



Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

Newman Catholic Campus Ministry Annual Report 2019-2020



A Message from the Director



Dear Friends of Campus Ministry,

I am pleased to share, with you, the good news of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry in the Diocese of Cleveland. This year we have seen a continuation of much of the good work that has marked Newman over the years, including weekly Masses for the students, faculty and staff. Newman Nights have continued to be an integral part of our student formation. This year was special for Newman Campus Ministry, marking the Canonization of Saint John Henry Newman. The event brought many students and friends of our ministries together with Bishop Perez to celebrate the event with Mass and a pizza party.

While many ministries participated regularly in March for Life trips, this year we made a more concerted effort to help students get to and from the March by coordinating a trip for multiple campuses. In addition to this trip we brought back a diocesan-wide retreat experience.

The end of this year proved challenging with the Covid-19 pandemic, and proved difficult for so many students, faculty, and staff across all of our campuses. Our ministers and student leadership moved to virtual campus ministry gatherings very quickly to continue to provide ministry and support. Finally, at the end of the year the chaplains and I gathered to celebrate a virtual Baccalaureate Mass.

Finally, I want to thank Joann Rymarczyk-Piotrkowski and all of our Campus Ministers for their efforts in these most challenging days. Looking forward to next year, I know that there is a great deal of uncertainty we will have to navigate, but I trust our ministry will be there to assist the members of our campus communities.

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. Vincent Hawk

Fr. Vincent Hawk

Director, Newman Catholic Campus Ministry

7 College Campuses

6 Campus Ministers

44 Student Leaders

University of Akron
John Szarwark



Ashland University
Nate Ediger



Baldwin Wallace University
Steve Eyerman



Case Western Reserve
University
Steve Perry



Cleveland State University
Sarah Rose



Oberlin College
College of Wooster
A.J. Hoy



7 Chaplains

Rev. Chris Zerucha, University of Akron

Rev. Vince Hawk, Ashland University

Rev. Chuck Butkowski, Baldwin Wallace

Rev. Joe Previte, Case Western Reserve

Rev. Bob Marva, Cleveland State University

Rev. Eric Garris, Oberlin College

Rev. Rich Samide, College of Wooster

Just prior to his leaving Cleveland for Philadelphia, Archbishop Nelson Perez officially assigned chaplains to the seven college campuses served by the diocese. Chaplains offer sacramental support and spend up to 6 hours per week on campus getting to know the students.

80 Community Service Opportunities 173 Student Participants



Highlights

Akron: Annual “Shoebox Christmas” program provided supplies and toys for children in need between the ages of 5 and 16. This year 32 shoeboxes were delivered. Students participate in the St. Bernard’s outreach to the homeless by making sandwiches that are distributed on Thursday mornings.

Ashland: Students volunteer regularly with the Ashland Hunger Center on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Students assisted with ashes distribution in local nursing homes on Ash Wednesday.

Baldwin Wallace: Students led a weekly Rosary at a local nursing home, participated in three Habitat for Humanity building activities and went as a group to participate in the BW Saturday of Service each semester.

Case: Labre is Case Catholic’s signature student-led service project that provides food for the homeless in Downtown Cleveland with 30 to 35 students participating throughout the year. This year, led by their vice president, 6 students worked to clean up and overgrown garden in Cleveland’s Little Italy neighborhood.

CSU: CSU Newman community service opportunities for the 2019-20 school year included an afternoon of service with Maggie’s Place and two student-led mornings of prayer with the Cleveland chapter of 40 Days for Life.

Oberlin: Students created a regular outreach ministry to local nursing homes including correspondence with and visiting & accompanying residents.

Wooster: Soup and Bread service group raises funds by hosting modest meals and using the proceeds to support local charities. Students also participated in the annual MLK Day of Service.

210 Newman Nights

19 Small Faith Sharing Groups



Over 200 Students Engaged





7 Campus Retreats 1 All Campuses Retreat



Grant Highlights

\$38,916.00 Newman Foundation Grants Awarded

University of Akron had 15 Students participate in the Winter Break Service trip.

They stayed at the Center for Pastoral Leadership and served at a number of Cleveland Social Service agencies including the Cleveland Food Bank, Metro Catholic, and Womankind.

Ashland's Student Leadership Transition was successful, recruiting 7 incoming student leaders to replace 6 outgoing leaders. The First Year Initiative also bore fruit with 12 new students attending Sunday Mass and additional 5 participating on a regular basis in Newman Night.

Baldwin Wallace had four students attend the SLS Conference held by Focus in January, also three students went on the joint spring break trip and five attended the all campuses retreat.

CWRU had the most students participate in the All Campus Retreat, with 10, at Villa Maria and had three students participate in the joint Spring Break Trip to Immokalee.

CSU offered a Group Book Study using C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*. CSU also had several students attend the all-campus retreat and one student go on the joint campus immersion to Immokalee.

College of Wooster had several students attend the all campuses retreat at the Villa Maria.

Oberlin College reported that the keyboard and sound worked great for them for liturgies when the campus was still open. Several students attended the all campuses retreat.

Administration organized a diocesan college bus for the March for Life. Thirty-six students, staff and guests travel together. Students from BW, CSU, Case, Ashland and Wooster traveled together.

Administration also organized an All Campuses Retreat at Villa Maria in February. Thirty students from six campuses attended the Friday to Saturday event featuring Jesuits Fr. Michael Rossmann from Chicago and former president of St. Ignatius, Fr. Bill Murphy from Michigan. They presented their *What Should I Do?* Retreat on the Ignatian discernment process.



Fifteen student volunteers from The University of Akron's RooCatholic traveled to Cleveland for a Winter Break Service Trip January 5-10, 2020. With a daily routine that included prayer, service and social activities, students served at different sites including soup kitchens at St. Malachi and St. Paschal Baylon, and local Catholic schools including Metro Catholic, Ss. Agatha-Aloysius, St. Benedict and St. Francis schools.



Nine students from four campuses, Case, Cleveland State, Baldwin Wallace and Ashland, participated in a Spring Break Immersion to Immokalee Florida. The Immokalee community is predominately made up of migrant farmworkers from Mexico, Central America and Haiti. Students volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls club and the Immokalee Soccer Club and Academy.



Diocesan All Campuses Events



Students celebrate the canonization of St. John Henry Newman October 13, 2019 with Mass and Pizza Party.

March For Life, January 2020.



What Should I Do? Retreat, February 2020.

In response to COVID-19 Newman Campus Ministry Chaplains celebrated a live-streaming Baccalaureate Mass from St. Raphael Parish.



University of Akron

- Fall of 2019 was the first ever Zips Awakening at the University of Akron. The Awakening retreat focuses on giving people their first real encounter with Christ and then draw them into the community to help others to do the same. The Awakening retreat creates community in a special way by putting retreat participants, not into small groups, but into families with two table parents and siblings. The bond created is like that of a family that carries through when participants return home.
- Spring 2020 included a 5 week series presentation from an alum of RooCatholic titled “*The True Presence: Jesus’ Body, Blood, Soul & Divinity in the Eucharist.*” Andrew is an alumnus of The University of Akron (B.S. Civil Engineering, 2017) and the Augustine Institute (M.A. Theology, 2019). He has taken up and greatly enjoys the apostolate of catechesis and faith formation when he is not serving as a bridge engineer for a local consultant. Andrew and his wife, Lauren, live in Copley, Ohio.

Ashland University

- Fall 2019 launched the Freshman Connection Initiative. “Authentic Friendship.” Is the principle of ministry that served as the *root* of AU Newman outreach to first year students and showed itself to be the *fruit* produced in the lives of the graduating senior class. Through the commitment and outreach of the seniors, 20+ first-year students participated in at least one Campus Ministry activity, 12 regularly attended Mass, 10 attended Newman Night, 8 are volunteering in some capacity including one on the leadership council and 1 participated in RCIA.
- Ashland Campus Ministry response to the COVID-19 was exemplary. Campus Minister and student leaders adapted ministry in a meaningful way with a collective reliance upon our Lord’s steadfast love and ever-present guidance. Adaptations include close communication with both university and diocesan policy makers, transitioning student meetings to an on-line format and developing a COVID-19 response link on the ministry’s web page that led to prayer, worship and counseling resource links.

Baldwin Wallace University

- Fall 2019 opened the academic year with a series on Catholic Social Teaching that began with a presentation from a BW administrator from their Center for Community Engagement who shared opportunities for service on campus. Two representatives from the Diocesan Social Action Office were also included in the series. The final talk was about working with and learning about migrant workers which was strategically scheduled right before the deadline to register for the Immokalee Immersion Trip.
- In an ongoing effort to forge relationship with the local parish, BW Newman hosted two pancake breakfast fundraisers in the parish hall. Parishioners were invited to support the students by purchasing breakfast in an effort to support the ministry and experiences for the students including travel to the SEEK conference and the immersion trip to Immokalee Florida.

Case Western Reserve University

- Newman Nights, small groups, retreats, and service projects, had dramatically more participation than in previous years. Newman Night attendance increased from 7-10 per week to 20-25 per week; moved from having roughly 20 students participating in FYSH small groups to around 45 participating in FIDES (a program for first –year students); and sent the largest amount of students to the first ever All Campuses Spring Retreat, and had nearly twice as many students participate in our Busy Student Retreat.
- Created a Culture of Student Leadership. Campus minister reflects that one of the first things he noticed about the ministry was that the students expected that all events would run through the minister. This year, roughly two thirds of the weekly events were directly led by students,
- Began Real Engagement with Graduate Student Community by adding an evening Bible Study for graduate students which met weekly. A core community of about 6 has been formed through this study, out of which a larger community can grow.

Campus Highlights Continued

Cleveland State University

- Campus Ministry sponsored 41 Programs; 30 of them were student led; 6 of those included a student presentation. 73% of Newman Programming was student led.
- CSU Newman introduced faith-based small groups for both men and women as well as a student led book club which created opportunities of fellowship for students that could not attend the scheduled Newman Nights.

Oberlin College

- Newman at Oberlin College and Conservatory made big strides toward a more active group this year. Students held the first Newman Night on campus in quite some time and were excited to continue this ministry virtually when the school year ended abruptly due to COVID-19.
- Oberlin now has a balanced team of 4 (two rising seniors and two rising sophomores). The new leadership team is looking forward to making substantive changes and developments in the year to come.

College of Wooster

- Newman at the College of Wooster was happy to work more closely with St. Mary's parish and St. Agnes Parish (Orrville) on events this year. Students attended a parish speaker series, regular Sunday masses, a mass and celebration for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December, and were planning on helping with and attending the parish Lenten mission until it was cancelled due to the pandemic..
- College of Wooster made great strides in solidifying la new leadership teams. They now have a completely new leadership team of 4 (mostly underclassmen) The new leadership team is looking forward to making substantive changes and developments in the year to come.



St. John Henry Newman Canonized October 13, 2019

“God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments.

Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.”