

AGAPE LATTE



What is it?

"Agape" is a Greek word for a kind of love that seeks nothing in return. Agape Latte is a night of coffee and conversation with a faculty member, school administrator or staff member, as they share their faith story and offer "food for the journey" forward.

How did it start?

This popular student program was launched on the campus of Boston College in 2006 and is quickly spreading to other high schools and colleges. Offered by Boston College's C21 in partnership with Campus Ministry, the successful, student-driven program uses personal stories on the intersection of faith and life to teach students lessons about life's big questions. The storyteller — a faculty or staff member — tells personal, authentic accounts about friendship, hope, forgiveness or prayer, allowing for plenty of post-event conversation with students in the audience. "We've found a way to make faith fun and it has captured the curiosity not only of our own students, but of students at other universities," said Karen Kiefer, C21 associate director. "Hearing these personal stories has helped students in their own journey."

Agape Latte at McKendree University?

Agape Latte at McKendree University is a monthly event designed for students seeking to learn more life's big questions and about faith, religion, and spirituality in an inviting social environment. The times and places are yet to be determined but we are looking at launching our first Agape Latte in November 2016 and possibly two more in our spring semester in March, and April of 2017. Students will be treated to free desserts, coffee, and an engaging discussion.

This series is sponsored by the Center for Faith and Spirituality and the McKendree University Chaplain's Office. If you would like to be a part of the student advisory board who plans future Agape Latte programs let us know! The Student Advisory Board is comprised of McKendree University undergraduate students. The board meets regularly to connect about ideas, engage in dialogue, and explore greater questions surrounding their faith. The main task of the board is to plan for, promote, and host Agape Latte. For questions contact Chaplain Tim Harrison at btharris@mckendree.edu or call 618-537-6962.

...That is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow, we water seeds already planted, knowing they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development... We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do everything, and to do it very, very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the Master Builder and the worker. We are workers, but not master builders...ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future that is not our own. - Archbishop Oscar Romero -