



# BROTHERHOOD of HOPE™

PRIMUM DEUS • DEUS SOLUM

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011

## COME TOGETHER

*Cardinal O'Malley Asks the Brotherhood to Evangelize at New Campuses...*

BY BR. SAM GUNN, BH

Can it be done? Can students from ten colleges and one major urban university be unified under one campus ministry? Can young Catholics from these institutes come together as a single community for prayer, worship, spiritual growth and leadership formation? Can the Brotherhood's 25 years of experience evangelizing students suffice to launch a new dynamic initiative to reach nearly 60,000 students in the Fenway section of Boston? In the words of St. Paul *"I have strength for everything through him who empowers me"* (Phil. 4:13).

We are pleased to introduce the Catholic Student Association HUB. This new expanded mission to a constellation of campuses surrounding our current work at Northeastern University is the shared vision of the Brotherhood of Hope and the Archdiocese of Boston. It was developed through our close collaboration with Janet Benestad, Secretary for Faith Formation and Evangelization and Fr. Richard Clancy, Director of Campus Ministry. We are especially grateful for the support of Cardinal Seán O'Malley, who wrote that *"the*

*Brotherhood's expertise and vision will be of invaluable assistance with this initiative."*

What is HUB? A little background may help. For the past quarter century the Brotherhood's campus mission has been at major universities, primarily public and secular in character. But in a city setting like Boston clusters of small campuses that lack resources are easily overlooked. These schools cannot support a campus ministry. Taken together they represent a large pool of unevangelized students. HUB is the Brotherhood's plan to reach many of these students and, in Cardinal O'Malley's

words, *"develop a community of college and university students centered in the Eucharist."*

Picture a cul-de-sac lined with houses of various sizes. How do these homes become a unified neighborhood? By sharing life together through activities that are fun, informative, interactive, and inspirational. Basically this is our plan for the HUB, which will feature central events for the whole 'neighborhood' of campuses along with other meetings proper to each school.

*"We hope to reach more students than ever to invite them to make faith a priority as they enter their adult lives..."*



CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
**HUB**

*...in the Heart of Boston*



**READY FOR ACTION!** Student Leaders, Interns and Staff, ready to begin a new year of outreach at the HUB.

CONTINUED ON BACK



A R O U N D T H E B R O T H E R H O O D



S H A R I N G O U R V I S I O N



Our Special Troops

BY BR. RAHL BUNSA, BH

Our mission is overt, but theirs is covert (until now). Our work has impacted alumni serving our country overseas in the military, while their work supports us brothers serving our students nearby 'in the trenches.'

They're our "Special Troops". Although many men and women selflessly serve the Brotherhood in countless ways, these seven men assist us in hidden yet crucial operations. We regularly seek their advice about our budgets, accounting, housing, investments, development, and leadership proficiency. Their names are Bruce Jordan, Bill Herbert, Michael DeWinter, Jim Newman, Mike Christiani, Angelo Guadagno, and Andreas Widmer. They're our fellow soldiers and good friends.

The Church requires groups like ours to have a board of professionals to help protect the community's life and assets. Through the prudent suggestions and pro-bono services of these men, the Brotherhood has made many sound financial decisions, established approved fiscal accountability, advanced our retirement fund (another Church requirement), and protected this fund

"These seven men assist us in hidden yet crucial operations."

amid the economy's troublesome landmines.

Apparently the blessings are mutual. Bill Herbert, a Wall Street expert, insists that they're "first serving God, thus the spiritual rewards are bountiful. We also have a deep fraternal appreciation for the brothers and their wonderful mission." Businessman Andreas Widmer is a former Swiss Guard and the author of *The Pope & the CEO*. He says "we're blessed and honored to offer any expertise we may have since the brothers sacrifice themselves to rescue so many battle-scarred students. I pray that more friends will serve and support our troops!"

We're so grateful that these professionals help the Brotherhood remain good and faithful stewards of God's provision. Moreover, in supplying us with strategic backing, these Special Troops enable us to stay focused -- on Christ and our evangelistic mission. †

ENGAGING THE SOCIAL NETWORK

In this age of ever-increasing social media, you might be asking, "Where is the Catholic Church's Facebook page?" Brandon Vogt, an alumnus from our work at FSU, asks this in his new book: *The Church and New Media: Blogging Converts, Online Activists and Bishops who Tweet*. Aided by over ten contributing authors, Brandon presents a positive portrayal of proclaiming the Gospel "from the rooftops (and laptops)!"



Brandon's life took an unexpected turn at FSU through the aid and guidance of Br. Jason Zink. In a recent Facebook post Brandon thanked the Brotherhood saying, "You've changed my life and walked me to the Church; I can't thank you enough for that." You can check out his book at <http://www.thinveil.net/>

We too have engaged the social network! Check out the Brother's music on iTunes and follow us on Facebook and Twitter at [www.facebook.com/brotherhoodofhope](http://www.facebook.com/brotherhoodofhope)



television (apart from our TV series). First there was a string of radio interviews early in the summer: Steve Wood spoke with Br. Parker Jordan on his *Faith & Family* show, then Sirius Radio did a live interview with Br. Rahl Bunsas, followed by an EWTN conversation with Br. Stephen Quense. EWTN also filmed Br. Sam Gunn and Br. Rahl for their *Faith and Culture* program, hosted by Colleen Carroll Campbell, and airing this fall. So keep your eyes and ears tuned in, you just might encounter one of the brothers fielding questions about our life and mission!

SUMMER SCHOOL

As part of his studies for a Masters in Pastoral Ministry, Br. Stephen Quense developed a series of talks entitled *Made for Greatness*, which he presented at the St. Paul Outreach's Summer Project 2011 in MN. The series offered student leaders wisdom in topics foundational to attaining the greatness for which God created us. Also, Fr. Philip Meringer and Brs. Patrick Reilly and Parker Jordan spent a week with SPO's *School of the New Evangelization* in MN. They gave



several talks on creative outreach and men's spirituality to the eager college students gathered from around the country.

FRATERNAL AND FAITHFUL

This summer the Brotherhood was blessed not only with Brs. Clinton Reed and Parker Jordan renewing their temporary vows, but also with celebrating the faithfulness of Brs. Ken Apuzzo and Joseph Donovan. The 25th anniversary of their profession of the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience was a joy for our community as well as family and friends.

EXTENDING THANKS

Br. Jason Zink spoke in April to the Board Members of the *Catholic Extension Society*. This Chicago-based organization supports many dioceses in under-resourced areas of the U.S. Amid the many lay leaders and bishops in attendance, Cardinal Francis George was present. The brothers' work in the mission diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee has benefited from the Society's generosity. On behalf of the Brotherhood and the diocese, Br. Jason was honored to thank the Extension Society for their many years of prayer, encouragement and financial support for the FSU outreach. They have helped foster what one bishop called, "perhaps the most effective campus ministry in the country."

TUNE IN & TURN UP!

Recently the Brotherhood was featured all across the country on both radio and

One Soul at a Time  
A Unique Collaboration for Urban Parish Renewal

**T**he city of New Brunswick, New Jersey, is best known as the "home" of both Rutgers University and the world-wide headquarters of the pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson. In addition, since the 1980's, it also has the reputation of being a model of urban revitalization and redevelopment in NJ.

The parish of St. Peter the Apostle, the first Catholic church in central Jersey and the oldest parish in the Diocese of Metuchen, is located here. Like the city of New Brunswick it too has been impacted by demographic changes in the last five decades. Seven years ago Bishop Paul Bootkoski requested the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri to oversee this parish with Fr. Thomas Odorizzi as the pastor.

Because the Oratorians have an excellent relationship with the Brotherhood of Hope, through their fruitful collaboration at the Rutgers Catholic Center, it was natural for Fr. Tom to ask the brothers to extend their evangelistic talents to the

parish (where more and more RU students are getting involved). So the Brotherhood assigned Br. Gary Davis there in 2008.

Given Br. Gary's love for people and his talent for evangelization he immediately formed an outreach team of parishioners. Along with Fr. Tom he also developed a course that's now used as an evangelistic tool: "Keys to the Kingdom" (a name related to the parish's patron, Saint Peter). Designed to deepen people's relationship with Christ and one another, the course encompasses the basics of our Catholic faith, and it uses inspiring personal testimonies from parishioners.

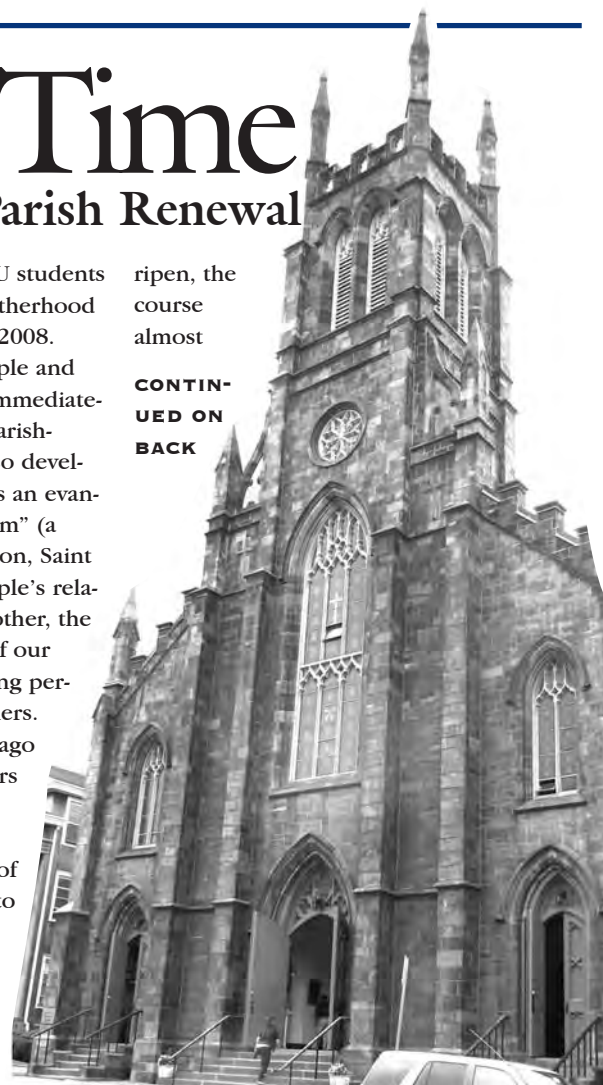
Since its inception two years ago more than a hundred parishioners and friends have participated in "Keys", and I am blessed to be among them. Although the fruit of evangelization often takes years to

APOSTOLIC WITNESS

St. Peter the Apostle Church stands as a pillar of faith in the city of New Brunswick, NJ.

ripen, the course almost

CONTINUED ON BACK





**CATHOLIC STUDENT HUB**  
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The students we've already evangelized and trained at Northeastern will be a crucial part of this mission. Also the brothers will be in touch with area colleges, connecting with staff and exploring the needs of their Catholic students. By the second year we hope to invite students to Bible studies and other 'in house' events on their own campuses. We wish to connect as many students and schools as we can to the HUB to foster a central identity through 'block party' events as well as local, on-campus identities that build ownership at each HUB campus.



**"WHERE YA FROM?"** Students gather at the NU Catholic Center - the core community for the new Catholic Student Association HUB initiative.

There is an urgent need to reach these young Catholics in an environment that is often hostile to the faith. Statistics show that among Church-going students entering college, about half of them stop going to Mass within months of their first year. The decline continues throughout college. Through the HUB initiative we hope to reach more students than ever to challenge them to make faith a priority as they

enter their adult lives.

The Catholic Church in America is fighting for the hearts and minds of the next generation. The Brotherhood has always felt called to go where Church life is eroding to offer a witness of hope through a personal relationship with Christ and discipleship. Today's youth truly hunger for this, and the fields of evangelization are ripe. We are grateful to be serving the local Archdiocese, and we are excited to launch this new expansive mission to advance the Lord's Kingdom in Boston. †



**PARISH RENEWAL**  
CONTINUED FROM INSIDE

immediately resulted in many new parishioners who were willing to serve the parish in more active leadership roles, including RCIA, the Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance Board, and the Social Justice Commission. As the staff representative on the Evangelization and Spiritual Formation Commission, Br. Gary also has organized men's and woman's groups, Bible Studies and other training. With Jesus as the focus, the topics include prayer growth, the virtues, and the liturgy. These

courses also are an evangelistic forum to bring lapsed Catholic friends and family back to Christ and his Church.

It's encouraging to see many parishioners now connecting with each other in new ways. Brother Gary helped to launch certain socials and occasional wine and cheese parties for meeting and deepening relationships. These also are evangelistic avenues to invite the unchurched and non-parishioners to St. Peter's. Brother Gary has vision and plans for reaching more and more people.



**PILLARS OF THE CHURCH.** Pastor Fr. Tom Odorizzi, Br. Gary Davis and parishioner Doug Petix outside St. Peter's.

Evangelism may be a foreign word for many Catholics, but certainly not for the Brotherhood of Hope! It's inspiring to experience what's been happening here through the collaboration of the Oratorians, the Brotherhood, and many parishioners. Just as the city made great progress in its own redevelopment, so too is St. Peter's being rejuvenated through the Brotherhood's assistance - not one brick at a time, but one soul at a time. †

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US...**  
*in our mission of bringing the transforming love of Jesus to others, especially the young. Know that we pray for you and your intentions in our daily community prayer. Please continue to remember us in your prayers and support.*

**BROTHERHOOD OF HOPE**  
P. O. Box 440118, West Somerville, MA 02144  
Tel. (617) 623-9592

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS ONLINE • ALL GIFTS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

[www.brotherhoodofhope.org](http://www.brotherhoodofhope.org)