

## Prepared for Life's Decisions by rebecca thompson

Six months ago I graduated and left the home I had made in Laramie



Alumna, Rebecca Thompson

to go on a new adventure into adult life. I followed my gut and took what I considered my dream job in Lander, Wyoming.

The family I made at the Newman

Center has continued to help me grow in my new role as an apprentice funeral director. Despite having moved over three hours away I continue to put into place lessons I learned at the Newman Center in my daily life. Working as a funeral director places me in a unique position with the people I interact with on a daily basis. Emotions of sadness, fear, and anger are often found in the days following the loss of a loved one. It is through the lessons of compassion and community I was

immersed in at the Newman Center that I find myself able to work and pray for these individuals.

Finding a true vocation is tough, and living it presents many challenges, but at the end of the day, nothing can compare to helping out another person when they are in need. The Newman Center was the place that showed me the impact one single person can have on another's life, and how one's vocation can be lived out on a daily basis.

## Student Status

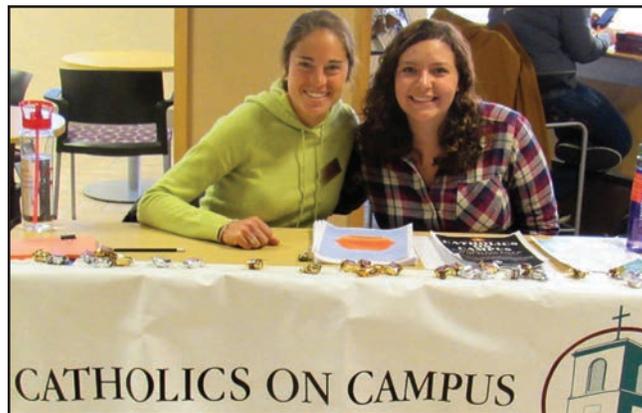
by rosemary hopson

### Let's Hear It for Engagement!

This fall is my first semester as a Campus Ministry intern. As the Big Events Coordinator, I am responsible for planning the major gatherings throughout the year.

This year is off to an amazing start as the Freshman Class has brought new life and energy to St. Paul's. In addition to the regular activities of Campus Ministry, this fall we hosted a beginning of the year BBQ for students, faculty, and staff of UW. The fall Search Retreat allowed students to form new friendships as they grew closer to

God. Our creativity was on display at the costume contest for the Halloween Party. Fr. Rob led us in a discussion of Politics and Faith at Theology on Tap. We celebrated with the Latino community for Día de los Muertos and Our Lady of Guadalupe. And we finished the semester strong with several meals during Finals Week and an end of the semester Christmas Party.



Lillie & Rosemary greet students at the UW Union

involved in Campus Ministry. Planning around tests, labs, and projects is always a struggle. The continued participation of so many students is clear a statement that faith is a priority in their lives.

When you consider the busyness of students during any given semester, it can be challenging to keep students

As a Campus Ministry Intern, I am making a difference in the lives of fellow students and providing a special place for Catholic students to grow relationships on campus. It makes me feel good to know that I have been a small part of helping students become excited about their faith while at the University of Wyoming. I look forward to the spring semester!



Campus Student Ministry Christmas Party



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

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## Alumni Event

### *Church, Chow and Cheer* (and Chili Cook-off)

This year at our alumni event, we had an added element. Members of the staff vied for best chili cook. All colors of the chili rainbow were represented including red, green and white. Attendees had an opportunity to sample and vote for their favorite. Chef Spaulding won hands down with his rendition of white chicken chili. We look forward to visits from alumni, parents, and friends. You are an important part of who we are and you are always welcome. Let us know what is happening in your life!



Newman Center UW Alumni (from the left): Patrick Rodgers, Robert Doherty, Paul Weatherford, Chris Aneiros, Lynsey, Spaeth, Jon Howdeshell, Dan Aneiros, John Mahorner, Mark Quinlivan, Mary Lou Vaske, David Vaske, Craig Vaske, Deisy Vaske, Ted Cramer, Jim Herrold, Sue Sandeen, Tom Quinlivan, Natalie Basolo, Fr. Tom Ogg, Diana Waggener, John Waggener, and Fr. Rob Spaulding

# WYOMING Catholics

St. Paul's Newman Center  
University Catholic Community

Winter 2017

*Dear Young People...Dream of Great Things!!*

—Pope Francis



**Mass on Campus**



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2016-2017 Staff*

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## Planning for the Future



“It is an exciting time to be a member of St. Paul’s!” This statement, by Maureen Boddicker, describes the feel of the town hall meeting

held late in October. Nearly 100 members of our community gathered to begin planning for the future of St. Paul’s Newman Center. This meeting was the result of a plan put into motion in 1993.

At the town hall meeting, Ken Griesemer, a liturgical design consultant, lead us through an exploration of the four pillars of our community: 1) Worship and Prayer, 2) Community Gathering and Formation, 3) Student Campus Ministry, and 4) Direct Service to the Laramie Community. These pillars are the priorities that will help us evaluate our current facility and guide our plans as we look into the future.

St. Paul’s was established in 1957 to serve the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Wyoming. When the current facility was built, there were many skeptics. It was on the “edge of town” (in 1957) on the site of the old Albany County Fairgrounds. Many wondered if a church with seating for 180 would ever be filled. Many of you have been a part of growing this vibrant community.

In 1993, under the leadership of Fr.

Roger Schmit, O.S.B., conversation began regarding the renovation of the worship space of St. Paul’s to reflect the theology of the Second Vatican Council that the real presence of Christ is also found in the community gathered around the altar. That year inaugurated a 3 phase plan: 1) renovate the worship space, 2) acquire all the property on the block, and 3) begin planning for the next 50 years. The renovation of

“We have arrived at a time when we no longer have sufficient space for the growing ministry of this community.”

the worship space was completed in 1995 and in 2005, phase two, the acquisition of the property on the block was completed. We have arrived at phase three and are now engaged in the process of planning for the future. With the near unanimous support of the members of St. Paul’s, the next step for our community is to contract with a professional to complete an assessment of our current facilities. Once that is complete, we will gather for further town hall meetings to outline steps and a timeline for moving forward.

I know that for many of you, worshipping at St. Paul’s was a life changing experience. As college students, many of us encountered God for the first time in this faith community. Often the challenge

for graduating students is finding another Catholic Community with the vibrancy and life of St. Paul’s. We have arrived at a time when we no longer have sufficient space for the growing ministry of this community. The growth of St. Paul’s would not be possible without your continued support; both spiritually and financially.

You have been an important part of our history and I will work hard to keep you informed of what is happening over the next several months. Our website will have the most recent information as well as a detailed history of St. Paul’s and thorough notes from the October town hall meeting. Your voice is most welcome in this time of discernment and planning. You can



Overflow at Sunday Supper

always reach me at [rob@newmancenter.org](mailto:rob@newmancenter.org). Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for this awesome faith community. It is indeed an exciting time to be a member of St. Paul’s Newman Center!

## Year of Mercy Conference: Where There Is Forgiveness, There Is Life

by lynsey spaeth

In celebration of the Year of Mercy, St. Paul's Newman Center hosted

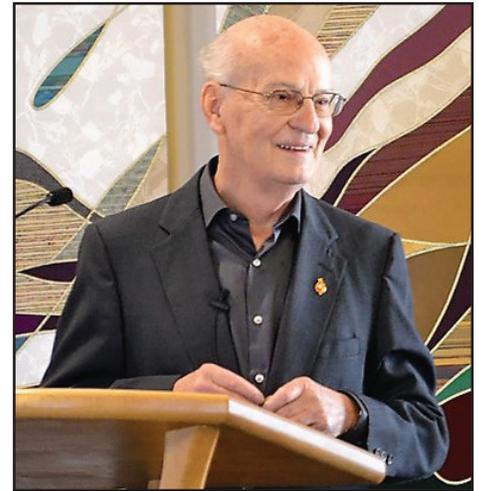


Immaculée with Diana Loza, Erica and Jose Rivas and Sandra Loza

the *Where There is Forgiveness, There is Life* conference in September. Three speakers shared with us messages of faith, love, compassion, and forgiveness. Through the powerful witness of the presenters, we were challenged to move from darkness into the light of God's vast mercy.

Our first presenter, *Immaculée Ilibagiza*, shared her experience of surviving the Rwandan genocide. Immaculée's family was killed during this massacre of approximately one million Tutsi people. Through the generosity of a Hutu pastor, who protected her and 6 other women with a place to hide, her life was spared. Her story highlighted the incredible pain, anguish, and hatred she experienced from the loss of her family. But Immaculée, guided by God's loving presence, eventually was able to forgive her family's killers and find peace.

*Fr. Anthony Gittins, CSSp*, a religious missionary and Professor of Theology and Culture at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, shared with us this sentiment: "The measure of our discipleship and true Christianity is the degree of our following the way of Jesus: healing wounds, reconciling enemies, outreach to the poor and marginalized persons, and mercy." Fr. Gittins spoke passionately of the role of mercy within ministry, challenging us to cross boundaries, to reach out to those on the margins, and to live the way of Jesus.



Fr. Anthony Gittins presenting at St. Paul's Newman Center

"Behold the one beholding you and smiling." – Anthony De Mello, SJ This sentiment expressed during *Fr. Gregory Boyle's, SJ* presentation, reminded us of the call to sit in God's loving presence. Through this encounter we are able to better love and care for those who are most in need. As the founder and CEO of Homeboy Industries, Fr. Boyle shared how this sentiment has shaped his life's dedication to gang rehabilitation in Los Angeles.

After attending the Year of Mercy Conference, one of our parishioners felt a call to understand how fear, fueled by misunderstanding, has shaped his life.

Recognizing that fear and desiring to meet someone from another faith background, he decided to help a family active in the Islamic community from Fort Collins, CO by hosting a pancake breakfast.



Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ signing his book, *Tatoos on the Heart*, for Beth Sanchez.

Three of the family members have an incurable bone disease causing loss of joint mobility. Funds raised by the breakfast supported the family's medical costs; the family hopes to improve one of the daughter's mobility through surgery. It is a small step to help one family in need, but hopefully this action will help us build bridges between our two faith communities, create a little more peace on Earth, and live mercifully.

## Students and Stewardship

by lillie romeiser

Within St. Paul's Newman Center Campus Ministry, college students have been eager to take advantage of spiritual and personal formation opportunities. Perhaps the greatest example of this is the increased attendance we have had at our weekly Catholics on Campus meetings, where students study an aspect of our faith and then take time to reflect together in conversation and prayer. Campus Ministry also recently began hosting a weekly Bible Study of the Gospel of John. We discuss how the Scriptures impact our daily lives. Our Fall SEARCH Retreat

afforded students an opportunity to learn and to grow in community. Forty-seven students attended the retreat, the theme of which was the "Splendor of Truth." The spirit of learning and formation is alive and well in our college students!

Best of all, as the students steward their time to grow in faith, they are led to steward their talents in service of the wider community. This semester a group of students has been visiting local nursing homes on a weekly basis to spend time with the elderly and to share Holy Communion.

Students volunteer regularly to help prepare food, serve the meal, and clean-up at our bi-monthly Sunday Suppers and other periodic events, such as the Peak Wellness Dinner and the Interfaith fundraising breakfast. Campus Ministry is looking forward to more service opportunities for students in the Spring semester, including a Spring Break trip to serve with Christ in the City in Denver and a worktrip in May to volunteer with Oklahoma City's Habitat for Humanity.



### Photos:

Upper Left: Dami Murdock at SEARCH; Katelynn Julian and Drew Dziardziel at End of Semester Evening Liturgy; Drew Dziardziel helping serve at the Peak Wellness Christmas Dinner. Lower Right: Santa (Joe Harlow) and Jr. High youth ministry elves at the Peak Wellness Dinner.

## Sharing and Caring

by myra belser

Jumping in to help when needed is part of Joe Harlow's character. Whether it's flipping pancakes at an Interfaith Good Samaritan fundraiser or portraying Santa Claus for guests at the annual Peak Wellness Christmas dinner, Joe's main reason for being involved at St. Paul's Newman Center Community is Campus Ministry. Joe is a second year math student from Denver, Colorado. This year he applied for a student internship as it was his desire to become more active in leadership.

"I truly love serving and being with others in this community. Ministry gives me joy like I've never experience before. I would like nothing more than to be able to share my gifts and talents with the community that has helped me be my best." Joe's desire is to bring to others the same love, joy, and faith that he has discovered at St. Paul's Newman Center.