



NEWMAN NEWS

in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland



The University of Akron

Welcome RooCatholic



Following a Day long leadership retreat planning session the Akron Newman leadership team members agreed that to be a viable, vibrant organization there is a need to further explore how NCCM-Akron might be able to bring the message of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry “Alive on Campus”. The leadership team identified that a number of other Religious and non-religious organizations spend time explaining and recruiting membership physically on campus with information tents, handouts and one on one conversations during class session hours in common areas of the University. NCCM-Akron an undergraduate organization with a history of Thirty-Six years at the University has long participated in the prescribed organizational orientation events but there was a need to expand the recruitment of individuals that might be interested in what NCCM at the University of Akron program has to offer along with an identity that is simple and easy to communicate.

Four student leaders of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry along with their Newman Minister attended the 2016 Campus Ministry Leadership Institute (CMLI) at St. Xavier University in Chicago along with 16 other college/ university Newman Catholic Ministry programs. Funding was provided by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland — Rooted in Faith Forward in Hope Capital Campaign and the Office of Catechetical Formation and Education —

Strengthening Our Faith — Youth and Young Adult funding category.

The purpose of the institute is to provide professional leadership skills to NCCM students to return to their individual campus programs with a renewed enthusiasm and spread the Newman message.

Akron leadership students defined their goal: “Reimagine Newman Catholic Campus Ministry as a faith-based young adult community at the University of Akron.” The team determined their vision: 1.) An identity that is simple, unique, focused on the current student population; and 2.) clearly describes their purpose and affiliation to university. Then they identified what the organization could become: RooCatholic: “A Place to Belong”; A faith-based young adult community; A student organization that is alive on the UA campus.

As of the date of this writing “RooCatholic” is thriving and developing a greater notoriety on the University of Akron campus. It is evident that Roo (a reference to Zippy, the school mascot) and Catholic (our faith that has called us together) will continue to spread the gospel message on campus for a long time to come.

*John Szarwark,
Assistant Director for Newman Campus Ministry*



Photos: Akron leadership team attending CMLI in Chicago

Baldwin- Wallace University

The New Evangelization

This fall, BW Newman got off to our strongest start in my three years here so far. The leadership team has been focusing on evangelization this year, driven by the understanding that being disciples of Christ, and forming disciples, is the primary call of the Church, and therefore of campus ministry.

We have our regular programming of course, with retreats, small groups, worship, service and social events, but we realize that it is all for naught if we are not first living as though Jesus is both our savior and our friend, praying regularly to maintain that relationship, and supporting each other in it. Part of our awareness this year is that we should not only be willing to 'break the silence' about our relationship with God, but we must first have a vibrant enough faith to share it effectively.

This has not been the typical Catholic approach, but it is the emphatic call of our last three popes, under the guise of "The New Evangelization". We are all beginners, but our leadership team has embraced this mission with open hearts, and we've innovated some twists to our leadership formation.

We designed an opening retreat day for the team in which the importance and some tactics of evangelization was impressed upon them, and since then each of our weekly meetings begins with a ten minute "formation forum", in which we read and discuss a brief article or video on evangelization.

And they are catching on. They are encouraging each other to never neglect a new face; everyone should be "seen, known, and valued", and they are intrigued by the slogan by Sherry Weddell (author of *Forming Intentional Disciples*, the inspiration for this focus), which reminds us that we should "never accept a label in place of a story".

This is where our energy comes from, and where any growth we see will come from. By the grace of God, we will continue to grow in it.

Steve Eyerman, Campus Minister

College of Wooster

Inside - Out

Wooster Catholic is off to a great start this fall! As a new Campus Minister, I am grateful to the student leaders who really stepped up to ease the transition and to orient me to campus and the culture at the College of Wooster. After graduating more than 15 active members last spring, we are focused on recruiting and promoting for our events and community. Our weekly Newman Night series has been focused on the theme of 'Inside - Out' which is taking the idea that self-knowledge leads to self-gift.

The office of Interfaith Campus Ministries sponsored a student led initiative called, "Taste of Tradition." It was an evening of sharing faith traditions as well a food that connected with that particular faith tradition. Wooster Catholic is brought a group of 15 students to pass out cupcakes while speaking and teaching about the Communion of Saints.

Students are active in the local dual winged prison ministry effort with St. Mary Catholic Church and a local organization "Behind Bars and Beyond" to provide jump drives for returning citizens. These jump drives will include resume templates, budgeting materials, local agency contact information, as well as other pertinent information for returning citizens.

Wooster Catholic has also announced our annual Alternative Spring Break trip for 2017! In March, at least 10 students will travel to Abbeville, LA to participate in a short term mission trip. The trip will consist of work projects, home visits, educational pieces, adoration, Mass, reconciliation, and some talks in the evening by the staff that will be our guide throughout the week. The trip itself is being marketed as a work trip as well as a dynamic retreat experience since there will be plenty of time for self-reflection, prayer, and quiet time in nature.

Jordan Trejo, Campus Minister

Ashland University

What's New at AU?

What's new in campus ministry at Ashland University in 2016? Well, not much... and everything, to be honest! Not much is new, because unlike the previous two years we did not experience transitions in staffing entering this school year. As such, we came into the year with strong, existing relationships and creative, relevant programming! We brought back an experienced and dedicated team of student leaders. They implemented a wonderful "welcome week" project planned by our four students who attended the Campus Ministry Leadership Institute this summer in Chicago. Moreover, they've played an integral role in all our ministry opportunities this fall: Newman Nights, bible study and faith sharing groups, service projects, social gatherings, and liturgical ministries. Because of their faith(fullness), campus ministry remains strong at AU!

At the same time, everything is (on the verge of) becoming new. At semester's end we'll be replacing our outgoing senior leadership with incoming student leaders. We've been fortunate to make strong connections with some amazing first and second year students! We're encouraged that they'll provide a renewed vision of ministry to propel us into a vibrant future. Moreover, we look forward to empowering them to put their gifts and talents at the service of our Lord. After all, we have confidence in these trustworthy and true words of the one who is seated on the throne: "behold, I am making all things new" (Rev. 21:5). In this hope, campus ministry will remain strong at AU!

Nate Ediger, Campus Minister

Case Western Reserve University

Tending the Seeds of Faith

We had a beautiful early September weekend which allowed us to enjoy the beauty of nature at nearby Villa Angela Beach and Wildwood Park. Several does with their fawns were grazing right next to the path as we walked to the beach.

Returning retreatant sophomore Meredith Gray summed the value of beginning the year with retreat in this way, "It is a good way to get reconnected with past Newman friends after the summer, and allows me to meet and spend quality time with new Catholic friends whom I then see at Newman events and around campus. The retreat helps me connect more deeply with my faith because talking with my Catholic peers always gives me new insights, new ideas, and new ways of thinking about things in relation to being a Catholic college student in our world today."



Participants at this year's Jesus Retreat.



Breaking bread together in Cuvilly House

The students who participated in the 2nd annual Newman Charis Retreat at Cuvilly House in September already understand that the soil of their hearts must be tended and cultivated if the seed of faith in Christ is going to grow. Jesus asks us all the same question he asked his disciples over two thousand years ago: "Who do you say I am?" (Matthew 16:15)

As we broke open the word together using drama, prayer, student witness talks, and small group faith sharing, we revered the answers emerging from each individual's heart and explored new possibilities.

Junior Ondrej Maxian, who has been a member of the retreat team both years, explains why he is so committed to beginning the academic year this way, "The retreat allows me to step back (at least once a year) and ask how my relationship with Jesus is going. It gives me the chance to truly connect with Jesus through others, adoration, and mass. Renewing my relationship with Jesus is a perfect way to start the school year anew and be prepared for what's ahead."

Charis retreats are informed by the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola so that they are based on the real life faith experiences of young adult Catholics. Student feedback confirms the value of this peer-led approach. They report feeling more comfortable sharing their thoughts in small and large group discussion. It is also easier for them to draw meaning from the experiences and examples used in the talks.

Sharon Bramante, Campus Minister

Letter from the President *(continued from page 4)*

In a previous article, I wrote, "when problems come again, I'll know what to do." I came to this conclusion during a troubling time in my life twenty years ago and that was when I discovered my need for a personal relationship with our Lord. I have lived this reality of faith during 2016 and know it as a fact in the recesses of my heart. I do not believe a person can successfully endure the problems that inevitably occur in our daily lives without a solid relationship with Christ. This relationship with Christ is the only way to live at peace and accept things. After all we have no control over the ebb and flow of life's problems, only God does.

Feeling joy when facing problems and accepting them willingly is contrary to what the world teaches us. The world tells us to seek joy and pleasure in things that make us "happy." The world encourages us to fill ourselves with all sorts of

entertainments and amusements, as if we can truly control our personal feelings of sadness or joy.

In the world, there are so many unhappy people seeking happiness and fulfillment in their life. This self-seeking often makes individuals turn to things that end up imprisoning them and making them unhappy, sad and dejected.

The Christian way, having Christ as our companion, allowing him to be part of our daily life, gives Christ the opportunity to shield us when we do face problems and to lead us down the path of life. We were made for Christ and the only way to be whole and happy in our life is to know Christ.

*Sincerely In Christ,
Tony Crookston, President
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Letter from the President



Continuing Series: A Personal Relationship with Christ

The theme of my last article focused on the necessity of a personal relationship with Christ and how that relationship should become part of our daily lives. Today I wish to share with you some of my experiences. 2016 has been a challenging year both professionally and personally for me. I'm sure many of you can relate to the personal aspect. We all face challenging times.

As the CEO of a small business I wish to share that this has been a challenging year for me. I have been forced to deal with individuals' behavior that has been at times less than "Christian." While I do not wish to get into detail, it is important for me to share that even with the weight of these things bearing down on me, I have found solace and peace by leaning on my personal relationship with Christ.

Through prayer, especially to our Blessed Mother, the Sacraments and visiting Christ in Adoration, I have never felt alone and this strengthening has given me the courage to avoid retribution that would not be a good witness for our Catholic Faith. I realized there was only one set of footprints in the sand, Christ's. He has carried me and I know He will carry you no matter what your troubles are, all you must do is put effort into developing the relationship. He will guide you from there. I'm not always sure where He is leading and in tense situations it takes extra faith and trust to stay the course. But I assure you that faith in Christ always leads to something better and greater.

--- continued on page 3

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