

Newman Outreach

Volume XXXIV
SPRING 2023

Mission Statement

The Newman Catholic Student Center is a Roman Catholic ministry to those associated with The University of Iowa to promote their development within a faith community and to prepare them as disciples for the Church and for the world.

Website
www.iowacatholic.org

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info@newman-ic.org

Telephone
319-337-3106

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[@IowaCatholic](#)

Donations accepted online
lowacatholic.org/support.html

WALK WITH STUDENTS ON

FAITH JOURNEYS:

- Pray for the students
- Pray for our mission
- Share your time & talents
- Share your treasure
- Give to the Annual Fund
- Start a recurring donation



BOLD, LOVING, UNSTOPPABLE

There is great confusion in our culture. And if you think you are not being affected by this confusion, you are wrong. Well, at least I have been wrong.

One summer, while working as a counselor at YMCA Camp, some of us got into trouble for something. I do not recall what we did. But I remember being called into the office of the director, being chastised, then she ended with a threat of sorts. "You know, YMCA camping use to have chapel each morning, with songs and devotionals. If you do not straighten up, we could go back to that.!" I share that story because I remember it often, even though it was not that big of a deal. I did go on to have a career with the YMCA and worked at Catholic camps as well. I can tell you, the best camps do not shy away from chapel time and singing and it certainly is not used as a threat of punishment.

It is often said that Jesus called the twelve and went on a three-year camping trip. Jesus and camping were meant for each other. I wish this confusion were limited to the camping environment. But it is in the Church as well. We have come to believe that being religious is a bad thing. To live out the gift of a personal relationship with God will lead to having no friends and no job prospects, and we will be void of any joy.

I can tell you that this is a lie. I can tell you that my life has changed dramatically in the past 8 years since returning to the Newman Center. The change has come about by rejecting that lie, and pursuing the truth that Christ came that we might have life and have it abundantly. And we will have LIFE abundantly to the extent that we fall deeply in love with God and His plan for our life. And His plan is an adventure...

This adventure is two men who felt called to seminary and are formally discerning priesthood and four women who felt God calling them to religious life and now live a life of radical love for Christ.

This adventure is unfolding in the large number of marriages that have come about within this community that sees marriage as a vocation that is guided by God and His Church. These marriages are now bringing forth children, (none of them named Jeffrey...yet!)

This adventure is the seven graduates serving as FOCUS Missionaries on campuses around the country.

This adventure is about individuals who have found a family at the Newman Center. Those who were not Confirmed in their faith, but now are. Were Christian but not Catholic, and now they are. Were not even Christian, but are now are on fire for the Catholic faith.

I am seeing joy in a measure I have not seen. And I see it being started, nurtured, and magnified by the community of the Newman Catholic Student Center. And these examples are the fruit of what we do. In the pages of this newsletter, you will read about the many activities that bring the sense of community and abundant life in God's love that brings this joy.

When I think of the Newman Center, I do not think of a ministry that is re-inventing anything. I think of a ministry that is **re-discovering** everything.

As we look at the early Church and are fascinated by the growth and the powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we can lament that those days are past. Or we can say: **Come Holy Spirit, Come now, Come as you will.**

As we see the apostles, after they had received the Holy Spirit were: bold, loving, and unstoppable, we can lament that they must have been so strong. Or we can say: **Holy Spirit, I am yours. Make me bold, loving, and unstoppable.**

The mission of the Newman Center is to make disciples for the Church and the world. But what is the Newman Center? It is no more a building than the Catholic Church is a building. The Newman Center is the Church, investing in the Church for the Church and the world.

So, we are inviting you, as the Church, to invest in a Church that reaches out to those on the campus of The University of Iowa. And you can do that in two primary ways. **Some give by serving. And some serve by giving.**

Blessings,

Priest Director

P.S. Somewhere in this newsletter St. John Henry Newman is hidden- **be the first** to find him and win an Iowa Catholic t-shirt! Email Kristie@newman-ic.org to claim your prize!

PRAY. GROW. LEAD. SERVE.

2023-2024 Student Fellows

Liturgical Music
Anna Kelly

Liturgical Ministry
Joe Bussey

Prayer and Worship
Carrie Field

Faith Formation
Special Events
Matthew Freedlund

Faith Formation
Weekly Activities
Christina Pagano

Service and Social Justice
Ethan Stallman

Advocacy
Ellie Behrens

Outreach
Matthew King
Avery Nelson

Communications
Gianna Vitale

Weekly Activities

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Thursday Night Mass (TNM) followed by social activities
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Apologetics
- Lectio Divina
- Night Prayer
- Bible Study
- Bagel Wednesday

Semester Activities

- Fall/Spring Retreats
- Red Cross Blood Drive
- Catholic Trivia Night
- Discernment Nights
- Lent lunches
- Finals Week Lunches

Graduate/Young Professionals

- Holy Hour Happy Hour
- Bible Study
- Game Nights

Through the leadership of Student Fellows in the areas of Service and Social Justice, Faith Formation, Prayer and Worship, Liturgical Music, Social Outreach and Communications, the Newman Catholic Student Center offered University of Iowa students many opportunities this spring to pray, grow, lead, advocate, and serve. Supervised by the Director of Outreach and Education, student leaders collaborated regularly with professional staff members, other Fellows, and their Lead Teams to develop campus ministry activities that engaged fellow students.

Faith Formation

Thirty-five students enjoyed the second annual Silent Mini Retreat in January to kick off the spring semester. Beginning with Mass and dinner, students directed their own silent prayer experience with various stations that included prayer resources throughout the Newman Center and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel during the evening. Retreatants gathered together at the end of the evening for Night Prayer.

Our students enjoyed a traditional Candlemas celebration in February for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord with the blessing of candles, a candlelight procession, Thursday Night Mass, a pancake dinner followed by students sharing in Night Prayer.



This spring, monthly Discernment Nights focused on specific vocations: Marriage, Religious Life, Priesthood, and Single Life with guests sharing their discernment stories with students.

In February, sixty-two students, five missionaries, two staff, and a guest Dominican priest kicked off Lent at the Arise Spring Retreat. Through prayer, sacraments, Mass, and plenty of fun, students reflected on the call of our faith to Arise with Christ. Student speakers shared their experiences with resiliency, humility, and living our Catholic faith. Many students share that our retreats are the activity that started their involvement at the Newman Center, where they met their best friends, and where they first felt they were a part of the community.



A student initiated and led apologetics group has been a popular weekly addition to our regular Newman activities calendar this spring. In March, Catholic apologetics speaker, Shane Kapler, visited for two talks, one on Mary and one on the prayer life of Jesus.



The weekly Thursday Night Mass (TNM), a long time student tradition, continues at Newman at 9pm. Averaging 75 students per week, this popular event includes post TNM activities to engage students in community building activities. Some of these activities include: swing dancing, karaoke, carnival games, and Catholic trivia.

PRAY. GROW. LEAD. SERVE.

Social Outreach

Students joined in many fun and social activities throughout the spring semester including a Super Bowl party, Swing Dance, attending a University of Iowa Women's Hockey match, Valentine's Day and hot chocolate campus outreach on the corner, and the spring formal dance.

Service Social Justice and Advocacy

Our students answered the call to serve and advocate in many ways this semester. Students had the opportunity to prepare and serve meals at the Catholic Worker House and Ronald McDonald House (RMH). Our students were some of the first to be back at RMH after the pandemic and a facility renovation. Students are also learning to cook and bake as part of outreach to these organizations and Agape Cafe.

Twenty-five students participated in the March for Life in Iowa City sponsored by Johnson County Right to Life and St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provides students with increased opportunities to consider how they are called to live out the seven basic tenets of Catholic Social Teaching and the joy of the Gospel. Through our CRS University Chapter students continue to put their adeptness with technology and social media at the service of important issues and marginalized people through advocacy actions. Combining research, critical thinking, communication, compassion, and prayer has proven to be an impactful experience for students. Beginning in 2023-2024, our CRS Fellow will be called our Advocacy Fellow to better encompass their role.



Christine Wissink, our Outreach and Education Director has been recognized by the Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA) for her approach to ministry and her contributions to her profession. The CCMA will award the Fr. Robert Beloin Award: For Creativity, Collaboration, and Innovation to Christine at CALLED23, the CCMA's national conference in June. CCMA is the national organization for Catholic campus ministry professionals. The Fr. Beloin award is given to individuals who demonstrate "creativity, collaboration and innovation" in their campus ministry. Fr. Beloin was the longtime Chaplain at Yale University and is considered a legend in Catholic campus ministry.

Music ministry at the Newman Center is thriving. Members of the ministry sing for liturgy on weekends as well as at daily liturgies and Thursday Night Mass (TNM) at 9pm attended by students. Anna Kelly has served as the Liturgical Music Fellow for this academic year and we are excited to have her return in that role for the 2023-2024 academic year. Anna is an active leader and leads music from the piano during liturgical celebrations, as well as sings and plays as an instrumentalist as a member of the Newman Singers. She also coordinated music for both the fall and spring undergraduate retreats. The Newman Singers have had a busy spring semester. In addition to singing frequently for weekend liturgies at the Newman Center, they toured in St. Louis and throughout Texas in January 2023. April has been a full month for the group. In addition to celebrating the Easter Vigil at the Newman Center, they were on tour in Illinois on April 15-16, 2023 and performed at "Newman Night Out" at St. Patrick Church on April 22, 2023. The group finished the month by singing at all four liturgies the weekend of April 29-30, 2023.



WALKING IN FAITH



The Newman Center is fortunate to host the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) on The University of Iowa campus. The purpose of FOCUS is to advance the teachings of Jesus. Made up of recent college graduates, these missionaries are able to work in tandem with our staff to complement the ministry of the Newman Center. We are blessed to have the ability to host a FOCUS team on campus thanks to the generosity of donors who give specifically to fund this outreach.

Big changes are happening with our FOCUS team as three of our missionaries are moving on to new positions. Luke Landiak, our Team Director will be moving to Lincoln, Nebraska to continue to work with FOCUS as a minister to potential missionaries, Elizabeth Foley has accepted a position as FOCUS Team Director at Iowa State, and Katherine Hopping will serve as FOCUS Team Director at University of Illinois.

We are excited to have Kobe Eischeid step into the role of Team Director here at the Center while Carolyn Colbert continues here for her second year. In June, we will learn who our new missionaries will be to fill our five person team.

University of Iowa FOCUS by the Numbers

- 23 students leading Bible study groups
- 214 students attended Bible study at least 1 time
- 159 students attended Bible study at least 4 times
- 66 students in Discipleship formation
- 77 students attended SEEK23 in St. Louis
- 16 students attended Spring Mission Trip to Denver, Colorado
- 1 student applied to become a FOCUS missionary next year
- 7 Newman Center Alumni will continue to serve as FOCUS missionaries on campuses across the country
- 5 women going on pilgrimage to Poland to walk in the footsteps of St. John Paul II, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and St. Faustina
- 1 student committed to serving internationally with the Con-solatio Missionary Program



Luke Landiak



Elizabeth Foley



Katherine Hopping



Kobe Eischeid



Carolyn Colbert



"I have many people to thank for their role in helping me discern God's will for my life, not least of which is FOCUS and the missionaries on The University of Iowa campus. Coming into college, I knew that I wanted to grow in my faith while pursuing a degree in engineering, but I had no idea that I would leave college with the intent to attend seminary the following fall. Coming into college, I was invited to encounter God's word for the first time in a FOCUS Bible Study. As I have advanced in my college career, I have had the opportunity to lead a group of men and watch them be transformed in the same way I had only a year before. Through this experience, I discovered my zeal for leading others to Christ which is a desire that will serve the Church well wherever I end up. Most importantly, FOCUS has helped me to form virtuous friendships that have led me into a relationship with Christ and His Church. Because of these friendships constantly bringing me closer to Christ, I can confidently hope to have the courage to say 'yes' when Jesus asks me to follow Him."

- Matthew Freedlund (Junior)



"My name is Liv, and I am a freshman at The University of Iowa. I started my first year in college nervous, insecure, and confused, feeling pulled in various directions and unsure of where I belonged. I joined several clubs, rushed a sorority, and went out on the weekends, attempting to fill the void of emptiness that I felt in my heart. I attended Mass and Bible study, but I still felt disconnected from God and His promises. When I attended SEEK 2023 with the Iowa group, the barriers in my heart were torn down and my life was finally illuminated with the Truth. I felt God tug at my soul and call me back to my intrinsic identity, his beloved daughter. During the Christ in the City Mission trip, I became ignited by the Spirit I witnessed in the friends that I made and am now actively pursuing deep relationship with Jesus. I am growing in confidence, conviction, and purpose with each passing day."

-Liv Jackson (Freshman)

WALKING IN FAITH



On May 4, 2023, we honored twenty-three of our graduating seniors at our Thursday Night Baccalaureate Mass. It is always bittersweet to get to this part of the academic year and realize that some of our students will be leaving for the last time. It is a great reminder that we have a mission and that mission demands that we send people away from the walls of the Newman Center, so that all the growth that has happened here can be a blessing for the Church and the world. We will miss our graduates and pray for them as they embark on the next chapter.



"Being involved in the arts department at Iowa has been a massive blessing. Wanting to follow a semester long concentration on Catholicism in my painting class, I anticipated some difficulties with classmates or professors in depicting faith in my art. I did not expect the curiosity and acceptance I received from the 12 artists I painted with in the studio this semester. They showed me so much tolerance and respect when critiquing my paintings and always had questions about the meaning behind many of my scripture-based works. I am so grateful for their encouragement and the way they delighted in my work this semester, and for the Newman center in trusting me to create a set of paintings (shown left) for the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and the Easter candle to keep in the church."

- Sophie Yuhás (Sophomore)



As part of Newman's efforts to bring the message of Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home, *Laudato Si*, to greater awareness in the community, Catholic Relief Services Fellow Maya Argenta, along with several other students designed, painted and installed a Rosary Walk in St. Joseph's Cemetery. Our Iowa City Catholic cemetery on Dodge Street is not only the final resting place of Catholics in our community, but also home to a beautiful wooded area adjacent to Hickory Hills, with its own trails and wildlife to experience. The Rosary Walk is composed of five posts that are eight feet tall. Each post has been painted by students to represent the five decades of each mystery of the rosary. This project

combines art, prayer, and an opportunity to experience creation as a way of more deeply knowing our Creator, as Pope Francis calls for in *Laudato Si*. We are especially excited to introduce this opportunity in May, a month devoted to our Blessed Mother. The Rosary Walk is located south of the chapel and is visible from the driveway.



Spring Break in March 2023 found FOCUS missionary, Kobe Eischeid leading sixteen students along with Fr. Jeff, Carly and Katherine (FOCUS missionaries) for a service mission trip to Denver, Colorado. The group traveled to work with Christ in the City (CIC). While in Denver, the group participated in the chores and meals of the CIC house alongside the CIC missionaries, and mission groups from Texas Tech, Kansas State, Missouri State, as well as a group of seminarians from Wichita. The group also hit the streets and were able to serve and befriend those experiencing material poverty and homelessness and engage in the invitation Jesus gives in Matthew 25:31-46. "Yes, we got to give out water, snacks, gloves, socks and more, but most importantly, our friends on the streets were not ignored! They had someone ask him what their name was, how they were doing today, and more simple human conversations that they often do not experience. It was a time of restoring hope for those who were losing hope, but also helping us each encounter the ways we are individually in poverty. Spiritually, I am poor. Without God, we all lack the most essential necessity in this life. We came back to Iowa City with 20 soldiers who encountered God and friendship together in service. There were many beautiful things on the mission trip, but I believe the best is yet to come and this will be the launching point for future saints. All we can do is continue to pray for those involved, thank God for all He has done, and give gratitude to all those who made it possible through labor, financial support, and prayers! Praise God for all who made it possible! God Bless!" - Kobe Eischeid, FOCUS Missionary



MISSION CENTRIC

2022- 2023 Staff

Fr. Jeff Belger, Priest Director

Deacon Joe Welter

Ronda Lipsius
Administrative Assistant

Mike Leuck
Sacristan/Greeter

Christine Wissink
Director of Outreach
and Education

Ann Thomas
Outreach Assistant

Joe Mattingly, Director of Music

Kristie Wert
Director of Development

Mary Rae Meyer
Development Assistant

Zita Sibenaller, Bookkeeper

Dan Teets, Director of RCIA

Doug Herrera, Facilities

Claudia Landaverde, Custodian

Newman Center Board of Directors

Most Rev. Thomas Zinkula

Rev. Jeffry Belger

Rev. Thom Hennen

Rev. Joseph Sia

Roger Reilly

Tom DePrenger

Michelle Brock

Colleen Rapp



Our Board members give of their time, talent and treasure and we are thankful that they answer their call to serve our Newman Center in this capacity. Their leadership, guidance and stewardship are key to our growth and success in preparing disciples for the Church and the world. With heartfelt appreciation, we want to thank

Tom DePrenger for his many years of service to the Newman Catholic Student Center Board of

Directors. We also give a warm welcome to

Ron Meyer as he has accepted the call to serve on our Board of Directors. We pray in thanksgiving for the faith filled dedication, leadership, guidance, and stewardship of our Board of Directors.



Board members Michele Brock (above) and Colleen Rapp (below) each hosted tables at Newman Night Out!



2023-2024 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Thank you to the financial partners that helped create and continue to support the Newman Catholic Student Center Academic Scholarship.

The following students were selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship for the next academic year based on their academic standing and involvement at the Center.

Ellie Behrens
Grace Bode
Luke Farmer
Matthew Freedlund
Jenna King
Matthew King
Emily Kolich
Anna Lammers
Avery Nelson
Katherine O'Tool
Sophie Yugas



Fr. Ed Fitzpatrick Discipleship Award Recipients

Each year, we recognize alumni who use their faith, gifts, and talents to become actively involved in a Catholic parish community and community service. This annual award of \$500 is given in the name of an alumnus to the parish or community organization in which they serve. This year, we are pleased to honor the following:

Jennifer Altenhoefer, Class of 1972

Earthly Blessings Ministry - St. James, Washington, Iowa
Masters Hand Tribulation and Trust Ministry

Lynn (McAleece) Bishara, Class of 1993

Faith Formation Ministry - St. Mary's, Pella, Iowa

Elizabeth and Sam Conlan, Class of 2022

Young Adult Ministry - Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, Illinois

Maria Fernanda Larraga Martinez, Class of 2018

Life Teen Ministry - St. Dominic, Brookfield, Wisconsin

Cade Naughton, Class of 2021

Youth/Young Adult Ministry - St John the Baptist, Mount Vernon, Iowa

April Rouser, Class of 1979

Catholic Worker House, Iowa City, Iowa

Megan Schnobelen, Class of 2021

Library - Regina Catholic Education Center, Iowa City, Iowa

These awards are made possible by the many donors that support the Fr. Ed Fitzpatrick Discipleship fund each year.

MISSION CENTRIC

The overall theme of the Development office this year has been to become more mission centric in our fundraising efforts. One big area where this theme took hold was at our spring fundraiser event. Newman Night Out hosted 182 guests from the Iowa City Catholic community and raised over \$86,000 for our mission!

Highlights from the event were Hannah Dake, Class of 2023 and Jon Wisnieski, Class of 2017, speaking about the impact that the Newman Center has had on their lives. Guests at Newman Night Out also had an opportunity to visit with student leaders and staff. Our Newman Singers entertained the crowd to round out our evening. Fr. Jeff concluded the event with a heartfelt sentiment to inspire our faith and stewardship.

The Newman Night Out committee had a goal to create a fun, social event while also offering ways to learn more about the Newman Center. In addition to our committee, 27 students assisted with centerpieces, set up, welcome table, kitchen help, and tear down! Thank you to all who attended, donated, sponsored, and supported Newman Night Out 2023! Watch for a Save the Date for Newman Night Out 2024!



We were pleased to honor Howard and Patricia Kerr as the 2023 Newman Catholic Student Center Stewardship Award recipients as part of our Newman Night Out celebrations. They have both dedicated their lives to service: service of our country, their family, church and community. They are a beautiful reflection of God's commandment of love and personify the mission of the Newman Center to prepare disciples for the church and the world. To read their full bio that appeared in our program, visit the Newman Night Out page on our website - www.iowacatholic.org.



We invite you to become a part of our mission and ministry. By joining **Friends in Faith**, you become an important partner in sustaining our ministry through your financial support, prayer, and stewardship.

With our **Friends in Faith** initiative, you choose your level of commitment of at least \$1,000 per year for a pledge term of three years. You may designate where you would like your gift to be utilized, however at least 25% of your gift must be designated to our Annual Fund. Our Annual Fund allows the Newman Center Board to use funds where they are most needed throughout the year. At the end of three years, you will have an opportunity to recommit to remain a **Friends in Faith** partner.

We will be reaching out with information in phases over the coming weeks. If you would like more information please contact Kristie Wert, Director of Development at kristie@newman-ic.org.



Many of our long time benefactors have generously committed to the Newman Center by planning a legacy gift in their wills.

Need more information?
Contact Kristie Wert,
Director of Development at
kristie@newman-ic.org

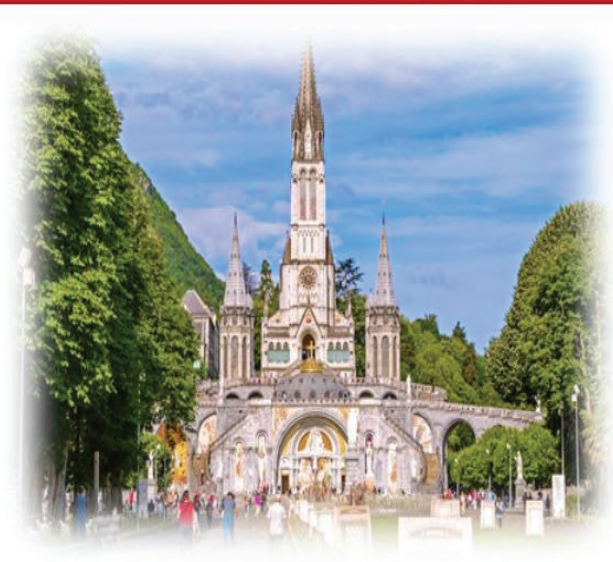


Newman Catholic Student Center of Iowa City, IA
104 E. Jefferson St.
Iowa City, IA 52245

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA & LOURDES FEATURING SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

11 DAYS: MARCH 8 - 18, 2024

LISBON * FATIMA * SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
SALAMANCA * AVILA * MADRID * LOURDES



Hosted by

*The Newman Catholic Student Center at The University of Iowa
With*

Fr. Jeff Belger
Priest Director

&

Kristie Wert
Director of Development

\$3779 PER PERSON FROM CHICAGO*

**Air/land tour price is \$3239 plus \$540 gov't taxes/airline surcharges*

**Travel to Chicago additional, contact the Newman Center for details*

For More Information, Please Contact Kristie Wert:

Tel: (319) 337-3107 (Daytime) / (419) 706-1894 (Evening)

Email: kristie@newman-ic.org

Website: www.iowacatholic.org

SPACE IS LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!!!

