



NEWMAN NEWS

in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland



Celebration at the Cathedral

Canonization of Cardinal John Henry Newman



October 13, 2019 marked the canonization of St. Cardinal John Henry Newman after whom the campus ministry program is named. On Oct 13, Bishop Nelson Perez presided over a celebratory Mass attended by students from Baldwin Wallace, Cleveland State, Case Western Reserve and Ashland universities, The University of Akron, Oberlin College and the College of Wooster. Campus chaplains concelebrated and students participated as lectors, musicians and gift bearers. Each student received a copy of *Meditations & Devotions* by St. John Henry Newman.

Bishop Perez Appoints Chaplains to Newman Campuses

Just before his departure for Philadelphia and his new assignment as Archbishop, Bishop Perez officially appointed chaplains to work with the campus ministers on each of the Newman campuses. Fr. Vince Hawk, pastor of St. Peter Loudonville, will remain the chaplain at Ashland University. Fr. Chris Zerucha, pastor of St. Bernard and St. Mary Akron, has been appointed to RooCatholic at the University of Akron. Fr. Chuck Butkowski, pastor of St. Adalbert Berea, has been assigned to Baldwin Wallace University. Fr. Joe Previte, pastor of Holy Rosary, has been assigned to Case Western Reserve University. Fr. Bob Marva, administrator for Historic St. Peter Church, was appointed to Cleveland State University. Fr. Rich Samide, parochial vicar at St. Mary Wooster, was appointed to the College of Wooster. Fr. Eric Garris, parochial vicar at St. Raphael in Bay Village, was appointed to Oberlin College. Chaplains assist with sacraments and programming and they participate in social activities. During the pandemic, many have been participating in Zoom Newman Nights.

Student Reflection

Meditations & Devotions by St. John Henry Newman has been a helpful resource for reflection and prayer. It is a compilation of meditations and devotions that Saint Newman used daily, divided into four sections: meditations for the month of May, meditations on the Stations of the Cross, meditations on Christian doctrine, and a section written in prospect of death. I have used the powerful reflections on the Stations of the Cross, and I am reading through his reflections on Christian doctrines. One of his writings that has stood out for me, especially because of the shelter in place order due to COVID 19, is "*I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever 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 sorry, my sorry may serve Him ...*". Overall, my transition to sheltering in place has not been very terrible. However, not being able to go to church or leave home during Lent, during Holy Week, and during Easter has been a challenge spiritually. These words are encouraging and thought-provoking: how can I, in not leaving the house, live to serve Him? If I am not able to do much at home, my inability to do anything may serve Him."

Aaron Wise, CWRU

University of Akron

RooCatholic - Zips Awakening

The fall of 2019 was the first ever Zips Awakening at the University of Akron. The format of this retreat is used across the country at campuses such as the Ohio State University, Colorado State University, and LSU, as well as some diocese that organize them for college students. In the past, the University of Akron has had a fall retreat known as Collide. The focus of this retreat was helping people to discover, or rejuvenate, their relationship with Christ. The Awakening format on the other hand has a focus of giving people their first real encounter with Christ and then draw them into the community to help others to do the same. Once someone attends the Awakening Retreat, they do not attend as a retreatant again. Instead, they participate in any future



retreat either on the retreat team, as table parents, or in any other number of roles. 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.

But there is so much more to this retreat and we were thrilled to be able to start it at the University of Akron. The theme for the retreat this year was *Thrive in His Poverty* and was based on 2 Corinthians 8:9, “*Though Our Lord Jesus Christ was rich, He became poor so that by His poverty, you might become rich.*”

This retreat had 8 different presentations introducing retreatants to what a Christian is, what the mercy of God looks like in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, an explanation of the retreat theme, how to pray, how to discern in everyday life, how to lean on our brothers and sisters, the Eucharist, and a battle cry explaining how to go forth and be warriors for Christ.

Julia Bauman, Akron

Ashland University

Freshman Connection Initiative

As I finish up my first year at Ashland University, I recall that, as a scared little freshman, I wanted what everyone else starting college wants: friends. I also knew that I wanted to join a group to stay active in my Catholic faith. With Newman Catholic Campus Ministry, I was fortunate enough to get both!

I quickly immersed myself in the Newman Community by attending Mass, Newman Nights, and social events. Before I knew it, I had gained countless friends and a strong sense of belonging. I found people with whom I could talk about life and faith; more than that, I could rely on them to give me Christ-centered advice. Newman's social ministries provide students with a fun experience while also giving opportunity to get to know each other better and make memories in a less serious environment. It is a lot less scary to go to a Newman Night for the first time if you already know the students there from a fun social event. My personal favorite event was attending PlayCLE to kick off spring semester. This third and final event for the Freshmen Connection Initiative was a great way for us all to reconnect to the Newman Community after Christmas Break.

Caitlin Puff, freshman, Ashland

*Cleveland State University*

Student's Explore C.S. Lewis

This spring semester, students from Cleveland State Newman were grateful for the opportunity to read C. S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* together. The book club had an overwhelming response! Through the funds received from the Newman Foundation, copies of the book were distributed to all who were interested and able to attend weekly book club meetings in the heart of CSU's campus. Our group started the book in the beginning of February, and was interrupted when the university was closed due to COVID-19. However, we were able to finish discussing the book together over Zoom in early April.

Everyone really enjoyed reading and discussing *Mere Christianity* together and got a lot out of it intellectually. Most importantly, journeying through the book together bonded a community of Catholic students in friendship, which was especially a gift for us during the isolation imposed by the pandemic. Many of Lewis' words offered us light and hope during a very difficult time, and we are very grateful to have had this opportunity.

Olivia Kijauskas, student leader of the book club, CSU

CSU, CWRU, Asbland, Baldwin Wallace

Service Trip to Immokalee, FL



One week before the shelter-in-place orders started coming from governors around the country, eleven students and two campus ministers headed to Immokalee, FL for a spring break immersion and service trip.

The Immokalee community is predominately migrant farmworkers, almost all Mexican, Central American, or Haitian immigrants. During our week in the community, we volunteered with a variety of organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, the Boys and Girls Club, and the Immokalee Soccer Club and Academy. Our Sunday began with a Spanish language service at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. The music at the church involved mariachi instruments – guitars, accordions, and even the hand clapping of the congregation, which gave the entire service a far more energized and vibrant feel.

Sarah Carter, Baldwin Wallace

The poverty in Immokalee is extreme. Although we were not there to attempt to fix any of the horrible circumstances many people in the community experience, we were fortunate to learn about many of the pressing issues there to equip ourselves with the knowledge and tools necessary to stand up for this community. We attended lectures about poverty, homelessness, immigration issues, and more. This immersion trip opened my eyes to the harsh reality that so many others face within our own nation. I am so grateful to Newman for organizing this experience for us students! I made great friends and learned much more about these issues than I could from a classroom setting.

Liz Hanna, CWRU

College of Wooster

Our Lady of Guadalupe

When at the end of one Newman Night, close to the end of fall semester, our campus minister A.J. Hoy announced that WooCatholic was organizing a trip to a mass in Spanish at St Agnes (Orrville) for the feast of Our Lady Guadalupe, I felt a strong mix of emotion, both yearning and homesickness. Since I came to the United States, as an international student, going to mass had become both a deep source of grace and love that has always been, but also a strong connection with my family back in my home country, Peru.

That night, after a small bus ride with the other members of WooCatholic, we arrived at a cheerfully decorated parish where the music ministers played, to my surprise, the same songs I had sung all my life; songs played on four guitars and everybody around me sang at the top of their voices. There is something special about saying the same prayers that you used to say as a child, there is something deeply comforting about saying them out loud with many others. There was something really special that night, between songs and prayers, nostalgia and celebration.

Maybe it is true that faith lives within culture; it is shaped and intertwined within traditions, in the words we said in our first sacraments, and in the songs we sing. For me, an international student, sharing that with my friends in WooCatholic, who were also there that night, even though they didn't speak Spanish, made me feel welcome and a part of a bigger community that shares a single faith. That night I remembered that our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron of The Americas, North and South.

Katiasofia Gonzales Virto, freshman, College of Wooster

Asbland, Baldwin Wallace

Dec 30 - Jan 3, Phoenix AZ

Student Leadership Summit

In the fall, I had just begun my first real attempt to become more involved and knowledgeable about my faith. So I decided to go to the Student Leadership Summit sponsored by FOCUS. SLS definitely did not disappoint. The most impactful talk at the conference was *Always Enough* by Mari Pablo, which encouraged me to view myself through God's eyes, not by constantly comparing myself to others. Also, the discussion about evangelization throughout the conference has been incredibly useful for me. SLS taught me to evangelize through building connections and leading others to God by example, which is not only less intimidating, but something that I already desired.

Attending SLS has given me the confidence to pursue making connections with others. SLS has reassured me that my intentions are right, and that God's will is the right path.

Gary Friedrich, Baldwin Wallace





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President's Letter



For over 50 years, the Newman Foundation of Northern Ohio has faithfully supported Newman Campus Ministry in the Diocese of Cleveland. Recently, the Foundation awarded nearly \$50,000 in grants for the upcoming academic year. I was impressed with the variety of programming proposed by the campus ministers and am confident that our college

students will continue to enjoy meaningful opportunities to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your support of the Foundation and our mission!

With the assistance of Janus Small Associates, our Board has undertaken a restructuring process that involves revising our bylaws, raising awareness within the diocese, and recruiting new members. I am pleased with our progress and

look forward to sharing the results in our next newsletter.

May marked one year since our long-time Board member, Frank Hackett, joined the Lord in Paradise. Frank loved the Newman Foundation, and his dedication inspires each of us to continue the mission of the Foundation. We miss Frank on the Board and will offer a small memento to his wife, Mary, in memory of him. Rest in peace, Frank.

You might wonder what our campus ministers were doing as colleges emptied their dorms and students headed home to finish their academic year online. Enjoy the wonderful stories outlining the creative ways campus ministers, with the support of the Newman Foundation, continued to connect with our college students during this pandemic.

Newman Campus Ministry has entered into a splendid era with a highly competent staff and the skilled leadership of Fr. Vince Hawk, director, and Joann Rymarczyk-Piotrkowski, assistant director. Your support built and continues to nurture the fruitful partnership between the diocese and the Newman Foundation. Thank you for making our work possible.

Anthony Camino, President, Newman Foundation of Northern Ohio

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