

## URI CATHOLIC CENTER NEWS



### SEEK 2017 RECAP

I have written in the past about the SEEK conference that was held in San Antonio in January. A large number of our students participated. I wanted to give a few of those participants the opportunity to express their own excitement about all that happened at that conference. I'm sure that their experiences—and all those from URI who were with them—will bear fruit for our ministry here at the university. The participants in that conference will take the opportunity at our Rhody Catholic Event this coming Wednesday to share their experiences with their peers, but I wanted to include some of their written thoughts here.

One student wrote:

*"SEEK was a life changing experience for me. During the five days that we were in San Antonio, Texas we did so many amazing things. The biggest thing that I took away from SEEK were the talks. To me, these talks were perfect. I felt as though each talk was specific to me, like the speaker knew every thought I had and was telling me exactly what I needed to hear in order to keep growing deeper in my faith and to help me find the peace that I was searching for. I feel as though it was God's plan to have me hear what each speaker had to say. Going into SEEK I tried to have no expectations, but I was hoping to grow deeper in my faith, and to draw closer to the Lord. SEEK went above and beyond my expectations. With so many great talks, from such outstanding people, it was nearly impossible not to grow deeper in my faith. One thing I came to realize is that the Lord is always with us, no matter what we are going through, or how we feel, so we are never truly alone. Finally, what I was not expecting, but was lucky enough to receive, were the amazing friendships I developed with the students and missionaries from the URI Catholic Center. If I had not gone to SEEK I would not have gotten to know those around me, and coming back to school would have been nearly impossible. I am so grateful for the time that I had at SEEK and I cannot wait to go back in two years!"*



Another wrote:

*"During January I attended the SEEK conference in San Antonio, Texas with 19 other students from URI. Going into this conference, I did not really know many of the students I was going with or what to expect besides all the excitement flying around the Catholic Center each day leading up to it. I tried not to get my hopes up but, of course, I could not wait for the day to come when I stepped out onto the ground in the center of San Antonio, Texas along with over 13,000 students from all over the country. As a freshmen here at URI, I am always looking forward to meeting new people but little did I know I would grow closer to the people that surrounded me each day. I was also very excited to grow in my faith and draw closer to God in a way I have never experienced before. Through SEEK I was able to gain new perspectives and it has only made me more excited to see where I can go from here."*

Continue to pray that all our students learned and experienced at the conference will help them in reaching out to their peers here on campus. The start of our new semester is certainly marked by a surge in energy and excitement for our mission! Thank you for your prayerful support and your encouragement! **-Fr. Joe**

**REMINDER: There is no 8PM Mass tonight. Spread the word!**