



SETON TEACHING  
FELLOWS

# Cohort 12

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

## FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY



### ICON KEY:



2nd Year Fellow



Mission Trip



Student Leader



Honor Student



FOCUS Student



**Carolyn Bonar**  
Hillsdale, MI



**Hillsdale College**  
Chemistry

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I am drawn to living in community that is oriented towards serving and evangelization. I want to radically serve God and His children by teaching and showing His love and goodness in their lives, but I also realize the need to be supported and formed while doing mission work, especially work that is teaching oriented. Seton Teaching Fellows provides opportunities for spiritual and professional formation that I would benefit from greatly.

**Chloe Abo**  
Township, NJ



**Villanova University**  
Mathematics & Spanish Studies

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I would be able to serve children by nourishing their relationship with the Lord. This is paramount in communities that are overlooked by society because there is a real craving for connection. I feel that this hunger is sated first through a relationship with the Lord since He teaches us how to love through the Trinity. When this spiritual need is met, I believe that students can bear great fruit with each other in the classroom and in their communities.



**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.



**Skye Simmons**  
Tulsa, OK

**The University of Tulsa**  
Anthropology



**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I hope to inspire children to be the change they want to be in their lives and in their families. The mission of Seton Teaching Fellows to bring quality Catholic education through the love of Jesus Christ the Teacher gives me hope that I can make a difference in the world. It is because of many great teachers, mentors, and now amazing friends that I was able to overcome the difficulties of my childhood. I now have the chance to return the love that was poured out for me as a Seton Teaching Fellow.



**Sarah Whippo**  
Culver, IN



**Purdue University**  
Cellular Biology

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I love the opportunity to not only distill the faith to people and to meet them where they are at, on their faith journey, but also to serve them with all of the struggles of coming into the Church. The chance to walk alongside a person when they are standing for truth in the midst of struggles that come with conversion is a blessing. Within this opportunity for catechesis, I see the need for better moral teaching for Catholic children, not only to understand their faith, but also to defend it.

**Natividad Cahill**  
Beaver, PA



**Franciscan University of Steubenville**  
Education

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I have a deep passion for teaching and a strong desire to serve others by sharing Christ's love with all students. I am seeking a position in an environment that fosters a mission-driven atmosphere, where I can integrate my Catholic faith into my work. My Catholic faith is a central part of my life, and I am looking for an opportunity to be part of a community of like-minded young adult Catholics who share similar values.

**Kristine Sellona**  
Chula Vista, CA



**California Baptist University**  
Chemical Engineering

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

At my core, my vocation is to be a teacher and a missionary. I find the most joy teaching and serving those in need. I see the Face of Christ so vividly in those who suffer and I desire to be with them and journey with them.



**LidaMarie Frezza**  
Wintersville, OH



**St. Vincent College**  
Education

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

My personal faith journey has continuously led me back to looking deeper into the fellows to experience teaching in a faith-centered environment. Within the realm of teaching today, there are not many faith-centered environments unless you work in a Catholic school. Showing love for Christ as a constant, no matter what type of school you are in, is something I want to strive for and grow in.



**Derek Dougherty**  
Ledgewood, NJ



**Ohio State Univeristy**  
Finance

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

The Lord has placed on my heart the desire to dedicate a year of my life to serve Him in underserved communities. Serving others, especially the marginalized, has always been a deep passion of mine. I feel close to God through His children and have a strong love for them. I want to share the gospel and help children grow closer to God. My experience serving kids at summer camp has inspired me to share the Catholic faith with children, and I believe this role would further develop my ability to do so.

**George Williamson**  
Costa Mesa, CA



**California State University- Fullertin**  
History

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I want to be a Seton Teaching Fellow because I want to be involved in the Church's mission of evangelization. Catechesis of our youth is an important aspect of this. It is the job of this generation to catechize and evangelize the next generation.

## Bert White

Bryan, TX



## Texas A&M University

Biology

### Why did you become a Fellow?

Evangelization can come in many forms, from leading a Bible study to inviting students to play hacky sack after Mass. The variety of ways there are to spread the Gospel is something that really excites me! Seton Teaching Fellows are in a position to encounter children and families in a very direct and intentional way. In addition to serving as role models for these kids, the fellows are given the special opportunity to teach the kids about God's amazing creation. There is so much potential to spread God's Love through teaching!

## Adriana Pimentel

Palmdale, CA



## University of California, Irvine

Biology

### Why did you become a Fellow?

I want to be able to spread the faith to young children in areas that could shape a big portion of their everyday lives. The education setting is a place where children have opportunities to establish foundational skills such as reading, writing, math, and moral values, and including a faith-based education in Christ can develop a foundation for their future as they shape their relationship with Jesus Christ. In a world where so many things are changing and being added to the education system, it is important to incorporate the best resources for all students, especially in more underserved neighborhoods where certain educational resources and programs are not readily available.

**Roseanne Figueroa**  
Napa, CA

**Grand Canyon University**  
Psychology



**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I feel called to participate in the mission of Catholic Education because I am passionate about spreading the love of Jesus to others. Recently I have been praying about what to do after graduation and God has placed on my heart the call to serve others by spreading the Gospel.



**Viviana Gonzales**  
San Antonio, TX

**St. Mary's University**  
Theology



**Why did you become a Fellow?**

Working with disadvantaged families, I've witnessed the transformative power of Catholic education in helping children grow in faith and empowering them to serve their communities. As a Seton Teaching Fellow, I will continue to foster both academic and spiritual development in students, inspiring them to make a positive impact.





**Althea Gay**  
Lincoln, NE



**University of Nebraska Lincoln**  
Elementary Education

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

While at FOCUS Summer Projects in Georgia, I learned about STF and the mission, and was very moved by Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and her story. I spent the rest of that summer thinking about how I couldn't see a future where I am not working with children in some capacity. When I returned to school that fall, I changed my major to Elementary Education. There is something here that makes my heart leap with a call to action; I want to love the children you all serve and see them as Christ sees them.

**Maureen Kulda**  
Steubenville, OH



**Franciscan University of Steubenville**  
Philosophy

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I feel called to serve those who are less fortunate by building relationships, loving selflessly, and having an impact on the young lives of others to build character and instill hope for the future.



**Brilla Pax  
Elementary School**



**Joseph Yoritomo**  
Montgomery Village, MD

**Benedictine College**  
Art Education



**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I feel called to participate in the mission of Catholic education because I studied Education in college. I also am a practicing Catholic and would enjoy teaching in a school where I don't need to hide that part of my identity.



**Isaiah Brackman**  
Hudson, NY

**Franciscan University of Steubenville**  
Philosophy



**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I would do meaningful and challenging work that serves others and builds up the kingdom of God, and teaching it is something I both enjoy and desire to improve at.





**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.



**Persis Johansen**  
Nacogdoches, TX



**Thomas More College of the Liberal Arts**  
Liberal Arts

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

Two years ago, I spent a summer traveling to parishes and teaching with Totus Tuus. The camaraderie that resulted from living, planning, and praying with my teammates was truly a blessing for my spiritual life and a strong motivator as we worked. The mission of Seton Teaching Fellows seems to be in the same vein, but even more vigorous, and I would love to deep-dive into my Faith with action; I've experienced one side as the student and I am eager to now share what I've learned in an academic, communal environment.





Brilla Pax



**Kevin Bec**  
Gainesville, FL

Santa Fe College  
Engineering



**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I believe that God has given me a talent for teaching and that Seton is here offering the right opportunity to use that talent.

**“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**

**Veronica  
Domyslawski**  
Newtown, PA



**University of Pittsburgh**  
Natural Sciences & Spanish

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I have the opportunity to educate children in the classroom about things like science and math, but I can also instruct them in prayer and instill in them the knowledge of God's love and mercy. I would like to pass on to young children the same love of knowledge and education that was fostered in me by my teachers as well as the security that they are chosen and loved by God who desires good for them and wants them to succeed.

**Troy Lasley**  
Champaign, Illinois



**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 call to serve--to love--those in need and who desire 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.



**Mark Akert**  
Chesterton, IN

University of Northwestern- St Paul  
Politics, History & Economics



**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I have felt a call to education for quite some time after participating in the teaching portion of a Vacation Bible School and absolutely loving connecting with the students. I also want to live in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church, and I believe being a Seton Teaching Fellow would be an amazing opportunity to combine the two.

**Benjamin Hodgkin**  
Orono, Maine

University of Maine  
Secondary Education



**Why did you become a Fellow?**

The mission is what I've been doing, and want to keep doing. With prior teaching experience, I'm always looking for a way to spread the Gospel and bear witness to Christ for children who might fall away like I did, because they just don't know what it looks like to pick up your cross and joyfully follow the Lord and to have a relationship with Him. He is everything.





Brilla Pax  
Middle School



Cristy  
Mercado-Ezquer  
Frisco, TX



Franciscan University of Steubenville  
Theology, Catechetics & Evangelization

#### Why did you become a Fellow?

I feel called to participate in the mission of Catholic Education because I am passionate about handing on the Catholic faith to those who are surrounded by it but do not know it. I strive to bridge the gap between hearing about Christ and having an intimate relationship with Him. I want to be His hands and feet, facilitating encounters with the ultimate Teacher through love and humility.



“Beautiful is the moment in which we  
understand that we are no more ”

**than an instrument of God... ”**

**St. Oscar Romero**



## Luke Vautour

Columbus, Ohio



## Franciscan University of Steubenville

Humanities & Catholic Culture

### Why did you become a Fellow?

I desire to serve God and His Church, especially those who are most in need, and to do so in the context of a faith community and good formation. An education with love and the selfless service of others has helped me have the faith I now love so dearly, and who I am today, and it is because I have been given so greatly that I want to share that gift with others. I find excitement and joy working with children and striving to be a positive role model in their lives. All of us are in many ways the sum of those whom we have looked up to throughout life, and the chance to be that for a young person greatly excites me.

## Noah Calvery

Daphne, AL



## University of Kansas

Mechanical Engineering

### Why did you become a Fellow?

I've experienced firsthand how children appreciate having an older individual who listens and respects them. Catholic education provides an incredible opportunity to mentor students and show them that true happiness is rooted in the teachings of the Church. Something I've been praying over lately is Aquinas' definition of love: to will the good of the other, for the good of the other. This is something I believe perfectly aligns with the selfless mission of Seton Teaching Fellows. All in all, I feel called to participate in the mission of Seton Teaching Fellows because I believe it will not only allow me to deepen my own faith, but also walk with students and provide life-shaping opportunities.



## Noah Benzinger

Apex, NC



Franciscan University of Steubenville  
Theology & Catechetics

### Why did you become a Fellow?

Since I am graduating I would like to serve in the education of youth for more than just one summer, as I've done in the past. I want to gain the experience that comes from teaching for a year. To be able to join a program that supports the academic education and morality of youth is what I believe to be crucial towards the next step in my discernment and vocation as a teacher.

## Madi Naquin

Lafayette, LA



University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
General Studies

### Why did you become a Fellow?

I just feel a greater pull from the Holy Spirit to explore education after I graduate. At this time, I am open to any doors that may open but I just want to totally give myself over to Jesus. Other programs or opportunities I've looked at seem more self-focused, with an emphasis on the gain after I would finish. With Seton I feel this abandonment to what's next and a focus on the mission that would be right before me. To embody poverty and live into divine providence while educating seems like the total package.





## Caroline Cincotta

Boston, MA



### Boston University

Education & Human Development

#### Why did you become a Fellow?

My heart was further set aflame on this mission as I saw my Catholic high school close, in addition to many other Catholic schools in the area. This devastated my school community and impacted so many families who looked to Catholic education for their children. I've seen the impact of the closures of Catholic schools near and dear to my own heart. Seeing the work Seton is doing inspires me greatly to want to participate in its mission and strive in the three pillars of faith, community, and education. The need for flourishing Catholic schools is real and doing Seton's work to keep these schools thriving is something that would be a great blessing and an opportunity I have been searching and longing for.

## Meredith Hesseltnine

Kenedy, TX



### West Texas A&M University

General studies

#### Why did you become a Fellow?

What I thought God wanted for me in my life is in the opposite direction from what he is actually leading me towards. It has been in these past few months that I have felt lost, but I always knew that God would show me the way. I have always had a heart for serving in many different capacities, but especially in the Church, which has led me to apply for Seton Teaching Fellows. I want to finally let God lead my life and see what He has for me.



**Brilla College Prep  
Middle School**



**Carla Delgado**  
East Elmhurst, NY



**Northeastern University**  
Computer Science

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

In college, I found a community of people with a strong desire to run toward the Lord, a community I hadn't experienced before, even while attending a Catholic school my whole life. I want to continue to live in community after I graduate and continue to do God's work and spread his Word and love to all I interact with, through both my words and actions. At SEEK this year I felt a call to mission; I wasn't sure at the time what mission in particular that was, but I found Seton Teaching Fellows there and the mission stuck with me. I enjoy teaching, and if it is God's will then I would be a great fit.

**Jakob Ottaway-Velder**  
Walnut Creek, CA



**The Catholic University of America**  
Global Politics & German

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I have felt most myself and most at peace during these times of self-gift. The prospect of working within a new community and giving of myself is undeniably daunting, but also very attractive and rewarding. This is especially the case due to the focus of the STF program, as it is not only service but specifically service to the Church, and catechizing the next generation of missionary disciples is an integral part of the mission. A year of service would not only bear fruit in others but also allow me to grow in cruciformity and become more myself by becoming more like Christ.



**Marie Woods**  
Houston, TX



**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
English

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

My deepest desire is to be able to share the hope of the Gospel with my students. I love that STF would give me the opportunity to make not just an academic impact in students' lives, but a spiritual one. I am also drawn to the opportunity to live in a close-knit community of Catholic women who would challenge me to be the best version of myself. At this point in my life, STF would offer me the opportunity to fulfill many of the desires that the Lord has placed on my heart.

**Astrid Moran**  
Brooklyn, NY



**The City College of New York**  
Psychology

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

There has been a longing to share about my faith in a way that can be inviting to others and share the truth of the Church. I see that serving as a fellow is not only a mission but also a way to prepare myself one day to guide and nurture children, whether that's in a classroom or within my future family. I hope to raise a family one day and want to grow in the habits of being a spiritual mother, and I know and hope that this fellowship will help me be a great leader, help sanctify me, and teach me to love others more deeply, like Christ does.



Brilla College Prep  
Middle School



Emily Sullivan  
Shewsbury, NJ



Rutgers University  
Entomology

### Why did you become a Fellow?

My love for God has presented itself as a love for serving others, particularly through learning and curiosity. I want to help others question and think critically to understand their faith and their world. In my experience, growing a resilient faith is built on remaining curious and inquisitive about God, a deep prayer life, and a loving community. I feel God has called me to work in Catholic education. I wish to help youth learn while experiencing the protection of being encircled in the love of Catholic faith. I want to help support children in the way my Catholic education changed me and empowered me through my own challenges

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

**No hands, no feet but yours.”**

**St. Teresa of Avila**

**Avery Ragon**  
Gadsden, AL



**Purdue University**  
Marketing & Psychology

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I went to Catholic school K-8th and honestly did not learn about the faith at all. My senior year of high school, I came back to my elementary/middle school for a half day internship. I fell in love with interacting with the students and trying to be a light for them. When I came to college, I had a reversion in a way and truly encountered the Lord. Now that I am graduating and have been discerning what is next, I feel the Lord calling me to help others encounter Him. I think a great way to do that is through the youth.

**Peyton Linter**  
Jackson, MO



**Southeast Missouri State University**  
History & Political science

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I feel like God has called me to join the Seton Teaching Fellows. When I visited them, I felt loved by the staff, the students, and by God. I am convicted that at Seton, I will learn to love better, and to love and be loved is the greatest call in our lives.



Lara Campbell  
Plymouth, MN

Benedictine College  
Theology



**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I became a fellow because I wanted to give a year in service to the Lord and to live in a vibrant community!



Olivia Garcia  
San Marcos, TX

Texas State University  
History



**Why did you become a Fellow?**

Ever since diving into John Paul II's apostolic letter "Mulieris Dignitatem," I have been fascinated by learning more about the dignity of the human person. This has caused me to study theology of the body and the genius of men and women, which has provided so much fruit and helped me to love the whole person in everyone I encounter. Contemplating the truth, beauty, and goodness of creation is essential to our Catholic faith. With this, we are able to understand that we are created for each other and that we are made for love and by love through our creator.





Brilla Veritas  
Elementary School



## Alexa Melchor

Woodland Hills, CA



Franciscan University of Steubenville

Clinical Psychology

### Why did you become a Fellow?

In my life, God has moved my heart in so many ways as a means to bring me closer to Him. He has blessed me with gifts, talents, and made sure I encountered people who'll help me thrive. Being part of a faith-filled community with so many great teachers, mentors, and friends, I was able to stay grounded in my faith and recognize myself as a beloved child of the Father. With encouragement, enthusiasm, kindness, and humility, I want to be a teacher that supports students in reaching their full potential through shadowing the love of Christ.

## Julia Grace Martinez

Sinton, TX



Texas A&M University-Kingsville

General studies

### Why did you become a Fellow?

I want to be a disciple of Christ by showing these children the love that God has for them and by helping them to build a stronger relationship with Him.

**Cecilia Guerra**  
Hollis Center, ME



**Roberts Wesleyan University**  
Music Performance

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

Since I was a kid, I have had a desire to serve Christ in a radical way. I feel closest to God when I am learning about Him. This has led me to feel an intense calling to share this love and Gospel message through teaching others about Him. I believe we would see significant growth in the Church if more people had a deeper understanding of why they believe what they believe and had a personal encounter with the love of Christ. I hope to be a part of this change through serving as a Seton Teaching Fellow.

**Rebekah Brown**  
Linwood, KS



**Benedictine College**  
History & English

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I'm a cradle Catholic who has always felt a strong connection to my faith. Seton Teaching Fellows sounds like an amazing way to dedicate more of my time to serving God. I began my time at Benedictine College as pursuing an education major, and while I've since changed gears, choosing to double major in history and English, I still have a lot of skills working in an educational environment with children. STF would be a great opportunity for me to put those skills to use for an amazing purpose!



**Connor Davis**  
Marietta, GA



**Mississippi State University**  
Aerospace Engineering

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I had been pursuing a vocation with the Dominican Friars when the vocations director encouraged me to wait a year and recommended me to Seton Teaching Fellows - and it was the perfect fit! I love the mission of teaching the faith and feel drawn to teach Catechesis after school at Brilla. I especially have a passion for Catechesis. Before coming to STF, I ran the Catechism class for 7th and 8th graders at his local parish. It's an honor for me to be around and to be a resource for others. Realizing the need for our work, especially among underserved students, I am so excited to Imitate Christ the Teacher this year!

**Maria  
Rodriguez-Brannon**  
Bismarck, ND



**University of Mary**  
History, Catholic Studies

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

My undergraduate education at the University of Mary has primed me to understand Catholic education through the pillars of human, social, spiritual, and integral formation. This framework makes education a life-transforming experience based on a relationship with God, peers, and with the Truth. My liberal arts education has transformed my mind and my heart and I wish to extend this gift to others. I am particularly fond of Catholic Social Teaching and the practice of hospitality.



Brilla Veritas  
Middle School



Will Thoele  
Dieterich, IL



Franciscan University of Steubenville  
Theology

### Why did you become a Fellow?

At Steubenville, I was a theology major and had a great love of discussing the faith. As I continued through my education, I realized more and more that I would like to be a teacher myself. However, I have no experience or classes specific to teaching. I believe that Seton Teaching Fellows would help me grow as an educator in an explicitly Catholic manner.

Alexander Garrot  
Marietta, GA



University of Georgia  
Cellular Biology with certificate in Immunology

### Why did you become a Fellow?

I have been very blessed and have been deep in prayer about where the Lord is calling me for a mission year. A few months ago, He brought up teaching in my morning prayer. Ever since, teaching has been an unexpected but very consistent point of prayer, leading me to apply for Seton Teaching Fellows. I have grown to love the mission that STF stands for and, being very academic myself, find myself very enthusiastic to serve the poor in education. God has continued to push me toward teaching since that morning in September, and I'm excited to find out what adventure my year has for me!





**Brilla Caritas  
Elementary School**



## Marianna Evangelista

Denver, CO



## St. Mary's Catholic University Twickenham

Liberal Arts

### Why did you become a Fellow?

For the past few years, I have been working with Catholic youth in a variety of locations (Colorado, Wisconsin, England) and have discovered that I have a heart for serving and educating students. Growing up in Colorado, I also learned I enjoy serving those less fortunate than me and would like to continue that work through Seton Teaching Fellows. I love living in community and growing in those relationships, as the Lord has inspired so many things in my heart through this. I also studied Liberal Arts in college and have been discerning teaching for a couple years, but want to live it out in a year of mission as well.

## Dean Vance

Vienna, VA



## Colorado State University

Psychology

### Why did you become a Fellow?

Living out my faith and working with others have always been my two main goals when considering what path I want to follow. When reading the mission statement, I was captivated by your main question, "What is the right thing to do for our children, families, and Church?" In the secular world that we find ourselves in, it is easy to forget that this is the most important question we can ask ourselves, and praying over the answers to this question can lead us to become the best version of ourselves we can be. Working in a community such as the one Seton Teaching Fellows provides is something I have always dreamt of.



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**Joshua Fugate**  
Churchville, NY



**Roberts Wesleyan University**  
Instrumental Performance

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I have long felt a strong desire from God to use my life to share the truth of the Catholic faith and to serve Him by serving others. I would hope to make a difference in the lives of the children I'd be working with through providing quality education done in a way that puts the love of Christ on display, while also opening the door for them to come to Christ if they do not already know Him.

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**Megan Gifford**  
Columbus, OH



**The Ohio State University**  
Primary Education

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

Seeing children "light up" when they learn something new and actively engage in learning and finding what they are passionate about is the best part of the job. I have realized the ever-growing need to bring up children in the faith and teach them about Christ's love for them. Just as seeing children fall in love with learning, seeing children, or anybody, fall in love with Jesus is one of the best parts of my life, and the opportunity to teach the faith and see this happen on a daily basis through Seton Teaching Fellows excites me. My deepest desire is that everyone would know that Jesus loves them, and getting to be a part of this as a teacher brings me so much joy.



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**William McCauley**  
Jacksonville, FL



**Franciscan University of Steubenville**  
History

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

Good education prepares students to receive the Gospel. It cultivates the heart to be fertile ground upon which the sower could sow and from which the harvester could reap. A relationship with God, a good education, and a culture built on love could never be appreciated for their importance if reduced merely to their utility; they are only properly appreciated if they are considered as ends in themselves, meaningful and essential to the human person, who himself could not be reduced to the functions he serves, but rather could only be considered in light of the sublime dignity of his supernatural origin and end.

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**Matthew Fontenot**  
Oklahoma City, OK



**Oklahoma State University**

Management Sciences & Information Systems

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I had a discussion with a retired military chaplain. He said he never got the chance to go do missionary work while he served and when I asked if he had the chance to do missionary work anywhere in the world he said he would choose here in America. Our country needs evangelization from within and his response resonated with me. I love sharing knowledge with others and discussing faith. I feel called to participate in the mission of Catholic Education by serving as a Seton Teaching Fellow because I want to not only help others grow in their faith, but to grow as individuals as well.

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**Marshall Milless**  
Andover, MN



**University of Mary**  
Communication

**Why did you become a Fellow?**

I feel called to participate in the mission of Catholic Education by serving as a Seton Teaching Fellow because I have realized how important it is for our youth to have good mentors and teachers and would love to positively impact their lives and discern if I am called to become a teacher. Also, after visiting the Bronx on a Come and See, I fell in love with the mission and the ministry that I witnessed while I was there.

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**John Paul Quejada**  
Manassas Park, VA



**Franciscan University of Steubenville**  
Philosophy

**In what ways are you hoping to serve this year?**

I want to devote my life to missionary catechesis and evangelization. Ultimately, I imagine myself doing this as a Dominican friar. However, fresh out of college, I want to be formed into a virtuous man by giving all the life I have for those God gives me to love. My heart is for mission. I have never experienced more life, love, joy, challenge, growth, and excitement than on mission. I also love teaching. I am rather articulate and excited about the beauty of the truth and the power of education. After talking to a current fellow, STF seems like a good fit for me. I know that it would be incredibly challenging, but I believe that it would be immensely rewarding and formative as well.

Sarah Carter  
Woodway, TX

Baylor University  
Great Texts



### Why did you become a Fellow?

I care a lot about the spiritual life of others and I want them to know their faith well and truly fall in love with the Lord. I have, for much of my life, felt called to bring Christ to places of deep need, and to truly serve God's people in love and dedication. Helping my children understand and desire God will be so vital in the transformation of their life and it is something that I want to be a part of.



**“Wonder is the desire of knowledge.”**

**St. Thomas Aquinas**