

February 2023

# ST. PAUL'S

## *Newsletter*

The Voice of  
the Father

### FATHER'S CORNER

*The Voice of the Father*

Greetings in Christ!

This month I thought I would give a word about our retreats since we'll be hosting 2 separate men's and women's retreats the 1st and 3rd weekends of February. We'll be spending the weekend at an Airbnb in the wilderness of Cassia County near the City of Rocks National Reserve. I'm looking forward to this year especially because our retreatants will be in a secluded location. In order to really enter into a silent retreat, we must first be able to enter into an environment of external silence.

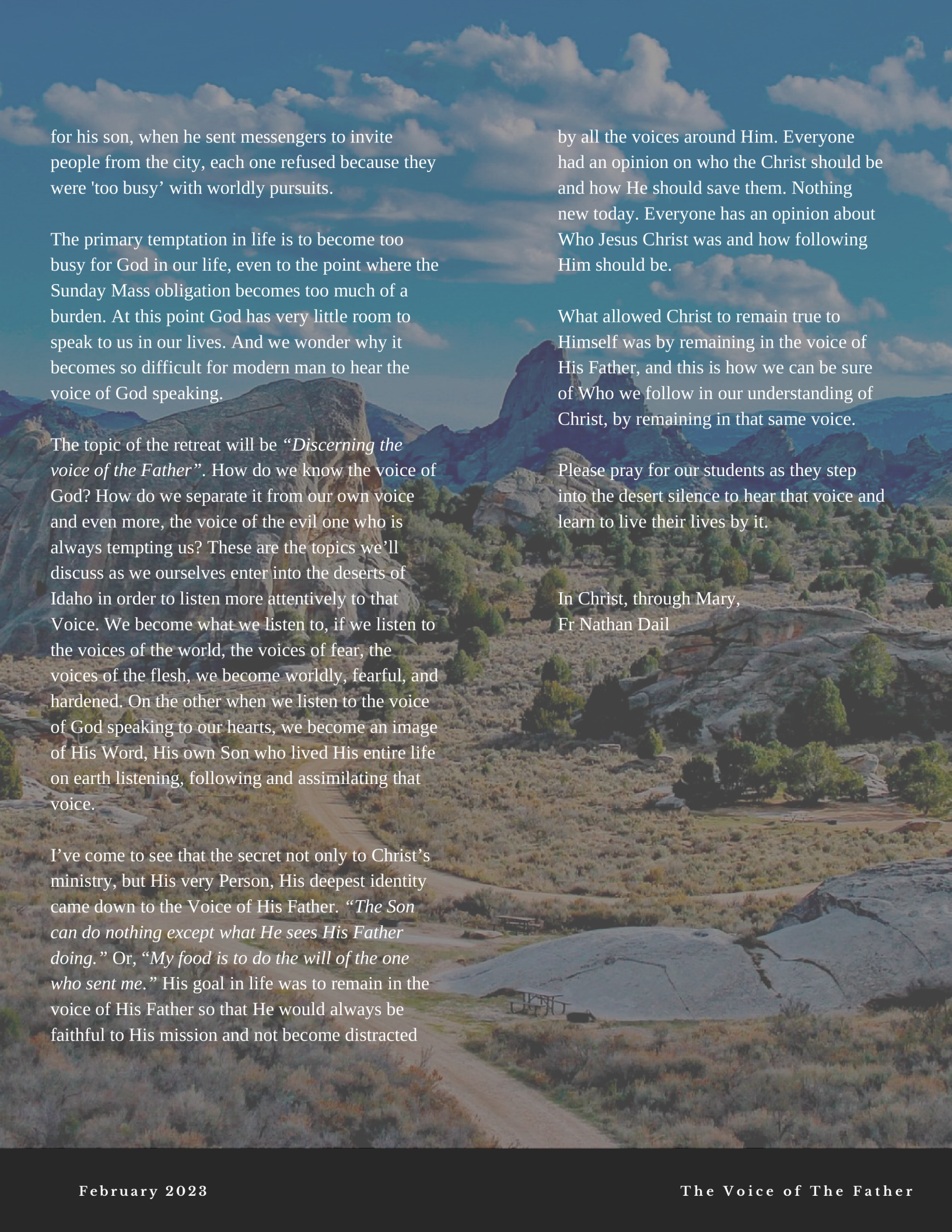
The primary temptation of the Israelites in the Old Testament was when they would inhabit cities where pagans dwelt, little by little they would take on the customs and even false worship of those who did not follow the commandments of God. In order to remind them who God is and who they are, over and over again the Lord would lead them into the desert in order to convert their hearts. *"I will lead you into the desert and speak to your heart."* (Jeremiah 17:6).

God leads us into the desert because it is there that we become more attuned to His voice and His



Presence. Without the distractions of the city and multitude, we become more aware of our own inner longings and poverty, our need for God, and simultaneously God's desire to share Himself with us in response.

There is a saying, *"If the devil cannot make you bad, he'll make you busy."* This refers to the temptation to fill our deeper desires with superficial results and we become distracted from our deeper need for God. Perhaps this is the reason Christ warned us, *"It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven."* And when He gave the parables about a king having a wedding feast



for his son, when he sent messengers to invite people from the city, each one refused because they were 'too busy' with worldly pursuits.

The primary temptation in life is to become too busy for God in our life, even to the point where the Sunday Mass obligation becomes too much of a burden. At this point God has very little room to speak to us in our lives. And we wonder why it becomes so difficult for modern man to hear the voice of God speaking.

The topic of the retreat will be *“Discerning the voice of the Father”*. How do we know the voice of God? How do we separate it from our own voice and even more, the voice of the evil one who is always tempting us? These are the topics we’ll discuss as we ourselves enter into the deserts of Idaho in order to listen more attentively to that Voice. We become what we listen to, if we listen to the voices of the world, the voices of fear, the voices of the flesh, we become worldly, fearful, and hardened. On the other when we listen to the voice of God speaking to our hearts, we become an image of His Word, His own Son who lived His entire life on earth listening, following and assimilating that voice.

I’ve come to see that the secret not only to Christ’s ministry, but His very Person, His deepest identity came down to the Voice of His Father. *“The Son can do nothing except what He sees His Father doing.”* Or, *“My food is to do the will of the one who sent me.”* His goal in life was to remain in the voice of His Father so that He would always be faithful to His mission and not become distracted

by all the voices around Him. Everyone had an opinion on who the Christ should be and how He should save them. Nothing new today. Everyone has an opinion about Who Jesus Christ was and how following Him should be.

What allowed Christ to remain true to Himself was by remaining in the voice of His Father, and this is how we can be sure of Who we follow in our understanding of Christ, by remaining in that same voice.

Please pray for our students as they step into the desert silence to hear that voice and learn to live their lives by it.

In Christ, through Mary,  
Fr Nathan Dail

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## ISAAC ALSOP

Isaac is a Boise native and a senior at Boise State University. He leads our Spiritual Formation student committee and is one of the founders of Theology 102.

I started Boise State in Fall 2018 with few plans for life, but excited to figure out what life was for. Early on, I frequented Bronco Catholic events with friends from high school, figuring that it was as good a place as any to socialize and pursue meaning. In the back of my mind, I knew that the evidence for the Catholic faith was solid and that my old, repressed desire to be a priest would probably return, but I ignored those thoughts. I didn't want to change my sinful lifestyle and leave the false "balance" between sin and God that I had tried to justify.

What I didn't see until my sophomore year was that St. Paul's was not merely a place to hang out, but rather a field hospital, of which I was a patient. During the Fall of 2019, I became part of the first group to live in the Frassati men's house. The fraternity built there was incredible, and more real than anything I had experienced in high school Catholic groups. The new friendships formed with Bryson, Connor, Joe, and then FOCUS leader Christopher, stirred a passion in all for a greater integrity through virtue and for my fellow students' access to truth.

In October of that year, two important things happened. First, the men committed to a deeper level of accountability to each other. Second, the students got to hear a talk



**Left:** Isaac takes down Isaiah during men's Jujitsu Night while Fr. Nathan and the guys cheer him on.

**Background:** Isaac altar serving at the All Soul's Mass.

by Nancy Pelosi's congressional chaplain wherein he described how he avoided using the name of Jesus in prayer for fear of offending politicians. Our house hosted a bonfire that night, and you could feel the electric energy coursing through people's hearts and minds, no longer for fun or vague ideals, but for the person of Jesus Christ and his rightful claim to our unwavering loyalty. "If Christ isn't Lord of all, then He isn't Lord at all" became our driving intuition. The "balance" between my God and my sin had to end. A month later, our group processed from St. Paul's to the state capitol to publicly proclaim our allegiance to Christ on the Feast of Christ the King. This awakening sparked a flame that would ultimately lead to the renewed St. Paul's that we enjoy today.

Years have passed since, and I have had to grow in many painful ways. Now, I have the opportunity to continue that initial passion for student's access to truth as head of the formation committee, helping to teach RCIA and Theology 102. Watching the fraternity continue in the younger men under Fr. Nathan is incredibly fulfilling. As expected, my desire for the priesthood returned with new vigor. I know that a ministry of truth is the purpose I was made for, and after graduation I hope to join the Dominican order, continuing the work that I've only scratched the surface of here. Pray for me as I discern this mission, and for Bryson, Connor, Joe, and Christopher as they carry on this torch as a FOCUS missionary and seminarians.

# Ring in the New Year



## SOCIAL HALL REVAMP

Students circle around for Theology 102 in the freshly revamped social hall. Thank you to Cindi Duft for helping the staff transform this space over Christmas break. Stop by and see the transformation for yourself.



## GORETTI HOUSE

Women gather at the Goretto House of Discernment for a craft night! The latest Catholic artwork coming to a store near you.



## FRASSATI HOUSE

The Frassati House of Discernment will be offering Sunday Night Discussions once a month after 11 am Mass. Contact the Idaho Vocation's office for more info.

# SEEK23



35 students, St. Paul's staff and our FOCUS Missionaries flew to St. Louis to join 17,000 others for FOCUS' SEEK23.



Some of the women stopped by the photo booth in between sessions.



Students pose with the iconic St. Louis Arch during free time at the conference.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

MARY WEATHERSBY

I started my experience with St. Pauls when I attended mass on my first Sunday at Boise State. I attended mass regularly but was way too scared to go to any events on my own. The only person I knew from St. Paul's was the TA for my math class. One day, my TA brought me a flyer for Oktoberfest at the Student Center and invited me to come. They gave me their phone number and told me to text them when I got there and they would come meet me so I didn't have to be at the event by myself (this was a future priest in the making). This was the first time I went to an event and I quickly became a regular at the center.

My second semester I was invited to join a bible study and the rest was history. God worked in my life every day going forward. He brought me to some of the closest friends I could ever have and drew me closer to him everyday. I became involved in FOCUS bible studies, joined the choir, and started working as an accounting intern for the center. With open arms and hearts, I was welcomed into St. Paul's and given a place to grow my faith as I entered into adulthood.



*Mary and some fellow Bronco Catholics pose with freshly ordained Fr. Nathan Dail at the 2018 Young Adult Conference.*



*Mary as Maid of Honor at her sister Fiona's wedding*

After college, I started working as a tax accountant at a firm here in Boise, and entered into day to day life. The transition to faith outside of the safety of BSU was not as smooth as I thought it would be. Work was very demanding at times and we very quickly went into 2020 where the gift of mass in person, and my weekly bible study were taken away. When the world reopened, I parish hopped for a while and struggled to learn how to live as a devout Catholic in the world. But the foundations that God built in me at St. Paul's helped me get my feet underneath me.

I eventually came to parish at St. John's downtown and became a member of a women's bible study. I learned to find time in each day to spend with God and he continues to draw me closer to him everyday. I am excited to see where God brings me in the future and to keep growing closer to him everyday, taking the foundations provided to me at St. Paul's.

# Upcoming Events



## Carmelites on Campus

*The Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles  
will be on campus on February 16, 2023 for a time of  
prayer, fellowship, and fun!*

11:30	Rosary
12:00	Lunch with the Sisters
1-4:00	Games
	Meet 1:1 with a Sister
4:00	Adoration
5:15	Holy Mass
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Talk: <i>The Eucharistic Gaze of Jesus</i>
7:30	Ice cream and Vocation stories at Goretti House



Sister Mary Clare, OCD  
<https://calendly.com/carmelitesisters-smcl>



Sr. Teresa Margaret, OCD  
<https://calendly.com/carmelitesisters-stm>

Please keep our students in your prayers as they prepare to enter the desert of silent retreat.

## MEN'S SILENT RETREAT

*February 3rd-5th*

## SUPERBOWL PARTY

*February 12th*

4:00 pm in the Game Room

## CARMELITES ON CAMPUS

*February 15th-19th*

## WOMEN'S SILENT RETREAT

*February 17th-19th*

## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22

Mass- Noon + 8 pm

Ash Service- 9 am + 3 pm

Stations of the Cross following 3 pm Mass

## CAMINO

*March 19th-25th*