

World Youth Day Pilgrims Return from Spain with Renewed Faith

Nine University of St. Thomas students, accompanied by Fr. Mike Buentello, CSB, and Sr. Damien Marie Savino, FSE, joined nearly two million Catholic youth in Madrid, Spain for a transformative three-week trip of prayer, sacrifice and pilgrimage. After traversing the famous Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain, they joined Pope Benedict XVI and Catholic representatives from across the world in Madrid.

The students included Claudia Arguelles, Joseph Bedell, Charles Borromeo, Yesenia Guzman, Jennifer Monroy, Mayra Morales, Stephanie Rivera, Blue Secatero and Steffani Rush. They returned to Houston last week – on fire with their faith, ready to share the Gospel and with many positive words about the trip.

Yesenia Guzman, junior:

“I was told before I went on this pilgrimage my life was going to be transformed and my path in life would be clearer. At first, among all the chaos, I could not distinguish God’s voice from all of the noise, hunger, pain and fatigue of the Camino and the masses of people at World Youth Day. Now I feel a sense of relief, renewal and revival. I did not know how much my soul needed to be fed by the beauty of nature, friendship, kindness and prayer.”



Pictured from left to right—Claudia Arguelles, Stephanie Reivera, Joseph Bedell, Mayra Morales & Jennifer Monroy



Claudia Arguelles and the rest of the group hiking their way through the Camino

This journey has opened my heart to love and my eyes to truth.”

Joseph Bedell, junior:

“This trip to Spain has been one of the most amazing experiences of my life. Before Spain, I was absorbed in school and uninterested in volunteering or helping youth through faith-based ministries. After going to Spain and World Youth Day, I have a drive, a passion inside of me and a

yearning to do more - to go to FOCUS youth conferences, to volunteer at my Church with the Life Teen program and to volunteer at the next World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro. God has blessed me with so many gifts in my life; it is only right to share them.”

Read more about the trip at the World Youth Day blog www.ustworldyouthdaypilgrimage.wordpress.com.



Get the free mobile app at
<http://gettag.mobi>

Watch a video of the UST Pilgrims at World Youth Day produced by UST alumna Cimela Kidonakis. No smartphone? Click to www.stthom.edu/WYDvideo

Invest in Success

Break Down Your Brain: Become the Expert on How YOU Learn
4:00-5:00, Wed., **Sept. 14**, Academic Advising Center, Crooker Center

Starting the Semester off Right – Tips for Student Success
4:30-5:30, **Sept. 8**,
COC Room, Crooker Center

Creating Notes That Work
3:30-4:30, **Sept. 8**,
Tutorial Services,
Crooker Center

Improving Memory & Concentration
12:30-1:30, **Sept. 20**,
Tutorial Services,
Crooker Center

Picking the Right College Major for You
4:00 – 4:45, **Sept. 22**,
Career Services Center,
Crooker Center

How to Compose a Strong Thesis Statement
12:30-1:30, **Sept. 27**,
Tutorial Services,
Crooker Center

Tips for Testing
12:30-1:30, **Sept. 29**,
Tutorial Services Center,
Crooker Center
12:30-1:30, **Nov. 29**,
Tutorial Services,
Crooker Center

For more information, contact Lindsey McPherson email at guthmanl@stthom.edu or 713-525-6939.

Commemorate 10th Anniversary of Sept. 11

Though a decade has passed, Americans will never forget the tragic events that scarred our nation on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

The University of St. Thomas College Republicans will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks with the event, “9/11: Never Forget” at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, **Sept. 8**, on the Academic Mall.

The event will feature a memorial to the victims of Sept. 11 consisting of 2,977 flags, one for each victim, emplaced in the grass of the Academic Mall.

A keynote speech will be given by Army Sgt. Kenneth J. Depew, a junior political science major and a veteran of the campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was a member of the Army’s “Old Guard” in Washington D.C. during the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, after which he and his unit spent four weeks conducting rescue and recovery operations at the Pentagon. Depew was awarded the Purple Heart Medal and numerous military awards and decorations.

Members of the UST community are invited to adopt one of the flags on display for \$1 per flag. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the United 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Penn.



UST Students Study Peace Building in Ireland

Twelve University of St. Thomas students with a keen interest in the political, cultural and historical dynamics that have shaped modern Ireland took part in the 2011 William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies study abroad program this summer.



Preceded by two weeks of intensive classes in Houston, this year’s study abroad program focused on all aspects of modern Ireland, both south and north of the border. In Northern Ireland alone, the students met and interviewed over 50 people involved in building peace.

“It was a whirlwind three and a half weeks of meeting governmental officials, religious leaders of all faiths and other people engaged in the Northern Ireland Peace Process, as well as traveling to places such as the Aran Islands and sites throughout Dublin, Belfast and Galway,” said MLA student Rachael Havranek. “I came away with experiences that have made me look at my life differently. I learned the value of not giving up on personal relationships, the necessity of dialogue and the benefit of seeking reconciliation.”

CNN Vatican Analyst John Allen Explores Religious Freedom

John L. Allen Jr., senior correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter and senior Vatican analyst for CNN, will give the annual University of St. Thomas Center for Faith and Culture Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza Lecture at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 4 in Jones Hall. Allen's lecture will explore, "Religious Freedom: Its Roots in Catholic Thought and its Place in Vatican Diplomacy."

During the event, the Center for Faith and Culture will present the Faithful Citizen Award to Joe Tortorice, President and CEO of Deli Management, Inc., which operates the Jason's Deli restaurant chain. The Award is conferred upon persons who are led by the Holy Spirit and who manifest the incarnate love of God for this world in their lives and actions as Catholics.

Allen is the author of six best-selling books on the Vatican and Catholic affairs including: *Cardinal Ratzinger: The Vatican's Enforcer of the Faith*, *Conclave: The Politics, Personalities and Process of the Next Papal Election* and *All The Pope's Men: The Inside Story of How the Vatican Really Thinks*. Allen writes frequently on the Church for major national and international publications. He is a popular speaker on Catholic affairs, both in the United States and abroad.

The Second Vatican Council (1962-65) marked a change in Catholic thought with regard to religious freedom, although the theological roots of



the idea go back to Christ and his "render unto Caesar" teaching. In recent decades, religious freedom has emerged as the centerpiece of Vatican diplomacy, which, has bred a new and more positive understanding of the United States and its role on the global stage. Today the most creative and passionate Christian reflection on religious freedom is emerging from the Middle East where Christians are an embattled, and shrinking, minority, and where separation of religion and state is reduced to survival tactics. This lecture will sketch the past, present and future of the Catholic approach to religious liberty both in theory and in concrete geopolitical situations. The lecture is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Greg Arbogast at 713-942-5066 or cfc@stthom.edu.

Fr. Joseph Tham, Alberto Garcia Discuss Medical Ethics

The University of St. Thomas Theology Department and the Chi Rho Theology Club will present "Medical Ethics: An Important Update" at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, **Sept. 13** in Cullen Hall. Fr. Joseph Tham of the Legionaries of Christ will speak on "Why IVF is Wrong" and Prof. Alberto García, JD, will address "The Human Cloning Debate: Revival in the United Nations."

Fr. Tham teaches bioethics at the Regina Apostolorum in Rome. He is the author of *The Missing Cornerstone* (Hamden 2004) and *The Secularization of Bioethics* (Rome 2007).

García is the director of the recently formed United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information about the event, contact Sr. Madeline Grace, CVI at 713-525-3529.



Second Collection

On Saturday and Sunday, **Sept. 10-11**, parishes in the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese are invited to support Catholic higher education by passing the collection plate a second time. Last year, \$144,555 was directly awarded to UST students. Please support scholarships and give generously.



Helping Hands

Helping Hands, the annual government, education and nonprofit fair, will host organizations seeking students for full-time positions, internships and volunteer opportunities. The Fair will be held at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, **Sept. 13** in Crooker Center, Ahern Room. Contact Career Services at 713-525-3160.



Irish Storyteller

The University of St. Thomas William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies will present “Intersection and Illumination: New Insight into Ancient Irish Tales,” a free evening of traditional Irish storytelling with Susan Gallagher from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Thursday, **Sept. 15** in Cullen Hall. For more information, contact Lori Gallagher at 713-525-3592.



Pi Sigma Alpha Service Project

Pi Sigma Alpha, the national Political Science Honor Society, will volunteer at The Beacon Day Shelter at 10 :30 a.m. Saturday, **Sept. 17**. Volunteer opportunities are open to all UST students, faculty and staff. Transportation to and from UST will be provided. To sign up, e-mail Daniel Rountree at rountrt@stthom.edu.



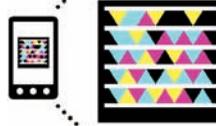
Writing Wrongs

Dr. Catherine Barber, assistant professor of education, will present “Writing Wrongs: Expressive Writing to Facilitate Forgiveness,” at 2 p.m., Tuesday, **Sept. 20** in the Doherty Library Atrium. “Writing Wrongs” will present practical strategies for facilitating the process of forgiveness. For more information, contact Dr. Barber at 713-525-3830.



Apply for GRACE By Feb. 1

Earn a complete Master’s degree in Education while living in community and teaching at a Catholic school. Apply now for the GRACE Program at www.stthom.edu/GRACE. Applications are due Feb. 1.



Watch and learn more about the GRACE program—*instantly*. No smartphone? Click to www.stthom.edu/SeeGRACE

Get the free mobile app at <http://gettag.mobi>

Nicole Casarez Recognized as Champion of Justice

The Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (TCADP) will recognize Nicole Casarez, University of St. Thomas professor of communication, for her tireless efforts to exonerate former death row inmate Anthony Graves. A reception, “Seizing the Momentum: Honoring Houston’s Champions of Justice,” honoring Casarez, Rep. Jessica Farrar and David Dow, will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, **Sept. 15** at the Station Museum of Contemporary Art, 1502 Alabama Street.



Proceeds from the event will benefit TCADP’s ongoing advocacy efforts and educational outreach to citizens to raise awareness about the flaws and failures of the death penalty.

Individual tickets for the reception are \$50 and can be purchased online at www.tcadp.org.

Star View is published by the Office of Marketing Communications as a means of informing the UST community about University and campus news. Call 713-525-3116 with questions and/or comments.

Editor
Elise Marrion

Publication Designer
Ronnie Piper

Contributor
Emilie Bierschenk