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## Jesus, I Trust in You: St. Thomas Aquinas' Jubilee

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JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU: ST. THOMAS AQUINAS' JUBILEE

A Capstone Experience / Thesis Project

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for

the Degree Bachelor of Arts with

Honors College Graduate Distinction at Western Kentucky University

By

John A. Sohl

\*\*\*\*\*

Western Kentucky University  
2013

CE/T Committee:

Professor Ron DeMarse, Advisor

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Approved by

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Advisor

School of Journalism & Broadcasting

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2013

## ABSTRACT

The concept of “Life Reporting” is a completely new idea, at least in terms of how I have experienced it. In today’s world of blogs and social networking, it is essential for broadcast journalists to embrace their own lives in the same world of professional and ethical reporting. As I describe my experience of St. Thomas Aquinas’ Jubilee, I have no choice but to provide the context and build-up of this intense passion toward my overarching point. Working through all the communities of which I have been a part, from attending St. Luke Catholic Church all the way to the revolutionary approach toward LOVE from St. Thomas Aquinas’ Catholic Campus Center, I seek to prove one powerful and simple point: as technology shifts and develops, we have been given a unique opportunity to share the love and life we experience in this world with all those we encounter.

The tools of the broadcast journalist are in everyone’s hands, but the know-how still gives broadcasters the responsibility and advantage to share the most compelling, most accurate, most diverse, and most ethically sound material that can be produced. In this way, the truth can still emerge as they present their “Life Report” to the world.

This work is dedicated to those family and friends, both living and in Heaven, who have led me to Christ through their daily prayers and steadfast faith.

This is a testament to the LOVE I have felt from them all across the years.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was an unprecedented achievement in my life, and I simply cannot fathom what would have happened if I did not have so many people to support me through the toughest and most life changing moments I've ever experienced.

First, I could not have produced this without the initial encouragement and enthusiasm from the Honors College and Broadcasting Department at WKU. They believed in me when I doubted my own abilities to be a broadcast journalist in such a unique capacity. Ron DeMarse, my Advisor, made this process one of the most comfortable and exciting times in my life, despite the intense pressure I was under towards the end. I also want to thank Jeanine Cherry and Elizabeth Gish for assisting me in my Honors Defense as second and third readers and being so prompt and understanding in the scheduling process. There was a reason they both were on my committee, and I believe God had a plan all along to help me through the murky waters of this arduous task.

Sam Oldenburg was a member of St. Thomas Aquinas and a photojournalist in the Honors College who helped me in ways I can't begin to thank. None of the audio would exist without Sam's equipment, and the quality of some of the pictures and footage would never have made the cut without his experience and insight.

This work also hit home to me in more powerful ways than I could have ever anticipated. Without that initial \$1,000 investment from Stephen, my best friend since kindergarten and now future brother-in-law, I would have never been able to capture what the year 2012 became to so many people.

My own parents, Buddy and Tina Sohl, raised me strongly in the Catholic faith, and through their support, I had the courage and passion to stand out from my peers and undertake such a unique and personal project. From the earliest days, I knew I had been blessed with holy parents, and I will never lose sight of what I've gained because of them.

My Uncle Bret and Aunt Donna have been like second parents, and their experience in the world of music, video, and entertainment showed me the potential behind my own skills and ambitions. My sister Niki Sohl and my nieces Daighre and Firienne and new nephew Luke showed me the gift of faith, that despite overwhelming circumstances, **true love** can be professionally broadcast and lived out in the purest of ways. I thank my grandma, Fran Sohl, who helped me sort through the troubles and tribulations I experienced in my own faith life during this unbelievable experience. My cousin Mandy and her whole family made me realize I could let God lead me through such an uncertain time, and I would have never taken that important step in my discernment without them.

My St. Aloysius grade school community, with the Gendron family and so many others, that despite closing the school this past year, made me realize how very fortunate I am to have grown up in such a loving community all along. Hannah Allgeier, Josh Ware, Nick Ware, and all my childhood friends could never be replaced, because they were the ones who saw me through some of the toughest times.

The friends, coaches, and teachers at DeSales High School gave me the tools and confidence by which to live in this media world. The Faith, Brotherhood, and Tradition that I gained in my Catholic Education there as well as my three years as the editor of *The Yearling*, along with so many other memories and people in the entire Archdiocese of Louisville, is enough to last a lifetime. My four years there showed me how important it is to find the love of Christ in every community and place I encounter in life.

Lastly, concerning my family and friends back home, I must thank the community of St. Luke parish in Louisville, KY for having faith in God so profoundly, for rising from the ashes of our parish home in 1997, and for proving how very possible it is to love one another despite the darkest of days. Their faith in me as I began this long journey in 2011 gave me a renewed vigor in the work I've set out to do. The fruits of their labors will never stop growing in my heart, for my work at the Catholic Campus Center and wherever God leads me from here is a direct result of the inspiration I gained from them.

Finally, and perhaps most pertinently to this project is the community of St. Thomas Aquinas' Catholic Campus Center in Bowling Green, KY.

I don't think I could have become a stronger person without the work of Hilltoppers for Life and all of the crazy activism it required. Bryan Reaka, Kateri Rhodes, Erin Ruppelt, Alaina and Kristin Mikulcik, Kevin Dorth, Adam Keyser, Beth Avis, Matt Knight, Dustin Grillon, Matthew Riggle and so many others who I can't name were instrumental in the work we accomplished for this project.

People like Travis Barham, Brendan O'Morchoe, Kristan Hawkins, David Bereit, Shawn Carney, and Abby Johnson gave us all the national recognition and encouragement we needed to truly change the world with the LOVE of our community.



I thank Fr. Josh McCarty of Lolek Productions for teaching me the real world, despite all my hardships I was going through. He gave me the opportunity to experience failure, and with that, I came to know true success. His experience in filmography gave me the intensity to my work that I never had before.

Zach Coots was my best friend in college, leading me through many dark nights on the road to this project's completion. I could never have overcome such obstacles and distractions without his solid advice and unbelievable confidence in me. His practical jokes and off-the-wall comments will be some of my most cherished memories.

My own brother Matt became one of my closest allies as I gave up so much to achieve this unimaginable feat. Our journey together has been solid since the beginning, and his marketing background will surely prove effective with my broadcasting skills in the future. I think it was his carefree and down-to-earth mentality that got me through the doubtful and numbing experiences of this past year. I leave him fully confident that he will find his own way, now that the days of being "Sohl's brother" are over.

Mary Reding was a God-send to me because when all I had to do was trust Him enough to take that leap of faith in October of 2010, she was there to gently guide the way. From Hilltoppers for Life to World Youth Day to piano lessons and singing in the choir, to our unforgettable Wednesday conversations and the 40 Days for Love devotionals to so much more, I cannot possibly imagine my college experience without that beautiful and prayerful woman. I wish her the most fulfilling life imaginable, wherever God so leads her.

Eternal gratitude goes to Fr. Mike Williams because immediately he saw what I had undertaken last January, and he gave me the spiritual direction and guidance I so desperately needed to discern my vocation and finish this project successfully, and even more

importantly, to actually graduate! He became a true father during these years, and without his heckling and constant nagging to improve, I would have never left my extreme comfort zone that I know would have led me to unhappiness. I will never forget giving him a toast for his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, as if I was worthy enough to give it to such an amazing man of God.

As thorough as I have tried to be, I know I have forgotten people who have helped me along the way. I can't thank them all for what they have done to make this happen. I can only say this. My project was about a community of love, and I have tried so desperately to acknowledge every other community of love I've experienced. After all, these are the people who led me to see the potential for this project. These are the people who make the Body of Christ so unbelievably fruitful and eternal!

At this time though, I think it's appropriate to put it simply: in the words of Fr. William Allard, "To LOVE is to give LIFE."

## VITA

October 30, 1990.....	Born – Louisville, Kentucky
2005.....	St. Aloysius Grade School Shepherdsville, Kentucky
2008.....	St. Luke Medal of Merit Louisville, Kentucky
2009.....	St. Francis DeSales High School Louisville, Kentucky
2011.....	Fleischaker-Greene Scholar Western Kentucky University
2011.....	World Youth Day Pilgrim in Madrid, Spain St. Thomas Aquinas
2012.....	Internship & Guatemala Expedition Lolek Productions
2013.....	Wilberforce Leadership Fellow Students for Life of America

## PUBLICATIONS

1. Sohl, John. “2009 Yearbook.” *The Yearling*. Book. DeSales High School; Taylor Publishing. Louisville, KY. 15, Jul. 2009.
2. “Guatemala: Behind the Scenes.” *Made for Love*. Prod. Diocese of Owensboro; Lolek Productions, 2012. Web. 9, Mar. 2013 <<http://lolekproductions.com/archives/916>>

## FIELD OF STUDY

Major Field: Broadcasting

Minor Field: Theatre

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCING THE “LIFE REPORT”

We all long to know and hear the truth. It is in our nature as human beings. In fact, life is such a mystery at times that our search for the truth can become the sole mission of our existence. Many of us seek that truth in politics and wealth. Some look for it in service, others in high adventure, and still others, in the spiritual realm. For centuries though, that truth has been clouded and fraught with bias. People are obsessed with editorializing, of becoming “a nation of bloggers,” as the late Steve Jobs of Apple Incorporated feared in 2010. With the birth of the Internet and the technological revolution in the mid-1990s, the old world of broadcast journalism has morphed into something entirely different. As more and more people have come to understand the effectiveness of social networking, journalists have had no choice but to re-evaluate their role in society.

A question of ethics then is posed in every situation a journalist encounters. Different from morality, these values are intended to reflect the philosophic problems that journalists may encounter when seeking the truth of a story. Because society still looks to the media for guidance and information, journalists have an obligation to be accurate and sufficient, focusing on the community by maintaining credibility and promoting dignity and diversity with every single fact they present (see Appendix C). This can be a daunting task, and if not carefully pursued, one misstep can end a career before it even begins.

The pressure of falling victim to this crime of “biased reporting” or violating one’s ethical code seems to have created a stigma in the journalism industry that separates them quite concretely from the common blogger. This stigma has made one’s personal life almost impossible to ethically incorporate into the daily work of a given reporter, leading them to avoid conflicts of interest with extreme intensity, and at times, outright madness. Unfortunately, widely accepted professional standards have not been properly re-evaluated to address today’s growing concerns, and this constant push for one’s own agenda is making it almost necessary for journalists to shift their focus. After all, while the news is often described as a neutral perspective, the connections people are making with one another have changed the understanding of the term “mass communication.” No longer are reporters simply reaching out to the larger public; rather, they are a *part* of that larger public reaching out to itself. Because of this, reporters have a unique opportunity to adapt an unprecedented form of journalism into their ethical code. For all intents and purposes, I’ve coined the term “Life Reporting” to succinctly describe the concept of professionally and ethically sharing one’s personal interests and communities with the world.

To follow and prove this focused form of advocacy, I spent many months working and reporting from a community in which I was personally invested. At the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Campus Center in Bowling Green, KY, I focused all of my attention on documenting its history and current practices as accurately and sufficiently as possible, focusing not on myself or my own personal living arrangements there at the Center, but on the full community, to successfully promote the dignity and diversity of every one I encountered. Through these efforts, I maintained credibility and sought nothing but the truth, just as all journalists are called to do. I simply chose the path of documentary film making in place of traditional journalism.

In today's complex world of blogs and social networking, where virtually *everyone* has a voice, it is important for journalists to maintain their ethics and professionalism, but it is just as essential for them to internalize this new approach, to broadcast not only the neutral stories that have shaped the industry for centuries, but to embrace their own lives and the lives of those closest to them in the same standards they've always known; in this way, the truth can still emerge as they present their "Life Report" to the world.

## CHAPTER 2

### THE FIRE THAT IGNITED IT ALL

I'll never forget the silence on that cold morning as I stared past the police tape and into the skeleton of my parish home. I was just six years old, but already I had felt something powerful. St. Luke Catholic Church in Louisville, KY had burned to the ground. Yes, we have always been a small parish family, but on the morning of January 17, 1997, it felt like we were smaller than anything else on Earth because we had nothing left. Nothing. Nothing but ashes, an old wooden cross and the unharmed Eucharistic host from the tabernacle. As I look back on those dark inspiring days, I can't help but wonder where it's leading me. After all, St. Luke was completely rebuilt 40 months later during the 2000 Jubilee Celebration, and my life has never been the same. It's funny though how closely things have been connected for me throughout the completion of this particular project. For just a week before the start of the spring semester 2012, we remembered the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that fire, and on that same day, at the beginning of my Capstone Experience / Thesis (CE/T) project, my first community forced me to accept some of the hardest truths of my life. It was as if my entire existence was called into question, nothing seemed certain, and I didn't know if I even *liked* broadcasting anymore!

At that moment of realization, as I stared into the face of the Divine Mercy that night, I felt my first real call to discernment. We are all called by God to a particular vocation, whether it is married or religious life, and it was on this night that I knew I had to



begin to search for what that calling would be for me. In what continues to manifest itself in the form of the priesthood, I had to reflect on the *first time* I had faced a personal call from God. I had to relive the culmination of those early years of St. Luke with my 2005 confirmation and the next patron saint in my life, St. Maximilian Kolbe.

I was at St. Aloysius grade school in Shepherdsville, KY, having attended there since kindergarten, and low and behold, my first real taste of the media world was our humble 8<sup>th</sup> grade broadcasting program. What I was unaware of at the time was how very involved my new patron had been in the media world. St. Maximilian Kolbe was a martyr of the Church, having sacrificed himself for a stranger in the Nazi concentration camps. He began an international magazine that is still in operation today, providentially making him the patron saint of journalists. Of course, I didn't realize any of this until I got more involved in journalism myself. I was already entrenched in the yearbook staff of St. Francis DeSales High School in south central Louisville when I received my inspiration.

At this point, I had accepted that call from God to live out my Catholic Faith. I was learning firsthand how to broadcast my experiences with my classmates, but it wasn't so easy being in high school as I thought. My first big transition (other than kindergarten) made me realize how tough life really was, and to be honest, I began to notice how *selfish* people could be. DeSales was still a small community though, and I still felt comfortable standing out from my peers when it came time to ask those important life questions.

And it all started with the Church's teaching on sexuality and the call to LOVE! Considering I had felt or experienced it pretty consistently throughout my life, I felt a longing for that truth in a deeper sense than I had ever known it before. After attending the Ignite Your Torch Youth Conference in 2007, my burning passion that had been ignited with the St. Luke Fire was strengthened in a way I had never expected.

As I learned about the Theology of the Body (ToB) and the intense call to chastity, I knew I had to figure out a way to get that same glorious message to my peers. During the fall of my senior year, I did just that. For 12 weeks, I helped plan and coordinate the first ever ToB for Teens program in the Archdiocese of Louisville, and for those 12 weeks, over 50 teenagers showed up to every single session! We made the front page of the Catholic newspaper, *The Record*, and I had been interviewed on the Catholic radio station, WLCR, leading up to the first session. I was doing everything I felt called to do, and we experienced unprecedented success.

It was that same fall that I came across a book called *The Love Dare*, a 40 day devotional to strengthen your marriage, but since I wasn't married, I didn't give it much thought. For as ingrained as my journalistic approach to love had become, I couldn't see beyond my senior year of high school, and from there, I focused all of my energy into my first real publication, *The 2009 Yearling*. It was my first testament to all the love I had felt leading up to my high school graduation, and with my yearbook in hand, I felt ready to enter the *secular* media world for the first time.

I enrolled at Western Kentucky University, and when my parents walked into that elevator leaving me in Minton Hall, the full weight of the world hit me. I could do anything I wanted, and before I knew it, I actually was! I made the D1 baseball team on a lucky break that fall, and all year long, I experienced a side of the world I had never fully known. Sure, I had played baseball and participated in cub scouts and all kinds of things growing up, but I had a very small community mind set upon entering college. This time, the secular world was dominating much of my daily activities, and if it wasn't for the refuge I found at St. Thomas Aquinas that first weekend at WKU when we painted that TV Room, I believe I would have

given into the temptations of the world in a very detrimental way, but ultimately, it was not meant to be.

At the beginning of my sophomore year, I had experienced enough of that cut-throat and difficult lifestyle to know it was not what I really wanted. After getting cut from the team for not developing as they had hoped, I invested myself fully into the Catholic Campus Center community. Months passed full of ping pong games, Wii bowling, Bible studies and retreats. I stayed connected back home as much as I could as I learned the introductory courses of the broadcasting trade. I knew it had always been a part of my life, but after my high school yearbook experiences, I just couldn't bring myself to jump into things as quickly at WKU. My small world mentality kept me focused on the little things of life, and I felt content knowing I was doing what I loved with the people I loved most.

By the beginning of 2011, things had been set in motion that could not be reversed. A wild fire had started within me that I could not control. God had ignited my passion, built me up, and rooted me firmly in the Catholic Faith, and He was simply waiting for me to accept his life changing invitation.

## CHAPTER 3

### LETTING GO AND LETTING GOD: 2011's INVITATION

All the thoughts of my upbringing raced through my head during that difficult night that began my CE/T, but the journey I was undertaking was something far more than I could have imagined. My work on St. Thomas Aquinas' Jubilee Celebration was a direct result of what God had put so strongly on my heart since the fall of 2010. When I sat down at that meeting to help form WKU's pro-life group and when an anonymous donor sent me to the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. that following January, I knew things were starting to change. I had never experienced something so profound and large scale in all my life. When I got back home for the spring semester, I was more excited for the future than ever before, and it continued through that summer.

Of course, before I could take the biggest leap of faith in my life up to that point, and before I could even explain what that international leap was, I had to let go of the little things in my life that were keeping me from fully embracing it all. As simple as it will seem though in retrospect, and as I will explain soon, I had to internalize everything at the same time during that providential summer of 2011.

As I mentioned earlier, I was cut from WKU's baseball team, and since then, I had not been able to fully let go of the concept of ending my career. My dad had coached me and my brother all of our lives, and each summer since high school, we had signed up for the Louisville Men's League, which coincidentally allowed my dad not only to coach, but to

*play* with us as well. That last summer was the last summer he officially coached us on the field, and though we were horrible and could barely scrape together nine guys to play an official game, the season made for one of the most emotional closing chapters of my life.

It wasn't just baseball ending though that made me realize my childhood life was passing away. The last *Harry Potter* movie was released in theatres, the third *Toy Story* movie came out (ending another chapter), and my pet bird since 7<sup>th</sup> grade was killed and eaten by a raccoon one night at the beginning of July. Like I said, it sounds ridiculous to think I would be worried or truly upset about any of these events in the scope of what has taken place in my life recently, and I laugh about it all now, but these things made me aware of my own existence in very concrete terms. I admit I cried when my bird Fred died, and I even asked off work early to bury his remaining feathers with his favorite toys. Even then, I knew what I was really crying about was not Fred. I was losing my childhood with every turn of that summer, and the emotional pain was beyond anything I had experienced.

At the same time though, I was still excited about the future in ways I couldn't understand. I was casting aside my former life in very tangible ways, and my induction into the Angelic Warfare Confraternity (AWC) was that first big step. An official group of prayer warriors of the Catholic Church, the AWC is dedicated to courageously living out the daily lifestyle of chastity so as to instill a culture of love and life among all people ([www.angelicwarfare.org](http://www.angelicwarfare.org)). Based on my recent experiences in the pro-life movement and the heartache of my childhood losses, taking a stand for love was the first time I had fully embraced who I had desired so strongly to be in high school. It's no surprise then that my first trip across the world (as well as in an airplane at all) was scheduled just a month later.

It all began with a five dollar bill the previous fall. Just as my childhood community support had strengthened me to take those big steps to attend college, they were there even

more profoundly as I worked my way toward World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. Because Mary Reding had put the price tag at \$2,500, I simply could not believe I could raise that money. Yet, after our new campus minister coaxed me into trusting God enough to at least try, I put the last \$5 I had in my wallet into the collection basket and watched it grow into \$4,500 throughout the course of that providential year.

Knowing full well that I had a responsibility to *report* my experience to the community that loved me enough to send me there, I borrowed my first video camera from my uncle and scripted out the first production I had ever attempted. Then, on August 14, 2011, the Feast Day of St. Maximilian Kolbe, I found myself in foreign lands for the first time to journalistically experience all that God had given me. While I came away with over 10 hours of footage, from video of Pope Benedict XVI to the *two million* people who attended, I had no idea what I was going to do with what I had just witnessed.

Upon my return, I knew I would never be the same, and I was right. After recovering from that intense experience, I began to reflect over all that had taken place, knowing how important it would be to live out my faith in my daily life from there on out. But I was a journalist too, and through reflection came a unique desire to share, and thus, the divinely inspired project of St. Thomas Aquinas' upcoming Jubilee was too much for me to pass up. When January 2012 arrived, the words of the Divine Mercy ushered in an epiphany that made me realize why all this backstory mattered at all. From that point forward, I was completely in the hands of my Savior. On that night, I could do nothing else but simply say, "Jesus, I trust in You."

## CHAPTER 4

### INTERNALIZING THE TITLE: 40 DAYS FOR LOVE

When I first chose the title in mid-November of 2011, I couldn't know how meaningful it would become as I experienced each moment of my CE/T. My first order of business then was to secure the most essential piece of equipment for my daily use. Low and behold, Stephen Guelda, my best friend all of my life, agreed to put \$1000 toward the newest model of the AVCHD Sony Handycam, complete with 64 gb of memory, built-in GPS tracking system, manual adjustments, and complete digital interface. It was a dream come true, and it was a far cry from the 10 hours of TAPE I had to deal with upon getting home from World Youth Day just a few months earlier. So I was set to begin the biggest project I had ever undertaken, and all that had to happen next was for the semester to begin. At least, that's what I *thought* had to happen.

What I wasn't ready for is what I've been connected to throughout this entire story. It is exactly why I had no choice but to take a personal approach from the very beginning of this project. Like I said, that undeniable call from God to discern my vocation put my entire life into question. I was seriously contemplating the priesthood as I began recording the footage of my favorite community. Perhaps most providential of all was how very involved I was in the first big event to be documented. As president of the Hilltoppers for Life, my attendance at the National March for Life for the second year in a row became very meaningful very quickly. In fact, it became the focus on my documentation.

David Bereit is the National Director of 40 Days for Life, the activist organization dedicated to leading peaceful prayer campaigns in front of abortion clinics and other public locations. The organization works to give hope and healing to families going through crisis pregnancies. When he began his “Turn the Tide in 2012” opening speech at the Students for Life of America (SFLA) National Conference (See Appendix D), I felt something powerful in the air. I just didn’t know how personal that would actually become throughout the year. On the eve of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual March for Life, we were actually there to witness the “beginning of the 40<sup>th</sup> year of legal abortion in America”, since the 1973 Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade. Inspiringly, David was telling us to *do something* in our individual communities that would make a difference in the world. So based on the intense epic scales I had been exposed to over the past year, I decided to take his words to heart.

Returning home, I immediately got involved with the spring semester activities. First on the agenda was St. Thomas Aquinas’ Feast Day party! The following week, we had a Superbowl Party, and the week after that? It was Valentine’s Day. And after that, and after that, and after that, we were doing something big every single weekend of the semester. I was filming things like crazy, and as I look back on it all, I’m actually pretty happy I did because I would have never come away with such great footage otherwise. So, that’s the first big lesson I learned in filming; I just didn’t worry about how much footage I got because I thought I could always edit it *down*. It just might take me longer than I had originally planned, something I would also have to re-evaluate later.

As the semester progressed, I was experiencing a lot of heartache with what I felt God was asking me to do. I knew I had to discern my own vocation throughout the midst of this intense project, and Fr. Mike Williams gave me the spiritual direction I needed all year long. But I think it was that first 40 days after my initial call to discernment that got my



attention the most. Just as with David Bereit and the 40 Days for LIFE campaign, God had shown me a complementary idea that *could* become just as big, something we call the 40 Days for LOVE. Literally, 40 days after struggling with such confusion surrounding my vocation, of struggling with my own relationship problems (I was in a six year relationship at the time), Bishop William Medley of the Diocese of Owensboro asked me if I had ever considered the priesthood! Lent had just started, a natural time for reflection, and well, I had to admit that yes, I had actually thought of that. I was just blown away that he had asked me after I had spent so much time focusing on what it meant to actually love someone else. Now, I would have to give it all up? It just seemed absurd to think about it, but God was working on me, and He wasn't finished yet.

On Easter Sunday, I received a text message from my cousin asking me if I had ever considered the priesthood! Through spiritual direction, I came to realize that a third time was simply too much for me to ignore, and by that summer, despite the best "RMS Titanic Ball" at St. Thomas Aquinas (with me filming the whole time), I went through my biggest transformation of all. As I began to let go of home and my small mindedness entirely, I had to experience that last big change, the moment when Hannah and I broke up for good. All summer long, I was numb to the experience, and despite my internship with Fr. Josh McCarty of Lolek Productions in Bowling Green, I just couldn't focus fully on anything. I got involved in too many things (see Appendix E), and to be cliché, my head was in the clouds. Fr. Josh gave me plenty to work with as well, showing me an international zeal for this line of work that I had never understood before. I disappointed him a great number of times, and I still feel somewhat guilty for my lack of focus during that summer. Upon returning from my second international expedition (see Appendix F), this time to Guatemala (also on the Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe), I felt I had changed for the better. When Fr.

Mike greeted me with that first session of spiritual direction and a ring he deemed symbolic of the Prodigal Son, well, I knew I had to get back to work.

The first thing for the semester came in the form of a promotional video for St. Thomas Aquinas' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (see Appendix G), and since I was in charge of coordinating the Jubilee events themselves, I knew I had to be careful in my documentation. Going back to the concept of the "Life Report," I still had to remain ethical and professional, regardless of my involvement in planning and orchestrating the events, despite my personal experiences and feelings. So, yes, I immediately recognized the serious conflict of interest in this project, and I did everything I could to transform my bias into something that would not take away from the actual content. My second lesson, then, was to be careful of my overall impact with each event.

Toward the end of September, I allowed myself to become immersed in the experience. When Fr. Mike Williams turned 50 years old, just a month before St. Thomas Aquinas celebrated its own Jubilee, I just had to forget about the project for a while. Giving him that toast in front of all his family and friends, I became a part of the five-day surprise celebration, and as I look back on it, I don't regret my involvement. At the same time though, I wish I had gotten better footage. I wish I had shot the video of the event in which I was simply too wrapped up to care. My third lesson, then, was to maintain my focus so that no truth of the events would be left unaided. It was at that point that the bulk of my interviews took place, allowing me to fall back into that journalistic role more concretely. Sam Oldenburg became my biggest help. I had known Sam since freshman year when we both lived in Minton Hall, and now that he was living at St. Thomas Aquinas as well, it was literally the perfect environment by which to work together in securing the interviews. I did have to go solo for about half of them, but I was able to take Sam's interview experience

(mine was much more limited) and apply it in future work with my later documentary subjects.

Then the moment of the Jubilee came. All the build-up was leading to the big weekend-long experience. My brother Matt and our friend George Batcheldor (both living in the house with me) designed the T-shirts for the event; I was tasked with delegating and coordinating the entertainment for the Catacombs and the Comedy Night. The Social and Alumni Relations Committees put on the best Tailgating weekend the Center has had in recent memory (possibly ever). Bishop Medley, himself, was here to celebrate this momentous occasion. Though the time capsule was my idea (from previous high school experience), Andy Austin put in perhaps the most work to get it ready for burial. Of course, I made sure the focus was on the people on stage or those in the spotlight. This really was a personal experience that forced me to hone in on my natural talent as best I could so as not to appear manipulative or inconsistent.

Yet, for all the hype of the weekend, it wasn't really about the weekend. My project was about the Catholic Campus Center as a whole, and when the moment passed, I began to understand one of the most powerful lessons of the entire experience...

## CHAPTER 5

### SILENCE BEGINS THE REFLECTION

The success for a community of love, especially one such as St. Thomas Aquinas, doesn't depend on the big moments and exciting events it plans or orchestrates. The people make those things happen, and it's the people and their faith in God with His abounding grace that make it all worth our time. As I began to delve into the footage that showed all of that, I first had to recognize how little time I actually had at the end of that fall semester to edit any of it down. Through Ami Carter's good advice, I took a hiatus on the experience to focus on passing my other classes. This lesson was about pacing, and if I didn't have the grace period of this spring, it could have been one of the hardest lessons I've ever learned.

Instead, I was given the chance to spend some quality time in reflection, and what better way to start the New Year than with a Silent Retreat at St. Thomas Aquinas itself. For four days, I did nothing but pray, and reflect and think about everything in my life that had led me to that point. The first night of 2013 was spent walking through WKU's campus, reliving the memories of my college education and life in general, and I have to say...it was quite a powerful beginning to the new year. For as much as I had accomplished in 2012, during the 40<sup>th</sup> year of legal abortion in America and for every 40 days in between, (the signs of discernment never stopped until the end) I had not taken time to appreciate *why* I was doing it all to begin with.

I got so caught up in the activism and commitments I so wanted to make happen that I forgot about that initial call from God at the beginning of the year! When I got home, I entered my footage really for the first time, and though I never admitted it to Ron DeMarse or anyone for that matter, it was the first time I reviewed almost anything I had recorded. The experience of that next film brought me to tears (see Appendix H). At the end of 2012, after the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, on November 15<sup>th</sup>, St. Thomas Aquinas began the first 40 Days for Love campaign, and I pray that it continues to grow across the country in the coming years. It first though had to be born and fostered on the local level, making the Center one of the most loving communities I have ever known. The campaign led us to a big moment on a big stage, and it confirmed everything that I've related here, for it was our third trip to the 40<sup>th</sup> March for Life and the SFLA National Conference that made me know deep down how much my trust in Jesus Christ had helped me through these last few months (see Appendix I).

It was our unprecedented and courageous stand for the *truth* during Life Week 2012 that began our journey to such a moment. When an art student vandalized our Cemetery of the Innocents on the last night of the week, drawing national attention overnight, we had to make a bold stand for LIFE, drawing us into the global debate in a powerful way. Yet nothing could have made me realize my own potential until I had to sit back down, fresh from winning Runner-up for Group of the Year at the largest pro-life conference in the world, to begin the arduous task of *editing* this piece into one coherent and journalistically rich documentary on the community that made it all happen. St. Thomas Aquinas made Hilltoppers for Life, and on the night of the vandalism in April of 2012 during our first big attempt at spreading the pro-life message to campus, our courage would be tested in ways we had never experienced. People came out of the woodwork to support us during that

crisis; from Habitat for Humanity to Pete Palumbo and the Fathers of Mercy to all those in between, they have remained a vital support base for the strength this place has found in the students who work here.

It goes back to my lack of focus though during my internship (that same lack of focus that may even seem to exist here in my reflection) that set me up for the completion of this project. It took me until January of 2013 (a full year after the beginning) before I finally entered my footage; yet, it would still be another two months before I would understand what it was going to take to actually make this happen. So I did exactly what I had to do. I *entered* my footage in March. I *lived* inside my computer and all of the memories that it held so that I could fully integrate myself and the experiences into one inspired piece.

That was the final lesson I took away from my CE/T. I spent days writing the script (see Appendices A & B) following the same journalistic procedure I had learned in BCOM265 with Professor LeTourneau. I made sure to follow Ms. Cherry's Law & Ethics advice on the values of ethical journalism (see Appendix C). After all, this was the most pro-active approach to broadcasting that I have ever undertaken. The amount of stand-ups and running around in the same outfit for weeks on end made me one of the most tired individuals on campus this year. I applied all of my broadcasting skills and acquired techniques into one long and comprehensive period of time. But I did it, and I can always say I did it. And I can say I did it for the right reasons...

## CHAPTER 6

### FINDING PEACE AND SIGNING OFF

So why should we care? What of the future? What has delving into the history behind this project shown us about the impact a loving community can have on the individuals who make it up? I pose the same questions, albeit slightly altered, that inspired the end of the documentary, (See Appendix J) not to be redundant, but to make sure this wasn't some crazy idea of mine, as things like this always seemed to be before. I have presented my unofficial Life Report, which coincidentally includes the experience of creating the official Life Report itself, as well as everything that inspired this new approach to broadcast journalism and video production.

From the St. Luke fire that ignited it all to the 40 Days for Love that resulted from the strength and refuge I found at St. Thomas Aquinas' Catholic Campus Center, I knew why I was doing what I was doing, and it seems so ridiculously simple. It's just seemed so unorthodox and unprofessional, and un-whatever you want to call it. Call me a hippie if you want, but then don't. Instead, really think about why we do anything we do. Look back to the beginning of your own life and try to understand why the call to LOVE is so important to live out in your daily life. Why are the topics of purity and chastity toward our sexuality such difficult concepts for people to respect and embody? Why are love and life so intricately connected? And then, why is it so horrible to want to share those personal experiences in a professional and ethical way? When did broadcasting get so professional

that it took the humanity out of its reporters? Fair and balanced reporting has become too cliché of Fox News to be a good enough reason for such restrictive standards.

Now, I am not saying it's necessary to have a segment about a reporter's personal life in a live broadcast. That's not it at all. It goes much deeper than that. As the times continue to change the face of mass communication, and as people become more globally connected with every release of the latest iPhone, it's not enough to simply report on what we see and hear from a neutral perspective. We have to *do something*, as David Bereit so eloquently put in January 2012, to change our community, to change our country, and with a whole lot of passion and prayer, to change the entire world in which we live...one broadcast at a time. As I begin my next journey in life to seek the peace of my vocation in all the things God has placed so heavily on my heart, especially before I could ever hope to live any of it out, I believe it's appropriate to sign off for one final time.

At Western Kentucky University, reporting from the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Campus Center, I'm John Sohl.

# # #



APPENDIX A

UNOFFICIAL RUNNING SCRIPT

Jesus, I Trust in You: St. Thomas Aquinas' Jubilee

A Broadcast-Style Documentary Script

John Sohl  
CE/T: Honors Thesis  
Begun on 10 February 2013

Jesus, I Trust in You: St. Thomas Aquinas' Jubilee

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**INTRO: Introduction & Musical Montage**

(Track #1)

(Stand-up #1)

WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR A  
COMMUNITY TO FLOURISH?  
WHAT ARE THE MOST  
IMPORTANT THINGS THAT A PLACE HAS  
TO OFFER PEOPLE THAT KEEP THEM  
COMING WEEK AFTER WEEK?  
HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED  
WHY SOME COMMUNITIES ARE  
THRIVING WHILE OTHERS CAN BARELY  
SEEM TO STAY AFLOAT? :15

GOOD DAY EVERYONE...MY  
NAME IS JOHN SOHL...A SENIOR AT  
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATING IN MAY OF 2013.

THE QUESTIONS I JUST POSED  
CAN ONLY BE ANSWERED OVER TIME.  
THAT'S WHY...WHEN A PLACE IS  
PREPARING TO CELEBRATE ITS  
HISTORY...IT SUDDENLY BECOMES  
VERY IMPORTANT TO KNOW AND  
APPRECIATE THE UPS AND DOWNS OF  
THE PAST. :20

(Track #2)

HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF A GIVEN  
COMMUNITY...SO THAT THEIR  
ATTENTION TO THE PAST CAN HELP  
PROPEL THEM EVEN MORE  
SUCCESSFULLY INTO THE FUTURE.

HERE, AT THE ST. THOMAS  
AQUINAS CATHOLIC CAMPUS CENTER AT  
WESTERN KENTUCKY  
UNIVERSITY...THOSE QUESTIONS WERE  
ANSWERED LAST YEAR. :20

(Stand-up #2)

SINCE THEN...MORE AND MORE  
PEOPLE HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES  
COMING TO WHAT MANY WOULD CALL  
A PLACE OF REFUGE...A COMMUNITY OF  
FAITH. FOR ME...I CAN SAY THE  
SAME...SINCE I LIVE RIGHT NEXT DOOR.

BUT WHAT I'M ABOUT TO  
PRESENT WILL NOT BE THROUGH MY  
PERSPECTIVE. :15

(Track #3)

RATHER...THROUGH THE  
TESTIMONY OF OTHERS...THROUGH  
THEIR GENUINE EXPERIENCES OF ST.  
THOMAS AQUINAS' 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
AND ALL THE YEARS BEFORE...IT IS MY

MANY WOULD ARGUE THAT A  
PROPER CELEBRATION IS VITAL TO THE

---

**PART ONE: Fr. Allard & the First 20 Years**

(Sound-bite #1)

(Track #4)

(Stand-up #3)

(Track #5)

HOPE TO UNEARTH THE ANSWER TO  
OUR MOST PRESSING QUESTION OF ALL.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE? :15

**MUSICAL MONTAGE** :30

**(2:00)**

(SB: Elizabeth Allard-Pottinger)

IN: I told Mike...I said, oh my...

*gosh! The Bishop wants to send Bill to Bowling  
Green to start a Newman Center! I said...oh  
those students will eat him up and chew him*

OUT: ...up and spit him out

:14

DESPITE HIS SISTER'S

APPREHENSION...FR. WILLIAM ALLARD

MADE QUITE A NAME FOR HIMSELF.

WITH THE FOUNDING OF W-K-U'S FIRST

REAL CATHOLIC PRESENCE...HE

INTRODUCED STUDENTS TO A VERY

NEW PHENOMENON IN AMERICA. :12

THE NEWMAN CENTER. IT WAS

THE 1960s, AND THE WORLD WAS GOING

THROUGH A CULTURAL REVOLUTION.

FOR FATHER ALLARD...THAT MEANT

ONLY ONE THING: HE HAD TO MEET

STUDENTS WHERE THEY WERE. :13

MARY ANN SABER LIVED MUCH

OF HER LIFE IN THE HOUSE RIGHT

NEXT DOOR. HER EXPERIENCE OF THE

CENTER WAS WHAT MANY STUDENTS

WOULD HAVE ENVIED. :09

(Sound-bite #2)

*a little bit in college, we danced...we ate, we played, we had our parties, everything, at the Newman Center, It was which house do I live*  
OUT: ...in, this one or that one?

:20

**(3:00)**

(Track #6)

BUT THE ONE TO WHICH SHE'S  
REFERRING IS NO LONGER HERE. FROM  
1962-1967...THE NEWMAN CENTER  
LOOKED VERY DIFFERENT. :08

(Sound-bite #3)

(SB: Mary Ann Saber)  
IN: It was a yellow brick...  
*house, a large house. It had an elevator  
in it, and all that*  
OUT: ...and Fr. Allard lived there. :10

(Track #7)

FOR AS DIFFICULT AS IT ALL MUST  
HAVE FELT FOR FR. ALLARD...THE  
**OUTSIDE** SUPPORT WAS VERY POSITIVE.  
IN FACT...MARY ANN'S OWN PARENTS  
BECAME SOME OF THE MOST  
INSTRUMENTAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
IN THE DAILY LIFE OF THE STUDENTS.

:13

(Sound-bite #4)

(SB: Mary Ann Saber)  
IN: The Monstrance that they used...  
*at Benediction was a gift from my  
father. My mother used to maintain the  
altar cloths by mending*  
OUT: ...them and laundering them. :13

(Stand-up #4)

(SB: Mary Ann Saber)  
IN: Being in high school and...

WITHIN JUST A FEW YEARS ...FR.  
ALLARD HAD LAID OUT PLANS TO

(Track #8)

ACCOMMODATE HIS GROWING  
POPULATION. BY THE END OF THAT  
FIRST DECADE...THE ESTABLISHMENT  
WAS COMPLETE AND ON OCTOBER 27,  
1968...THE SPACE WAS DEDICATED. :15

ELLEN MICHELLETTI WAS ONE OF  
THE FIRST STUDENTS TO EVER SET  
FOOT INSIDE THE NEW BUILDING.  
GROWING UP IN BOWLING GREEN...SHE  
SPENT FIVE YEARS ON THE  
HILL...GETTING VERY INVOLVED IN  
THE YOUNG COMMUNITY. :12

(Sound-bite #5)

**(4:37)**

(SB: Ellen Micheletti)

IN: There was sort of a...

*small core of people who enjoyed, you  
know, the different activities. You  
would have the same people at the  
movie nights; you would have the same  
people at the Monday*

OUT: ...discussions and so forth. :14

(Track #9)

THE CENTER QUICKLY EMERGED  
AS A POPULAR PLACE ON CAMPUS...AND  
FOR ONE MAN...IT WAS DOWNRIGHT  
LIFE CHANGING. :07

(Sound-bite #6)

(SB: Fr. Jerry Baker)

IN: I told him I was...

*interested in going to seminary and I  
told him I wasn't Catholic, so he  
laughed and he said well you should  
probably be Catholic first. At any rate,  
he began to*

OUT: ...give me instructions. :12

(Track #10)

FADE IN MUSIC

(Sound-bite #7)

(Sound-bite #8)

(Sound-bite #9)

(Sound-bite #10)

(Sound-bite #11)

(Sound-bite #12)

FADE TO BLACK, CUT MUSIC

THE STUDENTS BY NOW WERE  
BEGINNING TO SEE THE CENTER AS  
THEIR SECOND HOME. WHILE THEY ALL  
EVENTUALLY DID MOVE ON ...MANY OF  
THEM STILL RECALL FOND MEMORIES  
OF THE MAN WHO STARTED IT ALL.

:11

(5:17)

(SB: Ellen Micheletti)

IN: When he celebrated Mass...

*he celebrated it*

OUT: ...with the utmost reverence.

(SB: Connie Largon)

IN: Fr. Allard was so outgoing...

*and so kind, you gravitated*

OUT: ...to his personality.

(SB: Ellen Micheletti)

IN: But he had this big, booming...

*base voice, and he was a marvelous  
speaker. But he could*

OUT: ...not...sing...at...all.

:18

(SB: Connie Largon)

IN: You just felt closer...

*to Fr. Allard. You could*

OUT: ...talk to him more.

(SB: Fr. Jerry Baker)

IN: Fr. Allard was quite a...

*profound influence in my life. I  
went to the seminary 9 months  
after I became Catholic, and he  
wrote to me every week for the next 8 years*

OUT: ...while I was in the seminary.

:14

(SB: Elizabeth Pottinger)

IN: He just didn't judge people...

*by their faith. He was just so proud of  
being a Catholic, but that wasn't the  
main thing. It was knowing God,  
learning how to love Him*

OUT: ...and do His work.

:15

(6:22)

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**PART TWO: Transition & Routine**

(Stand-up #5)

(Track #11)

(Sound-bite #13)

(Sound-bite #14)

WITH FR. ALLARD'S EXIT CAME A MUCH MORE ROUTINE APPROACH TO THE NEWMAN CENTER. THE NEW PASTORS MORE OR LESS ADAPTED THE NORMALCY OF WHAT STUDENTS HAD COME TO EXPECT...GIVING THE BULK OF THE SERVICE WORK TO THE ADULTS.

:14

IN FACT...AS THE STUDENTS CAME AND WENT...ONLY THOSE **LIVING** IN BOWLING GREEN WERE ABLE TO GRASP THE FULL SIGNIFICANCE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING. OVER TIME, THE CENTER BEGAN TO LOOK MORE AND MORE LIKE A LOCAL PARISH.

:12

(SB: Bill Powell)

IN: You gotta have a priest with...  
*a personality that relates to the kids  
because that's what it's all about!  
They've all been good at the Newman  
Center, we haven't had a priest*

OUT: ...we didn't like there.

(SB: Joey Powell)

IN: We've had various people...  
*who have come in, sometimes we had  
just the priest doing so much work.  
They got what students to help them  
when they can with activities outside of  
Mass, but they were following someone  
else rather than taking the leadership*

OUT: ...roles that so many of them are now.

:29



(Stand-up #6)

BILL AND JOEY POWELL HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1969. BILL POWELL WAS THE COACH OF THE W-K-U MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMTEAM UNTIL 2005.

HIS NAME RESIDES ON THE BILL POWELL NATATORIUM HERE IN THE PRESTON FITNESS CENTER.

JOEY POWELL WAS PRINCIPAL AT ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR 20 YEARS.

TOGETHER, THEY HAVE PERHAPS ONE OF THE FULLEST PERSPECTIVES OF WHAT COMMUNITY LIFE HAS BEEN LIKE AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS THROUGH THE DECADES. :29

(Sound-bite #15)

(SB: Joey Powell)

IN: So many people have said...

*even coming back to different things as alumni, how much they remember watching our kids grow up. Cuz, there they were the four of them. Of course, now we're into*

OUT: ...our third generation. :13

(Track #13)

THOSE FIRST TWO GENERATIONS OF CATHOLIC COLLEGE STUDENTS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AS ACTIVE IN CHURCH AS TODAY...BUT THE COMMUNITY WAS STILL VERY BUSY WITH THE SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENT OF THE AGE. :11

(Stand-up #7)

**FADE UNDER MUSICAL B-ROLL**

(Sound-bite #16)

WELCOME TO THE CATACOMBS...  
NOT YOUR UNDERGROUND CEMETERY  
AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT. NO, BACK IN ITS  
HEY-DAY...IT WAS ONE OF **THE** SPOTS  
TO BE ON WESTERN'S CAMPUS.

TODAY...IT'S BECOME A PLACE  
FOR THE REGULARS...COMPLETE WITH  
PING-PONG TABLE AND A LIVING ROOM  
SETTING.

RECENTLY...IT'S SERVED AS A  
GAME ROOM, AN AREA FOR GROUP  
DISCUSSION, AND PERHAPS MOST  
APPROPRIATELY TO ITS NAME...A  
HAUNTED HOUSE.

BUT BACK THEN...IT WAS  
SOMETHING QUITE A BIT DIFFERENT.

AS THEY MIGHT HAVE CALLED IT:  
IT WAS **FAR OUT** OF THIS WORLD. :30

**(8:40)**

B-ROLL (Catacombs)  
GFX: Adam Keyser :42

(SB: Joey Powell)

IN: That used to be a...

*a pretty wild place in the 70s, lot of  
things going on there, lots of students in  
there with various...it was like open*

OUT: ...mic nights pretty much. :11

(Sound-bite #17)

(Sound-bite #18)

(Sound-bite #19)

(Stand-up #8)

**FADE TO BLACK**

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**PART THREE: 2000s & the 50-Year Shift**

(Stand-up #9)

(SB: Bryan Baysinger)  
IN: What always impressed me...  
*was the amount of talent*  
OUT: ...that was in here. :07

B-ROLL (Catacombs) :10

(SB: Ellen Micheletti)  
IN: I guess you would've called...  
*them the Hippies because that's what*  
OUT: ...it tended to attract. :07

(SB: Bryan Baysinger)  
IN: People would come with their...  
*guitars or sometimes people would have other instruments and you could get together. Obviously it's not a huge room so it was a very intimate setting. And you just sit at these tables, and the stage is still here and you listen to these performers. What an amazing theatre to just try something out, you know in front of an audience of anywhere for sometimes it would be 20, sometimes*  
OUT: ...it would be 50 or 60. :26

B-ROLL (Catacombs) :15

THOSE 50 OR 60 PEOPLE GOT THE  
CATACOMBS PRETTY PACKED...BUT IT  
MADE FOR SOME VERY SPIRITED AND  
MEMORABLE MOMENTS. :07

B-ROLL (Catacombs) :14

---

**(10:58)**

BY THE EARLY YEARS OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup>  
CENTURY...THE WINDS OF CHANGE  
SEEMED TO BE COMING TO W-K-U.  
TECHNOLOGY WAS IMPROVING  
RAPIDLY...AND THE NEWMAN CENTER  
HAD TO ADAPT.

IT WAS DURING THESE YEARS  
THAT THE MOST OBVIOUS CHANGE  
TOOK PLACE. :13

(Sound-bite #20)

(SB: Joey Powell)

IN: We just referred to it as...

*the Newman Center because most colleges  
have a Newman Center. It became the  
Catholic Campus Center under Fr. Darryl.*

*So Fr. Mike has been with us for three  
years. Fr. Darryl was with us for 11 years.*

*So you can go back 14 years, and it was*

OUT: ...sometime within that timeframe.

:25

(Stand-up #10)

AS SIMPLE AS CHANGING THE  
NAME WOULD SEEM THOUGH...MANY  
SAY IT HAS MADE THIS PLACE ITS OWN.

AS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE  
ARCHITECTURAL AND MANUFACTURING  
SCIENCES DEPARTMENT...DR. BRYAN  
REKA HAS BEEN A PART OF THE  
COMMUNITY SINCE 2003. SPONSORING  
MANY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS ALONG  
THE WAY...REKA (AS HE HAS  
AFFECTIONATELY BEEN CALLED) HAS  
MADE QUITE A BIG IMPACT ON STUDENT  
LIFE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. :24

(Sound-bite #21)

(SB: Bryan Reaka)

IN: To go along with what...

*the Church is going through is the initiative  
that Pope John Paul II started with the  
World Youth Day drive and the focus  
towards youth, and getting them involved  
and getting them excited about their faith.*

*And I see that here at the Catholic Campus*

*Center, where, with programming and understanding. Whether it's Catholicism 101 or whether it's a Bible Study, or whether it's RCLA, and new people*  
OUT: ...trying to learn about the faith.

:29

**(12:30)**

(Stand-up #11)

WHEN FR. DARRYL VENTERS  
BEGAN HIS MINISTRY AT ST. THOMAS  
AQUINAS...THAT DRIVE TOWARD THE  
YOUTH HAD JUST REACHED A TIPPING  
POINT. IT WAS DURING THESE EARLY  
YEARS THAT STUDENT LEADERSHIP  
BEGAN TO INCREASE ON A VERY  
NOTICEABLE LEVEL.

:13

(Sound-bite #22)

(SB: Hank Fuerst)

IN: I volunteered as a lector...

*during Mass, and so there were different meetings and things that we had to come to for that at the beginning of every semester. Whether it was learning the craft or whether it was training*

OUT: ...new people for that. :15

(Stand-up #12)

HANK FUERST WAS A STUDENT  
AT W-K-U FROM 2005 TO 2009...WHEN HE  
EVENTUALLY BECAME THE BROADCAST  
AND MEDIA RELATIONS MANAGER FOR  
THE BOWLING GREEN HOTRODS.

HE EXPERIENCED THE CATHOLIC  
CAMPUS CENTER RIGHT WHEN THINGS  
WERE TAKING OFF.

BY THE TIME FR. MIKE WILLIAMS  
ARRIVED ON THE SCENE...IN THE FALL  
OF 2009...THE STUDENTS WERE READY  
FOR THAT NEXT BIG STEP. :21

**(13:21)**

(Sound-bite #23)

(SB: Fr. Mike Williams)

IN: As the Director & Chaplain...

*of the campus center here at Western, what has  
been really exciting for me to witness is the*

OUT: ...emergence of student leadership.

:13

(Sound-bite #24)

(SB: Bryan Reaka)

IN: When you give students...

*the opportunity or encourage them to go into  
a leadership position, then it is, just that it*

OUT: ...is an ownership.

:11

(Sound-bite #25)

(SB: Mary Reding)

IN: That ownership slides to...

*the students and I think the more ownership  
they have of this place, the more they will  
enjoy it, the more*

OUT: ...people will come here.

:07

(Sound-bite #26)

(SB: Fr. Mike Williams)

IN: I feel like my responsibility...

*here is to train leaders to leave college and go  
home to their parishes and be good leaders,  
to be good*

OUT: ...Catholic men and women.

:10

(Sound-bite #27)

(SB: Bill Powell)

IN: Right at this time...

*what I'm seeing is the students are probably  
more active than they've ever been in the  
Newman Center. I think in any of the 43  
years that we've been here. I really, I see  
more students engaged in things*

OUT: ...than there's ever been.

:14

(Sound-bite #28)

(SB: Bryan Reaka)

IN: They are leading, and...

*when the students lead, then they develop  
ideas that wouldn't necessarily be thought of  
by people who are twice*

OUT: ...their age or more.

:13

(Sound-bite #29)

(SB: Mary Reding)  
IN: The more they feel this place...  
*belongs to them, the more Life will come*  
OUT: ...from the things that we do.

:07

(14:36)

(Stand-up #13)

THAT LIFE AT THE CATHOLIC  
CAMPUS CENTER HAS TAKEN 50 YEARS  
TO DEVELOP...AND STUDENTS ARE  
OWNING THIS PLACE LIKE NEVER  
BEFORE. SCOTT BURCH IS A SENIOR  
GRADUATING IN DECEMBER OF  
2013...HAVING SERVED ON THE  
LEADERSHIP TEAM SINCE HIS  
FRESHMAN YEAR.

:12

(Sound-bite #30)

(SB: Scott Burch)  
IN: When I came here in...  
*the Fall of 2009, it was generally just on a  
come in here on a regular basis, but after  
Father and Mary had talked about it for a  
long time, they had decided that we need to  
have a stronger connection with each other,  
not just with the people that are here that we  
see all the time. We really need to dig deep  
and find out more about those people. So  
with the institution of men's and women's  
group, it has been phenomenal. I've seen so  
many people come around more. I mean we  
started out with probably 20-30 people, and*  
OUT: ...it's already up to 70+ people.

:30

(Sound-bite #31)

(SB: Fr. Mike Williams)  
IN: That is probably the glue...  
*that holds this place together, the catalyst for  
so many of the other positive things that are  
happening at this place, is that these  
individuals heard the invitation, responded  
to the invitation because they have a need to  
talk, a need to be heard, a need to share, a  
need to be supported*

OUT: ...and to support each other. :26

(Sound-bite #32)

(SB: Scott Burch)

IN: And I've told people about...

*that and they thought it was just so strong and so enduring that I could set aside time and really just talk with people about things that are really a problem to me or things at the basis of my life. Sometimes we sit here and we can't talk to people about those things. Society tells us that we shouldn't do that or that we shouldn't talk about this or that, but this group has*

OUT: ...broke down those barriers.

:21

**(16:08)**

(Stand-up #14)

THOSE BARRIERS CAME DOWN IN  
A VERY POWERFUL WAY.

AT THE BEGINNING OF  
2012...THE SMALL COMMUNITIES HAD  
GROWN STRONG ENOUGH TO PUT ON  
SOME VERY SUCCESSFUL EVENTS.

FROM ST. THOMAS AQUINAS'  
FEAST DAY IN JANUARY TO THE TEAM  
BUILDING SPRING RETREAT AT GASPER  
RIVER AT THE END OF MARCH...

TO THE RMS TITANIC BALL IN  
APRIL AND THE HILLTOPPERS FOR  
LIFE'S CEMETERY OF THE INNOCENTS  
THAT GAVE THEM NATIONAL  
RECOGNITION...

TO A CASINO NIGHT LED BY THE  
WOMEN'S GROUPS THAT HAD THE MEN

**CONSTANT B-ROLL**



**FADE UP MUSIC**

(Stand-up #15)

DECKED OUT IN THEIR FINEST  
APPAREL...

TO FR. MIKE'S 50<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY  
BRINGING THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY  
WORKING OVERTIME TO SURPRISE HIM  
TWICE OVER...

AND FINALLY...TO ST. THOMAS  
AQUINAS' JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS  
DURING HOMECOMING OF LAST  
OCTOBER...COMPLETE WITH A  
REVITALIZED CATACOMBS CAFÉ...A  
COMEDY NIGHT...MASS LED BY BISHOP  
WILLIAM MEDLEY...AND THE BURIAL OF  
A 25 YEAR TIME CAPSULE...SET TO BE  
OPENED IN OCTOBER OF 20-37...

THE CATHOLIC CAMPUS CENTER  
HAD FOUND ITS PLACE IN BOWLING  
GREEN, KENTUCKY.

BUT WHY SHOULD WE CARE?  
WHAT OF THE FUTURE? WHAT HAS  
STUDYING THIS HISTORY SHOWN US OF  
THE IMPACT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HAS  
HAD IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO  
WALKED ITS HALLS?

THE ANSWER IS SIMPLER THAN  
YOU MIGHT EXPECT.

AS WE CELEBRATE THE NEXT 50  
YEARS IN THE CENTERS' WORK...IT CAN  
ALL BE TRACED BACK TO THE  
BEGINNING...TO WHAT MANY WOULD  
DESCRIBE AS THAT INITIAL CALL FROM  
GOD TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US.

:25

(Sound-bite #33)

(17:42)

(SB: Fr. Mike Williams)

IN: This is the only free...

*standing, totally dedicated to campus  
ministry...campus center in the state of  
Kentucky. That makes*

OUT: ...this place very different. :21

(Sound-bite #34)

(SB: Mary Reding)

IN: I think the more people...

*you have here, the more you are, you know,  
moving forward, the more that, in 15 and  
20 and 50 years, people can look back and  
say I really was a part of this community. I  
really belonged here, and it shaped the way*

OUT: ...that I live my faith. :21

(Sound-bite #35)

(SB: Bryan Reaka)

IN: It's you, the young people...

*the students that are at WKU that come  
here and make a difference, that's what  
makes it strong, and that's what will*

OUT: ...continue to make it strong. :21

(Sound-bite #36)

(SB: Hank Fuerst)

IN: The Newman Center here...

*on campus is such an important part of  
students at Western Kentucky University,  
Catholic or non Catholic. Obviously, one of  
the aspects of the Catholic Church*

OUT: ...is being universal. :21

(Sound-bite #37)

(SB: Mary Ann Saber)

IN: It's difficult I think...

*for students today, to separate out what*

OUT: ...they really learned. :21

(Sound-bite #38)

(Sound-bite #39)

(Sound-bite #40)

(Sound-bite #41)

(Sound-bite #42)

(Sound-bite #43)

(Sound-bite #44)

**CUT TO BLACK**

**FADE UP FP FGX**

(SB: Bryan Baysinger)

IN: The greatest learning experience...  
*in college is...not in the classroom. It's  
outside of the classroom.*

OUT: ...Always will be. :21

(SB: Ellen Micheletti)

IN: Simply showing your faith...  
*out in public is something that we didn't do*

OUT: ...that needs to be done. :21

(SB: Fr. Jerry Baker)

IN: That has affected me for...

*30 years, and I'm sure that the Newman  
Center still does the same today. The  
experience that many of you are having at  
the Newman Center today, you'll take with  
you for the*

OUT: ...rest of your life. :21

(SB: Joey Powell)

IN: It's so heartwarming...

*to see the activity, to see what the students  
are doing. The students are doing all of the*

OUT: ...ministries and it's so grand! :21

(SB: Scott Burch)

IN: I feel the future of...

*St. Thomas Aquinas is very bright. It's not  
just the priest or the pastor whose in control  
of the center.*

OUT: ...It's the students. :21

(SB: Fr. Mike Williams)

IN: All are welcome here...

*and when they get here, when strangers come  
in or when somebody brings a friend with  
them, I think they*

OUT: ...always feel welcomed. :21

(SB: Bryan Reaka)

IN: The LOVE that you put...

*in every nail that you drive into a board.  
You know, the caring that you put into a  
meal for someone you've never seen before.  
You cook a meal here at the Catholic  
Campus Center and feed 30 people, 50  
people, never know how many's gonna show*

OUT: ...up, but...it's LOVE! :21

FP GFX: "To Love is to give Life."

-Fr. William Allard :08

## APPENDIX B

### GENERAL NOTES AND INFORMATION

#### Time Stamps

00:00-01:32	INTRO SCRIPT
01:32-02:02	Musical Montage
02:02-06:25	1960s-1970s (First 20 years)
06:25-10:58	1980s-2000s (Transition&Routine)
10:58-16:30	PRESENT DAY (The Shift)
16:30-20:00	THE JUBILEE YEAR, 2012
20:00-22:00	CONCLUSION (The Future)

#### Past Chaplains

Fr. Bill Allard 1962-1984 (22 years)  
Fr. Thomas O'Connor 1984-1985  
Fr. Philip Waters 1985-1988???  
Fr. Raymond Goetz 1988-1994???  
Fr. John Little 1994-1998???  
Fr. Darryl Venters 1998-2009 (11 years)  
Fr. Mike Williams 2009-Present

#### General Outline

- Intro, Fr. Allard & the First 20 years
  - o (Ellen, Mary Ann, Fr. Baker, Mrs. Pottinger, Powells)
- Transition, Memories, Routine Stuff
  - o (Bill & Joey Powell, Connie, Bryan B.)
- 2000s & the Shift, Current Affairs
  - o (Mary Reding, Fr. Mike, Bryan, Hank, Scott)
- The Future, Connections to the Past

#### INTERVIEWEES

Elizabeth & Mike  
Pottinger  
Mary Ann Saber  
- Neighbor  
Bill & Joey Powell  
- Neighbors  
Connie Largon  
- Neighbor

Ellen Michelletti  
- c/o 1974  
Fr. Jerry Baker  
- Convert  
Mary Reding  
- Campus Minister  
Fr. Mike Williams  
- Chaplain

Hank Fuerst  
- c/o 2005  
Scott Burch  
- c/o 2013  
Dr. Bryan Reaka  
- Associate Professor  
Bryan Baysinger  
- c/o 1993

**EXTRA SECTION – Possible**

SO WHAT EXACTLY DID THIS PLACE DO TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS?  
THE COMMUNITY HAS SEEN ITS UPS AND DOWNS THROUGH THE  
DECADES...AND TODAY...SO MANY HAVE SAID HOW ACTIVE THE  
STUDENTS HAVE BECOME.

LET’S TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT TOOK PLACE THROUGH THOSE ALL  
IMPORTANT MONTHS OF 2012...SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS’ JUBILEE.

**Brief Shot List**

2:37-:41-:44	First Catholic Presence		New Phenomenon
2:50-:53-:57	The 1960’s Cultural Revolution		Fr. Allard
2:57-3:01-:05	Mary Ann Saber		Her Experience
3:13-:20-:26	Dance Parties		Which House?
3:26-:30-:36	No Longer Here		Looked Different
3:39-:45-:51	Large House & Elevator		Difficulty & Support
3:51-:57-4:03	Mary Ann’s Parents		Monstrance & Altar Cloths
4:15-:19-:22	Establishment Complete		October 27, 1968
4:26-:30-:36	Ellen Micheletti		5 Years of Involvement
4:44-:49-:56	Movie Nights & Discussions		Fr. Jerry Baker
5:07-:11-:18	Second Home		Memories of the Man

AFTER SUCH A SUCCESSFUL BEGINNING TO THE JUBILEE YEAR AT ST. THOMAS  
AQUINAS...THE STUDENTS WERE READY TO CELEBRATE IN A VERY BIG WAY. STARTING WITH FR.  
MIKE’S 50<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY...THE FULL COMMUNITY CAME OUT TO SURPRISE HIM...INCLUDING HIS  
ENTIRE FAMILY.

BUT IT WAS OCTOBER THAT MADE THE YEAR WHAT IT WAS FOR THE CENTER...FROM A  
REVITALIZED CATACOMBS CAFÉ TO A COMEDY NIGHT IN THE CHAPEL AFTER THE HOMECOMING  
GAME...TO BISHOP WILLIAM MEDLEY’S BLESSING DURING MASS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON...AND  
FINALLY...TO THE BURIAL OF A 25 YEAR TIME CAPSULE...SET TO BE OPENED IN OCTOBER OF 20-  
37...THE CATHOLIC CAMPUS CENTER HAD FOUND ITS PLACE IN BOWLING GREEN, KY.

## APPENDIX C

### ETHICAL NEWS VALUES

- Ethics – values intended to reflect the philosophic tensions inherent in a profession with a commitment to truth
- Accuracy – use correct facts
  - o Using the right words, presenting material in context
  - o Being aware of your own biases
  - o Including those inherent as social class, gender, ethnicity, or professional norms
  - o Not framing stories before they're pursued
- Dignity – leaving subject of a story self-respect
  - o Values each person regardless of the particular story or not
  - o Allows journalists to recognize that news gathering is a cooperative enterprise where each person plays a role: including editors, videographers, designers, and advertising
- Reciprocity – treating others as you wish to be treated
  - o Too often journalistic enterprise is defined as writing for lowest common denominator
  - o Dummy it up for the masses; Journalists, viewers and listeners, readers are partners in a journey of discovery in what is important to a story and gleaning information
- Sufficiency – allocating adequate resources to important issues
  - o On the individual front, it means thoroughness in fact finding missions
    - Not settling for less than all the facts
    - Not getting lazy in the pursuit of information
    - Not letting norms dictate story pursuits
  - o Organizational Resources means giving news operations the financial backing and administrative support necessary to pursue stories without a change purse mentality

- Community – value for social cohesion
  - o Journalists are citizens of the community in which they serve
  - o Media outlets are more than profit centers for bringing home the ad dollar
  - o People in the community look to the media for guidance and information
  - o Evaluate story ideas with an eye for the social good
- Diversity – covering all segments of the audience fairly and accurately

## APPENDICES D – I

### LINKS TO OTHER PERTINENT VIDEOS

Appendix D: “Turn the Tide in 2012” – David Bereit

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wgz0xFzIgtA&feature=youtu.be>

Appendix E: “KCSC Promo 2012”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-a6BVzP7zA>

Appendix F: “Made for Love: Behind the Scenes”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jIbipr0KPfo&feature=youtu.be>

Appendix G: “St. Thomas Aquinas – Celebrating 50 Years”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ACBXQQAtxM>

Appendix H: “40 Days for Love – Explained”

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=M3v1pUBYOAs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=M3v1pUBYOAs)

Appendix I: “HFL Runner-up for Group of the Year”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zP1F5dBkQJA&feature=youtu.be>