

# *Our Lady of Wisdom* **THE RAGIN' CAJUN CATHOLIC**

*Serving the Community at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Since 1923*



## 2018-2019 • Volume VIII **ANNUAL FISCAL & MINISTRY REPORT**

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Preparing Students for  
College Life & Beyond

PAGE 2

Vocations  
Update

PAGE 2

Ordinary Lives Made  
Extraordinary

PAGE 3

Powered by the Church  
& Community

PAGE 6





## JOHN15: PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE LIFE & Beyond

John 15

On September 18, 2019, the Ragin' Cajun Catholics began a new

program to encourage community and involvement among freshmen and upperclassmen. John15, a program created at St. Mary's Catholic Center at Texas A&M University, provides small group "families" for new freshmen that are led by upperclassmen. Students and group leaders meet once a week for a talk given by a student, campus minister, or visiting speaker. Family groups also meet for game nights, ice cream outings, or other social events in between meetings, forming authentic community throughout the semester.

Our first John15 group for the Fall 2019 semester consists of 49 freshmen and 14 upperclassmen group leaders! Father Ken Geraci, a visiting priest from the Fathers of Mercy, kicked off the program with a talk on Jesus' analogy of the vine and the branches (John 15). Please keep these students in your prayers as they journey together during this school year.

### Do you know a UL Lafayette freshman?

Be sure to point them to our website, [ragincajuncatholics.org](http://ragincajuncatholics.org), to learn about special programming for our freshman students.

## VOCATIONS UPDATE

Ragin' Cajun Catholics Alumni are taking the next step in their call to the religious life!

### Religious Life:

- Sister Marie Jardin Clos (Caroline Toups, Lafayette, LA) professed First Vows with the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará in Washington, DC.
- Paola Doria (Houma, LA) entered the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará in Washington, DC.
- Abigail Joseph (Abbeville, LA) entered the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará in Washington, DC.
- Sister Maria Annunciata (Ali Rabalais, Lafayette, LA) received her habit and name with the Sisters of Life in New York, NY.

### Priesthood:

- Gabe Dowden (Lafayette, LA) entered formation at St. Joseph Seminary in Covington.
- Eric Hernandez (Lafayette, LA) entered formation at St. Joseph Seminary in Covington.



Ragin' Cajun Catholic women who have answered the call to a religious vocation with the Servidoras, pictured at Sister Jardin's first vows.

# Ordinary Lives Made Extraordinary



Through the years at Our Lady of Wisdom, thousands of people have walked through our hallways, incorporating a rhythm of prayer and community into their busy lives as college students and day by day, creating habits that last a lifetime. Daily prayer in the chapel at Wisdom turns into

daily prayer at home after graduation. A commitment to Mass on campus changes locations to their new home church parish as parishioners. Community events and free meals in Jeanmard Hall or the Wisdom Library grow into the gift of hospitality as graduates host small faith-sharing communities or Bible studies in their own homes.

Saint John Paul II describes the powerful role of the laity in Christifideles Laici, on the Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World:

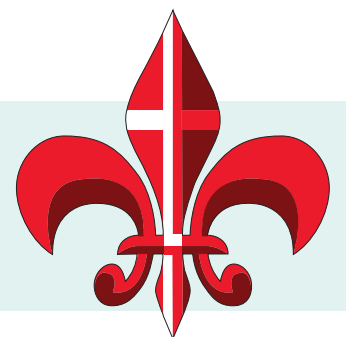
*...The Council, in describing the lay faithful's situation in the secular world, points to [the secular world] above all, as the place in which they receive their call from God: "There they are called by God." This "place" is treated and presented in dynamic terms: the lay faithful "live in the world, that is, in every one of the secular professions and occupations. They live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life, from which the very fabric of their existence is woven." They are persons who live an ordinary life in the world: they study, they work, they form relationships as friends, professionals, members of society, cultures, etc.*

## Everyday ways to be a lifelong disciple of Jesus Christ:

- Be cheerful and practice hospitality.
- Visit and care for the poor and your elderly neighbors.
- Dress and speak with dignity.
- Drive safely.
- Respect authority.
- Be on time to show deference to others.
- Say grace at meals - at home, in restaurants, or at work.
- Give back. Make intentional gifts to your church parish and organizations that form you as a Catholic.
- Display or wear sacramentals like a crucifix or a saint medal and share their meanings with others.
- Ask how you can pray for your coworkers or friends, then follow up after you've prayed for them.

## Tell Us Your Good News!

Have you gotten married, moved away, or had children? Update us with your good news by visiting [www.ragincajuncatholics.org/alumni](http://www.ragincajuncatholics.org/alumni) and completing our alumni update form. Keep reading for more alumni updates!







## – RAGIN’ CAJUN CATHOLICS – ALUMNI UPDATES

Ragin’ Cajun Catholics alumni are living “in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life,” as Pope Saint John Paul II relays in his Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, by serving their families, their communities, and their workplaces as devoted lay persons. In so doing, they are living out our mission as *lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ*.



### Jillian Franklin, O.D. (UL ‘14)

“The foundation of my faith that was built while I was at Wisdom has given me the confidence and peace to bring Christ into our business. I have the ability to speak to both patients and employees about the goodness of God. We open clinic each morning in prayer asking for the grace to serve our patients as Christ would, and we do our best to truly see them as He would.”

*Jillian & Stephen Franklin, pictured with their daughter Gianna (3 weeks)  
Owners of Acadian Eye Care & Optical, Inc.*



### Jonas Lowery, C.F.P. (UL ‘15)

“For me, family life has been the biggest area of ongoing formation - fostering a Domestic Church and pursuing holiness not only personally, but as a family. It is humbling to see your children learning the practices of the faith from your instruction, but even more so from simply observing and imitating you.”

### Jeanelle Lowery (UL ‘14)

“My faith is needed now more than ever. Now that I’m responsible for helping to get three more little souls to heaven, it’s so important for me to turn to Christ daily, surrender my will, and do all things with great love, no matter how big or seemingly small.”

*Jonas & Jeanelle Lowery, pictured with their sons Abraham (4), Griffin (2), and Shepherd (8 months)*

*Jonas, Certified Financial Planner at Billeaud Capital Management  
Jeanelle, Stay at home mom and Etsy Shop Owner of Immaculate Market*



### Tom & Lisa Viator (UL ‘87 & UL ‘88)

“We believe Wisdom brought us closer together as a young couple through sharing in daily Mass. Today, the Mass still plays an important role in keeping our family together and spiritually grounded. In our community, from volunteering at St. Joseph’s Diner, to buying Christmas gifts for the Children’s Shelter or doing service projects at the Crisis Pregnancy Center, each member of our family has found their chosen way to become advocates of human dignity. I attribute that to our strong roots in our Catholic faith which all started at Wisdom.”

*Tom & Lisa Viator, pictured with their daughters Taylor (23), Madison (21, UL ‘19), and Kelsey (19, UL ‘22)*

*Tom, Field Sales Manager for Samsung  
Lisa, Digital Marketing & Volunteer Director for The DesOrmeaux Foundation*



### Aimee Becker (UL ‘15 & ‘17)

“Through the intellectual formation I received at Wisdom, I was able to make sense of everything I had learned about the Catholic faith growing up, and connect the dots about why we believe what we believe. I made lifelong friends at Wisdom, some of which I still have prayer group with every week. Most of all, I learned the importance of having a personal relationship with Christ through spending time in prayer and adoration, and receiving the Eucharist often. Looking forward, I hope to incorporate the things I learned from my time at Wisdom in making Christ the center of my new marriage, in raising our future children and helping them grow in their spiritual life, and in leaning on friends to help me stay grounded in my faith.”

*Aimee & Ryan Becker*

*Aimee, Data and Performance Analyst for SCP-Health  
Ryan, Senior Network Engineer for Conterra Networks*



### Amy & Kyle Bacon (UL ‘00)

“We were motivated to become Ministry Partners because Ragin’ Cajun Catholics is a source of much-needed light and truth in today’s college environment. The ministry has experienced great growth over the last several years and is a visible presence on campus and in the community. It is providing great opportunities for the students, like the Greek Retreat - and we think that’s important! College is the time when students often float away from their faith, but Wisdom is keeping them connected, seeking them out and inviting them in. Wisdom was important to us when we were students at UL. We want to keep the Ragin’ Cajun Catholics presence on campus strong for future generations. Hopefully, the commitment to making a gift each month can help do that!”

*Amy & Kyle Bacon, pictured with their children Andrew (15), Luke (11), Anna Clare (9)*

*Amy, Owner, Let’s Talk, LLC  
Kyle, Partner, Jones Walker Law Firm*

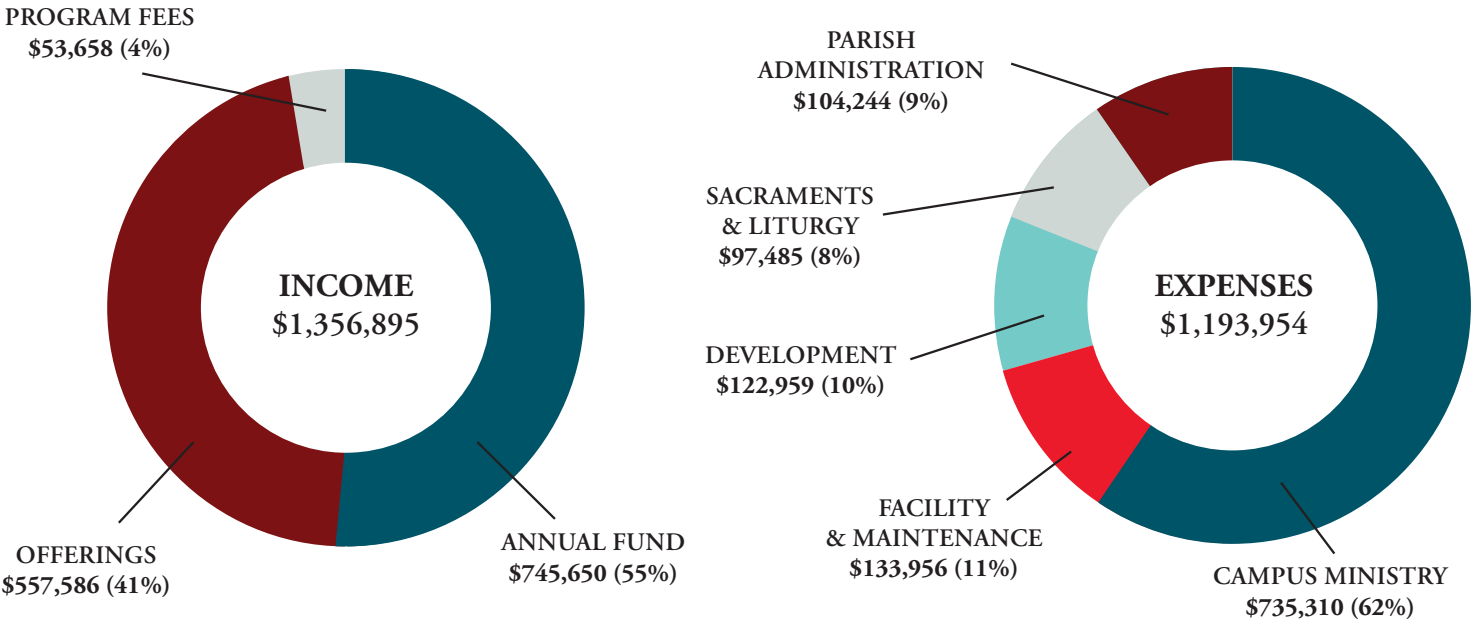




# 2018-2019 ANNUAL FISCAL REPORT

Our Lady of Wisdom Church & Catholic Student Center: Powered by the Church and Community

How does a vibrant Catholic Campus Ministry situated in the midst of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, a Division I research institution, thrive? We are powered by the Church & Community who believe in our mission to serve students on campus and form them as lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ. Our Lady of Wisdom Church Parish is small and mighty – 350 families strong – and the greater community of supporters includes alumni, parents, grandparents, and benefactors who power the programs of the ministry.



**NEWMAN ENDOWMENT**  
\$163,145 As of June 30, 2019  
\$156,799 End of Prior Fiscal Year

**REGULAR SAVINGS**  
\$1,177 As of June 30, 2019  
\$1,151 End of Prior Fiscal Year

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF ACADIANA  
CATHOLIC STUDENT MINISTRY FUND:** \$6,911  
**UL FOUNDATION CATHOLIC STUDENT  
MINISTRY FUND:** \$20,516



# 2018-2019 BENEFACTORS

The benefactors from the 2018-2019 fiscal year are those who chose to support the mission of Our Lady of Wisdom Church & Catholic Student Center with a financial gift to the Annual Fund or the Wisdom for Every Generation Capital Campaign. Many more support our mission through prayer and generous service. Because of you, we are able to carry out our mission with excellence.

† = Ministry Partners

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Currently, 291 Ministry Partners give intentionally through a recurring monthly electronic gift. Our goal is to reach 500 Ministry Partners by December 31, 2020. Go to [ragincajuncatholics.org/donate](http://ragincajuncatholics.org/donate) to start your Ministry Partner Gift that will give immediate support to today's students and programs.





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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**MARCH 21, 2020**

Put on your dancing shoes and get ready to enjoy the  
36th Annual Boilin' Bash - all in support of Catholic  
Campus Ministry on the UL Lafayette campus!

[RaginCajunCatholics.org/bash](http://RaginCajunCatholics.org/bash)

† Mr. Charles Zeringue  
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Brytton Eldredge  
Kaetochi & Abaobi Elekwachi  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott & Kim Elston  
Mr. Emaka Ezeanya  
† Mr. Jacob Falgout  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Shirley Farmer  
Ms. Cheryl Fell  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Barbara Finnegan  
Mr. James Fitzgerald  
Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick  
Mr. Paul Fontana  
Ms. Joni Fontenot  
Dr. & Mrs. Justin & Alyssa Fontenot  
Mr. Matthew Fontenot  
Ms. Donna Forestier  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig & Michelle Foret  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Paula Foret  
Mr. Leroy & Erika Franklin  
† Ms. Gloria Frederick  
† Mr. Alex Frederick  
† Mr. Matthew Furka  
† Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Marie Furka  
† Ms. Dionne Galliano  
† Ms. Stacey Garbarino  
Ms. Haley Gauthier  
Brian Gaudet  
Mr. Austin Gauthier  
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob & Laurie Gauthier  
Steve, Robin & Sarah Gauthier

Morgan & Charlotte Gisclair  
† Drs. James & Joel Godchaux  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred & Annette Gossen  
Mr. Jim Gossen  
Grossie's Cypress Furniture  
Mr. Juno Guedry  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Cheryl Guidry  
Guidry Iron Works, Inc.  
Tony & Janis Guilbeau | Tony L. Guilbeau DDS  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry & Mary Gretchen Guilliot  
† Ms. Judy Guillory  
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Haik, Jr.  
June Hamlin  
Mr. John Hargroder  
† Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Lea Hawkins  
Chris & Eric Hayes  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Karren Hays  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Lisa Hebert  
† Ms. Ann Hebert  
Mr. & Mrs. Guy & Sondra Hebert  
Mrs. Leah Hebert  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond & Allyson Hebert  
Mr. Wayne Hebert  
Ms. Kathy Hernandez  
Ms. Staci Hernandez  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Misty Herpin  
Mr. Don Higginbotham  
† Mr. & Mrs. Joel & Henrietta Hilbun  
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew & Patricia Hill  
Ms. Allison Hollier  
Mr. & Mrs. Chad & Carrie Hollier  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Faith Hollier  
Ms. Anne Hubbell  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Corky Hutchison  
Ralph & Maxia Hutchinson  
Mr. & Mrs. Francis & Mary Huval  
Mr. & Mrs. Dwayne & Kim Hymel  
Ignatius Castille Insurance, Inc.  
J.B. Mouton, LLC  
Mr. & Mrs. Ricky & Angie Jock  
† Mr. & Mrs. Chris & Elizabeth Haik Johnson  
Mr. Tyler Johnson  
Dawn & Paul Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Eddie & Terri Jouty

Mr. Anthony Jude Simon  
† Mr. & Mrs. Remi & Lisa Judice  
Ms. Susan Kaplan  
Tom & Pat Kennell  
† Ms. Catherine Kimble  
Ms. Nancy Kinchen  
Kishbaugh Construction  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen & Charlotte Kramer  
Leon & Lou Labbe  
† Mr. & Mrs. Josh & Olivia Laborde  
Ms. Paula LaCour  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted & Kim LaFleur  
† Ms. Haylie LaFleur  
Mr. & Mrs. Jean-Paul & Alicia Lancon  
† Mr. & Mrs. Jean Paul & Jenae Lancon  
Mrs. Ginger Landreneau  
† Mr. & Mrs. Patrick & Deborah Landry  
John T. Landry  
Louise's Realwood Furniture  
Mr. Keegan Lange  
Ms. Rose Larriviere  
† Ms. Katie Latiolais  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick & Karen Lavergne  
† Ms. Olivia Lavergne  
Ms. Pamela Jane Lazarro  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Angela LeBlanc  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis & Rebecca Greig Ledet  
Dr. & Mrs. Christopher & Ellen Lee  
Mr. Stanley Leece  
† Mr. Tyler Lege  
Red Lerille's Health & Racquet Club  
Mrs. Susu Lester  
Mr. & Mrs. Rob & Heidi Ligon  
Louisiana Turf of Acadiana, LLC  
Mr. Robbie Louviere  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard G. Lucito  
Ms. Sheryl Lyons  
Ian & Jennifer MacDonald  
Ms. Celeste Manuel  
Ms. Katie Martin  
Ms. Marie-Lynn Martin  
Ji'Carla Martinez  
† Ms. Chrystelle Mbouga  
Ms. Jennifer McComic

## IGIVECATHOLIC

Give Big! Give Catholic!

The Ragin' Cajun Catholics will once again participate in a national day of giving with iGiveCatholic.org. Early giving for iGiveCatholic begins on Monday, November 18 and the big day of Giving is Giving Tuesday, December 3. Last year, an incredible \$85,000 was raised to benefit programs like Wisdom's Music Ministry, retreat & conference initiative, and to help us to continue to provide the Sacraments, community, and intellectual formation for students. **Visit [www.ragincajuncatholics.org/](http://www.ragincajuncatholics.org/) igivecatholic to join us and to make a gift.**







Ms. Allison McCormick  
† Ms. Molly McCracken  
Mrs. Mildred McElligott  
McIlhenny  
† Ms. Mary McMahon  
Fr. Patrick McPartland  
Mr. Dylan Meche  
Ms. Barbara Melancon  
Mr. David Melancon  
Mr. Pablo Melendez  
† Dr. Lauren Menard  
Ms. Robin Menard  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike & Monique Michot  
Mr. & Mrs. Todd & Dionne Miller  
Ms. Debra Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Catherine Moncla  
Mr. & Mrs. John & Carla Montesano  
† Mr. & Mrs. Fernando Montoya  
† Mr. & Mrs. Randy & Marilyn Moody  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan & Peggy Moraczewski  
Mr. & Mrs. Andre & Angie Moreau  
Mr. Frank Mouton  
Muse  
† Ms. Denise Myers  
Marlin Nereaux  
Dr. Edward & Michelle Neupert  
Joseph & Thuy Nguyen  
† Mr. & Mrs. Louis & Carol Noel  
Ms. Emma Noel  
Phillip Noel, MD  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike & Cindy Nolan  
Odiner Skin Care  
Ms. Carol Olson  
Jennifer Orgtego  
Mr. Adrian and Mrs. Jordan Ortlieb  
Mr. John Oubre  
Ms. Tammy Parrott  
Ms. Alley Peplinski  
Mr. & Mrs. Rafael & Cindy Perez  
† The Louis Perret Family  
† Mr. Justin Perry  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Vicki Petitjean  
Brian Petry  
† Mr. & Mrs. Ken & Diana Pierro  
Mr. & Mrs. George & Diane Piontek  
Zach Pitre  
Mr. Andrew Poche'  
† Mr. Conley Pomeranke  
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Pomeranke  
† Ms. Abby Ponthier  
Katie & Eric Prather  
† Mr. Duane Prejean  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Theresa Pressler  
Prevost Electric Co., Inc.  
† Ms. Jessica Ragas  
Courtney Ramsay  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobbie & Louise Readore  
† Ms. Anna Rees  
† Mr. George Rees  
Ms. Loretta Richard  
† Ms. Lisa Richard  
Rev. Michael Richard  
Tom & Geraldine Rizzuto  
Ms. Lauren Roberts  
Mr. Daniel Robertson  
† Ms. Caroline Robertson  
Mr. & Mrs. Lane & Julia Roy  
Mr. & Mrs. Cristo & Leslie Ruiz  
Mr. & Dr. Brad & Stephanie Rupe  
Kevin & Karen Russell  
Ms. Kimberly Russo  
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney & Cindi Savoy  
Ms. Ann Savoy  
Sydney Savoy

Ms. Angie Schexnayder  
Fr. Andrew Schumacher  
Mr. Thomas Schumacher  
Ms. Kimberly Sellers  
Ms. Allison Simon  
Mr. Michael Simon  
Mr. Jude Simon  
Mr. Karl Simon  
Mr. Waylon Michael Simoneaux  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis & Stephanie Simoneaux  
† Mr. Austin Simoneaux  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher & Monica Smith  
Kayla & Brad Sonnier  
Spoiled Pet Spa & Boutique  
Mr. Patrick Spaulding  
Stacy's Cocktails, Bites & Catering  
Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey & Anjo Stewart  
† Mr. Cory Stewart  
† Mr. & Mrs. Jacob & Emily Stoehr  
Ms. Jennifer Stone  
Mr. Randy Stoute  
Mr. & Mrs. Evan & Madeleine Tatford  
Mr. David Taylor  
Mr. Dean Tekell  
† B.C. & Cassie Thibeaux  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Sheila Thibodeaux  
Mr. & Mrs. Cole and Jennifer Thompson  
Marcello's Wine Market  
† Mr. Jacob Tonglet  
Traditional Painting Company, L.L.C.  
Ms. Hannah Trahan  
Mr. & Mrs. Chad & Carol Trahan  
Mr. & Mrs. George & Donna Trappey  
Ms. Abigail Travis  
† Ms. Jenna Tregre  
UL Lafayette Baseball  
UL Lafayette Softball  
Mr. Brandon Verret  
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan & Mary-Rose Verret  
Miss Nikki Verzwylt  
Ms. Susan Vess  
† Mr. & Mrs. Damon & Catherine Vincent  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy & Kristen Vondenstein  
Ms. Angela Waguespack  
Mr. & Mrs. John & Merrilee Waldron  
† Ms. Kaitlynn Walker  
† Ms. Jacqueline Ware  
Mr. O'Neal Weber  
The Wharton Family  
Mr. James White  
Ms. Sara Whitney  
Dr. & Mrs. Juan Zeik  
Ms. Alexandra Zeringue  
† Mr. Brock Zeringue

*We strive for accuracy in the Annual Report listing. Please contact the church office if there is an error or omission, or to change your listing preference.*

## ANNOUNCING: NEW ENDOWMENTS TO BENEFIT CATHOLIC STUDENT MINISTRY AT UL LAFAYETTE

Endowments are critical to the long-term survival of Wisdom's mission because they provide a permanent and stable source of income over time. An endowment is a perpetual fund. Literally, it lasts forever. An endowment continues to grow while earnings are distributed each year for a designated initiative at Our Lady of Wisdom Church & Catholic Student Center.

### Coming Soon: Blanco Family Support Fund



Financial barriers can often be a roadblock for students during their college years. This endowment will provide monetary assistance to students in need and help them take advantage of educational and religious formation opportunities in accord with our mission to form *lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ*.

### Coming Soon: Tony Robichaux Endowment

This endowment in Coach Robichaux's memory will continue his legacy by supporting men's outreach and formation at Our Lady of Wisdom Church & Catholic Student Center.

# AVE MARIA SOCIETY: SUSTAINING OUR MISSION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS THROUGH A TESTAMENTARY GIFT TO OUR LADY OF WISDOM

The Ave Maria Society was created to honor our legacy donors who have named Our Lady of Wisdom Church & Catholic Student Center as a beneficiary in their will or trust, retirement account, charitable gift annuity, or life insurance policy.

We are grateful to acknowledge these benefactors during their lifetimes. In conjunction with our mission, to form lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ, this society provides an opportunity for benefactors to leave a perpetual legacy, exemplify philanthropy

for their families, and create a foundation of support to equip the Catholic Student Center in future generations.

If you have named Our Lady of Wisdom Church & Catholic Student Center in your estate plan, or are considering doing so, we invite you to become a member of the Ave Maria Society.

**Please contact Mary Hernandez**  
**([mary@ourladyofwisdom.org](mailto:mary@ourladyofwisdom.org))**  
**in the Office of Advancement for more information.**



## INAUGURAL MEMBERS OF THE AVE MARIA SOCIETY

### *Fr. Bryce Sibley*

"As a priest, I don't have a lot of extra money, but I try to be a good steward of what I do have by investing it wisely. In 2015, I made the decision to allocate a portion of my IRA to Our Lady of Wisdom in my will. In addition to my monthly gift, this is the most practical way I can honor the ministry that has had such an impact on my priesthood. Hopefully, the money I invest in my IRA will grow during my lifetime and become a much larger gift than what I would be able to give today."

### *Fr. René Pellessier*

"I think we all have a duty to give, and last spring I was moved to remember my bride, the Church, in my will. Wisdom is the closest thing to me and I believe in her mission. Most importantly, I believe Wisdom's future and the future of the Church - our young people - are worth investing in."

## THE WISDOM FOR EVERY GENERATION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The planned building project will include a spiritual home away from home for UL Lafayette Students that will enable us to expand our campus ministry where it is currently limited, and continue to offer the sacraments and celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass daily with students.

Our new home will include a new church sanctuary built in a traditional cruciform layout and a new Catholic student center built with spatial components that reflect the many pathways that lead young people into a lasting relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

**Total Collected to Date:**  
\$2,678,005

**Total Pledged to Date:**  
\$9,215,012





**Catholic Student Center  
Our Lady of Wisdom  
Catholic Church**

University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
P.O. Box 43599, Lafayette, LA 70504  
ragincajuncatholics.org  
337-232-8742

## PASTOR'S LETTER: LIFELONG DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST



Dear Fellow Ragin' Cajun Catholics,

Over the past few weeks, I've spent time reflecting on the many blessings of my time as pastor over the last nine years. I've come to realize more and more that although I've been able to see much fruit and many lives changed, most of the work of a campus minister involves sowing seeds rather than harvesting a crop. The true lasting fruit of a successful campus ministry comes years later as the seeds planted bear fruit in the lives of the men and women who passed through Wisdom during their time at UL Lafayette.

I think of the many alumni who I've known and continue to keep in contact with. So many of them still practice their Catholic faith and truly live it as lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ. Praise be to God that what they received here at Wisdom is bearing fruit 30, 60, and 100 fold (cf. Mark 4:20). They are starting families and passing on the faith to their children, they are bringing the gospel into the workplace, and they are serving as priests and religious. I am so proud of them and the good work they are doing for Christ and His Church.

This year's annual report contains just a few stories of some of these alumni I've been blessed to know over the past nine years. I hope to remain in contact with them for years to come. These stories would not be possible without the support of so many friends and benefactors like you, who make our ministry possible. From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you for all you do and have done to help this ministry grow during my time as pastor. I hope you can share in my joy knowing that you played an important part in helping to form these young men and women as lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Rev. Bryce Sibley

Rev. Bryce Sibley