

Why Missionaries?

While the students at the University of Wisconsin are given every opportunity to develop their intellectual, artistic, and athletic abilities, the most important aspect of their life is either taken for granted or left out completely, and that is love. Man can not live without love, and I have yet to meet a student who in some way is not searching for love.

The danger for most students is that their search for love will lead them to superficial attractions or even an egoistic hedonism. Authentic love is not a passing emotional feeling but a deep spiritual reality that can only be found in God and in the sacrificial acts of love we share with others. Thus, the true path to happiness is not to calculate what will provide the greatest earthly pleasures, but to abandon ourselves into the arms of our loving Father God.

Our four dorm missionaries have done exactly that. In their own encounter with Jesus Christ they have discovered an authentic love and in their joy now wish to share this discovery with the students they meet. In the midst of their own personal struggles and imperfections they live a life of service to the community of St. Paul's and to those they are helping to bring closer to Christ.

As young lay men and women, Matt, Carolyn, Jack and Brad can go places and reach people that I as a priest could never hope to reach. Furthermore, they provide concrete examples to our students of how a young person can live a normal life in the world while still holding strong to their Catholic Faith.

I thank you very much for any support that you can give too this vital aspect of our ministry here at St. Paul's. And, if you know of any young person at the UW who you would like us to reach out to, please let us know.

God bless you, Fr. Eric Nielsen



Fr. Eric, Pastor

Prayer for St. Paul's Missionaries

Heavenly Father,

We pray that You will use Carolyn, Matt, Jack and Brad to be Your hands and Your feet, Your ears and Your voice this year to the students in the dorms. Help them to be patient with those they meet and turn to You in times of hardship and struggle.

Guide them in serving these students and loving them the way that You would serve and love them. Lead them to proclaim the gospel boldly and continually preach the message of Your love and forgiveness.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Support for St. Paul's Missionaries

As volunteer missionaries, we rely on the generous financial support of others in order to meet basic necessities like food, health insurance, and rent.

Please prayerfully consider in what ways you can support us and the students of Madison as a monthly or one-time donor!

Make checks payable to **"St. Paul's"**
and send them to:
723 State Street
Madison, WI 53703

And please be sure to write **"Missionaries"**
in the memo of the check.



"I encourage you to maintain this missionary style in everyday life..."

Pope Benedict XVI
8 October 2006

Catholic Missionaries to the UW-Madison Campus





Carolyn Averill
Focus: Small Groups

Christ came to this earth in order that we would be able to have a *relationship* not only with Him, but with the Father. Relationships are at the heart of our lives and that is

especially true in times of deep questioning and searching—college being one prime example of this. My constant hope is that during my 2nd year as a missionary, I can continue to form and grow in those relationships with the students of Madison so that they can experience the love of Christ and how their participation in His work in their lives is so beautiful and so necessary. Small group Bible studies are one way that I have personally experienced Christ's love—even Christ had his own small group (the Apostles!). Through these small groups we experience the Word of God—both the written word and the Word made flesh, Christ—through and with one another!



Brad Frias
Focus: Liturgy

In his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI says, "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea but the encounter with an event, a person, which

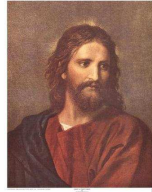
gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction," and that person is Jesus Christ. As I reflect on my own encounter here at St. Paul's, I'm moved by an abundance of joy and peace that I know is God's love. As a missionary, I have the incredible opportunity of serving the students by exploring with them the new horizons of their lives as they discover the joy and peace that comes from the love of God. I pray for your blessing and God's grace on the journey.



Jack Koczela
Focus: Alpha Omega Large Group

After spending the last four years studying at UW-Madison, I am excited to help with Christ's work here on campus. The students and staff at St.

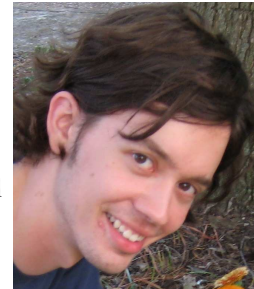
Paul's helped guide my growth throughout my education and I now get to pass on the favor. In my view, a missionary is not sent forth to convert, a missionary is sent forth to journey with others and help them find Christ in themselves and in their lives. This cannot happen without the prayerful support of those who send them. Please pray for me, my team, the other staff at St. Paul's and (of course) the students who will pass through our doors this year!



"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."
Matthew 28:19-20

Matt Bayer
Focus: Retreats

I am a geek at heart who enjoys solving physics problems, playing bluegrass covers of pop songs, and living in places like attics and porches during the summer. I came to Madison from the Milwaukee area my freshman year excited about classes and hoping, with a tinge of anxiety, that I might at least find someone to walk to church with. Instead, I found wonderful friends, a fantastic church community and the beginnings of a deeper and more challenging faith in Christ and call to service than I had ever expected. This year I hope to help other students find that community and, more importantly, to find Christ and His mission in their own lives.



how do the missionaries spend their time?

- ◆ Planning and leading a small group Bible Study in the dorms and a men/women's small faith formation group.
- ◆ Meeting one-on-one with students to help them become established in their faith by helping them develop a life of prayer and grow in holiness.
- ◆ Attending all St. Paul's events for undergraduates to meet and welcome new students to the community.



- ◆ Further evangelizing new students by campus and dorm events.
- ◆ Working closely with student leaders in personal spiritual formation and assisting in planning of retreats and other events.
- ◆ Having tables at campus cafeterias and residence halls to inform students about events and opportunities at St. Paul's.

...significant student snippets...



- ◆ More than 6700 undergraduates live in the UW dorms.
- ◆ Up to 30% of those students were raised Catholic.
- ◆ Many students leave their faith at home when they come to college.
- ◆ 75% of the student leaders in St. Paul's ministry became involved because of organized invitation efforts.