

Servant on the Mount



A newsletter by John Clemente - May 2020

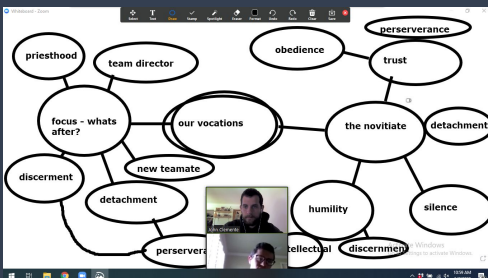
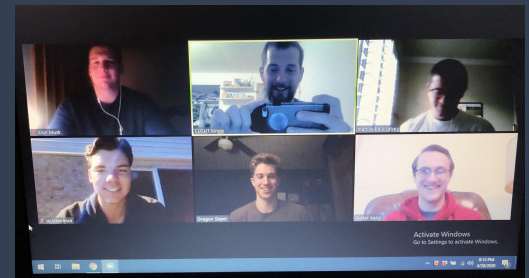


Virtual mission - it's all in His hands.



This Spring semester was one that I could have never anticipated. With our mission efforts going digital due to COVID-19, there were many aspects of mission that I was apprehensive about. Would students be willing to continue meeting online? How would I continue to challenge students in their faith without face-to-face interaction? Throughout this semester it has been so surprising to me to see all the good things that have come from an otherwise tragic circumstance. There have been so many blessings from this challenging year, and I know He has a plan in this!

This is my Student Athlete Leader's Bible Study. Each member of this Bible Study is a Varsity Athlete that desires to lead the men on their teams in the faith. Of the five men who consistently come, three are leading their own Bible Study. Matt on the top left is a thrower on the track team and leads his own Track Bible Study, He recently accepted a job as a FOCUS Missionary! Aaron on the top right plays lacrosse and leads a Lacrosse Bible Study. He will be entering the Dominican Novitiate next year! Sean, right below me, is a triple-jumper on the track team and leads Track Bible Study.



Despite not being face-to-face, I have had some beautiful moments of prayer with students. To the left is a "prayer bubble" that Aaron and I made. We wrote out ways we could specifically pray for each other's vocation, and prayed for each other out loud. Aaron is graduating this year and entering the Dominican Novitiate, while I am entering my second year with FOCUS and discerning what the Lord is asking of me after that. To be able to pray intentionally with these men, even while many miles away, is a blessing that I didn't anticipate.

What's going on this summer?

Before each FOCUS Missionary's first and second year, training is held over the summer to aid missionaries in human, spiritual, intellectual and apostolic formation. Due to COVID-19, we are having our training completely online this year. Please pray for us as we take a step back from on-campus mission to form ourselves to be able to better serve the students on our campuses!

Our training will begin on May 25th and will extend

till August 13th which will bring us into the new school year. It is still unclear whether the Mount will be open completely by then or if classes will still be online. Whatever the case, our team plans on continuing our mission digitally until our students return. I am planning to return to campus in mid-July.

While I was still able to lead my mission trip to Guyana over Spring Break (more on that on the reverse side) my mission trip to Papua New Guinea over the summer has been cancelled due to the current circumstances..



| Guyana mission trip 2020 |



This past Spring Break, Brooke and I coordinated a mission trip to Guyana with four students from the Mount. We worked with Servadoras, an institute of Catholic Missionary Sisters. This mission was primarily evangelical, and consisted of many house visits, praying with locals and inviting them to Mass. We ran catechetical activities for all ages and prayed together as a community. This was an amazing opportunity not only to serve, but to empower our students from the Mount to step out in faith and respond to the physical and spiritual poverty that is so present in our world. Here is what two of our students had to say:



"I'd say that I really encountered Christ in a lot of expected as well as unexpected ways. I went with the intention of encountering Him, so I was very aware of the ways He was reaching out to me. I was impacted by the contrast of material and spiritual poverty, and it occurred to me that we were there simply to bring hope to the hopeless. In my personal experience, Christ encountered me in ways that have helped me discern more fully my vocation. Every baptized Christian is called to bring the gospel to other people. We should expect that mission is where we would encounter Christ the most profoundly and directly." - Nathaniel Bald

"Pre-mission I had a romanticized idea of what serving abroad was "supposed to look like," but I was quickly humbled by reality. I expected to be the one "doing the serving" but there were several times when my health failed me and I was left to allow others to meet me in my suffering and let them love me where I was. This experience was truly impactful for me as someone who combats pride in her regular life. I learned that we are all called to the same universal vocation to love others and to also allow others to love us, no matter where we are in our journey of faith, our battle with perpetual sin, or in our own suffering." - Maddie Smith



Our Team

Our whole team will be returning to Mount Saint Mary's University for a second year with one new teammate! I am excited to be working with the same group of people and to welcome our new teammate to the Mount Community!

Team Baby!

My teammate Claire had her baby: Rose. It has been a great joy to see my two teammates, Pete and Claire, step into their parental role and gracefully tackle the challenges of raising their beautiful baby girl.

Prayer Requests

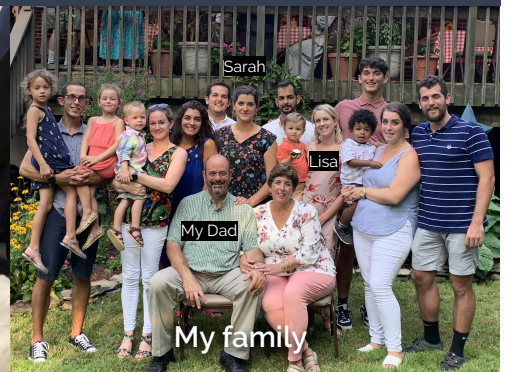
I ask for prayers for all of those on the front lines during this time of pandemic. In particular, please pray for Lisa, Sarah, and my Dad, who are on the front lines fighting COVID-19.



The team!



Baby Rose



My family

