



NEWMAN NEWS

in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland



Listening for God's Call

In this issue of *Newman News*, we feature excerpts from the stories of a number of our students...some are actually alumni while others are still in college or graduate school. All of them have one thing in common. In one way or another their choices regarding how they will live their lives have been greatly impacted by their time and experience as members of the various Newman Catholic Campus Ministry programs that are active in our diocese. Some have discerned a call to religious life and are studying to be priests or religious sisters; others have been called to the sacrament of Marriage...perhaps after meeting their partner through a "Newman sponsored" program. Still others may be deciding to remain single. But no matter what choices any of them have made in life thus far, they have already committed to the fact that their faith in God is guiding such things as choice of marital status, career path, parish involvement and the like.

I invite you to read on and discover for yourself the richness of each of these very personal stories. Only God can know what lies ahead for each of these individuals, just as only God can know the twists and turns that any one of us will take on our life journey. However, keep in

mind that the individuals whose stories are featured on these pages are a small fraction of the people whose lives have been touched by God in a very special way over the years because of their contact with the Newman Catholic Community on their particular campus.

As you read, you might also be prompted to remember some part of your own "vocation story"...how you answered a call to religious life or marriage or the single life...how you selected a career, etc. If you are old enough to have made such decisions, where was God in the midst of your discernment process? Perhaps God's call was/is loud and clear. On the other hand, it may be the "still, small voice" guiding you onward. One thing is certain, God speaks to each of us, offering us a constant source of guidance and love. Perhaps you might pause to ask yourself: How is the Lord at work in my life today... and how am I choosing to respond? May your own journey of life be warmed by the grace and peace of God and may it be full of wonder (wonderful), because you have chosen to follow the Lord.

Bill Miller

Diocesan Director of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry

I am blessed to have been a part of the Case Newman community since it encouraged me to deepen my prayer life. I really loved the retreats, the Masses, the *lectio divina*, and everything else we did. It is certainly through this prayer that I felt that I might be called to the priesthood. It is through this prayer that I got the courage to enter, and really, it's hard for me to put into words the joy that my prayer life - getting to know Jesus Christ intimately - has given me. Thus, I feel that I am best living my faith in my prayer - it sustains me, it allows me to know what God wants from me, and it gives me the courage to act.

James Power
CWRU alumnus
third year college seminarian, Erie, PA





Katherine and Kyle

Baldwin-Wallace

A Call to Married Life

Living your faith is an integral part of being Catholic. We are called to serve others in our daily life, and our time in Newman, both as undergrads and alumni, has helped us in that calling.

From being single, to dating, to our engagement, and our eventual wedding, Newman has played a large part in our spiritual lives. When we were in college, Kathryn was on the leadership team serving as the Student Director and Kyle was in the music ministry. It wasn't until after we graduated that we started hanging out together through the B-W Newman Alumni Association. As we spent more time together, we learned that we shared not only the same values and faith, but that we made each other better people through our love for each other. Kathryn's family noticed she was able to handle difficult family situations better, and Kyle's friends noticed how he really took control of his education and career. We became a witness to our love and faith on May 21, 2011 as we married at St. Mary's Church in Berea, OH.

Having a relationship based in faith has been an amazing blessing over the years. With the lessons, encouragement, and support of the Newman ministries and all of the people we've met because of it, we are able to better live our faith every day.

*Kathryn & Kyle Seibenick
Baldwin-Wallace alumni*

At retreats and listening to guest speakers...I learned that whatever I was doing, I could use it to serve God. Whether it was framing long hours of study as a form of prayer to God, or now learning new clinical skills as a medical student, I know that God has given me the opportunity to grow closer to him and to continue bringing his love to others.

*Katherine Hoyson,
3rd year medical student at the U of Pittsburgh
CWRU class of 2009, engaged to be married*

Newman was an opportunity to grow and explore my faith at a time when I was being exposed to a variety of beliefs, ideas, and attitudes after "leaving the nest". And today, those same lessons and experiences help serve as an anchor in this fast-paced, rapidly changing world.

Mike Petro

CWRU class of 2009, management consultant.

Oberlin.

The Icon of God's Love

Sometimes, by another's wisely chosen words, we gain insight on the most intimate aspects of our lives. This is always a great gift when it occurs, because somehow what is closest and most intimate is also most difficult to bring into focus. On our wedding day this June, my wife Daria and I were the recipients of such a gift.

"Jonathan," said Father Patrick, turning to address me in the midst of his homily, "when you look into Daria's eyes, there," he emphasized with a pause, "there is the icon of God's love for you. And Daria, there, in Jonathan's eyes, is the icon of God's love for you."

As the implications of these words became clear, I was gripped by joy. They promised that the most important elements of my life – my relationships with others, and especially with Daria, and my faith in God – were not coincidental, but deeply integrated. God's loving grace is actually revealed in relationship with others. And for those of us whose vocation is marriage, this means that God's self-gift is something that we discover, above all, in our spouse.

Vocations are not ready-made masterpieces, but instead works in progress. Every day we add another brushstroke, and the process by which an image only gradually emerges is, with the Holy Spirit's guidance, both dynamic and creative. This certainly goes for married life. What a husband and wife share is not a thing that stands still, but an adventure in which what truly matters is discovered and pursued – in other words, as the Church teaches, "a partnership of the whole of life."

*Jonathan Bruno
Oberlin alumnus*



Debbie Dacone (left) with Jonathan and Daria

Vocations at the University of Akron

Hearing God’s Call

In 2005 I began as Campus Minister in Akron and got to know the dedicated student leaders, Julie Hritz (now Sr. Julie), Jessie Houck and Mike Pataki. A core leadership team began to develop and took ownership of the ideals of Newman Campus Ministry. Together we were able to revive and revitalize the Akron Newman Campus Ministry program.

Julie, our president at the time, was actively discerning a call to religious life. As a Byzantine Catholic, Julie had a strong desire to remain active in the traditions of her church. When her bishop, Bishop John Kudrick of the Eparchy of Parma, wrote to her about his desire to start a monastery within the Eparchy (or diocese) of Parma, Julie knew that this was God’s answer to her prayers. In the spring of 2009, Julie joined Sr. Celeste Strohmeier who was helping to found the Christ the Bridegroom Community, in Burton, Ohio. She entered the novitiate in April of 2011, and continues her discernment



Sr. Julie and Jessie

with the community.

After much prayer, Jessie applied and was accepted as a postulant in January of 2011. She entered the community in May and now is continuing her discernment of the novitiate. Both Julie and Jessie attribute their openness to religious life and much of their adult spiritual growth to involvement with Newman Campus Ministry at The University of Akron.

Mike and his fiancée Kristen are involved with STAY, the youth program at St. Albert the Great parish in North Royalton, and will be married this month.

Young people in our Newman community continue to hear God’s call. Currently, two students are seriously discerning a call to the priesthood. Newman Campus Ministry provides an atmosphere of openness, support and faithfulness to the teachings of the Church that assists students in discovering God’s plan for their lives.

*John Szarwark,
Univ. of Akron Campus Minister*

Oberlin College

A Vocational Guiding Light

During the fall semester of my sophomore year, Newman’s director approached me and asked if I would be interested in participating in a Winter Term project sponsored by Newman. ‘Winter Term’ is a great opportunity Oberlin offers to its students in which they use the month of January to pursue an independent or group project. The project the director was proposing would entail attending a conference focusing on comprehensive immigration reform from a Catholic perspective.

What the conference really succeeded in doing was humanizing an issue that in the media has been reduced to nothing more than statistics and political rhetoric. All people are our brothers and sisters . . .

I am now an English major, Politics minor, with a concentration in Peace and Conflict Studies, and intend to attend graduate school to pursue a degree in International Relations. I hope to pursue a career as a Politics professor, or work for a non-profit, or the Department of State, all with the goal of raising America’s awareness that we are one among many actors on the international stage. Newman played a large part in directing my vocational focus through this conference and so I thank Newman for helping cut through my confusion to reveal my true vocational calling.

*Lauren Muscott
Oberlin junior*

Ashland University

Living Their Vocations

Brother Brian Stacy, Class of ‘08, recently took simple vows in July of 2010 with the Capuchin Franciscans of the Province of St. Augustine after two years of formation. He is now studying theology in preparation for ordination to the priesthood at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. After joining the Catholic Church while at Ashland University, he was an active member of the Newman Leadership Team.

Kristin Striker, class of ‘09, has been ministering at Maggie’s Place, The Zechariah House in Parma since she graduated. Maggie’s Place serves pregnant women who are homeless or otherwise alone. Kristin lives at the House with the moms and babies, being family to them as they go throughout their pregnancy and into motherhood, helping them to embrace their worth and dignity. Her involvement in AU’s “Students for Life” group led her to Maggie’s Place.

Kate (Vasko) Kelly, class of ‘98, and her husband of 9 years, Paul, have been blessed with two beautiful little boys, Conor, 7 yrs, and Ryan, 5 yrs. Paul is a Pastoral Associate for The Catholic Community of St. Gabriel in Concord Twp, OH. Kate is a child life specialist, part time, at Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital in Cleveland, OH. Kate served as the president of Newman during her time at AU.

*Jordan Trejo
Student Intern*

President's Message

Here I am. Send me.

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: ‘Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here I am. Send me.’ “ (Is 6:8-9, NJB)

Has the thought of being a Priest, Brother, Sister, Permanent Deacon or Lay Ecclesial Minister ever crossed your mind? What about working as a volunteer to serve God, His Church and His people? No matter what we are called (by God) to do with our lives, we are all called to live lives of love and integrity while using our God-given gifts in order to make this world a better place.

Discerning one's vocation involves identifying one's talents and gifts, listening to God's calling and recognizing the needs of the community. A strong Catholic presence on campus is essential to assist students as they examine the

relationship between their faith and their vocational choices. Seven secular colleges and universities in our Diocese are served by Newman Catholic Campus Ministers, whose dedication and hard work has inspired many a “religious vocation”, in both the particular and the general sense of the word “religious”.

We at the Newman Foundation are proud to sponsor Newman Catholic Campus Ministry in NE Ohio. Your donation to the Newman Foundation, in these trying times, will increase our endowment and provide even more funding for a strong Catholic presence on our college campuses...and ultimately more vocations to lives of service to the Lord and the Church. We thank you for your continued prayers and financial support.

Blessed John Henry Newman, pray for us!

Gerard D'Souza

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