I suspect many of us might react much like the prophet Isaiah, who related how he personally responded to the calling he received from God. His initial reaction was one of unworthiness and humility: “I am a man of unclean lips.” In other words, Isaiah is saying, “I cannot serve you God for I am a sinner.” However, when the Lord calls someone, that call is accompanied by the strength and presence of God to allow that sinner, including all of us who are sinners as well, to carry out the Lord’s will. God tells Isaiah, “Your wickedness is removed; your sin purged.” Isaiah responds in the same way we are expected to answer: “Here I am Lord; send me.” Are we prepared in our humility and knowledge of our own weaknesses to take a similar risk, to trust in God?

We can “Share The Gift” each and every day in how we engage with all those we come in contact with. You can also share the gift by supporting all the ministries funded through CSA that help proclaim Christ. When you combine your gift of treasure with personal demonstration, you become the presence of Christ to others.

Lord, hear our prayer as we seek to be good stewards of the many gifts You have bestowed on us.

Give us wisdom to discern Your will for us, strength to meet the challenge, and the grace to be steadfast in our commitment to You.

Let us use our time, talent, and treasure for Your greater honor and glory.

In Your name we pray.

Amen.
Faith Formation

I have truly been blessed to be able to help accompany men who have been touched by Jesus and are considering following him as lifelong disciples. In our broken world, many students come to college without the knowledge or understanding that our Lord loves them for who they are. One example of the way we share the Gospel in our community is through our Missionary Corps, which consists of a team of student leaders who seek to be known and loved - firstly by God and then one another - and that seek to know and love others in return. One of these leaders, Alyssa, joined CSU as a freshman, and in encountering our community, came to know the Lord more deeply. She puts it this way: “I’ve encountered the Gospel personally, which brings a desire to share the Good News. I think the simplest and most impactful way to share the hope and joy of the Gospel is by living the people around me - family, friends, classmates and strangers - and recognizing that they are all made in the image and likeness of God.” As Alyssa shares her faith with her fellow students, they come to know Christ. In turn, they share their faith with others, which embodies Paul’s words in 2 Timothy 2:2, “And what you heard from me through many witnesses, entrust to faithful people who will have the ability to teach others as well.”

Br. Parker Jordon
CSU Director for FSU & TCC

Marriage & Family Life

During each diocesan marriage preparation retreat day, we take 45 minutes to read and meditate on the wedding feast at Cana passage from John’s Gospel. After slowly reading through the text and writing their reflections, couples are asked to share what struck them. I am continually edified by couples who talk about how they can envision Christ being part of their future marriage in the same way that he was present to the couple in the Gospel, providing for them right at the center of their relationship. It is a privilege to see the Holy Spirit inspiring them and moving in their lives.

Chez Filippini
Director of Marriage & Family Life

Permanent Diaconate

“I once joy of being involved with the men discerning a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate is watching them grow and mature in their faith, their marriages and love for the Church. They share this growth primarily through the pastoral assignments of the formation program. It is exciting to witness them sharing these gifts from faith that they have received.”

Very Rev. Joseph Callipare
Diaconate Formation