

The Ragin' Cajun Catholics

Our Lady of Wisdom Church and Catholic Student Center
Serving the Community at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Since 1923



MASW 35
CATHOLIC

Our Lady of Wisdom Church & Catholic Student Center





A CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER BUILT FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

Located in the heart of UL Lafayette's main campus, Our Lady of Wisdom's new Catholic Student Center will deliver spatial components that reflect the many pathways that lead young people into a lasting relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church, including outreach, evangelization, discipleship, formation, and the sacraments.

More than 60 percent of students at UL identify as Catholic. Creating multiple opportunities to make them feel at home in the Catholic Student Center is a fundamental design objective. The more contemporary aesthetic design features a dynamic and energetic entrance that opens to several multifunctional spaces, including a large atrium assembly space and café. The layout allows for study, congregation, and events to occur before or after Mass as part of the daily college experience. The design creates a warm atmosphere where a first time visitor can be welcomed by peers to this magnet of student activity. A redesigned Jeanmard Hall, new commercial kitchen, and dining room will provide proper functionality for large retreats, nationally known theologians and authors, and sacramental receptions.



"Our Lady of Wisdom Church and Catholic Student Center on the campus of UL Lafayette is an integral part of the Catholic mission for the Diocese of Lafayette. Confirmed and strengthened in their faith, students are prepared to be leaders and evangelizers who bring the faith into whatever walk of life they choose after graduation. Further, the ministry continues to be an important source for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. These dynamic young people, in turn, serve parishes throughout the diocese.

This is why I urge all to support the *Wisdom for Every Generation* Capital Campaign. Your sacrifice makes it possible to hand on the faith to the future of our diocese. Please be generous."

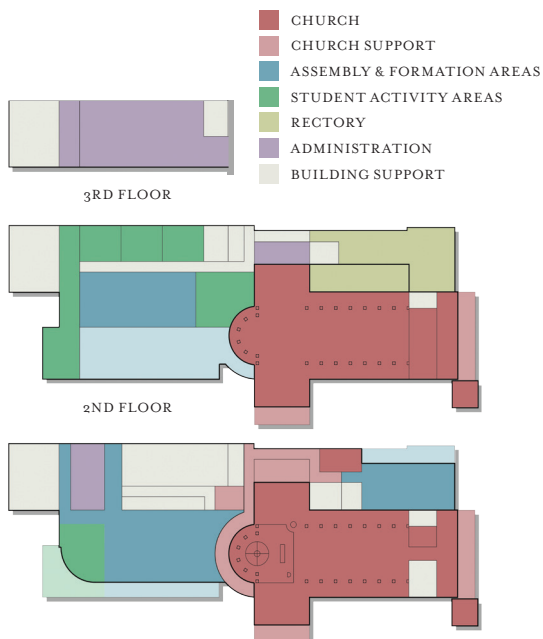
Most Reverend J. Douglas Deshotel, D.D.

BISHOP OF LAFAYETTE



CHURCH SANCTUARY

The design footprint for the church follows a traditional cruciform layout with an entry vestibule leading to a sanctuary that will expand seating to 600. A key functionality is an alternate entry to allow students direct access to the sanctuary from within the student center. Other features include a more accessible adoration chapel, cry room, sacristy, bell tower, enlarged choir loft, and confessionals. Its Romanesque architectural form will distinguish and honor it as a prominent and iconic sacred space on campus.



"We are humbled to chair the *Wisdom for Every Generation* Capital Campaign. Our great hope is that Wisdom will continue to be a spiritual home where young people can grow in faith and virtue, and that it will serve as a beacon, inviting many more students who have fallen away from the church to come home, renew their faith, and have a joyful college experience!"

Gus and Sheila Zepernick
GENERAL CHAIRS

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Fellow Ragin' Cajun Catholics,

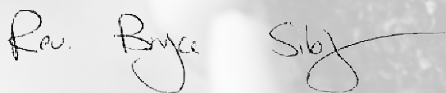
During my seven years as Pastor and Chaplain here at Our Lady of Wisdom, I've had the blessing of working with thousands of students who have passed through the halls of the Student Center or sat in the pews of the Chapel. At times I find myself thinking of where these students will be in 10, 25, or 50 years: What will their families look like? How strong will their faith be? What will they remember most about their time at Wisdom?

I am often reminded of the influence Wisdom has had on the generations of young people who've called this place home since 1942, when the original Chapel and Student Center were dedicated. Alumni return and share stories of studying in our humble Library, attending dances and Newman Club meetings in Jeanmard Hall, or getting married in the Chapel. Indeed, the rich history of this place is rooted in the very students who graduate and go on to become leaders, teachers, priests, religious, missionaries, Catholic thinkers, and faithful mothers and fathers.

We are in the midst of the *Wisdom for Every Generation* Capital Campaign for a new Catholic Student Center and Sanctuary on the UL Lafayette campus. Realizing our goal will enable Wisdom's Catholic Student Ministry – so deeply rooted in the history of UL Lafayette and in the hearts of thousands of students – to continue to be a spiritual home away from home for this and future generations.

Thank you for sharing in faithful stewardship of our mission **To Form Lifelong Disciples of Christ**. Today, I invite you to be a part of the *Wisdom for Every Generation* Capital Campaign. Every prayer, every pledge, and every gift helps to lay the foundation of faith for the next generation of Catholics here at UL Lafayette and beyond. With your help, our new home will continue to be a thriving center of formation for young Catholics and the Eucharistic presence on campus.

In Christ,



Rev. Bryce Sibley, S.T.L.
Pastor & Chaplain



Learn More about the *Wisdom For Every Generation* Capital Campaign
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