

The Adventure Continues

YEAR TWO ON MISSION IN MINNESOTA

Rebecca Zamora | January 2017

A New Year of Mission Begins

I hope this email update finds you all well! We are once again back in the full swing of things and our team is ready for a new season of mission. We kicked off the new year with all of the other missionaries at our annual Missionary Staff Retreat (MSR). All 150 staff members serving all over the country gathered in Chaska, Minnesota for 3 1/2 days to share life, pray, and have fun in the frigid, single-digit temperatures before going back to our respective chapters. The time we have together as one staff is limited, and may start to decrease as SPO continues expansion; so any time that we get to spend all together is a great gift. The beginning of any semester at the U of M starts with our Newman Center Leadership Day, where our student leaders gather together to catch up with their friends before classes start, and to welcome newer students who are looking to get involved with Catholic Students United. I'm continually blown away by our student leaders: they give so much of themselves each day to bring glory to God and to bring more souls to know Him deeper. They are such a witness!

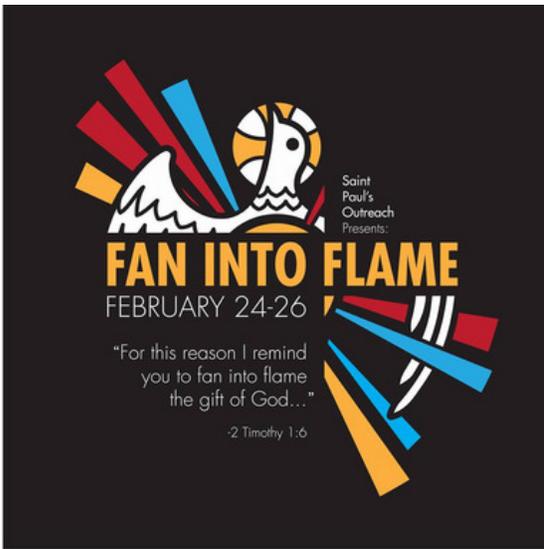


All of the SPO Missionaries on the last day of MSR

Household Update

A new semester has begun and we are back in our weekly pattern of life together. One of our housemates, Rachael, graduated in December and moved out of the house. We miss her, but we have gained so much in our new housemate, Julianna, moving in! This semester we are learning how to grow in vulnerability with each other. We have a strong foundation of trust built, and we have all sensed God trying to get us to go deeper from there. We have also been making a conscious effort to limit our media use in the house so that we can be more present to each other when we're home. It hasn't been easy but it's been so fruitful. We are trying to make the most of our last semester together!





Coming Up: Fan Into Flame

Our annual Fan Into Flame retreat is approaching fast! We started planning and preparing at the end of last semester and now are in the full swing of things getting ready for February 24-26. We are giving most of the leadership roles to our students: they will be giving talks, leading small groups, running the registration table, and so much more. This means that most of our work involves inviting students to take on these roles, and preparing them for the weekend. I am in charge of the women's pastoral care for our chapter, so I have been inviting women to be small group leaders and will be helping facilitate a training day for them the week before the retreat. So far things have been going well, and we are about to open registration to new students. Please pray for all of the new students who will be attending this weekend, and for our student leaders to be bold in their witness and courageous in their invitations!

Men's & Women's Nights

Every month or so, we host men's and women's nights. These are a great time for us to come together, have fun, and learn more about what brotherhood and sisterhood look like in today's culture. I've never been to a men's night but I'm told they include various sports and red meat. At our last women's night, we had a tea party and an intense trivia competition - the best of both worlds! Here are some pictures from both events so you can get a better idea of what we do!



Prayer Requests:

- For our Fan Into Flame Retreat on February 24-26: for the prep work going in beforehand, our student leaders, and the students we are inviting
- For the seniors in our community who are figuring out where the Lord is calling them after graduation
- For our team unity and fellowship to continue as we finish out the semester strong
- For the women in my house, as we are learning what it really means to love and serve one another

Thank you, as always, for your support, and know of my prayers for you! Feel free to send me any prayer requests that you have. May God bless you always!



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