



ST. PETER

CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER AT BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

December 8, 2017
The Immaculate Conception

Envelope Salutation

Address

City, state zip

Dear

Almost 10 years ago, at the beginning of the fall semester of 2008, I made my mother a singular promise. As we said our final goodbye right outside of my new home, South Russell Hall, I promised her that even though I was independent and in college, I would continue to go to Mass. At a time in my life when my faith was not important to me, I couldn't shake the fact that I've always been obedient to my mother. After suffering the urge to break my promise and after discerning other faith traditions, I can truly say that mothers really do know best!



This promise led me to St. Peter. I had the great gift of having a brother as a senior at Baylor to lead me to St. Peter, however it was up to me to do the rest. My mother said nothing about getting involved, so if I could get away with just going to Mass on Sunday, then I'm doing my part. However, after friends and the Holy Spirit pursued me, I fell into a deep love that I could not escape, and that is falling in love with Jesus Christ.

This love led me to not only participating and leading in various St. Peter apostolates, but to growing in relationship with Jesus through the frequent sacraments found in the offering of daily Mass and Reconciliation. Without those opportunities I would not have had the nourishment needed to sustain the journey that is college life. Without those opportunities I would not have had the opportunity to pursue the purest love I will ever know that is found in our Savior. What a joy to see, in the last 10 years, even more opportunities for sacraments and even more apostolates at St. Peter!

In addition to the sacramental grace that flowed from the liturgy, grace abounded in the gift of community. It was at St. Peter that I had found my greatest friends that have truly become my family. Like many of us



who have experienced the joys and struggles of college life, we know the necessity of community. If it were not for friends calling me to greatness, then so many of my hardships and joys would not have been shared. I so passionately believe in St. Paul's description of the mystical body of Christ when he proclaims "when one part suffers, all parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy" (1 Cor. 12:26). It was through suffering and honor that I came to know true community, that I came to know the kind of love and vulnerability that comes from saying "hey, I'm not doing too well. Will you pray with me?" That very same community and call to greatness continues to this day.

This practice of vulnerability and authenticity gave me a desire to pour more into the community where I found a home during my time at Baylor. As a current member of the St. Peter Leadership Council, I have the blessed opportunity to see St. Peter continue to grow in ways I couldn't

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Yes! I / We want to support Baylor Catholics!

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I hereby authorize St. Peter Catholic Student Center to make monthly charges to my card until I request otherwise in writing.

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Please charge my credit / debit card for a one-time gift of \$ _____ (complete card information above)

Enclosed is my check for: ___ \$1,000 ___ \$500 ___ \$250 ___ Other

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Make checks payable to "St. Peter Catholic Student Center." All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Thank you for supporting St. Peter Catholic Student Center!

have dreamed of as a student. It brings tears to my eyes to see the students' faithfulness to Jesus, the Church, each other, and the university that binds them together. I rejoice with the students, St. Peter staff, and Fr. Daniel for each new advancement the community makes. I get excited and humbled to be a part of new adventures, that of which includes the launching of the Baylor Catholic Network.

The Baylor Catholic Network has been a labor of love driven by the efforts of fellow alums towards cultivating the same community found while at Baylor and St. Peter that moves far beyond the campus and the four walls of St. Peter. It has become our mission to share in our love for community with any and all Catholic alumni that learned in the same classroom as we did, walked the same halls, enjoyed the same traditions. In formal partnership with Baylor University's Baylor Alumni Network, the Baylor Catholic Network serves to be "a Catholic network after college to grow towards community, love of God, and holiness." It is our hope, through the work with Baylor, and partnership with St. Peter, that we may continue to say "yes" to the universal call we all have to be Saints in Heaven.

As we wait in joyful anticipation of the birth of our Savior, the savior born for you and me (Lk 2:11), let us reflect in the same anticipation how God has worked through our own lives to know Jesus better.. It took the love and invitation, personal or divine, to get you there. St. Peter was that for me.

Your support of St. Peter can mean a student's fulfilled promise to their mom, more opportunities for prayer, a chance to practice authenticity and vulnerability, or the desire to become a disciple of Jesus and fulfilling His mission beyond college life. Each student bears a different story from my own, but what bonds all Baylor Catholic students, current or alumni, is our shared love for the Catholic Church and Baylor University.

Which story can you help inspire?

My humblest of prayers for you and yours as we enter into the Advent season. May we ready our hearts so that we as faithful can shout and proclaim "Come, let us adore Him!"

In Christ,

Celina Basaldu

Celina Basaldu (BSW '12, MSW '13)

