



# NEWMAN NEWS

## in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland



*Ashland University*

## Going to Serve and Being Changed

We spent an entire week covered in dirt and sweat, constantly sun burnt and dehydrated; we got scrapes and bruises; we hauled cement blocks and wheelbarrows of dirt and rocks; we mixed concrete by hand and made rebar wires. Most importantly, we spent the week in Nicaragua with children and people that changed our lives!

Two weeks ago, 14 students and the two campus ministers from Ashland University built walls and floors of an orphanage for special needs children at the Mustard Seed Communities home in Nicaragua. The work was hard, but as we lugged buckets upon buckets of concrete through the sun, covered in dirt, hands bruised and tired, we would pass by faces of adorable children that offered nothing but smiles. They made it worth it. They didn't care that we smelled of sweat with dirt encasing our skin; they offered us love and smiles and each face warmed our hearts.



It's hard to put into words everything Nicaragua has meant to us. We learned about love; we learned about faith; we learned about ourselves as we were inspired and challenged to grow our understanding of "Church".

Nicaragua will always be a part of us. Why? Because we joined the servolence and we changed ourselves in an attempt to change the world.

*Melanie Sudar  
Senior, Ashland University.*

*College of Wooster*

## After the Fury of Katrina

The College of Wooster, Who 'Dat?! Although this Newman Group may not be the Saints of the Big Easy, they are emulating the city's mascot for their spring break trip. Six students led by campus minister, Nate Addington, made a pilgrimage down south, not to escape the frigid winter of Wooster, Ohio, but instead to serve their brothers and sisters in Christ. The focus of their trip has been making improvements to a home affected by Hurricane Katrina. A decade after this devastating natural disaster, many homes are in need of restoration. Everything from windows, to walls, to roofing, or just a fresh coat of paint, the College of Wooster students are here to help.

The Wooster students are working on the home of Angel and Nelson, a couple who met post-Katrina and settled

in New Orleans in the the historic neighborhood of Tremè. Nelson, a life long resident, and Angel, a relative newcomer to the city, both experienced the fury of Katrina. The students are continuing the work of previous volunteers, partnering with the local service organization, His Hands to Go. Zoe Hostetler, class of '17 said, "It's awesome to be apart of one enduring project that strives to improve the lives of these people. In doing this work, we realize that we live together in one human family."

The students have been painting the house a shade of light purple, trimmed with white. Such a color combination, not unusual in New Orleans, embodies a sense of hope for the future.

*Greg Butler & Colin Omilanowski,  
sophomores, College of Wooster*



*Baldwin Wallace University*

## Hogans in the High Desert and Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity



The Baldwin Wallace Newman group had a fantastic week in Gallup NM, as an alternative Spring Break Trip. In the US, this diocese is at once the largest in square mileage, the smallest in population, and by far the poorest. The needs are ugly in this dusty, hardscrabble town surrounded by Navajo reservations, but we found that the landscape and the people are beautiful.

We had much purposeful work, breaking ground for the foundations of five big "hogans," the Navajo name for living quarters, on a high desert plain at St. Bonaventure Mission in the mornings, then in the afternoons working at a soup kitchen and shelter with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. Some of our Newman students even got to help with

office work at the diocesan chancery and were a great help.

We had a bit of a social life as well, as I have college friends who moved there years ago, and we were treated like honored guests for a few dinners. We got to tour around just enough to appreciate both the subtle and the glorious aspects of the Southwestern high desert. The student group bonded very well, with lots of singing and laughing.

The glue for all of this was our evening 'pow-wow' – theological reflection and prayer to discern God acting in our lives. This kind of experience makes for a heightened awareness of the finger of God, so our group exercise was to form habits of discernment and of 'heart speaking to heart'. These eight students were engaged with every element of the Newman program and would describe their experience in superlatives; it exceeded my own high expectations!

Five of the six students who are candidates for next year's leadership team at BW Newman were on this trip. They are excited about planning for the next year, and this trip only solidified their commitment. All this is a terrific grace and a sign of good things to come.

*Steve Eyerman,  
Campus Minister*

*Cleveland State University*

## The Living Person Challenge

At CSU in our Tuesday Gatherings, students meet for lunch at various locations to talk about the challenges we face in our daily lives, pray together, have fun, and study the Youth Catechism, all in a relaxed and informal environment. For the Lenten season, we decided to take our Tuesday Gatherings in a new direction. We started delving deeper into our faith by learning about the Living Person, which is a movement of people working to improve their lives mentally, physically and spiritually through a series of challenges. Centered on faith, our community is striving to become the best version of ourselves in order to serve God and God's people. It's the hope of the Living Person Challenge to give glory to God in all our endeavors. The Living Person Challenge was brought to our community through the Living Person program, started by Jurrell Sison, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Director at St. Ambrose Parish in Brunswick, where one of our students attends. Jurrell inspired the students to become the best

versions of themselves through the words of St. Irenaeus, "The glory of God is found in the living person." The challenges vary in length from 30-90 days, and fall into three categories, mind (intellectual growth), body (physical wellness and fitness) and spirit (spiritual growth and peace). As a community, we hold each other accountable to our goals by partnering with one another and with members of our CSU community to help change our lives and the lives of those around us.

To kick off the Lenten season, CSU hosted Rev. Roger Gries, OSB retired Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Cleveland. Bishop Roger with his sense of humor and love for students came and celebrated the first Ash Wednesday Mass with our parish partner, St. Peter, located just 2 blocks north of the campus at E. 17th and Superior Avenue. With music and choir provided by the parish musicians and participation in the liturgy from our students, we had 75 people, including Faculty/Staff from CSU and ourselves. It was a wonderful celebration. As he left, Bishop Roger said he'll be back next year and looks forward to other opportunities to celebrate Mass with us in such a beautiful environment as St. Peter Church.

*Carol Wallington, Campus Minister*

**Save the Date:** Annual Newman Foundation Dinner  
Saturday, October 4, 2014 at 6:00 pm  
at The Patrician Banquet Center, Eastlake, Ohio

Case Western Reserve University

## Table Fellowship – Jesus’ Recipe for Creating Relationships

Born of their experiences with the Labre Homeless Outreach Ministry and their observations of crushing poverty in E. Cleveland, Catherine Smith '14 and Alexander Abriani '14 had a dream very much in line with Pope Francis' call to become a Church that goes out to the margins of society. "What if," they wondered, "CWRU students and Holy Rosary Parishioners actually got to know the people of E. Cleveland? Would there be a more natural sharing of resources out of the trust and the relationships that developed?" They decided that sharing a monthly community meal would be a perfect way to find out.

Catherine, a social work major, is very familiar with the cycle of poverty and the stepchild status of E. Cleveland which makes it ineligible for many inner city assistance programs. Alexander spent time with Clifford Williams, a local gentleman who emerged from a troubled background to reinvent himself as the founding director of Our Family Home Center, a storefront drop-in program at 14681 Euclid Ave. Mr. Williams' outreach programs include after school snacks and arts & crafts for grade school students, cultural outings for children and teens, and a Thursday noon meal. He hopes to expand to include a tutoring and mentoring program for high school students, resume writing workshops and assistance for adults seeking employment, and occasional weekend family meals.

With the help of generous volunteers from Holy Rosary Parish, our first home-cooked dinner was served on Saturday January 18, 2014. We began raising funds to defray the cost of future meals with a Fair Trade Valentine's sale. Catherine Smith wrote a Neighborhood Connections grant proposal to create a sustainable funding stream.

In her proposal, Catherine makes it clear that the aim is to do much more than alleviate hunger. "We felt like something needed to be done. . . to connect the students on campus to the Holy Rosary community, and to alleviate . . . some of the perceived barriers between them and the East Cleveland community," she explains. "This program looks to be more than a soup kitchen by having individuals from different backgrounds join together to share food and conversation during the meal."

Jesus practiced a table fellowship that went beyond the social, religious, and economic barriers of 1st century Palestine.



When his disciples followed his example, they spread the message of God's love and forgiveness across cultures and continents in a way they never imagined possible. The Newman students, Holy Rosary Parish, and the people of E. Cleveland do not know where this simple step of sharing a community meal will lead, but we certainly hope it will improve all three communities. Again, Catherine explains that by "listening to the needs of E. Cleveland residents, we will be able to make connections to the economic, educational, and political resources of CWRU . . . and the members of Holy Rosary Parish." Our hearts will be changed by the friendships we create, and we will learn to appreciate the gifts and resources of the people of East Cleveland.

*Sharon Bramante, Campus Minister*

"Father Arrupe spoke of poverty and said that some time of real contact with the poor is necessary. This is really very important to me: the need to become acquainted with reality by experience, to spend time walking on the periphery in order really to become acquainted with the reality and life-experiences of people."

*"Wake up the World!: Conversation with Pope Francis about the Religious Life" by Antonio Spadaro, SJ, printed in La Civiltà Cattolica 2014, 13-17*

Oberlin College

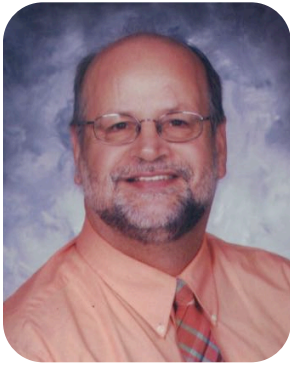
## New Man on Campus

"It is so nice to have you here!" was the refrain of Newman students at Oberlin College upon my arrival as Campus Minister. The Newman community at Oberlin had been without a campus minister during the fall semester. The students had given an extra measure of leadership throughout the fall semester: working hard to coordinate Mass on Sunday evenings, tending to the administrative tasks related to Newman, and even convening a weekly small group Bible study.

As the new man in the Oberlin community, there has

been much to observe and absorb. Our weekly celebration of Mass is the focal point of the Oberlin Newman community. Building upon that communion, we also enjoy a Sunday dinner together — with much laughter — and continue our small group Bible study. In the words of St. Paul to the Philippians, I charge them to "forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead, press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (3:13-14)!

*Nate Ediger, Campus Minister*



*Letter from the President.*

## Sharing the Gift of Time in Service to Those in Need

During this season of Lent, we are invited to focus our time and spiritual energy toward prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Each of those spiritual practices could be seen as rearranging our schedules in order to “spend” more time with God and share more generously from our abundance. Of the many gifts

we have been given to share, it seems that the only one we children of God share in equal measure is time. Each of us is given the 24 hours of each day to use as we see fit. The gift of life itself can also be rightly received as the gift of time. While

we cannot assume how much total time we will enjoy within our earthly dwelling, we do know this much: each of us has today in equal measure.

In hearing the stories of generous service which the students involved with Newman Campus Ministry have shared during their Spring Breaks from college, I am reminded of this precious gift of time. These students have many options when considering how to “spend” their Spring Breaks. Many of their peers will “invest” significant amounts of time (and money!) in pursuit of personal pleasure, rest and relaxation. These Newman students, inspired by God and formed in faith by their Newman Campus Ministers, are choosing to share their precious gift of time in service to those in need in many wonderful ways and locations. You need only read their stories

and view their photos to appreciate how much these young adults have been a power for good through sharing their time (and energy!) as an expression of gratitude for what they (and we) have been given by God: our time.

We members of the Newman Foundation support the work of Newman Campus Ministry in promoting and preparing for these types of “alternative” Spring Breaks. We contribute financially to the costs of transportation and accommodations, and in this way keep the per person costs more affordable and accessible to more students. Please join with us in supporting these generous young adults who in their service to others also remind us all to share our talents, treasure and especially our time with others. Carpe Diem!

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

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