



# NEWMAN NEWS

## in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland



*The University of Akron*

## Catholic Graduates Start Alumni Association

Inspired by the work of the Newman Foundation, graduates of the University of Akron Newman Catholic Campus Ministry—RooCatholic—have recently founded the Newman Campus Ministry Alumni Association at the University of Akron. The Association’s mission statement is to "engage alumni of the University of Akron Newman Catholic Campus Ministry and RooCatholic to connect with each other and provide support to current students and the Newman program at the University of Akron". A committee meets monthly in support of RooCatholic.

The association's first fundraiser took place on March 9, 2019 at the UA Newman Center. There were representatives from RooCatholic who spoke about their Wednesday night topics, small groups, and retreats. Fr. Norm Douglas from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Akron gave a talk about how the Newman Center impacted his life. Half of the funds raised



were given to the RooCatholic leadership team toward their spring retreat, and the rest were reserved for Alumni Association future projects.

*John Szarwark, Campus Minister*

## New Arrivals to the Newman Campus Ministry Team



Dr. Joann Rymarczyk-Piotrkowski  
*Assistant Director*

Joann, who became Assistant Director in October 2018, has several degrees including a Doctor of Ministry from St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology. After 18 years as Rehabilitation Counselor for the State of Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation, she made a complete career change to serve since 2000 as Director of Campus Ministry at Ursuline College. She is also Dean of the Cleveland Ecumenical Institute for Religious Studies. She and her husband Andrew have five adult children and two grandchildren.



Mr. A. J. Hoy, *Campus Minister*  
*College of Wooster and Oberlin College*

Before coming to Cleveland in October, A.J. served as Associate Campus Minister for Liturgical Arts at Boston College. A.J. seeks to accompany students, faculty, and staff in their journeys toward faith, justice, and truth. A.J. possesses a personal passion for liturgy and ethics, working specifically with students and the local church in seeking to allow our prayer to affect the way we live our lives. A.J. currently lives in Uniontown, Ohio with his wife, Mary and newborn son, Marshall.



Ms. Sarah Stanley, *Campus Minister*  
*Cleveland State University*

After her B.A. from John Carroll University, Sarah spent a year in Bethel, Alaska with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest. There, she worked in the Youth Ministry and as a Parish Assistant. On her return, Sarah earned her M.Div. from Santa Clara University’s Jesuit School of Theology and then served as Director of Christian Service at Fairfield College Preparatory School in Connecticut. Sarah is thrilled to be back in Cleveland and walk alongside CSU students as they seek to grow in relationship with God and in fellowship with one another.

## Students from Ashland and BW Partner on Alternative Spring Break



In early March, students from *Ashland* and *Baldwin Wallace* took and alternative Spring Break mission trip together. Students travelled to Nashville, TN to serve with City Service Mission. While on mission, the students spent time building relationships with people of Nashville struggling with homelessness and serving with local charities. This trip gave students the opportunity to grow in their faith, deepen friendships in the Catholic Campus Ministry community, and learn about the mercy of God that lives within each of us.

Marissa Reflecting on the mission trip, “Serving the homeless in the city of Nashville opened my eyes to a world of people that I had overlooked my entire life and it shook me to my core. When I returned home to campus and was able to process and reflect on my experience, I realized God had used the mission trip to, not only open my eyes to the homeless, but also keep them open to every other person I encounter

each day. I hope I never forget the power of a simple smile, prayer, or word of kindness.”

Elizabeth reflected, “The mission trip to Nashville, TN taught me about deep bonds of friendship. In my experience, not only did I grow in my personal friendships and relationship with Christ, but I witnessed the friendships that exist between the people struggling with homelessness. Their care for each other encouraged me to deepen my care for those closest to me and to find new ways to care for those in the world around me. I learned that no matter where we are, God will meet us where we are, and will surround us with the people we need most.”

Newman Campus Ministers, Nate Ediger and Steve Eyerman, who accompanied the students were impressed by how these amazing young people rose to every occasion to serve.  
*Elizabeth Paydo, Ashland University*

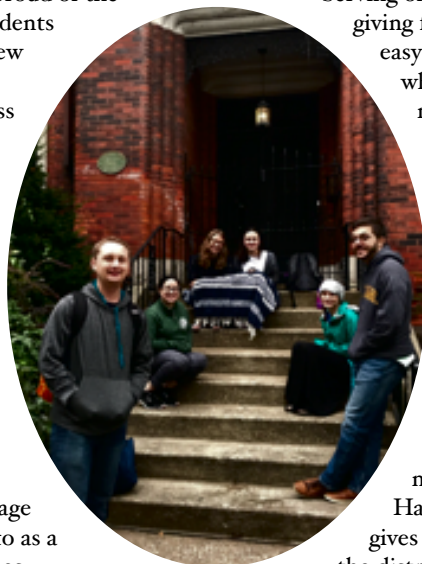
### *Cleveland State University*

## CSU Student Leaders at Home on Campus and at St. Peter’s Church

Newman Catholic Campus Ministry is proud of the leadership at Cleveland State University. Students kept Newman Night alive while awaiting a new minister. Students leaders also offered opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration, Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Here are some student reflections on their Newman experiences: “I love getting the opportunity to get to know Catholics my age who are serious about their faith while learning about my faith with them. Outside the seminary I don’t have much community with other young adults, so Newman for me is a great opportunity to do ministry and gain friendships along the way. As a seminarian, I love the casual, inviting nature of the environment, and it means a lot to me to get to know people my age who I’ll one day God-willing be ministering to as a priest, especially since I am a lover of all things related to youth & young adult ministry.”

*Brad Jasko, Borromeo/JCU*



“Serving on leadership at CSU Newman is really life giving for me, because as a college student, it is so easy to feel selfish. I spend my whole day doing whatever I want, serving myself, not giving myself away in love. At least, that’s how it can feel. Leading this ministry is a way to go outside of myself and to lay my life down for my campus community. It is such a gift to be able to live for others now, while I’m in college, instead of thinking I have to wait until I’m in my vocation.”

*Olivia Kijauskas, CSU*

“Newman has become such a great gift for me. The friends I have made and the lessons I have learned challenge me every day to become a better person and to grow in my faith. My favorite part of Newman is Having access to a chapel right off campus that gives me a place to go to and pray, that is free of all the distractions that university has.”

*Stephen Zbiegien, CSU*

## Newman Students Attend Seek Conference



Thanks to the generous support of the Newman Foundation, students from the *University of Akron, Ashland University, Baldwin Wallace University, Case Western Reserve University* and *College of Wooster* attended *SEEK 2019: Encounter Something More*. The conference is offered to college students by the *Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS)* to inspire students to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. During the five days, students were able to attend formative informational talks, deepen friendships through sharing life together, and encounter Christ in a profound way through the sacraments and Eucharistic adoration.

Madeline, a student from Ashland, had this to say, "SEEK taught me to acknowledge my past and, after putting everything 'on the table,' so to speak, establish positive means of tackling those issues without compartmentalization. It was also rewarding to build better relationships not only with my fellow Ashland students, but also with the students from the other colleges. The variety of perspectives I encountered truly enforced the universal nature of Christianity and allowed for

engaging discussion about life and faith."

One student from Baldwin Wallace shared his thoughts about SEEK, "At this conference I was completely overcome by the Holy Spirit telling me to stay, that I could not go anywhere else. During adoration the presence of Jesus, our Love and Lord, made me shake and weep a way I did not think was possible. I did not even fully believe in the Eucharist prior to this experience. I thank God and Newman for giving me the opportunity.

Steve Perry, Campus Minister at Case Western Reserve University had this to say, "The one thing I may have appreciated more than SEEK itself was the conversations I had with some of the students who attended afterward. Even during our car ride back to Campus, I recall speaking with one of our long-time student leaders, hearing his excitement and ideas for how to make our ministry stronger in the coming years. Some of those ideas are already getting put into action this coming fall!"

*Elizabeth Paydo, Ashland University*



### *Case Western Reserve University*

## Student Reflections

"Getting involved in Newman Campus Ministry was the best decision I made at college. It's great to be able to spend time with other young adults who are serious about living their faith within the largely secular college culture. My time with Newman blessed me with lasting friendships and brought me closer to Jesus." *Rebekah, 2018*

"There are many benefits to being at a rigorous research university, but religious atmosphere is not one of them. That is why I have been so grateful for CWRU Newman these past four years. It has filled the gap that would otherwise be unfilled and provided a faith-centered community that has helped me to stay strong as a Catholic and keep in touch with God and the Church. Seeing my friends at the weekly Newman Nights, reflecting at retreats and praying during Vespers and Holy Hour has reminded me of God's presence in my life, brought me a greater understanding of my faith, connected me with other Catholics and helped me to grow on my spiritual journey." *Brennan McFarland, 2019*

"My fondest memories of Newman are in learning about foundations of a faith-filled life and living in a faith community. College is a transition; it's the first time for most away from home, and it can be hard to transition from listening to mom and dad every day to setting one's own routine. For me, Newman and Holy Rosary provided an environment that allowed me to establish a faith-filled life away from home. Sharon, Steve, and Father Joe encouraged me to ask questions and make my faith truly my own. Rather than identifying myself as a 'cradle catholic' whose faith traditions come from my family, they encouraged me to establish my own relationship with God and with my faith.

I participated in 4-5 retreats during my time at Case, with the one at the beginning of fall being my favorite. I felt that retreats were a great opportunity, especially at the start of the semester, to "reset" by getting away from the world of class and superficial school-related stress and engaging with God." *Ondrej Maxian, 2018*



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## Frank Hackett, 1948 - 2019



*Faithful Husband, Father, Grandfather, and Newman Foundation Board Member. This excerpt from Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman was a favorite of Frank's, and his wife, Mary, included it as a eulogy for Frank during his funeral Mass on 5/14/19. Excerpt from Sermon 9. "A Particular Providence as Revealed in the Gospel."*

**"You God see me." Genesis 16: 13.**  
 God beholds you individually, whoever you are. God "calls you by your name."

God sees you, and understands you, as God made you. God knows what is in you, all your own peculiar feelings and thoughts, your dispositions and likings, your strength and your weakness. God views you in your day of rejoicing, and your day of sorrow. God sympathizes in your hopes and your temptations. God interests Himself in all your anxieties and remembrances, all the risings and fallings of your spirit. God has numbered the very hairs of your head and the cubits of your stature. God compasses you round and bears you in his arms; God takes you up and sets you down. God notes your very countenance, whether smiling or in tears, whether healthful or sickly. God looks tenderly upon your hands and your feet; God hears your voice, the beating of your

heart, and your very breathing. You do not love yourself better than God loves you.

And at the end of our days, when flesh and heart fail, what will be our consolation, though we have made ourselves rich, or have served an office, or been the first one among our equals, or have depressed a rival, or managed things our own way, or have settled splendidly, or have been intimate with the great, or have fared sumptuously, or have gained a name! Say, even if we obtain that which lasts longest, a place in history, Yet, after all, what ashes shall we have eaten for bread! And, in that awful hour, when death is in sight, will God, whose eye is now so loving towards us, and whose hand falls on us so gently, will God acknowledge us any more? Or, if God still speaks, will God's voice have any power to stir us? Rather will it not repel us, as it did Judas, by the very tenderness with which it would invite us to Him?

## Meet the Campus Ministers

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