



NEWMAN NEWS

in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland



Case Western Reserve University

Noticing Christ's Touch, Listening for Christ's Invitation

Lectio Divina - Prayer through Sacred Reading

What word of Life does Christ offer you each week in the Gospel? What would happen if you could make room for a single Gospel word, a phrase or an image that resonates with you, that intersects your life as it is in this moment? Not something you think you ought to notice, but a Gospel word, phrase or image that perhaps touches you like a stringed instrument being played? And after you spend time reflecting and breathing with that, is there something you notice Christ is inviting you to consider in a new or renewed way?

These questions are at the heart of Lectio Divina, which traces its roots back at least as far as St Benedict in the 6th century. Much more recently – since last Lent – Catholic graduate and professional students have been gathering folks in University Circle to apply this approach to Scripture each week. We started with 3 to 5 participants each week in Lent, continued to grow in the summer, and in the fall between 8 and 18 people gathered each week for a light supper and this form of prayerful encounter with Christ. With the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday as a prism, we invite a new, renewed, or deepened relationship with God in communion with Christ, led by the Holy Spirit. Indeed, the Catechism defines prayer as the “vital and personal relationship with the living and true God.” (CCC#2558)

If you would like a sample guide to Lectio Divina (personal or group setting), please just ask me for one! See also websites such as www.lectio-divina.org.

*Tony Vento,
Campus Minister for CWRU, CIA, and CIM*

“It’s a chance to re-center myself in the middle of the week – to be reminded, in the midst of business, that I belong to the body of Christ. The time that we spend together in prayer and fellowship is a source of encouragement for me throughout the rest of the week, especially when I find myself feeling overwhelmed by my studies or the difficulties of staying true to my faith in the context of medical school. Our meditations on the Gospel stay with me, and often deepen my sense of connection to the liturgical life of the Church. Our gatherings give me a sense of place and community. They remind me that Christ is the center of my life, and that I am not alone in following Him.”

Katie Tsubota, medical student, College of Medicine of CWRU

“I have been able to acknowledge God more often in my daily activities and decisions. I’ve met some truly incredible people along the way who have inspired me to put my faith into action and to realize what is truly important in life.”

Mary Rebar, graduate student, Nutrition Studies

“It is truly wonderful how each individual is...spoken to in a different way by the same verses of Scripture; ...each time one reads the verses – even within minutes – new thoughts and messages come through. (Of course – the food is delicious too!)”

Natasha Edwin MD, Internal Medicine resident, Cleveland Clinic

“It helps me to develop a deeper understanding of who Jesus really was and how much he loves us...This has really helped me to grow in my relationship with Jesus and in my faith.”

Abby Walker, first year undergraduate, CWRU

Eugene Boyer Appointed Newman Campus Ministry Director



Ms. Margaret Lyons, Secretary for Catechetical Formation and Education appointed Eugene Boyer Associate Superintendent for Secondary Schools/ Newman Campus Ministry in the Diocese of Cleveland effective July 2012. Mr. Boyer held the position of Principal Emeritus at St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, where he served as Principal from 1999.

Ms. Lyons said, “Mr. Boyer is an excellent choice for this position. He has successfully served as Principal of St. Edward High School

and possesses a strong theology background. This will assist the Secretariat for Catechetical Formation and Education in implementing the new high school Theology Curriculum and in supporting Newman Campus Ministry. His experience in working with high school boards and cooperating with other high school principals will serve him well in his new position. He will oversee the six Diocesan-owned high schools and maintain a working relationship with the other high schools in the Diocese.”

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College of Wooster

Sharing a Table of Plenty

Newman Catholic Community at the College of Wooster participated in a community outreach dinner on November 4 that was the result of several months of planning in collaboration with campus ministers and students from a wide range of religious and non-religious perspectives. The idea for the outreach dinner, called “Fall Feast,” originated during a leadership meeting of organizations that come under the umbrella of the Office of Interfaith Campus Ministries at the College of Wooster. This group includes several Christian ministries, including Newman, Muslim and Jewish student groups, the Secular Student Alliance, and several non-religious groups with a focus on social justice advocacy. The student leaders summarized the mission of their organization and shared about issues they were personally passionate about, and what it was in their faith tradition or life experience that led them to care about that issue. The Fall Feast was planned as a way for students from all of these different groups to work together on planning a big event that would be of service to the community outside the college, but that the individual groups would not have the human resources to put on alone. Dozens of students helped with all stages of organizing the Fall Feast: raising money to buy the food, planning the location, advertising within the city, recruiting volunteers, serving the food, and washing dishes. One of the most important aspects of the Fall Feast was that the intent was not only to serve food to people in need, but to sit beside them and actually share a meal too. Students rotated through responsibilities in the kitchen and behind the counter so that they could also spend time getting to know the people they were serving. One student remarked, “I’ve volunteered at soup kitchens a lot, but I never actually sat down and ate with the people before.” The Fall Feast helped students form connections across the differences of their religious convictions, as well as the differences of socioeconomic level, education, age, and ability.

Karen Hahn, Campus Minister

Oberlin College

Fellowship and Formation

The Newman Catholic community here at Oberlin is not the largest faith organization on campus. Nevertheless, we do have a thriving Catholic group. Allow us to share a couple of activities that mean a lot to us Catholics here at Oberlin.

First, we celebrate our weekly Mass each Sunday at 5:00 in the afternoon at Fairchild Chapel in Bosworth Hall on the campus. The Mass is our anchor, one can say. We call upon a number of priests in the diocese to preside. Students have a big share in the Sunday Liturgy. They not only serve as lectors and Eucharistic ministers. They also plan and perform the music for each liturgical celebration. Many of these students come from the famed Conservatory. In this way, our students are developing responsibility in leadership. We usually have forty to fifty people at our gathering.

After our weekly Eucharist, our students have a dinner in a nearby building where there is a dining area. A student volunteer takes on this ministry of hospitality by planning the meals. Often more than twenty students gather for fellowship at the after-Mass meal.

Both of these activities – the weekly Mass and the supper that follows – contribute to the formation and strengthening our Catholic community at Oberlin College. Further, each activity provides opportunities for students to assume leadership responsibilities.

A few weeks ago our students had their Busy Student Retreat. Sister Mary Ann Spangler came to our campus and served as spiritual director. This was a positive experience for all those who participated and was followed by the opportunity for further spiritual direction in early November. These experiences assist students in appropriating their Catholic faith and also help each in the formation of his or her Christian conscience.

Greg Stevens, Campus Minister

Ashland University

Young People Take Their Faith and Make it Their Own

“Our goal is for students to grow in faith, so as graduates they can go on to be Catholic leaders in their communities, families, and occupations. This is a time for young people to take their faith and make it their own,” says Nate Addington, Campus Minister of the Newman Community at Ashland University.

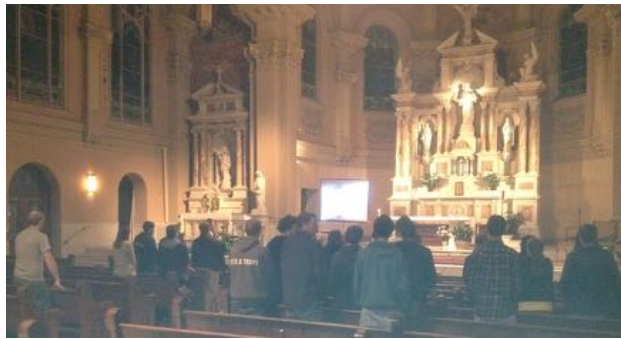
Catholic Campus Ministry is alive and thriving at Ashland University, providing nearly daily opportunities for students to grow in their faith. From Sunday night Mass to Monday evening “Newman Night,” where students enjoy a communal meal, discussion and catechesis, the week continues with Renew small group faith sharing and times for more traditional devotions, such as morning prayer and rosary.

When Christopher Goffos, from Cortland, Ohio, was looking at colleges, he was intent on being part of an active Catholic Campus Ministry. Now a junior at Ashland,

Christopher has participated in an alternative spring break mission trip to El Salvador, March for Life in Washington, D.C., and Campus Ministry Leadership Institute in Philadelphia. “It’s easy to get caught up in being artificial as a college student and to participate in things that are not necessarily in line with Catholic life. The Newman Community helps me avoid those things and to focus on developing my leadership skills, my prayer life and my morality as well,” says Christopher, who holds the position of Student Campus Minister.

Another student, Madalyn Humphrey, from Elkins, West Virginia, credits the Newman Community for helping her through the college transition. “I’ve learned so much about myself through the encouragement of others. This is helping me grow in my faith and in my confidence. If I hadn’t gone on

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The University of Akron

Campus Ministry Program Welcomes All - Growing in Faith and Spirit

With the coming of the new semester and a new school year, Newman Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Akron prepares to welcome freshmen and returning students to the University and to the Newman Experience. During the summer months, our Leadership Team meets and plans a whole year of activities: educational and spiritual speakers, community participation activities, retreat and praise and worship devotions, and "alternative" Spring Break travel. All these experiences provide students, faculty and the parish community of St. Bernard various opportunities for spiritual growth and development, and allow the mission of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry to come alive and flourish.

The Newman music program has grown from its meager beginnings in 2009 to a full contemporary ensemble including keyboard, drums and strings along with volunteer voices. Music Ministry is responsible for the 8 PM Newman Mass at St. Bernard Parish that is adjacent to the University Business College. On any given Sunday, 200 song sheets are distributed at Mass for the congregation to participate in prayer and song. Increasing participation in the program indicates that there is spiritual growth happening and developing in the students themselves and the Newman program overall.

Newman Catholic Campus Ministry not only seeks to provide religious and spiritual activities but also to offer opportunities for students to participate in Community-building and Social Justice activities. This semester Newman students at the University of Akron have assembled "Rosaries for Our Troops" as well as "Shoebox Christmas Boxes" for children in third world countries. Students solicited donations of toys and personal items (e.g., tooth brushes and paste) for children ranging between ages 4 and 14. The planned Alternative Spring Break Trip to Nashville in Spring of 2013 will give students the opportunity to experience first hand the lives of some of the many people who are suffering from the hunger, homelessness and economic stress.

The Newman program provides the students opportunities for prayer and devotional experiences. Each semester, the leadership team schedules a Praise and Worship event for students who wish to experience the true presence of the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. In addition, students, faculty and staff have the opportunity to meet and greet persons with common interests. In all, the Newman program supports college life with a program designed by students, for students, in the best of the Newman Catholic tradition.

John Szarwark, Campus Minister

Baldwin-Wallace College

Music Ministry Begins the Year on a High Note!

The music ministry at Baldwin Wallace University has always been a high point for those who attend weekly Sunday liturgy, and this year is no exception. In addition to the usual leadership of music each week, there are two new developments for the program this year. First, both the professional music coordinator and the student music coordinator attended two days of the National Pastoral Musicians convention which was held in Pittsburgh in July. Becky Bergh, student music coordinator, and cantor and guitarist for Mass, says that the sessions on praying with your choir and how to engage and encourage new members were particularly inspiring to her.

The second new endeavor for music ministry this year is leading a time of praise and worship immediately before Mass begins. Scripture passages are coordinated with meditative worship music in order to help the students in the

congregation to quiet themselves from their hectic schedules as they prepare for liturgy. This time of praise and worship has helped to create a prayerful atmosphere for everyone as they enter into liturgy.

The music program and worship community as a whole are not the only beneficiaries of these new steps. Becky, the student music coordinator, is also gaining valuable skills and confidence that she will take with her after college. A senior music therapy major, she says, "playing the guitar at mass has honed my skills and abilities for playing [and for] sight reading music...it has only solidified my confidence in myself, my voice, and my ability to be present to the Lord while I play. By being involved with the music ministry program, I have many skills that I can potentially share with the next parish community that I join by becoming active in their ministry."

Kirsten Vilinsky, Campus Minister

*Ashland University***Young People Take Their Faith and Make it Their Own** *(continued from page 2)*

the mission trip to El Salvador, I would never have known how much passion I have for wanting to help children in orphanages. I'm discovering the supportive and caring person that I always knew that I was."

Reaching the 440 busy Catholic students at Ashland can seem like a daunting task – but not to Fr. Vince Hawk, who works double duty as pastor for St. Peter Parish in Loudonville and Campus Minister for the Newman Community at Ashland University. "Certainly the celebration of the Eucharist and gathering people there is most important," responds Fr. Hawk when asked about the value of Newman Ministry. "Then making those personal connections beyond the Mass is where we are really able to help students shape their lives morally, in their knowledge of the Church, and in deepening their faith.

We offer spiritual direction and retreats that build on these personal relationships. Watching the students grow in faith becomes a pretty powerful experience."

Nate, who was a member of Ashland's Newman Community before becoming Campus Minister, adds: "Making a personal connection through faith is so important in the midst of all the pressures of college life."

It is especially gratifying to see the seeds of the Spirit grow in the students they serve. Currently, four young men from their program are in formation for the priesthood. "To be able to watch those young men develop in their lives, build on what they already had, and grow spiritually - that is truly satisfying," remarks Fr. Vince.

Fr. Vincent Hawk and Nate Addington, Campus Ministers

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**Eugene Boyer Appointed
Newman Campus Ministry
Director**

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Gene and his wife, Mary Schmitt Boyer, a professional sportswriter for The Plain Dealer, have lived in Avon Lake since 1997. When asked about the appointment, Mr. Boyer stated: "I am excited to join the Office of Catholic Education within the Secretariat for Catechetical Formation and Education. Catholic education has been my passion for over 25 years, and I look forward to serving in this new capacity."

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