



NEWMAN NEWS

in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland



“Be the net!”

Newman Catholic Campus Ministry Receives Award For FYSHing

The Division of Student Affairs at Case Western Reserve University has honored the FYSH program of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry with the 2008-2009 Dorothy Pijan Outstanding Program Award. Selected through a competitive nominating process, the prestigious award is presented to the student organization responsible for an outstanding and innovative program that significantly contributed to the quality of life at CWRU in the past year. FYSH was created with a grant from the Newman Foundation.

What is FYSH?

It's not that they can't spell at Case Western Reserve University. FYSH, their **F**irst **Y**ear **S**piritual **H**ome, is Newman's fun, powerful, and popular small group program in University Circle. FYSH smoothes the path for a successful transition into college by creating strong foundations and connections for a successful and faith-filled time in college.

FYSH mentors students in some of the riches of Catholicism that bode well for integrating the university experience. Students are invited to live in the freedom, joy, and peace of Christ that comes from deepening their faithful values, lifestyles, relationships, and vocation.

One of the most obvious joys of FYSH is that participants get to know other students, faculty, and church leaders who share their hopes, dreams, and struggles; whom they can turn to in good times and rough patches over the coming years. Thus, they experience the power of Christian

community while developing an adult faith ready for the critical challenges of our world. Catherine Ko put it this way. “When was I most alive in FYSH? When we would meet together even outside of the designated times because we had become so close. What was most powerful? Growing closer to my group, Newman and the Catholic faith.”

“FYSH really helped me stay grounded as I started my freshman year. In an entirely new setting, it helped me remember who I am and what is important to me.”

Samantha Janis

The Power of Mentoring

Each FYSH group is convened by two older undergrads who serve as FYSH Guides, since they already “know the ropes” around campus. Each week, Newman trains and connects these Guides in a spirit of unity-in-diversity. Arnie Laubenthal is in his third year with FYSH. “What I love about being a FYSH leader? Every weekly event is well planned and practiced, but at the same time each FYSH leader team is given room to use their own creativity to bring the



group together for each event.”

The FYSH Guides also invite each participant to meet bi-weekly, one-to-one, for personalized mentoring over coffee, a meal, or even a visit to the nearby Cleveland Museum of Art. These gentle, consistent check-ins develop respectful and encouraging relationships as the first year students negotiate academic and extra curricular life. Kate Bosche says, “My guides created a safe environment where we could share about our faith and our daily lives as we went through our first semester in college.”

How does FYSH work?

Each group is comprised of 6-12 students who meet weekly for one semester. FYSH follows a rhythm of four rotating segments, based on hallmarks of the early Church:

- ☑ **Week 1: koinonia** - building community with unplugged fun.
- ☑ **Week 2: kerygma** - making the connection between Jesus and students by exploring Scripture relevant to first years through meditation, study and discussion.
- ☑ **Week 3: diakonia** - serving mercy and shalom with the victims of injustice in Cleveland; then reflecting, dialoging, and praying in light of the Church's social teachings.
- ☑ **Week 4: catechesis** - connecting students with the wisdom of the Church by engaging powerful foundations for adult faith. Groups explore Catholic approaches to 1) revelation as it relates to academic disciplines, 2) discernment of major life decisions, and 3) Catholic social teachings.

Please see **Be the net!** on page 4.

JOHN SZARWARK - *The University of Akron*



Years in campus ministry: 4

What brought you to campus ministry? I came to Newman Ministry on a part-time basis to fill a vacant position. I enjoy the students and programs of Newman Campus Ministry and have remained ever since. "They keep me young." I have been employed by the Secretariat for Education and Catechesis of the Diocese of Cleveland for the last 20 years.

What fuels your passion? Assisting students for future participation in the church following their college years.

Planned fall highlights: A "Unified Praise" evening that offers students song, spirit, and meditation. I am currently working with a new leadership team who generate lots of new ideas and excitement.

Personal/family info: I am single, living in Strongsville with my two cats, Tux and Coco. I am also involved in Pastoral and Spiritual work at parishes and schools in the inner city of Cleveland. When I was younger I considered entering the priesthood.

FR. VINCE HAWK - *Ashland University*



Years in campus ministry: 3.5

What brought you to campus ministry? My introduction to campus ministry was actually at Baldwin-Wallace College. I helped with Busy Student Retreats and celebrated Sunday Mass for the campus community. I found the ministry very rewarding. The students involved with campus ministry had such a fire about them that I wanted to share that fire.

What fuels your passion? The short answer is our Lord. The longer answer is seeing people come into a relationship with our Lord. When students begin to nurture the relationship with our Lord there is a spark and a joy about them that is truly contagious.

Planned fall highlights: One of the highlights is the weekly celebration of the Eucharist. Small faith communities is another area where I expect to see some growth. There are several students who have come to me with great ideas for small faith groups.

Religious vocation: I have been ordained for seven years. I was assigned to St. Brendan in North Olmsted prior to being in Loudonville and at Ashland University.

Something that most people don't know about me ... I'm not sure I have an answer. I like to think my life is an open book. I am not sure that there are any real surprises out there.

Meet the

KIRSTEN KOLAJA - *Baldwin-Wallace College*



Years in campus ministry: 7

What brought you to campus ministry? I was very involved in campus ministry as a college student, but never considered it as a profession until I was talking with a good friend near the end of my graduate program. As I was reflecting upon the values that were important to me and where I had spent a lot of time in my life, campus ministry came up again. My friend had a contact in

Cleveland and that was how I got my foot in the door.

What fuels your passion? The one-on-one interactions with students are most energizing for me. I enjoy accompanying them as they discern where God is calling them. I am constantly humbled and honored by the trust they place in me as a companion on their journeys.

Planned fall highlights: We are placing a focus on LIFT (Living In Faith Together) groups this year. LIFT gives students a place for catechesis and for experiencing new forms of prayer while developing meaningful relationships with their peers.

Personal/family info: I'm originally from Spartansburg, PA, about 40 miles south of Erie. I'm engaged to Drew Vilinsky and will be married this October.

MINDY KUSHLAK - *Baldwin-Wallace College*



Years in campus ministry: 5

What brought you to campus ministry? God definitely led me to campus ministry through different events in my life, and the people working in the ministry at the time had created a working environment that was meaningful, grace-filled and welcoming, which led me to stay in the ministry.

What fuels your passion? The relationships that I am able to form and deepen with the students

definitely fuel my passion for this ministry. Witnessing the growth and deepening of the students' relationships with Christ also motivates me.

Planned fall highlights: In addition to our focus on LIFT, we are continuing to grow our Social Justice program with our second Alternative Spring Break Trip.

Personal/family info: David and I (married 4 years) live in Berea with our daughter, Grace, and our second child due in October. I love sports and played volleyball in college for a couple of years. My two-year old daughter knows how to bump a volleyball already!

Campus Ministers

TONY VENTO - *Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Institute of Art and Cleveland Institute of Music*

Years in campus ministry: 11

What brought you to campus ministry? The opportunity to accompany others as they find deep joy in being their best for the world, now and forever.

What fuels your passion? My freedom for my vocation has been like the pearl of great price in the Gospels. I treasure it greatly, so I am keen to attend to others' freedom for their own vocation to wholeness and shalom.

Planned fall highlights: Camping Retreat; FYSH and the First Year Retreat (gifts of Catholicism); Second Year Institute invites students to nurture their vocation.

Personal/family info: The G-Force (my spouse, Gayle, and daughter, Grace) persistently and usually gently shows me that God allures us into cooperation with the nonviolent revolution of love unfolding today. I met Gayle through Patrick Duhon, Newman's CWRU campus minister in the 80's. Matt Maruggi, who served Newman here in the 90s, is godfather to my daughter, I'm godfather to his son, and we live in the home he once owned!



GREG STEVENS - *Cleveland State University*

Years in campus ministry: 6

What brought you to campus ministry? Quite frankly, I needed a job. I had just been confirmed in the Catholic Church, but I spent time as an Episcopal campus minister. I have a certain love for young people and I want to be a part of their lives and help them grow in their faith.

What fuels your passion? Just being around the students and experiencing their energy. I like to see them grow in faith.

Planned fall highlights: We have Busy Student Retreat in October. We intend to meet in some parishes for some Sunday masses. We would like to meet socially with another Newman group.

Personal/family info: I have been married to Pamela for 32 years. We have a son, Aaron, and a daughter, Mara. They are ages 27 and 25 respectively. I collect bone china teacups and saucers and I do not let them collect dust on a shelf. I use them daily for my tea.



KAREN HAHN - *College of Wooster*

Years in campus ministry: 4

What brought you to campus ministry? Though I have been Catholic all my life, it was not until college that I really began to explore, learn, and love my faith, and campus ministry provided me with the opportunities to do so. After graduating, I served as an intern in campus ministry at my alma mater while working on a master's degree in pastoral ministry.

What fuels your passion? I love to see students make new discoveries about God's love and their understanding of their faith. The college years are such a formative time for young adults, and it is really energizing to see the excitement they have for exploring their spirituality.

Planned fall highlights: One of our solid programs is our LIFT group, which meets weekly for Scripture study, faith-sharing, and prayer. Another favorite event is our Family Weekend Mass and reception in the campus chapel.

Personal/family info: I live near campus in Wooster and enjoy doing as much gardening as containers will allow. I look forward to having a real garden some day. I ran a half-marathon a few years ago. It was pretty exhilarating, but I have not felt much like running since then!



DEBBIE DACONE - *Oberlin College*

Years in campus ministry: 4

What brought you to campus ministry? I was recruited to campus ministry by Bill Miller during the time that I taught high school theology.

What fuels your passion? I'm energized by the campus environment, by continuing to learn and grow, and by engaging in conversation. I treasure the student friendships resulting from my ministry. I love sharing the God I've come to know and helping students do the same. While the work of a campus minister is hard, it's never merely a job. It is who I am.

Planned fall highlights: We'll begin this year giggling with Judy McDonald, a Catholic comedian from California. Weekly Mass on Campus is where we are formed as community and where students' gifts and talents are celebrated. Newman will be visible in death penalty awareness and bioethics events.

Personal/family info: I've been married to Don for 34 years and our two adult children are the light of my life. I have a collection of Kennedy memorabilia dating from the mid-50's and have met the family at a black tie benefit at the JFK Library in Boston.



BE THE NET! (Continued from page 1)

No matter what the theme for each week, all FYSH meetings include time for fun, food, mutual encouragement, and intercessory prayer in response to the Sunday scriptures. Monthly, All-FYSH events gather the groups with older Catholic students, faculty, and staff for fun and Feasts-of-Faith.

FYSH concludes with a joyous FYSH Fest led by a local bishop. Participants are called forth and commissioned as “fishers of humanity” for the reign of God in the academic community. No wonder the FYSH motto is “Be the net!”

“I feel that the program makes a huge difference in the hearts and minds of the students, no matter what year they are.”

Adrienne Steiner

- Adapted from an article that first appeared in the Diocesan weekly newsletter, based on material provided by Judy Viancourt.



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Did You Know?

The house that is home to the Newman Center at Baldwin-Wallace College will celebrate its centennial in 2010! Built in 1910, the 2-story building was a private home for many years. The Diocese of Cleveland purchased it in the 1960's, and on January 26, 1969, it was dedicated by Bishop William Cosgrove as the Newman Center. Today, it serves the B-W Catholic campus community with offices, meeting spaces, and provides a venue for many social and spiritual activities.

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