

WYOMING Catholics

University Catholic Community
St. Paul's Newman Center

Fall 2012



A New Semester Brings New Faces to Leadership



The leaves are falling, the sound of the canon being fired at War Memorial Stadium is in the air, and most noticeably, the traffic in Laramie has doubled. A new academic year is underway at the University of Wyoming and St. Paul's Newman Center is buzzing with new activity. It was a summer of transition for our Laramie faith community as we thanked Fr. Carl Gallinger and Julie Smith for their service. Fr. Carl had been at St. Paul's for sixteen years and Julie had served one year as interim Director of Campus Ministry.

After many months of searching, Amanda Castonguay was hired as the Director of Campus Ministry and I was appointed as the Parochial Administrator for St. Paul's. The staff and members of the community have been so incredibly welcoming in the last months. It is exciting to be a part of continuing the work of the wonderful leaders of this community.

In April of this year, our community promulgated our mission statement which makes clear the mission of the Newman Center: to bring the Gospel to the students, faculty and staff of the University of Wyoming. One of the many gifts of this community is that we are a Newman Center of students and residents who work together for this mission. I am looking forward to discovering more ways for our residents and students to engage each other as they work together to reach out to the University community.

Continuing the tradition of excellent ministry and leadership at the Newman Center is exciting and a little frightening. While I feel like I am finally getting settled into the rhythm of the community, I know that I have much to learn. The only promise I can make to you is my promise of love and care. I promise to be patient and ask your patience with me as we live the motto of Cardinal Newman "Cor Ad Cor Loquitur" (Heart Speaks to Heart).

Christ's Peace
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Hello!

I am from little town Jay, Maine, where most of my family resides within a forty minute drive of each other. I received a Bachelors degree in Theology and Sociology from St. Joseph's College of Maine. After completing a summer of service in Arizona, working for a house of hospitality for pregnant women, I started a Masters in Social Work, but that summer had changed my life and I thought it was about time to listen to God's calling me to ministry.

of Director of Campus Ministry for St. Paul's Newman Center. The position would allow me to continue working with college students; helping to plan retreats, engaging students in learning about Catholic Social Teaching, and being involved with an amazing student leadership team. I was thrilled when the job was offered to me, and I am excited to be here in Laramie.

The first four months as Director of Campus Ministry for St. Paul's have been filled with adventure. The slow months of summer led to a fast paced beginning of the semester. My biggest worry was learning the names of all of the students and residents

I was meeting in those early weeks. I am happy to say I am remembering names on the first try more often now.

To start off the school year we



Amanda Castonguay
Director of Campus Ministry

had a BBQ that was attended by 120 students. I enjoyed having the students return as they brought life and joy to my everyday work. Shortly following the beginning of the semester was the Welcome Pig Roast, also a fantastic turn out, and an opportunity to continue meeting new people. Through these events I felt the warm welcome of the community both to myself and to new students.

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"Through these events I felt the warm welcome of the community both to myself and to new students."

I moved out to Minnesota and completed a Masters in Divinity at St. John's University. In February of this year I read an amazing job description for the position

Fr. Rob and Amanda preparing for next Search activity



Social Justice—Clear As a Bell

When Hallie Bell decides it's time for a haircut, there is more of a motive to this task than just a routine trip to the salon. Hallie first grows her hair to a length where it will benefit *Locks for Love*, an organization that provides hair pieces to children suffering from medical conditions causing hair loss. When her hair is at the correct length, Hallie then heads to the stylist. This is a great example of her approach to living social justice.

Hallie Bell is a junior, majoring in art education and serving her second year as a Campus Ministry intern. You can bet she readily brings her strengths in the area of social justice awareness to her intern position.

Growing up in Cody, Wyoming, she praises her parents as influential role models. "My Mom currently serves on School Board for the district and my Dad helped establish the Pregnancy Crisis Center in town in addition to instituting a Catholic Pre-School at our parish."

In high school, Hallie was active with Youth for Justice. Her greatest accomplishment, as a member, was to educate and advocate for at-risk Independent Living (IL) students. "IL teaches life skills and helps with basic necessities," explains Hallie. "I led Youth for Justice in an amendment to the budget



at the state legislative session."

Utilizing her gifts in art for at-risk youth, Hallie's current passion focuses on creative education using art, music and writing. "At-risk students need a catharsis. Creativity is healthy and can benefit their futures. Learning to self-

generate ideas is indispensable, not only for the economy, but for culture and personal fulfillment."

Last year as intern, Hallie facilitated JusticeWalking over a six week period. Through small student communities, living the Gospel message is enabled. By way of prayer, retreats, reading and relationships, JWalkers broaden awareness of the marginalized in our society. Hallie will be taking on that responsibility again, next semester. "I'm proud of JusticeWalking as it challenges students to look at the world through the eyes of Jesus."

As intern, she also interacts and builds community with students, assists the Director of Campus Ministry, Amanda Castonguay, with activities and promotes ministry events. "I'm privileged to be a part of Campus Ministry leadership here at the Newman Center. My fellow leaders teach me and our community about what it means to live faith."

Hello! (continued from page 3)

Weekly events such as Revive Tuesdays on campus, Pilgrims of Emmaus on Wednesdays, and Bible Study on Sundays have all been student-led successes. I look forward to my continued interactions with the team of seventeen student leaders. Each

team member brings unique gifts and talents to our collaborative work serving the student population.

In the coming months, I look forward to growing our sense of evangelization and invitational ministry, as I and the student leader team work to build skills in this area. Major events that we will soon

be in the planning process are the Spring Search, and our Alternative Spring Break trip. Every activity is exciting and as we grow as team I hope we continue to bring new ideas to our community, and work at building fun, faith filled events for students to engage in. I am thankful for the continued blessings of this ministry and I look forward

The Director of Campus Ministry is Out for Blood

Director of Campus Ministry, Amanda Castonguay, understands the importance and need for blood drives. St. Paul's Newman Center hosts United Blood Services and as the new campus minister, Amanda was excited when she found out that Newman Center hosts a blood drive every semester. "I have been a coordinator for eight other blood drives before moving to Wyoming, I took on this task because in the past, I have been unable to donate but

they are. Every pint of blood that is donated has the potential to save up to three lives! A blood donation truly is a gift of life in emergency situations and for planned surgeries."

Amanda was impressed by the turn out of members of our community.

Following gentle persuasion from Amanda, Matt Offe donated at the recent blood drive. "After the experience, I felt really good about donating. What was even more impressive was receiving a letter from a blood donor recipient thanking me for giving blood," explains Matt.



"Count" Castonguay enjoying her blood letting

"After the experience, I felt really good about donating."

also feel called to work on blood drives because of how important

Amanda looks forward to building participation in our blood donors the coming semesters. "We reached the goal set for this blood drive and I feel we could exceed our small goal in the future. I look forward to seeing more faces in the future and enjoying some laughter in the process."



Veteran donor, Eric Urlacher



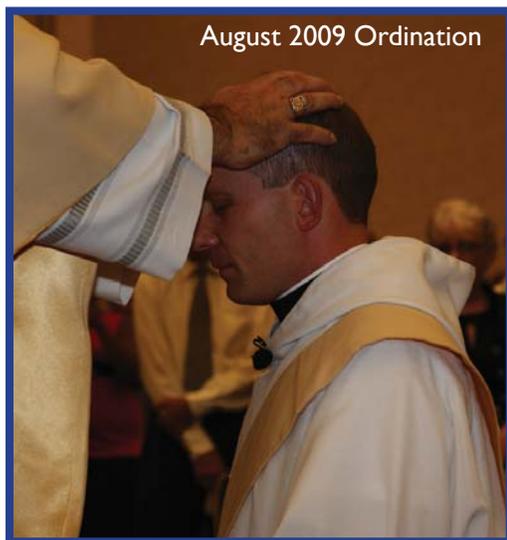
Novice donor, Matt Offe



Lynsey Spaeth beginning the process

Salvation Happens in Community

I remember so clearly the feeling of excitement and anxiety as I drove north from Laramie on Hwy 30 just four days after being ordained for our Diocese. I was heading to my first assignment in at Holy Name Catholic Community in Sheridan, Wyoming. As I traveled, my heart was filled with the hope that someday I would be able to return to St. Paul's Newman Center. I never imagined that dream would be realized so quickly. Returning to this community has been such a gift to me. Coming back to the place where so many of you helped



me discern God's voice and the best way to use my gifts has given me new energy and excitement.

While I was a student at the University of Wyoming, I studied Business Administration and Music. In the fall of 2002, I moved to a seminary in Chicago to continue the process of discernment. At the seminary, I

focused my education on Ritual Studies and Cross Cultural Communication. I am very grateful for my time in Chicago, but I was so happy in May of 2009 to be able to return to Wyoming; trading skyscrapers and concrete for mountain tops and trout streams.

One of the great comforts in coming to the Newman Center was the realization that I would never encounter a challenge that, we as a community of faith, could not face. This community continues to understand that each of us is called to ministry through our baptism. You continue to call out the gifts of one another in service of the kingdom of God. I hope to encourage and enable this model of church.

Returning to Laramie has also brought me closer to some of my favorite activities.

I have a passion for the quiet peace of casting a fly on a river or floating across a lake in a boat. Camping and hiking in the Snowies helps to recharge my batteries and refocus my mind. When there is time at



Fr. Rob with catch of the day

the end of the day, I enjoy having people over to share a meal. So, I hope you will stop in to visit...often!

I feel confident that God's Spirit has directed my coming to St. Paul's and I am eager to be a part of the next years of life in our community. As you have no doubt heard in the past, "salvation happens in the context of community." Know of my prayers for you and I ask that you pray for me as we continue to journey together to the Kingdom of God.



2012 Newman Center Staff (from left) Fr. Bill Hill, Sandy Gaddis, Amanda Castonguay, Maggie Warner, Renee Ballard, Myra Belser, Fr. Rob Spaulding

Alumni's Time at Newman — Just Like Family

Tony Prenger is a credit analyst in Fort Worth, Texas. Even as a college student, Tony lived stewardship. He shared his gifts in numerous ways in support of Campus Ministry.

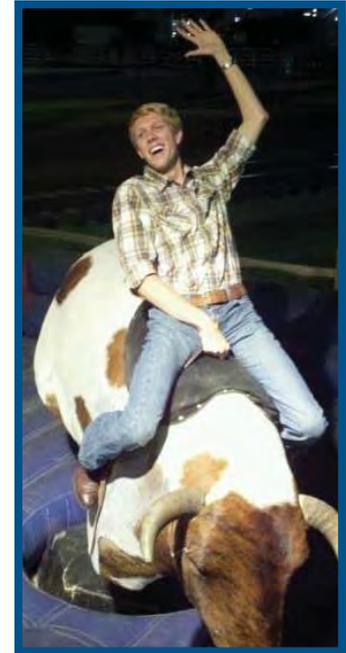
Hi. I'm Tony Prenger, a 2009 graduate of the University of Wyoming and former member of Saint Paul's Newman Center Community. I moved into the dorms in the Fall semester of 2004, and prior to attending any class, I went to the Newman Center to celebrate Eucharist. I knew the moment I walked through those doors that this place was not "just a church". I had a feeling that this would be a community that would help shape who I was to become in the future.



I could not have been more correct. Not only did I grow closer to God, but I knew I had gained a faith community that I could let into my heart, just like family. Celebrating Liturgy, sharing Sunday Suppers,

singing in the choir and living in the upstairs apartment. These are all things that I will never forget; but the people that I shared those moments with will never leave my heart. Because of those moments, I am eternally grateful to the community of Saint Paul's Newman Center.

I know that I cannot fully repay the community from which I gained so much, but I do not think that it will hurt to try. Shortly after I got a job out of college, I knew that Saint Paul's Newman Center deserved some of the income that I would be making as a young professional. I contacted the office staff and asked how I could help and what I could give? I wanted to make a commitment to planned, consist giving, so I inquired about a monthly contribution. I knew that I might have difficulty making sure that a check got in the mail every month, so they mentioned that I could authorize the staff to make a withdrawal from my bank account monthly. This has been something that I do not even have to remember to do. However, it is my simple way of saying "Thank-you" to a



community that I hope will be there for students for many years to come.

A recent comment received from alumnae, Jane Farrell, who is also a monthly electronic donor:

"Thank you for all you do in ministry at the Newman Center! I know it touches many lives and makes a positive difference to the students."

If you, too, have been thinking about a monthly commitment to campus ministry, take a look at some of the options below:

ELECTRONIC DONATIONS, make giving easier...

St. Paul's Newman Center is happy to assist you with safe, easy electronic giving. Contact Sandy at sandy@newmancenter.org for more information regarding any of these options:

Credit/Debit Card Giving: Just visit our website at www.newmancenter.org and click the donate button on the main page which will quickly and easily direct you in making a donation through Pay Pal.

Automatic (ACH) transfers: The Newman Center will do all the work for you. Contact sandy@newmancenter.org and she will set you up with easy, secure withdrawals from your bank account directly to the Newman Center.

Internet Banking, e.g. iPay, etc. Simply contact your bank, and ask about their online banking feature, which will allow you to send designated donation from any of your bank accounts directly to St. Paul's Newman Center.



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