



# The Apostle

"That they are young is enough for me to love them." – St. John Bosco

## Inspired to Take Courage

By Mike Filamor and Luke Janus

From Friday to Saturday, Feb. 9-10, a group from Shenandoah University Catholic Campus Ministry (SU CCM) joined 475 other students from colleges all over Virginia to attend the annual College Campus Ministry Summit in Richmond, VA. Youth Apostle Full Members Mike Filamor (SU campus minister) and Fr. Ramón Domínguez, YA, (SU chaplain) coordinated the trip. Full Member Andrew Waring, Director of the Office for Evangelization of the Diocese of Richmond, organized and oversaw the College Summit and the Diocesan Youth Conference, which occurred at the same time. The theme this year was "Take Courage."

The College Summit offered opportunities for Confession, breakout sessions on topics like evangelization and men's/women's talks, and fellowship through activities like square dancing and board games. The SU CCM students were undoubtedly inspired to take courage in living their faith by the two keynote speakers, Michael "Gomer" Gormley and Mari Pablo.

For the SU CCM students, the highlight of College Summit had to be Mass

and Eucharistic Adoration with Richmond Bishop Barry C. Knestout, with a dynamic worship band accompanying the proceedings.

SU CCM President and senior Luke Janus shared his thoughts:

"What impressed me the most was the number of college students worshipping and basking in God's presence. Coming from a smaller campus ministry, I was inspired to see so many other college students

actively pursuing a relationship with God.

"All the talks and speakers were great, but the most memorable moment for me was Michael Gormley's keynote speech on Friday night. He challenged us to be the bold, courageous version of Peter instead of the timid, doubting one [in Matthew 14:22-31, when Jesus bid him to walk on the water to come to Him. Peter walked on the water to Jesus confidently but became

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*Bishop Knestout leads Eucharistic adoration during this year's College Campus Ministry Summit.*



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The Apostle is the newsletter of  
Youth Apostles.

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**Our Mission**

Youth Apostles is committed to evangelize, teach, advise, challenge, console, and love young people with the ultimate purpose of inspiring them to live a Christ-like life centered on prayer and the sacraments in the Catholic Church.

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**Mass intention cards** are available upon request. Please call or stop by.

**Let us know** of address changes or if you wish to be removed from our mailing list. If you know someone who would like to receive The Apostle, please contact our office.

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# Campus Ministry Summit

*~continued from cover page~*

afraid when the wind picked up, and he started sinking.] People of faith should be all in, not passive, in pursuing Christ. From that point on, I've been thinking about what the bold Peter would do throughout my day.

"Since I'm graduating this year, I encourage

everyone in CCM to go to College Summit next year! It will give you a different perspective on God, and you will meet and connect with so many like-minded college students. It's a great experience which will make you believe you can change the world!"



*Full Member Mike Filamor (left) and Fr. Ramón (back right) show their Shenandoah University pride with students at the College Summit.*



*Friends and members gather at the Youth Apostles booth during the College Summit, from left: Grayson Phillips, Joe Frommelt, Kieran Koch, Andrew DeCelle, Teresa Maurer, Tiffany Lambert, Collette Swindell, and Mike Filamor.*

# What is Your Legacy?

By Tyler Fabian



Lent is finally upon us, and this time of the year is a great way to come closer to Jesus – not only giving something up but adding something to our routine that allows us to truly come to know Jesus intimately. Whether it is waking up five minutes earlier to pray or reading a spiritual book instead of scrolling through your newsfeed, little ordinary tasks can go a long way in identifying what is most important.

A great way you can make a significant impact on future generations is to consider a planned gift like naming Youth Apostles as a beneficiary in your will or estate planning. This form of legacy giving ensures that your generosity lives on – touching countless lives for years to come.

Many faithful supporters have found that these types of gifts are more “tax smart” than giving cash. As you continue to walk with us on our mission to bring young people closer to Christ, giving stock or making grants from donor-advised funds or making qualified charitable distributions all offer unique tax advantages.

As we journey together through this season of Lent and reflect on God’s abundant love for us all demonstrated through

His son Jesus Christ, I ask you to consider if God is calling you to more today. Will you join other friends of Youth Apostles through making a legacy gift for future generations of young people we serve in parishes, schools, and communities? There are a few ways to do that:

- A gift of real estate to Youth Apostles in your will or trust
- Naming Youth Apostles as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or IRA
- Directing a grant to Youth Apostles from your donor-advised fund
- Donating appreciated stocks and investment accounts and U.S. Saving Bonds

Check out other ways on our website on how to give to Youth Apostles and walk with us on our mission to bring young people closer to Christ!

Have you already remembered Youth Apostles in your estate planning?

THANK YOU!

*If you have already included Youth Apostles in your will, let us know by contacting our Development Officer, Tyler Fabian, at [tyler.fabian@youthapostles.org](mailto:tyler.fabian@youthapostles.org) or 703-556-0914.*

INTERESTED IN MAKING A PLANNED  
GIFT TO YOUTH APOSTLES?

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GET MORE INFORMATION AT  
[YOUTHAPOSTLES.ORG/PLANNEDGIVING](http://YOUTHAPOSTLES.ORG/PLANNEDGIVING)

**Making a planned gift  
to Youth Apostles  
is as easy as...**

*“I give to Youth Apostles Institute, a non-profit organization currently located at 1600 Carlin Lane McLean, VA 22101 or its success thereto, \_\_\_\_\_ [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted charitable use and purpose.”*



# Meet the New Mis

Mission Companions are friends and partners of Youth Apostles who are integral participants in our mission of service to young people as volunteers, donors and prayer warriors. We currently have 110 Mission Companions who dedicate time, treasure, and talent to our members and our young people. We are most grateful for the blessings and encouragement that they bestow upon us. This past December, we inducted five new Mission Companions. Meet our newest Mission Companions!



*Fr. Jack Peterson, YA, inducts Andrew and Irene Zaso as Mission Companions during a December Mass at the Center in McLean, Virginia.*

## MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY  
**with Fr. Jack Peterson, YA**

**Featuring Bolsena, Assisi, Loreto,  
San Giovanni, and Rome!**

**11 Days - October 15-25, 2024**



## Steven and Mary Arsena

Steven and Mary Arsena were first introduced to Youth Apostles when they were working and volunteering at All Saints in Manassas with the Youth Ministry program. They first heard about the community through Rob Tessier, the Director of Youth Ministry. During their time at All Saints, they encountered many summer and year-long missionaries.

Their favorite part of the Youth Apostles style of ministry is authenticity. They love that the community prides itself on providing an example of holiness and calling upon all those whom they meet to follow them in that way – in Christ's Way. It's been something they have seen as a real gift to the youth, as well as to their own family.



*Mary and Steven Arsena*

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# Mission Companions!

## Andrew and Irene Zaso

Andrew and Irene Zaso, dedicated members of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Vienna, VA, were introduced to the impact of Youth Apostles in the Diocese of Arlington through their son, Nicholas. He became involved during his time as a student at Virginia Tech, prompting Andy and Irene to attend Nicholas' commitment ceremony in 2020, marking the commencement of his journey with Youth Apostles.

Over time, the Zasos have established meaningful ties within the ministry, participating in Food for the Soul, commitment Masses, and fundraising events while witnessing the transformation of Nicholas and his peers into exemplary young adults firmly grounded in their faith and devoted to guiding others toward Christ.

Although the Catholic faith has always been a cornerstone of their family life, the ministry of Youth Apostles ministry holds a special place in their hearts. Through various engagements, they've observed firsthand how the ministry nurtures relationships with youth, demonstrating love, care, and the inherent worth of each individual. By fostering these connections, Youth Apostles empower young people to recognize their unique calling as disciples of Christ.



*The Zaso family*

## Tom Opfer

Tom was first introduced to Youth Apostles when he met Fr. Peter Nassetta in 2000. He loves Youth Apostles' outreach to youth and mission to share Christ's love through youth ministry. He has served for the past 24 years as a pastoral musician at the St. Robert Bellarmine Chapel at George Mason University.



*Tom Opfer*



**Youth Apostles**





## GOLF CLASSIC

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# MAY 6, 2024

NOON SHOTGUN START

Raspberry Falls Hunt & Golf Club  
41601 Raspberry Drive  
Leesburg, VA 20176

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[YOUTHAPOSTLES.ORG/GOLF](https://youthapostles.org/golf)

# Holy Spirit, Holy Smoke

By John Volk

This February I had the opportunity to join around 40 boys from the St. Paul VI Catholic High School junior class on a retreat at Camp Highroad in Middleburg, VA. This gave them an opportunity to step away from the busyness of daily life to pray, reflect, and spend some time intentionally building community by bonding over manhunt, meals, and Mass.



*The PVI junior boys retreat.*

These students have various interests in the clubs, sports, classes, and other activities they choose to participate in during the week. A few students were very engaged and on fire for Christ at the start of retreat. What separated them was receiving regular spiritual nourishment from Christ alongside a community of faith. While most students were open to participating in small group discussions, they were able to start trusting each other more after connecting with their peers and the chaperones through our contemplative prayer times and fun activities during free time. It was encouraging to see them continue to open up and be vulnerable about their doubts, fears, hopes, and dreams of being saints as the

weekend continued.

On the last night during small groups, Fr. Ramón Domínguez, YA, joined us for discussion after Adoration. The boys were curious about the ancient use of incense used during Adoration. Fr. Ramón and I were able to explain the rich history of the Church concerning this practice,

including the deep symbolism present in this offering referenced in Revelation 8:4. Those in my small group were then able to receive a quick lesson as a thurifer, an altar server who carries the thurible, and practice processing with it. They appreciated the accessibility of Fr. Ramón and the hands-on experience of service and worship.

No matter what sports teams or clubs these youth and chaperones identified with coming into retreat, we all left with a better sense of our universal call to holiness and unity as one family in Christ. Without a doubt, you could see the Holy Spirit was present in a transformative way throughout the retreat. Please pray for these young people as they continue their faith journey!



*Almost there!*

**WE HAVE RAISED \$5.8 MILLION  
TOWARD OUR GOAL OF \$6.5 MILLION**

Many of our friends have jumped on board to support the Cornerstone Campaign. We have been graced by 336 donors so far!

Thanks to these donors, we have been implementing our initiatives and accomplishing our goal:

**GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP IN ORDER TO GROW OUR IMPACT**

A few highlights:

- 7 New Directors of Youth Ministry in parishes
- 3 New Campus Ministries
- New Missionary Program with 6 missionaries
- New Michael Burke, Sr. Scholarship Program
- 30 New Mission Companions

**WE STILL NEED \$700,000 TO REACH OUR GOAL!**

We want to conclude the campaign by Pentecost – May 19, 2024.

*Will you help us reach our goal?*



Contact Tyler Fabian  
[tyler.fabianeyouthapostles.org](mailto:tyler.fabianeyouthapostles.org)



Visit our website  
[youthapostles.org/cornerstone](http://youthapostles.org/cornerstone)





*PVI Junior boys in Eucharistic adoration.*



*Fr. Ramón shows off his arm wrestling prowess during the PVI retreat.*

## Director's Corner

By John More



*"Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them...Your Father who sees in secret will repay you." (Matthew 6: 1, 4)*

When Jesus taught His disciples to perform acts of piety in order to honor God the Father and strengthen their relationship with Him, rather than to make themselves look good to other people, He highlighted a principle we can see at work more generally in daily life: so much of what is most important and valuable happens in secret.

Making families and parishes thrive, catechizing young people, building up a just society: all of this relies mostly on small acts of dedication and generous service in the little moments of everyday life. When a parent cleans up the house after the kids are in bed, when a youth minister spends hours at the computer planning an upcoming volunteer training, when a priest goes to the chapel to pray with the readings for the coming Sunday and prepare his homily, they are doing the vital work that makes all of the most important aspects of life possible.

Seen from the perspective of eternity, these daily, minute-by-minute acts of faithfulness to the duties of our vocations are among the most valuable things anyone ever does, and for the most part they are hidden from everyone except our "Father who sees in secret." And just as Jesus promised us that God would reward our acts of piety when they are done out of reverence and love for God, we can rely on God to reward our small, hidden acts of service and faithfulness and draw us – and others – closer to Himself through them.



**Youth Apostles**

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## ***Important Dates***

### **April 12**

Food for the Soul: Do This in Remembrance of Me  
(series on the Bread of Life)  
7:00 AM Mass & Spiritual Reflection

### **May 6**

Youth Apostles Golf Classic: register online at  
<https://youthapostles.org/golf>  
or text yagolf to 50155

### **May 20**

35th Ordination Anniversary of  
Fr. Jack Peterson and Fr. Peter Nassetta

### **July 6**

Commitment Liturgy

### **November 2**

Fall Fundraiser – Save the date!

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