



DONOR **IMPACT** REPORT ²⁰²⁰⁻²⁰²¹



Letter from the Director

Wow! What a year we've all had! It began for us in August with so much unknown, but so much excitement to be back together. Although masked and distanced, students welcomed each other back with elbow bumps and elaborate handshakes. We were so happy to see each other in real life and to finally worship together again in the same space. It ended in much the same way: tearful but happy elbow bumps and handshakes, but this time with new and renewed friendships.

This year had so many difficulties and losses, but when I reflect on the year I hear the word, abundance. God has abundantly blessed us this year amidst it all, and we are so, so thankful. With your help, we flourished in 2020-2021.

This was a year to go back to the basics. Our theme in the Spring semester was "Ora et Labora." It is a Latin phrase that Benedictine communities live by. It means, "Prayer and Work." We pray while we work, and internal work is happening while we pray. We simply focused our efforts on helping students to pray every day, in everything they do. Prayer changes everything!

The fruit of this prayer was an abundance of grace that allowed us to continue reaching all corners of the ISU campus for Christ. This could have been a year where we closed up and closed in, but instead we were gathered, we were transformed, and we were sent. With the Lord's grace and your partnership, the student community at STA flourished. Thank you for your prayers and support!

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

Peace in Christ,

Emily's Signature

Director of Campus Ministry

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2 Cor 9:8



Gathered

IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, A DIVERSE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY

"I was using my school work as an excuse for not going to church during my first semester at ISU (Fall 2020), but there was no other excuse during winter break. I was feeling lonely, so I decided to start attending STA. I approached Father Kyle and asked him for ways to get involved in church. Then, I started meeting people that helped me improve my faith and get closer to God." Roberto Chiari, sophomore



**"I AM SO THANKFUL FOR EVERYONE AT STA:
IT REALLY FEELS LIKE HOME."**

Despite COVID, we (safely) gathered! In small groups, at mass, at Come Awake, retreats, and in the student lounge. Students like Roberto grew closer to Christ because of the ability to make good friendships with their peers. St. Thomas created a safe environment to do that this year. In a year of isolation it was more important than ever for students to find a way to be together.



"I appreciate everything that STA offers to all the students. This is definitely an environment that I always feel welcomed at and can count on accepting me."

134

TNL average attendance

139

Come Awake average participants

150

at the Come Awake Kick-off

200

at the Welcome Back Cookout