

From June 25th - 29th, Chaplains from around the world gathered at Yale University to attend the *2012 Global Conference of Chaplains in Higher Education*. Over 400 conference participants descended into New Haven, Connecticut and delved into the conference theme of, "Mosaics in Motion: Spiritual Leadership in a Multifaith World."

Throughout this time of encounter, Chaplains and Campus Ministers from a variety of faith traditions discussed their common experience and expertise concerning the pastoral care of university students; sharing in both the joys and challenges that accompany this essential ministry. The conference was further enriched by series of key note lectures given by Muslim, Jewish and Christian adherents addressing important topics such as: religious literacy, radical hospitality, service and reflection and creating and sharing sacred space.

In addition to this wonderful mosaic of interfaith dialogue and cultural diversity, members from the Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry (CCCM), and their American counterpart, Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA), joined together to discuss a variety of issues regarding Catholic university chaplaincies. In addition, the associations envisioned new opportunities to collaborate on new initiatives that would foster their mutual mission of the pastoral care of university students.

A highlight of the CCMA and CCCM meetings occurred on June 27th at the St. Thomas More Catholic Center at Yale. Through the organizational leadership of Fr. Marty Moran, the Executive Director of Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA), and Laurie Svatek, their vice chair, the two groups gathered to discuss the planning and implementation of events surrounding the upcoming "Year of Faith" announced by Pope Benedict XVI in his Apostolic Letter, "*PORTA FIDEI*", dated October 11th, 2011. Commenting on our joint efforts, Fr. Marty noted that it was "a wonderful opportunity to meet and begin to find ways of partnering with our Canadian folks across the American border to explore best practices in implementing the "New Evangelization" and Catecheses."

The fruits of the discussion centered on the Pope's emphases regarding the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church as two pillars of resources to help in the transmission and education of the Catholic faith. Kyle Ferguson, National Coordinator for CCCM, remarked, "the challenge for our chaplaincies is to bring these documents alive for our students, to increase their knowledge and depth of the faith, and fundamentally, to help facilitate a relationship and encounter with the person of Jesus Christ." Indeed, the importance of these documents has been highlighted by the timing of the Year of Faith this October which marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, as well, the 25th anniversary of the release of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

After a lengthy discussion between the Canadian and American organizations, both groups were invited to the Knights of Columbus national headquarters for an evening of socializing, food and beverage, and most notably, a tour of the Knights national museum. All the Chaplains and Campus ministers were extremely grateful for the warm hospitality provided by the Knights and their genuine interest in our mission as organizations: to be a witness to our faith on campus and the pastoral care of university students. Oriana Bertucci, who serves as the Chair of CCCM, commented "that the two organizations have many common goals in place and we look forward to future partnerships with CCMA."

Along with the Knights, the Canadian Catholic Campus Ministry Association and the Catholic Campus Ministry Association would like to give a big thank you to the St. Thomas More Catholic Center at Yale University for their wonderful hospitality and help throughout our stay.