



# NEWMAN NEWS

## in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland



College of Wooster

## Coming Home and Moving Outward



Wooster Catholic has surrounded this semester with the theme of “Coming Home,” connecting with each other on a deeper and intentional level to understand our pasts better and how they reflect our current lives.

We began the New Year with Newman nights focused around our spiritual homes, coming to understand how they change throughout our lives. After learning generally about spiritual homes, we took the time to consider our particular spiritual homes, and shared how we felt about them at this moment in our college careers. A panel discussion, enabled students of varying years to share how they made Wooster their home throughout their time here. We then moved into intentional conversations with a “speed friending” night,

getting to know each other in the group on a deeper level.

Moving outward, Wooster Catholic wrote letters to Congress, urging opposition to the immigration ban and support of the BRIDGE Act. In accordance with the USCCB’s pastoral letter, *Strangers No Longer - Together on a Journey of Hope*, we welcome home those in this country who do not feel at home right now. One Newman Night included nonconventional forms of fasting before Lent began, such as a technology fast in order to connect with people rather than phones. Closer to home, we continue our collaboration with *Behind Bars and Beyond* by attending the reentry support group meetings.

*Jordan Trejo, Campus Minister*

Cleveland State University

## Commute with Christ

This spring semester, the Newman group at Cleveland State University launched programs to extend an intentional invitation to the campus community. In addition to weekly Mass and Newman Nights, Newman has added two new programs to reach commuters. The first of these programs is “Let’s Taco ‘Bout It,” a Bible study that meets Tuesdays from 4:30-6:00 PM at the downtown Barrio location and focuses on the gospel for the next Sunday. The other new program is “Commute with Christ” a program that provides audiobooks with Catholic content for student listening during the drive

to and from school. After a month, students meet for group discussions.

Along with these new programs, the students continue to meet on Thursday nights at Trinity Cathedral. This semester the theme is “back to the basics,” addressing the question of, “Why do we do what we do?” The leadership council planned an Ash Wednesday service on campus, at which Bishop Gries presided. The climate of the Newman program is increasingly energetic and vibrant.

*Marisa Quiery, Campus Minister*

*The University of Akron***Reimagining Campus Ministry**

This past Saturday, the RooCatholic leadership team began the process of leadership discernment for the next academic year. As part of the process, leadership members reviewed the campus ministry project that had brought them to this point. The project asked us to “reimagine Newman Catholic Campus Ministry as a faith-based, young adult community at the University of Akron.” The goals included development of a simple, unique identity that focuses on the current student population and clearly describes our purpose and affiliation to the University. The leadership team determined that “RooCatholic” not only met these goals as defined at the Campus Ministry Leadership Institute but also other goals that had been reserved for future consideration. Surprisingly, these additional goals were met naturally during the course of the academic year as the first two goals were implemented.

Participation in RooCatholic has increased significantly at Wednesday gatherings that include meals, XLT, Praise and Worship evenings, program-related speakers, Spontaneous Service Nights, etc. Small group involvement (Men’s, Women’s, Marian, Intramural, Theology of the Body), scheduled at other times during the week, have also seen increased student interest. Fall and Spring retreats have almost doubled. The Ash Wednesday Mass at the Student Union was the best attended in the last three years. Many students who attend the Sunday evening Mass attendance also participate in the Music, Lector and Eucharistic Ministries. Sunday evening socials following Mass support the development of a Catholic university community, similar to that of a parish. As a visible sign to the university community, RooCatholic participates each month in an inter-faith praise and worship. Students from various spiritual backgrounds come together with respect for each other’s spiritual beliefs

*Ashland University***God May Change Your Directions, But Never His Promises!**

Our fall newsletter article ended with these words: “Behold, I am making all things new’ (Rev. 21:5). In this hope, campus ministry will remain strong at AU!”

The end of last semester, we knew significant change was on the horizon but not what that change would look like. As the semester drew to a close, we committed these things to our Lord in prayer. We entered winter break trusting that these seeds of faith, which appeared to be lying dormant, would spring up to new life this spring semester.

This semester, I’ve often found myself singing the words from a song entitled, *Your Love Never Changes*, by Jesus Culture: “You make all things work together for our good... You stay the same through the ages... Your love never changes.” As Campus Minister, I’ve been energized by the renewal of our vision and mission for campus ministry with this new—and youthful—team of student leaders. Our liturgical and sacramental ministries are flourishing with Fr. Vince Hawk serving as Chaplain. As well, moving Mass to the “Lower Chapel” has



into one spirit-filled group for prayer and music.

The efforts of the RooCatholic leadership team and membership at large are a testament to the strong Catholic faith the University of Akron students maintain and live everyday of their college experience.

*John Szarwark, Assistant Director for Campus Ministry*

*Oberlin College***On-Campus Mass and Fellowship**

This spring semester Oberlin College’s leadership council continues to serve the broader community through having Mass on campus. After the weekly Mass, Oberlin Newman hosts a Sunday Night Dinner. During this fellowship meal, students take the opportunity to have faith-based discussions. The leadership council has also hosted social events, such as movie nights, trivia, and game nights. During this Lenten season, we attended a Friday night fish fry in Grafton, a night filled with good food and conversation.

*Marisa Qujery, Campus Minister*

provided a more intimate setting for worship and a more hospitable space for fellowship. Finally, the changes we made to our calendar have served to create a much greater sense of community, inviting friends & deepening relationships. The semester launched with a packed “Welcome back” party at my place. Then, a 4-week Newman Night series “Ignite” incorporated amazing student witness talks and a 2-week Newman Night series on St. Thomas Aquinas featured a trip to the seminary for dinner and the Aquinas Lecture.

Yes, the title of this article may be a little cliché, but it’s also true! So be encouraged! During Lent—a season of penitence... a season of change—let us keep our hearts and minds fixed on the One who never changes, even when He changes our directions. “O give thanks to the Lord... tell of all his wonderful works... He is mindful of His covenant forever, of the word that He commanded for a thousand generations” (Ps. 105).

*Nate Ediger, Campus Minister*

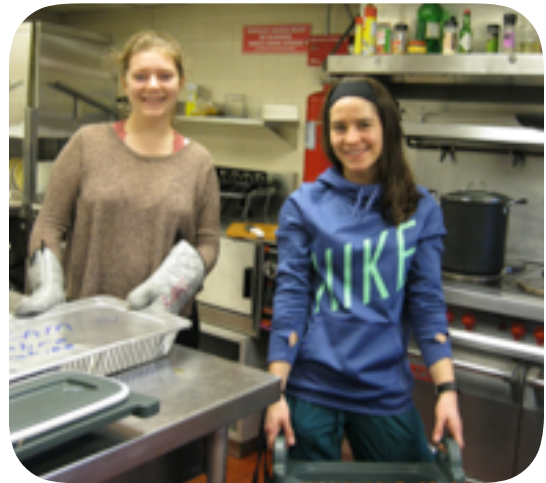
Case Western Reserve University

## Students Create Joyful, Integrated Lives as Disciples of Christ

Highlights of faith-formation opportunities have included a look at *Faithful Citizenship* and the importance of community engagement, *Catholic Social Thought* with alum J.P. Graulty, Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*, with John Carroll Theology instructor Megan Wilson-Reitz, an overview of *Theology of the Body* with alumni couple Kyle & Katie Taljian, *The Science of Natural Family Planning* with Michael Manhart, and *Catholic Faith Q & A* with Fr. Joe Previte and Fr. Patrick Schultz. At our most recent Newman Night, members of *Hindu YUVA* were our guests. Students engaged in faith-sharing and inter-religious dialogue with the help of Deacon Bruce Battista.

Our weekly Labre Homeless Outreach continues to help students build meaningful relationships with Christ's beloved poor. In addition to our monthly Saturday Community Connections Meal, Newman had the opportunity to extend our E. Cleveland Outreach with a weekly tutoring program at Heritage Middle School. Maria DeRenzo, Andy Shue, and Yifei He show endless patience when working on basic – and not so basic – mathematics with our small group of 7th graders. Bringing candy and a sense of humor helps!

Sharon Bramante, Campus Minister



Angie Horvat and Sam Poplar prepare food and beverage for the Labre Homeless Outreach.



Baldwin-Wallace University

## Seeking the Lord in San Antonio

In the first week of January, six students (all freshmen or sophomores) and I attended the biannual SEEK conference in San Antonio, sponsored by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS). We joined 13,000 other students and campus ministers from around the country for five days of high energy keynote speeches, breakout talks, and concerts, as well as a remarkably reverent, focused and meditative evening of adoration and reconciliation.

The SEEK conference is designed to inspire and motivate college students to live their faith as intentional disciples, and from our perspective at BW Newman, it

succeeded. My students have described their experiences at SEEK in the most emphatic terms: "SEEK was one of the best college experiences I've had." "SEEK made me look at my relationship with God in a new and revolutionary way; it rekindled my faith." "SEEK helped me to see how deeply rooted God's love is in my life, and the Spirit has helped me share God's love with others." And, "Words can only begin to explain the spiritual strength of the people and speakers we encountered. Experiencing only less than a week's worth has changed a lifetime."

Steve Eyeran, Campus Minister

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

Christ implores: Don't embrace the allurements of the world. Choose real joy; don't be fooled by peer pressures or materialism. Don't dream of winning the lottery; dream of winning the richness of Heaven and being ETERNALLY HAPPY. Dream big!

This is not saying that worldly possessions are bad. Rather, don't let the things of this world be your reason for living—don't be owned by things. There is nothing in this world to compare with the joy and richness of a relationship with Christ. Accept whatever Christ's will is for you, rich, poor, and everything in between. True happiness, fulfillment, and any other good and wonderful attribute that can be named can be achieved by all peoples of all classes, but only through a true friendship with Christ.

For those who develop a personal relationship with Christ, love is the reward for all who are faithful and open to Him. If you allow this relationship, you will be as rich as King Solomon himself. Solomon was blessed with riches because he asked God for wisdom, not earthly wealth. He understood the true value of his relationship with God and acted wisely.

God's love to all of you and I thank you for the privilege of writing these articles on, "A Personal Relationship with Christ." My sharing has been a blessing to me and I will keep all of you, my brothers and sisters in my prayers always.

Sincerely In Christ,

Tony Crookston, President  
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*Letter from the President*

## Final Part: A Personal Relationship with Christ

Over the past two years, I have written to you about nurturing a personal relationship with Christ. The importance of this relationship cannot adequately be described or expressed with words, but needs to be experienced by each of us. Our relationship with our Lord Jesus defines real peace and happiness in each of us. In this series of four articles, we have discussed:

- How to start a personal relationship with Christ
- How we individually exercise our God-given free will
- That we relate to Christ through our actions and through choosing Him we choose peace
- The need to embrace all truths taught by the Church
- How to find solace by leaning on our personal relationship with Christ (through prayer, especially to our Blessed Mother, the sacraments, and visiting Christ in adoration)
- Knowing what to do when problems come into our lives
- Feeling joy when facing problems and accepting them willingly as part of God's providence

As God's creation, each of us is loved by Christ equally—good, bad, tall, short, black or white—it does not matter to Him. He reaches out to us minute-by-minute hoping that we will allow Him to come in so that he can comfort us.

There are many people who find pleasure in many ways outside of Christ, but they are always searching. They know deep inside themselves there is a void in their life and in many cases, won't admit this emptiness to themselves.

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