



LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS

United in Hope and Service

• 2026 Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries •

April 22, 2026

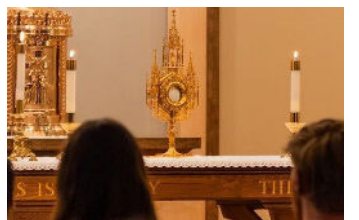
Dear Faithful Friends,

College Campus Ministry is one of the ministries sustained through the **Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries**, meaning that it is the first foundation of support for campus ministries in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Unlike parishes, campus ministries rely on the Archdiocese to help establish the infrastructure needed for staffing and outreach, impacting this vital work of evangelization.

Words cannot describe what your donations have done for young adults throughout the Archdiocese. Campus ministries are flourishing thanks to your support towards the Annual Appeal. Campus Ministry at UMBC (the University of Maryland Baltimore County) is just one campus ministry that benefits from the Annual Appeal. During my time at UMBC, from which I graduated this past fall, I have witnessed a presentation of the Church that has moved the hearts of young adults and changed perceptions of the faith.

It has been astonishing to see college students become devoted to the sacraments and the teachings of the church in the midst of a university that is not faith-centered. These young adults shine as an example of what the faith offers to so many who are seeking fulfillment and purpose.

I know firsthand the impact of campus ministry as I did not grow up practicing any faith. While on campus, I encountered the UMBC Catholic Retrievers because a friend invited me to an event. This sparked a curiosity in me which eventually led me to convert and receive all three sacraments of initiation, baptism, confirmation, and eucharist, at the Easter Vigil in 2024. Encountering Jesus through the Church in this campus ministry has transformed my life to want to give back to the Church throughout my life as a disciple and through my vocation.



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This was possible because of the foundational support of the Annual Appeal. Not only me, but many others have been impacted by the campus ministry at UMBC. We had only one student in our OCIA program in 2022, whereas this past Easter Vigil had nine total students get fully initiated into the Catholic Church: four candidates and five catechumens. This academic year we already have 10 students in OCIA. Additionally, in the fall of 2022, we averaged 27 students in attendance at our Sunday Mass on campus each week; this semester, we are averaging 80 students each weekend!

Because we do not have a physical space of our own, almost everything we do takes place on campus, which makes us very accessible providing a Catholic presence in the UMBC community. I would dare to say this is one of the most important characteristics of the ministry. Through the sacramental life, retreats, eucharistic processions, collaborations with student organizations, and outreach to athletes on campus (just to name a few) we provide a glimpse into the joy that comes from a life within the Catholic church!

We are seeing in the news that young people are seeking meaning and purpose in faith and returning to the Church in large numbers; we are seeing this at UMBC and our other campus ministries. Your generosity and continued support fuels our efforts to bring light to young adults who are searching for meaning and identity during a crucial time in their life. Thank you for contributing to this vital evangelization effort that has transformed me and so many others leading us to Christ.

With gratitude and prayers,



Timothy Shaia
Campus Ministry Assistant
UMBC Catholic Retrievers

Your gift will be allocated only as you intend and never to cover legal costs incurred by the Archdiocese of Baltimore for any reason. Every gift, large and small, is a blessing for our Church and those we serve.