

of doubt. He recognized that he was, like all of us, a sinner in need of God's mercy and forgiveness."

George, Harvard Theology '81, Law '81, noted Scalia was unashamed of the Gospel. "He refused to hide his faith," said George, who attended Scalia's funeral and described it as "deeply prayerful" and "moving."

Across the country, top news outlets also recalled Scalia for his large personality and tireless crusades for originalism, the theory of constitutional interpretation that seeks to apply the understanding of its drafters.

The *New York Times'* account of Scalia's passage highlighted how his "transformative legal theories, vivid writing, and outsize personality made him a leader of a conservative

intellectual renaissance in his three decades on the Supreme Court."

With the retirement of Justice John Paul Stevens in June 2010, Scalia became the longest serving member of the current court.

Scalia, who was known to friends as "Nino," was born in 1936 in Trenton, New Jersey. As an only child, he was showered with attention from his parents and their siblings.

Scalia and his wife Maureen, both devout Catholics, had nine children. At a Harvard lecture in 1989, Scalia once described how quibbles amongst his children shaped some of his legal philosophy, according to the *Times*.

Earlier, Scalia served as valedictorian of Xavier High School in Manhattan before attending

Georgetown University and graduating magna cum laude from Harvard. President Ronald Reagan appointed Scalia to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1982 and then to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1986.

While away from the bench, Scalia enjoyed a variety of activities, including poker, hunting, and opera.

As for George, the longtime Princeton professor said he will cherish how his dear friend and fellow Harvard alumnus "lived in hope, confident in God's mercy and Christ's final victory over sin and death."

Though his death was sudden, Scalia abided in the "sure and certain hope of the resurrection. He was a Jesus man," George said. | **cu**

HARVARD | *On Campus*

Verbum Dei

GRADUATE STUDENTS, YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ENJOY STUDY GROUP

By Eileen Scott, Senior Writer

Each Sunday in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a small church community gathers at the Harvard Catholic Center after mass to grow in personal relationships with Jesus Christ through the intimacy and open dialogue of a group study.

Known as Verbum Dei, or *Word of God*, the group meets to reflect upon the Scriptures read during the mass. Comprised of both Harvard graduate students and young Boston professionals, Verbum Dei offers a forum for addressing the relevancy of the Old and New Testament readings to life and career.

The community was founded in 2012 by Alex Angstrom, a SUNY

Binghamton graduate and former member of InterVarsity who wanted to encourage camaraderie and fellowship among his peers at St. Paul's parish. The gathering started with four people and now consists of roughly 18 members.

Like Angstrom, who works in advertising, some of the members are young professionals who transferred to Boston for careers. Others are American graduate students. A few are international degree seekers at Harvard who hail from countries like Germany and the United Kingdom. Two of the members are affiliated with the Episcopal Church and the Church of England, yet still

attend mass at St. Paul's.

"They don't participate in the Eucharist at mass," said Angstrom, "but they come to Verbum Dei because they are nourished, body and soul."

Verbum Dei is not a formal Bible study, nor is it led by the parish priests. Each meeting begins with prayer and welcoming the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to inspire and guide the discussions. According to Angstrom, the absence of a designated leader or a formal study guide is a living testimony to the power of the Holy Spirit and individual gifts and talents bestowed by God.

While small church communities are not found in all Catholic

parishes, Angstrom said groups like Verbum Dei help people understand the value of studying God's Word and what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Further, the small groups encourage fellowship and provide space for dialogue around shared opinions and differences.

For example, Angstrom and his roommate, Oliver Marjot, both participate in Verbum Dei. Marjot is a second-year graduate student from the United Kingdom and a member of the Church of England. Angstrom is Catholic. Despite their different religions and career paths, Verbum Dei has brought them closer through

some prayer and thought, I started going to St Paul's on Sunday, instead."

He also found that the wisdom and insights shared in Verbum Dei lined up with what he describes as his "charismatic-evangelic-Anglican background." Additionally, it revealed a new way of seeing his Catholic brothers and sisters.

"I was very happily shocked when I checked out a copy of the Roman Catholic Catechism from the university library and found just how rich and biblically faithful the theological reflection and teaching in it was," said Marjot.

Additionally, Marjot's studies of the classics (specialty in Medieval

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knowledge, shared experiences, and enlightened perspectives.

"A big part of my journey with the Lord over the past year-and-a-half has been this wonderful discovery of faithful believers and vibrant theological engagement in Christian traditions outside of my own," said Marjot. "I feel like my eyes have been opened to appreciate the intellectual diversity of the people of God and also to sharply question my own preconceptions that I bring to the Bible."

Marjot had attended a non-denominational, charismatic church in Cambridge, but wanted "to be challenged by engagement with a different theological tradition; so, after

Latin, general knowledge, and theological insights) have added much to the conversations, said Angstrom.

While Angstrom currently plans to remain in Boston pursuing his career and continuing to guide Verbum Dei, Marjot will return to England after completing his degree. However, the insights, wisdom, and fellowship Verbum Dei provides has ignited a desire within the Englishman to bring his Boston experience home.

"I certainly think that a small group based on Bible study is an essential part of any Christian's life," said Marjot. "And I would hope to find and encourage this kind of prayerful group engagement with Scripture, wherever I end up." | **CU**

HARVARD NEWS-IN-BRIEF

Buzz about Jeremy Lin

As a point guard with the Charlotte Hornets, Jeremy Lin (Harvard '10) seeks to distribute the ball to teammates and help them elevate their game. As a Christian, he is also seeking to share the Good News and be a powerful witness to the power of the Gospel.

The Christian Post recently highlighted his faith in an article entitled "Jeremy Lin Seeks Prayers for Teammates Who Don't Believe in God." In the story, Lin emphasized a desire for the Holy Spirit to "soften the hearts of my non-believing teammates." He also leads a Bible study with some fellow players.

Harvard Students Attend Augustine Collective Retreat

Staff members of *The Harvard Ichthus* were among the participants at the 8th Annual Augustine Collective Retreat, held in January at Park Street Church in Boston.

Students representing Christian journals on various campuses throughout the United States attended the Augustine Collective Retreat. The keynote speaker was James K. A. Smith, a philosophy professor at Calvin College and the author of several books, including: *Who's Afraid of Postmodernism?* and *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation.*