the Evangelical Catholic) that features stories of conversion from students, engaging speakers, and contemporary music all focused on the mission of inviting students into a relationship with Jesus through the Catholic Church.

The topic for the week



seemed interesting and the woman seemed worth seeing again, so Paul decided to give Alpha-O a try. That decision changed Paul's life.

When he arrived, friendly people greeted him, but he felt like sitting alone. The opening games and activities were ok, but it was the speaker that really got to him. The speaker was a junior in college who shared about his path to a fulfilling relationship with God and about his struggles along the

way. Paul could relate to many of his struggles.

Paul usually dismissed reflective moments, but that night he allowed himself to experience these deeper feelings. He knew that his actions with his friends and his girlfriend were leading him further away from God. He could feel that God was waiting for him to open his life to light and to turn away from darkness. He could feel God's love inviting him to a new life. Sitting in that chapel listening to the talk, Paul began to weep.

He could see how his sins had led him further and further away from God—but also how God was still so close to him, waiting for him.

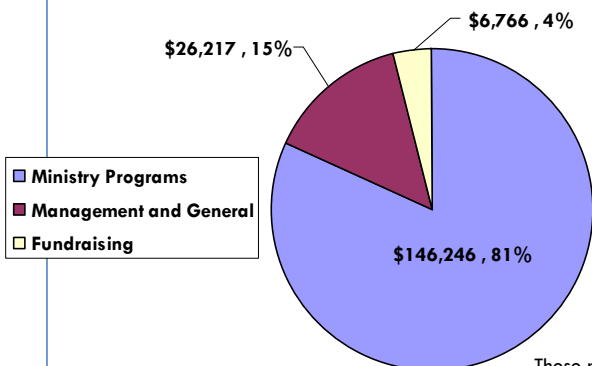
Another student named Joe was sitting near Paul that night and heard him crying. He could have just let Paul work his problems out on his own. Instead, he went and sat next to him, gently leaned down by Paul's head and asked, "Hey man, do you wanna talk?"

Paul mumbled something about not knowing what to do. Again Joe told him that he would listen if Paul wanted to talk. Paul did end up telling Joe everything he was feel-

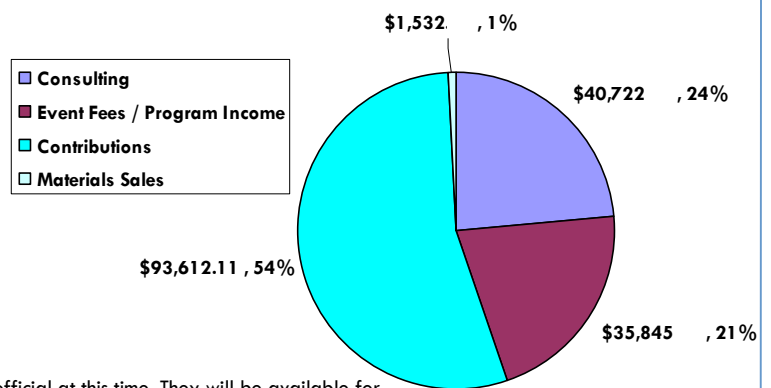
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EC Financial Picture

Expenses 2007-2008 Fiscal Year



Income 2007-2008 Fiscal Year



These numbers are unofficial at this time. They will be available for public review after we file the 990 form next spring.

Thank You to our Supporters!

The number of EC donors has multiplied. 33 of the names below are new this past year!!

Our Donors (+\$100)

(alphabetical)

Peter and Terri Arcidiacano
Bob and Sally Atwell
Paul and Terese Bauer
Christina Bondy
Dave and Heather Boyd
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Valentine and Olga Rueb
John and Jean Schmitz
Jeff and Kathy Simon
Brad and Laura Stucynski
Chad VanHoose
Clark and Ann Williams
Alan Zeller
Daniel and Rachael Zellner

Ryan and Jody live in a small town in south-central Wisconsin. Ryan is an industrial designer for GE-Medical and Jody is the Chief Operations Officer of their home. They began supporting the EC through online monthly contributions in the fall of 2007.

Q: Why did you begin supporting the EC financially?

We are buying our way to heaven and thought this was as good a way as any. :-) We said...Evangelical Catholic, huh...that sounds like an oxymoron, and therein lies the problem and the need.

The EC's overall vision, mission and method, but probably more so, the people who are behind it all drew us to give. We knew that God would make good use of the money through these great people.

It's nice to have personal relationships with the people who are

making the organizational decisions...maybe provide some input...maybe have an impact outside the financial contribution.



You can also check up on them to make sure they aren't buying Rolexes or going to the dog track. :-)

Q: Was the decision to provide monthly financial support difficult to make?

We are a single income family with 4 kids, so of course it is a financial challenge. Cutting back in certain areas was difficult (there goes our subscription to the tattoo of the month club!).

But we like the focus they bring to campus ministry. Get 'em hooked while they're young! Often college students are not set in their ways and when given something to be excited about...they run with it!

Secularism is prevalent on college campuses and we see the EC as a way of effectively addressing this trend.

We know that our support is important to keep them going and we're not prepared to see this work come to an end. We know that God has more plans for the EC!

Please consider helping us with a year-end gift or a regular monthly contribution.

It's easy to give a one-time gift or to set-up a recurring donation. Simply visit www.EvangelicalCatholic.org and click "Giving" on the top menu.

Diocese of Madison CONNECTIONS Small Group Ministry a Hit!

For the second year, the Evangelical Catholic recruited, trained, and launched small group leaders into ministry all over the Diocese of Madison this Fall. As a result, 49 small group leaders reached out to their parish communities to gather people to discuss scripture and the Church's teachings.

The EC offered an assortment of materials from which small groups could choose. Included in the selection were our *Connection to Christ* and brand-new *Connection to St. Paul* materials, written to help people experience Christ

through St. Paul's writings in Scripture.

Evaluations for this year are still being tabulated, but last year over 1000 people from the diocese participated in Connections groups. Over 85% of these said that "Connections stimu-

lated an encounter with God and fostered friendship with Jesus Christ."

Grace Simon, the EC's Associate Director and the director of the Connections ministry, continues to recruit new small group leaders. She also meets one-on-one with

"I saw people meet the risen Lord, especially when we prayed with the Scriptures in our group."

-Bob Stechsulte, facilitator

leaders in the diocese who are particularly hungry for more formation and training in evangelization.

Commenting on this ministry, Grace explains, "Connections is a way for the diocese to support parish staff

and equip lay leaders to fruitfully reach out to their fellow parishioners. Using evangelically Catholic materials and providing ongoing support and formation for facilitators is crucial. We are encouraged to see small groups taking off in parishes that either had no small group ministry or had groups that lacked an evangelical impulse. Julie Endl, Coord. of Religious Ed. at a local parish,, launched 9 evangelically Catholic groups through Connections this Fall! That is double the number she launched Fall of 2007!"

If you would be interested in partnering with the EC to recruit, train, and launch small groups in your area, please contact us. You can read more about this initiative on our website by clicking the Connections tab.

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Madison, WI 53719

Phone: 608-258-3140 x111

Save the Date! The EC will host an EC Reunion in Madison, Wisconsin on Saturday, February 21, 2009. Past friends of the EC from St. Paul's at UW, past Institutes, and present, former, and potential supporters will all share an evening of prayer, fellowship, and an excellent keynote speaker. More info below and even more yet to come!

A Story... (cont.)

ing, the kinds of things he had been doing since college, and what he was thinking he needed to do. Joe assured Paul that God loved him and that he would give him the strength to do the things he needed to do.

Soon after that, Paul went to confession. He felt Christ's forgiveness through the words of absolution. The priest encouraged him to pray everyday and gave him very specific ways to do it.

Soon after that night, Joe asked Paul if he wanted to get together every week for a while so that he could share with him certain things that would help him get his relationship with Christ off to the right start. Joe taught Paul what he had learned about prayer, reading the scriptures, and receiving the sacraments. He also began to introduce Paul to his friends and other people around St. Paul's.

Today, Paul and his girlfriend are still together, but their relationship looks a lot different. Paul is now in a Bible Study and every week he in-

vites his friends and roommates to attend Alpha-Omega, hoping that they can experience God the way he did that night.

Joe was obviously crucial in this story. Joe felt confident enough in his faith not only to listen to Paul, but also to immediately begin guiding him in the right direction. He was able to speak encouraging truth to him that night. He also knew that Paul would need follow-up if he was going to stick with his new resolutions. He didn't need to give his name to a campus minister or to the priest; he was equipped to follow-up with him. Joe took the initiative to begin grounding Paul firmly in his faith.

Joe and I have been meeting together on and off for a number of years. He is equipped for this type of ministry because I and many others took time to form him in his faith and to give him the direction he needed in order for his gifts to flourish. What began as a mentoring relationship is now a deep mutual friendship.

Joe's life is a testimony to the evangelical power that can be unleashed on the world when we equip people to be Christ's love to others.

EC Reunion!

The EC will celebrate its 10th Anniversary next spring!

Where: UW-Madison campus

When: Saturday, February 21, 2009

Time: TBD

Who:

- Diocese of Madison Connections facilitators & participants
- present and past students from universities with EC ministries (especially UW-Madison, Harvard, and Dayton)
- past Institute attendees
- past Training Camp attendees
- past Blessed Sacrament & St. Ignatius Core Team members
- past, present, and future donors
- anyone else who likes us

We are lining up a keynote speaker, which will be followed by cocktails, desserts, and celebration.

If you would like to help us organize this event, please call or email us!