



NewmanNOW

Fall 2020

Inspired by Christ to Embrace Faith, Create Disciples and Transform Lives

Newman Family,

I am so excited to write to you today and tell you about our upcoming grand fundraiser for the Newman Center! As many of you know, traditionally we host an in-person benefit dinner to support the mission of the Newman Center.

Unfortunately, due to the current health precautions, that will not be possible this year. Instead we are planning to have a telethon!

Yes! I said a telethon! Since this is our 60th year of having a Newman Center fundraiser we thought it would be fun to go old school and live stream a multi-layered event that features the unique talents of our very own students, information on the mission of Newman, an interactive cooking experience with me, appearances from previous pastors, and more! The wonderful thing about this year's event being virtual is that it allows us to invite as many people as possible! We hope that you and your family can tune in and join us as we

highlight the joy of the Newman Center, pray for its mission, and strive to meet our fundraising goals. To the right is a Save the Date and be on the lookout because we will be sending you a formal invitation in the coming weeks. Please pray for this exciting event and we look forward to you joining us!

Fr Manno
Pastor and Director
Class of 2010



*Save the Date
for our first ever*

BENEFIT TELETHON

NEWMAN CATHOLIC
CELEBRATES OUR
60TH BENEFIT

December 5th, 6p-9p
STREAMING LIVE ON YouTube
*Singing, Dancing, Cooking with Fr. Manno
and familiar faces from the past 60 years!*

 Follow Newman Catholic Student
Center for more details

Sponsor opportunities available

Fall 2020 Highlights...

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STUDENT CENTER**

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Fr. Gonnella
Parochial Vicar

Hello, my name is Fr. Robert Gonnella and I am a new priest here at the Newman Center. I grew up in South Elgin, IL and I have two sisters and three brothers. My home parish is St. Patrick in St. Charles where I attended Mass every week with my family. I went to St. Charles North High School and then to Aurora University where I studied Mathematics. After graduation, I went straight into the seminary in St. Paul, MN. I attended the St. Paul Seminary for 6 years and was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ on May 13, 2017. I spent my first 3 years as a priest at St. Patrick parish in St. Charles, and I was officially assigned to the Newman Center on July 1st of this year. I am very excited to be here and I look forward to serving this Newman Community.

God bless!

Fr. Gonnella



Father Gonnella (back right) at a student bowling event in October

FOCUS at NIU

After 13 years of Newman's own Roman Huskies Mission Team, the Newman Center at NIU has partnered with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) to bring a team of four missionaries to NIU! FOCUS is a Catholic collegiate outreach founded in 1998 whose mission is to share the hope and joy of the gospel with college and university students in the U.S. and abroad. Jared, Mady, Connor, and Anne arrived in DeKalb in July to complete their online FOCUS training and begin preparing for the school year. Through Bible studies, outreach, and one-on-one discipleship, the missionaries inspire and build up students in the faith, sending them out to spread the good news. They have been active on campus meeting students, attending events such as the involvement fair, and participating in Newman activities. Two of the missionaries, Anne and Connor, are engaged to be married in February, and are a wonderful example for students of a Christ-centered relationship. We are so blessed to have all four of them here at Newman. Please pray for them and the students they encounter every day!

MEET THE MISSIONARIES!

**Jared Burbach (Team Director)****Hometown:** Hartington, NE**Alma mater:** Wayne State College**What is your greatest joy being a missionary?** Being able to play a part in God's mission and seeing students come alive in all aspects of their life when they choose Him**What is your favorite spot in Dekalb?** I love the area around the lagoon. It's nothing spectacular but it is very peaceful**What are you most excited for this year?** I'm most excited to grow in friendship and fellowship with everyone here and to see how God works as we trust in Him to guide us!**Mady Roberts****Hometown:** Kansas City, MO**Alma mater:** Northwest Missouri State University**What is your greatest joy being a missionary?** My greatest joy being a missionary would have to be sharing life and Jesus with college students. I love getting to invite people into my adventure with the Lord, and join them on their adventures.**What is your favorite spot in Dekalb?**

My favorite spot in DeKalb is literally any of the local coffee shops or Classic Books.

What are you most excited for this year? I'm most excited to grow with all of the students I'm meeting, and just love and be loved by God through all of it.**Connor Martens****Hometown:** Salina, KS**Alma mater:** University of Kansas**What is your greatest joy being a missionary?** My greatest joy as a missionary is watching people become the person they were created to be. And meeting students like Jake R.**What is your favorite spot in Dekalb?** The huge field by the engineering building**What are you most excited for this year?** I'm most excited to grow alongside my team, the staff at Newman and the students here at NIU. And I'm also pretty excited to marry the woman of my dreams in February!**Anne Nulten****Hometown:** Kansas City, MO**Alma mater:** University of Kansas**What is your greatest joy being a missionary?** My greatest joy in being a missionary is witnessing God transform the hearts of students.**What is your favorite spot in Dekalb?** The trail around "Annie's woods"**What are you most excited for this year?** I'm most excited to go on adventures with students and for my best friend to become my husband ❤️

2020-21 Student Ministry Team

“BLESSED BEYOND ALL MEASURE”



The 2020-21 Student Ministry team with FOCUS missionaries, Fr. Manno, Fr. Gonnella, and Campus Minister Denise Sanders

“The first lesson in ministry is flexibility”. Denise Sanders, Campus Minister at the Newman Center, repeated this phrase several times during the annual Student Ministry Team (SMT) retreat. The team of 15 NIU and Kishwaukee College students – two of whom lead the team as co-chairs – spent a weekend at the Newman center in August where they planned student events for the semester and came up with creative ways to reach other students while complying with the guidelines in place.

Flexibility is important for ministry at any time but is essential now with the ever-changing state and university restrictions. This semester has seen many cancelled or altered students activities and last minute changes. Yet God is still working through this ministry, and the collaborative work of the SMT, campus minister, missionaries and priests has been fruitful. Many new and returning students have found the Newman Center to be their home away from home, and even students who are not on campus are able to participate in some activities virtually.

Campus ministry has been both virtual and in-person, when allowed. Virtual game nights have been popular with students, as well as outdoor activities such as frisbee, yard

games, and hiking. A few of the faith enrichment activities have included an online talk from Fr. Gonnella, outdoor rosary walks every Tuesday, and weekly Adoration with student-led praise and worship music.

SMT members work with Denise, the priests, and each other to effectively plan and host students activities. Being on SMT gives students a chance to serve their fellow students and the community. Senior Meteorology major Olga O., who is on the Justice and Social Action core team of SMT, explained that “...being on SMT reminds me that we are all Jesus's hands and feet in this world.”

The SMT theme this year is “Blessed Beyond All Measure”. The co-chairs, Katie S. and Michelle N., (below) explained that they prayerfully chose this theme as a way to “be reminded of the blessings that God pours into our lives, whether we choose to pay attention or not. Gratitude is key to persevering through trial and we would like to use this year to give God thanks because he is worthy of praise in the good times and in the more trying times as well. As we take on the challenges that this year has to offer and remain flexible with the demands of the situations we’ll encounter, we need to remember to find the joy that Jesus offers when you share with him at the foot of the cross and give everything to him.”



SMT Co-Chairs
Katie S. and Michelle N.



Ahles Room Update!

The Ahles room (formerly known as the Cardinal Room) in the basement of the Newman Center has been updated! The recent renovation was completed early this year. It included new flooring, ceiling tiles, lighting, furniture, and a fresh coat of paint. The room has been used for a variety of activities and has already seen a retreat (the SMT retreat in August, left), many hours of studying students, meetings, skit rehearsals, card games, movie nights, and more! It is a bright and welcoming space for students to gather and continue to foster community!



Vocations Corner

Newman Students Who Have Said "YES!"

Praise God for two new vocations from the Newman Center! Amber Robinson, a joyful 2019 grad, (below center), entered the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, IL in September 2020.



Joseph Van Havermaet class of 2012, (above center), professed his simple vows in August 2020 with the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Albert the Great in River Forest, IL.

Please pray for the students of NIU that they may continue to be open to God's will and discover who God created them to be through their vocation, whether religious life, priesthood, single life, or marriage!

Thank You for Your Generosity!

Newman gives thanks for its generous Annual Fund donors!

This report includes those who have given a donation between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

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A group representing Newman at NIU's 2020 involvement fair. The involvement fair is usually held in the Holmes Student Center, but was outside this year to comply with guidelines in place.

Go out to all the world and proclaim the Good News!



You will notice that our return envelope is postage paid!

We would love it if you could send us a donation, but if you are not able to at this time please return the envelope anyway to help us update our Database!

Keep up to date with your address, phone number, email address and graduation year. Please complete all of the information on the envelope and return it to our office.

If you wish to conserve paper— please check the box on the envelope that you would like a digital Newman Now. You can use this link <https://www.givecentral.org/location/243/event/10914> to make your donation to Campus Ministry on-line as well!

If you wish to continue to receive these through the USPS, we can certainly do that. Just don't check the box for a digital Newman Now on the envelope.

If you no longer wish to be included in these mailings, please let us know that on the envelope!

UPDATE INFORMATION DIGITALLY

Open your camera on your smart phone. Hold the camera over this image. A tab will open in Safari with a form to answer all of the above questions!



Or if you are already on a computer or a phone just click on this live link to give!

<https://form.jotform.com/202525496780057>

Gotta love technology!
 Thanks so much!

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WEEKEND OF *Surrender*



When we learned that NIK would have to be postponed until Spring semester due to restrictions, the NIK co-leaders Michaela and Danny, the student NIK team, missionaries, priests, and Denise worked incredibly hard to plan the first ever **Weekend of Surrender** retreat! In three days, the team brainstormed ideas, topics & activities, and

Fr. Manno, Denise, and the co-leaders revamped the whole retreat schedule in *three hours*! The talks were written in two days and students were joyfully welcomed as the retreat began on Friday evening.

The Weekend of Surrender was held at Newman following current health and safety guidelines, and the 36 participants stayed the night at their own respective dorms or apartments. There were talks, games, adoration, Mass, small group discussions, bowling, Liturgy of the Hours, lots of laughter and fellowship, and more.