

New Students

DePaul student leaders have done a fabulous job in reaching out to new students this fall! Between the four of them, they have contacted over 100 new students, launched three Bible studies, and hosted two large-group worship meetings. We had thirty people at our first large-group meeting, and four people became Christians!

I'm so proud of the student leaders and so thankful for the wonderful assistance my colleague Latina Williams has given to our chapter this year. All of this success is a wonderful reminder to all of us that this chapter belongs to God, and we are merely his servants in a greater plan he has for DePaul University.



Andrea and Allie at DePaul's new-student Involvement Fair.

New Staff

This September, I enjoyed co-leading a Fund Development training session for a dozen newly hired InterVarsity staff. This is often a very stressful process for new staff, fraught with questions of competence and God's provision. I was delighted to be able to teach from Scripture and to lead the staff in a

time of reflection on God's presence in their fund-development journey. It was a joy to be able to share some of the jewels I have gathered from my studies in spiritual formation in this setting — and ultimately, to encourage these staff in order that more students can receive ministry on campus.

Shelf Life

Book Notes from Ann

Meet the Austins,
by Madeleine L'Engle.

I've been on a children's fiction kick lately, re-reading a lot of my old favorites. When I finished *Meet the Austins* a few weeks ago, I had an insight: Some children's literature is entertaining and fun, and some children's literature makes you want to be a better person.

This book falls in the latter category. L'Engle paints a portrait of a sincere, funny, and loving family while tackling big questions of identity and faith, all from an adolescent point of view.

One of my favorite characteristics of the Austin family is their love of music.

Mrs. Austin is always blasting music from the phonograph while cleaning or baking. I've gone so far as to note all the musical references in the book — from Strauss to Brahms — so I can listen to them.

I'm grateful that God used this book as part of my journey of spiritual formation in my teens, and I'm glad to glean new things from it once again, over a decade later!

Boyd's Eye View

Jon and I were grieved in early August to lose his grandmother at the age of 94. Martha Borzykowski was a joyful and sweet-hearted woman to her last days, and I'm grateful to have known her. (Read more about Martha at boydsnest.org.)

But even as we have grieved Martha's death, we have been delighted to meet our new niece! Violet Boyd was adopted from China in June. We got to spend a whole week with her and Jon's family in Maine just after her first birthday in late August, and we are already hungry for more. See violetboyd.com for a cute photo!

On the Chicago front, I recently auditioned for and was accepted into the Apollo Chorus of Chicago. I am really enjoying working out my soprano vocal cords and sight-singing ability again. Check out our schedule at apollochorus.org. I hope I'll see you at one of these concerts!

Prayer Requests

Please pray:

- for new DePaul students to find a spiritual home in InterVarsity
- for DePaul InterVarsity small groups to flourish
- for new InterVarsity staff, like the ones I helped train, as they continue in fund development

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Extra! Extra!

Ancient Prayers for Modern People

At a recent large group meeting Eric, a student leader, concluded the meeting with a few announcements. When he finished, he paused, considering how to dismiss the crowd.

“Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,” he said. Later, Eric explained to a friend, “That is something that Ann says.” (I quickly assured him that I was not the author of this benediction!)

It’s true, I do say this often to end meetings — a piece of my Catholic heritage that settled firmly into my spirit. But even more importantly, I find it to be both beautiful and true: two virtues that I long for everywhere in prayer and worship.

Over the past several years, I’ve been drawn to prayers, hymns, and worship styles from a “high-church” tradition. Although InterVarsity chapters often use contemporary songs and extemporaneous prayers to express themselves to God, I’ve found students and staff to be receptive to elements of ancient prayers and songs integrated with the contemporary worship they’re more used to.

I’m looking forward to experimenting with this more as I take on a new responsibility: training and equipping worship leaders for our Chapter Focus Week summer programs. (More on that in future Ann-a-Grams!) It is exciting to explore the time-tested words of the *Book of Common Prayer* and the ebbs and flows of the church calendar, for instance. These are often fresh ways for young people to experience the presence of God.

There are so many pieces of liturgical worship and prayer that are important to me: the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles’ Creed, various

calls to worship, and other prayers I’ve found that resonate with my soul.

One of my favorite elements is the benediction. It is rare in our culture to receive a blessing from someone today, and I just soak it up whenever a benediction is spoken. It is also a joy to speak a blessing over students and staff to whom I’m ministering, and I love to see people catch on and continue to bless one another.

So I’ll end with one of my favorite benedictions, a prayer for you all, found (among other places) in the *The Covenant Book of Worship*:

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast to what is good;
do not return evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
guard the dignity of all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you forever.

For Christ & the University —

Ann

P.S. As always, there’s more online at www.annagram.org. This issue’s Web Extras: “Journaling in the Round” and a recipe for Palak Paneer, a delicious Indian curry.