



Office of Campus Ministry

June 15, 2023

To whom it may concern:

As chaplain at the University of St. Thomas, I have greatly appreciated the way the Evangelical Catholic has helped us to bring to fruition our vision of equipping, sending, and maturing students in their baptismal calling to be holy missionary disciples in the world. EC offers both personalized coaching for our campus ministry staff along with a systematic balance of relevant, inspiring, and practical formation for our students. One of the things that impressed me very positively when I came on as chaplain three years ago was the number of "small groups" led by students that share the Word of God, discuss Catholic literature and Theology, address the thorny issues of our time, and all with an ability to handle all this thanks to their 13-week EC training. The combination of EC coaching and content has allowed us to continue to grow both in the number and the quality of mission-mind student leaders on campus. Even as we have experienced challenging turnovers/changes in campus ministry positions, EC has kept our eyes on mission and raising up co-laborers of our students.

Although I have not directly experienced their formation in parish settings, I have heard it is already a majority of EC's current work around the country and is quite effective. I also recognize that since many of our UST students are commuters, they live similar lives to the busy young adults and young families in parishes. Their experience at UST and other campuses prepares them to be disciples in their home parishes. Further, I believe EC's model of formation is capable of activating and deepening any lay person into holiness and mission, whether in parishes or on campus.

When a young person has a rich encounter with God and His Word, along with other young believers, it is my hope that they might consider a vocation in the Church as well, and their EC training and experience in small groups and witnessing gives me hope that they will be more open to discerning a vocation to the Religious Life or the Priesthood.

I have a particular love for Hispanic Ministry within parishes as well as here at UST. EC has developed training materials in Spanish as well as their English materials, and I can only imagine the positive response parishioners would have to this being offered in their parish.

Thank you for considering this recommendation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul English, CSB'.

Rev. Paul F. English, CSB
Chaplain