



Newman Outreach

A Publication for Alumni, Parents and Friends of the Newman Center at The University of Iowa

Volume XXX
Spring 2021

Mission Statement

As a Newman Catholic Student Center, we provide 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.

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God has blessed us abundantly this year!



THE MISSION CONTINUES. It would be an understatement to say this has been a strange academic year. Yet, I am amazed how much we accomplished during these Covid days. Not certain of any on-campus presence when the year started, we not only continued building on the ministry of years past but witnessed great growth (see inside).

The flexibility and desire of staff and students to carefully accept pandemic challenges allowed us to continue our mission. Highlights: retreats and bringing an international FOCUS SEEK21 conference to campus via internet for 125 students. We took over nearly every public campus space to have our SEEK small groups meet in person or online.

Due to a cancelled March spring break, our Spring Mission Trip was, instead, held in January. The great friendships, as well as the shared spirit of mission, springing from this experience allowed the 16 who went to Cincinnati to continue to grow. It seems they do everything together now. Five have taken jobs at Camp Gray, a Catholic summer camp in Wisconsin.

MASS CONFUSION. We have followed strict protocols of sanitation, spacing and masking to have as many people in attendance at Mass as was prudently possible. We continue this path forward, but we have hope we may be able to ease restrictions a bit more in the near future.

LOOKING AHEAD. Our blessings to the seniors who have been active in their faith journeys during their UI academic careers. We are proud to say with confidence they will bear fruit as disciples for the Church and the world. Up to five of these seniors will begin missionary work with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) this summer. Like the Newman Center FOCUS missionaries we have worked with in much gratitude over the past three years, the new grads will work at other universities nationally, winning college students for/to Christ.

I am also excited and proud of some underclassmen who are taking on service and mission for the summer. We have 2 students joining FOCUS Summer Missions, one in Michigan and one in Georgia. Another student will serve with Christ in the City in Denver. Two students who went to Cincinnati this past January are going back to work with BLoC ministries. And, as mentioned earlier, 5 will be working at Camp Gray in Wisconsin. I plan a pastoral visit up there this summer to check in with our students and potentially give them a few pointers (I used to run camps for a living, prior to switching gears and becoming a priest).

I pray all of us can find some authentic human contact this summer. Enjoy your family and friends. And if you find yourself in Iowa City, please stop in and reconnect.

Fr. Jeffrey Belger,
Priest Director



Graduating seniors gather with Fr. Jeff after the Baccalaureate Mass on May 6th. Our prayer for these new alumni...Vaya con Dios! Take 5 minutes to hear from a few 2021 grads about their Newman Center experiences: https://youtu.be/U3CLHxJ5m_g

#sharethefaith

Please consider a donation to Newman Center's 2020-2021 Annual Appeal which ends on June 30, 2021. This past year has been financially challenging for many individuals, businesses and non-profits, including the Newman Center. If you are able, please give as generously as you can by June 30th in support of Newman Center's mission to **prepare disciples for our Church and our world**. Newman Center is 100% self-funded through private donations. Gifts can be made securely online on our website: www.iowacatholic.org or by mail at 104 E Jefferson St., Iowa City, IA 52245. We are grateful for, and blessed by, YOU!

2021 SPRING SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

Service and Social Justice

Weekly, students pray the Rosary at Emma Goldman Clinic for those involved in abortion that day.

Catholic Worker House Service Events: Each month students cook and serve a meal at Catholic Worker House in Iowa City, help sort donations and visit with guests.

Catholic Social Teaching Bible Study: During Lent, the Service and Social Justice Team led a FOCUS Bible Study on Catholic Social Teaching, covering topics from the preferential option for the poor to the dignity of work.

Blood Drive: In February, the biannual Red Cross Blood Drive at Newman Center was held. It was a success with great participation.

L'Arche Drive: This Lent a drive was held for the L'Arche Community in Clinton, IA for household needs. The L'Arche Clinton community provides homes for people with and without intellectual disabilities; they live and work together as peers, creating inclusive communities of faith and friendship.

End of Year Food Drive: The Drive benefits food insecure UI students through the Food Pantry at Iowa.

Faith Formation

Catholic Book Study: This spring a new Catholic Book Study began. This student-led group read and discussed "The Return of the Prodigal Son" by Henri Nouwen and "Becoming Who You Are" by James Martin, SJ.

February - April Catholic Pub Quiz Night: Student teams competed in the first Catholic Pub Quiz Night series at the Newman Center. Topics included Church History, Religious Life, Catholic Literature and Music, the Saints, and Pope Palooza. Prizes were awarded weekly with the grand prize finale on April 23.

Surrender Spring Retreat: 52 students, 4 FOCUS Missionaries, and two Newman Staff attended this spring's retreat on surrendering to God. Students pondered what it means to surrender to God's will and reflected on the blessings and hardships that come along with the experience

Weekly activities throughout the semester:

- Tuesday Night Evening Prayer
- Wednesday Evening Adoration with Exposition
- Thursday Night Student Mass and social activities
- Two weekly Gospel Studies for students to reflect and prepare for Sunday Mass
- Melchizedek Project – biweekly priest discernment group
- Catholicism Ignited Podcast – listen on our website or on your podcast app www.iowacatholic.org/catholicism-ignited-podcast.html
- Graduate Student and Young Professional Group

Rossi Center for Faith & Culture Online Speaker Events

Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, PhD in Neuroscience, Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, spoke on the ethical challenges of Covid-19 and its vaccines.

Barbara Padilla, a Mexican-American opera singer who fought cancer as a college student, America's Got Talent runner up, discovered how God's plan was at work in her life through it all. She spoke on the topic "God: The Architect of Our Lives."

Check out the weekly Rossi Center for Faith and Culture Blog www.rossicenterforfaithandculture.org/blog

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION



Christine Wissink, Newman Center Director of Outreach and Education, recently obtained her Advanced Campus Ministry Professional Certification from the Catholic Campus Ministry Association. The Pathways Certification Process challenges campus ministers to reflect deeply on their theology of ministry, ministerial experiences and professional development. Christine, in her fifth year of service at the Newman Center, is a member of national, regional and local campus ministry associations.

2021-22 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

We are grateful for the contributions made through The University of Iowa Center for Advancement for the Newman Catholic Student Center Academic Scholarship Fund. Because of this generosity, these students were each awarded \$500 scholarships for the next academic year:

Abbey Bejarno	Marketing Analytics
Hannah Camposeo	Chemical Engineering
Olivia Clark	Chemical Engineering
Sam Conlan	Accounting/Finance
Hannah Dake	Communications
Matthew Freedlund	Mechanical Engineering
Kyla Knutson	Psychology
Rachel Lacy	Communication Studies
Elizabeth LeMar	Computer Science/Engineering
Mason Miller	Communications/Event Management
Elizabeth Munoz-Cuadra	Human Physiology/Pre-Med
Ashlyn Murphy	Education for ESL
Cade Naughton	Psychology/Occupational Therapy
Ally O'Meara	Marketing/Finance
Lucas Rayhons	Elementary Education
Courtney Schenkelberg	Pharmacy
Brynne Valkosky	Elementary Education
Martha Ward	Psychology/Occupational Therapy
Lauren Whitesitt	Music Therapy

2021 RELIGIOUS STUDIES SCHOLARSHIPS

In May, The UI Department of Religious Studies announced these Newman Center students as award recipients:

Catholic Studies Scholar: Luz Martinez '21

Fr. John P. Boyle Award in Catholic Studies: Carlos Ruiz Martinez, PhD student

NEWMAN SINGERS

This summer, the Newman Singers will provide inspirational entertainment at the Newman Center Gala on June 11. From July 27-30 they will attend and present at the National Association of Pastoral Musicians Convention in New Orleans, LA. This fall, the group is tentatively scheduled on Oct. 23-24 to sing at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny, IA.



Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, in conjunction with the formation of a Diocese of Davenport CRS Chapter, during the 2021-22 academic year a new CRS University Chapter is being formed through the Newman Center for the UI campus. The first CRS University Chapter Leader will be announced this summer.

SPRING FOCUS HIGHLIGHTS

by Luke Landiak, Team Leader



The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) is a Catholic collegiate outreach whose mission is to share the hope and joy of the Gospel with college and university students, inspiring them to a lifetime of Christ-centered evangelization, discipleship and friendships in which they lead others to do the same.

As the third year of the Newman Center-FOCUS partnership comes to a close, we are excited about, and encouraged by, the numbers of UI students who continue to grow in their faith through invitation and participation. Following additional missionary training this summer, we look forward to the fall of 2021 to continue to grow in this ministry program.

Currently, we have:

- 245 students who have attended Bible study at least 1 time
- 170 “consistent” Bible study participants who have come at least 4 times
- 37 students meeting weekly for discipleship formation, growing in prayer, fellowship, evangelization and leadership
- 19 students leading Bible studies
- 13 students who went to Cincinnati in January to serve the poor in Price Hill
- 148 students registered for the national SEEK conference held online in February
- 5 seniors applied and 4 interviewed so far to become a FOCUS missionary for next year

At the end of May, we say goodbye to FOCUS missionaries Drew Grattafiori and Aurelia Isenbart. Drew is headed to Nashville, TN for a corporate job and Aurelia will be moving to Des Moines, IA to become a FOCUS team leader at Drake University. We wish them well in their new endeavors! Liz Foley and I will return to The University of Iowa campus next year. We will welcome two new teammates this summer. We ask you to pray for our FOCUS team and the students, especially those who are in discipleship, as we continue to spread the good news of the Gospel on Iowa’s campus!



Graduating seniors, Camryn Miller, Lucero Manzanares and Olivia Ahlberg, will spend the summer training to become FOCUS missionaries. Each will be assigned to a university campus as part of a FOCUS missionary team for the Fall 2021. Two other recent UI grads are awaiting notification of an offer from FOCUS.

ALUMNI CORNER - JULIA WATERS '21



Throughout my freshman year at Iowa, I knew the Lord had placed a desire in my heart to grow in my faith, but I had no idea what that meant or looked like. I found myself struggling to allow the Lord in my life. It wasn’t until my sophomore year when FOCUS came to the Newman Center and I took a chance on a Salvation History Bible study, where I realized the desire I had been feeling was to pursue a personal relationship with the Lord. Through my encounter of God the Father in daily prayer, I began to learn my identity as a daughter which has joyfully transformed my college experience. As I currently lead a group of my sorority sisters through Salvation History, I can’t help but smile and give thanks to the Lord for placing a FOCUS missionary in my life three years ago. It has been a beautiful blessing to be inspired to boldly live my faith from the example of the FOCUS missionaries, to be encouraged to share authentic friendship in my house and to witness the graces that have poured out from a simple yes. I am confident that the Lord will continue to reach the hearts of countless students on campus through the works of Newman Center and FOCUS and am grateful to have the Lord steadfast, in the center of my life, walking with me in my lifelong discipleship.

FR. ED DISCIPLESHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Annually, Newman Center (UI) alumni who carry on the Center’s mission of discipleship for our Church and our world through involvement in a Catholic parish or non-profit are eligible for the Fr. Ed Fitzpatrick Discipleship Award. Established in 2015, this Fund named for Fr. Ed Fitzpatrick, the Center’s director from 1981-2015, makes a \$500 financial gift to the respective Catholic parish or community non-profit in which recipients are actively involved.

Michele Brock '96 BA, '06 MBA	St. Joseph’s Church (Marion, IA)
Eugene DeLuca '13 PhD	Heart of the Nation (Milwaukee, WI)
Patrick Dreckman '69 BA, '72 JD	CommUnity Crisis Services & Food Bank (Iowa City, IA)
Jessica Elliott '19 MSW	Merci’s Refuge (Champaign, IL)
Kelly Scott Franklin '14 PhD	St. Anthony of Padua (Hillsdale, MI)
Nic Goeres '67 BA	Beckman Catholic H.S (Dyersville, IA)
Brother James Jensen '05 BBA	St. Meinrad Archabbey (St. Meinrad, IN)
Mary Rae Meyer '88 BS	Fellowship of Catholic University Students (Iowa City, IA)
Zoraida Oyola-Rebaza '14 DMA	St. Mary’s Church (Iowa City, IA)
Elizabeth Pritchard '19 BA	Mobile Clinic (UI Health Sciences, Iowa City, IA)
Shirley Serini '90 BA	St. John the Evangelist (Valdosta, GA)
Thaddeus Sim '07 PhD	Epiphany Parish – Immaculate Heart of Mary (Liverpool, NY)



Kaley Gott and Mason Miller were baptized, confirmed and received their First Communion at Easter Vigil Mass at the Newman Center. We congratulate them and offer our continued Newman Center family support!



NEWMAN CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER

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Address Service Requested

WALK WITH STUDENTS ON FAITH JOURNEYS:

- *Pray for the students and our mission*
- *Share your time and talents with Newman Center*
- *Share your treasure with Newman Center*
 - *Give to the Annual Fund*
 - *Become a recurring monthly donor*
 - *Consider leaving a legacy gift*
- *Provide feedback on how we can better serve and communicate with you*



June 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Gala 2021 will be a hybrid event:

At The Celebration Farm for those who wish to attend in-person*, and live-streamed for those who wish to participate from home.

* Seating for 160 at The Celebration Farm will be socially distanced in a well-ventilated, indoor/outdoor setting.

In-Person Tables of 2, 4, 6, or 8 Now On Sale!
Complimentary virtual registration also open.

Buy a raffle ticket to win \$5000!

Visit our Gala website: bidpal.net/ncgala2021

With Special Thanks To Our Title Co-Sponsors:
Hills Bank
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WITH GRATITUDE:

We thank out-going Newman Center board members, Tom Goedken, Bill Brandt and Tom DePrenger, for their combined many years of service to the Newman Center mission. Their contributions of time, talent and treasure have helped to define and improve the ministries we provide. Thank you for being a bond of connection between persons and doing His work.

"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 am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. I shall do good—I shall do His work." St. J.H. Newman

VISIT THE HOLY LAND!! 10 DAYS: MARCH 10 – 19, 2022

Hosted by Newman Center Staff:
Fr. Jeff Belger & April Rouser

Walk where Jesus walked...Cruise the Sea of Galilee...Visit Nazareth...Climb the Mt. of Olives & view the Old City of Jerusalem...Walk the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre...Visit Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity.

ONLY \$4059 PER PERSON FROM CHICAGO*

Price Includes: RT air from Chicago, first class hotels, breakfast & dinner daily, professional English-speaking guides, etc.

Contact April Rouser: (319) 337-3106 ext. 119 or
april@newman-ic.org

*Other departure gates possible