Making the Grade: The Class of CLI

Senior year, many college students begin to feel the pressure of entering the “real world.” They worry about justifying expensive tuitions and unrestricted freedoms and they often feel the need to prove themselves to society with high-paying first jobs or prestigious acceptances to postgraduate programs. That is not the case for University of Pennsylvania senior, Meghan Vail. While Meghan has been diligently preparing for the future, she isn’t worried. She knows who holds her future. According to Meghan, “In the end, my life will be worth more if in my final days I can say that I’ve become the woman that God intended me to be.”

Penn Leaders Complete First Cohort

Meghan is one of the over 100 college students taking the Catholic Hero’s Journey (CHJ), Catholic Leadership Institute’s one-year leadership development program for adults. In addition to beginning her last year of college this fall, Meghan completes the Catholic Hero’s Journey with ten other Penn students September 9-11. She has found the program invaluable to her growth as an individual and as a leader at the nation’s oldest Newman Center.

“In the end, my life will be worth more if in my final days I can say that I’ve become the woman that God intended me to be.”

-Meghan Vail
Senior, University of Pennsylvania

“I wanted to be a Catholic in more than just name.” says Meghan, “I wanted to be a Catholic leader in my community. The Catholic Hero’s Journey has had an impact on my every day life. I find that I challenge myself on a daily basis with questions such as ‘Are my actions supportive of my Christian leadership identity?’ and ‘Is what I’m doing going to lead me further along in my Catholic Hero’s Journey?’”

While Penn Newman Center has been a long-time partner with Catholic Leadership Institute, this cohort of students is the first to complete the one-year program.

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I always enjoy the end of a fiscal year. While it might sound like an odd thing to enjoy and though for most organizations it can be a stressful time, I find it important to stop and take the time to reflect on the growth and challenges shared during the course of the year. Acknowledging assets and examining liabilities is a critical development process that we all should embrace in more than just our financial worlds.

I particularly enjoy the end of the fiscal year at Catholic Leadership Institute. It is absolutely inspiring to review all the blessings CLI has received from our most important assets: you. While you will read about many examples of generosity in this issue of the Compass, I would like to share two examples of stewardship from this past fiscal year that have profoundly inspired me.

As a result of the generosity of the Lawrence H. Hyde Charitable Trust, Catholic Leadership Institute is able to offer comprehensive leadership training in Spanish to the Catholic Church’s fastest-growing community. The impact of this enormous gift and the training of our Hispanic leaders is already being felt throughout the Northeastern part of the country. For example, four Hispanic graduates have developed a monthly outreach for new immigrants to assist with the transition to US culture – both in Church and in society. Or take Estrella Prieto, who along with her husband, became certified Natural Family Planning (NFP) facilitators and deliver the program in Spanish. They have also joined the parish pre-cana team and diocesan NFP team.

As I was leaving the office one day, a member of the Malvern Retreat Center’s maintenance staff called to me from a distance. He told me that he believed in what CLI was doing and though he couldn’t contribute much, wanted to give me what he could. He took out a twenty dollar bill and placed it in my hand.

These two examples and the hundreds more I could share from the past year are what stewardship is all about. They were both financial gifts but they were not about money. They were about love. They were about recognizing the blessings in our lives and having a passion to be blessings in the lives of others. Stewardship and Catholic leadership are synonymous. We are called to use our God-given gifts and talents to serve others.

Thank you for responding to the universal call to holiness. Thank you for the gifts of your time, talent and treasure. Thank you for helping to build a ministry that is building Catholic leaders for today and tomorrow. Thank you for your prayers.

You are most certainly in mine.

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Catholic Leadership Institute has launched a new website to spread the good news about the ministry that is building Catholic leaders for today and tomorrow. www.CatholicLeaders.org provides the opportunity for participants to register and pay for programs online. Additionally, individuals can now make secure, tax-deductible donations online. According to Communications Director, Dan Cellucci, the site will further the overall mission of the organization.

“Catholic Leadership Institute has over 8,000 graduates, who are doing some incredible things in their families, workplaces, communities and in the Church. Using more advanced technology will help CLI share these stories and inspire others to begin their Catholic Hero’s Journey.”
Catholic Leadership Institute welcomes Agnes Gillin Gayhardt to its Board of Directors. Agnes comes to CLI with a wealth of marketing and non-profit board experience.

Agnes is a graduate of Boston College and has over ten years of marketing experience with two local radio stations and the Philadelphia Phillies. She has extensive background in philanthropic activities including being the President of the Board at St. Francis Country House, serving on the Board of the Rosemont School of the Holy Child, and being a volunteer for both the Philadelphia Ballet and Friends in Action.

“We are very lucky and grateful to have Agnes come on our board,” Tim Flanagan, Chair and Founder explained. “She brings a sharp marketing background as well as experience in working with other non-profits as a Board member which will help us take Catholic Leadership to the next level.”

She is married to Don Gayhardt. They have four children, Kevin, Peter, Mary Margaret, and Donny. They are members of St. John Neumann Parish in Bryn Mawr, PA.

“CLI is blessed that Agnes has accepted this invitation,” Matt Manion, President and CEO, stated. “Her skill set and passion will be a real asset to this ministry.”

GAYHARDT BRINGS MARKETING EXPERTISE TO BOARD

On August 1-2, the Catholic Leadership Institute hosted a two-day meeting with Fr. Mark Hession, President of the National Organization for the Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy (NOCERCC) and Fr. Bob Silva, President of the National Federation of Priests Councils and several CLI program consultants. The purpose of the meeting was to share information about CLI’s clergy leadership development process, Good Leaders, Good Shepherds, and discuss opportunities to collaborate.

“I think you have a real winner of a project,” said Fr. Silva, “I am excited about all of the possibilities.” Fr. Hession agreed and is already looking at opportunities to introduce Catholic Leadership Institute to his home diocese of Fall River, MA. “These two organizations have been serving the priests of the United States for several decades,” said CLI President Matthew Manion. “Their feedback was invaluable. We look forward to partnering with them to make the Good Leaders, Good Shepherds process available to clergy throughout the United States.”

CLI HOSTS PRESIDENTS OF NFPC AND NOCERCC

From left to right: CLI graduate, Rev. Bill Dickinson; Leadership Legacies CEO, Dick Lyles; CLI President and CEO, Matt Manion; CLI Board member Pat Kelly; NFPC President, Rev. Robert Silva; CLI Founder and Chair, Tim Flanagan and NOCERCC President, Rev. Mark Hession.

THE AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP: NOVEMBER 4, 2005

Honoring Pat DeAngelis, Sr. Mary Rose McGeady, S.C., Jim Murray and Fr. Frank Pavone.

The cohort is composed of both undergraduate and graduate students at the Ivy League institution. Anne Marie McKnight and Tom Whittingham, both graduate students, have found the Catholic Hero's Journey equally beneficial. According to Tom, “I expected the Catholic Hero's Journey to focus more on myself. In a pleasant surprise, the journey has taught me that it is imperative that I use and develop my talents in a manner that positively impacts the world around me.” Anne Marie agrees. “I think the program has taught me a new way of approaching challenges. It has given me tools that help me tackle problems in my everyday life as well as broadened my perspective by encouraging me to think about my purpose and goals.” As Penn’s first cohort finishes this September, a new cohort of twenty-four will begin the same weekend.

Penn Newman began sending students through CLI under the direction of the late Fr. Chuck Pfeffer. Fr. Charles Zlock, a graduate of the Pastoral Leadership Institute, and Sue Harte, Assistant Director of the Newman Center have decided to carry on the tradition.

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, BELIEVE IN IMMACULATA

Catholic Leadership Institute has worked with students from over 14 colleges and universities throughout the country. The University of Pennsylvania Newman Center is one of four colleges sending students through the year-long Catholic Hero’s Journey. Eight Catholic campus ministry leaders under the direction of Sr. Cathy Nally, IHM will also complete Immaculata’s first CHJ cohort this September. According to Immaculata senior, Sarah Wolfe, the program “has helped me to reinforce the qualities I always wanted to see in myself.” Immaculata students’ CHJ is being funded by the Longon Family.

NEUMANN SENDS FIRST COHORT

Another long-time CLI partner, Neumann College, will send its first cohort through the program beginning September 23-25. With generous support from the Rocco and Barbara Martino Foundation and the Longon Family, 16 students and 4 staff members from Neumann will start the Catholic Hero’s Journey.

In partnership with the Salesian Center for Faith and Culture and sponsored by the Ryan Family Foundation, 14 students and 3 Oblates will begin the Catholic Hero’s Journey August 19-21. The program has been customized by a team of oblates to incorporate various elements of Salesian spirituality.

Immaculata’s first cohort, funded by the Longon Family will finish their year-long Catholic Hero’s Journey September 9-11. The group has been meeting monthly since September of 2004.

Sponsored by Rocco and Barbara Martino Foundation and the Longon Family, 16 students and 4 staff from Neumann College will begin their Catholic Hero’s Journey September 23-25. Catholic Leadership Institute has trained several groups of campus leaders at the Franciscan college.
Neumann senior, Catherine Logan, chose to begin her Catholic Hero’s Journey with a group of young adults from throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Her year-long experience will conclude in September and she is grateful for the experience. “One of my biggest struggles to overcome was not having confidence in the decisions I make. One thing I realized quickly through the program was that my lack of confidence came from fears of making the right choices. I also came to see how important it is to have people to support me along my journey. It is better for me to try and fail with the chance of succeeding, then to have never tried at all.”

DeSales University Customizes the Journey

With a three-year grant from the Ryan Family Foundation and in collaboration with Catholic Leadership Institute, the Salesian Center for Faith and Culture will offer the Catholic Hero’s Journey to campus leaders from DeSales University. The pilot will integrate the Salesian charism of the university.

DeSales Oblate Fr. Tom Dailey, director of the Salesian Center for Faith and Culture, explains, “The university’s patron saint, Francis de Sales, championed the idea that holiness is for every person, not just monks and nuns, and that the devout life can and should be lived in the midst of worldly professions. We believe that his saintly wisdom, coupled with the successful dynamics of the CLI programs, will offer our best students the opportunity to grow in unique and lasting ways. Our goal in this collaborative venture is to help the next generation always to realize the Salesian maxim to ‘be who you are, and be that well’.”

CLI President and CEO, Matthew Manion is excited to help the university share the Salesian spirit. “Catholic colleges are each grounded in such a rich and unique spirit, such as the Salesian spirituality,” says Manion, “Catholic Leadership Institute is proud to partner with the Oblates at DeSales University in order to help pass along this beautiful spirituality to its students.” The first cohort of 15 leaders began their Catholic Hero’s Journey August 19-21. The university has made a three-year commitment to collaborate with Catholic Leadership Institute in offering this program of leadership formation.

Scholarships Making the Difference

Catholic Leadership Institute Program Director, Megan Flynn, is not only impressed by the dynamic students but is also constantly surprised with the generosity of the donors, who make the Catholic Hero’s Journey for college students possible. “The scholarships afforded to students by the Ryan, Martino and Longon families, not to mention the support from the colleges and universities, has made it possible for campus leaders to have life-changing experiences that will profoundly help them during college and as they leave college.”

Meghan Vail knows the journey does not end in September. “One of my most important lessons that I have learned is that the Catholic Hero’s Journey cannot be limited to time on earth as we know it. The journey isn’t about ‘okay I’m who I want to be, now I can start my life.’ My life is the journey. As a result, I am more concerned about forging my own path according to the Catholic Hero’s Journey than following a path that society has already created.”

For more information about the Catholic Hero’s Journey for college students please contact Megan Flynn at 610-251-3750 or visit www.CatholicLeaders.org.

www.CatholicLeaders.org

Students from DeSales will experience a Catholic Hero’s Journey customized to match the charism of the university. Several Oblates collaborated with Catholic Leadership Institute to integrate the Salesian spirituality into the program.

The Penn Newman Center’s first cohort will finish their year-long Catholic Hero’s Journey September 9-11. Additionally, Penn Newman Center recently invited Matthew Manion to facilitate a visioning and goal-setting session with the oldest Newman center in the country.

125 students from Temple University took part in a one-day training August 18, with Catholic Leadership Institute. The students are in preparation to be orientation leaders for first-year students of the university.

For more information about the Catholic Hero’s Journey for college students please contact Megan Flynn at 610-251-3750 or visit www.CatholicLeaders.org.
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
RUN FOR THE ROSES

A mint julep, the traditional drink of choice for the Kentucky Derby, combines granulated sugar, water, fresh mint, crushed ice and Kentucky bourbon. Catholic Leadership Institute’s reunion on May 7th combined over 100 alumni and friends, the Kentucky Derby and yes, even some mint juleps.

The third annual spring fundraising event was held at the Family Life Center, on the grounds of the Malvern Retreat Center and provided an opportunity for graduates and supporters to meet, reconnect and share stories of the past fourteen years. Mary Borneman, a graduate and current facilitator for Catholic Leadership Institute, was thrilled to see that so many alumni had come out. “It was so amazing to see alumni from some of the first CLI programs sharing their stories with people who just began the Catholic Hero’s Journey in March. I felt connected. Even though we didn’t all know each other, everyone knew why everyone was there. It’s a real testament to the impact Catholic Leadership Institute has had on us all.”

Attendees of the event also got the chance to place their bets and run for the roses...for a good cause, of course. As a result of the silent auction and the generosity of alumni and friends, Derby Days raised over $10,000 to support the Catholic Hero’s Journey. Catholic Leadership Institute would like to thank all those who made the event possible, especially Steve Hyde, Greg Bozzi and the Development Council.

Catholic Leadership Institute Alumni (from left to right) Susan Gallagher, Migna Dunn and Kerry Null pose for a photo during the Kentucky Derby event. Susan, Migna and Kerry joined 100 others at the spring fundraiser.

FOUR NEW GRANTS AWARDED

Catholic Leadership Institute would like to recognize and thank the following foundations for their support in the past four months: Colonial Oaks Foundation for $10,000 for general support, $5,000 from the Leo Niessen, Jr. Charitable Foundation for the Parish Leadership Project, the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities Challenge Grant of $12,500 for CLI’s Hispanic initiative, and an anonymous Grant of $35,520 for a training DVD for our Good Leaders, Good Shepherd program using the S.O.T.O.R. curriculum.

All these grants have or will contribute to the growth of Catholic Leadership Institute and the numerous programs CLI is hoping to provide next year.

Visioning for the Future: Matt Manion joins Sue Hart, Assistant Director of the Penn Newman Center and other members of the campus ministry in goal setting for the oldest and founding Newman Center in the country.

THANK YOU PREMIER OFFICE SOLUTIONS!

Just one of the seven brand new workstations donated by Paul Barr.

Catholic Leadership Institute headquarters received another face-lift thanks again to Paul Barr and his team at Premier Office Solutions. Paul’s latest generosity allowed for the team at CLI to receive new, fully-wired work stations. The reconfiguration also allows Catholic Leadership Institute to maximize its current office space. This is the second time CLI has benefited from Paul’s generosity. The team at Catholic Leadership Institute extends its deepest gratitude to Paul and his staff at Premier Office Solutions.

CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic Leadership Institute’s mission is to build Catholic leaders for today and tomorrow. We empower people with the finest leadership skills and tools to help them reach their God-given potential as Catholic leaders and Christian witnesses in their family, workplace, community and Church.

www.CatholicLeaders.org
El fin de semana del 10-12 Junio, 2005, 15 jóvenes adultos participaron en el programa del Liderazgo Católico. Por segunda vez este año el Instituto de Liderazgo Católico ha ofrecido el programa en Inglés y Español simultáneamente.

Los participantes vinieron de diócesis del Noreste: 12 viajaron desde Hartford, CT, y uno de Conshohocken PA. El resto fueron Líderes Hispanos Diocesanos de Washington, DC. El fin de semana fue un retiro que motivó, fortaleció y presentó un desafío para que los participantes continúen con su ministerio Hispano en sus respectivas parroquias. Para muchos, la experiencia inspiró y despertó una fuerza interior que había estado latente. El fin de semana nos ayudó a revelar y clarificar su misión personal con Cristo. Carmen Cotto manifestó, “El milagro que había pedido se llevó a cabo cuando estaba arriba en la “Y Alta,” al mirar hacia abajo sentí el apoyo, el amor y la unidad de nuestro grupo. Yo seré capaz de guiar y hacer Su voluntad, sin sentirme sola. Tengo a Dios y a todos aquellos que Dios ha llamado para trabajar con la juventud. Dios me enseña que nuestra vida como Cristianos no es fácil, necesito rezar, hacer sacrificios y en los tiempos duros, sonreír al saber que Dios ya ha hecho Su voluntad. Todos los días agradezco a Dios por la nueva visión que CLI me ha proporcionado. En nombre de la oficina de Evangelización Hispana, quiero agradecer a CLI por dar a cada uno de nosotros la oportunidad de “LEAPing into His grace”

JUNE Catholic Hero’s Journey A Success

This past June, Catholic Leadership Institute held one of its best programs ever! The first step in the Catholic Hero’s Journey, the LEAP retreat, took place June 10-12, 2005 at the Family Life Center in Malvern. The program was facilitated in both English and Spanish. Of the 37 participants who attended, 20 attended the English-speaking program and 17 attended the Spanish-speaking program. The program brought a diverse group of individuals including a Paulist priest, sister of Saint Joseph, three mothers, twelve youth coordinators, a high school campus minister, and two chastity speakers. The individuals came from as far south as Maryland and as far north as Connecticut.

The Catholic Hero’s Journey had a profound impact on the individuals who attended, especially Beth Alfonsi, Assistant Director of Admissions at Neumann College. “The weekend challenged me to stop and breathe, which was exactly what I needed to do first. It forced me to answer some really important questions about my life. I was able to recognize the talents and gifts that God has given me, be thankful for them, and become aware of my need to share them with others.” Alfonsi continued, “I came with a totally open mind and left with a totally filled heart. And I notice a difference in myself. There is a difference in the way I handle conflict, in the way I interact with others, and how I feel about myself. It is a real happiness that is exuding from me. For the first time, I genuinely feel like I have it together, and others can see it. I can only hope that it may inspire them to find true happiness themselves.”

One of the successes of the weekend is that 36 of the 37 participants decided to continue the Catholic Hero’s Journey with the monthly Be-It sessions beginning in July 2005. The participants will meet on a monthly basis and, in June 2006, they will return for the closing retreat of the Catholic Hero’s Journey, the Co-missioning retreat.

For more information about the Catholic Hero’s Journey, please contact Megan Flynn: mflynn@catholicleaders.org.
The first year of my novitiate with the Norbertines at Daylesford Abbey has afforded me many opportunities to better understand and grow in my relationship with God and myself. The experiences of the classes, prayer, manual work and ministry have taught me a lot. More than anything else, though, I have learned how Religious life radically calls me to trust in the Lord and how often I prefer to rely more on myself. I have discovered that much of my overdeveloped sense of self-reliance stems from personal woundedness and the cultural propensity towards individualism. Such awareness of my distance from God is not only a gift; it is also just the first step towards fuller growth in wholeness and holiness. I have come to appreciate that daily communion with Jesus is absolutely essential to living religious life. Although prayer can and should take many forms throughout my day, I recognize I must dedicate time every day to be with Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Recently during adoration I felt a deep peace and clarity that I could never be the full person God is calling me to be without a deep awareness of the abiding love of Jesus. Though I can sense that through the love and support of friends and confreres, as well as seeing salvation history played out in my own history, I need time to let the truth of that love penetrate me to the core. More often than not without this solo time with the Lord, I can get caught up in my own plans and keep Jesus somewhat on the sidelines. Even in the novitiate where there are many opportunities for prayer and reflection, I have felt sometimes disconnected from a deeper sense of His presence. I realize how often I assume I know what’s best without first praying for God’s guidance in setting goals for how I spend my time. Even when I believe that some of my desires are truly what God wants from me, I trust more in myself in the way I fulfill these desires. I don’t really ask enough for His guidance nor have enough patience to listen to His responses.

Reflecting on this tendency, it reminded me of an incident while working at CLI during the spring of 2004. I was trying to resolve a payroll issue that involved a new piece of accounting software we were using. I was becoming frustrated with the software technician from Sri Lanka to whom I was speaking, who didn’t seem to be able to help me handle this particular issue. When I hung up, Matt Manion, aware of my frustration, gave me a new framework from which to see the problem. He pointed out that maybe I was assuming I knew the intricacies of the program better than the technician and that it might be more effective to allow the technician to recommend how best achieving the task.

I realized Matt was right. I was not letting the expert be the expert. I was trying to do too much on my own. No wonder I was getting frustrated. And so it has been in my own spiritual life. But I am encouraged by the words of our late, great Pope John Paul II in his message for the 42nd World Day of Prayer for Vocations:

“The link with Christ through prayer also makes us aware that He is also present in moments of apparent failure, when tireless effort seems useless, as happened to the Apostles themselves, who after toiling all night, exclaimed: “Master, we took nothing” (Lk 5,5). It is especially in these moments that one needs to open one’s heart to the abundance of grace and to allow the word of the Redeemer to act with all its power: “Duc in altum!” (cfr Novo millennio ineunte, 38).”

May the Lord, who knows us better than we know ourselves, guide us in putting out our nets into the depth of his love through daily communion with him in prayer and Eucharist that our efforts may produce a bountiful catch for his kingdom. <<< >> Carl