

Winter Quarter



JOHN PAUL  
THE GREAT  
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

2022

# Student Life Newsletter

## JPCatholic at the Walk For Life LA

*JPCatholic Students carrying the OneLife Banner*



On January 22, fifty students boarded a bus for LA to attend the OneLife LA Walk for Life. Students who had previously attended the walk shared in the excitement with those for whom it was their first time. "Abortion is the keystone issue that Catholics ... need to combat and be vocal about," Alec Williams, a Theology and Philosophy Student commented. Throughout the walk, the students cheered, sang, and prayed. Eventually, the group from JPCatholic made it to the front, helping to carry the large OneLife LA banner and chanted; "We are the pro-life generation." Student Sophia Sariego said it felt "gloriously triumphant" to end the walk with JPCatholic carrying the banner. After the walk came to a strong finish, tired but happy students came together at the park for more praise and worship, then finished the day with a requiem mass for the unborn at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral.

## Winter Retreat



The Winter Retreat 2022 was a huge success

## Events



This Quarter has had two dances and many other exciting events

## Sacraments



This Quarter has seen students getting involved in the liturgy and starting and maintaining ministries

## Winter Quarter Retreat

Forty-one students of all majors and classes came together mid-January to attend the winter retreat considering the layperson's call to holiness. This was the University's first overnight retreat in almost two years, and there was a lot of excitement.

Friday evening, students began arriving, getting settled in their cabins, and feasting on pizza and the plenteous snacks they brought to share. Then, they had their first speaker of the retreat, Cassidy Van Vooren, who called the students to aim for Heaven and away from Hell. Quoting Star Wars, she told students to “stay on target” in their lives.



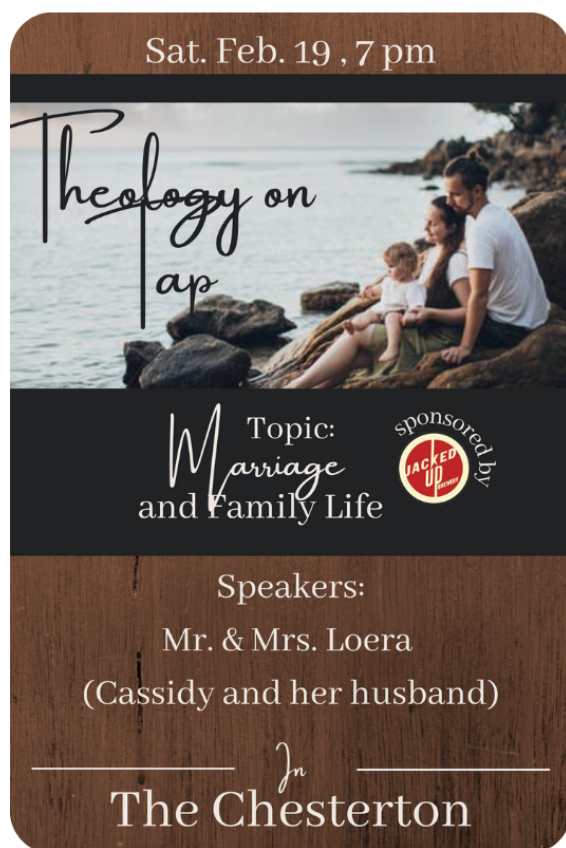
Retreatants then broke up into small groups to discuss the talk, then transitioned into all-night adoration, rising in the middle of the night to take turns spending time with Our Lord in the Eucharist. The next day, several students set out before dawn to go on a hike, then everyone settled in to a lively day of talks, conversations, rosaries, and activities from a scavenger hunt to spending time at the petting zoo. The main topic was virtue, both natural and supernatural. In the evening, a holy hour, confessions, and mass were followed by a bonfire and s'mores.

The final day of the retreat began with a panel discussion about relationships from all three student life directors, Taylor, Cassidy, and Eleazar. Throughout the morning, students finished writing uplifting notes to their fellow retreatants to put in their affirmation bags. Then, everyone pitched in to clean up the area and pack up their cabins and head back to campus to put their newfound resolve into practice.

### Retreat Photo Corner





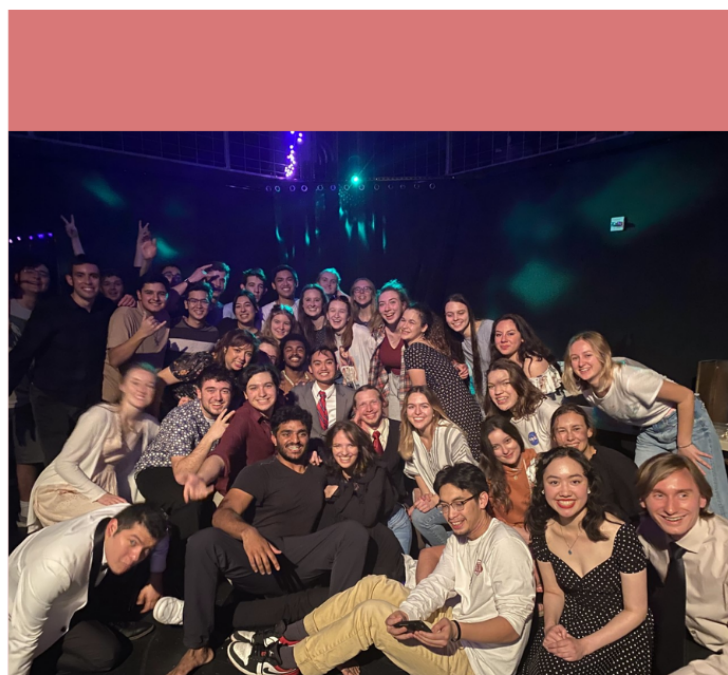


## Theology on Tap

This Quarter was blessed with two sessions of Theology on Tap, both sponsored by Jacked Up brewery. The first consisted of a discussion of Charisms, a topic familiar to students who were in Christian Experience I during Fall Quarter. For the second, we heard from our newlywed Student Life Director, Cassidy Loera, and her husband of three weeks, Andreas Loera. Together, they discussed the theology and philosophy of marriage, also touching on dating. Throughout their talk, well peppered with jokes about their newlywed state, they covered the family as the essential political unit, the domestic church, and the family as a reflection of the trinity. They also discussed the roles of husband and wife as identities that must be relational and freely given in a marriage. Fr. Sarfraz presided as MC, and provided many humorous remarks in addition to keeping the unruly students in line when it was time to begin. The Chesterton was packed-- students were standing in the kitchen and double seating on the couch!

## The Casual Bop

In early January, the oft-rescheduled Casual Bop took place. Students came together in the Soundstage to eat, chat, and, of course, dance. Above the dancing students, multicolored lights gave the Soundstage a disco feel. And when students felt they needed a break from dancing, they could head upstairs to the library or down the hallway to the chapel. "It's such an amazing thing about this school that I can take a break from a dance, walk down the hall and sit in front of the Blessed Sacrament for five minutes," commented Margaret Alvine, a Freshman. "That just made everything else about the night so much better."



*A photo finish to the Casual Bop*



## Awareness And Avoidance

We are so grateful to Escondido Sergeant Chris Leso and 911 dispatcher Hannah Kearney who took the time to come to JPCatholic and give the students advice about how to stay safe. "We are your campus police," said Sergeant Leso. He emphasized the importance of staying alert while walking, and especially being aware of the traffic and other people around you.

911 dispatcher Hannah Kearney gave students a quick rundown of what happens when you call 911 and how calls are processed. She also gave students a non-emergency number and ran through when to call 911 and when to call the non-emergency line, noting that if you don't have time to look up the non-emergency number, that's a good indicator that it might be more of an emergency.

After their presentations, they opened up to a Q&A, answering all kinds of questions from how best to stay safe walking home in the dark to what to do after a bike hit-and-run.



*Student's listen to Hannah Kearney, a 911 Dispatcher*



## The Winter Film Fest/ Semi-Formal

Three weeks from the end of Winter Quarter, almost half the student body attended the Winter Film Festival and Semi-Formal Dance. Everyone dressed up and came ready to enjoy food, films, and dancing. The St. Mary's parish hall glowed with lights and decorations, and of course, the big movie screen where the films were shown.

*It was quite a night! Everything from the decorations to the dancing it was an all-round blast! A highlight of the night for me was seeing all my fellow friends and classmates dressed up in high class fashion and major bonus was that Dr. and Mrs. Connolly made an appearance.*

*-- Faustina Ortiz*



## Film Fest Cont'd

There were three categories of films: shorts, dramas, and comedies. "As a film student I own up to having bias when I say the film festival portion of the evening was both awesome and scary. Awesome because everyone is putting their work up for everyone to see, scary because everyone is putting their work up for everyone to see," said Faustina Ortiz, who submitted a comedy called *The Folly of Overthinkers*.

As the films wrapped up, the music came on, and the dance floor filled up. When Footloose and then later the Cupid Shuffle came on, just about everyone was on the dance floor, stepping in unison to the music.

"So many talented filmmakers mixed with so many fun songs made for such a fun night," said Mikaela Addams.



Photos Courtesy of Alan Hewitt

## 24 hour Adoration

Excited by the nocturnal Adoration that had been offered on the retreat, many students expressed interest in having 24 hour adoration more often.

*"A tradition in the Church is nocturnal adoration on the first Friday of the month, to make reparation to the sacred heart of Jesus."*

On the first Friday of March (also the first week of Lent), Fr. Sarfraz exposed the Blessed Sacrament in the Chesterton. Students then prayed the Stations of the Cross. Throughout the night, students came in and out. There were usually four or five students, even at 4am.



## Coffee House Winter 2022



Inspired by Fall Quarter's tremendously successful Coffee House, students were very excited for Winter Quarter's Coffee House. Signups filled quickly. Broadcasting Club, headed by John Vasquez, was responsible for livestreaming the performance so that friends and family who could not come in person could watch virtually. The recording is now available on the Broadcasting Club's YouTube.

The night included original poetry, dancing, and of course, a great deal of music. A group of students calling themselves "The Joe Bro's" gave a performance of *"The Year Three Thousand"* with live guitar, drums, piano, and singers. Lily Blando and Sophia Sariego performed original songs.



The night also saw another successful stand-up routine from freshman Jaden Doyle, who said that he "mainly wanted to see if he was still funny". It turns out he was, to the delight of all.

The audience was very enthusiastic, repeatedly pulling out their phone flashlights to wave to the music, and often gave standing ovations to the crowd pleasers.

Everyone was also very glad to see Dr. and Mrs. Connolly in the audience.

## Clubs & Ministries

This quarter has yet again seen an increase in clubs and club activity. Several clubs that began last quarter continued to grow this quarter, as in the case of Dance Club, and a few clubs and ministries have been started this quarter, such as Adoration Ministry and Sketch Comedy Club. The Volleyball club also saw a rise in attendance, being voted best new club at the start of the quarter. "Last quarter [winter quarter] was really exciting." Volleyball Club leader, Bridget Baker, commented. People enjoyed it because it was a nice break from homework. And it was consistent." Ministries started last quarter include Marian Ministry, Praise and Worship, and Divine Office Ministry. Choir has been growing, with more people singing at Mass. There have also been more alter servers, lectors, cantors, and sacristans. The sacristans have had a tough time this quarter with frequent location changes due to weather and large attendance. Towards the end of finals week, however, their troubles came to an end with Mass moving back indoors to Classroom M.



## Clubs & Ministries:

Art Club, Anime Club, Blaster Tag Club, Broadcasting Club, Cinematics Club, Cooking Club, Crochet Club, Gaming Club, Dance Club, Divine Office Ministry, Debate Club, Film Club, Frassiatti Hiking Club, Walkway to Wellbeing, Improv Club, D&D Club, Marian Ministry, Choir Ministry, Pro-Life Club, Symposium, Volleyball Club, Writing Club, Swing Dance Club, Sketch Comedy Club.

## Club Fair

Early in the quarter, Student Government and Student Life hosted a Club Fair to bring people together around clubs and learn what clubs we have at JPCatholic.

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*"I...loved the opportunity to hand out awards for the first time at the Club Fair. I know the club leaders felt supported by that."*

*--John Vasquez, Student Body President*

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The awards handed out included Student Choice, which went to Frassatti Club, and an award for the club that best embodies the mission of the school, which went to Pro-Life Club.

## Club Notes

### ***Compline & Hot Cocoa***

This quarter, you could hear the Divine Office Ministry chanting Compline in the Perch before Rosary every evening. It added a great atmosphere, and brought renewed interest to the Divine Office. Friday evenings, hot chocolate was included!

### ***Apologetics***

Pro-Life Club, led by Bernadette Timson, continued to offer sessions to come learn about methods to defend the Pro-Life position. They also launched a program called "bite-sized apologetics," where short videos were posted throughout the week and then discussed at the end. Marian Ministry has also begun posting explanations of Marian beliefs on its Instagram.

### ***Walkway to Wellbeing***

Walkway to Wellbeing, the homeless outreach club, is also continuing to grow, with students collaborating to put together care packages and come together to hand out pizza and some kind words on Sunday evenings.

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## Section Dinners

What's Sunday evening? Getting together with your section mates, your RA, and Fr. Sarfraz! This past quarter, Sunday evenings have been times for several sections at a time to get together in the Perch to bond with their section mates and Fr. Sarfraz over dinner. Students who were able to attend enjoyed conversation both with their peers, their RA, and Fr. Sarfraz. Of course, a main attraction for many was the food- and it didn't disappoint! Going forward, the Student Life Team plans to make these section dinners a more regular occurrence.

## Other Events

### Metanoia

Metanoia, a mini retreat, also made a return earlier in the quarter, with students gathering in the Soundstage for Mass, a talk on St. Therese by Fr. Claude, and then Adoration with Praise and Worship and confession. The event, as per tradition, was followed by a group trip to the local Applebees to extend the conversation and community building.



### Nightly Rosary

What started as a way to still pray while regulations prevented large indoor gathering, has now turned into something that is too big to be moved indoors. Every night students gather together in between the two rows of townhomes at Latitude 33 for the rosary. On average 60 students come out from their housing to pray, and on a slow night you can spot an upwards of twenty students. Often times the rosary is closed with the group singing a Salve Regina.



## Photo Corner





