



Dear Friend of St. Lawrence,

October 2021

During my freshman year in 2019, I attended the Fall Retreat and received so much love and grace that helped me to grow spiritually. As the 2020 Fall Retreat began, I was so excited and had high expectations for many more good things to happen. The pandemic forced us to do the retreat in smaller groups, but I had faith in the creativity and resourcefulness of the student leaders and staff that planned the retreat.

As the retreat got underway, I was agitated. I wasn't having the kind of powerful experience that I had the year before. But during the Saturday evening session, I was asked to be on a prayer team. I had never done this before and was honestly not looking forward to it. I thought it would be difficult to get anything from the retreat if I was giving my time to others, but I agreed. As the night went on, I realized how wrong I was!



(Left to right) Katherine Kruc, Mae Longo, Catherine Myers, Katherine Dougherty, Caroline Geiger, Megan Thomas, Sam Galvin

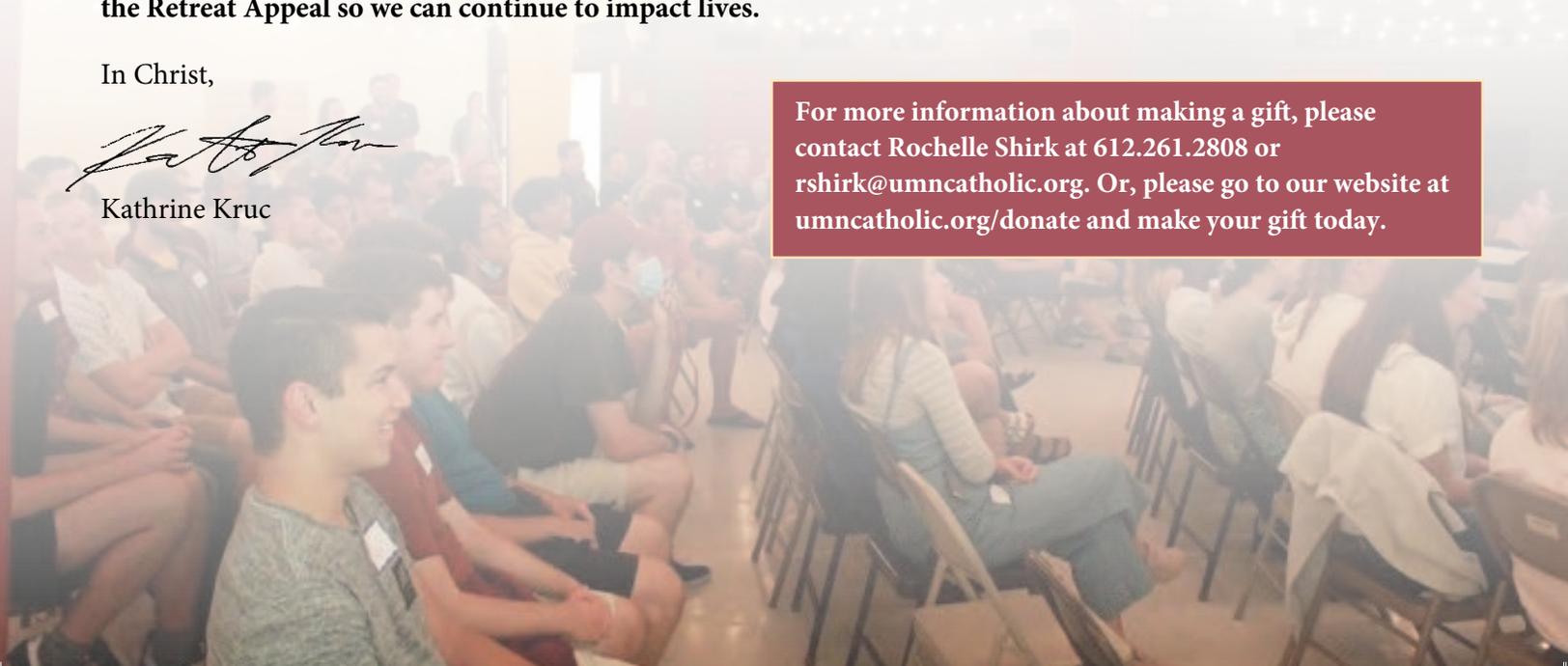
St. Francis says, "*It is in giving that we receive.*" This was the biggest area of growth for me during the 2020 Fall Retreat and the most powerful moment. The Father revealed to me what a gift it is to give back to a community that I love. Although I still waiver on this, the desire to give more fully of myself to and through this community has grown over the past year. That is why I am most excited to be back on campus this semester! I hope to help guide people further into the Heart of Jesus in whatever small way I can.

The Fall Retreat has helped so many students find, renew, and sustain their relationship with Christ. It costs about \$16,000 annually to conduct the retreat, yet student fees are kept low to encourage participation. **So, I ask you to join me in leading others to Christ through your prayers and financial support for this ministry. Join me and support the Retreat Appeal so we can continue to impact lives.**

In Christ,

Kathrine Kruc

For more information about making a gift, please contact Rochelle Shirk at 612.261.2808 or [rshirk@umncatholic.org](mailto:rshirk@umncatholic.org). Or, please go to our website at [umncatholic.org/donate](http://umncatholic.org/donate) and make your gift today.



# Help support the Transformation of Hearts



**Please help us** as we transform the hearts of students. Visit [umncatholic.org/donate](http://umncatholic.org/donate) or call Rochelle Shirk at 612-261-2808

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The Fall Retreat was the first place I tangibly encountered Jesus' love thanks to my peers' relationships with Him—this encounter compelled me to begin seeking Jesus in the Catholic Church.

– *Evan Markel, Alumni*

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Through the Fall Retreat, I was able to fully enter into the Catholic community and experience the Lord in a new way each time I attended. No matter my role in the retreat, God used it to teach me before, during, and after and continues to do so today.

– *Thomas Meyer, Alumni*

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I experienced Christ's love through the sacraments and the Catholic student community when I needed it the most; I've been to every retreat since.

– *Jonathan Santiago, Student*

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St. Lawrence Newman Center community has made an incredible impact on our son, Nate. The lifelong friendships, religious ministries, Mass, the sacraments, and religious retreats took Nate's faith journey to a whole new level. It's hard to put into words how much joy it brings me to see how he continues to grow in his faith, and that is in large part because of St. Lawrence Newman Center!

– *Connie Bixby, Parent*

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Fall Retreat helped me to find a place in the Catholic community at the University of Minnesota. After that, I knew this was how I was going to be supported in my faith during undergrad.

– *Catherine Myers, Student*

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