

Newman News



St. Paul's Newman Center
University Catholic Community
Spring 2017

To connect and inform our Faith Community

Facility Updates

by Fr. Rob Spaulding

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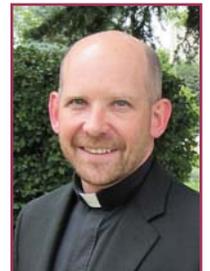
Upcoming Events

**Ordination and Installation of
Bishop-elect Steven Biegler**
June 5
2:00 p.m.
Cheyenne Civic Center

**Summer Interfaith Bible
School**
June 13-16

**Bi-Parish Liturgy & Picnic in
Washington Park**
August 6

Like most students during finals week, I've waited until the very last minute to write this column. We've completed another academic year and it has certainly been filled with the presence of God's Holy Spirit. Last summer as we said "goodbye" to Maggie, Kelly, and Amanda, many of us wondered what the next year would bring. I could never have predicted or imagined what God had in store.



I pray that you have experienced the growth of excitement and participation at St. Paul's. Tom, Lillie, and Lynsey have each brought their unique gifts to draw us into deeper relationship with God and one another. We will say another "goodbye" this summer to Lynsey as she moves to New York to pursue a Master of Arts in Teaching as a Davis Fellow.

As the Spirit continues to move and ministry continues to expand, so does our need for physical space. For the last year we have been in serious discernment regarding the future of St. Paul's Newman Center. Last October, Ken Griesemer, came to lead us in a town hall meeting establishing four priorities or "pillars" for St. Paul's Newman Center. The pillars of our ministry are 1) worship and prayer, 2) community gathering and formation, 3) student campus ministry, and 4) direct service to the Laramie community.

Earlier this year, a Steering Committee of seven was formed to help move us forward:

Ariane Eicke (co-chair)	Joe Russo (co-chair)	Dick Schmit
Bertha Villaseñor	Gwen Cotterman	Cameron Ellis (student)
Brenna Fankell (student)		

Contact these members at: steeringcommittee@newmancenter.org

Over the summer, the Steering Committee will be selecting a firm to perform an analysis of the current physical property of St. Paul's (the Church building: worship space, hall, and offices, and the four houses facing Garfield). This analysis will tell us how we may be able to repurpose any existing facilities. This fall, Ken Griesemer will be coming back to lead us in a more concrete visioning for the future of this incredible community. Please feel free to contact me or any of the Steering Committee members with questions or suggestions. And with this sentence, I have completed my last writing assignment for the semester. Have a blessed and Spirit-filled summer of re-creation.

To Serve, Grow Spiritually, and Form Relationships -Rose Sax

All women in our parish are invited to the newly formed *Martha and Mary* women's group. Coming from different backgrounds and considering our God given talents, our mission is to model the contemplation of Mary in a Martha world. After a year of evaluating the needs for women of our parish, three objectives have become the emphasis of our gatherings: to **Serve** our Faith community, to grow in **Spirituality**, and to enjoy Catholic **Fellowship**.

We held our first event in January with a wine and cheese *Meet & Greet*, and had over 60 women in attendance. This affirmed the need that women are looking for ways to actively become involved with our Faith Community! Meetings are monthly and are posted on the *Martha and Mary* bulletin board in Bishop Newell Hall.

For service projects, 90 clothing protectors were recently sewn for the Laramie Care Center residents. Donating food and volunteering are ways we will be serving Interfaith Good Samaritan. Helping at the Laramie Soup Kitchen by sharing a meal with our brothers and sisters in need is yet another way we hope to serve our community.

In recent presentations, Anthony Allen spoke about world religions and Sue Sandeen and Michele Holmes



shared information about Interfaith Good Samaritan. We focus on spirituality at all our gatherings as we begin with prayer. In addition, Rosary group meets monthly to pray and meditate on this Marian devotion.

Fun events are in the works for fellowship and community building. Plan on joining us for picnics, game days, creative crafting, movie nights, and enlightening discussions. The Christmas Bazaar is making a comeback and we will definitely look forward to the collaboration of your many talents and gifts to make this a success.

We hope you will consider being a part of this community of women united in faith. Please email Rose Sax at rosesax1948@hotmail.com for information.

In Grace's Way

Overview of Jack Jezreel Retreat - Fr. Rob

When was the last time you intentionally put yourself in Grace's way? That question was Jack's way of inviting us to move ourselves out of the comfortable and familiar to put ourselves in the place to have an encounter that changes us and helps us see things that we could not see before. When Jesus calls disciples, he doesn't call them to the local coffee shop, he calls them to the road. The call of Christ is away from our places of comfort and security and toward the margins and shadows...because that's where God is... in the very people that our world discards and ignores.



Jack was invited to St. Paul's to help us prepare for the season of Lent and to help us explore the fourth pillar of our community: Direct Service to the Community of Laramie. Jack helped us to see that God's love is more than unconditional; it is a love that is without exception. There is no person that is outside of God's love. In fact, the whole point of practicing our faith is to break open our hearts to become more and more like God, until there is absolutely no one that we don't love. The measure of our love for God is demonstrated primarily by our commitment to our sisters and brothers who are most in need.

As a community committed to caring for those most in need and to loving like God loves, we will continue to look for ways to put ourselves in Grace's way. We will look for ways to go to the margins and to seek relationships that will transform us and break our hearts open. We will not be content to stay in the place of comfort. We will have the courage to honestly say to the Lord in prayer, "I'm available, what do you need me to do for your people?"

Lent/Easter Project-Christ in the City -Myra Belser

Christ in the City of Denver, a Catholic non-profit dedicated to forming individuals in knowing, loving and serving the poor, was selected as our Lent/Easter project for two reasons. The first reason being that we decided to choose a charity close to home. (As you remember, in 2016, we helped support St. Joseph Roman Catholic School in Jifna, Palestine and in 2015 we partnered with Sustainable Harvest International to support the needs of the people in Central America.) The second reason was due to the firsthand experience of our students who volunteered for *Christ in the City* in March.

Wyatt Overton was amazed that he was able to see Christ in these people. “One of the clearest places I saw Jesus was in the men and women we befriended on the streets. They were so joyful despite their circumstances and loved everyone without exclusion. Reflecting on this I realize that they loved like Christ loves.”

Sierra Amundson also learned a lesson on loving. “Throughout our time at Christ in the City, my eyes were opened as to how legitimately desperate these homeless people were for love. I came to understand that all humans require love. It is love that remains through sin, addiction, sickness, loneliness, poverty, and homelessness. This kind of unconditional and genuine love was taught to us by Christ and it is our calling to outpour the same treatment to our brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter when or where we might encounter them.”

48 Hour Fast Raises Funds

Tell a student to give up food for 48 hours and you may say, “that ain’t gonna happen.” Not only did it happen, but valuable lessons were learned about hunger in our world. During this 2 day Triduum fast, Allie Pawlow did have to resort to peanut butter to ‘survive.’ “It was eye-opening to imagine that this temporary hunger is actually a daily reality for many. It made me feel blessed and I have God to thank for all the gifts He’s given me.” In support of all who participated in the fast, residents were asked to pray for an individual and donate \$30 to *Christ in the City*. As a result, over \$1,400 was raised.

Julia Cathey encountered a woman and observed that she was totally disregarded. “She talked about seeing people pass her every day who never give a second glance. She received continual looks of disgust and people never stopped to give a handshake or say hello. She started crying and soon I was holding back my own tears. Why do we get to that point? Why do we think we deserve more or are better than others? She was happy that we had taken time out of our day to talk to her. To give a simple smile, that’s all she was asking for.”

Our generous community, once again, responded overwhelmingly to the Lent/Easter project and we were able to send a \$20,000 contribution toward helping the homeless in Denver.

Recognized for Service to the Community -Myra Belser

There is no question that Ted Cramer is passionate about his vision and what he has accomplished since he was hired as Executive Director of the Laramie Soup Kitchen in October 2015. He certainly has taken this ministry to a new level. Under his leadership, the soup kitchen served 17,472 people in 2016 and averages a daily attendance of 68 people.



Never saying “no” when offered a donation, he was responsible for 107,300 pounds of food donated this year, an increase of 60,900 pounds from the previous year. Now the Soup Kitchen is able to donate food to Interfaith, Laramie Youth Crisis Center, SAFE Project, the Cathedral Home for Children, and more.

In honor of Ted’s selfless service in the community, he was recently named the recipient of the Jim Cavalli Service to Others Award by the Laramie Chamber Business Alliance (LCBA). This prestigious honor recognizes service to the betterment of Laramie and its residents done without regard to personal gain.

Ted also implemented a new after school program to Big Brothers Big Sister providing 1,039 meals at no cost. When not promoting the Soup Kitchen, Ted is also active in the community with on LCBA’s Red Carpet Committee, Laramie Young Professionals, and can be found on occasion cooking Sunday Suppers here at the Newman Center.



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Newman Center Celebrates 60 Years

St. Paul's Newman Center is approaching another milestone. This year marks our 60th anniversary. It was a dream of Monsignor John McDevitt to build an educational center for the Catholic students attending the University of Wyoming. Funding was acquired from the parishes in the diocese and a portion of the old Albany County Fair Grounds was purchased, which then was on the outskirts of Laramie.

Initially referred to as St. Paul's Chapel, the building was dedicated on September 22, 1957 with support from St. Laurence O'Toole as the parent church. In 1959, Bishop Hubert

Newell named St. Paul's Newman Center a parish and Fr. Charles Taylor as the first pastor.

St. Paul's Newman Center Parish continues to be a faith home to University of Wyoming students, faculty, and staff, and resident families. Together we celebrate the Eucharist, the source and

summit of our life, in order to feed the world the real presence of Jesus Christ and to be sent to further the Kingdom of God. We are open to see how the Spirit will lead our ministry into the future and are joyful for all who have passed through these doors.

