Dear Friend of Sheil,

Last spring Cardinal George came to Sheil to visit with our students. He stressed to them that, as Catholic students at a secular university, there would be times when they would be challenged to live out their faith in ways that might sometimes seem counter-cultural or unusual to their peers. But he also noted that by witnessing to their faith in action they would have amazing and rewarding opportunities to both grow in their identities as Catholic young adults and to better know the paths in life that God is inviting them to follow. The pages of this Annual Report detail just a few of the many ways in which our students have chosen to live out their faith on the Northwestern campus (both in Evanston and Chicago) and beyond over the past year. Those choices – whether to serve the needy in Nicaragua or New Orleans, or to delve more deeply into our Catholic intellectual and spiritual traditions through the Christ the Teacher Institute, or to help lead our congregations in prayer and song at weekly liturgies – have all been made possible largely through the generous support of our donors. The financial statement in this report makes clear that the vast majority of our funding comes from friends of Sheil such as yourself (little is supplied by the Archdiocese, and none from Northwestern University). What the graphs and charts do not represent, however, is the lasting impact of your spiritual and social support for our students. The power of your prayers, your conversations, and your care for Sheil’s mission are invaluable to us. Along with our staff and our entire student body, I thank you for all that you continue to do to make Sheil a vital center of the Catholic Church on the Northwestern campus.

Yours in Christ the Teacher,
Fr. John
Life is bustling on the Chicago Campus of Northwestern. In addition to weekly Mass, our faith-sharing group, “Reflect and Breathe Sessions,” and our monthly faith and discussion series, “More Than A Meal,” continue to add to our campus Ministry. We have also hosted two retreats for the law, medical, physician assistant and physical therapy students on the professional campus of Northwestern.

One initiative we have begun this school year is to reach out to faculty and staff on our campus who are interested in engaging students’ spiritual lives in various ways through field trips and discussions. The seeds we have planted are now reaching far corners of Northwestern's Chicago campus. As a community we continue to be blessed with many opportunities for prayer and thanksgiving.
Meet three Sheil graduates from the Class of 2011 who have chosen to commit their lives to a year of service after college rather than entering the workforce. We asked them to share with us what influenced their decision and how they are doing.

Patrick Pijls – Teach for America

“My decision to join Teach for America was influenced by the mentors I found at Sheil. I sat down with Beth Knobbe one Saturday afternoon, and she asked me some tough questions that led me to discover motivations I didn’t even know I had. I also spoke with Sheil Alum & Advisory Board member, Patrick Keenan-Devlin who really encouraged me to give TFA a try. Sheil is blessed to have experienced staff members & Associates who listen and graciously offer their time to help students discern what their next step in life might be. My experience teaching impoverished kids has been rough in so many ways. The “achievement gap” (the academic disconnect between students in poor neighborhoods and their peers in wealthier ones), is something I needed to see to believe. This experience has provided me with an incredible opportunity to challenge myself in a way that I was unlikely to try later in life. I will never regret it.”

Katie Joy Jastrebski

FOCUS - Fellowship of Catholic University Students

“Serving as a Catholic missionary with FOCUS (The Fellowship of Catholic University Students) has been a privilege and a blessing. Every day, I live in joyful hope striving to be Christ’s presence to each student I encounter. A main facet of what I do is mentoring young women to help them grow in their love for our Lord- a role that is both humbling and inspiring. By giving my life to God, I opened the door for Him to give me so much more in return; He does not disappoint! My time at Sheil helped me to love my faith, to grow in my knowledge of it and inspired me to share it with others.”

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Thoughts from Anna Bisaro—Co-leader of 2011 Trip

One of my favorite parts of my week is sitting down with my student co-leader, Tim Earles, and campus minister, Beth Knobbe, to dream about our upcoming adventures in Nicaragua.

Service work requires one to give a great deal, but on my first trip to Nicaragua last year, I never expected to also receive so much in return. I will never forget how much I learned about love, faith and humanity in just one week. All I had to do was look into the sad eyes of a young girl in Cusmapa who did not want to ever let go of my hand and spend hours digging in the ground to build a well at her school-yard.

I am very honored to have been chosen as one of this year’s leaders for the trip, and I know that this upcoming trip will pose new challenges and bring newfound joys. There is so much to learn, share, experience, give and receive.

Luis Espinoza—Fabretto Foundation

“The Sheil Catholic Center impacted my life in more ways than I ever thought possible. My heart for service swelled, especially after going on the Nicaragua service trip for the first time in December of 2009. After my second trip the following year I felt a calling for doing two years of service after I graduated from NU. I am currently in Nicaragua volunteering with the Fabretto sponsorship initiative. I translate letters that are going from sponsor to child and vice versa, and I create profiles and help establish relationships between selfless donors and very underprivileged children. In January I will move to Cusmapa and dive into some public health work as well as teaching and getting involved with the church there. Sheil left a huge footprint in my heart, and it shows no signs of washing away.”
In its second full year of operation, the Christ the Teacher Institute has established itself as a significant presence in the Center. Seven new scholars ranging from freshmen to seniors joined the three scholars who are in the second year of the Catholic Scholar’s Program. In their application essays, one scholar talked about wanting to “be a part of something bigger.” Another stated “I know it’s time to accept the difficult challenge of integrating my faith with the hectic, complicated world that I live in.” An initial scholar’s retreat (a new feature of the program) set the group well on its way.

New Sheil Seminars were added to the CORE curriculum and now feature several guest presenters drawn from faculty at Northwestern, Loyola, and the University of Chicago. Interest remains high for the 4 and 5 week seminars which now boast course numbers, and a yearly catalogue with descriptions.

The Institute acknowledged the winner of the first Kenneth C. Simpson Essay Prize last May. Senior, Joseph Paolelli, was given his award by Fr. Ken Simpson, for whom the prize is named. We eagerly anticipate several entries for the award this year.

Finally, the Institute is looking forward to two speakers this year. Bishop Joseph Perry will address students and the public about the cause for canonization for Fr. Augustus Toltan during Black History Month and the president of New York University, John Sexton, will arrive in the spring to talk about the intersection of intellectual inquiry and the life of faith. NU President Morton Schapiro will respond.

“More than anything, the Christ the Teacher Institute has taught me how to bring my faith into all aspects of my life. I hope that with the skills I am gaining I’ll be able to not only continue serving the Church but also teach and inspire others to do the same.”

Bobby Porter
Financial Report

**Income**

Sunday Collections and Holidays       543,581  
Fundraising          235,785  
Outside Funding          52,500  
Earned & restricted Income       172,828  

Total                                      $1,004,694

**Expenses**

Program Salaries & Benefits          376,634  
Administrative Salaries & Benefits          125,544  
Development Costs          68,471  
Administrative Expenses          83,501  
Utilities/Building Expenses          80,707  
Program Expenses          214,042  
Applied to Outstanding Deficit          55,795  

Total                                      $1,004,694
Finance Council
Mr. Mike Donovan (Chair)
Mr. Bob Shaw (Building Committee Chair)
Fr. John Kartje (Director)
Mr. Gale Roberson
Mr. Sid Ross
Mr. Chip Schroeder
Mr. Chris Powers
Mr. Mike Perry
Mrs. Teresa Corcoran (Director of Operations)
Mrs. Maureen Kaucher

Advisory Board
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Mrs. Ellen Dalton
Mr. James Houlihan
Prof. Harry Kraemer
Mr. Robert & Mrs. Charlene Shaw
Mr. Patrick Keenan-Devlin (Development Chair)
Mr. Richard Kurzawski
Mr. Joseph Schenk
Mr. Ken Taylor
Mr. John Syversten
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Greg Plechaty
Megan Neunan
Tyler Birschbach
Christina Schaerer
Katherine Conner