



# Newman Outreach

## Embracing Change, Transition and Challenges

Volume XXXII  
Spring 2022

### 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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Donations accepted  
online at:  
[iowacatholic.org/support.html](http://iowacatholic.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
- Alumni- share your story



There is an adage, that is unprovable, yet persistent that change comes in threes. As this newsletter goes to print, we are in a wonderful season of change. Over the past month we have had three major changes here at the Newman Catholic Student Center and I would like to celebrate them with you.

Each Spring at the Newman Center, we transition from academic year to the summer break. April 29th at our Thursday Night Mass, we blessed all our Student Fellows, along with their Lead Teams who help implement all that we do. We also blessed the newly formed team of Fellows who have already begun planning for next year, along with their new Lead Teams.

May 5<sup>th</sup>, at our Baccalaureate Mass, we celebrated the amazing senior class that we just sent forth from campus to their next adventures in life. Each year we send forth those who we have worked with, played with, and prayed with. The numbers keep growing. But the depth of character is even more on display. I am so proud of the senior class. Each year, we redefine what is normal, what is possible and what God desires of us as individuals and as a community. This group has stepped up to the challenge and has changed the Newman Center forever. One of the major characteristics of the Class of 2022, is that they have received the benefit of having 4 years of working with our team of FOCUS Missionaries. In my homily, I challenged each of the seniors. I reminded them that the mission of the Newman Center was to make disciples for the Church and the world. And what the Church and world need more than anything is authentic witnesses to the love of God. I asked them not to blend in, but with great humility and courage to stand out.

With both the transition of student leadership and sending forth the senior class, we took the time to look back and remember. We did this by way of stories, photos and videos. The most memorable moments seemed to all relate to a relationship with God and with one another. It is humbling to look back and see all that the Lord has done with us this year. It was even more rewarding to see how the students honored each other with heart felt praise of how individuals changed their lives.

Our third area of change this spring is in our Development Office. We are so thankful for April Rouner and all that she has done to further our mission. We wish her the best in her retirement! We welcome Kristie Wert and look forward to what she will bring to the Newman Center in the coming years.

I hope you find in this newsletter some of the ways that your generosity has made possible the fulfillment of our mission.

Fr. Jeffry Belger  
Priest Director



Baccalaureate Mass  
May 5, 2022

### For Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

Please consider a donation to the Newman Catholic Student Center Annual Fund. Our current year, which ends on June 30, 2022, has shown some improvement over 2020-2021, however, we are still finding it financially challenging. Our ministries are growing each year and as the country continues to recover from the pandemic, we continue to find the time financially challenging. 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. If you are unable to give this year, we ask that you prayerfully discern how you can help financially next year. The Newman Center offers many avenues for giving. We are 100% self-funded through private donations and your support is so important to our mission. Gifts can be made securely online on our website: [www.iowacatholic.org](http://www.iowacatholic.org) or by mail at: 104 E Jefferson St., Iowa City, IA 52245. Please contact Kristie Wert, Development Director via email at [kristie@newman-ic.org](mailto:kristie@newman-ic.org) for more information on how you can help. We are grateful for and blessed by you- our Newman Catholic Student Center Faith Community!

## 2022-2023 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:

Olivia Clark  
Hannah Dake  
Matthew Freedlund  
Lucas Raymond  
Tyler Stallman  
Caitlyn Grubbs  
Matthew Jones  
Eric Jungers  
John Lystiuk  
Avery Nelson  
Ashley Sheehan  
Sophie Yuhas

## 2022 CATHOLIC STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

Catholic Studies Scholar:  
Grace Ahlers

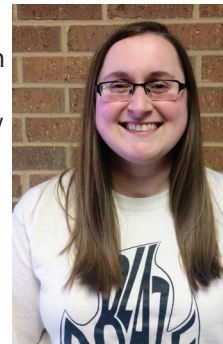
## IN GRATITUDE

We are blessed with a dedicated board who make service to the Newman Catholic Student Center a priority. Thank you to outgoing Newman Center board member, Patty Rossmann for her years of service to the Newman Center mission. Her contributions and those of other board members have helped to define and improve the ministries we provide. Thank you for giving of your time, talent and treasure to **prepare disciples for the church and the world.**



## Alumni Corner- Jasmin Tone '17

We recently had a chance to catch up with Newman Center/UI alum, Jasmin Tone who is currently serving as the Director of Faith Formation at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Dewitt, IA. Starting out as a Psychology/Pre-Law student, Jasmin said she was not completely surprised at the calling she felt to be in ministry. "Being the Faith Formation Fellow during my senior year was so eye opening, and I know that I wouldn't be at St. Joseph without my Newman Center experience," said Jasmin. She went on to tell us that she has always felt called to ministry and is so thankful for her Newman Center experience. She jokingly remembers the desire to work more on her fellows work than her schoolwork. Her favorite Newman Center memories are the late-night study sessions turned fun and crazy conversation nights here at the center with friends that became her family during her time here. Jasmin has been at St. Joseph Catholic Church since July of 2020 and oversees faith formation for all ages at the parish which also includes a Kindergarten through 8th grade school. Prior to that, she served as the Youth Minister for three parishes of West Davenport. Growing up Catholic with a mom who was her youth minister, she says that she knew she wanted to stay faithful during her years at UI and looking back, she realized that the Newman Center was her home away from home and a place that she always felt safe. Thanks for sharing how God is working in your life Jasmin!



## 2022 FR. ED DISCIPLESHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Annually, Newman Catholic Student 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.

Teresa Alt '99	Catherine McAuley Center
Thomas Asama '20	(FOCUS) National in Denver
Cheryl Bombei '75 & '06	Shelter House (Iowa City)
Ana Diaz Arnold '87	St. Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church
Maria Paula Gomez Hernandez '18	Healthy Kids School-Based Clinics (Iowa City)
Mike & Amy Kanellis multiple degrees '70-'80 era	United Action for Youth (Iowa City)
Kim Novak '96 & '13	Iowa City Catholic Worker
Shelley Rublaitus '90	Regina Foundation (Iowa City)
Ann Swickerath '93	Project Renewal (Davenport)
Larry VanSteenhuysen '85	St Joan of Arc Church (San Ramon, CA)
Jon Wisniewski '17	Dominican Novitiate Central Province

## NEWMAN SINGERS AND MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE

The Newman Singers began joyously leading music at Mass again this past fall, and in the spring the Diocese released all Covid restrictions on music ministry. With great excitement the Newman Singers have led music this spring at Masses in January, February, at the Easter Vigil, the Newman Center Gala, and a full weekend of masses on April 30 - May 1st.

As we transition to summer break, the Newman Singers will be leading five workshops this summer at the National Association of Pastoral Musicians annual convention in Louisville, KY in late June and will be recording some new and exciting music in August. This fall will bring a return to their full schedule, leading music at numerous Newman Center liturgies, a fall weekend outreach tour, in addition to their annual Christmas Shows.

The Newman Singers and music ministry at the Newman Center continues to grow and recover. The Newman Singers string group (violins, violas, cellos, harp) have played this year numerous times, at diocesan events and citywide confirmations. Moving into next year wind instruments will be added such as flutes and horns. Now that full singing is allowed additional singers will be returning as well.

The Newman Singers and music ministry at the Newman Center is coming alive!

## FOCUS UPDATE



The Newman Center/FOCUS partnership wraps up its 4th year in Spring 2022 and it is exciting to see the fruits of this partnership at UI coming to life. Each year the numbers of students that are making an effort to grow in their faith through invitation and participation continues to increase. Through Bible study groups, discipleship formation, growing in prayer, retreats, fellowship, service projects, and leadership, students are learning how to live their faith. We are excited about Fall 2022 and the news that all four members of our FOCUS team

will be assigned to the Newman Center for another year! In the picture to the right, Megan and Maya along with FOCUS Missionary, Katherine attended a retreat, "A Lamp unto my Feet." Various women from the Iowa City community shared their testimonies and taught the retreatants new forms of prayer, like "Lectio Divina."



Gathering after a day of service at the Catholic Worker House and attending sporting event together is a great way for our FOCUS missionaries to connect and form lasting relationships with students that are rooted in sharing the hope and joy of the Gospel, inspiring them to evangelize, disciple, and lead others to Christ. We ask you to continue to pray for our FOCUS team and the students of the Newman Center. We are so fortunate for the many individuals, foundations, and businesses that contribute to the Newman Center to make this partnership possible. As our students navigate the transition from college to the world, the relationships they have built will help them remain strong in faith.

## Outreach & Education Highlights- Spring 2022

Newman Center Director of Outreach and Education, Christine Wissink, took some time to reflect on the spring semester 2022. As Fr. Jeff often says, "Remember who you are and to whom you belong." On the college campus where students may be far from home, and far from seeking a relationship with God, we are here as a ministry to remind them of their identity. We remind them that we are all a son/daughter of God, and He has a great plan for our life. As they experience the transitions from high school to college and college to the world, it is important to connect them to that identity, and from there, discerning one's individual call to act as a disciple.

### Reflection - Retreats

#### Silent Retreat

Student leaders planned and led a Silent Retreat to kick off the spring semester. Beginning with Mass and dinner, students then choose from a variety of activities including Adoration, reflections on the Lives of Saints, planning their semester with God at the center, Ignatian Meditation, and letter writing.



### Spring 2022

#### Retreat: Identity

##### Camp I-O-Dis-E Ca

Students took a weekend away to dive deeper into exploring their identities as sons and daughters of God, what masculinity and femininity really is, and what it means to base our worth and identity in God's eyes instead of the world's standards.

### Discernment - Spring religious visits

Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist February 24-25, 2022

Two Sisters hosted a talk for women called "Your Holiness and Your Vocation" and offered individual spiritual direction and prayed with students during their visit. Many students enjoyed this visit.



### Fr. Samuel Hakeem, OP March 30-April 1, 2022

Fr. Samuel Hakeem, OP, shared a talk on Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli as a Model for Evangelization at St.



Mary's Parish, one of the parishes founded by Mazzuchelli. He also hosted a Men's Discernment Talk with Fr. Jeff Belger, offered individual spiritual direction, and said Mass for students during his visit.

### Action March for Life in Iowa City

In addition to participating in the March for Life in Iowa City in January, students prayed weekly on Thursdays in front of the local abortion clinic, hosted a film showing of Roe v. Wade, volunteered at Birthright, and advocated for the Iowa MOMS bill in the Iowa legislature this year.



### Graduate

#### Student and

#### Young Professional Ministry Bible Study

This year there has been an explosion of activity at Newman for graduate students and young professionals at The University of Iowa. Weekly gatherings, weekly Bible Study, first Friday game nights, and book clubs offer a community for those graduate students and young professionals looking for people with similar interests and faith.

### Rossi Faith & Culture Series: Bringing the Fatima Story to the Big Screen: Reflections of a Hollywood Catholic

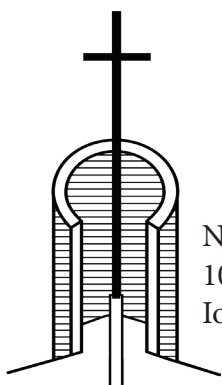
On April 2, 2022, we hosted Dr. Barbara Nicolosi, Hollywood screenwriter, producer, speaker, and professor. Funding by the Rossi Faith and Culture Endowment made this event possible.

Nicolosi is the screenwriter of the 2020 Fatima film and shared with us how we can help change the culture in regards to faith based films.

In preparation for her visit we hosted film screening and discussion of the movie in April.

As part of our spring faith and culture series, Catholic Studies Scholar, senior Grace Ahlers, presented her research on The Role of Mary in the Church and World on March 24. We are thankful to the Rossi Faith & Culture Endowment for providing avenues for events like these.





Newman Catholic Student Center  
104 E. Jefferson St.  
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### STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Oh Lord, giver of life and source  
of our freedom,  
we are reminded by the Psalmist  
that Yours is "the earth and its fullness;  
the world and those who dwell in it."  
We know that it is from Your hand  
that we have received all we have  
and are and will be.  
Gracious and loving God,  
we understand that You call us  
to be the stewards of Your abundance,  
the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us.  
Help us always to use Your gifts wisely  
and teach us to share them generously.  
May our faithful stewardship bear witness  
to the love of Christ in our lives.  
We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

## TRANSITION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Kristie Wert was selected as our new Development Director in January and arrived in Iowa City in late March. Her first few weeks were filled with Gala 2022 preparations and working with April Rouner to learn more about the Development Office processes and procedures. Kristie has relocated to Iowa from Ohio where she most recently served as the Operations Manager of St. Peter Parish in Huron, Ohio which is located on Lake Erie (near Cedar Point for you amusement park enthusiasts). Kristie brings with her many years of experience in business and nonprofit management, communications, marketing, as well as project management experience. Kristie says, "I just really feel God moving in my life. From the moment I applied for this position, He has blessed me all throughout the transition with work, finding an apartment and blessing me with wonderful support from family and friends. Everytime I came across what I thought was an obstacle, He provided a solution. I am excited about this opportunity to continue serving in a Catholic faith community and I am so happy to be at the Newman Center." Kristie is a mom of three and has a son in law. Her 2 sons live in Ohio and her daughter lives close by in Dubuque with her family that includes Kristie's 7-year-old granddaughter. Kristie looks forward to learning more about Iowa City and what it means to be Iowa Catholic!

April Rouner, who joined the Newman Center staff in 2016, retired April 30, 2022. April is a UI graduate and is proud to say she began her love of the Newman Center when she attended as a student. April and her husband, Steve are long-time members of the Newman Center's Founders' Club. We are so thankful for all that April has done to further our mission. Pray for April as she transitions to retirement!



April Rouner and Kristie Wert celebrating the launch of Gala 2022 Cast Wide the Net at the Iowa Memorial Union!

### GALA 2022

Both April and Kristie would like to thank everyone involved in Gala '22- from sponsors, donors, committee members, students, and attendees. Together through all of your efforts, we raised \$90,000 for our ministries and an additional \$19,500 for the Fund A Cause to begin an action plan for the Pope's Ladauto Si! THANK YOU!