

Magis Catholic Teacher Corps



The 2012-2013 Magis Teachers on their Day of Reflection to kick-start the summer.

Back row from left to right: Carrie Wortmann, Director; Fr. Sunny Augustine, SJ, Magis Chaplain; Tori Shelton; Laura G'Sell; Katie Stockdale; Andrew De Leonardis; Mike Redmond; Peter Cunningham; Melissa Otter, Summer Intern; Colleen (Keller) Chiacchere, Assistant Director. Front row from left to right: Angela Glaser; Bridget Tighe; Megan Crowell; Maura Manning; Clare Huerter; Anne Mollner; Theresa Higson; Christine Crandall; Meagan McMahon; Julianne Joyce; James Flannery; Kim Becvar; Cailin Gaule. Not pictured: Sara Krajicek.

A Message from Magis Director, Carrie Wortmann

Commissioning Mass!

Please join us for the celebration to bless the teachers as they are sent off into their schools and communities.

5pm Mass at St. John's Church
Creighton University
Saturday, July 21, 2012

Reception to follow in Lower St. John's.



Save the Date!

At this time of the year I find myself in awe of the teachers that have committed themselves to serving and teaching in Magis. While it was difficult to bid farewell to Cohort 9, a dynamic and energetic group, welcoming and getting to know Cohort 11 reminds me that year after year fantastic young men and women are following their call to serve Christ and his children through education. Cohort 10 has proudly and faithfully stepped into their role as leaders in Magis, which is a beautiful thing to behold! Working with Magis I have the privilege of witnessing the future of Catholic educators, and I can tell you that the future is bright!

Please keep the 20 Magis teachers in your prayers this summer as they study, pray, prepare, and get energized for the new school year!

Magis Welcomes Cohort 11

Summer 2012 begins with a brand new cohort of 13 Magis teachers who are energetic, excited, and experienced individuals. These teachers make a great addition to the 7 returning Magis teachers of cohort 10. Both cohorts are engrossed in education classes throughout the summer, working hard to get prepared for the coming school year. Teachers live in community and eat lunch and dinner together five days a week. Weekly faith sharing in small groups helps keep the teachers spiritually balanced. The summer is jam-packed with classes, getting to know one another, and growing in faith, and the teachers truly enjoy the time together.

Photos, top to bottom:

Andrew De Leonardis, C10, instructs middle schoolers at Jesuit Academy in Omaha.

Christine Crandall, C10, Theresa Higson, C11, Meagan McMahon, C11, and Laura G'Sell, C11, work together to assemble lasagna for community dinner.



Becoming Magis

Clare Huerter, C11, reflects on her first week of Magis.

Last week my life felt comfortable. The familiarity of my days was unmistakable. Everything fit into the simple and organized categories of my life; where I knew everyone and everything well and where it fit into my life. Then, all of a sudden, but with warning, my days seemed to turn upside down. What once fit nicely into the categories seemed to spill in and around my days. It was overwhelming to say the least.

The new classes, new faces, and learning a new campus was uncomfortable and frustrating at times. It took awhile to feel like I had a grasp on my new adventure. After a couple of awkward moments, some mishaps, and two parking tickets later, I am feeling well established with the generous help of C10 and some Magis graduates. Having people from all walks of life coming together in a very new part of each of our lives is probably the most exciting aspect for me. My roommate, after spending 2 months in Paraguay, is helping me live simply and free from the strains of society, the people in my classes are helping me to rejuvenate my deep passion for teaching, and having open discussions about faith and spirituality has only enhanced mine. After just one week, it would be a lie to say that I wasn't being pushed and pulled and made to grow into a person on a mission for Christ.

Life in the Omaha Magis Community

Tori Shelton, C10, discusses life in community, one of the three pillars of Magis, as a Magis teacher.

I love my Omaha community. While my first teaching year was hard, my community support, love, and humor helped me through. We were able to have such God-filled moments thanks to all the hard work we did at the beginning of the year when we wrote our covenant at summer retreat which helped us outline our "rules" and household jobs. While writing this covenant took close to three or more hours, it definitely was worth it because I think it helped us all stay on the same page and help create the strong community we have.

This past year I saw that when you do certain things as a community member, you help make a loving environment possible. Things such as being honest, open, transparent, respectful, and sensitive happened daily in my community. Another thing I learned is that communication can make or break a community. Also, plain and simple, I think we had a really great group of people who naturally have huge hearts. If you are not open to lending a hand, sharing part of yourself, and being there for others in your community, it will not be as supportive and Christian as it could be.

There are so many community stories to tell, but one that I will always carry with me is the night we took our spiritual journey into the convent crawl space. All eight of us used our t-shirts as masks and began to crawl down a long dirty cramped tunnel in our basement. We helped each other through the darkness by warning each other of what was coming up ahead. Once we got to a larger part of the crawl space, sat down, prayed together, and shared some laughs, I was again reminded of the fact that these eight people were great gifts helping me along my spiritual and teaching journey. I would not have wanted to have the opportunity to do something so strange and memorable with another group.

