

WYOMING Catholics

Fall 2013

University Catholic Community
St. Paul's Newman Center



Fishers of People



A Word from Fr. Rob



St. Paul's Newman Center Staff

Father Rob Spaulding
Pastor
rob@newmancenter.org

Father Bill Hill
Diocesan Director of Vocations
vocations@dioceseofcheyenne.org

Anthony Allen
Director of Pastoral Ministry
anthony@newmancenter.org

Amanda Castonguay
Director of Campus Ministry
amanda@newmancenter.org

Maggie Warner
Director of Pastoral Music & Liturgy
maggie@newmancenter.org

Sandy Gaddis
Parish Business Manager
sandy@newmancenter.org

Myra Belser
Communications Coordinator
myra@newmancenter.org

Kelly Fuller
Administrative Assistant
kelly@newmancenter.org

Mandi Fankell, Kyle Farley
Erica Severino
Campus Ministry Student Interns
interns@newmancenter.org

Joel Fundau, Tom Quinlivan
Music Ministry Student Interns

Megan Darrow
Youth Ministry Student Intern

Encountering God

“Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

These words from Psalm 121, which echoed through our Sunday Liturgy a few weeks ago, are part of the foundation of our life as believers. One of the objectives of St. Paul's Newman Center is to lead the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Wyoming into an encounter with the God of all creation; the maker of heaven and earth. This semester, many things have happened to help make this encounter possible.

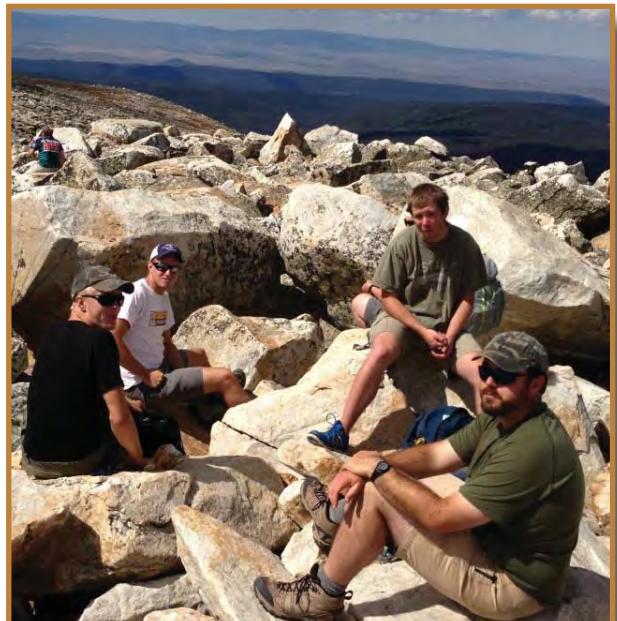
Over the Labor Day weekend, Fr. Bill and I offered the first annual Men's Retreat for our college students. We headed to the west side of the Snowy Range to spend time in prayer, reflection and fellowship. Although no fish were caught, many lines were cast. We hiked up the back side of Medicine Bow Peak for some spectacular views and reflected on being created by God and being loved in a life that is not meant to be easy. We shared the great truth that we come to know God most closely in our pain and failure rather than through our successes. The maker of heaven and earth was so clearly present. I hear the



women might be planning a retreat of their own this year.

One of the most exciting developments of this fall semester has been the explosion of opportunities to encounter God by growing in faith. Our new Director of Pastoral Ministry, Anthony Allen has done a fantastic job of

[continued on page 5]



Retreat Participants from left: Matt Doherty, Cory Surbrugg, Jason Wolf and Fr. Bill Hill

Constant Growth in Ministry Leads to Transforming Lives

by amanda castonguay

Campus Ministry is an ever changing reality which leads to new experiences and exciting opportunities for the young adults served by these ministries. St. Paul's Newman Center is no stranger to the struggles that come with changing students that rotate in and out of the community each year and changing staff, but we also fully embrace the blessings found in new energy and ideas that people bring as they join this community. We have discovered that the experiences of learning which happen on the student, staff, and resident level lead to greater depth of spirituality, community, and personal understanding.

"It is exciting...to do ministry on campus and invite new students to participate in our community."

The first year in ministry for me as the Director at St. Paul's was partly learning about what ministry looked like in the past, but was mostly about learning the hearts and minds of students here at UW, so their needs are on the forefront of new developments in the ministry. Great programming happens every week at St. Paul's both on the University's campus and on the Newman Center's campus. These opportunities include retreat experiences, catechetical sessions, Bible studies, morning and evening prayer, and community building gatherings. It is exciting to be working with students to continue

programs that we have done in the past but also to develop new ways to minister on campus and invite new students to participate in our community.

What is often inspiring to me is the dedication of student leaders in serving other students. They are the driving force behind all the ministries we provide including the SEARCH retreats that happen each semester. A former student, Lynsey Spaeth, explains it best, "SEARCH team members were able to invite me into a deeper relationship with God. Not only did their witness call me to Christ, they also encouraged and challenged me to become more active in the community." I have witnessed students lend a helping hand through being present during an illness, tutoring struggling students, praying for needs raised by their fellow classmates, and genuinely looking to better offer themselves to others as they understand Jesus to have lived.

The school year has begun again, and the energy, joy, and struggles that are part of the everyday student experience are converging on St. Paul's community. As students continue to understand themselves

and who they desire to become, they are welcomed to St. Paul's to grow deeper in their faith, supported by members of the community and staff.



We have made a few changes for this school year. The first change is that *Catholics on Campus* formerly known as *Revive* has taken on a new direction with teams of two planning and leading each Tuesday's gatherings. These teams are creative and put new energy into their planning as they only plan one Tuesday a semester instead of being overwhelmed with a whole semester. Students have discussed topics ranging from Modern Saints and a Place at the Table, as well as having opportunities for community building, and Adoration.



Catholics on Campus Prayer Circle

The second change for campus ministry is still getting underway.
[continued on page 6]

Food and Fellowship: Building Community by Breaking Down Walls

by elizabeth mendoza

One of our ministries at St. Paul's Newman Center is providing housing for University of Wyoming Catholic students. The men reside in the Brotherhood House and the women live in the Carae Domini House. Blessed with a matching grant from the Wyoming Catholic Ministries Foundation, we were recently able to renovate the 60 year old kitchen at the women's house. A wall dividing two small rooms was removed, providing an improved space for preparing meals and building community.

“Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.” (1 Peter 4:9)

Community, on a basic level, is a group of people who live or reside in a common space sharing similar interests. At the beginning of the Fall 2013 semester in Laramie, Wyoming the residents at 1823 Garfield Avenue were blessed with the opportunity to transcend this simple definition of community to “a place where God invites us to grow.” With the finishing touches being added to the remodel, the residents found themselves connecting with each other on a deeper level. Erica Severino, one of

the five young women in the Carae Domini house, comments, “Food brings people together and our new kitchen is providing the space to do that.” This warm, inviting space welcomes those experiencing difficulties as a safe place to come and discuss anxieties and triumphs of the day over a meal or cup of coffee.

The young women now have more room to assist one another in making meals, conversing as they sit at the counter, or listening from the dining table. Erica’s response to the finished

result was, “I have lived in this house with both the new and old kitchen. The old kitchen was really closed off from the rest of the house; I was delighted with how open and welcoming the new space is.” “Spontaneous dinners with other Newman Center students

“Food brings people together and our new kitchen is providing the space to do that.”

have increased fellowship at the house,” comments resident,
[continued on page 5]



BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE



AFTER



[continued from page 4]

Wren Skinner. "This is one way we are able to strengthen our relationships."

God invites us into these relationships, as well as building community, around His love. Lindsay O'Hearn agrees, "The open kitchen enhances ministry because the house serves many young Catholic women in the community." Wren adds, "As time goes on I think there will be more student events at the women's house." Bearing witness to Wren's claims, I have seen the atmosphere change. We are people of community and

need human interaction. This new kitchen has helped all to grow and see God working in our lives. Not only can we make room for more people around our kitchen table, but we also can create a welcoming environment that enables us to invite all to the Eucharistic table.

A special thanks to the Diocese of Cheyenne and the [Wyoming Catholic Ministries Foundation](#) for making this transformation possible.



*Elizabeth Mendoza & Erica Severino
using the new kitchen space*

[continued from page 2]

helping our community grow in faith. Education for our children is now a family event. There are six opportunities for adults to continue learning; in the evenings, during the day and on the weekend. It has been a challenge for some to negotiate all of the new opportunities, but we

know this is just a taste of what is to come. Anthony has been a gentle spirit of excitement. His leadership is helping us all to encounter the living God.

I continue to be so grateful for the generous support of our

friends, parents and alumni. You truly do make the ministry of St. Paul's Newman Center possible. Please join me in praying for all the members of this community that we may continue to encounter Christ; the image of our God and our help; the maker of heaven and earth.



Growing a Community of Faith

Anthony Allen recently joined St. Paul's Newman Center Staff as Director of Pastoral Ministry. He has wasted no time in implementing faith formation opportunities and sacramental formation for individuals of all ages. Anthony's gentle approach to teaching, and facilitating discussion, as well as his ability to listen, has been instrumental in engaging our community in growing their faith.

My name is Anthony Allen. I am the lucky husband of my wife Esther, and together we have 7 wonderful children ranging in age from 24 to 9. I was born and raised in Pueblo Colorado and lived in and around Pueblo for 38 years. I met my beautiful wife at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Pueblo 25 years ago when we both volunteered to be catechists for the parish religious formation program. I have ministered at the parish or diocesan level for 25 years. Most recently I have served as Director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings in Montana.

As you can imagine, with me being a father of seven children, most of my time centers on family life and work. I enjoy golfing with my grown sons, shopping with my teenage daughters, and playing with my nine and ten year old girls. Over the years, I have become proficient

at packing the trunk of a car, doing laundry, making a master list of chores, and cooking on the grill.

Raising my children has been the biggest educational experience of my life. I remember as a newlywed having 7 theories on raising children, now I have seven children and only one theory: love them unconditionally. Along with my time spent in the School of Hard Knocks, I received my undergraduate degree in Education from Carroll College in Helena, Montana and my graduate degree in Community Development and Pastoral Ministry from Regis University in Denver, Colorado.

As Director of Pastoral Ministry at St. Paul's Newman Center, aka Fr. Rob's helper, I hope to engage the parish community in several ways. Everything that I do in ministry I want to do as a servant leader. I want to provide



opportunities for people of all ages to grow in understanding of our Catholic faith. I want to form lasting, affirming friendships with fellow parishioners. I will strive to be approachable, helpful, and informative to any person who enters through our parish doors. The educational programs will be designed to be instructive, but also geared to building community and faith sharing, I want to help families grow in their faith and relationship with Christ and their commitment to one another.

I feel very blessed to be a new member of Saint Paul's Newman Center. I am especially thankful for the opportunity to work with such dedicated, knowledgeable and caring people. If you don't know this already, the staff at the Newman Center is the very best.

[continued from page 3]

Through conversations with students on their needs and the balance of their busy schedules, a small group companion ministry has started. In its pilot phase, there are two groups of five who are meeting once a month for two hours. The groups have a set of readings, quotes, and questions for each gathering. The program is starting off small, but

hopefully, with input from these first participants, we will discover how to grow as small companion groups.

It is a great blessing that the Newman Center exists here in Laramie, Wyoming. I am looking forward to the adventure of getting to know new students, catching up with returning students, and engaging

in the ministry that is so close to my heart. The ability to be present to students on their journeys of faith is exciting. As we watch students complete their time here, we hope that their experience has been one of home as only a community based in God's love can offer.

Former Newman Staff Member Ordained to the Diaconate

**"If you want to make God laugh,
tell him your plans."**

It all started with a phone call from St. Paul's Newman Center. Fifteen years ago, recently married and working the Twin Cities, my phone rang. It was Fr. Carl Gallinger, the Vocation Director living at the Newman Center. I knew Fr. Carl from my time as a seminarian.

"What are you up to these days?" he asked. As the conversation continued, Fr. Carl told me that St. Paul's was looking for a Pastoral Associate. Was I interested? I played it cool, but as soon as I hung up the phone I thought, "We're moving to Laramie."

That phone call led to ten years of ministry at St. Paul's Newman Center. I was mentored by some wonderful priests, a gifted staff, and a fantastic community which deepened my hunger for ministry.

There is a saying among priests, "The seminary can prepare

a priest, but the first community he serves makes him a pastor." I could not have been formed in ministry by a better community.

That hunger for ministry in the church continued to grow. After seven years at the Newman Center, I was old enough to begin preparing for ordination to the diaconate, and I did. In the meantime, God threw us a curve ball, and family concerns led us to move to Wisconsin.

I began ministering in the Diocese of Green Bay in Campus Ministry but it was only eight months before the Bishop asked if I would become the Pastoral Leader for two parishes and a school. Because there are fewer priests than parishes, many parishes in the diocese have a Pastoral Leader who is appointed by the Bishop to lead the community in every way except sacramentally. A retired priest comes in on the weekend to preside at our Sunday Liturgies. It has been a challenging assignment, but God has placed me here to minister to God's people and I am learning something new every day.

But it didn't stop there. After settling in as Pastoral Leader, I completed my formation for the diaconate and was ordained on May 18, 2013. It has been a great gift, and at the same time something completely natural.

As I look to the future, I don't know where God will lead me next. My hunger to minister to God's people continues to grow. Maybe there will be another phone call that leads me on a new adventure in ministry. Whatever the plan is, it is in God's hands.



Lincoln receives the laying on of hands

Fr. Rob Installed as Pastor



Fr. Rob Spaulding was assigned to St. Paul's Newman Center in July, 2012 as Parochial Administrator. This title possesses the same rights and duties as a pastor without the stability of a 6 year term. On August 10, 2013, the anniversary of his priesthood, Fr. Rob was installed as Pastor of St. Paul's Newman Center. Fr. August Koeune, the Dean of the Cheyenne

Deanery, presented Fr. Rob to our faith community. From the Rite of Installation, Fr. Rob professed to "always be a loving father, a gentle shepherd and a wise teacher of the people, so that I may lead them to Christ who will strengthen all that I do." The community welcomed and affirmed Fr. Rob's leadership with enthusiastic applause.



St. Paul's Newman Center
University Catholic Parish
1800 East Grand Avenue
Laramie WY 82070-4316

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
LARAMIE WY
PERMIT #7

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Cover :
Fishers of People Parade Entry
Evangelization on a Grand “Scale!”

It is difficult to remember how many years it has been since the Newman Center had an entry in the homecoming parade! However, this year, that changed! To raise awareness of the ministry that happens at the Newman Center and to welcome alumni, our students participated in the 2013 Homecoming Parade.

The float, *Fishers of People*, was a small fishing boat. Alongside the boat were eight little brown and gold fish

sandwiched on members of Newman Center student leadership. Each fish was named after popular ministries offered at the Newman Center including *Carae Domini* (women’s group), *Brotherhood* (men’s group), *SEARCH*, *Sunday Supper*, *Catholics on Campus*, *JusticeWalking* and others. The Newman fish also handed out flyers with ministry information to “reel” in interested persons along the parade route.



Fishers from left: Courtney Nordhus, Erica Severino and Meglana Peak

This was truly a group effort and a wonderful testament to the leadership at St. Paul’s Newman Center.