



NEWMAN NEWS

in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland



The Search for and Transmission of Truth

Pope Benedict XVI baptized sixteen infants on January 8, the feast of the Baptism of Christ. The Pope's homily focused on the importance of receiving the Sacraments and a strong religious education. He urged the children's parents and godparents to refresh themselves continually from the "wells" that are the Sacraments and the Word of God. Without that constant refreshment, he said, "we are no longer able to educate others." "Education," the Holy Father said, "becomes a wonderful mission if it is done in partnership with God, who is the first true educator of every man."

Blessed John Henry Newman authored *The Idea of a University*, a seminal volume of lectures making the case for Catholic higher education. Blessed Newman argued that the university is dedicated to the search for, and transmission of, all truth, including the fundamental truths revealed by Christ through His Church. Students today are hungering for faithful education and feel the need to rediscover a strong Catholic identity through Newman's writings.

The secular colleges and universities in our Diocese are served by Newman Catholic Campus Ministers who strive to

strengthen the Catholic identities of students and thereby make a rational case for their existence and uniqueness. We at the Newman Foundation are proud to sponsor Newman Catholic Campus Ministry in northeast Ohio. Your donation to the Newman Foundation will increase our endowment and provide even more funding for a strong Catholic presence on our college campuses ... and take Newman's high standard for faithful Catholic education to every Catholic student. We thank you for your continued prayers and financial support.



Blessed John Henry Newman, pray for us!

*Gerard D'Souza, President
The Newman Foundation of Northern Ohio*

The University of Akron

Catechetical Programming with the Mission in Mind



The mission of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Akron is to give students attending this non-Catholic university the opportunity to strengthen their faith and Catholic identity:

- Participation in a worshipping community of faith — 8:00 PM Sunday Mass, special Masses on campus (school year, Thanksgiving, Ash Wednesday), eucharistic adoration and praise through song
- Increased understanding of Catholic teaching and tradition — Local priests and religious present "student-chosen" topics for discussion
 - Education, action and reflection on peace and justice issues — Implementation of Newman Apostolate of Caring
 - Leadership development — Campus Ministry Leadership Institute participation
 - Opportunities for personal development and conscience formation — Individual spiritual direction, Busy Student and One Day Retreats
 - Making connections between faith and life — Alternative spring break experiences

At the University of Akron the academic year begins with leadership planning sessions that pose the questions, "Where do we see the mission of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry as a means of meeting the needs of Catholic students enrolled in a public college or university?", and "How can our mission enable students to grow in their personal and public faith?"

Activities during the 2011-2012 academic year include not only activities that create community among those students who participate in NCCM, such as dinners, outings to football and soccer games, etc. But, it is through providing religious educational and faith-based catechetical opportunities identified by the students themselves that our program fulfills its mission objective. Throughout the academic year students are provided with opportunities for spiritual direction and faith-based discussion of religious topics of interest to them. Recent topics include apologetics, the supernatural, the lives of the saints, the rosary, church teachings on abortion and pro-life strategies, social justice and the church, the meaning of Lent and celebrations of the Church year. These help to prepare students for an active faith-based life after college when they return to their home parish.

John Szarwark, Campus Minister



Ashland University

Church is for Lovers

Catholic Campus Ministry, the Newman Community at Ashland University, is excited to participate in a new catechesis series entitled “Church is for Lovers” during the Spring 2012 semester. Newman members at Ashland University attend Newman Nights every Monday, which typically consist of dinner made by students and a presentation by a speaker. During the Fall 2011 semester, Catholic Campus Ministry held a three-week miniseries on Pope John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body” teachings. The student response to this miniseries was very positive, which led us as campus ministers to create a more intensive series on a topic that had stimulated many questions during the miniseries - that is, on marriage. After studying the November 2009 pastoral letter from the U.S. Catholic Bishops, “Marriage: Life and Love in the Divine Plan,” we constructed a six-week series in which we alternate as lead presenters on topics from the pastoral letter including “The Two Ends of Marriage” and “Marriage as a Vocation”. Student response has been fantastic halfway into the series. Through use of creative PowerPoint presentations and leading questions, we have been able to foster a lively yet comfortable setting for students to interject their own questions and thoughts as well. There are more possibilities for catechesis related to “Theology of the Body” that could become themes for future programming.

Fr. Vince Hawok and Nate Addington, Campus Ministers

Case Western Reserve University

We Truly Are A Pilgrim People

What is a Catholic campus minister doing in a landmark Protestant church sharing insights from a Jesuit theologian and specialist in Islamic art and architecture? Catechesis comes in many guises; in this case, it illuminates how religions and their use of hallowed space shapes the experience of faith as well as their understanding of the structuring of their religion. Oh, and did I mention that the group of 14 participants had one Lutheran and two Catholics, a Hindu, a Jew, and most with no affiliation, including several “seekers” and two Chinese couples with little exposure to religion?

Welcome to Case Western Reserve University’s response to President Obama’s InterFaith and Community Service Challenge! This has been a year of intentionally cultivating understanding between people of belief and non-belief on campus, while exploring more sustainable ways to continue dialogue and a more robust religious life at CWRU.

Oberlin College

Catechesis Happening on Campus

On Sunday, February 26, the Oberlin Newman Catholic Community invited guest speaker Bill Boomer, director of the Cleveland Diocese’s Department for Marriage and Family Ministry, to join them in their weekly after-Mass meal. Mr. Boomer facilitated a dialogue about relationships, specifically directing the conversation toward the “hookup” culture pervasive on many college campuses. Many students participated in the discussion, and voiced their opinions on both friendships and the dating scene at Oberlin, sharing their experiences with the positives and negatives of both. Mr. Boomer added to the conversation by sharing his own personal experiences from his relationship with his wife and sharing common relationship “red flags” that are useful in evaluating both friendships and romantic relationships.

The response from everyone to Bill Boomer was markedly positive. As Aubry Hagadorn, a current sophomore in the Oberlin Conservatory, stated, “It was great to see the Newman student and adult communities coming together to share their ideas about relationships in this discussion lead by [Mr. Boomer].”

Bill Boomer is part of a series of guest speakers sponsored by the Newman Catholic Community scheduled to speak at Oberlin throughout the semester.

On Sunday, March 18, Fr. Donald Dunson will come to the Oberlin College campus and speak to the Newman Catholic community about what the Roman Catholic Church teaches on the topic of world hunger. Then before the end of the semester, Fr. Sean Ralph will come to campus to speak to us on an additional catechetical topic.

*Patrick Haggerty, Music Minister
and Gregory Stevens, Campus Minister*

As an experiment in early March 2012, the university organized a guided visit to a Hindu temple in Parma, the Grand Mosque in Parma, the Hillel Synagogue and the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant. Yours truly was the guide at the latter, where I was able to share Catholic teachings on liturgy, ecclesiology and ministry in historical context. Written feedback shared that participants strongly believe such a guided visit should be offered each semester; it was so valuable and eye-opening to have the opportunity to ask any question about a religion, while being welcomed into living communities of faith, and riddling through that experience together as a motivated group. Good thing I minored in architectural history and had just returned from an interfaith pilgrimage to Italy!

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

*The College of Wooster***Dead Man Walking**

This past November, Newman Catholic Community at The College of Wooster sponsored a screening on campus of *Dead Man Walking*, the film adaptation of Sister Helen Prejean's book of the same title, which shares her experiences in prison ministry and advocacy against the death penalty. The film screening was a special event tied in with our small faith group, which meets weekly. Our hope was to share concern about the death penalty issue from the Catholic perspective with the wider campus community, in addition to our core group of students who regularly participate in Newman's small faith group. Discussion following the film focused on Catholic teaching regarding the dignity of human life, justice, and reconciliation. The screening of *Dead Man Walking* was paired with an opportunity for students to hear Sister Helen herself speak the following week at the parish of Saint Martin of Tours in Valley City, Ohio on November 15, 2011. College of Wooster students and staff members, some Catholic and some belonging to other traditions, traveled to hear Sister Helen speak and were deeply moved by her powerful witness to the Gospel call to work for justice and redemption. Conversations about the death penalty and other life issues continued in the van on the drive back to Wooster, and have been an ongoing thread within Newman Catholic Community.

Karen Hahn, Campus Minister

*Cleveland State University***Bible Study**

Having what I consider to be a teacher's heart, it is a great joy for me to offer innovative ways to help students appropriate the faith. Or sometimes a solid scripture study does the trick. This semester, a small group of students and I are participating in the study of the Gospel of Mark each Thursday afternoon on campus. Often our weekly discussion parallels and enhances the Sunday gospel reading.

Debbie Dacone, Campus Minister

Having never studied the Bible outside my Catholic high school education, I was not sure what to expect when joining the Newman Catholic Bible Study at CSU. However, I discovered that meeting with peers, participating in related exercises, praying the scriptures and actually analyzing the Bible is not all too foreign from the religion classes of my past, and yet, it invites new ways for me to explore the Word of God and my faith. I felt secure in familiarity while being challenged to explore and grow deeper in my faith. I look forward to continuing this Biblical adventure!

Nicole Palermo, CSU student.



Left to right: Karen Hahn; Sr. Helen Prejean, C.S.J.; Angela Bauman ('14); Bridget Schmidt ('15); Andreja Siliunas ('14); Elora Agsten ('15). Back: Michael Greer

*Baldwin-Wallace College***Vocation Discernment and Catholic Social Teaching**

This spring semester, diocesan presenters came to Baldwin-Wallace College for two different nights of education and conversation. Fr. Michael McCandless, Coordinator of Vocations to the Diocesan Priesthood, joined us for dinner, then gave a presentation about what discernment is, the scriptural basis for discernment, and some of his personal discernment story. Regardless of one's particular vocational calling, said Fr. Michael, it is important that each person discern and commit to that path. One should not consider the priesthood or religious life simply until a relationship comes along, for example. Each of us has a unique call to a particular vocation, and through prayer and discernment with family, trusted friends, and spiritual directors, we can discover and fully live that vocation.

Sr. Kathleen Ryan, Executive Director of the Diocesan Social Action Office, also joined us this semester. Her presentation was focused on education and preparation for our spring break mission trip to Alabama to work with migrant worker communities. Hearing some of the basics of Catholic Social Teaching was helpful for the students, as was the exposure to an issue that has been much in the news lately, but not necessarily on the radar of a typical college student. "Sr. Kathleen's talk taught us so much about immigration and really opened our members up for discussion," said sophomore, Sophia Viglione. "I think that we all learned that we need to be more educated about the current topics of social justice as well as the Christian stance on them."

Kirsten Vilinsky, Campus Minister

Dear Friends of the Newman Foundation,

As I prepare to retire from my position as Secretary for Catechesis, with responsibility for Newman Catholic Campus Ministry in the Diocese of Cleveland, I take this opportunity to say "Thank You" for the support you continue to give to this vital ministry. Whether through your enthusiasm, your prayers, your financial support (or perhaps a combination of those indicators) you are providing important support to our campus ministers and the students, faculty and staff of the colleges and universities that they serve.

In keeping with the spirit of your generosity, I pledge to continue to support the Newman Foundation and Newman Catholic Campus Ministry, both spiritually and financially, for as long as I am able. Together, we can help this incredible ministry thrive and grow...and the Lord will be our guide!

Blessings and Peace,

Bill Miller

Secretary for Catechesis, Diocese of Cleveland



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"God knows me and calls me by my name.... God has created me to do Him some definite service.... He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling."

*John Henry Newman,
 from Meditations and Devotions,
 "Meditations on Christian Doctrine," 1848*

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