When Your Time is Called, Will You Answer?
Ashlon Filsinger

Awakened by a fire alarm the evening of May 6, 2008, I was not aware that my life at Our Lady of the Lake University would be forever changed. I quickly got up forgetting to grab my phone and wallet thinking that it was just another fire alarm like the ones that sounded during previous nights in the dormitory. It would not become a reality that the alarm warned of a real fire until I saw Main building burn right in front of my eyes. All I could do was watch as my beloved school suffered. Many lives were affected by the fire that engulfed the Main building. I like many others, now see the survival and future success of OLLU will come as we try to rebuild a campus stronger than before.

Before the fire, I was never really involved in anything on campus. I just went to class, studied and came back to the dorms. I never expected the fire to change my attitude about serving at OLLU. Since the fire, I have learned that there is a strong community centered on the campus that hopes to rebuild something that was already beautiful. With others, I share the goal of rebuilding the Lake stronger than before. My own part in the rebuilding is to get people who were not involved before to be interested in the survival of OLLU. I have joined student organizations that strive towards the excellence of the university and others that are blessed by Divine Providence. I am now involved in a group that is directly involved with the CDFs because I feel that they are in need of rebuilding as well. There is not a lot known about the CDFs and by sharing my love for history I hope to put them back into OLLU's community by showing the importance they have had and continue to have. I firmly believe that they are the background of OLLU and that their history can be a key part in the future success of OLLU.

Many of the CDFs' lives were affected by the fire. I know of at least two who have been drastically affected. Sr. Nagy and Sr. Griffin, whose offices were both in Main building, lost valuable items that can never be replaced. Along with this, the department which they cherished so much will never be the same again. I have seen what they were able to salvage, and it is nothing compared to what they lost. However, the memories that they have of Main building can never be burned.

La Llamada

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2008
I hope that the survival of the history department is part of the rebuilding of OLLU. The success of OLLU depends on us because we are the writers of things that happen. Without us, many can forget the tragic events that happened on May 6, 2008. We are a reminder to the university that history should never be forgotten or displaced. Many others, not just this department, have all learned a little more about the OLLU community because of the fire.

The OLLU community is full of caring individuals who share the common goal of the future success of the university. Our faiths, along with blessings from Divine Providence, aid us in our rebuilding efforts. The many lives that were affected by the OLLU tragedy now see the necessity to rebuild a university with a stronger community linked to our beloved founders, the Sisters of the Congregation of Divine Providence. I will be doing my part in ensuring the success of these rebuilding efforts. Are you doing yours?