

THE WALSH UNIVERSITY **Spectator**



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Photo courtesy of: MaryBeth Edmundson.

BY: MARYBETH EDMUNDSON, EDITOR IN CHIEF

It seems that all great journeys begin on a bus trip. A very long, tiresome, tedious bus trip. And this tale is no different. Early on the morning of March 4th, the sophomore Blouin Scholars, along with the junior and senior Leaders in Social Justice, as well as the Thea Bowmen Scholars, departed from Walsh University for the Country Music Capital of the World. That's right, ladies and gentlemen....an academic trip to Nashville, Tennessee. The cohorts were excited, most certainly, yet it was difficult to discern this due to the general lack of sleep and the prospect of an extraordinarily long bus ride. (Rest assured, the excitement set in as soon as the busses were left behind.) Bleary eyed, and dazed, the Scarrit Bennet Center was reached approximately fifteen thousand hours later. Yes, this is an exaggeration. Yes, that is exactly how it felt. Moving on from the bus.

Now, please hold while the indescribable city of Nashville is being described.

Bright lights. Live music, everywhere. Songs overlapping, people dancing. Cowboy boots and hats. Rolling hills with gorgeous views. Hills, farms, cows everywhere. Nonprofits ready to service. Music row and coffee shops, restaurants and desserts.

On the flip side: homeless people. Food insecurity. Medical deserts. Poverty-stricken neighborhoods.

The traveling scholars were able to experience and see both sides of this vibrant city. The history that impacted it, the events that shaped it, and the people who gave it soul. The trip covered lots of ground- from a bus tour and a visit to the mayor's office to serving Catholic Charities to enable them to better serve the community. Was everything expected? Of course not. In many ways, no one knew what to expect. In others, it completely changes every expectation of the city. For many, this was their first trip to Nashville.

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STUDENT LIFE

Myself included. Why bother going to Nashville? I hardly liked country music, and, in my mind, there was no real reason to go. I love traveling, yes, and I was so excited to escape the doldrums and monotony of Ohio for a bit, but what was even in Tennessee? Nothing but cowboy boots and cows, as far as I was concerned.

Then I went there, and was immersed in the city, and let me tell you, ladies and gentlemen. It was very different than the picture I had painted in my mind. Not only were the people passionate about their community, but they made sure everyone knew it. The spirit of Nashville is unreal; even among the people we wandered past while exploring the city gave off such different (lack of a better word) vibes than that of the other cities I have experienced. The people were passionate about their work, their goals, and the steps it would take to achieve said goal. The energy of the city was never-ending.

To sum it up, I was completely blown away.

So. What was learned?

Many things, ladies and gentlemen. But this is already fairly longer than I was anticipating, so I will be brief.

The best things hide in plain sight. The best adventure is not the most obvious choice.

The most appreciated kinds of service are hidden in the background, and, sometimes go unnoticed to the general public. And nothing is to be taken for granted.

Only one question remains at this point: when can I go back?



The Sophomore Blouins Scholars, Junior and Senior Leaders in Social Justice, and Thea Bowmen Scholars represented Walsh University on their service trip to Nashville, TN.

Photo courtesy of Mike Cinson

The Mission of Suffering

BY MARY HAMMEL, GUEST WRITER

With some 18 feet high nailing shingles on the roof, some on the ground picking up old shingles and nails to place in the dumpster, and some doing intercessory prayer, everyone on the mission trip to Walls, Mississippi had a job to do. On our first day, we had Mass and then spent the evening in Memphis, Tennessee. The second day, we worked at a soup kitchen, and for the rest of the week, we were re-doing a roof. An unexpected aspect that we did not expect was working under our foreman Luke's leadership. As a 34 yr old marine veteran, he taught us how to be a leader, bring out the leader in others, what it truly takes to live in a free country, and to make sacrifices for others.

Although they were not near the sufferings of some, the aches and pains that we felt from this labor brought us closer to the sufferings Christ felt during His passion. It also made our hearts more like His as we put our focus on others instead of ourselves. Being able to worship God as a group through daily Mass and Adoration was an immense gift of strength and peace for all of us. There was even a student initiated Lectio Divina one evening that lasted two hours! While the trip itself only lasted a week, its impacts will last a lifetime. From spending 13 hours in a van, to seeing the Mississippi river, to getting jumped over by a street performer in Memphis, to building a roof, to attempting marine workouts, to singing "Adoramus te, O Christe" in Adoration, to making Walmart runs every other day, we have all grown together in many ways from this experience.

We thank God and Sacred Heart Southern Missions for doing wonderful work to make a difference in people's lives, and we encourage everyone to join us for future mission trips!



Eighteen of Walsh's students and faculty served in Walls, MS during Spring Break. Photo courtesy of Mary Hammel

Pride: An Interpretation of the Work of Thomas Aquinas

BY MICHAEL SPROULL, STAFF WRITER

Did you know that we have the remains of Christ's manger?

Nestled in a small chapel in Rome beneath the main altar of the Papal Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore (Saint Mary Major) lies wood from the Holy Crib of Our Lord.

Kneeling before this ancient relic, I was struck by the fact, that, just as there are seven deadly sins, there are seven capital virtues.

For greed, there is charity.

For wrath, there is patience.

For envy, there is kindness.

For lust, there is chastity.

For gluttony, there is temperance.

For sloth, there is diligence.

And, for the root of all sin, pride, there is humility.

While we may never know the reason that Satan, once known as Light-Bearer, and his troops were cast from Heaven after failing a test, tradition tells us that this test revealed his deep, prideful nature, and doomed himself and his fellow demons to a life of hell.

Just as Pride doomed a third of the angels, I propose it is pride that doomed humanity to death and disease. When Eve, followed by Adam, ate the fruit of the tree, they sent a clear message.

In essence, by eating the fruit, they said, "I don't need God for anything. I will take and give to myself". Rather than humbly receiving the gift of their bodies, immortality, union with God, dominion over the animals, and living in Paradise, they disregarded these gifts and took rather than received.

Just as pride doomed, I put forward the idea that it is humility that saves. As pride is the deadliest sin, the virtue of humility is preeminent.

Thomas Aquinas writes about the most distinguished virtue of humility, saying, "By way of removing obstacles: and thus humility holds the first place, inasmuch as it expels pride, which 'God resisteth,' and makes man submissive and ever open to receive the influx of Divine grace" (ST II-II, q. 161 a. 5, ad 2). While love alone is the chief of virtues, I believe it is humility that forms an integral portion of the foundation of grace.

The words that forever changed the course of history were, "Behold, I am the Handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). The cosmic humility of these words is staggering. In that moment, Mary became the Blessed Theotokos, The God-Bearer. It is the Holy God-Bearer that crushes the head of the former Light Bearer.

Canton on a Cent

BY NADYA HUDAK, STAFF WRITER

As college students, it's difficult to find off-campus entertainment won't break the bank. Luckily, we live in an area that offers an array of reasonably-priced or free options for entertainment.

Among the free options in the area is Price Park, which is less than a 5 minute drive from Walsh, and offers walking trails, a basketball court, a baseball field, and more. If you're willing to go a bit further, Hartsville has Quail Hollow Park with many hiking trails. In Cuyahoga Falls, about 30 minutes away, is Gorge Metro Park, which also offers hiking trails, one of which leads to a waterfall. The local North Canton Library and Stark Branch of Libraries offers activities throughout the week that includes seminars, craft activities, and, most recently, March Madness brackets.

Looking for a more creative option? The Canton Museum of Art has free admission on Thursdays. When the weather is nicer, Downtown Louisville, 15 minutes away, offers Umbrella Alley, which is a great place to take pictures, and there is lots to explore the local area.

If you're willing to spend a little bit of money, the Belden Village Mall and surrounding area offers a number of options. North Canton Skate Center has open skating on Fridays for \$13 and \$11 on Saturdays. They also offer an entertainment center that has a laser tag arena, rock climbing, arcade, and bumper cars for \$16 over the weekends, and \$13 on Wednesdays. Belden Village offers resale, thrift stores, and consignment shops. There's a Goodwill Outlet, Plato's Closet, Uptown Cheapskate, and other local shops that frequently have deals and sales throughout the week, which can usually be found on their social media pages.

If you don't have a chance to leave campus, Walsh sends out the "This Week at Walsh" email, listing events happening across campus, breaking it up day by day. Get a group of friends and take advantage of the free and fun activities being offered!



Pictured left is the 2000 year old wood from Christ's manger; this relic is preserved and on display at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome.

Photo courtesy of Michael Sproull

Masking Abroad

BY AUSTIN KURTZ, STAFF WRITER

With the recent pandemic and various tactics to combat it, one such practice has elicited many varying responses in the USA particularly: the introduction of masks into our everyday culture. Creating widespread and outspoken opinions on mandates, necessity, and comfort, the question remains on how masks may impact how we live in the coming future. In many other countries, masks have been around for quite some time.

Japan is often regarded as the first to adopt facemasks as part of the culture, where it can be tracked back as far as the early 1900s because of a pandemic known as the Spanish Flu that broke out in 1918. Japan's National Public Health Bureau, learning from other large, dense cities, encouraged the population to wear masks when out in public and eventually provided masks for free. This response was seen as a success and was used again and again over the 20th century to curb other outbreaks, such as the Hong Kong flu of the late 1960s. Wearing masks became a part of the culture, viewed as one's duty to their community and just common courtesy. If someone was sick, or even just enduring seasonal allergies, they would don a mask to prevent spreading illness to others. Some people even wore them as an accessory that you may have seen during the Hello Kitty craze that swept nations in the early-to-mid 2010s.

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Why to wear a mask has found many answers over the years in Asian countries, though it may still be a new concept across the sea. As masks become a household item amidst Covid, perhaps they might even find other places in our society.



Photo courtesy of web-japan.org



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