



NEWMAN NEWS

in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland



The University of Akron

Year of Faith

The worldwide Year of Faith Celebration is alive and continuing at the University of Akron. At the end of the Spring semester 2013 students gathered to venerate our Blessed Mother during her special month, May, on the corner of University Avenue and South Main Street. Rather than pray and reflect and sing the joys of our faith at the Newman Center students chose to publicly pray where all could see their devotion to Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother. Fr. Damien Ference and Fr. Norm Douglas presided, and students crowned the statue of Mary that is adjacent to the Newman Center on South High Street. What a wonderful way to “live” our faith and be an example to others.

Newman Catholic Campus Ministry continues to grow at the University of Akron. As of the writing of this article approximately 90 students are on the student roster. A large number of freshman students have indicated an interest the



Newman community. Leadership members are conscious of the need to be welcoming and open to the needs of those new

students who are interested in what our Newman community can offer. The first three Wednesday gatherings were “standing room only”.

One of the best and easiest means of communicating with the Newman membership is our user-friendly website, www.uanewman.com. The site includes a brief history of Newman at the University of Akron, an *Events/Projects* page and a *Home* page with general information on Newman and how to navigate the site. Other means that the leadership team uses to keep everyone in touch include an active facebook group, [UA Catholic Campus Ministry](#), and an extensive email network.

John Szarwark, Campus Minister



2012 Shoe Box Christmas Project Brings New Friends!

The first “Shoebbox Christmas Project” has yielded some new friends in Zimbabwe. Abigail (the mother), Christina and Christakelly Meda. Christina, 9, received the Shoebbox package and shared the toys and things with her younger sister, Christakelly, 5. Their mom, Abigail Meda wrote, “Christina loves pink!” Other shoebboxes were delivered last year to New Zealand, New Orleans and Jamaica, and Akron students are assembling more shoebboxes this fall.



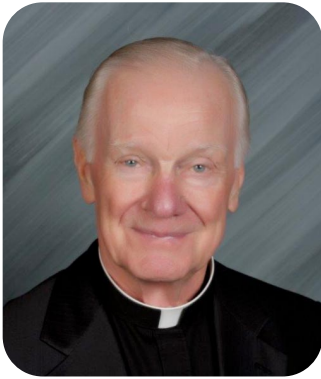
Baldwin Wallace University

Living Faith through Worship

Only three weeks into this new ministry, I am struck by the enormous good will of the students (not only the leaders, but those they serve as well) and their eagerness to live their faith in worship, and in participating with the community of believers at Baldwin Wallace University. We have small groups meeting at the house for Scripture studies and prayer; we have begun a series of monthly service and community-building opportunities. On Sunday evenings, we meet for our Eucharistic liturgy, followed by a meal, provided by volunteers from the university community or one of the local parishes.

Our Music Director, Melissa DeGuire Rusu, through her choice of music and the choir she has assembled, brings our worship a richness and depth which many parishes should envy. Baldwin Wallace is renowned for its music and theatre programs, and many of the talented musicians and singers on campus share their gifts in service to the Newman community at our liturgies. This is clearly a gift that keeps on giving, as it both attracts and strengthens the community.

Steve Eyerman, Campus Minister



Rev. Allan R. Laubenthal, STD

Newman Foundation Dinner

Celebration of Cardinal Newman and Vatican II

On Saturday, October 5, the Newman Foundation Board of Directors invited more than 50 of our friends to celebrate “The Year of Faith” and the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. True to our namesake and the ministry to which we are committed in support, we

chose to also celebrate the gift of Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman to the Church.

We were honored and blessed to have as our guest speaker for this wonderful evening a living eye-witness to the Second Vatican Council in our own Diocesan priest, Rev. Allan R. Laubenthal, STD, who is Rector Emeritus of St. Mary Seminary here in the Diocese of Cleveland. Fr. Laubenthal was a newly-ordained priest of the Diocese in 1961, and was sent to study systematic theology in Rome just as Vatican II was getting underway (1962-63) and gaining the momentum

(1963-65) which would propel and prepare our beloved Church to boldly move forward in the 20th and toward the 21st century.

Fr. Laubenthal shared a few personal recollections of his role at the Council as a courier of documents being considered by the Bishops of the world gathered in the Sistine Chapel. He recalled hearing these Bishops gathered from all corners of Catholicism discussing and debating during informal meetings in the coffee shops which were located in the lower regions of the Sistine Chapel area. What was most noteworthy is that these diocesan shepherds were conducting many of these conversations in Latin, which was, at the time, the universal language of the church, at least among leaders such as these!



Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman 1801-1890

Shawn Witmer, President of the Newman Foundation.

Case Western Reserve University

Devoting Ourselves to the Breaking of the Bread

My first month as Newman Campus Minister at CWRU has been filled with gatherings, reminding me how important community is to us as Catholic Christians. After Jesus’ Resurrection, the first task of the apostles was to create a community of love, to gather a people to preach the gospel and to continue Jesus’ ministry of healing and forgiveness. Our first task of the academic year was to welcome the first year students, greeting them with warmth and connecting them to the wider Church at Holy Rosary Parish.

Returning Newman student leaders clearly understood the importance of feeding their community. During Orientation, they held a welcoming barbecue followed by the “Mass on the Grass” – bodily nourishment followed by spiritual food. The laughter and joking of the casual meal gave way to a joyful but prayerful ambience as Fr. Bob Stec convened the Sunday liturgy. Like the very first Christian community, the students at CWRU “devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42). Looking out over the grass adjacent to Leutner Pavilion, I was struck by the beautiful witness of fifty college students kneeling in prayer before the Eucharist. They had become a living sign, a sacrament testifying to Christ’s living presence among us and to our role on earth as the Body of Christ.

Feeding Christ’s sheep remained a theme as September unfolded. The barbecue and Eucharist were followed by a welcoming spaghetti dinner in Holy Rosary’s Parish Hall and an organized effort to accompany first year students to Mass on their first Sunday in town. These “Roamin’ Catholics” gathered on campus 20 minutes before each mass to lead those

unfamiliar with Cleveland to Holy Rosary. Not to be outdone by the students, the generous parish community at Holy Rosary provided pancake breakfasts and an ice cream social to follow the spiritual nourishment of each Eucharistic celebration. Newman’s weekly service event, the Labre Project, geared up to welcome new participants in their mission to feed the hungry and provide friendship to those living on the streets of Cleveland, a mission they engage in 52 weeks a year.

The Graduate and Professional students here in University Circle also gather to break bread and break open the Word 52 weeks a year. The Lectio Divina Bible Study Group meets every Monday for faith sharing focused on the Gospel of the week. I accompanied two new graduate students – one from Shanghai and one from Peru – as they were welcomed into this community. They were grateful to find a new but familiar spiritual home, and their presence reminded us all that “Catholic” means global and universal.

With his call to communal prayer for peace in Syria on September 7, Pope Francis reminded us that we are indeed a global community and that our mission is to the world. Many of us joined Holy Rosary Parish’s prayer vigil and were heartened by the new possibilities for a non-violent solution to the chemical weapon impasse, a possibility that is a testament to the power of communal prayer. As we build our small Catholic faith community here at CWRU, I look forward to exploring with the students the many ways we can stand together and pray together as we speak God’s love to a troubled world.

Sharon Bramante, Campus Minister

*Cleveland State University***Campus Ministry Leadership Institute, San Diego**

Once the college spring semester is over, most students go back home for the summer and pick up a job or two around their local area. This however, was not the case for me and three other students from Cleveland State University. Towards the end of our spring semester, Carol Wallington (our Campus Minister) informed us of a leadership conference that would be taking place in early June; we, of course, could not pass up the opportunity.

The conference, known as CMLI (or Campus Ministry Leadership Institute), was held in San Diego, California at the University of San Diego. The purpose of this conference was to allow leaders of Newman to be together, and plan/set up programs that are gauged towards bringing in, or retaining, college freshmen. CMLI was structured very well: multiple chances for small group discussions with one's own team, discussions with teams mixed with different students from different campuses, and of course, Mass available daily. Having time to spend with our project group gave us time to debate which ideas we would develop into a plan for our CSU campus project. However, it was pleasant to have time to spend with other students from other campuses, to hear what their projects entailed and share similar ideas to use or debate within their campus groups.

At the beginning of this conference, we were divided up into mixed groups with other students from other campuses and learn/develop leadership skills. In these groups, we learned icebreakers, understanding how to approach people with different personalities and read from the Word of God. This part of the conference was the best in my opinion; not only were we making new friends, but also learning and developing our skills needed to be leaders, from other peers who were just as nervous as I was.



In our project groups, we as a team from Cleveland State University, spent hours debating, planning and structuring how we could reach out to incoming freshmen from the Cleveland area. This planning process went by smoothly with little trouble thanks to the tools provided by CMLI and USD. When we had arrived on campus, we were given three-ring binders with detailed schedules and templates to follow through in a step-by-step format to complete our projects. These templates came in handy as we planned, edited and finalized our Peer Outreach Ministry program.

All in all, CMLI was a terrific experience for me and for my teammates. Sharing ideas, worshipping together and, on occasion, joking around and making ridiculous faces was just icing on the cake for a trip this amazing.

CSU Student Leaders

*Ashland University***Made in the Image**

This fall, after several weeks of social gatherings, the students have entered into an eight-week series on the topic of human dignity, entitled "Made in the Image." This series features presentations by both campus ministers, by guest faculty members, and by missionaries from Nicaragua, the group's 2014 spring break service trip location.

The first three weeks of the series are being spent laying out a philosophical and theological foundation on the concept of human dignity, whereas the remaining five weeks will focus on practical ways students can become active in the fight for human dignity in our world, as well as examples of "human dignity champions" who have worked to achieve great victories in the past. These champions include Dorothy Day and Sr. Thea Bowman.

The students hope to do a "reprise" of the series for one night in the spring, with the anticipation of former Senator George Voinovich joining us for a discussion on human dignity in the political arena.

Nate Addington and Father Vincent Hawke

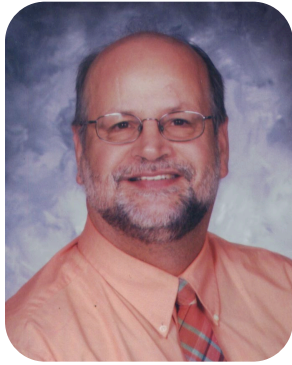
*College of Wooster***Wilderness Retreat**

The campus ministry at the College of Wooster recently joined in with the students of Ashland University for a fall camping retreat in the Mohican Wilderness just south of Loudonville, OH. The retreat featured hiking in the state park, a ten mile canoe trip, and six student witness talks that focused on the tenets of campus ministry as outlined in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops document "Empowered by the Spirit."

These aspects — forming the faith community, educating for justice, forming the Christian conscience, developing leaders for the future, facilitating personal development and appropriating the faith — each played a specific role for each one of the student participants. As such, their witness talks were tailored to share that particular part of their story.

The retreat concluded with the students participating in a service project for the local assisted living facility. Students made more than thirty Christian themed door hangers for the residents and delivered them in person.

Nate Addington, Campus Minister



Letter from the President.

To Enter through the Door ...

This letter will begin and end on the same note: gratitude! I am grateful for the dedication, discipline and example of my predecessor, Gerard D'Souza, who exemplifies what is most important among those of us who share the honor of serving on the Board of Directors of the

Newman Foundation of Northern Ohio. Gerard is a practicing Catholic, a man of faith, a devoted husband and a doting dad, whose practice of law is founded on Catholic principles and ethics. Thank you Gerard!

I am also grateful to my fellow Board members who have entrusted me with leadership of our Board for the next two years. In response to the invitation to support our first Newman Foundation Dinner (see the story page 2), each and every Board member said "yes," and then purchased tickets and tables to ensure this inaugural dinner's success. Thank you fellow Board members!

And, last but not least, I am grateful for those of you who support the work and ministry of Newman Campus Ministry throughout the Diocese of Cleveland. We know you hold the ministry in prayer, and many of you also contribute financially to the Newman Foundation, which in turn supports the plans and projects of the campus ministers in their respective locations. Thank you readers and supporters!

As we conclude the Year of Faith in our Diocese this November on the Feast of Christ the King, we are reminded by our Bishop Lennon to not lose sight of the theme and the mystery that he proudly proclaimed throughout our Diocese: Living our relationship with Jesus Christ! When he first announced the Year of Faith last October, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI used the image of a "door," borrowed from Acts 14:27, when he said, "To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime." As the Newman Foundation, we are proud to profess our support and pledge our continued efforts to promote Newman Campus Ministry in the Diocese of Cleveland. We faithfully invite students, faculty and staff on campus to approach and pass through the door of faith and to continue on the "journey that lasts a lifetime."

*Shawn Witmer, President,
Newman Foundation of Northern Ohio*

MEET THE CAMPUS MINISTERS

Ashland University

Rev. Vincent J. Hawk, 419-994-4396
frvhawk@gmail.com
 Nate Addington
naddingt@ashland.edu

Baldwin-Wallace University

Steve Eyerman, 440-243-4955
seyerman@dioceseofcleveland.org

Case Western Reserve Univ.

Sharon Bramante, 216-421-9614 X302
sbramante@dioceseofcleveland.org

Cleveland State University

Carol Wallington, (216) 509-8860
cwallington@dioceseofcleveland.com

College of Wooster

Nate Addington, (330) 287-3718
naddingt@ashland.edu

University of Akron

John Szarwark, 216-696-6525 X3000
 Assistant Director for Campus Ministry
jszarwark@dioceseofcleveland.org
 Rev. Norm Douglas, 330-376-3585

Diocesan Director of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry

Eugene Boyer, 216-696-6525 X2450
www.dioceseofcleveland.org
eboyer@dioceseofcleveland.org

Sandy Williams, 216-696-6525 X4990

Administrative Assistant
swilliams@dioceseofcleveland.org

Newsletter Editor

David Perry, 330-972-6825
dperry@uakron.edu

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Diocese of Cleveland
 The Newman Foundation of Northern Ohio
 1404 E. 9th St., Second floor
 Cleveland, OH 44114
 Voice (216) 696-6525 X2450

