



NEWMAN NEWS

in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland



The University of Akron

Spring Break in Far Rockaway

In October of 2012 Hurricane Sandy hit New York City destroying thousands of homes. Nearly 3 years later, in Far Rockaway, Queens, NY, people are still recovering from the damage on their homes caused by the hurricane. The University of Akron Newman Campus Ministry returned to Far Rockaway for a second year to work with the *Memmonite Disaster Service (MDS)* in collaboration with *Catholic Relief Services* to restore homes and to provide hurricane victims with a small sense of hope that there are people willing to help restore their way of living. Eleven students spent the week March 22 through March 28 working during Spring Break with the MDS volunteers in various different home restoration projects.

There is no better way to experience "Spring Break" with the Newman students from the University of Akron but through the words and impressions of the students themselves.

John Szarwak, Campus Minister

Working with MDS was a wonderful experience. Going into the trip with very little past experience with construction and building walls, I was nervous that there would be very little that I would be able to help with, but the long-term MDS volunteers were so good at teaching and so patient that by the end of the week I felt like I not only gained construction experience but also made a difference in someone's life. My favorite part of the trip was getting to know the other volunteers and the people we were working for. The work was fun because we got to work together and laugh with each other.

Katie Brumbaugh, Sophomore

Volunteering with MDS was a powerful and encouraging experience. Listening to the stories of a few of the homeowners whose lives were devastated by the storm was both heart wrenching and inspirational. Most lost all of their personal material possessions, but their faith in Jesus Christ endured throughout all their suffering. It was inspiring to see how the love of Jesus Christ is enough and is greater than anything we have in this world. Our prayers go out to all of those still suffering from this disaster.

Marcus Horning, Grad Student



In general, the reflection on my experience on the spring break trip was that even the smallest bit of work could restore a lot of hope to the people we helped that week.

Elizabeth Decaro, Freshman

Working with MDS was incredible both times I had the privilege to work with them. The sense of community that is present the entire week is one of my favorite parts of working with this organization. Though we didn't know the long-term volunteers at the start of the week, I felt like I became much closer with them by the end of it. The fact that faith is incorporated into many aspects of the week we spent with MDS is another great bonus. Knowing that there is a common goal of doing good so that we can serve God provides a lot of motivation while out at the job site. I feel like I really made a real difference in the week I was able to help MDS.

Joanne Bartos, Junior

It still amazes me how much damage is still present from Sandy but even more how much MDS and Newman could make a difference in the progress of restoring the homes and bringing hope back into these people's lives. As a group, I was so proud of how hard everyone worked through the week.

The most important part of the trip was that everything we did was to serve God and to show his love in our work and with the people we encounter. Every morning began with a prayer, devotion, and song (*This is the day*) before we went to work at our project sites that help remind us of why we were there. I could really feel God's presence during our time in Far Rockaway (and while we traveled).

Catherine Genet, Senior

"The Church on campus will be seen more clearly as a genuine servant community, dedicated to social justice, and therefore will be a more effective sign and instrument of the kingdom of peace and justice in the world. In the new era, the Church and higher education will find more productive ways of working together for the well-being of the whole human family. In our vision, campus ministry, empowered by the Spirit, faces a future bright with promise."

(P105, Empowered by the Spirit, November 1985, USCCB)

College of Wooster

Going to Serve and Coming Home Changed



After meeting every week since October in preparation, and after fundraising over \$25,000, 14 members of the Catholic Campus Ministry at the College of Wooster traveled to the *Community of Oscar A. Romero Children's Orphanage* (COAR) in Zaragosa, El Salvador to spend their spring break in solidarity with their brothers and sisters in Latin America.

"I don't think I was prepared for what the trip was going to do to me. Internally, I mean. I won't I'll be the same after this trip - I don't think any of us will," said Zoe Hostetler, a sophomore sociology major from the College.

The team worked throughout the week providing English classes in the local parish school, a crucial ministry for the village's children. For many of these students, the ability to learn English is a near guarantee of a secure job in a country where 48% of the country lives on \$2.00, or less, a day. The College of Wooster was the first team to make the trip in nearly 3 years due to U.S. State Department travel restrictions, and, as a result, many of the students had never heard English spoken without a Spanish accent.

The team also spent a day in the mountain villages of El Salvador, visiting the Diocese of Cleveland priests serving with the Cleveland Latin American Mission. But, perhaps the highlight of the trip came on the final night. The Mission team members joined the local residents of Zaragosa in a three hour-long procession of the Stations of the Cross through the village.

The College hopes to return in the coming years and continue to serve the residents of COAR. For more information on the work being done in El Salvador please visit www.coarpeacemission.org.

Nate Addington, Campus Minister

Baldwin-Wallace University

Immersion in the Culture of Life

Baldwin Wallace Newman took our spring break trip to New York City with the Sisters of Life. This order was founded just 25 years ago, with the mission of caring for women in crisis pregnancies and for new mothers in distress. Six students from BW attended, with a total of 80 students from all over the country. They hosted us at a retreat house in Stamford, CT for a combination of service activities, social events, and a retreat.

On the first evening, we went into Manhattan to join *The Catholic Underground*, an edgy and minimalist Praise and Worship service in an old Church in the heart of the city, attended by many hundreds. It featured Eucharistic adoration and benediction in the upper church, and a nightclub feel below - a great introduction to the Church in the city. Another day, we visited shrines of saints and other holy men and women, including Solanus Casey, Frances Cabrini, Elizabeth Seton, Dorothy Day, and Fulton Sheen. The week included manual labor in cleaning, fixing and painting a rickety four-floor brownstone in Harlem, to be used as a home for young mothers.

Much of the rest of the week amounted to a retreat, in what they called "*immersion in the culture of life formation*". We joined in the liturgical life of the sisters, with the full cycle of the Liturgy of the Hours, and heard conferences on the dignity of the person, Theology of the Body, the Works of Mercy, as well as witnesses from the sisters about their vocations and the work they do. We received workshop training in active listening and how to engage (and how not to engage) with women in crisis.

Steve Eyerman, Campus Minister

Ashland University

Special-Needs Orphanages

Mustard Seed, a system of over 20 special needs orphanages in Jamaica, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic has been a ministry partner with Catholic Campus Ministry at Ashland University since 2013 when the school sent students to work in several of its orphanages in Jamaica. The following year, the school continued their work in Nicaragua. And so, it only seemed appropriate to see the journey through by traveling with 15 members of the ministry this spring break to the Dominican Republic.

Jesse Ireland, a Junior Exercise Science major has been on all three of the trips. "Each country is different, but one thing that stays the same is the children. They might live in different countries, and suffer from different diseases, but the face of God can be seen in every one of them." said Ireland.

The mission team members spent the days praying and spending quality time with the residents of *Hogar Immanuel Orphanage*. The team was also able to take several of the residents to the beach, carrying them from their wheelchairs out into the ocean - a truly humbling experience.

Having now visited all of the *Mustard Seed* locations, Ashland plans to return to Nicaragua in 2016 to continue the partnership. They are also in the early stages of setting up summer-long internships, working with several of the orphanages in Jamaica. For more information on the good work of *Mustard Seed*, visit www.mustardseed.com.

Nate Addington, Campus Minister

Case Western Reserve University

An Opportunity to Love Unconditionally



From March 8-14, CWRU Newman joined Catholic groups from Virginian Tech and Marymount University at *Fr. Beiting Appalachian Mission Center*. The combination of service work, daily mass, and time for reflection was a unique “working retreat” experience.

Sharon Bramante, Campus Minister

The most memorable experience of the Appalachian Mission trip during my spring break was helping a family that were complete strangers to me. It taught me that my actions could greatly impact others. I think the family could do the project themselves, but they had a mindset that made them feel helpless... as if abandoned by society and that improving their living situation was not worth their energy. But seeing strangers traveling from far away to help them made them feel worthy and loved. It made them want to change and help themselves.

I am happy knowing that I was able to change their mindset, and I would like to think that this was God's plan. God taught me to love others as I would love myself, and it was a great experience showing the family my unconditional love even though they were strangers.

An Ta, CWRU Dental Student

Oberlin College

Reflection on Hope and Joy

‘Hope’ captures the spirit of the Oberlin Newman Community this school year. St. Paul once wrote, “hope does not disappoint us” (Romans 5:4). Students returned from winter term with a spirit of ‘joy’ that has carried us through the dark, cold winter months and into the bright, warm days of spring!

Newman sponsored an on-campus, ecumenical Ash Wednesday service. A trip to Our Lady Queen of Peace in Grafton for a fish fry and the Stations of the Cross provided many in our community with an evening of fellowship and Lenten devotion.

Nate Ediger, Campus Minister

Cleveland State University

Lectio Divina

The semester began with a weekend trip to visit the Newman Center at Youngstown State University. In our weekly *Lunch Bunch* program, we study the upcoming Sunday Mass readings by *Lectio Divina* (a form of Sacred Reading). The students enjoy using *The Word Among Us*, distributed free and carried by students with them through the week for their own private prayer. Our students have embraced having a parish home at St. Peter, the nearest Catholic Church to the CSU campus and have been well received by the pastor and parishioners. We partnered with St. Peter Parish for our annual on-campus Mass, with students serving in the different lay roles.

Carol Wallington, Campus Minister

Save the date for the 2015
The Newman Foundation Dinner

Saturday
October 3, 2015

Guest Speaker **Dr. Karla J. Bellinger**
Director, The Center for Preaching, Evangelization, and Prayer



Sponsored by the Newman Foundation of Northern Ohio
In Cooperation with Newman Campus Ministry and the
Office of Catechetical Formation and Education

Hors d'oeuvres at 6 PM & Dinner at 7:00 PM \$40.00 Per Person
Location: Patrician Catering 33150 Lakeland Blvd. Eastlake, Ohio 44095
www.patriciancatering.com



Dr. Karla J. Bellinger, a certified lay ecclesial minister for the Diocese of Cleveland, has served as a youth minister, theology teacher, coach, hospital chaplain, retreat leader, parish pastoral associate for evangelization and adult faith formation. Before getting her OMin in preaching from Aquinas Institute of Theology, she obtained an MA in systematic theology from the University of Notre Dame. Her thesis, entitled “Are You Talking to Me? - A Study of Young Listeners’ Connection with Catholic Sunday Preaching,” provides insight into how to reach today’s youth, from their own words.

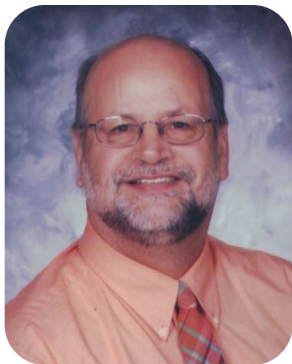
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Letter from the President

We are an Easter People and Alleluia is Our Song

During this season of Easter, we are encouraged to remember that, “We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song.” This truth was first proclaimed by St. Augustine in the fifth century and echoed again by Pope/Saint John Paul II in the twentieth century. Given the tales of fear and terror, which we

hear almost each day from some part of the world, how can we Catholic Christians continue our commitment to living with the “Joy of the Gospel” in our lives, as Pope Francis proclaimed and that is our sign of unity as Catholics?

We find signs of joy and reasons for hope in people who

inspire us by their example. In this edition of Newman News, you will find stories of generous service, which the students involved with Newman Catholic Campus Ministry have shared from their spring break projects, close to home and also abroad. These young adults are living reasons for hope and sources of joy through sharing their time (and energy!) in service of others. We do have living, breathing reasons to say, “Alleluia” and hold out our hands in hope-full imitation of their generosity.

In that same spirit, I am pleased to introduce you to our incoming President of the Newman Foundation, Mr. Anthony “Tony” Crookston, who will be serving as our leader and convener for a two-year term, 2015-2017, which begins in September of this year. Tony’s commitment is yet another grace-full example of a very busy husband, father and business owner who has created a space for the Newman Foundation among the many demands on his time and talent.

The Newman Foundation supports “alternative” Spring Breaks, as well as other programs that each Newman Campus Ministry offers on its home campus. We contribute financially to the costs of transportation and accommodation, keeping the per person costs affordable and making them accessible to more students. Please join with us in supporting these generous young adults who, in their service to others, remind the rest of us to share our talents, treasure, and especially our time, with others.

Please “save the date” and plan to join us for our annual Newman Foundation Dinner on Saturday, October 3, 2015.

*Shawn Witmer, President,
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