

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM

The Bethany House

Missionaries of Healing Hope & Joy

Sitting in the Bethany House watching the big snowflakes fall through the blue of evening with hearts so so full of gratitude for this community, the ways we have been loved, challenged, & formed, & the profound & transforming gift it is to live & work among you. We have so loved meeting & growing in friendship with you, sharing meals, praying, & laughing together. Your love has brought Jesus' healing into our lives, filled us with a lively hope, & is a constant source of joy for each of us. These are days we will treasure in our hearts all our lives. Friends, from our hearts, thank you! Know of our love & prayers always, & please continue to pray for us in this most beautiful Christmas season.



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MEET KELSEY!



Hi! Hello! I'm Kelsey Polchow! I'm so blessed and excited to be living with these girls and experience the Lord through them and the community! This past summer I was involved with FOCUS (Fellowship Of Catholic University Students) in Denver, CO apart of a group called Summer Projects! It was so so beautiful! Nothing like I've ever experienced before! If you would like to ask questions, I would love to answer them! The patience that the Lord has for me is so good. It's so beautiful. Over the summer I was wrestling with Virginia. The biggest fear was that

I was going to miss out on the things at home, like relationships, events, and work. Which I believed. I ended up staying in Pequot after I got back from Denver and tried finding what was right for me. NOTHING satisfied my restless heart. I remember one night I was in an argument with the Lord about moving to Virginia and telling him that He's going to go according to my plan. And I also had told Him that if he wants me to move to Virginia, He's going to have to help me give up the worldly desires I have. He did exactly that. He broke off relationships. And other things, as well. Everything fell into place, as it would with the Divine Hand in it. And now I can truthfully say that this is where the Lord wants me.



MCS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

JULIANA TURNER

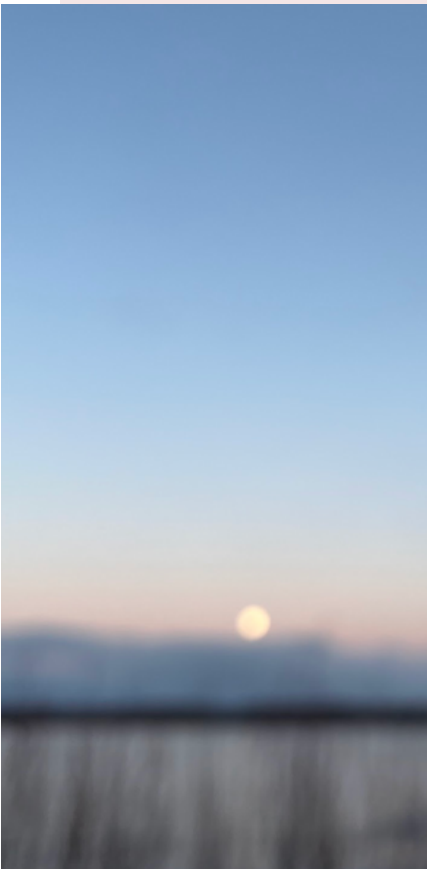
I am overjoyed as I reflect on the MCS Christmas Concert! Definitely one of the best days of my life. As many of you know, this was my first time directing a Christmas concert (well, directing anything!). I am so thankful for every student. Their energy, hard work, and creative ideas made this show possible. They exude authentic love and it inspires me everyday, especially their love for God. I also have immense gratitude for the Holy Spirit Parish community and the families of the students. Thank you for your support, words of encouragement, prayers, and for welcoming me to Virginia. Merry Christmas everyone!



“LOOKING AGAIN & AGAIN”

NAOMI RINGHAND

One of the covenantal commitments we make is to renewal of the mind through intellectual & spiritual formation. A wise friend of mine recently recommended the book “But I Have Called You Friends” by Mother Mary Francis, a luminous work on community life. I was cut to the heart by the way she speaks about respect in friendship: to look again, again, & again at the people around us. She speaks about how we often make quick judgements about people, characterizing them a certain way, putting them in a box, without truly looking at them. Two of the greatest gifts I have received in community life this year have been the opportunity to discover the deep beauty of my sisters’ hearts “again & again” and this mercy of their looking “again & again” through my sin & weakness to the glory of God hidden in me. It is this love that transforms us & is ultimately a reflection of the infinite love of God, whose infant eyes gaze up at us from the manger of Bethlehem, from the cross of Calvary. May we be open to this “looking” love that truly heals us, plants hope deep in our soul, & fills us with joy, this Christmas & always.

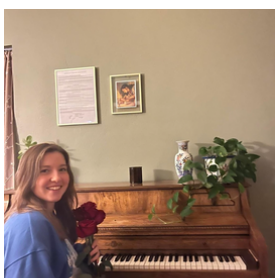
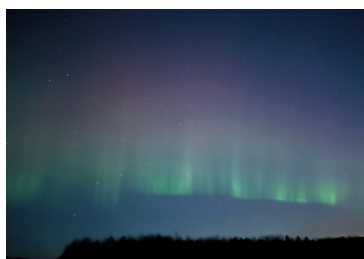




HIGHLIGHTS IN MINISTRY:

- Bethany House Retreat
- Steve & Jenni Angrisano
- Best Christmas Ever
- the MCS Middle School Dance
- Seeing the Northern Lights!
- the Junior High Lock Out
- EDGE & High School Worship Nights
- RCIA
- The Super Sweet Northern Cross Article
- Things Students Say
- Thanksgiving with our families
- The Christmas Concert
- Celebrating Feast Days
- Bible Study Christmas Cookies
- The Skating Showcase

November + December



KELSEY joining us!
 MCS "Houses"
 Live Night Prayer
 Duluth Adventures
 Our Advent Holy Hours
 A Visit from Bishop
 All the ways you have loved & received us!

Thank you all for a beautiful first few months!
 We are so excited or all that is in store!

Love,

The Bethany Girls