



NEWMAN NEWS

in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland



At John Carroll University, the Diocese of Cleveland hosts

The Campus Ministry Leadership Institute



During the first week of June 2014, a total of twenty college and university Newman programs from around the country participated in the Campus Ministry Leadership Institute (CMLI) at John Carroll University that is sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All seven Newman Catholic Campus Ministry programs in the Diocese of Cleveland participated with financial assistance from *Rooted In Faith — Forward in Hope*. Leadership teams from each college or university included a Newman campus minister and three to five student leaders who focused on the six aspects of campus ministry defined in the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' 1985 document "Empowered by the Spirit". The goals of the institute were (i) to ground participants' understanding of leadership in the context of Catholic faith and discipleship; (ii) to provide students and ministers with a "big picture" perspective of campus ministry; (iii) to learn and practice collaborative ministry team skills; and (iv) to generate and share new ideas and

program possibilities through networking with other campuses. Each campus team worked toward improvement of an existing campus program or development of a new project to be implemented when they returned to their respective campuses.

Elements of the institute included prayer, small group gatherings and team building activities. Team-led interactive experiences and a presentation on the Hermann Brain Dominance Inventory (HBMI) provided a framework for understanding the different ways we think and work together. This HBMI presentation opened the eyes of participants to the ways others think and process information. It offered ideas to help participants understand others better and work collaboratively as a leadership team.

The articles in this newsletter reflect the programs developed by each of our seven campus leadership teams at CMLI.

*Eugene Boyer,
Diocesan Director of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry*

"The Rooted in Faith Campaign provides an exciting opportunity for all of us to work together in realizing our vision for a vibrant Catholic Church in Northeast Ohio." The Strengthening Our Faith — Lay Faith Formation component is able to provide funding for opportunities to engage young adults in the life and mission of the Church. Newman Catholic Campus Ministry programming in the Diocese of Cleveland engages young men and women of college age on seven secular college campuses throughout the diocese's eight county area, developing these students into leaders of the Church now and in the future. Newman programs in the Diocese of Cleveland are located at: Ashland College, Baldwin Wallace University, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, Oberlin College, The College of Wooster, and the University of Akron.



Case Western Reserve University

Resurrection Becomes a Lived Experience

CWRU Newman’s four-student leadership team went to CMLI with the dream of recreating the once popular FYSH (First Year Spiritual Home) Program. As Catherine Smith, a current graduate student in social work and past FYSH participant, recalls, “the FYSH program allowed for spiritual growth during the important time when students are becoming acclimated to a new environment. For me, it was a chance to re-confirm my faith and foster many of my closest friendships with students who share my beliefs.”

Sophomores Jenna Bailey and Vincenzo Volpe brought enthusiasm

and passion to the project because they understood from experience just how difficult it can be to make the transition from a Catholic high school to a secular University. The spirit of can-do cooperation and commitment led to the involvement of another dozen students as FYSH guides and spilled over into other Newman programs. Exceeding our initial goal, FYSH has gathered 37 first year students, and, by the grace of God, the 15 student leaders who are orchestrating it are experiencing the fruits of its resurrection every day.

Sharon Bramante, Campus Minister

Oberlin College

Blessing, Blessing, Gift... Hope

Lessons learned at CMLI through interactions with students from Ashland and Wooster, were a blessing for us and are being passed on to student leaders at Oberlin. It is not taking long to implement those principles in our own setting — forging connections with first year students and making Newman more accessible to students interested in deepening their Catholic faith through prayer, service, and fellowship.

Hope is the spirit of the Oberlin Newman community as we begin the 2014-15 academic year. A wonderful gift, I’d say, since “hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Rom. 5:4).

Nate Ediger, Campus Minister

Balwin-Wallace University

New@Newman

As a group at CMLI, we developed a strategy for attracting and engaging first year students. Our strategy, “Fishing for Freshmen”, is in the spirit of Jesus’ telling the apostles that they would become “fishers of men.” We designed a series of events, “Mass on the Grass”, “Spaghetting to Know You” and “Breaking Bread”, culminating in our “New@Newman” day to directly engage first year students. The New@Newman day is a mini-retreat, or a day of reflection, with an explicitly evangelical theme to show our mission as assisting the students in their lives as disciples of Christ. From there we address, in an open forum, the various challenges students often face in trying to live as a Christian on campus.

Steve Eyerman, Campus Minister

Ashland University

Sharing Faith around the Campfire

Eight of us from Ashland University participated in CMLI this summer. The student project “Don’t Be the Anonymous Catholic” focused on moving the students who only attend the Sunday celebration of the Mass into deeper levels of engagement with other Newman activities and events.

The time spent at CMLI gave the students an opportunity to grow in their own faith, meet other Newman groups from across the country, and vision-cast on how they would implement their project on campus. The students felt that in the past, once a student engaged in one event outside of Mass, they were more likely to be actively involved in a



variety of ministry-sponsored areas, such as weekly Newman Nights, small groups, or service trips. To reach out to those who only attend Mass on campus. Students focused their project around the annual camping retreat that takes place in the beginning of the fall semester.

The students who participated in the camping retreat spent three days in the Mohican State Park, hiking, canoeing, and participating in faith sharing around the campfire. To follow up, the first Newman Night discussion series and small group bible studies were launched the week immediately following the retreat.

Nate Addington & Fr. Vince Hawek, Campus Ministers

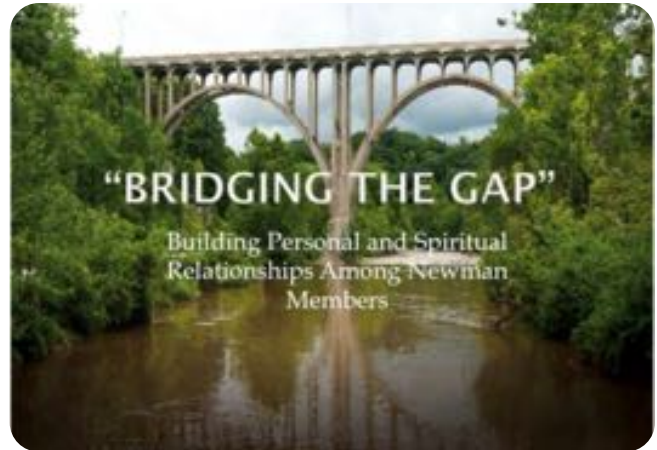
The University of Akron

Bridging the Gap

Members of the University of Akron Newman leadership team who participated in the 2014 CMLI set the goal of making the students feel welcomed into our faith community and giving them the opportunity to form individual relationships. In other words, if students feel comfortable enough to share common interests, they may embark on enduring relationships that are not only personally enriching but may also strengthen and deepen their faith.

How will the leadership team accomplish this? First, a representative leadership group connects with students and introduces Newman at the university's activity fair. Programming information and activity descriptions are highlighted. Secondly, Newman leadership welcomes students to their weekly gatherings with dinner, prayer and personal development opportunities as well as to devotional activities, (Mass, Praise and Worship, Reconciliation). Topical discussions address issues confronting young adults, Peace and Justice issues, etc. Our initiative to promote a closer Newman community involves small group activities, such as Tuesday Book Club, Thursday Bible Study, and Friday Racquetball.

John Szarwak, Campus Minister



“God calls each baptized person to holiness. Our discipleship may be lived out as married or single, lay, ordained, or religious. By exercising leadership according to our circle of influence, we can make the world a better place. In all of these states of life, there are opportunities large and small for exercising a leadership that is based on service and helps to humanize our world.”

*Empowered by the Spirit: Campus Ministry Faces the Future
US Conference Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter*

College of Wooster

Calling All C.O.W.S

Over the summer, Wooster Newman students gathered in Ann Arbor, Michigan to begin making tangible progress on the work that they had started at CMLI. They spent two days designing magnets, t-shirts, a banner, first month event cards, and other materials to hand out for prospective students to learn about the Newman community and its schedule. At Scot Spirit Day, the students handed out the things made this summer, and cupcakes from a local bakery were given to those who followed, or “liked”, the ministry on social media.

With the academic school year now in full throttle, the Newman Community at the College of Wooster can now reflect on how the CMLI planning has changed campus

ministry at the College. Over 100 students have subscribed to the weekly updates for the organization, a 126% increase from last year. Newman Nights at Wooster have nearly doubled from the end of the 2014 spring semester and attendance for Sunday evening Mass is also growing.

The student-led CMLI team was one of four invited to present at the first ever United States Conference of Catholic Bishops webinar on campus ministry. They will join participants from across the country as they share their CMLI project and its accomplishments.

*Nate Addington, Campus Minister
Marissa Quiery, Campus Ministry Intern*

Cleveland State University

Viking Companions

Archbishop Oscar Romero once said, “Aspire not to have more, but to be more.” At CMLI, we chose this as our quote for the Newman Center at Cleveland State University. But what does it mean? It simply means that we want to achieve things for our spiritual and emotional gain, not for material wealth or worldly gain. While our group each got something different from the retreat, we all felt this strong call to “be more”. Since then, we each have wanted to, in the words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, “go forth and set the world on fire”.

At CMLI, our group thought of a



three-pronged program to expand our campus ministry program and spread our faith and love. The three parts are Lunch Bunch, Mass and a Meal, and Viking Companions.

As “Viking Companions”, each member acts as a mentor to a newly recruited student. Advice and guidance, as well as friendship and prayer is offered to help them through difficult times. In addition, reading *Made for More* by Curtis Martin will these young Catholics to realize their own call to “be more” and to find meaning in their hectic lives.

Monica Stephens, Student Leadership



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Letter from the President

Reverse Mission: For the Giver as Well as the Receiver



This year – 2014 – marks the 50th anniversary of the Cleveland Diocesan Mission to El Salvador. These years have been filled with generosity, kindness, faith, hope and love, even to the point of suffering and death. In a reflection at the Center for Pastoral Leadership, Fr. Stephen Vellenga

shared his sense of *reverse mission*, appreciating his years in El Salvador as a “great gift” for himself (video link: www.reversemission.com). Our Diocese has been richly blessed through our relationship with the people of El Salvador, and we are a more inclusive Catholic community

because of it. Bishop Richard Lennon affirmed the blessings of *reverse mission* for our Diocese, and added that his native Archdiocese of Boston had also responded to the call of Vatican II with a mission in Central and/or South America.

The wisdom of their words has stayed with me, as I consider our dedicated campus ministers who seek to provide students with meaningful opportunities for faith-based mission service. They remind the students, as Fr. Vellenga has reminded us, that we who are endowed by God with the resources to help others are also being blessed by God through the welcome and witness we receive from them. We have much to learn from those who live so very aware that the Lord’s Prayer, “give us this day our daily bread....” is a call to acknowledge our deep dependence on the providence of God.

We go with the confident assurance that God is with us as we depart and is waiting to welcome us upon our arrival. God is already there!

The members and supporters of the Newman Foundation support the *reverse mission* of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry, both on campus and through mission trips to serve those in need. We also provide financial assistance for programs which promote leadership development, busy student retreats, celebrations of the sacraments, and community-building activities. Once again, we invite you to join with us in this worthwhile investment. Please consider making a contribution to our endowment fund for support of present and future generations of Catholic students.

Your partner in the *reverse mission*,
Shawn Witmer, President,
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