



NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025



Roland, left, and his sponsor Jonathan

Roland's Story

Last year was the first year our director, Dan Holland, began leading OCIA with our college students and Roland Brown, a freshman at Hampden - Sydney was one of the first students he worked with. Roland, a freshman from the Baltimore area, decided to attend a Catholic Mass his very first weekend of college.

To this day if you ask Roland why he decided to attend Mass that weekend he could not tell you. As Catholics like to say, we live on God's time and he can work in amazing ways. After that Mass St. Theresa parish was offering a picnic that also was a welcome back event for the college students. This event helped Roland see how welcoming the Catholic Church and Campus Ministry could be and made him realize this was a community he wanted to be part of during his college years.

For Roland, the Catholic students in Farmville were a great community and support system for someone far away from home. He also credits OCIA and mentioned in particular a critical part that really helped him learn about our Catholic Church, "learning about the structure and history of the church, along with aspects of social doctrine, religious doctrine that derive specifically from the new testament." This was just one aspect that kept Roland excited and coming back for more every week.

OCIA wasn't just a one time event for Roland in regard to campus ministry either. Roland enjoyed what he was learning in OCIA to such a degree that he started regularly attending the bible study Campus Ministry hosted as well as the weekly Dinner and Discussion event hosted at the Campus Ministry office with the Longwood students. As the 2025 Fall Semester has begun Roland is still as active as ever in campus ministry. He makes sure to attend Sunday Mass at St. Theresa as well as the weekly Bible study and Wednesday Dinners once again.

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Discipleship Program

When our Director, Dan Holland, arrived in Farmville 3 years ago one program he brought with him was One on One Discipleship with students. The idea behind this program is to give students the opportunity to ask the questions they might be nervous to ask in a large setting. Another important part of this program for our Director is that because it was one on one, he would find time that fits with the students schedule. If a student could not necessarily attend some of the other events our ministry offers, this program was built for them. Different students have taken advantage of this program in different ways over the past three years. Students have learned about the structure of the Mass, Church authority, as well as simply how to pray for other people.

Matthew, a freshman at Hampden-Sydney knew coming to college he wanted to make his Catholic faith a priority, but there was going to be a challenge not every student has. Matthew is a member of the golf team at Hampden-Sydney. When Matthew saw One on One Discipleship advertised in Campus Ministry he thought this would be a great opportunity because he was not sure if he would have time for other campus ministry events. At the very first session Matthew mentioned one of his best friends was in seminary and had a great effect on him, “This made me realize I wanted to deepen my relationship with Christ as well.”

While Matthew tries his best to attend the other weekly events the Campus Ministry offers he knows the One on One Discipleship will always be available to him and looks forward to it every week.



Photo by Emilio Salgado Garcia | SalGar Productions



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New Building

We are so blessed to have been able to purchase a new building for our ministry! With the help of the Diocese we purchased the building and have begun making some necessary renovations and upgrades to the building. Below you will see some of the images and we have listed some of the cost of these upgrades as well as necessary purchases to make this space beautiful and welcoming for the students. We ask that you consider making a gift today in order to help us turn this building into our new home!

Thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting this exciting project we have embarked on!

Needs

- **\$40,000** Renovations
- **\$25,000** HVAC system
- **\$2,500** Furniture
- **\$1,500** Entertainment
 - TV for Lounge
 - Ping pong/pool table
- **\$1,500** Outdoor signs
- **\$500** Hardware/fixtures

All checks can be made out to "Catholic Campus Ministry" and mailed to 709 Buffalo Street, Farmville, VA 23901





JONATHAN'S GROWTH

When it comes to Catholic Campus Ministry one of the greatest parts of what we do is seeing how college students can grow as people and in their faith journeys in just four years. While it is great to speak to students and get their feedback after each and every event, one of the best ways to hear how we are changing lives is to hear feedback from our seniors. For many college students it takes a special invitation for them to get involved in Catholic Campus Ministry, but not all.

For Hampden - Sydney Catholic Campus Ministry President Jonathan Coleman his faith and Catholic Campus Ministry was always going to be a priority for him going to college. As he puts it, "I knew that CCM would be one of the first things I got involved with." For many college students Catholic Campus Ministry can become a second home for them while they are at school, they can find the right friends and a place that provides them with the right community for them to grow.



This has been no different for Jonathan, "CCM has given me the tools to stay close to Christ as a student. I've been able to make friends with several other Catholic students, and we all help each other stay committed to our religion." When asked if there was one particular event in the past few years that has impacted Jonathan the most he could not decide, "I've been part of a lot of fun events, both large and small, and I really feel like I've gotten closer to God over the past few years. I would highly recommend CCM to any incoming college students at Hampden-Sydney or Longwood, and I will always pray that the organization will continue to flourish after I have left it."

Meet the Staff



Director

Dan Holland



Pastor

Fr. Chris Hess

Want to know more?

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Thank you!

