



Sheil Catholic Center
at Northwestern University

MISSION IMPACT REPORT



2025-
2026

OUR VISION AND MISSION



The Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern University accompanies students and associates in becoming witnesses to Love through vibrant worship, transformative learning, and prophetic justice.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

For generations, the Sheil Catholic Center has been a spiritual home for students at Northwestern — a place where they encounter Christ in the Eucharist, form lifelong friendships, and grow into leaders who bring their faith into the world. Since 1939, thousands of young people have discovered at Sheil a true home away from home, and their lives — and the Church — are stronger because of it.

WHERE WE'RE GOING

Over the past five years, we've witnessed incredible growth in our community. More students are showing up with open hearts, hungry to know Jesus and grow in their faith. Today, Sheil serves a growing community of students on a secular campus where having a place to encounter Christ and live out their faith truly matters. Our pews are fuller, Mass attendance continues to rise, and there's a renewed energy you can feel the moment you walk through the doors. The mission isn't just continuing — it's alive, vibrant, and moving forward in powerful ways.

LETTER FROM OUR LEADERS

Summer 2026

Dear Friends of the Sheil Catholic Center at Northwestern University,

As we close another fiscal year and look back on the life and mission of Catholic campus ministry at Northwestern, there is so much for which we can be grateful. We are growing in relationship with Jesus and one another. Our chapel fills, and often overflows, on Sundays. Students are finding a home here. Leaders are being formed. And a growing community of associates, alumni, faculty and staff, parents, and friends are investing in this mission because they believe in what God is doing here.

The details that follow tell part of that story. They reflect extraordinary generosity, faithful stewardship, and a community that has allowed us to end the year in a position of financial health and with a surplus. That is worth celebrating. But for us, a surplus is not simply something to preserve; it is an opportunity to ask what more God might be inviting us to do.

St. Junípero Serra famously lived by the words “Siempre adelante”—“Always forward.” There is no better posture for us at this moment.

More students are engaging our mission, yes, but there are still so many we have not yet reached, encountered, or invited. Our mission cannot simply be to care well for those who already know where to find us. **The Gospel always sends us outward.**

And so, we are grateful, but we are not settling. We want to remain attentive to the Holy Spirit, allowing the Spirit to stretch our imagination, deepen our generosity, strengthen our ministry, and send us toward those we have not yet reached.

Thank you for believing in this mission and for your generosity, prayer, partnership, and trust. There is much to celebrate, but there is even more ahead and we are better when we do it together.

Siempre adelante. Always forward.



Fr. Bradley A. Zamora
Chaplain and Director



Delaney Paul
Director of Mission Impact and Donor Relations



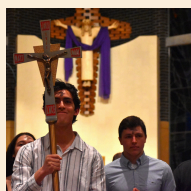
Martina Ricca
Director of Campus Ministry



Jim Masini
Director of Operations



Faith Engagement



5,956 ↑ 41% increase
from last year

students and associates attended
Sunday mass during the Fall quarter

272 students prayed
the rosary

623 students attended
Adoration

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

15 OCIA candidates
and catechumens



Ministry Averages

30 students/week over 7 weeks
attended CaSA (undergrad
Catholic Student Association)
events

88 students and associates
attended seminars

15 students/week Mass &
Meal at Chicago campus

Retreats

40 students attended the Kairos retreat,
a 15% increase from last year

35 students participated in the Busy
Student Retreat, an 83% increase
from last year



Our Year in Review

Fiscal year: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Balance Sheet Summary As of Jun 30, 2026

Distribution account	Total	
	As of Jun 30, 2026	As of Jun 30, 2025 (PY)
Assets	5,648,772.85	
Current Assets	3,429,553.50	
Bank Accounts	2,276,250.60	2,031,204.37
Accounts Receivable	1,064,777.00	1,080,027.00
Other Current Assets	88,525.90	
Total for Current Assets	3,429,553.50	3,111,231.37
Fixed Assets	2,219,219.35	2,137,691.90
Total for Assets	5,648,772.85	5,248,923.27
Liabilities and Equity	5,648,772.85	
Liabilities	97,912.59	
Current Liabilities	97,912.59	
Accounts Payable	73,910.13	30,701.07
Credit Cards	0.00	0.00
Other Current Liabilities	24,002.46	19,191.76
Total for Current Liabilities	97,912.59	49,892.83
Total for Liabilities	97,912.59	49,892.83
Equity	5,550,860.26	5,199,030.44
Total for Liabilities and Equity	5,648,772.85	5,248,923.27

*Siempre Adelante!
Always Forward!*

Total collections increased by more than 212%, reflecting significant growth in financial support for the mission. Despite an increase in services and programming, operating expenses were reduced by 12%. Additionally, early pledges to the Disciples Today! Disciples Tomorrow! Capital Campaign enabled the completion of two priority projects at a total cost of \$81,527.45.

“The Sheil Catholic Center is a centerpiece of our lives. It is where we encounter Christ and experience His love, through liturgy, prayer, and reflection—all in communion with a remarkable group of students, associates, and staff. We especially love the thought-provoking homilies, the beautiful music, the strong sense of community, and—as associates—the ability to support our Catholic students on the Northwestern campus.” - David Besanko and Mimi (Maureen) Lythgoe





"Walking into Sheil for Sunday Mass my freshman year was a small step that became one of the most meaningful parts of my Northwestern journey. I never could have imagined how deeply Sheil would shape my college experience; bringing me lifelong friends, mentors, and a community that continually leads me closer to God. Through Sheil, I have not only experienced God's presence within its doors but have also found the courage and strength to share His goodness with the wider Northwestern community. I am forever grateful that what began as simply walking through Sheil's doors became a place I now call home."
-Yaleska Sosa-Azcarraga, Class of 2027

Sheil Catholic Center
Adelante Gala
Palm House Evanston
04.17.2027



Mark your calendars for our annual gala as we celebrate the Sheil Catholic Center and raise funds to support its mission. You won't want to miss it!



sheilcatholiccenter.org



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