



SETON TEACHING
FELLOWS

Cohort 11

Proudly introducing the Fellows who will serve with us this year.

56

FELLOWS

FROM

47

UNIVERSITIES

WITH

50

DIFFERENT
MAJORS

FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Multiple Fellows

ICON KEY:



2nd Year Fellow



Mission Trip



Student Leader



Honor Student



FOCUS Student

Alyssa Chavez
Farmington, NM

Grand Canyon University
Early Childhood Education



Why did you become a Fellow?

Over the summer in 2023, as I was praying in Mass, the Lord put on my heart the word 'mission.' Through prayer and reflection, I realized that it was a desire of my heart that I wanted to be able to serve and do more for others and especially for the Lord.



Jacie Lussetto
Bridgeport, NE

Chadron State University
Education K-8



In what ways are you hoping to serve this year?

I have always loved working with children and helping them to learn more about their faith, not just in "head" knowledge but in coming to know and love our Lord. I have been blessed with the opportunity to student teach in a Catholic school setting, and it has allowed me to see the importance of a good Catholic Education for our children. However, not everyone has access to a Catholic education whether it be because of location or finances. I want to allow students to have a whole education consisting of both mind and soul regardless of where or what they come from. The future of our church is in our youth and we must pour into them that they may lead and guide our church.



Lauren Witt
Hinsdale, IL

Wellesley College
Economics



Why did you become a Fellow?

My existing love for learning within and beyond the classroom was the avenue by which God drew me towards exploring my faith more deeply and uncovering the riches of the Catholic tradition. I feel strongly that He is calling me now to return that gift as a teacher to those of His precious children who need it most.



Sara Freund
Dubuque, IA

University of Dallas
English



Why did you become a Fellow?

My own faith has often been impacted most substantially by the witness and care of teachers, mentors, and other figures throughout my life. One such mentor once described the spiritual life to me as a constant breathing in and breathing out: the formation, spiritual gifts, and grace one receives, or "breathes in", are then offered back, or "breathed out" through service and love for God and the people he asks us to care for. The opportunity through STF to cultivate the seed of faith in someone is like no other, and accompanying one another spiritually is a great gift.



Kate Dittmer
Jackson, MO

Southeast Missouri State
Early Childhood Education



Why did you become a Fellow?

At the Seton Teaching Fellows SEEK booth I took four prayer cards bearing the images and prayer intentions of the "little disciples," and to Eucharistic adoration. As I prayed for each student and their sweet intentions, I wondered, "Could I teach students just like these?" I have felt the Lord inviting me to answer that question and the call to love and serve in a unique way.

Madison Ashe
Cincinnati, OH

University of Cincinnati
Design, Architecture, Art, and
Planning (DAAP)



Why did you become a Fellow?

I want to teach children that Jesus is in every subject, and that we can praise and honor Him, and learn from him in all areas of life. I am excited to get to know these children and their unique personalities and stories. Children always amaze me with how much they can learn, and how much they can love, and I am excited to create a space for them to do so.

Maria Reecer
Fort Wayne, IN

University of Indiana
Spanish



Why did you become a Fellow?

I feel very called to give the next few years of my life to the Lord by participating in mission and service. I love children and love teaching, and I believe this organization combines a lot of my passions into one opportunity to love. I am very passionate about my Catholic faith and recognize this as a place that the Lord would use to work in my heart.



Alyssa Schrage
Chattanooga, TN

University of Tennessee-Chattanooga
Elementary Education and ESL



Why did you become a Fellow?

St. John Paul II said, "Dear young people, Let yourselves be taken over by the light of Christ and spread that light wherever you are." This quote has resonated with me as I have endured the trials of university, the joy of spreading the Gospel on campus, and encountering Christ in the people around me in the last four years. Seton Teaching Fellows gives me an opportunity to share my experiences with others, to help children encounter Christ, and to spread Christ's message of the Gospel as St. John Paul II encouraged young people to do so.



Daniela Ochoa
Warsaw, IN



Marian University
Studio Art

Why did you become a Fellow?

My yes to STF is what God wants me to do; which is to love the people in front of me. Being on mission with STF is learning how to be in a new place, with new people, entering into discomfort, but still maintaining the mission of loving those in front of me.

Madeline Davis
New Braunfels, TX



Christendom College
Classics and Early Christian Studies

Why did you become a Fellow?

Devotion to the fullness of the Truth is the passion of my life, and getting to share that through Catholic education is a prime opportunity to use the talents and formation God has blessed me with. Getting to participate in a mission that seeks to bring that to those who might not otherwise have access particularly appeals to my desire to spread the light of Christ everywhere.

Michael Pecha
Irving, TX



University of Dallas
Biochemistry

Why did you become a Fellow?

It is the mission of every Christian to go out and preach the Good News. In order to do this, God gives a diverse array of talents, skills, and interests. I believe God has given me a love and desire to teach others. We are all called to be holy and to help others be holy. I believe that through serving as a Seton Teaching Fellow, God will work through me to help spread the Good News to others.

Paula Gallegos
Cedar Hill, TX



Texas A&M
Neuroscience

Why did you become a Fellow?

I feel called to participate in the mission of the New Evangelization by serving as a Seton Teaching Fellow because I have recently entered the fullness of being a practicing Catholic, and over these past two years, I have found profound joy and growth, especially in serving others. In connecting with my identity of a child of God, I have found such depth and humility in conversing and helping children. Though it is challenging at times, I feel fulfilled knowing that I care way more about someone's eternity and am actively driving conversations and actions to acknowledge and praise His good news. This fellowship presents another great avenue to complete such tasks and nurture further growth, peace, and joy for myself as well.

Spencer Favaloro
Baton Rouge, LA

Louisiana State University
Mathematics



Why did you become a Fellow?

I grew up in a family of educators but in college I had the experience to really grow in my faith in a vibrant community. My rich experience with community life really inspired me to want to share the faith with others and continue living in a community of like-minded individuals.

Tomas Cruz
Monmouth Junction, NJ

Rutgers University
Political Science



Why did you become a Fellow?

No matter the background that a student may have, they deserve to know that God is far more than a grammatical object in a sentence they hear from people around them. He wants become the Lord of their life, and to properly Father them. It is our privilege and duty to co-labor with our Lord so this joy would come into the world.



Elizabeth Murphy
Hilton Head Island, SC

Clemson
English



Why did you become a Fellow?

I am passionate about the work that teachers do in the formation of upcoming generations. I believe that being a teacher is about more than just getting information across, but it is about being a role model and fostering a safe place where students feel they can make mistakes, learn, and thrive.



Emma Shappard
Roswell, GA

Georgia College and State University
Elementary Education



Why did you become a Fellow?

I feel called to participate in the New Evangelization by serving as a Seton Teaching Fellow in order to love the other. The other being the person in front of me as well as the other being Christ. Being an elementary education major, I have come to know my vocation is to love the children in my classroom. My heart is drawn toward undeserved communities and wanting to give them Christ's love. I have a desire to teach the Catholic faith, to be with the poor, and to live in Catholic community.





Joseph Dubruiel
Birmingham, AL

Auburn University
Economics



Why did you become a Fellow?

Seeing children learn new things and seeing their eyes light up when they finally figure something out, is one of the coolest things to see. I am excited to be able to share the things I have learned in school and in life with my students.



Joshua Navos
Federal Way, WA

Franciscan University of Steubenville
Philosophy and Theology



Why did you become a Fellow?

I have a strong belief that every child has the ability to achieve their goals and dreams. I believe every child is a gift from God, and I seek to serve these disciples by offering them my gifts in the form of education.





Margaret Potter
Downers Grove, IL

Hillsdale College
English



Why did you become a Fellow?

I know from my own life what a difference having a faith-filled community and faith-filled outlook on life makes, and I want to share the hope and joy that comes from knowing Christ with others.



Amy Hawersaat
Twinsburg, OH

Benedictine College
Criminology, Philosophy



Why did you become a Fellow?

I have for a long time felt the desire in my heart to give myself away by serving others intentionally after graduation. In college, I received so much and was very focused on my own development, but now I feel that the Lord is calling me to empty myself and seek a place where I can use my gifts for His greater glory. This is exactly what I see in the opportunity of being a Seton Teaching Fellow. In my own life and education, I have encountered the profound influence that teachers have on one's perspective of the world and God. I was lucky to have wonderful and faithful exemplars throughout my education, and I would love the opportunity to follow in their footsteps and learn how to teach others about the love of Christ and the beauty of creation.





BRILLA CARITAS
Elementary School



William Ulmer
Brighton, MI

University of St. Thomas - Minnesota
Philosophy and Catholic Studies



Why did you become a Fellow?

Service with Seton Teaching Fellows offers the opportunity to devote myself to others and gather knowledge both about myself and about what the Church needs.



**“Christ has no body on earth now
but yours.**

No hands, no feet but yours.”

St. Teresa of Avila



Carly Tombo
Birmingham, AL

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Chemistry



Why did you become a Fellow?

I want to spread the faith and the gospel to children who do not have readily available access to a catholic education. It is so important for children to have an early understanding of the faith because it sets a firm foundation for future challenges.



Mariana Gomez
Broadview Heights, OH

Franciscan University of Steubenville
Classics & Philosophy



Why did you become a Fellow?

I feel called to venture further into my love of working with kids by living a life that is completely dedicating to serving them and helping them grow in their love of the Lord and realize that He is real and loves them so individually. I believe that by serving in this way, sharing the gifts that I have been giving, and living in a spirit of docility to the will of God, I can answer the call of participating in the Mission of the New Evangelization.





Natasha Castro

Garfield, NJ



New York University
Early Childhood and Special Education

Why did you become a Fellow?

In living out my faith, I feel that my calling is to teach not only academic skills, but also to spread the Gospel and the message of Jesus's love.

Noah Mead-O'Brien

Ann Arbor, MI



University of Michigan
Political Science

Why did you become a Fellow?

Ever since I got to college, I've believed that the most important single issue of our day is education. How we choose to educate (or not) the youth of today is directly reflected in how tomorrow will play out. We have a responsibility to be thoughtful in how we do that, and I think the ability to participate in that process in an authentically Catholic environment is something that reaps great rewards, on earth and in heaven, for all those involved. I feel the Lord has placed education on my heart perhaps not as a mission of a lifetime, but still as a mission in which I should partake - and serving with STF is the best way I can think of to faithfully answer that call.



Omar Kabbani
Walnut Creek, CA

University of California, Berkley
Latin and Greek



Why did you become a Fellow?

This is a call and challenge to teach and serve the underserved. For me it's about having a open heart, like the invitation to my conversion to the faith, saying yes to STF was a gentle assent. I experienced a lot of consolation from my faith that I'm called to imitate Christ the Teacher.



Therese Armstrong
League City, TX

Texas A&M - Corpus Christi
Elementary Education



Why did you become a Fellow?

I have always had a desire to teach and to be with kids. I began thinking about missionary teaching. I saw a glimpse of my life; I saw myself working with kids and sharing my faith with them. I think God has placed it on my heart and equipped me with the gifts to share His love with His children, and I believe being a fellow would allow me the opportunity to live out this calling.





Annamaria Bleyer
Little River, SC

University of Alabama
Interdisciplinary Studies



Why did you become a Fellow?

I became a Seton Teaching Fellow because I believe I am being called to serve by bringing young children closer to God.



Caroline Irwin
Cave Springs, AR

University of Oklahoma
Music Education



Why did you become a Fellow?

I said yes to Seton Teaching Fellow because I believe I am being called to serve others. I have realized that I desire to help people encounter God and aid in bringing them closer to Him, especially younger children. I think it is very important for people to experience God's love at as young of an age as possible because we were all made to have God at the center of our lives.





Evan Swanson

Eau Claire, WI

University of St. Thomas - Minnesota
Philosophy



Why did you become a Fellow?

I was shadowing a religious brother who would go to different classrooms and teach a religion lesson in different K-8 classrooms. The immense amount of joy this brother displayed while being in the classroom inspired me to want to pursue a career in education. I wanted the opportunity to create that experience for other students as well! I desire to share the joy I have with my students.

George Miller Flagg

Bedford, VA

Christendom
History



Why did you become a Fellow?

I love that the STF program is mission-based but also education-based. I have never done service in both mission and education at the same time. The STF mission is personal and it is centered around connecting with the community. As an STF, I have the opportunity to give my time, which is one of the most precious things you can give to someone.



Julia Lindell

Forest Lake, MN



University of St. Thomas - Minnesota

Elec. Engineering, Catholic Studies, Physics,
Supply Chain Management

Why did you become a Fellow?

I want to be a witness to the love of Christ and especially to how He is present to us in every moment through all things. For me, education has been a place of encounter with God because God is Truth. Each fact I learn or theory that I come to comprehend all points back to a Creator who has made this world as a gift for us to delight in and ultimately is a revelation of Himself. In serving as a Seton Teaching Fellow, it is my sincere desire that I could help my students realize the ways they are being pursued in love by God through what they are learning and in fact to be a model of Christ's love to them as their teacher.

Maggie Sayers

Englewood, CO



Colorado State University

Political Science and Political Communications

Why did you become a Fellow?

I got to serve with the Servidoras in Suriname and it was a really moving experience. I learned what it takes to be a faithful teacher. In education, you never know what the day will bring! I experienced delight and love each day; I hope to bring that to my students.



Peter Zabinski

Isanti, MN



University of St. Thomas - Minnesota
Philosophy and Catholic Studies

Why did you become a Fellow?

If the New Evangelization is about sharing the fullness and beauty of a life lived in and with Christ, then these two aspects of that life are something I hope to communicate to others.

Rebecca Delcambre

New Iberia, LA



University of Louisiana Lafayette
Psychology

Why did you become a Fellow?

Becoming a Seton Teaching Fellow presents a wonderful opportunity for me to share the Gospel message while nurturing and educating my students. I strongly believe I have a calling to share the gifts and faith that I have received. I desire to give back from the abundance of love and support I have experienced by instilling Christian values in the children with whom I would get to work. My goal is to guide and empower students to embrace the Good, the True, and the Beautiful in their everyday interactions.

Cecilia Alvarez
Thousand Oaks, CA



Thomas Aquinas College
Liberal Arts

Why did you become a Fellow?

I don't think one person can change the world, but I do think it's possible to change the world for one person. When I heard about Seton Teaching Fellows, I realized it could enable me to do just that. I desire to take the amazing gifts I have been given and pass them on to someone else.

Gabriel Sharon
Natick, MA



Ave Maria
Philosophy/Classics

Why did you become a Fellow?

Because I know the need, and I desire to love people in a way that affirms their goodness in Christ, I desire to be a missionary for children. I would have benefited from having a space to learn and ask questions about my faith after school, and I want to help bring that to others. I also desire to pour myself out onto others. I understand that missionary work is about pouring yourself out onto others for the love of Christ, because it is only by imitating Jesus on the Cross that we can make the salvation He won for us a reality for others.

Jacob Frazier

Gadsden, AL



University of Alabama at Birmingham
English Literature and Philosophy

Why did you become a Fellow?

I believe that STF will help prepare me for the rest of my life, as both an eventual father who loves and mentors his children and as a strong leader in my community who is constantly encouraging the future generation, and an educator who understands how to teach with love and conviction. Simply, I want to follow Christ and give this time to serving God's children.

Kassidy Neuner

Jefferson City, MO



Benedictine College
French and Political Science

Why did you become a Fellow?

Everyone remembers their favorite teacher their entire life. With the short time that I had teaching children over the summers with my local parish, I knew that I wanted to provide a bigger service to the children of God. I was very fortunate in my life, and I believe that I am called to use that fortune to help and serve others. Children deserve to be given every chance possible to prosper in this life and the next.

**Kateri Grace
Shimansky**
Gorham, ME



Loyola University - New Orleans
Environmental Science

Why did you become a Fellow?

I believe that the STF mission would allow me to be able to pour into people. I love that I have the opportunity to witness seeing kids grow throughout a whole year and be a consistent mentor to them!

Katie Brandenburg
Basehor, KS



Benedictine College
Psychology

Why did you become a Fellow?

I have a very strong desire to work with children, especially those in underserved situations. I believe these children deserve individuals who will show up to serve them, and I hope that this year they can encounter the Lord "showing up" in their lives as well.

Troy Lasley
Champaign, IL



Western Kentucky University
Architectural Sciences

Why did you become a Fellow?

I feel within me a desire to give of myself and what I have to offer through service in a teaching setting. In my discernment, there has been what feels like an inexplicable passion or fire for teaching. In my prayer, I have reason to believe and conviction of a yearning for the potential call to serve--to love--those in need and desiring to be taught. This time has felt like an invitation from Our Lord to give of myself in this way; an opportunity to actively participate in being a light of Christ, reflecting His graces, His love and mercy to those around me. It excites me and feeds into this presumed and longing passion to not only teach and serve, but also to be very much a part of a communal group desiring to do the same.

“Beautiful is the moment in which we understand that we are no more than an instrument of God...”

St. Oscar Romero



Axel Gomez
Kansas City, MO



Benedictine College
Theology

Why did you become a Fellow?

I feel called by God to educate and walk with students in their state of life. These students and their families need to hear the Gospel and I believe that I can teach them how to be happy in this life and of the world to come.

Clare Kittilstved
Spokane, WA



University of Mary
Human Support Services
Special Education and Psychology

In what ways are you hoping to serve this year?

I feel called to participate in this community as a Seton Teaching Fellow because I am passionate about serving others and giving of myself, especially to young students in their most formative years. I also feel called to be a model of Christian and Catholic joy to others, in each and every aspect of my teaching responsibilities, from lesson planning, curriculum instruction and management, classroom management, and daily prayer.



Grace Meyer

Delaware, OH

Bowling Green State University
English



Why did you become a Fellow?

When I finally came to understand who Jesus truly is and how much He loves me, I found myself to be very blessed with friends and adult leaders who helped me to learn more about the Catholic faith. Their guidance has not only made me a better Catholic but also a better person, friend, and student. I want to be a Fellow because I believe that children should know that Jesus desires to have a relationship with us.



Kristel Peralta

Henderson, NV

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Psychology



Why did you become a Fellow?

As someone who reverted back to the Faith during college, I wanted to find a community of strong Catholics and orient myself more to being a follower of Christ. I feel called to this mission not only for the community that I seek but also for the students I hope to meet in the future. I believe that my experience with working with children, drive to provide for others, and passion for sharing the impact of Christ in my life will bring enrichment to Seton Teaching Fellows.





Lydia Zimmerman
Stacy, MN



University of Mary
Psychology

Why did you become a Fellow?

I feel called to serve as a Seaton Teaching Fellow because I am incredibly passionate about sharing the Gospel especially with the youngest of learners. Being able to work with kids and assist at a school really excites me!

Margaret Edozie
Richmond, TX



University of St. Thomas - Houston
Biochemistry

Why did you become a Fellow?

In Matthew chapter 10 verse 8, Jesus sends his disciples out to preach the Gospel, reminding them of how they are to serve with these words: "Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give". I have always been convicted by these words of Our Lord in the sense that from a very young age, I recognized how immensely gratuitous God's love was for me, and I wanted to respond to His invitation to share this with others. I feel moved by a desire to serve God and to love His people in a totally radical way. Ultimately, I already know that I want to live my life by the words of Matthew 10:8, and I desire to ignite the lives of other young people in the same way that I have been inspired from my youth.



BRILLA VERITAS
Elementary School



Michael Katreeb
Brentwood, CA

Christendom
Theology



Why did you become a Fellow?

I feel called to participate in the New Evangelization by serving as a Seton Teaching Fellow because I love Our Lord and I love teaching his children about Him.

**“Let your chief study
be to acquaint yourself with God
because there is nothing greater than God...
it is the only knowledge which
can fill the heart with a peace and joy,
which nothing can disturb.”**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



Cristina Salas Prado
Lathrop, CA



Sacramento State University
Child and Adolescent Development

Why did you become a Fellow?

I feel called to serve as a Seton Teaching Fellow because I want to be part of the mission that inspires faith in a child and be someone I did not have growing up. A person in love with the Catholic faith, a passion for teaching and building community.

Jacob Manthey
Suffolk, VA



James Madison University
Social Work

Why did you become a Fellow?

"Christ has no Body on earth now but yours, no Hands, no Feet but yours..." St Teresa of Avila. There is an incredible need for steady presence in young kids' lives. Steady presence set apart in its dedication to unconditionally show up and show out for minds which are so hungry for authentic care and stability. To set up kids for success in their demeanor as well as in their future ahead of them. I am driven by this image of Christ-like love.



Max Daley
Oak Park, IL



University of Washington
Oceanography

Why did you become a Fellow?

I feel a strong sense of purpose because of the blessings in my own life as well as the numerous references in Scripture about aiding others. I firmly believe in the principle that "to whom much is given, much is expected," and I sense that Christ is urging me to stop worrying about my earthly concerns and focus on alleviating the suffering of others instead of solely dwelling on myself.

Robert Nussman
Harrison, OH



Marian University
Mechanical Engineering and Philosophy

Why did you become a Fellow?

I feel called to a Seton Teaching Fellowship because it offers me the chance to explore and develop a professional role of teacher within the New Evangelization. Ultimately, I sense Christ's call to imitate Him as teacher and Seton Teaching Fellows offers me a chance to live this out while developing skills necessary for a career in modern education.



Serenity Salser

Kingsland, GA



Georgia Southern University
Music Education & Music Performance

Why did you become a Fellow?

Through Seton Teaching Fellows I have the opportunity to continue growing as a teacher but also as a missionary to young children. I not only grow in my faith, but I have the beautiful opportunity to plant the seeds in the generation that needs it the most.

Veronica (Ronnie) Suarez

Prior Lake, MN



University of Wisconsin - Madison
English Literature

Why did you become a Fellow?

I have a passion for working with kids and helping them to know of their own "belovedness". Each child is a gift; not for where they came from, or for what they can do, but for who they are. The last couple of summers, I have served as a camp counselor at a vibrant Catholic summer camp in Wisconsin, and I have discovered a love and deep passion for sharing the heart of Christ with children and helping them to realize and truly believe in their real capacity to become saints for Jesus and to love as He did.



BRILLA VERITAS
Middle School



Zena Wronka
Livonia, NY

St. Bonaventure University
Philosophy & International Studies



Why did you become a Fellow?

I feel drawn to this opportunity to uniquely engage my faith in my work, and to concretize my belief into action. This union of the temporal world with the divine can be found in the image of Christ, the Word incarnate. I want to serve people, build community, and find God. I want my work to be purposeful, and the mission of the Seton Teaching Fellows program perfectly captures this intention.



“Wonder is the desire of knowledge.”

St. Thomas Aquinas