

# A Living Mission:

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## hello:

It is so wild to think that this month marks a year of the pandemic.

The busyness of schedule reflects this fact for this month was packed with all day events at high schools and parish retreats, consecutive series of parish events and even a college discussion. I am so grateful to be serving this diocese where our curriculum is not only received, but celebrated. Thank you for being part of my team to make this mission not only exist but also be so fully alive!

## why? :

**Why is a question that exposes purpose, a reason for why something is done or even exists. The answer to this question is the most important discovery we can make when it comes to seeing our own purpose. Our social media presentation revolves around this question and I have found myself also reflecting on the why's in my own life. It is a gift to give presentations and also receive continually from them as well.**



## witness:

*Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.* Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, no. 41

It is humbling to share with the students from a place of not always having all the answers, but in that place of poverty it is actually a great strength.

## zeal:

**The Culture Project's hiring process includes an interview weekend where applicants and our staff can really discern the community dimension of our mission work. Our mission is not just a job or another missionary role, but a place of learning how to fully live. Though this year our interview weekends are all virtual it was beautiful to witness how my team truly made it the most human experience possible with**

**laughter, games and deep conversation. Meeting these applicants gave me such hope and vigor to finish this year with zeal!**



### **e v e r y o n e :**

**One of the great honors and joys of being a missionary to students who may know a lot of facts about the Church and also believe the popular narrative from our culture is to flip their preconceived beliefs! Catholicism is for everyone. God's love is for everyone. Chastity is for everyone. Interior freedom is for everyone.**

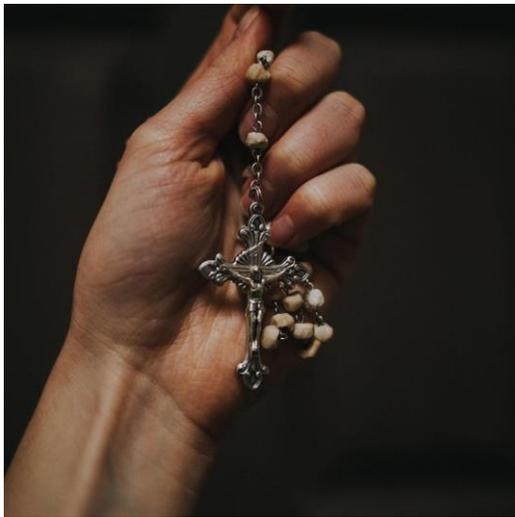
### **e m b o d i e d :**

**Our work ignites conversation, getting students to reflect and begin to question our culture, but one of our limits is not walking with students long term to see their journey continue to unfold. This month we began speaking with all the senior classes at a high school, and their teacher who invited us in is already living out the type of love we speak about in our talks, fully alive. He and his wife are not able to have children and have adopted three little ones - one being from a 19-year-old girl who was raped. His love for his students and personal commitment to letting faith lead his life gave my team such a renewed vigor.**

This month we went to one youth group a few Sundays in a row to give all of our presentations. After the Sexual Integrity presentation, one of the girls pulled us aside and tell us how thankful she was to have heard it. She said she was skeptical coming in to the talk, but she ended up really enjoying it!

Brendan chatted with a boy who was genuinely curious about the virtue of chastity. His questions were real questions that he was facing. He thanked him afterwards and wanted to see Brendan again.

Our team was requested back to a parish not because the adults thought a second talk was needed, but because the students really wanted us back again!



It is such a great joy to know I have each of your support back home whether that be in gifts, prayers, or both. Thank you for journeying with me across the country to share in this Gospel message of love, freedom, and hope. Your individual yes's to coming on mission with me is so courageous and it inspires me every time I feel discouraged or selfish. Know I am praying for you each every day.

Please let me know how I can be continuing to pray for each of YOU and your families and loved ones. I hope you have a fruitful Holy Week and Triduum. Happy (early) Easter!

With Joy,  
Olivia

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For our work to be successful everything must flow from healthy prayer + healthy community. We can walk into these classrooms and parishes with polished words and sweet humor, but if our hearts are not filled with love then our work will not hold the same impact. This month our community has been called on to invest in loving one another with vigor. The enemy knows how to divide and we need to respond with the continual choice to unite.



**“Holiness consists simply in doing God's will, and being just what God wants us to be.” – St. Thérèse de Lisieux**

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*“The Culture Project is an initiative of young people set out to restore culture through the experience of virtue. We proclaim the dignity of the human person and the richness of living sexual integrity, inviting our culture to become fully alive.”*

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