

WYOMING Catholics

University Catholic Community
St. Paul's Newman Center

Fall 2014



St. Paul's Newman Center Staff
2014

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Together in Faith



A Time of Discernment

It is an exciting time to be a member of St. Paul's Newman Center. The Holy Spirit continues to lead our community forward into ministry and mystery. This academic year began with new energy in reaching out to our Student Community. Twenty-five resident families are hosting students, providing a home away from home. They are concrete examples of the mission of St. Paul's to minister to the students of the University of Wyoming.

The months ahead will be marked by discernment and listening for our community. In 1992, our Community initiated a three phase plan for St. Paul's. Phase One was the renovation of the Worship Space. Phase Two was the acquisition of the residential properties on Garfield Street. We have now arrived at Phase Three: discerning the direction of God's Spirit for our community and evaluating our existing facilities.

To guide the process of discernment, the Pastoral Council has identified four essential areas of ministry: 1) space for worship, 2) space for gathering and education, 3) student housing, and 4) direct identifiable service to the community of Laramie. The fourth area might be a new concept for some of us. I invite all of us to watch a four-part series from Jack Jezreel, founder and director of JustFaith ministries. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yehc8SRAWVw>). In this series, Jack describes a community that is gathered and sent and inspires us to become a community who lives God's mission of service in our words and our actions.

Through your generosity and the invitation of Sustainable Harvest International, we will have an opportunity to travel to Panama in March for an alternative spring break. This past Lent, the community of St. Paul's was able to send nearly \$20,000 to assist two Panamanian communities in

developing sustainable food and water sources. Gifts of alumni and friends like you will allow us to send a team of students and residents to live for a week in these communities. While we will be offering our labor in service, the primary reason for our trip is for our hearts to be transformed through the hospitality and love of the people of Panama. Thank you for enabling this mission trip to happen.

As we near the season of Christmas, I am filled with gratitude for the continued support of the alumni and friends of St. Paul's. Your gifts of prayer and financial resources are invaluable in sustaining the excellent ministry of this community.

May God continue to bless you as we journey together to become what we receive: the Body of Christ.



Campus Ministry

We are overjoyed as the number of students involved in Campus Ministry exceeds expectations. Students who signed up at orientation doubled. A personal letter was sent to all the signees, inviting them to check out Campus Ministry at St. Paul's Newman Center. The *Beginning of Semester Cookout* had a great turnout even though it poured rain during the event. There were 80 students in attendance and approximately half of them were incoming freshman. *Catholics on Campus* had 20 students at the first meeting. There were quite a few new faces who came with an interest in learning more about their faith.

Joining Campus Ministry leadership are 2 new campus interns. Elizabeth Mendoza is the Communications Intern. Brea Farley will promote human rights and equality programs as Social Justice Intern. Erica Severino is returning as our Events Coordinator.

Thanks to Director of Campus Ministry, Amanda Constanguay, Campus Ministry interns, and student leadership for their vision, attentiveness, and planning that contribute to these successes.

A Window into Heaven by Wren Skinner

I was unfamiliar with iconography until three years ago when my mother began creating icons. I had seen these artful pieces in churches and museums, but was unaware of the meaning behind icons until I began studying with my mother.

I discovered iconography blended by love of art with prayer. With each brush stroke, my faith was deepened; the process is called “writing” because God guides your hand with prayer. Icons are compared to a window. You can look out a window and experience the outdoors. The same is true for an icon. An icon is a window into heaven; we can experience heaven through these remarkable images of the saints.

Within an icon there is symbolism with every line and layer. My icon

is written on a wooden board in the medium of egg tempera. Egg tempera is made by mixing white wine and egg yoke and then adding different pigments to get the desired color. There are approximately eleven layers of paint to create the dimension of the icon, along with egg tempera gold leaf.

In iconography, icons may be painted in a certain order starting with St. Michael the Archangel, and followed by Gabriel. I am currently working on Gabriel and am looking forward to future pieces. It took me a year to complete the icon of St. Michael. Being a full-time student, I was only able to work on the icon when I went home on weekends or holidays. I pray that iconography can touch your life as



it has touched mine. I am looking forward to continuing this work after I graduate in the spring.

Alumni

by Ted Cramer

Postulancy – Alumni Ted Cramer Discerns a Call to the Conventual Franciscans

Nearly four months ago, I began my Postulancy with the Conventual Franciscans, the first year of formation and a glimpse into the consecrated life. Beginning the program meant leaving St. Paul’s Newman Center, my home for the last 13 years, to travel to Chicago, Illinois. Life in the city is significantly different. I now live in a 5-story converted apartment building, which is home to the Provincial, his offices, eight additional professed Friars (both

Priests and Brothers), and four other Postulants, along with a chapel, professional kitchen, guest rooms, and common spaces. The neighborhood is rarely still, yet the nights are surprisingly peaceful.

Four times a day we gather in the chapel to pray. We use the Liturgy of the Hours throughout the day, celebrate mass in the morning, spend thirty minutes in silent contemplation at 5 p.m., and pray the Rosary each night.

Conventuals consider meals to be an extension of the Eucharist and so we eat together at table in a relaxed atmosphere conducive to conversation. Our Formation Directors teach us about the history of the Order and Franciscan spirituality; living with the Friars day-to-day is the greatest insight into the way of life. We help with house chores, take time for personal devotions and study, volunteer at various ministries, and, in my

[continued on pg. 4



Carae Domini-Loving God Wholeheartedly

by Katelynn Julian

The college women's group at St. Paul's Newman Center is known as Carae Domini. Translated it means, "Beloved of the Master." This name exemplifies our wish for Christian women; to be loved by God and to love God back wholeheartedly. Carae Domini meets weekly to discuss our daily lives, how we feel about certain issues, and to share with each other how God is working in our lives. To love God wholeheartedly, we focus on different aspects of His love as we encounter all of those

we meet. Without knowing of the love of God, we would not be able to share the same kind of love to others.

"Each meeting is different. Sometimes we have a Bible Study or we have a reflection to contemplate," explains Director of Campus Ministry, Amanda Castonguay. "But our focus is to support one another and live our lives as young adult Catholic women through prayer and discipleship."



The Women of Carae Domini

Newman Staff Speak at Diocesan Institute

Every year at the Diocesan September Institute, clergy and lay leadership are given the opportunity to recharge at this educational conference. Three presenters at this year's event represented St. Paul's Newman Center. Director of Campus Ministry, Amanda Castonguay shared her knowledge on ways to help High School aged students ease into Campus Ministry. She also talked about preparing young adults transition to parishes following college.

Pastor, Fr. Rob Spaulding and Director of Pastoral Music and Liturgy, Maggie Warner introduced a new Mass Setting, *Misa Santa Fe*, to parish Music Ministers throughout the Diocese. Maggie also directed the musicians during the Institute Liturgy of the Eucharist. These Newman staff were honored to be able to share their expertise at Institute.

[POSTULANCY continued]

case, also work on miscellaneous maintenance and repair projects for the Friary. Each Wednesday, all the Postulants travel to the Little Sisters of the Poor outside Chicago to minister to the elderly poor in a retirement and nursing home. I first heard of the Little Sisters from Newman students who always spoke highly of their experiences with the residents in the Denver home. Here too, all of us have built friendships with the residents as we sit and talk to them during lunch, encourage them during activities, or see them throughout the day.

In the midst of all this falls discernment, the question of whether God is calling me to enter the Franciscan Order. Growing in my knowledge, I can more critically compare the options, but to be confident I must await something more divine, a consolation revealed in the depths of my heart. For this I pray.



Ted Cramer with Chicago skyline in the background

Fall Photos



Top Left: Sunday Supper Marshmallow Roast.
 Top Right: Closing Rite at SEARCH.
 Center: Halloween Party.
 Lower Left: Students with Homecoming Float.
 Lower Right: Vocalizing at SEARCH.

Panama Mission Trip

Plans are being finalized for the Sustainable Harvest International mission trip to Panama. The trip will take place during Spring Break in March, 2015.



Travelers will include Newman Center students and residents. These pilgrims

will have an opportunity to experience the culture of Central America, participate in service-learning projects, and witness how SHI assists families to bring about long-term self-sufficiency.

St. Paul's Newman Center supported two villages in Panama during last years Lenten Project, raising \$18,500 to fund

sustainability in these farming communities. In addition, extended family of the Newman Center, alumni, parents, and friends, have generously committed support to support this mission trip through donations totaling nearly \$8,000.

It is the hope that this mission trip will have a lasting impact for all those involved.

Church, Chow and Cheer Alumni Gathering



Looking for opportunities to welcome back alumni, St. Paul's Newman Center took advantage of a gorgeous fall day prior to a Wyoming home football game to do just that. Alumni were invited to worship with us at the Saturday evening Liturgy, share a catered meal together, offering some time to walk down memory lane, then head across the street to cheer on the Pokes. Fr. Rob and other staff members were on hand to meet and greet our guests. It is our hope to find more occasions to welcome back our extended family in the years to come.

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