



DePaul University's new Student Center has been a real blessing to us, with meetings rooms and common areas.
(Photo: Winston Lau and Galen Zook.)

Pray for St. Vincent

DePaul University is at a crossroads. There is a search committee in place to choose the next president (replacing the outgoing president, Father Minogue). The university may not choose a priest for this important post, as they always have in the past. As you probably know, DePaul is a Catholic university, inspired by St. Vincent DePaul — but in recent decades it has often chafed against its Christian roots amidst the struggle to solidify its identity. In many ways, the school is not very Catholic — or even Christian — anymore. Will you pray for God's leading for the search committee? I've been praying for the integrity of the university — that they will be what they say they are, whether it is Christian or not.

Green Update

This month, I thought I'd update you on the financial aspect of my ministry. This can also be a chance for you to take stock of your place on my ministry team and to adjust for the new year. Due to increases in benefits costs and other factors, I find myself at the place of needing to raise an additional \$18,000 of

support annually to meet my budget. (Yikes!) That can sound a bit overwhelming to me, but it is not quite so unmanageable if I think of it as 30 people giving \$50/month. :)

As you think and pray through your partnership in the work of InterVarsity at DePaul in 2004, would you kindly let

me know via the enclosed card? Knowing your intentions helps me plan ahead. I'm grateful for the number of you who have supported my ministry over the past seven years. If you have not given in the past or haven't increased your giving in a while, would you please consider do so? Even if you are not able to send a gift right now, the reply card still serves me. Thanks!

Shelf Life

Book Notes from Ann

The Hispanic Challenge, by Manuel Ortiz

Ortiz does a great job giving an overview of Hispanic culture, history, faith traditions, and justice issues. I found most fascinating the chapter in which Ortiz tells his and others' stories of cultural conflict for second-generation Latinos — the struggles of creating bridges between a "home" culture and American culture. It takes years and years for people to settle into being comfortable in their ethnic identity. I'm encouraged to be reminded that developing an ethnic identity is a long process. I attempt to help my students where they are now, but God will be faithful to walk with them on this road for years to come.

Boyd's Eye View

One big story for us this fall was enjoying the great season the Chicago Cubs had this year, and I have to say I've become a real baseball fan. I knew I was hooked when I started listening to the games even when Jon wasn't home. We had such a great time rooting for the Cubs in the post-season — Jon even flew to Miami with a friend to cheer them on during the National League Championship Series. We can't wait for next season, and we're hoping that the Cubs will get to the World Series!

With the cooler weather setting in, I have been enjoying warming up our kitchen with various culinary delights. (Butternut squash soup has been a favorite this season.) I've also been having a lot of fun swimming laps at a local pool — I just love being in the water! It feels like exercise and a retreat and a bath all at once. Jon calls me his "little fish" and keeps checking to see if I'm growing gills yet. :)

Prayer Requests

Please pray:

- ☛ for DePaul University and its presidential search
- ☛ for students to stay faithful over their 5-week winter break
- ☛ for Urbana 2003, Dec 17-31 (www.urbana.org)
- ☛ for our chapter to deepen in love and community

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Extra! Extra! Speaking the Truth in Love

There are times on campus when I feel like I'm standing on holy ground, when I sense that I am a messenger of God's truth to students and faculty. I feel so privileged to be able to intersect students' lives at moments of growth or crisis.

One woman came up to me a few weeks ago after our weekly worship meeting. "Do you have a second to talk?" As we sat down to chat, she told me about how her boyfriend has been pressuring her to have sex. We talked about how to respond as a Christian, and I affirmed her strength in keeping her resolve to stay chaste until marriage. At one point I said, "You know, the bottom line is that, whether your boyfriend agrees with your reasoning or not, if you say 'no,' that means 'no!'" Tears streamed down her cheeks. We made an appointment to meet later that week, where we talked, prayed, and looked at Scripture about what godly relationships are like.

Another day, I met with three students in a row and ended up talking with all of them about daily prayer times with God ("quiet times"). I was struck with how difficult it is to find a way to have quiet times in college. It is hard to find space, time, energy, and motivation. I sat and brainstormed with these students individually, helping them imagine ways that they could find time to be with God, attending to him, and letting him replenish their souls. I told one student that, although quiet times are a way to learn *about* God, they ultimately help us walk with him as better people, too — more sensitive, more self-aware, more compassionate, and more able to care for others. I am very convinced of this truth — quiet times allow God space to nurture us so that we can do his work in the world.

Another day, I chatted with a student as I walked to my car. "Do you think it is okay to have something that you just don't talk about with a particular friend?" she asked. As we talked more, I learned of her struggles to confront a friend of hers on some issues about dating and the opposite sex. Not wanting to nag, she is considering giving up on the issue. I encouraged her to talk with her friend openly about these issues, and to ask if she was being a nag. Before parting, I reminded her that God has placed her in this friendship to be like Christ to her friend, and that most importantly she needs to pray and ask God for help with this. Being a fellow knitter, I told her about my recent practice of praying while knitting. She beamed with excitement about this new prospect of using her hobby to deepen her spiritual growth.

I feel so honored that these students invite me into these tender places in their lives. Lately, in between these appointments, I have been pulling out my knitting and praying for these students, knowing that it is the Holy Spirit who will continue to do the work in them after our conversation is finished.

For Christ & the University —

Ann

P.S. As always, there's more online at www.annagram.org. This issue's Web Extra: "Urbana Bound."

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