

New Professional Partnerships, Growing Staff Family

Our theme for Inspire this past Summer was BLOOM which built off the virtue of hope. We encouraged our Fidelis Sisters to BLOOM where they have been planted, utilizing their fertile foundations, accepting nourishment from “the Son” and allowing themselves to be pruned so they could bear fruit!

This theme of blooming can also describe where Fidelis is, thanks to your help and support! Fidelis has been given the opportunity to grow, and that we have! But, as our Chapters grow, so do the needs of the National organization. To meet these needs we have established more roles and brought on several more gifted individuals to support the growth of the chapters and encourage future development.

Just 3 years ago, Fidelis consisted of a content writer, a business manager, and a National Director. Now we have different people filling the following roles: Content and Creative Director, Various Guest Writers, Retreat Content Writer, Inspire and FIAT Camps Coordinator, Inspire M/C, Bookkeeper and Registration, Mentor Development, Bosco and Development, and Executive Director. As our Chapters grow, the need for a comprehensive way to manage the Chapters, their participants, their communications, and their funds has become increasingly apparent. As a response, Fidelis has entered into a partnership with Church Community Builder, a church management software that organizes, engages and empowers their people. We are excited to utilize this new platform to equip our Chapters to effectively minister to their Fidelis families.

Fidelis is also excited to partner with American Philanthropic, a consulting firm that helps nonprofits succeed by providing strategic guidance, services, tools, and training. American Philanthropic and Fidelis will be working together to identify and communicate with potential donors and foundations. Fidelis has one goal, and that is to grow our mission of spreading the message of God’s love and mercy to the young girls of our communities. Inspired by the knowledge of His love, girls will choose the virtuous path and transform the world in which we live! **Thank you for making the mission of Fidelis possible! We would not be where we are today without your consistent support.**



Rebecca Schwend
Retreat Writer
Rebecca is a proud Catholic mom and wife who had a powerful reconversion in college. She taught in Catholic school for nine years and on the

side worked and mentored Catholic teenage girls. She has a passion for sharing our beautiful Catholic Faith and leading others to Christ.

Betsy Hoyt
Fidelis Mentor Development

Betsy, daughter of the King, wife to Craig (Commander, St. Mark Fraternus) and mom to Curtis and Henry, joins us from NC where she is the current Lead Lady of the St. Mark Fidelis Chapter. This is Betsy’s 6th year being involved in Fidelis. In her “day job”, Betsy, an integrated personal trainer and nutrition coach, currently leads the Instructor Development Team for Pietra Fitness, where she trains instructors from all over the world.



Marisol Alicea
Inspire and Fiat Camps Coordinator



Marisol is a native of the DC area and moved to Kansas to attend Benedictine college for undergrad. She now lives in Nashville, TN and works as operations director for Love Good, a subscription company that focuses on promoting music that is true, good and beautiful. When she’s not on the road with artists, she enjoys live music, hiking, and spending time with her nine housemates. She has been Lead Lady for the Nashville Fidelis chapter for 2 years and loves watching girls discover the heart of Jesus.

The
Fall 2020



Inspire
How your gifts are changing lives!

When the World Says “Quit,” Fidelis Says “Inspire!”

This past summer was not without its challenges for so many people and organizations around the country. Leading up to the Fidelis summer camp, Inspire, **we faced the temptation, as well as the real possibility, of being forced to cancel.** The Fidelis virtue that we would be focused on at Inspire was hope, the same virtue that had carried us through the Fidelis year, and that was now being sung across a country plagued by the coronavirus.

Our first obstacle of whether or not the State of Tennessee would permit us to meet was thankfully overcome by the governor’s mandate allowing camps to proceed. In the ever-changing political and social atmosphere that has been revolving around this pandemic, our hope remained strong that this allowance would remain in effect.

Our second obstacle was the camp venue itself. Would they open their doors to us in the middle of a pandemic? Ocoee Ridge not only opened their doors but opened their hearts and minds,

taking the time to meet with our medical team to ensure a cohesive partnership in keeping our Fidelis Sisters safe. Our third obstacle was fear. Families from around the country had to trust in our pledge to do the very best we could to keep each participant safe. They had to choose what would be best for their specific family circumstance and prudently

decide if the fear they felt was a necessary warning that they must heed or an opportunity to overcome. We could not make this choice for a family, nor would we want to, as each family could have medically vulnerable or at-risk members.

Would hosting Inspire with only a few participants be a financially sound decision? We held out hope and gave ample opportunity

for refunds and cancellations. We met with the American Camp Association and our team of medical professionals to understand and implement what our best practices must be amid the coronavirus guidance and restrictions. *God answered our prayers and delivered the best week of our lives!* Even among the many cancellations, **Fidelis Inspire took place with 114 participants, almost double our participation from the previous year.** Not only did three Queen of Peace



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“Inspire!” Continued...

Benedictine Sisters join us, but three Sisters Servants of the Home of the Mother, as well. The influence of these lovely religious sisters on the girls, through their beautiful witness of a life of service and virtue, is immeasurable. As was the influence and the powerful guidance of our Inspire Chaplain, Fr. Michael Hendershott, who became a favorite of all of the Fidelis Sisters as he started each Mass’s homily on the life of a saint with a coy smile and the words “Once...there was a princess!”

More than 90 percent of our Fidelis participants were able to attend this year because of YOUR generous donation to the Fidelis Sisterhood. *It is you who paid for the Religious Sisters to join us at camp and for Father’s meals and lodging!* The feedback from this year was incredible, and within hours of departure, the stories of the impact that Inspire had on individuals began to flow in. The Holy Spirit is at work at Inspire and not just for the girls, but for the women who attend as well. One woman who had been on the fence regarding attending had such a powerful experience at Inspire that

she felt called to share it and personally thank Fidelis for the opportunity of attending. Her testimony inspired another young participant to also share her story and gifts with the world. Another young woman was so Inspired by the experience that she felt compelled to share her personal struggles that she had buried deep inside and seek lasting opportunities to fight this battle.

The devil seeks to destroy opportunities for love of the Lord and growth in faith. He was hard at work knowing the fruit of the Inspire week would be so great. One life inspired to love and serve our Lord is worth every obstacle faced. **Thank YOU for making Inspire possible!**



New Chapters!

The coronavirus has definitely rearranged so much about our lives, including how we worship and how we minister. Many parishes are faced with the tough decision about whether or not to proceed with the current ministries, and if they do, they are forced to place restrictions to ensure that they are following the guidelines of their state and diocese.

While this is not the ideal environment to introduce a new apostolate, **two ambitious parishes have chosen to bring Fidelis to their communities and begin this fall.** Prince of Peace Parish in Greenville, South Carolina has brought Fidelis to their women with the example and support of their current Fraternus Chapter. St. Michael Parish in



Prince of Peace Fidelis Chapter, Greenville, SC

Snohomish, Washington is the first Fidelis Chapter to start in a parish that does not currently have a Fraternus Chapter. They have heard of the success of the Fidelis Chapter at Our Lady Star of the Sea and are ready to bring that virtue

and sisterhood to their community. Starting a new Chapter is a significant investment for a parish. At Fidelis, we strive to keep the start-up costs as low as possible, and we can’t do that without your financial support at a National Level. At a time where most parishes are experiencing a reduced amount of giving, bringing on a new chapter is no small ask. **Thank you for your support of Fidelis at a National level so we can grow the sisterhood in new communities!**

Coronations COVID-Style

This year all of our Fidelis Sisters have worked hard at staying connected while being socially distanced and completing their weekly invitations, even if modified, proving that **virtue does exist and can still be practiced even if our “normal” world has been turned upside down.**

Every year our Fidelis chapters get the chance to honor the Fidelis Sisters who strived to live a life of virtue with an Accolade Ceremony. This past year many ceremonies had been postponed or cancelled.

Because of this, we wanted to specially recognize six Fidelis Sisters from around the country, as they had earned the right to be advanced to a Fidelis Lady! We were able to create and distribute a special video to the Fidelis Community honoring these six young Ladies and encouraging the wider sisterhood to pray for each of these Fidelis Ladies as they embark on new journeys in their



lives, leading others to the Father by their virtuous example!

These six sisters have committed themselves to a life of virtue, standing out from the crowd, choosing to live a life as a daughter of the King! **Without your support, these young ladies would not have this opportunity.**



Mary

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Fidelis Chapter · Fort Wayne, IN



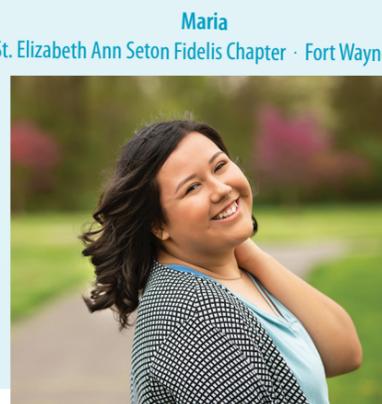
Laura

St. Mark Fidelis Chapter · Huntersville, NC



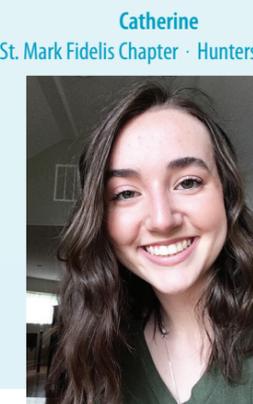
Kate

Knoxville Fidelis Chapter · Knoxville, TN



Maria

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Fidelis Chapter · Fort Wayne, IN



Catherine

St. Mark Fidelis Chapter · Huntersville, NC



Mikayla

Sacred Heart Fidelis Chapter · Battleground, WA