

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020- 2021



Catholic Diocese  
of Cleveland

## Newman Campus Ministry



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Campus Ministry,  
Once again, I am pleased to share the good news of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry. The pandemic didn't slow our ministries down. Newman Nights continued virtually, and where permitted, in person. The Newman Campus Ministers found new ways to collaborate and brought two all-campus speaker series to life. Some of the ministers created an Advent reflection resource that was shared on all campuses and throughout the diocese.

With large group gatherings restricted on most campuses, Campus Ministry expanded small group opportunities for Bible studies, faith sharing, and book studies.

We were also able to offer Mass in-person with COVID protocols in place. In May we were able to celebrate a diocesan-wide Baccalaureate Mass that was offered in-person and on-line.

We thank each and everyone of you who kept us in your prayers. I would also like to thank Dr. Joann Rymarczyk-Piotrkowski and all of our Campus Ministers for their efforts during a most challenging year. We are looking forward to next year as students return to campus in-person. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we navigate what some call "the new normal."

Your Brother in Christ,

*Fr. Vincent Hawk*

Fr. Vincent Hawk

Director, Newman Catholic Campus Ministry



**Fr. Vince Hawk**

DIRECTOR

# SEVEN CAMPUSES SIX MINISTERS 44 STUDENT LEADERS

University of Akron  
John Szarwark



Ashland University  
Nate Ediger



Baldwin Wallace University  
Sarah Jesse



Case Western Reserve  
University  
Steve Perry



Cleveland State University  
Sarah Rose



Oberlin College  
College of Wooster  
A.J. Hoy



Assistant Director  
Dr. Joann Piotrkowski



# 7 Chaplains



Rev. Christopher Zerucha  
University of Akron



Rev. Joseph Previte  
Case Western  
Reserve University



Rev. Vincent Hawk  
Ashland University



Rev. Philip Bernier  
Cleveland State  
University



Rev. Charles Butkowski  
Baldwin Wallace  
University



Rev. Richard Samide  
College of Wooster



Oberlin College bids farewell to Rev. Eric Garris as he moves to his new assignment at St. Gabriel. We thank him for his service to our students, faculty and staff. Oberlin Catholic students look forward to meeting their new chaplain in the Fall.

# 196 NEWMAN NIGHTS

## 2 SPEAKERS SERIES

Diocese of Cleveland Newman Catholic Campus Ministry's  
Faithful Citizenship Series Presents

★  
**CATHOLIC AND A PUBLIC SERVANT:**  
HOW FAITH INFORMS MY SERVICE  
Thursday, Oct 22 at 7pm

A panel of public servants including:  
Euclid Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail  
Berea Mayor Cyril Kleem  
Lebanon City Council Member Adam Mathews  
Justice Melody Stewart, of the Supreme Court of Ohio

<http://bit.ly/clenewman10>  
Password: 535565

★ HAVE A QUESTION YOU'D LIKE TO ASK?  
Email [ssstanlcy@diocesofcleveland.org](mailto:ssstanlcy@diocesofcleveland.org)  
by Wednesday, Oct. 21.

Newman Campus Ministers pivoted to a Zoom format for Newman Nights and seized the opportunity to collaborate with one another. October brought a Faithful Citizenship series leading up to the election. Topics included: *A Good Catholic Meddles in Politics; Activism: An Authentic Expression of the Gospel; Voting with a View of Virtue; Catholic and a Public Servant: How Faith Informs My Service;* and *A Catholic Understanding of Black Lives Matter.*

Spring semester brought a five-week series on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. Cardinal Sean O'Malley opened the series with *Catholic Education and Evangelization*. Additional topics included *Faith and Reason; Faith and Science Panel; Church Authority and Ecumenism* and closing out the series, Dr. Scott Hahn with *Jesus the Fullness of Revelation*. The Faith and Science panel included Bro. Guy Consolmigno, Director of the Vatican Observatory, Dr. Mark DeGuire from CWRU, Dr. Claudia Cabrerra, CWRU and Gabriel Somarriba, Psy.D.

THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND NEWMAN CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY PRESENTS

GRANT ME, O LORD MY GOD,  
**A Mind to Know You**  
A PEEK INTO THE CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL TRADITION

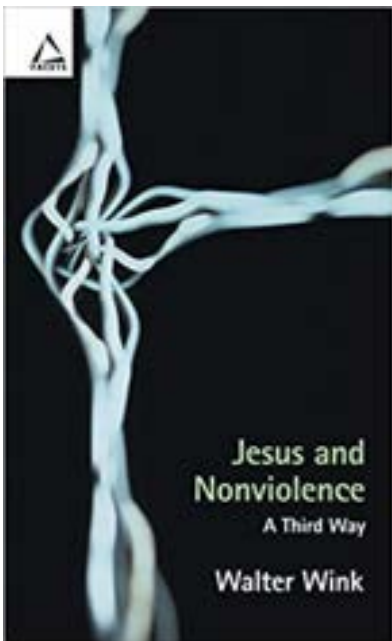
Wednesdays in March  
from 7-8pm

- 3/3 CARDINAL SEAN O'MALLEY  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND EVANGELIZATION
- 3/10 DR. BETH BATH  
FAITH AND REASON
- 3/17 PANEL OF CATHOLIC SCIENTISTS  
FAITH AND SCIENCE
- 3/24 JD FLYNN, JCL  
CHURCH AUTHORITY AND ECUMENISM
- 3/31 DR. SCOTT HAHN  
JESUS, THE FULLNESS OF REVELATION

Zoom: [bit.ly/newmanmind](https://bit.ly/newmanmind)  
EMAIL [jpiotrkowski@diocesofcleveland.org](mailto:jpiotrkowski@diocesofcleveland.org) WITH QUESTIONS

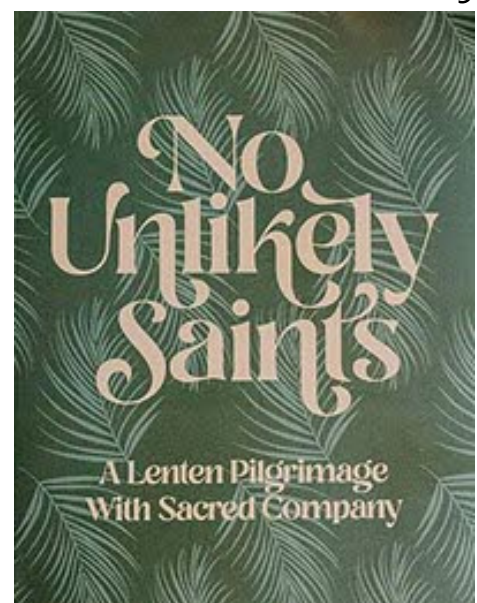


## 20 Small Faith Sharing Groups 2 Books/3 Book Dialogues



Oberlin College and College of Wooster students shared in a Lenten book study using Walter Wink's book, *Jesus and Nonviolence: A Third Way*.

Cleveland State University Students shared in a Lenten Pilgrimage using *No Unlikely Saints*.





Students from all seven campuses participated in SEEK '21

## SEEK '21: A Student Reflection

*by McKenna Woodruff, Ashland '24*

SEEK 2021: February 4-7, 2021, students across the country, in their living rooms, campus centers and parishes gathered for a four-day live broadcast event encountering the heart of the Gospel. Ashland student, McKenna Woodruff shares her reflections on the weekend.

“A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend the SEEK 2021 conference virtually at our Newman Center on campus. Although I had been a practicing Catholic all my life, I had really just started getting truly involved and diving deeper into my faith at the start of the fall semester. I had never been to a catholic conference or large event before, so I was unsure of what to expect. Though things looked a little different this year because of COVID 19 protocols, the impact the conference left on me was powerful.

To bring the conference to us, our Newman leadership worked hard to decorate our lower chapel, plan fun events throughout the weekend, kept us laughing through game playing during downtime, and made sure we had plenty of good food to eat. Though all these things were a great added bonus, listening to speakers at the conference, participating in small group discussions, and attending adoration and mass with other students who attended the conference truly helped me to deepen and grow in my faith.

One small group impact session that truly opened my eyes was a talk given by Sarah Swafford. In her talk, Sarah talked about finding the calm in the storm which is something that I have been struggling with at times in my own life. Listening to her explain how the Lord will fight our hard battles for us and we need only to be still was very striking to me. She explained how if we are able to be still, we will find our interior silence allowing us to realize that we are not in control of our own lives and we do not need to be. In the chaos of the world, we have the peace of God. This impact session brought me to a deeper understanding of the chaos and uneasiness in my life, reminding that within the storm, I need to make time to find the silence and reconnect with the peace of God.

Another part of the conference that was touching to me was adoration on Saturday night. There is always something amazing and sensational about sitting and being the presence of our Lord, but also knowing that thousands of other catholic students around the U.S. were participating in the same adoration made the experience even more astounding.

Overall, the SEEK conference was an amazing, life changing experience. Along with growing in my faith, I was also able to connect with other students on campus who share similar backgrounds and interests making the weekend even more exciting. I am grateful for my ability to attend the conference and to have the opportunity to dive deeper into faith.”

# 9 Service Projects During the Pandemic

1. Newman students had a student, faculty/staff and alumni initiative where dynamic Catholic books and Christmas cards were sent to over 200 folks in the Ashland community.
2. Ashland Newman students collected infant and baby items for the Diocesan Easter Basket Collection to support the West Side Catholic center.
3. Newman students volunteered at the annual Pregnancy Care Center annual fundraiser in Ashland.
4. BW Newman students used the money, that would have been spent on an annual Halloween party, to provide treats for over 60 residents of the Berea Children's Home.
5. BW Students volunteered to assist with the parish Lenten Fish Fry at St. Adalbert.
6. Newman students supported a local Christmas Food Drive in Oberlin.
7. Newman students spearheaded a campus recycling drive at Oberlin.
8. Newman students at Case were able to continue serving the homeless through the Labre project.
9. Multiple campuses supported Catholic Relief Services Operation Rice Bowl.



# Retreats

LET DOWN YOUR NETS  
Lenten May 2020

**FREE**

SAT. MAR. 27, 10-2

FEATURING:

- ZOOM PRAYER
- ZOOM SMALL GROUP
- OUTDOOR WALK
- OUTDOOR CHIPOTLE LUNCH
- ART EXPERIENCE

Join US!

LUNCH & ART SUPPLIES PROVIDED

75 Students

PICK UP YOUR FREE BAG & GIVE US YOUR CHIPOTLE ORDER:

- WED, THURS, & FRI  
FROM 1-4:30 PM

LUNCH & ART SUPPLIES PROVIDED



7 Retreats

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY PRESENTS

## Story Theology Retreat

telling stories, finding meaning,  
building relationships

Oct 2	7pm - 11pm &
Oct	8:45am - 1pm
3	Lower Chapel

EMAIL CRUFF@ESKLAND.EDU TO SIGN UP



# Campus Highlights

## **University of Akron**

\*Student leadership team was able to provide both virtual and limited in-person Newman Night gatherings, including the two all-campus speaker series.

\*Roo Catholic increased their Social Justice programming this year including a speaker and discussion around the Church's response to racial equity and inclusion.

\*Due to COVID restrictions the spring retreat went virtual. The leadership team put together retreat packets for students to pick up in the office . Packets included My Daily Examen, A Gratitude Journal based on Ignatian Spirituality, and copies of Everyone's Way of the Cross, Come to the Light, Daily Prayers for Lent, Pray, Fast, Give, a Rosary, Candles of Devotion, and a pen for journaling.

## **Ashland University**

\*Student leadership team offered dorm/area based small groups. Students led 7 small groups with a total of 34 students participating.

\*17 students participated in an on-campus "Story Theology Retreat."

Divided into small groups, each with a "sacred listener, students shared stories of personal experience for which they hoped to glean more meaning. The retreat ended with a time of praise & worship and Eucharistic adoration.

\*Graduate assistant led a group of 9 emerging student leaders in a program called "Upper Room," with the goal of some of them taking leadership roles in 2021/2022 academic year.

## **Baldwin Wallace University**

\*A new Campus Minister started at BW in January. Newman Campus Ministry welcomed Sarah Jesse to the team.

\*Sunday Mass moved to St. Adalbert at 7:00 p.m. with an increase in student attendance.

\*Student led programming increased with a men's group, women's group, choir rehearsal, lector ministry, virtual Lenten vespers and Thursday night virtual Newman Socials.



## **Case Western Reserve University**

\*Student-led FIDES small groups kept students engaged throughout the year, and brought new students into the ministry.

\*A student (who will be the group's president next year), noticing her own desire for a retreat experience, planned a Spring Retreat with 17 students attending.

\*Continued partnership with the Seminary, giving four seminarians in their first year of graduate formation an opportunity to serve the Case community and gain experience engaging in pastoral work.

## **Cleveland State University**

\*Campus Ministry Programming Total: 63 Programs; 20 of them were student led; 5 of those included a student presentation. 32% of Newman Programming was student led. The majority of these programs were held virtually given the pandemic safety restrictions.

\*CSU Newman introduced a weekly Sunday evening Mass for students and other members in the community. Students have participated in both music ministry and as lectors for these Masses. All are welcome at 7:00 p.m. at Historic St. Peter Church when classes are in session.

\*Newman held an evening of Adoration the Monday before Election Day as an opportunity to gather and pray for a peaceful election and reconciliation in our country and church.

## **College of Wooster**

\*Campus Minister offered weekly or bi-weekly spiritual direction sessions to 24 students this year.

\*Campus Ministry collaborated with Counseling Services to provide wrap around services for students who needed both counseling and spiritual direction.

\*Students participated in Lenten book study using *Jesus and Non-Violence: A Third Way* by Walter Wink.

## **Oberlin College**

\* College COVID Restrictions prevented students from leaving campus, so students organized a Christmas food drive, encouraging their peers to donate shelf stable foods at the end of the semester instead of throwing them away.

\*Linked with a program on *Laudato Si*, students organized a semester-long recycling service to supplement the City of Oberlin's lack of recycling.

\*Added small group programming this year with Lectio Divina held weekly on Zoom using the readings of the upcoming Sunday readings.

# Grant Update

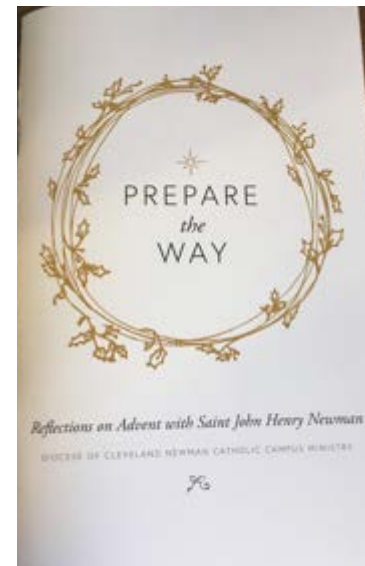
**\$49,780.00 Awarded by Newman Foundation**

From February 4 – 7, 2021, Newman students on all seven campuses joined with other young adults gathered across the country in living rooms, campus centers, and parishes for a four-day live broadcast event encountering the heart of the Gospel.

The Newman Foundation supported both the Fall and Spring Speaker Series. Over 100 students from all campuses participated in the virtual speaker series.

Thanks to the Newman Foundation 75 students participated in one of seven retreats offered on our campuses this year.

Thanks to support from the Newman Foundation four Newman staff members collaborated on an inaugural Advent Reflection Publication, featuring daily reflections on the readings of the day and Sunday reflections using the lens of St. John Henry Newman's Advent Sermons. The publication was produced in hard copy and digitally. Originally shared on the campuses, copies were also requested by the Office of Catholic Education, The Office of Catechetical Services. The Office of Catechetical Services also shared the document digitally with diocesan catechetical leaders serving in parishes. Surprised by the request, The Catholic Campus Ministry Association asked to share the digital copy with its nationwide membership.



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."