

Catholic Campus Ministry Club (CCMC) has been an active part of the Student Government Association (SGA) and William Paterson University since 1978. Organizing daily outreach programs and inviting other clubs and organizations to participate, CCMC has always strived to organize events on campus that are social, spiritual, service, and self-awareness based. Meeting at the Catholic Campus Ministry Center, CCMC welcomes and includes all students, faculty, and staff of the William Paterson community, regardless of their religious background.

One way CCMC does this is through its award-winning Universality Night Series. About once a month a different ethnic background is represented through a Sunday evening mass said in their language with a colorful reception afterwards. The most popular among these are Latino Night (October), Italian Night (November), and African Heritage Night (February).

The most popular CCMC events are its various outreach programs. Aided by various sororities and fraternities from campus, CCMC works on a daily basis to help better the community. Every Monday night they visit Preakness Nursing Home to play BINGO with the residents. On Tuesday afternoons, they tutor at an elementary school in Paterson. Every Wednesday night they do various art projects at the North Jersey Developmental Center (NJDC). The first Friday of the month is spent at Eva's Soup Kitchen in Paterson. Once a semester, they spend a day helping out at a Paterson Habitat for Humanity site. The skills gained through this outreach were particularly helpful this summer, when CCMC traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana to help Catholic Charities' Helping Hands organization rebuild after the destruction of Hurricane Katrina.

Socially, CCMC is a very close club. Every member's birthday is celebrated with cake and a movie night. Over the summer, they visited Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and two saints' shrines in Philadelphia. This year's executive board added a new social event, a gingerbread decorating contest in December. They also added a Thursday mass during common hour in the club's office in the student center. In addition, they made sure to include a mass in the Ballroom for Ash Wednesday (February 6) in case students couldn't make it to the Jesus Christ Prince of Peace Chapel in-between classes.

Currently, CCMC is collecting money for their Shelter the Homeless Can Drive, with everything going to various local food pantry organizations. With the help of Greek Senate, SGA, and William Paterson students, staff, and faculty, they collected \$7000 for the Thanksgiving Awareness Program last semester.

With thirty years of experience serving the William Paterson community, Catholic Campus Ministry Club is certainly deserving of the Outstanding Club of the Year award.