



TACSC

A CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION

TACSC Newsletter Fall 2020



WE

GROW

LEADERS



LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

My, how the world has changed since I last wrote to you at the beginning of this year! It is now fully apparent how vital today's youth leaders will be to tomorrow's future. The TACSC mission of *developing moral servant leaders to positively impact the world* rings more true than ever as we face the ongoing pandemic, geopolitical instability and the pursuit of racial equity.

As my fellow Board members and I planned for the summer, I stubbornly held on to the possibility of in-person conferences – TACSC's marquee event throughout its history. We delayed the decision to "go virtual" right up until the staff had enough remaining weeks to prepare for our Summer Leadership Live. Alas, my rhyming suggestion of issuing "TACSC's Masks" as our summer conference face coverings fell by the wayside, but the staff responded with a program that pulled together 80 volunteers to shape the program for 300 middle school attendees.

Because my son now serves as a staff member, I had the opportunity to sit in on two general sessions and all three night prayers. The level of polish and professionalism was higher than 95 percent of those I see in business, day-in and day-out. The staff worked tirelessly and creatively to engage a group that could have suffered from Zoom fatigue, and adapted the tried-and-true, but still evolving, leadership curriculum into a new method of delivery. While we look forward to once again engaging in person, I think it's clear that TACSC's virtual offerings may allow us to reach an even wider audience.

Of course, the 2020 TACSC budget was crafted around expected revenue from multiple in-person conferences that did not occur, so we've tightened our spending and appealed to our donor base, both long-standing and new.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act put into law this year creates a unique opportunity for you to increase your support of TACSC, or begin to support the valuable

work it does, by allowing donors to claim a brand new "above-the-line" deduction of up to \$300 for monetary donations to a charity.

As we approach the final quarter of the year, please keep this in mind and consider a gift to TACSC that will help sustain the important work it does. I think you'll be pleased with the results of your generosity.

Sincerely,



Jim Hannon,
President, Board of Directors

TAX BENEFIT OF SUPPORTING TACSC

Thanks to the CARES Act, if you take the standard deduction on your 2020 tax return (the one that you'll file in 2021), you can claim a brand new "above-the-line" deduction you make this year of up to \$300 (or \$600 for a married couple) for donations to a charity such as TACSC.

Normally, you have to itemize on Schedule A to get a tax break for charitable donations. In this case, your deduction will reduce your adjusted gross income (AGI), and thereby reduce your taxable income. So, for example, if you are in the 22 percent federal tax bracket, each \$100 you give to TACSC will really cost you only \$78.

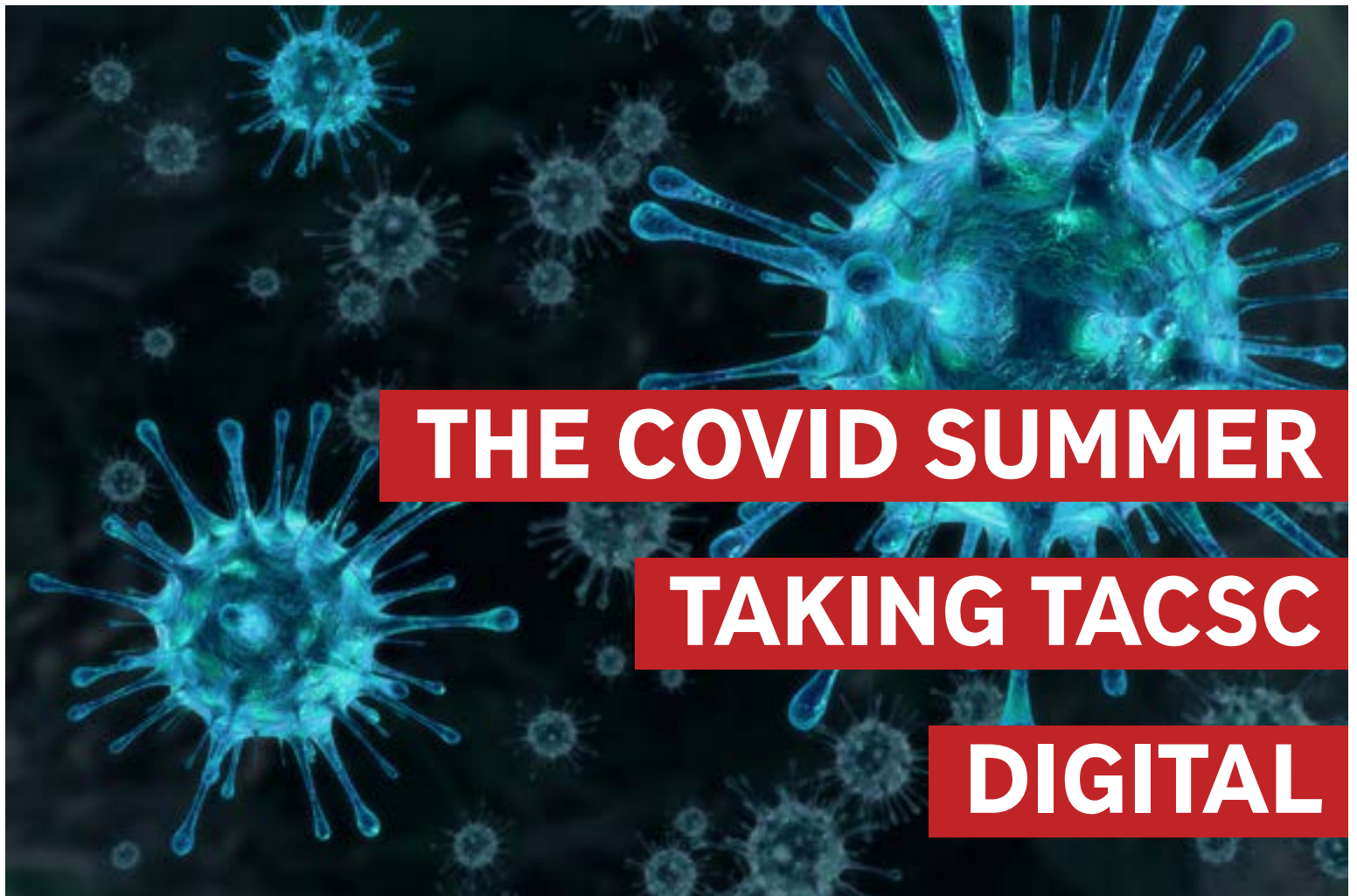


THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME to have an impact

While we can all agree that 2020 has been a challenging year, the new tax opportunities associated with charitable giving make it the perfect time to donate to TACSC!

With your support, we will continue to provide in-person and virtual opportunities for youth to learn strategic planning, effective communication, servant leadership and lifelong mentorship.

>>> [CLICK TO MAKE A GIFT NOW](#)



THE COVID SUMMER

TAKING TACSC

DIGITAL

Each summer, TACSC normally brings together hundreds of middle school students to enjoy several days of leadership and comradery. We meet life-long friends, we share personal stories, and we come out of the Summer Leadership Conference with a stronger sense of self and the motivation to go out and make a positive difference in the world.

Things were bit different this year.

As we approached the summer, we knew that "leaders are adaptable" would become a major theme. Do we plan an in-person program with the hope that everything will be okay? Or do we plan something online that will require students to be inside when maybe everyone else is outside?

TACSC planned our in-person for Loyola Marymount University in late July. At the same time, we planned our online program for the same time frame. We would make one of them happen... one way or another.

We soon realized that meeting as a large group in person in July was not going to happen, so we flipped the switch to Leadership Live Online with TACSC. We had more than 80 staff members sign up and want to help. Parents were really looking for something "out of the new norm" for their kids to participate during the summer, and TACSC created something unique, fun and educational for them to enjoy. Nearly 300 middle school students participated in our three-



day program. We met from 3:00 to 8:30 p.m. each day, showcasing general presentations for large groups, breaking into small groups for detailed discussions and activities and closing each day with a special TACSC night prayer that we all love so much. We even did an "online dance!" Against all the odds, we were able bring the TACSC Magic once again!

For our high school program, we elected to wait until the end of summer to see if we could gather in person. By the end of August, it was clear that gathering would not be an option, so TACSC created its High School Leadership Live program on September 18. More than 40 participants enjoyed keynote speaker Hal Hargrave and learned about our pillars of service, mentorship, communication and planning.

TACSC worked hard to ensure we were able to deliver a unique, online program that provided important leadership training through our peer-to-peer teaching model.

“ Thank you for making my summer not a complete waste of video gaming all day. It was not what I expected. It was totally fun and I will come again when we can see each other for sure!**”** **- EIGHTH GRADE PARTICIPANT**



MEET THE NEW

Newsletter Writers



Megan Deegan

What years were you a delegate?

I was a delegate at CMC in 2011.

What years were you a staff member?

- 2013 - CMC President
- 2014 - CMC President
- 2015 - LMU Moderator
- 2016 - CMC Moderator
- 2018 - LMU Principal
- 2019 - LMU Principal
- 2020 - Leadership Live Manager (Online)

What schools did you attend?

- Elementary - St. Joachim School
- High School - Mater Dei High School
- College - California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo



Emily Anabi

What years were you a delegate?

I was a delegate in 2012 and 2013.

What years were you a staff member?

- 2013 - Student Leadership Day Presenter & Facilitator
- 2014 - Part Time Staff at CMC
- 2015 - Full Time Staff President at LMU
- 2016 - Support Team Staff at CMC
- 2017 - Part Time Staff at CMC
- 2018 - Full Time Staff Moderator at CMC
- 2019 - Full Time Staff Moderator at CMC
- 2020 - Full Time Staff Principal (Online)

What schools did you attend?

- Elementary - Our Lady of the Assumption Elementary School
- High School - Vivian Webb High School
- College - Currently finishing Bachelors Degree at Loyola Marymount University





MEGAN >>>

What is the biggest takeaway / life skill you can attribute back to TACSC?

You go to TACSC and are impacted by fellow staff, your delegates and the experiences you have. You are transformed into something great, and the best part is you don't even notice it happening! I have gained leadership skills beyond compare; I have become extremely confident in front of large crowds; but most importantly, I have learned to make the absolute most out of every situation. No matter how skeptical I am of something, TACSC has taught me to embrace every moment with open arms.

What are you looking forward to most as a writer of the newsletter?

I am looking forward to sharing all that is happening at TACSC with everyone, but I'm even more excited to get to know more of the TACSC community.

Fun memories from camp:

The memories I have collected over the years at TACSC are some of the best memories I have ever made. From energetic spirit rallies to competitive charade nights, they are all amazing. But my favorite memory was a night prayer I facilitated at the 2015 LMU Summer Conference. It wasn't what I got out of it, but the touching response of all the delegates that made it so memorable.

Describe your experience as an online staff member this past summer:

As much as I would have loved to be at conference, today's circumstances did not permit that. I was a little skeptical about how the online seminar would work, but after spending three days with the delegates, I was so happy to be a part of it. The delegates were so engaged and respectful and we all got to share in night prayers. It was a great experience for everyone!

EMILY >>>

What is the biggest takeaway / life skill you can attribute back to TACSC?

Aside from the lifelong friendships I have formed with my TACSC family, the biggest takeaway I can attribute back to TACSC is the growth in my relationship with my faith and spirituality. I was raised in a Jordanian Catholic household, and consistently volunteering with TACSC not only strengthened my relationship with God and others, but also with myself. Through prayer,





participating in activities and leading with grace, I have learned so many valuable lessons from my time at TACSC that I am beyond thankful for.

What are you looking forward to most as a writer of the newsletter?

I am most looking forward to the ability to engage with members of the TACSC community and embody how TACSC has positively impacted my life in my writing. Further, I am excited to share the stories of others and exemplify what TACSC is all about.

Fun memories from camp:

My favorite memories from TACSC come from the big presentations we deliver mid-way through camp sessions. As staff, in preparation for these presentations we stay up all night trying to write fun scripts that effectively portray leadership content, we act in silly ways, and most of all we share so many laughs.

Describe your experience as an online staff member this past summer:

My experience as an online staff member this past summer was amazing. COVID-19 has had so many negative effects on families, businesses and life as a whole. When I heard TACSC was still planning on providing a summer session this year, I was eager to help. Given the circumstances (and with a lot of preparation), TACSC delivered an amazing and entertaining summer conference. Best of all, I got to form relationships with my delegates and catch up with my peers - all through a computer screen.



As TACSC looks towards the seasons ahead, we are planning to be "ready for anything." TACSC continues to work with middle and high schools to determine "how" to best keep our leadership students engaged. Many schools are still struggling with the uncertainties of whether or not they will be physically in class or online...or both!

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DAYS >>>

We will plan an online program option to enhance our in-person Student Leadership Days in case our physical meeting restrictions are still in place. We still hope to reach as many students as possible and welcome some new schools into the program!

SUMMER CONFERENCE >>>

TACSC will excitedly prepare for our flagship summer leadership conferences for June and July 2021. We will need to adhere to any restrictions on dorm and meal space, and ensure we keep all of students and staff as safe as possible for any in-person programs. We will also explore the option of an online version again. Our Staff is incredible and the TACSC Magic will find a way to present itself in Summer 2021... one way or another!

As we look to fill our Core Leadership Team with outstanding high school leaders, we will be working individually with high schools and their students.

<<< CORE LEADERSHIP TEAM

SHOUT OUT to Notre Dame Academy for their virtual "club fair" and recruiting more than 30 students to join TACSC'S Core Leadership Team to focus on presenting leadership lessons to our middle schools!

ADMINISTRATOR WEBINARS >>>

We have completed our first administrator webinar "Elections: Online...how?" and look forward to our presentation of "Diversifying our Master Calendar: How Are We Doing?" on October 7. We will close our series with a November presentation of "Gratitude and Service Partners." Visit our website and check out the "Programs" tab to learn more!

WE WANT TO

HEAR

from
YOU!

Share your stories with us and stay connected with TACSC via social media or at tacsc@tacsc.org



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