



NEWMAN NEWS

in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland



Ashland University

Catholics and Lutherans Pray Together

Cleveland Bishop Perez participated in an ecumenical prayer service on Oct. 16 to mark the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation. The event was co-sponsored by the Catholic Newman Campus Ministry at Ashland University and the Ashland Office of Christian Ministry, as well as St. Edward Catholic Church in Ashland and Trinity Lutheran Church, also in Ashland.

About 400 members of the Ashland University community, as well as members of various parishes and community members, attended the evening's liturgy which was adapted from a prayer service developed by the Lutheran-Catholic Commission on Unity titled, *Common Prayer: from Conflict to Communion*.

Rod Kreidler, pastor of St. Edward Parish in Ashland, and Pastor Eric Riesen from Trinity Lutheran Church, were co-leaders of the evening's prayer. Bishop Nelson Perez delivered the homily and told those in attendance that everyone was gathered together for one common reason: That each person has had an encounter with the risen Christ

and what we share in common is the goodness, patience and love of God in each one of us. Father Vince Hawk, Catholic chaplain at Ashland University, read the Gospel. Nate Ediger, the Newman minister at Ashland, opened the event with a greeting and explained the purpose of the gathering.

Article courtesy of the Diocese of Cleveland



Case Western Reserve University

Thirty, and Sixty, and One Hundredfold

In a time of transition for the Newman campus ministry that serves CWRU, the Cleveland Institute of Art and the Cleveland Institute of Music, students stepped up to take ownership of our different ministries. Our First Year Spiritual Home Program and our Charis Retreat provide genuine moments of encounter with the living God both for the students for whom these ministries are meant and for the students who lead them.

Student leaders have visioned new and creative ways to both serve our current community more perfectly, and to bring more students into it. A podcast, *Case Catholic Radio*, focuses on daily Scripture passage reflections and the questions Catholic College students often have about their faith. This podcast reaches beyond the boundaries of our core community to students who are not able to make it to our regular events. Beginning in December, we will host the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Rosary, our Sacramental home. The Adoration of the Eucharist will function as the cornerstone of a monthly community and worship service that one of our student leaders, Joyce Chu, brought back to us from her time abroad in Ireland. Our

students have brought forth ideas for service and social events, to increase our outreach and to help us become more fully a community in Christ.

We pray that our continued openness to the promptings of the Spirit will lead our ministry to be a Spiritual home to each individual at these three schools that Christ calls to us. We hope that you will pray for us as well.

Steve Perry, Campus Minister



RooCatholic

- *To me, RooCatholic means having a family away from home that I know will support and love me, and also help me grow deeper in my relationship with the Lord.*
- *RooCatholic is truly a community that encourages and supports each persons' relationship with God and with the other people in their lives. We're a family that's continually growing.*
- *RooCatholic is different. We are not just a campus organization that plans events for interested students. Rather, we are an ever-growing community of young adults. We worship together. We hang out together.... But most importantly, we welcome anyone who wants to go deeper with us in the wild adventure of a life with Christ.*
- *I love it because it's the one place where I truly feel that I belong and I can fully be myself.*
- *RooCatholic is a community where I can receive the love of God, be formed in truth, and then sent out to proclaim this good news to the world! There is nothing else I would rather do!*
- *There is so much joy in RooCatholic! These beautiful souls give me strength to live out my Catholic faith and honestly search for truth. I am continually amazed by the spiritual depth I find here and it inspires me to delve even deeper into the richness of God.*
- *RooCatholic helps reorient your worldview from the daily struggles of college life to our eternal purpose and provides a strong community in which to do so. (Free food's not bad either!)*
- *...Honestly, RooCatholic is what helps keep me sane and incredibly happy while in Akron and I feel so blessed to be part of a community with so much love.*

The University of Akron

RooCatholic - A Place to Belong



RooCatholic has begun its second year with a continued perspective of bringing faith and education together. The leadership team is energetic, spiritual and committed to being a welcoming faith community of Young Adult Catholics on the University of Akron Campus. Our home located in the Newman Center on the campus of St. Bernard Church is filled with vibrant conversation, community events, prayer opportunities and a bustling of activity that the center has not experienced in a rather long time.

At left are some comments from our leadership team.

John Szarwark, Assistant Director for Campus Ministry

College of Wooster

Faith and Identity

The students on campus have been working hard through the summer to plan Wooster Catholic programming for the school year. We've come up with a theme called, "Faith &..." This theme dives us openly, vulnerably, and intentionally into the intersection of faith with identity, vocational discernment, career path, culture, and specific interests that students have expressed in the course of our planning.

Thus far, we have discussed in a broad sense faith in the context of vulnerability and identity. Through the Faith & Identity night, we recognized our various identities and how those have changed and shaped throughout our lives. In addition to the Faith & series thus far, various retreat opportunities have been available to students. Students have also had the opportunity to go on an Alternative Fall break trip through Appalachia Service Project. There, in conjunction with the Presbyterian campus ministry at Wooster, students were able to help those in the community of Jonesville, Virginia by providing warmer, drier, and safer places to reside.

As we continue throughout the rest of the semester and continuing into the spring, we will be continuing our Faith & series through speakers giving their personal testimonies about how faith had come into their lives and how their faith has



shaped their choices and paths. From someone who is in the active duty military, to a newly wed couple, and even hearing from a mother and daughter who foster children, we will be gaining a wide variety of perspectives to foster growth in knowing that faith does not have to stem from only one profession or one singular vocation.

Nate Ediger, Campus Minister



Baldwin-Wallace University

Welcoming Discipleship



What's new for the Newman community at Baldwin Wallace University is our change of name to the "BW Newman Catholic Student Association." The new name stresses that this is a student organization, run by and for Catholic students on campus who want to support each other in their faith. As a diocesan campus minister, I am here to help them. Part of this new identity comes with a new logo, as well as a new website, at bwnewman.org, so we welcome all to check us out!

Our 2017-18 academic year has begun well, with nothing new or dramatic, but a steady welcome-back to all. Our opening Mass on the Grass & BBQ in August, a 'Spaghetting-To-Know-You' dinner, and our Fall Retreat, held at the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center, just across the Ohio line in Pennsylvania. These are the events that work so very well to 'rebond' our returning students as well as to introduce new students to who we are and what we are about.

We have ten students involved with our FYSH program, which stands for First Year Spiritual Home. This program gathers first year students once a week in small groups, led by upperclassmen, to make a community of friends who share their faith, and enjoy activities, discussion and prayer, all focused on what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

The Fall Retreat too was focused on the theme of Discipleship, and this sets the tone for the whole community for the rest of the year. Discipleship is about being a follower of Jesus Christ, keeping a close relationship with him and disciplining ourselves to a faithful life of prayer so that we can continue a fruitful friendship with the One we have come to know as both our savior and friend. This is the journey we all share, and at BW we have taken our first solid steps on it.

Steve Eyerman, Campus Minister

Busy Student Retreats and Spiritual Direction

Testimonials from Young Adults

Below is a sampling of testimonials gathered by Sister Mary Ann Spangler, HM in May 2017. Additional testimonials may appear in future issues of *Newman News*.

I am happy to reconnect with you and Sister Katie after a long time. It seems like the perfect time, since as I wrote to Sister K. Much of the work you did with and for us, bears its fruit over time. Specially those life deciding questions. There are many things that accompanied me from our sessions. Pieces of paper you handed out with prayers for peace. The written exercises of our 1 on 1 meeting (people we admire, where we see ourselves in 5 years for example). "He who travels without a guide needs 200 years for a 2 day journey" I think was on one of those pieces of paper. Well, you were this guide for me, and can only wish everybody in this world for such a guide.

Victor, Oberlin College

Originally from Columbia, Victor was an excellent musician and hard-working student at Oberlin. After graduation (-2005), he volunteered with HM Volunteer Program. He pursued further education in psychology and is now living in Germany with his son.

I came to CWRU as a transfer student during my junior year. At Case, I quickly became active in a number of on campus clubs and extracurriculars, but never knew about Newman (there was no Newman presence at my previous school) and wasn't focused on joining any faith-based organizations. During my first semester at Case, I happened upon a flyer for the Busy Student Retreat program that was hung in my residence hall and decided to give it a try. Having access to the Busy Student Retreat program afforded me the opportunity to connect with spiritual direction resources and other students, and most important to continue to deepen the connection to my faith - and to do these things on a flexible schedule. The schedule flexibility and personal attention that came with spiritual direction are what attracted me to the program. When I lost my mother between junior and senior years, I had very little interest in grief counseling or even talking about my loss with anyone. Through the BSR program, I had already found a resource in Sr. Mary Ann Spangler and her support helped guide me through a difficult period when I was not comfortable sharing with others. Sr. Mary Ann also shared discernment strategies during my planning for post-graduation that helped me tackle tough decisions. My close group of friends at Case was not active in any religious affiliations, Catholic or otherwise, and without my finding the BSR program, I likely would not have pursued any faith-based activities during my time in college. Through the connections I made during the Busy Student Retreat programs, I was able to build a network of support and resources to help me live a life of faith during formative years of my young adulthood. I am truly blessed that I have maintained and grown that network in the 10 years since graduation.

Liz Basich, CWRU

Liz participated in BSR/SD during junior and senior years (2005-07). Since graduation, she has served on her parish council and participated in a young adult faith-sharing program.



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Letter from the President

A Roadmap for Christian Love

In the hype tsunami prior to the opening of social media moguls like Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and others, I doubt anyone wrote these words: “Instead of social media, you should invest in millennial college students.” As it turns out, that’s exactly what you should have done! In fact, we feel so strongly about it at the Newman Foundation, that we grew our endowment and network of prayer and support despite the setbacks of the recession, and we’ve been astounded by the working of the Spirit in these young adults.

Pope Francis warns us that things like, “technology, knowledge of our DNA, and many other abilities which we have acquired, have given us tremendous power,” (Laudato Si, 104), particularly for those that have the resources to use them. Ultimately, we have the potential to have “an impressive dominance over the whole of humanity,” (LS, 104), says Pope Francis, one that could be destructive if not formed in the Spirit of love that God intended.

Fortunately, as the testimonies and projects in this newsletter affirm, God is speaking through the young adults of our diocese in a way that transcends technology, personal devices, and social networks. In other words, campus ministry provides a roadmap for Christian love during the critical knowledge-building years of our students.

If you haven’t done so already, I encourage you to join our network of support for Catholic campus ministry. Our endowment is growing, but we need more resources to guarantee the future of our programs. In the end, we will find ourselves face to face with the infinite beauty of God (cf. 1 Cor 13:12), but for now we must empower our youth to be able to read this mystery with admiration and happiness through their education and encounter with Christ on campus and abroad.

Daniel T. Michaels, President of the Newman Foundation of Northern Ohio



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