

Each month as we plan our dress down days, we have additionally included testimonials as to a personal tie to the organization or cause. Next week, for the fourth year in a row, I will be sleeping out with the Covenant House annual Sleep Out. Covenant House is an organization that provides young adults a safe and supportive environment where they can receive basic necessities, urgent medical care, counseling and help in career and education navigation. Each year they hold a Sleep Out to raise awareness and funds to support young adults facing homelessness. This cause is very close to me as I spent many hours volunteering at the Center for the Homeless growing up.

I know you have heard Fr. Davis reiterates that we are mission driven and that all we do each day is focused on that mission. Our mission includes how we are devoted to sharing faith and inspiring hearts through Catholic tradition and humble service. These values guide us in our daily lives and remind us of the importance of helping those in need and standing up for those who may not have a voice. While this exhibits the tradition and values of St. Gregory, this is also very much in line with Church tradition.

Archbishop Wenski recently spoke about Pope Leo XIII's first papal encyclical, "Dilexi Te," which emphasizes God's love for humanity and challenges us to actively demonstrate that love by helping the poor. He highlighted how this call to serve the marginalized is just as relevant today as it was over a century ago. He encouraged taking actionable steps to assist those who are less fortunate, reinforcing that helping others is not just a suggestion but an essential part of our faith. Here, at St. Gregory, I am proud that we chose to live our faith and mission by taking steps to help others through our service and advocacy.

The Sleep Out is not about pretending to be homeless; instead, we sleep out to show solidarity with those who are facing this very real challenge. The commitment to sleeping outside symbolizes our support and empathy for young people experiencing homelessness. All funds raised help Covenant House to offer 24/7 safety, shelter, and support to young people who are overcoming homelessness.

Here at St. Gregory we have much to be grateful for. I find the Sleep Out to be very timely in this month of November and a time of gratitude for all we have. As I prepare for the Sleep Out, I encourage you to think about ways you can help this cause. Tomorrow with your donation for dress down, but also with a kind word, or by sharing what you've learned with your family and friends. A representative from Covenant House will be on campus tomorrow to speak with many of you. I will also be visiting classrooms to discuss with you.

